

ATLAS
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With a 47 million population and a $206.5bn GDP in 2024, Algeria is a hydrocarbon?dependent economy, underpinned by its sizeable international reserves and historic net positive asset position (net international investment position of about?+23% of GDP in 2022), largely reflecting its foreign currency reserves relative to modest liabilities.

External public debt is extremely low (1.3% of GDP in 2022, projected to remain around 1.2% through 2028). Algeria's main vulnerability is the commodity?price dependence: hydrocarbons account for roughly 30% of GDP and nearly 95% of export earnings, making the current account and fiscal balances subject to oil and gas price swings. The current account swung from negative to a surplus of about 7.6% of GDP in 2022 before reserve drawdowns are projected into the mid?2020s.

Public debt is moderate — estimated near 55% of GDP in 2023, with a fiscal deficit around?–3% of GDP in 2023–24. Structural reforms—aimed at diversifying the economy, liberalizing exchange rate flexibility, and improving the business climate — remain critical to reduce dependence on hydrocarbons.

Over the medium term, the NIIP is projected to decline to below 9% of GDP by 2027 due to shrinking reserves and growing external liabilities as diversification lags.

Summary

BNP Paribas presence

BNP Paribas El-Djazaïr was launched in 2002 and is one of only a few international banks in Algeria. The bank has actively developed its capabilities, which include card issuing and acquiring, and has become a reliable and trusted partner both for corporations and retail customers, with 13 business centres supporting both Algerian companies operating internationally and foreign companies doing business in the country.

BNP Paribas is one of the top 3 retail banks in sub-Saharan Africa with a well-established African network across 9 countries: Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Gabon and Mali. The bank offers a full range of products and services, with experienced sales, support and product teams across 676 branches and 36 corporate business centres.

Currency

Currency

- Algerian dinar (DZD)

Exchange rates

Exchange rate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exchange rate: DZD per USD	109.44	110.97	116.59	119.35	126.78

Source: IMF, International Financial Statistics, July 2021.

Central Bank

- The Algerian central bank is Banque d'Algérie (www.bank-of-algeria.dz).

Bank supervision

- Algerian banks are supervised by The Banking Commission (Commission bancaire)
- Licensing and regulation of Algerian banks is carried out by the Money and Credit Council (Conseil de la Monnaie et du Crédit).
- The Governor of Banque d'Algérie chairs all of the supervisory institutions.

Bank accounts

Resident / non-resident status

- A company is considered resident in Algeria if it is incorporated in Algeria.
- Branches of foreign companies and permanent establishments are also considered resident for tax purposes.

Bank accounts for resident entities

	Within ALGERIA	Outside ALGERIA
Local Currency	Permitted without restriction.	Not permitted
Foreign Currency	Permitted with restrictions. CEDAC accounts only are fully convertible	Not permitted

Bank accounts for non-resident entities

	Within ALGERIA	Outside ALGERIA
Local Currency	Permitted without restrictions, fully convertible	Not permitted
Foreign Currency	Permitted without restrictions, fully convertible.	Not applicable

Lifting fees

- Percentage-based lifting fees are typically applied on payments between resident and non-resident accounts.

BNP Paribas Cash Management Capabilities

Collections

Cash collections	✓
Cheque collections	✓
Direct debit collections	
Domestic incoming transfers	✓
Virtual IBAN	

Virtual accounts	
International incoming transfers	✓
Card acquiring	✓

Payments

Cash withdrawals	✓
Cheque payments	✓
Direct debit payments	
Domestic outgoing transfers	✓
Commercial cards	
Virtual cards	✓
International outgoing transfers	✓
SWIFT gpi	
Real-time international payments through BNP Paribas' network	
Card issuing	✓

Channels

Local e-Banking	✓
Global e-Banking - Connexis	✓
SWIFT/ host to host	✓

Market overview

Algeria is largely a cash-based economy. Payment card penetration rate is low but rising as consumers become more comfortable using cards as a payment method. For example, in Q1 2021, there were 1,782,213 internet transactions carried out by CIB and Edahabia cards, a 340.65% increase on the same period 2020. Value rose from DZD 634 million to DZD 2.2 billion.

The government is keen to encourage the use of electronic payments and as such in September 2020, made the use of all electronic payments free of charge. As of 31 December 2020, all merchants were required to set up infrastructure to enable cashless transactions. Merchants without the means to receive electronic payments are required to set up a remote payment service, i.e. the TPE QR Code, by end-2021.

Limited electronic banking services are available from some banks. These services are primarily used by larger companies. There is no national electronic banking system in Algeria, so companies use banks' proprietary services.

Limited online and mobile banking services are provided by the country's leading banks. The use of digital financial services is low: 16% of adults use digital payments.

Payment Systems

ARTS	Type	• Real-time gross settlement.
	Participants	• Algeria's banks, the Banque d'Algérie, Algérie Poste and the Treasury participate in ARTS.
	Transaction types processed	• High-value (DZD 1 million and above) DZD-denominated electronic credit transfers. • Net obligations from Algeria's other payment systems.
	Operating hours	• 09:00 to 16:00 local time, Sunday to Thursday.
	Clearing cycle details (e.g. cut-off times)	• Payments are cleared and settled in real time.

	System holidays	• ARTS is closed on all Algerian bank holidays. • Algeria's bank holidays are: • 2nd half 2021: 10, 19 Aug*, 19 October*, 1 November. • 2022: 1, 12 January, 1, 2*, 3* May, 5, 9*, 10*, 30* July*, 8 Aug*, 8 October*, 1 November.
ATCI	Type	• Multilateral deferred net settlement system.
	Participants	• Algeria's banks, the Banque d'Algérie, Algérie Poste and the Treasury participate in ARTS.
	Transaction types processed	• Low-value (Below DZD 1 million), DZD-denominated electronic credit transfers. • Paper-based payments (credit transfers and cheques) which are truncated into electronic items before being processed. • Direct debits.
	Operating hours	• N/A
	Clearing cycle details (e.g. cut-off times)	• Payments are cleared and settled electronically on a same-day basis. • Final settlement takes place via ARTS at the end of each day.
	System holidays	• ATCI is closed on Algerian bank holidays. (Dates as above) * The date shown may vary by plus or minus one day. These dates are derived by converting from a non-Gregorian calendar (e.g., Muslim or Hindu) to the Gregorian calendar. Some of these dates cannot be determined in advance with absolute accuracy, even by the governing authorities. In the case of Muslim dates in particular, the feast days are determined by the sighting of a new/full moon.

Credit transfers

- Credit transfers are used by companies to pay salaries and suppliers.
- High-value credit transfers are settled in real time via ARTS.
- Low-value credit transfers are settled on a same-day basis via ATCI.
- Cross-border transfers can be made via SWIFT and settled through correspondent banks abroad.

Direct debits

- Direct debits are used for regular payments, such as utility bills.

- Direct debits are settled on a same-day basis via ATCI, with the beneficiary able to access funds on a next-day basis.

Cheques

- The cheque is the most popular cashless payment instruments, used by both consumers and companies.
- Cheques are truncated into electronic items before being settled on a same-day basis via ATCI. The beneficiary is able to access funds on a T+2 basis.

Card payments

- Card penetration, particularly of credit cards, is low in Algeria but rising,
- There are approximately 6.5 million cardholders.
- The Carte Interbancaire (CIB) debit card scheme is operated by SATIM (Société d'Automatisation des Transactions Interbancaires et de Monétique). There are over two million SATIM cards in circulation. The CIB card can be used to pay for services and bills online.
- Algérie Poste issues a debit/ATM card, the Carte Edahabia. There are approximately five million Edahabia cards in circulation. The Edahabia card can be used to pay for services and bills online.
- In Q1 2021, there were 1,782,213 online transactions carried out by CIB and Edahabia cards, a 340.65% increase on the same period 2020. Value rose from DZD 634 million to DZD 2.2 billion.
- Contactless payment cards are expected to be issued in 2020.
- Algeria's national CIB card payments are cleared by SATIM. Sixteen banks and Algérie Poste participate in SATIM.
- Internationally-branded card payments can be processed via the card-issuing companies.

ATM/POS

- There are approximately 3,030 ATMs in Algeria.
- There are 38,144 very small enterprises using TPEs (electronic payment terminals) in Algeria. In May 2021, there were 195,440 TPE payments transacted, with a value of DZD 1,297.8 million.
- SATIM operates Algeria's ATM and EFTPOS networks.
- Payments can be settled on a same-day basis via by SATIM.

Electronic wallet

- Electronic money schemes are available in the form of reloadable pre-paid cards.

- In 2020, Algérie Poste launched its electronic payments system for mobile phones. Barid PAY allows users to pay for items using just their phones.
- In March 2021, the National Bank of Algeria launched a contactless mobile payment app, Wimpay-BNA, based on a QR code.

Short term investments

Market overview

Interest payable on credit balances

- Interest-bearing accounts are permitted.

Demand deposits

- Demand deposits denominated in DZD are available.

Time deposit money market instruments

- Time deposits are available in DZD or major foreign currencies (USD, GBP, CHF and EUR). Minimum tenor is three months for DZD deposits. Foreign currency deposits have a minimum tenor of one month.
- The minimum investment for DZD-denominated time deposits is DZD 10,000.
- Interest rates are generally set by Banque d'Algérie.

Certificates of deposit

- Domestic banks issue medium term notes with terms ranging from three months to four years. These are negotiable instruments.

Treasury (government) bills

- The Banque d'Algérie issues Treasury bills for terms of 13 and 26 weeks.

Commercial paper

- No commercial paper market exists in Algeria.

Money market funds

- Money market funds are not popular short-term investment instruments.

Repurchase agreements

- Repurchase agreements are available in Algeria.

Banker's acceptances

- Banker's acceptances are not used in Algeria.

BNP Paribas Trade Finance Capabilities

Trade payments

Documentary credits	✓
Documentary collections	✓

Guarantees

Bank guarantees	✓
Standby letters of credit	✓

Supply chain management

Receivables	

Payables	
Inventory	

Trade channels

Connexis Trade	✓
Connexis Supply Chain	
SWIFTNet Trade for Corporates	
Connexis Connect	
Connexis Guarantee	
SWIFTnet Supply Chain	

- BNP Paribas is ranked as one of the top five banks for trade finance in Algeria. The bank's Global Trade Solutions (GTS) team includes six highly-skilled trade finance experts based in Algiers, offering a comprehensive range of cross-border and domestic trade finance and working capital solutions to corporations headquartered or operating in Algeria.

International trade

General trade rules

- As a member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), Algeria has eliminated most trade tariffs with GAFTA member states. GAFTA comprises Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Trade agreements

- Algeria has an Association Agreement with the EU.
- Algeria is in negotiations with Libya to establish an FTA.
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is a trade agreement between 55 African Union member states. Free trading officially commenced under the AfCFTA on 1 January 2021.

Imports / exports

Imports	Refined petroleum	Wheat	Packaged medical supplies	Milk	Vehicle parts	
Primary Import sources	China (18.0%)	France (14.0%)	Italy (8.0%)	Spain (8.0%)	Germany (5.0%)	Turkey (5.0%)
Exports	Crude petroleum	Natural gas	Refined petroleum	Fertilizers	Ammonia	
Export markets	Italy (13.0%)	France (13.0%)	Spain (12.0%)	USA (7.0%)	UK (7.0%)	India (5.0%)

Import / export volumes

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exports	- goods USD m	29,317	34,570	41,124	34,995	NA
	- services USD m	3,430	3,002	3,264	3,325	NA
Imports	goods USD m	49,317	48,811	48,284	44,321	NA
	- services USD m	10,880	11,317	11,769	9,937	NA
Current account as % GDP		– 16.4	– 13.2	– 9.8	– 10.6	NA

Sources: IMF, International Financial Statistics, July 2021.



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