



*The Reality of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Algeria: with  
Reference to Saidal Group and Biopharm Company*

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*Received :25/01/2024*

*Accepted :24/05/2024*

*Abstract*

This study aims to elucidate the current state of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria by presenting an overview of the pharmaceutical market in Algeria, its advantages, various supporting and interested entities, and its components consisting of specialized pharmaceutical companies. The focus is on two companies within this sector, namely Saidal Group and Biopharm. The study highlights the significant contributions of these companies to the pharmaceutical market in Algeria, providing insights into their reputation and the extent of their trading activities on the Algerian stock exchange.

The study concludes that the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria is promising, having made significant strides and achieving self-sufficiency in several drug categories. The ambition persists to achieve complete self-sufficiency and reduce the substantial import bill through the concerted efforts of industrial companies, notably Saidal Group and Biopharm. Additionally, governmental efforts are acknowledged for creating a conducive environment for the pharmaceutical market in Algeria and encouraging the active participation of companies within it.

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- ✓ **Keyword:** Pharmaceutical Industry, Industrial Companies, Drug Market, Algerian Stock Exchange.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The global pharmaceutical market has witnessed significant development in recent years, both in terms of production and consumption. This market has attracted substantial investments globally, given its capital and technological density. Pharmaceutical research in this field demands massive budgets that many pharmaceutical institutions find challenging to secure. Therefore, a characteristic feature of most of these institutions is their size, diversity, or what is known as multinational corporations. These corporations provide substantial funds for research and development through laboratories that house elite chemists and biologists, either independently or in collaboration with renowned university labs in medicine and pharmacy. National laboratories, funded by the state to enhance scientific research, or international organizations like the World Health Organization, also contribute to this research.

In Algeria, the pharmaceutical industry is regulated by several administrative bodies that have a decisive impact on various market levels. These include the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, and the National Laboratory for the Monitoring of Pharmaceutical Products. The Algerian market ranks third in importance in Africa, following South Africa and Egypt. It experiences continuous growth due to demographic expansion and improved healthcare coverage. Consequently, Algeria is considered highly attractive for foreign stakeholders in the pharmaceutical field. The Algerian market has faced significant competition since allowing pharmacists to import pharmaceutical products.

Saidal Group dominates the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria as the leading producer of pharmaceuticals. Additionally, other notable players in the Algerian pharmaceutical industry include Biopharm. Through this study, we explore the reality of the pharmaceutical industry in these entities and their contributions to meeting local demand and reducing the import bill.

### **Study problem:**

The problem of this study can be formulated in the following main question:

**What are the contributions of Saidal Group and Biopharm to the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria?**

### **Study Objectives:**

Through this study, we aim to:

- Familiarize ourselves with aspects related to the pharmaceutical market and the pharmaceutical industry in general.
- Elucidate the reality of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria.
- Present the contributions of Saidal Group and Biopharm in revitalizing the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria.
- Showcase the performance of Saidal Group and Biopharm on the Algerian stock exchange.

### **Study importance:**

The importance of this topic becomes evident within the context of the continuous growth of the pharmaceutical market and pharmaceutical industry companies in Algeria. These entities have become a crucial part of the national economy, impacting not only at the local and regional levels but also on an international scale. They contribute to reducing import bills and achieving self-sufficiency in several drugs.

### **Study Methodology:**

We adopted a descriptive approach in presenting the study's contents, aiming to address the posed question through three main axes. The first axis delves into the evolution of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria. The second axis highlights the reality of the pharmaceutical industry in Saidal Group and Biopharm. The final axis discusses the performance of Saidal Group and Biopharm on the Algerian stock exchange.

## **2. Evolution of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Algeria**

Algeria inherited post-independence healthcare infrastructure with an emphasis on quality but insufficient to meet the needs. Originally designed to cater to the population of French colonialists, it served very few indigenous people. Access to basic healthcare services was a recurring demand of the national movement and a characteristic of colonial policies. During the colonial period, the pharmaceutical products industry in Algeria was limited to a single entity called "Biotoc," established in 1952. Immediately after independence in 1962, the "Pharmal" institution was created to support the Algerian pharmaceutical market. In 1963, the Algerian Central Pharmacy (PCA) was

established as a public institution overseeing the entire pharmaceutical distribution sector. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, new industrial projects were implemented in several regions.

At present, the pharmaceutical market in Algeria has undergone profound changes due to the abolition of national monopolies on foreign trade and economic liberalization. This allowed private and foreign sectors to intervene in import, wholesale distribution, and pharmaceutical production (Lamia, 2018, p. 02).

The Algerian market ranks third in importance in Africa, following South Africa and Egypt. It experiences continuous growth due to demographic expansion and improved healthcare coverage, making it highly attractive to foreign stakeholders. Pharmaceutical consumption in Algeria has significantly increased over the past decade, attributed to demographic growth and the emergence of modern diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. This is concurrent with the persistence of old diseases. The availability of good medical and healthcare coverage, along with an effective national compensation system, has also contributed to the rise in pharmaceutical consumption in Algeria (Lazhar & Jamal, 2018, p. 11).

And this is what prompted the necessity for the existence of a specialized pharmaceutical industry to meet the increasing local demand for medicine, especially during the period of COVID-19 and beyond. During this period, there has been an unprecedented surge in the demand for medicine in the history of Algeria. This led the government to take measures and provide incentives to encourage both public and private national companies to invest in pharmaceutical production.

The pharmaceutical industry is considered a specialized chemical industry, engaged in the innovation of new drugs and their marketing in the market, with the right to patent and invent them. In other words, no other factory can produce a specific drug without the approval of the company holding the patent. Pharmaceutical factories also produce generic drugs, which are medical drugs used for a long time, and after a certain period, they lose their patent rights. This allows other factories to produce and sell them in the market without the need for the approval of the original inventor (Belaid, 2016, p. 05).

Pharmaceutical companies conduct intensive research in their chemical laboratories to innovate new drugs that surpass the effects of previously existing types of medicine or to create a new drug for the treatment of a specific disease. The pharmaceutical product is a complex set of tangible and intangible specifications that contain specific therapeutic functions that reflect on the medical and psychological condition of

individuals (Hawwa & Dernani, 2023, p. 191).

The pharmaceutical industry is characterized by several key features, including (Al-Alaq, 2007, p. 24):

- **Regulation:** The pharmaceutical industry is one of the most regulated industries globally. Prices and compensations are determined by legislations and laws established by governments and health authorities.
- **High Productivity Rates:** The pharmaceutical industry enjoys high productivity rates due to its extensive consumer base. Production lines alone are estimated in the hundreds of millions, and the industry relies on ambitious plans to reduce costs.
- **Capital and Technology Intensity:** It is a capital and technology-intensive industry, with research in this field requiring substantial budgets that many institutions struggle to provide.
- **Specialization and High Skills:** The pharmaceutical industry is highly specialized, with some laboratories excelling in the production of pharmaceutical substances, outperforming competitors. Meanwhile, other institutions specialize in manufacturing high-cost drugs, and there are those catering to specific market segments.
- **Regulatory Requirements:** Investment in the pharmaceutical market and the introduction of drugs into the market require obtaining licenses from the relevant authorities.
- **Strategic Importance:** The pharmaceutical industry is considered one of the strategic industries, receiving priority in budget allocation due to its connection to public health.

Given the aforementioned characteristics, it is important to highlight the significance of planning and developing new pharmaceutical products, which can be summarized in the following points (Hawwa & Dernani, 2023, p. 191):

- **Increased Consumer Involvement:** The role of consumers in determining the type and characteristics of products has increased.
- **Intensified Price and Non-Price Competition:** There is a rise in both price and non-price competition for competitive and alternative products.

- **Global Trend Towards Free Markets:** The global trend towards free markets and the reduction of monopolistic practices that some companies used to enjoy.
- **Corporate Focus on Achieving Short and Long-Term Goals:** Companies are focusing on achieving their short-term and long-term goals through product development.

In Algeria, the pharmaceutical industry is regulated by several regulatory bodies that have a decisive impact on various levels of the market, most notably the Ministry of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security, and the National Laboratory for the Control of Pharmaceutical Products. The Ministry of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform serve as the central nerve center and are directly responsible for regulating and monitoring the entire Algerian pharmaceutical market. The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security intervenes in the pharmaceutical market as a designated administration through the "National Social Security Fund," compensating patients for treatment expenses and prescribed medications. The National Laboratory for the Control of Pharmaceutical Products (LNCPP), an administrative public organization, examines the scientific and technical files of drugs seeking registration, monitors and evaluates the quality and effectiveness of drugs and medical devices marketed nationally, and obtaining its prior approval is essential for obtaining a marketing license (Lamia, 2018, p. 04).

The pharmaceutical industry in Algeria achieved significant results during the years 2021 and 2022. The production of the COVID-19 vaccine by the Saidal group and the commissioning of new units in the pharmaceutical industry came into service, leading to a reduction in import bills. These accomplishments were the result of efforts by stakeholders in the sector who fully engaged in the country's higher authorities' efforts to launch a genuine pharmaceutical industry capable of covering 70% of national needs in pharmaceutical products.

According to data from the Algerian Ministry of Health, there was substantial growth in the pharmaceutical industry sector. The share of local production increased from \$2.1 billion in 2019 to \$3.1 billion in 2021, representing a billion-dollar increase. Regarding the import bill for pharmaceutical products, a noticeable decrease was recorded during the same period, dropping from \$2 billion in 2019 to \$1.2 billion in 2021. The new pricing policy for drugs and recent registrations for 44 biosimilar and generic drugs further contributed to reducing the import bill. Approximately 60 new production units were introduced, significantly reducing the import bill and saving

\$800 million (APS, 2022).

The national pharmaceutical production increased by approximately 50% in value, with three out of four drugs currently being produced in Algeria. Self-sufficiency in pharmaceutical products was enhanced through local production, with the transition from covering 52% of national needs in 2019 to over 70% in 2022 (APS, 2022).

In addition to these achievements, the government's public policy statement mentioned the inauguration of six units for producing anti-cancer drugs and another unit for producing 100% Algerian Glargine insulin. This production capacity will cover double the national needs and compensate for the direct importation of approximately 120 million euros annually, allowing for a shift towards export. The launch of this unit will enable Algeria to produce all the insulin used in the country by the end of 2023, representing a market valued at 400 million euros.

The government highlighted the importance of expediting the processing of approvals for new production units, leading to the commissioning of 42 new production units. The total number of pharmaceutical production establishments increased to 196, specializing in pharmaceutical products and medical supplies. Pharmal, as the leading pharmaceutical industry complex in Algeria, dominates the pharmaceutical sector. Additionally, BioPharm has emerged as a major player, demonstrating significant growth in the market. Besides these two companies, there are also private producers and importers contributing to providing various types not available in public companies.

Given the sensitivity of the pharmaceutical industry, ethical obligations that go beyond legal duties must be emphasized for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Practical measures should be taken to embody these ethics in reality and make them an integral part of pharmaceutical companies' policies. These measures include (Al-Budur, 2023, p. 332):

- Activating the role of government oversight over pharmaceutical companies.
- Organizing training sessions for employees in pharmaceutical companies, especially medical representatives, to instill principles of integrity and honesty.
- Ensuring the reinforcement of the mindset of integrity and professional independence in academic studies for medicine and pharmacy graduates.
- State intervention to set a maximum price threshold for drugs based on

therapeutic use and production costs to achieve a balance between the interests of pharmaceutical companies in making a profit and the right of patients to access medication.

### **3. The Reality of the Pharmaceutical Industry at "SAIDAL Group" and "BIOPHARM Company"**

In this context, we will discuss the reality of the pharmaceutical industry at "SAIDAL Group" and "BIOPHARM Company" as they are considered the most important companies specializing in the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria.

#### **3.1 The Reality of the Pharmaceutical Industry at "SAIDAL Group"**

SAIDAL is a public company with a capital of 2,500,000,000 Algerian Dinars. 80% of SAIDAL's capital is owned by the state, and the remaining 20% was transferred in 1999 through the stock market to investors from institutions and individuals. SAIDAL's mission is to develop, produce, and market pharmaceutical products for human consumption. The strategic objective of SAIDAL is to strengthen its position as a leader in the production of generic drugs and actively contribute to the implementation of the national drug policy set by public authorities. The public nature of the institution allows SAIDAL to fulfill two main tasks: ensuring financial independence and sustainability by maintaining its financial balance and ensuring the improvement of the competitiveness of its products to achieve growth objectives and develop human resources. Within its core mission, SAIDAL has outlined comprehensive and integrated development plans, including ([Group SAIDAL, 2021](#)):

- Valorizing human resources, improving organization and information systems, and enhancing the institutional culture.
- Strengthening ethical standards aimed at regulating and purifying the pharmaceutical market in Algeria.
- Contributing to the reduction of imports.
- Opening up to foreign markets.
- Increasing consumer satisfaction.

In January 2014, SAIDAL Group began integrating its subsidiaries, Antibiofarm, Pharmal, and Biotech, through absorption. This decision led to a new organization focused primarily on:



### 3.1.1 General Directorate of the Group

It encompasses several central directorates, including Internal Audit, Partnership, Program Management, Strategy and Organization, Marketing and Sales, Research and Development Center, Biocompatibility Center, Purchasing, Quality Assurance, Pharmaceutical Affairs, Information Systems, Finance and Accounting, Properties and Public Means, Communication, Operations, Industrial Development, Users, Training, and Legal Affairs.

#### A. Production Factories

SAIDAL owns 6 production factories located in Algiers, Medea, Constantine, and Annaba, with a total production capacity of 140 million units annually, summarized as follows ([Group SAIDAL, 2021](#)):

- **Medea Factory:** Specializes in the production of penicillin and non-penicillin antibiotics, with units for oral and injectable medications and a unit for specialized pharmaceutical productions.
- **Dar El Beida Factory:** Located in the industrial zone of Algiers, it produces a wide range of medications in various forms (syrup, solution, ointment, and tablets).
- **Guelma Factory:** Located in Algiers and consists of two separate sections: one for manufacturing medicines in various forms (suppositories, ampoules, and tablets), and the other equipped with modern technology specialized in producing concentrated solutions (bags and bottles). This factory also includes a quality control laboratory.
- **Constantine Factory:** Located in Constantine, in the eastern region of the country, with two specialized workshops for the production of liquid medicines.
- **Constantine Insulin Factory:** Specialized in the production of human insulin of three types (rapid, basal, and compound 25) in vials.
- **Annaba Factory:** Located in the eastern province of Annaba, specializing in the manufacturing of solid forms of medications.

### 3.1.2 Distribution Centers

With robust logistical means and a young, dynamic, and specialized workforce, these

centers ensure the distribution of SAIDAL's products across the entire national territory. The group includes three distribution centers: Central Distribution Center (established in 1996), East Distribution Center (established in 1999 in Batna), and West Distribution Center (established in 2000).

### 3.1.3 Subsidiaries and Contributions

SAIDAL Group comprises subsidiary companies and contributions, including (Group SAIDAL, 2021 ):

- **Soumédiat:** Located in the industrial zone of Oued Smar in Algiers, a result of a partnership between SAIDAL Group (59%), European Pharmaceutical Group (36.45%), and Finalib (4.55%). Soumédiat's production unit includes three sections: one for hormonal products, another for liquid products (syrups and oral solutions), and a third for solid dosage forms (capsules and tablets).
- **Iberal:** A joint-stock company resulting from a partnership between the public and private sectors, with SAIDAL Group contributing 40%, Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries (United Arab Emirates) contributing 40%, and Flash Algeria specialized in food products contributing 20%. Iberal's main tasks include manufacturing generic medicines (injections and dry forms), packaging pharmaceuticals (solid forms), and providing packaging and quality control services based on the requests of local producers.
- **Winthrop Pharma SAIDAL (WPS):** Established in 1999 between SAIDAL Group (30%) and Sanofi (70%) for manufacturing, processing, and marketing pharmaceutical products for human use in Algeria. The production unit (WPS) in the Oued Smar industrial zone started production in December 2000.
- **Pfizer SAIDAL Manufacturing (PSM):** A joint venture established in 1998 between SAIDAL Group and Pfizer Pharma Algeria for manufacturing, packaging, and marketing pharmaceutical and chemical products. The PSM unit, located in the Oued Smar industrial zone, started production in February 2003.
- **SAIDAL – North Africa Holding Manufacturing (SNM) FNI:** SNM resulted from a partnership established in September 2012 between SAIDAL Group (49%), North Africa Holding Manufacturing (Kuwait) (49%), and the National Investment Fund (02%) to create a specialized center for the development, manufacturing, and marketing of anti-cancer drugs.

- **Tafco (Tassili Pharmaceutical Company):** The Tafco production unit is located in the industrial zone of Rouiba, the result of a partnership established in 1999 between SAIDAL Group (44.51%), Akdima, Spimac, and JBM to manufacture, market, and import pharmaceutical products (injections, liquids, and drops).

In addition to the aforementioned, SAIDAL Group holds contributions in other companies such as:

- "El Djazairi Clearing" (a financial company) with a stake of 6.67%.
- "Novare" (a glass production company) with a stake of 4.46%.
- "Akdima" (Arab Company for Pharmaceutical Industries and Medical Supplies) with a stake of 0.38%.

Through these investments, SAIDAL Group aims to achieve an ambitious expansion program. The development of partnerships is a key focus that aligns with its needs, market conditions, and the objectives of its partners. Drawing lessons from previous alliances, SAIDAL Group has refined its strategy by establishing new partnership relationships based on integration between partners, profitability, and the sustainability of initiated operations.

In the latest financial statement presentation for SAIDAL Group, as of December 31, 2021, the net financial result amounted to 375,935,251.42 Algerian Dinar (DZD). This represents a significant increase compared to the year 2020, where the financial result achieved by the group was 253,900,683.99 DZD. This notable improvement can be attributed to the establishment of new factories and the prudent policies adopted by the group ([Group SAIDAL, 2021 , p. 01](#)).

### **3.2 The Reality of the Pharmaceutical Industry at "BIOPHARM" Company**

BIOPHARM is an Algerian pharmaceutical company located in the municipality of Oued Smar in Algiers. It is an industrial and commercial group that invested in the pharmaceutical sector in the early 1990s. It now has a production unit that meets international standards and a distribution network for wholesalers and pharmacies. To ensure its development and enhance its management and governance skills, BIOPHARM opened its capital to international contributions by forming alliances with several companies, including ADPI, DEG, FMC COFARES. These partnerships were activated to enable the BIOPHARM group to benefit from international expansion for the continued development of its activities in the initial phase, ensure technology

transfer, enhance the management framework, and benefit from international experiences in developing export markets in Africa and Europe. Through these measures, the BIOPHARM group aims to ensure strong growth for all its partners by implementing its ambitious development program and respecting the financial security that has always characterized its management.

Starting with the gradual adaptation of its organizational structure, the company specialized in the following (Biopharm, 2023):

- Production of anesthetics (before surgical procedures) through "BIOPHARM," which remains the essence of the group.
- Wholesale distribution of pharmaceutical products through "BIOPHARM DISTRIBUTION."
- Distribution to pharmacies through "BIOPURE."
- Promotion and medical information through HHI (Human Health Information).
- Logistics services for the pharmaceutical industry through "BIOPHARM LOGISTIC."

The company's strengths lie first in the quality of its production tool and its ability to manufacture and market generic drugs developed in its research and development laboratories. Additionally, it handles many products assigned to it by major international laboratories under license or contract agreements. The company has obtained the GMP certificate issued by the French National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM). This certification will be diligently followed through the ambitious investment program. The company aspires to continue providing innovative treatments and making them increasingly accessible to Algerian patients.

Since its establishment, BIOPHARM has not stopped progressing to confirm itself as a leading player in the pharmaceutical sector in Algeria and, more broadly, in public health in Algeria. This is evidenced by a wide range of drugs, including (Biopharm, 2023):

- Anti-inflammatory drugs.
- Cardiovascular drugs.
- Dermatological drugs.

- Diabetes drugs.
- Gastrointestinal drugs.
- Women's health drugs.
- Neurological and psychiatric drugs.
- Respiratory and allergy drugs.

Through its steadfast commitment to achieving the company's goals, the company has made significant strides in its field of activity, achieving substantial figures in recent years. This is evident from the company's report for the year 2023 after its board meeting on June 30, 2023, which included the following ([BIOPHARM SPA, 2023](#)):

- The company's business volume as of June 30, 2023, amounted to 38.23 billion Algerian dinars.
- Capital expenditures amounted to 1.17 billion Algerian dinars as of June 30, 2023.
- The financial result was 3.1 billion Algerian dinars, showing a decrease of 22% compared to the first half of 2022.
- The number of company employees as of June 30, 2023, exceeded 2,975 workers, with the hiring of 85 employees during 2023.

#### **4. The Status of Saidal Group and Biopharm Company Shares on the Algerian Stock Exchange**

The Algerian Stock Exchange includes five companies, among them Saidal Group and Biopharm Company. The headquarters of the stock exchange management company, known as "SGBV," is located at 27 Colonel Amirouche Street in Algiers, with shares amounting to 475,200,000.00 Algerian Dinars. The company was established by legislative decree number 93-10 dated May 23, 1993, and began its operations on May 25, 1997. The company serves as a regulated framework for brokers in stock exchange operations, enabling them to perform their duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Since its establishment, the company has installed the necessary executive and technical apparatus for transactions in transferable securities on the stock exchange.

The company includes several founders, such as national banks: Local Development Bank (BDL), Algerian External Bank (BEA), Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (BADR), Algerian People's Credit Bank (CPA), Algerian National Bank (BNA), and the National Fund for Savings and Reserves (CNEP Banque). Additionally, national insurance companies are part of the founders, including the Algerian Insurance and Reinsurance Company (CAAR), the Central Company for Reinsurance (CCR), the Algerian Insurance Company (SAA), the Algerian Social Insurance Company (CAAT), and the National Fund for Agricultural Mutual Assistance (CNMA).

The Stock Exchange Management Company is responsible for the following activities (COSOB, 2023):

- Actual organization of the listing process on the stock exchange.
- Physical organization of trading shares on the stock exchange, management of the trading and pricing system.
- Publication of information related to stock exchange transactions and issuance of the official pricing bulletin.

The company's tasks are executed under the supervision of the Committee for the Organization and Oversight of Stock Exchange Operations (COSOB). The market capitalization values of the listed companies on the Algerian Stock Exchange for the year 2023 are as indicated in the following table:

**Table 1.** Market Capitalization Values of Listed Companies on the Algerian Stock Exchange for the Year 2023 Unit (DZD)

Company	Floating Market Capitalization in 2023
Alliance Insurance	1,270,375,480.00
MTF Aurassi	540,000,000.00
Biopharm	11,996,526,750.00
Saidal	1,000,000,000.00

**Source:** (SGBV, 2023, p. 02)

From the table above, it can be observed that Biopharm Company leads the floating market values of listed companies on the stock exchange with 11,996,526,750.00 DZD, followed by Alliance Insurance Company with 1,270,375,480.00 DZD. In the third position is Saidal Group with 1,000,000,000.00 DZD (SGBV, 2023, p. 02).

The following tables summarize the activity of the Algerian Stock Exchange during

October/November 2023:

**Table 2.** Algerian Stock Exchange Activity Indicators for the Period:  
October/November 2023

Data	October 2023	November 2023	Change %
Number of trading days	14	13	-
Number of orders	277	295	6.50%
Volume of buy orders	271,982	537,697	97.70%
Volume of sell orders	232,582	693,385	198.12%
Trading value (DZD)	39,082,781	189,715,700	385.42%
Trading volume	67,186	411,052	511.81%
Number of transactions	38	30	-21.05%
Daily average of transactions	2.71	2.30	-15.13%
Daily average trading value (DZD)	2,791,627.21	14,593,515.40	422.76%
Daily average trading volume	4,799	31,619.38	558.87%

**Source:** (SGBV, 2023, p. 02)

The table above shows an increase in the trading activity on the Algerian Stock Exchange in November 2023. The trading value reached 189,715,700 DZD compared to October, where transactions amounted to 39,082,781 DZD, representing an increase of 385.42%. The volume of trading also rose from 67,186 shares in October to 411,052 shares in November, indicating an increase of 511.81%.

**Table 3.** Algerian Stock Exchange Price Indicators for the Period:  
October/November 2023

Prices Months	Stocks	Highest Price	Lowest Price	Price Average	Weighted Average Price
		(DZD)	(DZD)	(DZD)	(DZD)
October 2023	Alliance Insurance	430	413	421,07	427
	AOM Invest	290	270	287	290
	MTF Aurassi	-	-	-	-
	Biopharm	2,473	2,471	2,472.57	2,472.59
	Saidal	504	500	502	500
November 2023	Alliance Insurance	440	430	433.84	437.45
	AOM Invest	-	-	-	-
	MTF Aurassi	-	-	-	-
	Biopharm	2,473	2,350	2,387.84	2,350
	Saidal	-	-	-	-

**Source:** Compiled by the researcher based on (SGBV, 2023, p. 03)

The table above indicates that the average share price of Biopharm topped the list among the tradable companies. In October 2023, the average price was 2,472.59 DZD,

with a slight decrease to 2,350.00 DZD in November 2023. The average share price of Saidal Group ranked second at 500.00 DZD for October 2023 and was not traded in November 2023.

Finally, the table below presents the evolution of the value and volume of traded stocks and bonds in the Algerian Stock Exchange for October/November 2023:

**Table 4.** Development of the Value and Volume of Traded Stocks and Bonds for the Period: October/November 2023

Prices Months	Transferred Values	Trading Volume	Trading Value (DZD)	Number of Deals
October 2023	Alliance Insurance	59,835	25,528,131	20
	AOM Invest	2,027	587,830	3
	Aurassi	-	-	-
	Biopharm	5,224	12,916,820	14
	Saidal	100	50,000	1
	Total	67,186	39,082,781	38
November 2023	Alliance Insurance	404,512	174,346,700	25
	AOM Invest	-	-	-
	Aurassi	-	-	-
	Biopharm	6,540	15,369,000	5
	Saidal	-	-	-
	Total	411,052	189,715,700	30

**Source:** (SGBV, 2023, p. 03)

According to the above table, Biopharm's traded values ranked second in October 2023, with 14 transactions totaling 12,916,820 DZD. In November 2023, it ranked first with 25 transactions totaling 174,346,700 DZD. This reflects the high confidence customers place in Biopharm, especially considering its higher stock prices and significant market capitalization. In contrast, Saidal Group's traded values ranked last among the listed companies in the exchange, with only one transaction in October 2023, not exceeding 50,000 DZD, and no transactions in November 2023.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Through this study that addressed the reality of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria by presenting the contributions of Saidal Group and Biopharm, significant growth has been observed in the pharmaceutical sector in Algeria. The local production share has increased from 2.1 billion dollars in 2019 to 3.1 billion dollars in 2021, indicating a



growth of 1 billion dollars. Concerning the import bill of pharmaceutical products, a noticeable decrease has been recorded during the same period, dropping from 2 billion dollars in 2019 to 1.2 billion dollars in 2021. The new policy of setting drug prices and the recent registration of 44 bioequivalent and generic alternatives have contributed to a more significant reduction in the import bill. Additionally, approximately 60 new production units have become operational, bringing the total to 196 establishments specializing in pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, achieving a 70% market coverage and partial self-sufficiency in certain drugs, reducing the import bill, with continuous efforts for further improvement.

From this study, several key findings emerged:

- The Algerian market is the third most important market in Africa after South Africa and Egypt, surpassing 4 billion dollars, experiencing continuous growth due to demographic trends and improved healthcare coverage.
- The pharmaceutical industry in Algeria is optimistic, reaching advanced stages and achieving partial self-sufficiency in some medicines, with ambitions for complete self-sufficiency and reducing the substantial import bill.
- The Algerian pharmaceutical industry is regulated by various regulatory bodies, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, and the National Laboratory for Monitoring Pharmaceutical Products.
- There are approximately 196 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in Algeria.
- Saidal Group dominates the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria, being the leading drug producer, alongside other active entities like Biopharm, which has made significant progress in the field.
- Saidal Group's net financial result in 2021 amounted to 375,935,251.42 DZD, showing a considerable increase compared to 2020, which recorded 253,900,683.99 DZD.
- Biopharm's net financial result in 2023 was 3.1 billion DZD, indicating a 22% decrease compared to the first half of 2022.
- Both Saidal Group and Biopharm contribute to the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria, manufacturing new drugs, achieving local

self-sufficiency, and reducing the import bill.

- The decision of Saidal Group and Biopharm to join the Algerian Stock Exchange has significantly influenced the volume and value of trading on the exchange, especially Biopharm, which leads in prices and trading values.
- Biopharm tops the market capitalization of listed companies on the Algerian Stock Exchange with 11,996,526,750.00 DZD, while Saidal Group ranks third with 1 DZD. These values contribute to increasing the market capitalization of both companies, gaining investor and shareholder trust, and expanding their operations.

### **Recommendations:**

- Encourage public and private companies to invest in the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria due to the potential benefits, including substantial profits and a reduction in the import bill.
- Support and facilitate the 196 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in Algeria to develop their production, move towards achieving complete self-sufficiency, and consider exportation.
- Restructure Saidal Group and Biopharm to align with modern developments in the field, especially concerning factory arrangements.
- Provide logistical support to Saidal Group and Biopharm to distribute their products seamlessly across the entire national territory and facilitate the export of products where self-sufficiency is achieved.
- Develop the Algerian Stock Exchange and encourage companies to integrate into it to expand trading values, benefiting the listed companies, especially Saidal Group and Biopharm.

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