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Research Article

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Determinants of Street Food Consumption in the Republic of the Congo

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to analyze the determinants of street food consumption in the Republic of the Congo. The field survey targeted people living in the center of Brazzaville. A simple random sampling method was used for the survey, and a total of 409 individuals were interviewed. A logit model was employed to analyze and interpret the survey results. The estimation of the model indicates that the determinants of street food consumption include the snack and breakfast variable, the beverage variable, the cohabitation (common-law union) variable, the age of consumers aged 40 years and above, the number of dependents, and the presence of a roof at the street food restaurant. Several economic policy measures are recommended. First, public authorities should regulate the street food sector to improve hygiene at these food outlets, for example by ensuring that they are equipped with roofs and sanitary facilities (toilets). Second, the government should implement measures aimed at reducing food prices so that households are better able to prepare and consume meals at home under more hygienic conditions.

Keywords: food consumption, street food restaurants, consumers, food products.

JEL**:** D12, R58, D111, Q11

1. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Marien Ngouabi University of Brazzaville, Congo, in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations set forth in the Declaration of Helsinki.
2.I have no conflicts of interest.
3. Human Ethics and Consent to Participate declarations: not applicable'.
4. no funding obtained
5.I declare that the data used to write this article is publicly available.
6. I am the sole author of this article. I designed the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript.
7.Consent to Publish declaration: not applicable
8. The interviewers approached participants on a voluntary basis, and informed consent was obtained from every respondent.
9. The data analyzed in this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, food consumption patterns have evolved worldwide. This evolution can be explained by factors related to both food supply and food demand. On the supply side, advances in agricultural practices, increased productivity, the diversification of food products, and reduced dependence on seasonal variations have profoundly transformed consumption patterns. On the demand side, population and economic growth, changes in income distribution, as well as the effects of urbanization and globalization on food systems have also contributed to these changes (Sonneveld, 2019).

The Republic of the Congo has not been immune to these changes in food consumption. The country is characterized by a high rate of urbanization and a significant concentration of its population in its two main cities, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. In these urban centers, there has been a proliferation of restaurants, cafeterias, and street vendors selling food and beverages near markets, government offices, and public and private businesses. The most common form of eating away from home consists of cafeterias offering lunches inspired by the dietary habits of foreign populations, particularly those from West Africa, alongside specialized outlets serving traditional Congolese dishes.

The trend toward eating meals away from home appears to involve a large proportion of the urban population. However, this practice has sparked debate among researchers regarding its implications for consumer well-being. Indeed, meals purchased outside the home are often associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases due to their high energy and fat content, as well as with malnutrition resulting from low micronutrient content (Kim & Ahn, 2020). Conversely, eating out is also regarded as a source of relaxation, enjoyment, and escape from the stress and constraints of everyday life (Food Standards Scotland, 2019).

Available studies on this issue in Sub-Saharan Africa indicate that street food consumption is influenced by several factors, including socio-economic conditions, migration flows, inadequate sanitation infrastructure, and certain cultural practices.

The relatively affordable cost of street food encourages its consumption, particularly among low- and middle-income households. The lack of household kitchen appliances also promotes the development of the informal food trade, while certain cultural practices encourage the consumption of traditional dishes. In this regard, Ofouémé (2021), in a study conducted in the Republic of the Congo, emphasizes that the growth of eating away from home carries different social meanings across socio-economic groups. The author also notes that migration flows to Brazzaville have exacerbated inequalities among urban households.

On the one hand, street food provides lower-income populations with an affordable means of obtaining meals through the purchase of popular dishes that are traditionally prepared and consumed at home. However, their limited financial resources restrict their access to more expensive and sophisticated foreign cuisines. On the other hand, the author points out that wealthier social groups frequent restaurants and other food service establishments to experience a variety of cuisines, enjoy high-quality meals, and reduce the constraints associated with urban life.

Despite its economic and social importance, street food consumption remains relatively under-researched in the Republic of the Congo. Epidemiological surveillance studies conducted to date have not taken this rapidly expanding urban practice into account. Yet, although street foods are highly popular among urban populations, they are sometimes suspected of contributing to various illnesses because of poor hygiene practices at food vending sites and the lack of effective government regulation of this sector.

The widespread presence of street food outlets in major Congolese cities, together with concerns about the health implications of street food consumption, provides a

strong justification for this research. The objective of this study is to analyze the determinants of street food consumption in the Republic of the Congo.

The first presents the theoretical foundations of street food consumption; the second reviews the relevant literature; the third describes the methodology adopted; and the fourth analyzes the results.

I. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF STREET FOOD CONSUMPTION

The theoretical foundations of consumption are based primarily on the concept of the consumer and the Marshallian demand function.

Concept of the Consumer

A consumer is an economic agent who expresses his or her preferences by choosing a consumption bundle at given prices, subject to the constraints imposed by income. The analysis of consumer behavior requires a prior presentation of these concepts, which lead to the central concept of the Marshallian demand function.

Representation of Preferences

Preferences are defined over the set C of all possible consumption bundles, which is generally represented by a convex subset of R. Three main assumptions underlie preferences. A consumption bundle is represented by a vector $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$, where x_i denotes the quantity of good i contained in the bundle (first assumption, H1).

The quantity of each good is assumed to be continuous, in the sense that if x is preferred to y (xPy), then for bundles x* and y* sufficiently close to x and y, respectively, the preference relations x*Py and xPy* also hold (second assumption, H2).

The quantities of goods also satisfy the assumption of strict monotonicity, which reflects the non-satiation of preferences. Specifically, if $x \geq y$ and $x \neq y$, then x is strictly preferred to y (third assumption, H3). Preferences are furthermore assumed to be strictly convex (fourth assumption, H4).

Preferences can be represented graphically in C by defining an indifference surface (or indifference curve in the two-good case). Under these assumptions, it is possible

to demonstrate the existence of a continuous and strictly increasing utility function, u, mapping the set C into the set of real numbers R.

It should be noted, however, that assumption H3 is not entirely realistic, since it is not true that individuals always desire more of every good. This assumption can therefore be substantially weakened and replaced by the local non-satiation assumption, which states that for every consumption bundle, there is always another bundle arbitrarily close to it that is strictly preferred.

Finally, strictly convex preferences are represented by a strictly quasi-concave utility function.

The Marshallian Demand Function

The second important concept is the budget constraint, which reflects the fact that the consumer's choices are limited by the inability to spend more than his or her income. The analysis is conducted under the assumption of given prices. Let p_i denote the price of one unit of good i, and let $p = (p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n)$ represent the price vector. The scalar product $p \cdot x$ therefore corresponds to the expenditure required to purchase the consumption bundle x at prices p.

By assumption, the consumer can purchase only those bundles whose total value is less than or equal to income R. Given the assumption of strict monotonicity and the existence of the income constraint, the consumer's problem can therefore be described as the search for the most preferred consumption bundle within the budget set B, that is, the bundle that maximizes the consumer's utility function.

The assumptions made regarding consumer preferences ensure the existence of the Marshallian demand function. However, they do not necessarily allow it to be derived analytically. To obtain an explicit analytical solution, it is generally assumed that the utility function is differentiable. Nevertheless, for the theoretical framework to remain consistent, this differentiability must itself follow from assumptions about preferences, in the same way that the continuity of the utility function follows from the continuity of the preference ordering.

Once the utility function is assumed to be differentiable, the consumer's optimization problem can be solved using the Lagrangian method and the technique of Lagrange multipliers, yielding the condition that must hold for every pair of goods i and j whose consumed quantities are positive. This condition is expressed as:

ui/uj=pj/pi ou ui(uj)where u_i (u_j) denotes the partial derivative of the utility function with respect to x_i (x_j).

The interpretation of this condition is straightforward. The term on the left-hand side is the marginal rate of substitution (MRS) of good i for good j, indicating how many units of good i the consumer is willing to give up in exchange for one additional unit of good j while keeping utility constant. The term on the right-hand side is the price ratio, which measures the number of units of good i that can be purchased by forgoing the purchase of one unit of good j.

The first ratio is a subjective rate of exchange, since it depends on the consumer's preferences, whereas the second is an objective rate of exchange, as it is determined by market prices. The above condition therefore implies that the consumer maximizes utility when, for every pair of goods consumed, the subjective rate of substitution is equal to the objective rate of exchange determined by the market.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several authors have examined the determinants of food consumption both in Africa and in other parts of the world. The findings of their studies highlight a variety of factors influencing food consumption, including economic, temporal, social, and cultural factors. While some authors emphasize a broad range of determinants, others focus on a single factor. The findings of selected studies are presented below.

In this regard, Sonneveld (2019) found, based on a study conducted in Vietnam, that income, educational attainment, nutritional knowledge, and region of residence influence the decision to consume food away from home.

Cantillo et al. (2021) observed in European Union countries that individuals belonging to higher socioeconomic groups are more likely to consume food away from home more frequently. The authors also found that the consumption of food products and sugar-sweetened beverages away from home is more common among consumers aged 25 to 54 years, those who do not live in rural areas, and those who prefer wild, local, and seafood products.

Caillavet and Véronique (2002) reported, in a study conducted in France, that the consumption of meals away from home is relatively insensitive to income, as such meals are considered necessary goods, regardless of where and when they are

consumed. They also argued that as household income increases, consumers tend to shift their expenditure toward more expensive food products. Finally, they found that meal consumption in school cafeterias exhibits the lowest income elasticity, most likely because it is strongly constrained by compulsory schooling and women's participation in the labor market.

Lydiatul Shima et al. (2022) concluded, in a study carried out in Malaysia, that occupation and type of place of residence are associated with the consumption of meals away from home. They further found that employees in the public and semi-public sectors, as well as urban residents, eat away from home more frequently. Finally, the authors reported that more than two-thirds of the respondents ate meals outside their homes and that this habit was associated with a poor-quality diet characterized by excessive sodium intake.

Hiamey and Hiamey (2018) found that sociodemographic variables were not strong predictors of people's street food consumption behavior. They further reported that environmental and health concerns related to street food vendors were significant determinants of street food consumption.

Soliman et al. (2024) conducted a study on the economy of Oman. Their research identifies the main sociocultural, economic, and marketing factors that significantly influence consumers' interest in street food. The study highlights the interaction between traditional elements, such as local customs and social norms, and contemporary marketing strategies in shaping consumer preferences and experiences.

Ayodele and Panama (2016) carried out a study in Nigeria. They found that attitudes, subjective norms, food quality, and cultural influences are significant determinants of street food consumption.

Zhou and Saqib (2024) found that recreational behavior, price sensitivity, novelty seeking, impulsiveness, confusion arising from an overwhelming variety of choices, and brand loyalty significantly influence consumers' intention to consume food from street food restaurants.

Salamandane et al. (2023) conducted a study aimed at updating knowledge on the main causes of foodborne illnesses in developing countries. The results indicate that, in the majority of the 15 countries examined, women constitute the primary group of

street food vendors. Most of these women had a low level of education and, consequently, lacked knowledge of good food hygiene practices. The authors further concluded that the combination of factors such as poor hygiene and the lack of infrastructure, particularly access to safe drinking water, was frequently cited as the main cause of street food contamination.

Oduro et al. (2025) conducted a study on the determinants of street food consumption in the Koforidua Metropolis, Ghana. A structured self-administered questionnaire was used to collect the required data. The findings revealed that food characteristics and social status significantly influence street food consumption.

Haleegoah et al. (2020), in a study conducted in Ghana, found that street food consumers came from diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

Food characteristics (such as food safety, nutritional value, and the proximity of the vendor), social status (particularly age, educational level, and employment status), and cultural factors (including the consumer's geographical origin and the consumption of these foods since childhood) positively influence the consumption of local food products.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study area for this research is Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of the Congo. The study was based on both documentary research and a field survey.

The documentary research made it possible to collect information on the determinants of food consumption in the Republic of the Congo from libraries, research centers, and the National Institute of Statistics of the Republic of the Congo.

The field survey targeted individuals living in the central area of Brazzaville, which comprises the three districts (arrondissements) of Bakongo, Poto-Poto, and Moungali. This area includes a high concentration of government offices as well as residential neighborhoods. The survey was conducted between March and April 2026. It targeted individuals aged 18 years and older and used a structured questionnaire as the data collection instrument. The objective of the survey was to gather information on people's consumption of food from street food restaurants. The questionnaire included sections on respondents' sociodemographic characteristics and information related to street food consumption.

A simple random sampling method was adopted for the survey. Using this approach, respondents were selected randomly from residents of the study area, with 10 individuals interviewed each day. Each questionnaire was completed anonymously. The interviewers approached participants on a voluntary basis, and informed consent was obtained from every respondent.

Initially, 450 questionnaires were planned for administration. At the end of the survey, 409 questionnaires were considered valid for analysis. A total of 41 questionnaires were excluded because some individuals declined to participate or because the survey forms had been completed incorrectly and therefore did not meet the survey protocol requirements.

IV. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Descriptive Analysis

The results presented in **table 1** indicate that men outnumber women in the sample, accounting for 63.8% of the respondents, compared with 36.2% for women. Individuals aged between 18 and 40 years constitute the largest age group in the sample.

The educational profile of the respondents is as follows: 62.1% have attained higher education, followed by those with a secondary education, who account for 23.0% of the sample. Respondents with only a primary education and those with no formal education represent relatively small proportions of the sample.

Regarding employment status, students constitute the largest group, representing 38.9% of the respondents. They are followed by individuals employed in the informal sector (19.8%) and those working in the private sector (19.3%).

The respondents' marital status indicates that single individuals represent the largest proportion of the sample (57.9%), while those living in a common-law union (cohabiting) account for 22.7%.

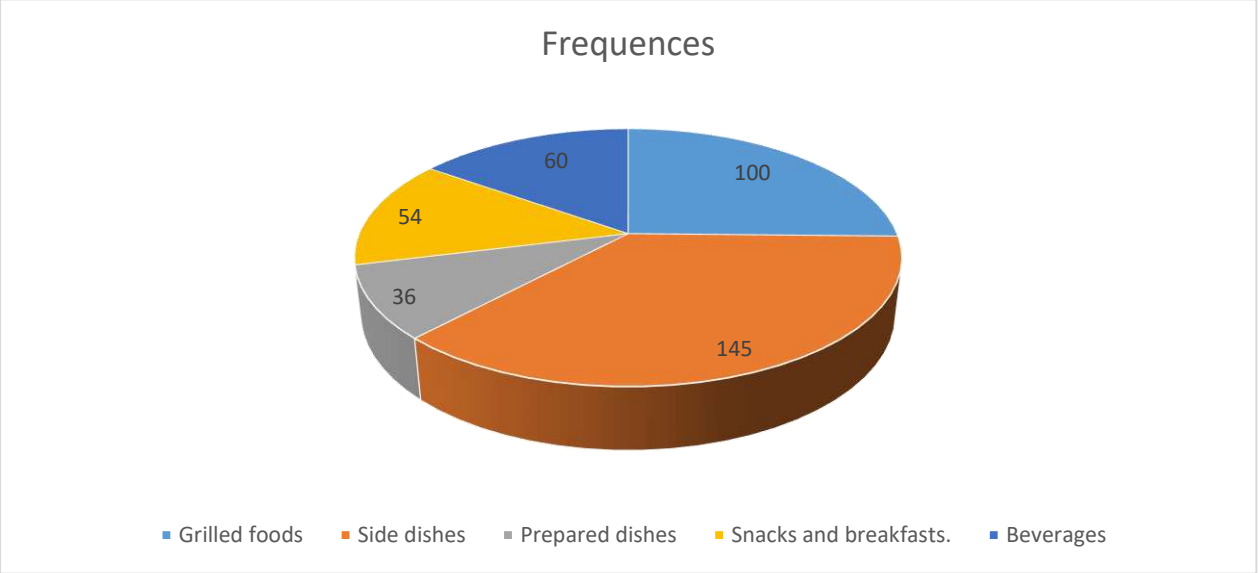
Table 1. Distribution of the Population According to Sociodemographic Characteristics

Category **Gender**	**Fréquence**	**pourcentage**
Male		
Female	261	63.8
Total	148	36.2
Age	409	total
18–30 years	223	54.5
31–40 years	87	21.3
41–50 years	54	13.2
51–60 years	29	7.1
61–70 years	7	1.7
Over 70 years	9	2,2
Total	409	100
Category		
Education Level		
No formal education	13	3.2
Primary education	45	11.0
Secondary education	97	23.7
Higher education	254	62.1
Occupation		
Civil servant	53	13.0
Private sector employee	79	19.3
Informal sector worker	81	19.8
Student or pupil	159	38.9
Unemployed	22	5.4
Retired	15	3.7
Total	409	100
Marital Status		
Common-law union (cohabitation)	93	22.7
single	237	57.9
Officially married	31	

Divorced	35	7.6
Widowed (widower or widow)	13	8.6
Total	409	3.2
People consuming food in street food restaurant	350	85.6
People no consuming food in street food restaurant	59	14.4
Types of Consumption		
Grilled foods	100	25.3
Side dishes	145	36.7
Prepared dishes	36	9.1
Snacks and breakfasts	54	13.7
Beverages	60	15.2
Most Important Factor in Street Food Consumption		
Better taste	80	20.3
Affordable price	134	33.9
Health benefits	37	9.4
Familiarity	20	5.1
Safety	18	4.6
Quality	21	5.3
Quick availability	85	21.5
Dishes Prepared in Street Food Restaurants		
Chicken or meat	149	37.7
Saka-Saka or vegetables	118	29.9
Sea fish	66	16.7
Salted fish	52	13.2
Freshwater fish or smoked fish	10	37.7

Source: Prepared by the author

Figure 1. Preferred Types of Food Consumption in Street Food Restaurants

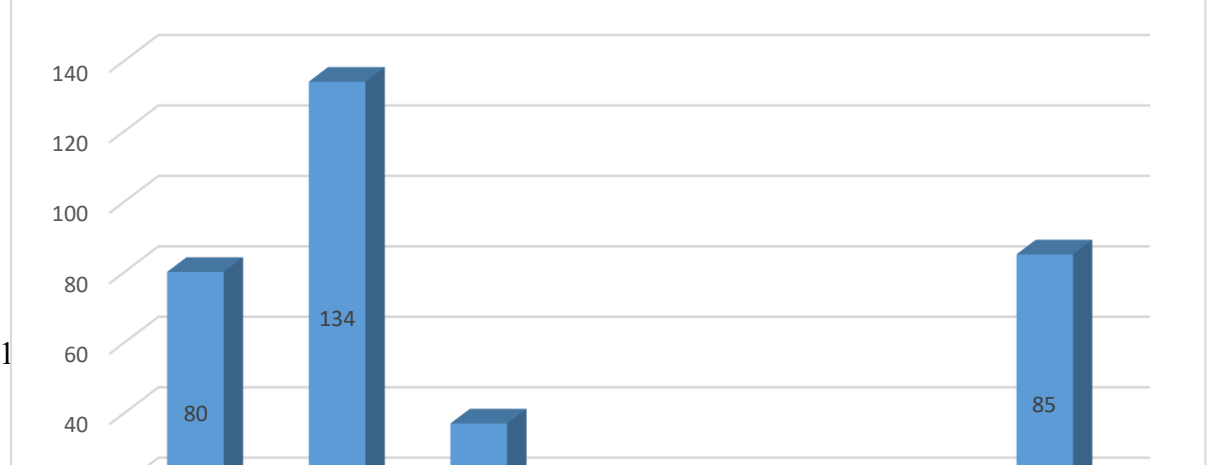


Source: Prepared by the author.

Figure 1 shows that side dishes/staple foods (fufu, cassava, plantains, potatoes, rice, and bread) are the most frequently consumed items, followed by grilled foods (fish, chicken, beef, and mutton) and beverages (traditional juices, commercial juices, beer, wine, and water).

Figure 2 is at the bottom, illustrates that affordable prices are the primary factor attracting consumers to street food restaurants. The second most important factor is better taste, while the third is the speed and availability of food.

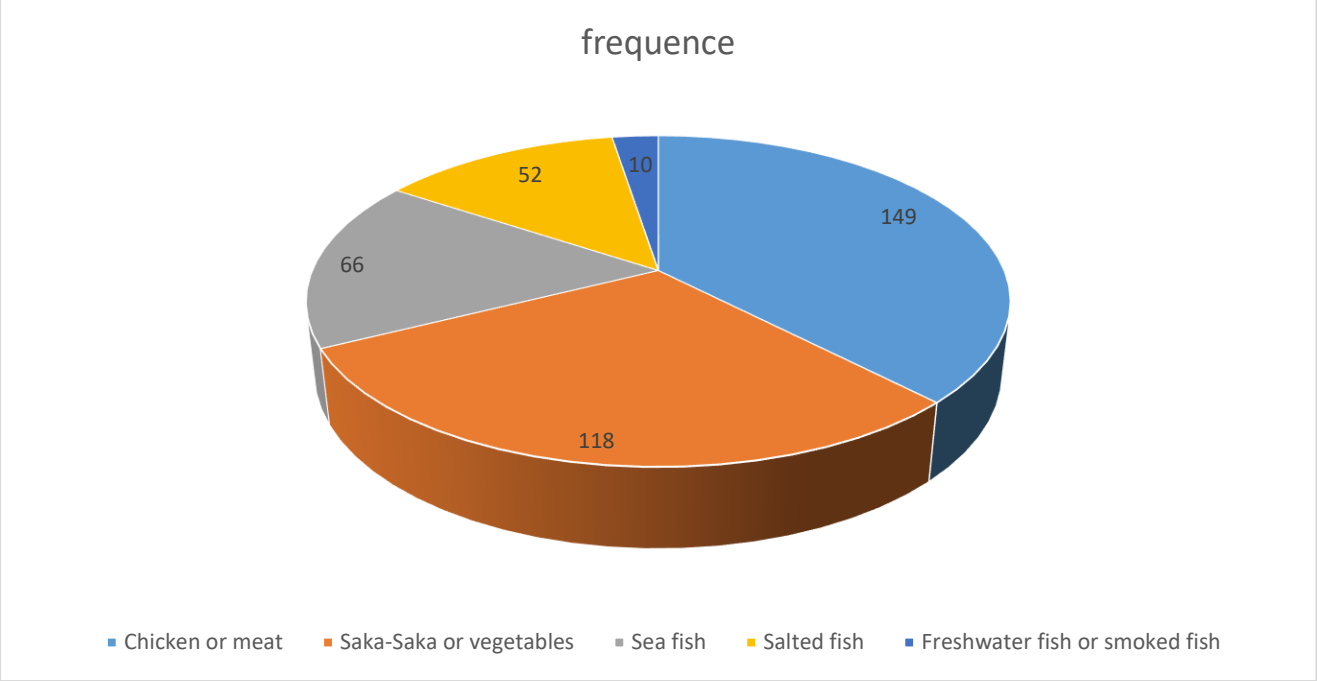
Figure 2. Factors Attracting Consumers to Street Food Restaurants



Source: Prepared by the author

Figure 3 shows that chicken and meat dishes are the most popular meals in street food restaurants, followed by Saka-Saka (cassava leaves), vegetable dishes, and sea fish.

Figure 3. Cooked Dishes Prepared and Consumed in Street Food Restaurants



Source : Prepared by the author

Econometric Analysis

Economic Model

Consumer behavior theory examines how individuals decide to spend their money, taking into account their preferences and budget constraints. It helps to better understand how tastes, income, and other factors influence the demand curve. This theory is based on the assumption of rationality. It assumes that consumers evaluate the costs and benefits associated with the consumption of a product during the decision-making process.

Thus, consumers analyze several factors in order to maximize their utility. In this study, the decision to consume food in street food restaurants is modeled as a consumer choice based on the utility maximization theory. A consumer decides to consume food from a street food restaurant if the utility derived from this choice is greater than the utility associated with the decision not to use a street food restaurant ($U_{i_1} > U_{i_0}$). This decision is binary, and the outcomes are mutually exclusive.

This result leads to a binary dependent variable, C_i, which takes the value “1” if a consumer decides to consume food in a street food restaurant and the value “0” otherwise.

The basic utility function depends on demographic characteristics, quality attributes, social status, and sociocultural factors X (age, gender, educational level, employment status, safety, convenience, affordability, etc.) (Haleegoah et al., 2020), as well as an error term whose mean is assumed to be equal to zero. It is specified as follows:

Unobserved latent variable that is related to

C_i as $C_i = \alpha_j X_{ji} + \delta_i$ (5)

où δi is a random error term.

The observed dependent variable is determined according to whether the predicted value $\mathbf{A_i^*}$ is greater than **1** or not, as specified in the following equation (6).

$C_i = 1 if C_i^* > 0$ and $C_i = 0 if C_i^* \leq 0$ (6)

où C_i^* is the threshold value of C_i and is assumed to follow a normal distribution.

Following Maddala (2005), the probit model adopted for this study is specified as follows:

$P_i = P(C_i^* < C_i) = P_i = P(C_i^* < \alpha_0 + \alpha_j X_{ji})$ (7)

where P_i is the probability that an individual makes an observed choice by consuming or not consuming food in a street food restaurant, and C_i is the dependent variable.

The empirical model is presented as follows

$P(Y) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3 + \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots + \alpha_{27} X_{27}$

Description of the Model Variables

P(Y) = Food consumption away from home.

X1 = Side dishes, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X2 = Prepared dishes, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X3 = Snacks and breakfasts, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X4 = Beverages, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X5 = Common-law union, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X6 = Single, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X7 = Divorced and widowed, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X8 = 18–24 years old, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X9 = 25–30 years old, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X10 = 30–40 years old, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X11 = Over 40 years old, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X12 = Male, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X13 = Female, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X14 = Primary education, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X15 = Secondary education, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X16 = Higher education, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X17 = No formal education, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X18 = Private sector employee, 1 if the person selected this category, 0 otherwise.

X19 = Informal sector worker, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X20 = Student or pupil, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X21 = Unemployed, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X22 = Retired, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X23 = Civil servant, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X24 = Between 1,000 CFA francs and 3,000 CFA francs, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X25 = Between 3,000 CFA francs and 4,000 CFA francs, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X26 = More than 5,000 CFA francs, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X27 = Less than 1,000 CFA francs, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X28 = Fewer than 3 people, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X30 = Between 4 and 6 people, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X31 = Between 7 and 9 people, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X32 = 10 people and above, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X33 = Street food restaurant equipped with sanitary facilities, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X34 = Street food restaurant without sanitary facilities, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X35 = Street food restaurant located in an open-air setting, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

X36 = Street food restaurant equipped with a roof, 1 if the person selected this option, 0 otherwise.

CFA = Currency used in the Republic of the Congo.

The results of the determinants of the probability of street food consumption **(Table 2)** show that the model's predictive power is above 85.82%. This indicates that approximately 8 out of 10 cases are correctly predicted by the model at the 0.5 threshold. Similarly, the model's ability to distinguish between events (y = 1) and non-events (y = 0) is greater than 0.75, indicating that the model has a good capacity to differentiate between 1 and 0. These results confirm the overall validity of the model, thereby allowing for the discussion of these findings (the estimation was performed using Stata 17 software).

The variable (snacks and breakfast) significantly explains the probability of consuming food in street food restaurants at the 5% significance level. This variable influences this probability positively. All other things being equal, the consumption of snacks and breakfast tends to increase this probability. Indeed, breakfast refers to the first meal of the day, often considered the most important meal for providing morning energy. For its part, a snack refers to a small portion of food consumed between main meals. This

term may also refer to a snack bar, a fast-food establishment serving light meals (sandwiches, fries, etc.). In this regard, Ofouémé (2021) states that snacks, as impulse and on-the-go foods, become essential substitutes or complements to the first meal of the day, generating a rapidly growing market for food services outside the home. Furthermore, the variable (snacks and breakfast) reflects a classic trade-off in consumer theory. It illustrates how an individual maximizes utility under budget constraints by making choices between time, money, and preferences. The literature review shows that snacks and breakfasts are widespread and highly consumed in street food restaurants in Africa. Due to urban lifestyles and the lack of canteens, these informal food outlets represent the fastest and most economical daily solution for eating.

The beverage variable significantly explains the probability of consuming food in street food restaurants at the 1% significance level. This variable positively influences this probability. Beverage consumption tends to increase the likelihood of consuming food from street food restaurants. Beverages are commonly consumed in street food establishments. They accompany meals and are generally divided into three main categories: industrial beverages (soft drinks, bottled water), local beverages (hibiscus juice, ginger juice, traditional porridges), and alcoholic beverages (beer). In consumer theory, beverage consumption in restaurants mainly illustrates the concepts of complementarity (drinking while eating), budget allocation, and overall consumption experience. Beverages are not merely products but sources of satisfaction that contribute to maximizing consumer well-being according to income levels.

The variable (common-law union) significantly explains the probability of consuming food in street food restaurants at the 8.6% significance level. Living in a common-law union tends to increase this probability. This can be explained by the fact that the relationship between street food consumption and cohabitation in Africa is linked to economic vulnerability and rapid urbanization. Financial difficulties encourage young people to live together without formal marriage. This marital and financial instability leads couples to rely more on street food, which is less expensive and requires less preparation time.

The variable (age 40 years and above) significantly explains the probability of consuming food in street food restaurants at the 0.01% significance level. Individuals aged 40 years and above tend to have a higher probability of consuming street food.

This result appears to contradict common dietary habits in the Republic of the Congo. Indeed, differences in age do not seem to significantly influence street food consumption patterns. Young people as well as older individuals turn to street food restaurants because they seek quick and affordable meals. These individuals prefer food prepared outside the home, particularly due to work-related constraints and limited purchasing power.

The variable number of dependents (between 7 and 9 people) significantly explains the probability of consuming food in street food restaurants at the 0.1% significance level. When an individual has between 7 and 9 dependents, this increases the probability of street food consumption. This can be explained by the fact that an increase in the number of household dependents generally reduces the amount of disposable income available per person. For large families, preparing meals at home may become more expensive than purchasing street food, which is cheaper due to small-scale sales and portion-based pricing.

The variable (restaurant is not open-air) significantly explains the probability of consuming food in this type of restaurant at the 0.1% significance level. When a street food restaurant is not open-air, the probability of consuming food outside the home increases. This result appears to differ from everyday reality. Indeed, consumers patronize both open-air street food restaurants and those that are not open-air.

Tableau 2 : Estimation of the Probit Model of the Determinants of Street Food Consumption with Marginal Effects

	dy/dx.	std..	err.	z	P>z		Sig
Type of Consumption							
Grilled foods: Ref.							
Side dishes	0.050	.,035	1.410	0.159	-0.020		
Prepared dishes	0. 070	0.061	1.150	0.251	-0.050		
Snacks and breakfasts	0.123	0.058	2.120	0.034	0.010		**
Beverages	0.200	0.059	3.390	0.001	0.084		***
Marital Status							
Officially married: Ref.							
Common-law union	0.086	0.041	2.120	0.034	0.006		*
Single	-0.041	0.041	-1.020	0.308	-0.121		

Divorced and widowed	0.051	0.061	0.830	0.408	-0.069		
age							
18–30 years: Ref.							
25–30 years	0.047	0.049	0.960	0.336	-0.049		
30–40 years	0.075	0.069	1.090	0.276	-0.060		
Over 40 years	0.295	0.105	2.810	0.005	0.089		***
Sex							
Male: Reference variable							
Female	-0.011	0.033	-0.340	0.731	-0.075	0.269	
Education .							
Primary education: Ref.							
Secondary education	-0.110	0.121	-0.900	0.366	-0.347	0.503	
Higher education	-0.082	0.119	-0.690	0.491	-0.315	0.597	
No formal education	-0.035	0.120	-0.290	0.771	-0.270	0.819	
Employment Status							
Civil servant: Reference variable							
Private sector employee	0.022	0.061	0.360	0.715	-0.097	0.69	
Informal sector worker	-0.053	0.055	-0.960	0.335	-0.162	0.301	
Student or pupil	0.027	0.067	0,400	0.687	-0.105	0.768	
Unemployed	-0.011	0.080	-0.130	0.894	-0.167	0.762	
Retired	-0.051	0.069	-0.740	0.459	-0.186	0.73	
Expenditure							
Less than 1,000 CFA francs: Ref.							
Between 1,000 CFA francs and 3,000 CFA francs	-0.043	0.040	-1.080	0.281	-0.121	0.162	
Between 3,000 CFA francs and 5,000 CFA francs	-0.69	0.056	-1.240	0.214	-0.178	0.259	
more than 5,000 CFA francs	0.024	0.100	0.230	0.815	-0.173	0.91	
number of Dependents of Consumers							
1–3 people: Ref.		.	.	.	.	.	

4–6 people	0.030	0.046	0.660	0.512	-0.061	0.614	
7–9 people	0.155	0.098	1.570	0.116	-0.038	1.332	*
10 people and above	0.029	0.045	0.660	0.511	-0.058	0.93	
Hygiene, open-air restaurants: Reference variable							
Hygiene, non-open-air restaurants	0.067	0. 035	1.930	0,.054	-0.001	0. 681	*
Hygiene, the quality of street food restaurants is questionable: Reference variable							
Quality of street food restaurants is not questionable.	0.060	0.036	1.650	0.098	-0.011	0.659	*
Hygiene, the quality of street food restaurants is questionable: Reference variable							
Quality of street food restaurants is not questionable.	0.048	0.035	1.90	0.165	-0.020	0.583	
Constant	-2.268	0..616	-3.68	0	-3.475	-.,06	***

Mean dependent var	0.144	SD dependent var	0.352
Pseudo r-squared	0. 127	Number of obs	409
Chi-square	47.143	Prob > chi2	0.013
Akaike crit. (AIC)	352.717	Bayesian crit. (BIC)	469.115

**** p<0,01, ** p<0,05, * p<0,1*

Table prepared by the author, CFA = Currency used in the Republic of the Congo.

Note; Table 3 shows marginal effects. The coefficients on the dy/dx column represent the marginal effects.

CONCLUSION

In urban centers in the Republic of the Congo, there has been a rapid proliferation of restaurants, cafeterias, and street vendors selling food and beverages. The trend toward eating meals away from home appears to involve a large proportion of the urban population. The main objective of this study is to analyze the determinants of street food consumption in the Republic of the Congo. The field survey targeted individuals living in the central area of Brazzaville. A simple random sampling method was employed, and a total of 409 respondents were interviewed. The findings indicate that the determinants of street food consumption include the snacks and breakfast variable, the beverages variable, the common-law union (cohabitation) variable, the age group of consumers aged 40 years and above, the number of dependents (between 7 and 9 people), and the street food restaurant without a roof variable.Several economic policy recommendations are proposed. First, public authorities should regulate the street food sector in order to improve hygiene standards at these food outlets, for example by ensuring that street food restaurants are equipped with roofs and sanitary facilities (toilets). Second, the government should implement measures aimed at reducing food prices so that households can better afford to prepare and consume meals at home under more hygienic conditions.

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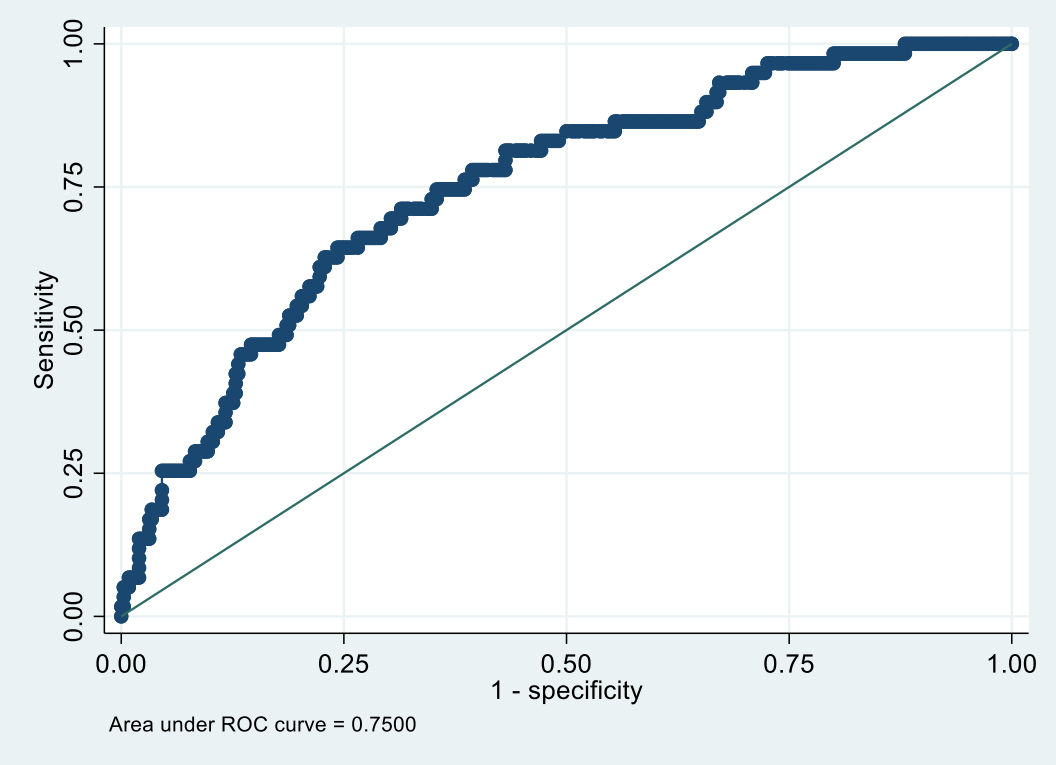
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ANNEXE

1. ROC curve



2.Model Predictive Performance

```
Classified + if predicted Pr(D) >= .5
True D defined as consommAli != 0
```

Sensitivity	Pr(+| D)	3.39%
Specificity	Pr(-|~D)	99.71%
Positive predictive value	Pr(D| +)	66.67%
Negative predictive value	Pr(~D| -)	85.96%
False + rate for true ~D	Pr(+|~D)	0.29%
False - rate for true D	Pr(-| D)	96.61%
False + rate for classified +	Pr(~D| +)	33.33%
False - rate for classified -	Pr(D| -)	14.04%
Correctly classified		85.82%