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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASYCUDA++	Automated System for Customs Data
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight
FOB	Free on Board
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GRA	Gambia Revenue Authority
HS	Harmonized System
IMTS 2010	International Merchandise Trade Statistics 2010
N.E.S	Not elsewhere specified
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

Concepts and Definitions

Monthly trade summary: Includes imports, exports and re-exports and total exports disaggregated by month.

Trade flow by selected continents and economic zones: Is the value of trade between The Gambia and selected geographic and economic zones.

Direction of trade: Trade flows from and to main trading partners. The ranking is done base on highest ten by value in (GMD) and country.

Trade flow by top ten products: This indicates trade flows (import, exports, re-exports) by main products sorted base on the highest Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) or Free On Board (FOB) value (D'000) at 2-digit Harmonised System product code which groups related commodities.

Exports trade: The exports of merchandise goods are valued at F.O.B and it refers to all movable goods. Share of domestic exports to total trade is the value of all goods exported to the rest of the world divided by total trade multiply by 100.

Imports trade: The value of imported goods includes the cost, insurance and freight (C.I.F) Share of imports to total trade is the value of all goods imported from the rest of the world divided by total trade multiply by 100.

Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for 2015. It aims to show the outlook of trade between The Gambia and its trading partners during the period under review. It could also serve as a catalyst to enhancing the investment drive of the country. The international merchandise trade statistics unit under the Economic Statistics Division of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), receives monthly raw trade data extracted from the Customs and Exercise Department of the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) Database (ASYCUDA++) in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format for processing using EUROTRACE¹.

Data cleaning is continuous as various tables are produced to feed into the reports. The database is therefore, updated from time to time to take account of adjustments made from the input source.

The report contains a wide range of trade statistics between The Gambia and its partners. This avails data users with information to facilitate planning and decision making. Data can be provided to users based on the level of breakdown requested. Thus, up to six (6) or eight (8) digits according to the Harmonised commodity description and coding system (HS).

The annual report contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports and Exports by major trading. Before the report is finalised, the National Harmonization Committee of international merchandise trade statistics validates the report.

The latest annual reports can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics' website (www.data.gbos.gov.gm). For users who have specific data needs, the international merchandise trade statistics Unit could offer the necessary assistance.

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics wishes to express its profound gratitude to the ASYCUDA++ (Automated System Customs Data) Unit of The Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA), for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics. We hope that users will find this report useful.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

¹ Eurotrace is the statistical software used by the external trade unit for data analysis. In July 1993 ECOWAS & UNCTAD developed Trace-nat under DOS OP System.

Introduction

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) 2010 of The Gambia are compiled based on the 'General Trade System' as recommended by the United Nation Statistics Division (UNSD) in (IMTS) 2010 concepts and definitions manual. The main source of data is Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA). They record goods entering (imports) or leaving (exports) to/from The Gambia. That is, whether or not the imports at the time of importation are intended for domestic consumption or for re-exports.

Merchandise trade covers only trade in goods and excludes trade in services. The commodity classification is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) 2007 tariff. The data presented in this report contains trade summary and other detailed information.

Trade summary covers the total imports, exports, re-exports, total exports, total trade and balance of trade. The trade balance is the difference between total exports and total imports (i.e. total exports minus total imports), total exports is (domestic exports plus re-exports), and total trade is (total imports plus total exports).

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS FOR 2015

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports and re-exports for 2015. The data show that total trade stood at GMD20.4 billion with a trade deficit of GMD12.9 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh exports since The Gambia is an import dependent country (81.6 % vs. 18.4 %) respectively.

Table 1: Trade summary, values GMD ('000)

TRADEFLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	16,640,430	81.6
EXPORTS	814,775	4.0
RE-EXPORTS	2,929,893	14.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,744,668	18.4
TOTAL TRADE	20,385,098	100.0
TRADE BALANCE	-12,895,763	

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 2 shows data on monthly trade statistics for 2015. It is observed that the highest value of imports was registered in June with GMD2.6 billion. This is followed by April and February with GMD1.8 billion and GMD1.5 billion respectively. Exports were highest in the months of March and June with GMD362.9 million and GMD115.6 million respectively. However, the lowest value of exports was registered in September and November with GMD7.6 million and GMD6.6 million respectively. Whereas the highest value of re-exports was recorded in December and August with GMD337.5 million and GMD 326.9 million respectively.

Table 2: Monthly trade statistics, values GMD ('000)

MONTHS	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	RE-EXPORTS	TOTAL EXPORTS
January	1,338,207	15,450	187,712	203,162
February	1,504,056	70,280	225,519	295,799
March	1,385,433	362,879	239,118	601,997
April	1,840,192	38,304	256,500	294,803
May	1,039,825	45,158	239,560	284,718
June	2,582,034	115,625	201,693	317,318
July	1,097,442	87,431	263,525	350,955
August	1,123,893	22,175	326,934	349,109
September	976,593	7,618	168,884	176,503
October	1,450,327	20,238	287,222	307,460
November	975,118	6,668	195,689	202,357
December	1,327,311	22,949	337,537	360,486
TOTAL	16,640,430	814,775	2,929,893	3,744,668

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Merchandise trade between The Gambia and selected continents and economic zones/blocs in table 3 shows that Africa has the highest value of imports with GMD5.9 billion. Out of this ECOWAS member states contributed 33.6 per cent of total imports from Africa. Trade agreements and regional integration initiatives is the major contributing factor for the high import values from Africa especially ECOWAS. America, Europe and Asia were also major markets for Gambia's imports in 2015. Thus, Europe, America and Asia recorded GMD3.5 billion, GMD2.4 billion and GMD2.8 billion respectively.

Gambia's export market is dominated by Europe with GMD328.0 million; of which all the exports are from the European Union (EU). This is followed by Asia with GMD318.7 million, The EU market has persistently been Gambia's main trading partner in terms of exports.

Table 3: Imports and exports by selected continents/economic zones, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	CIF VALES	%	FOB VALUES	%
EUROPE	3,517,725	21.1	327,962	40.3
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
European Union	3,448,016	20.7	327,962	40.3
AFRICA	5,851,926	35.2	35,895	4.4
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	5,594,754	33.6	34,194	4.2
OTHER AFRICA	257,172	1.5	1,701	0.2
AMERICA	2,438,200	14.7	1,328	0.2
ASIA	2,781,169	16.7	318,738	39.1
SUBTOTAL	14,589,020	87.7	683,923	83.9
REST OF THE WORLD	2,051,410	12.3	130,852	16.1
TOTAL	16,640,430	100.0	814,775	100

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for 2015. Overall, the highest value of imports was from Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal with GMD3.0 billion and GMD2.6 billion respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table below that 72.4 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partner's whiles slightly less than one-third of imports came from the rest of the world.

Table 4: Imports from top ten partners, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	%
Cote d'Ivoire	2,968,776	17.8
Senegal	2,550,061	15.3
Brazil	1,583,353	9.5
China	1,149,531	6.9
United Kingdom	793,731	4.8
United States	768,353	4.6

Pakistan	603,222	3.6
Spain	566,425	3.4
France	535,326	3.2
Malaysia	523,085	3.1
SUB TOTAL	12,041,861	72.4
REST OF THE WORLD	4,598,569	27.6
TOTAL IMPORTS	16,640,430	100.0

EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 5 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners France, Vietnam and United Kingdom registered the highest values of GMD162.9 million (20.0 %), GMD150.2 million (18.4 %) and GMD136.3 million (16.7 %) respectively. Italy had the lowest share of domestic exports with 1.5 per cent (GMD12.1 million). The data further shows that 94.6 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 5.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

Table 5: Exports to top ten partners, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	FOB VALUES	%
France	162,921	20.0
Viet Nam	150,156	18.4
United Kingdom	136,312	16.7
India	103,017	12.6
China	99,556	12.2
Singapore	49,052	6.0
Senegal	28,909	3.5
Netherlands	15,483	1.9
Spain	13,634	1.7
Italy	12,109	1.5
SUBTOTAL	771,147	94.6
REST OF THE WORLD	43,627	5.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	814,775	100.0

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Imports of top ten major products for 2015 stood at GMD12.4 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*CEREALS*' and '*Salt; sulphur; earths and stone.....*'; registered the highest with GMD3.1 billion, GMD2.3 billion and 2.1 billion respectively. While '*Man-made filaments*' recorded the least among the major imported products with GMD337.7 million (2.0 %). The sum of the major imported products (GMD12.4 billion) accounted for almost three-quarters of the total imports.

Table 6: Imports of top ten products, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	CIF VALUES	%
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,110,414	18.7
Cereals	2,283,232	13.7
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	2,078,055	12.5
Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,252,125	7.5
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,159,458	7.0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	892,493	5.4
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	486,647	2.9
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	434,815	2.6
machinery and mechanical appliances	377,225	2.3
Man-made filaments	337,713	2.0
SUB TOTAL	12,412,176	74.6
OTHER PRODUCTS	4,228,254	25.4
TOTAL IMPORTS	16,640,430	100.0

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products amounted to D809 million (99.3 %). Out of which, '*Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products....*' and '*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains.....*' registered the highest share of exports with 24.8 per cent and 22.5 percent respectively. The data further shows that exports of the top ten products constituted 99.3 per cent of total domestic exports while only 0.7 per cent of total domestic exports were other products.

Table 7: Exports of top ten products, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES	%
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	201,823	24.8
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	183,665	22.5
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	137,024	16.8
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	134,583	16.5

Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	92,998	11.4
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	34,239	4.2
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	13,368	1.6
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,963	1.0
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	1,741	0.2
Iron and steel	1,610	0.2
SUB TOTAL	809,014	99.3
OTHER PRODUCTS	5,761	0.7
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS	814,775	100.0

IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Imports of selected products consist of the most basic products/commodities consumed in The Gambia. Most often, these products record the highest import values among products imported by traders/importers.

Imports of selected basic products was dominated by rice (GMD1.7 billion) – which is Gambia’s main staple food, followed by sugar with GMD1.2 billion and vegetable cooking oil GMD872.3 million. Out of the total cement imported in 2015 (GMD728.0 million), Portland cement had the highest import value with GMD722.8 million and white cement GMD3.1 million.

Table 8: Imports of selected basic commodities, values GMD (‘000)

SELECTED BASIC PRODUCTS	CIF VALUES	QUANTITY
TOTAL VEGETABLES	157,877	18,419
OF WHICH:		
POTATOES FRESH OR CHILLED	24,323	2,501
ONIONS AND SHALLOTS	111,053	14,318
OTHER VEGETABLES	22,500	1,600
RICE	1,746,720	175,452
WHEAT FLOUR	407,748	8,337
EGGS	32,826	45,305
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS	257,209	23,560
SUGAR	1,225,498	113,386
VEGETABLE COOKING OIL	872,294	40,125
TOMATO PASTE	83,373	7,122
BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	77,525	3,881
OF WHICH:		
WATERS (INC. NATURAL AND MINERAL)	2,478	218
ALCOHOL	6,256	65
VINEGAR	217	-
TOTAL-CEMENT	727,961	1,530,354
OF WHICH:		
PORTLAND CEMENT	722,760	1,527,104
WHITE CEMENT	3,079	2,274

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EXPORTED

Information in table 9 shows Gambia's principal domestic exports for 2015. The results show that principal domestic exports were dominated by groundnuts and its derivative with exports value of GMD182.2 million of which GMD163 million is Groundnut Shelled. This was followed by the exportation of edible fruits and nuts (GMD137.0 million) of which GMD113.2 million was cashew nuts in shell. This indicates that exports of shelled groundnut and cashew nuts in shell are promising products for Gambia's domestic exports.

Table 9: Principal domestic exports, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES	QUANTITY
FISH CRUSTACEANS AND AQUATIC	92,998	1,993
VEGETABLES	14	1
SOAP ORGANIC SURFACE ACTIVE AGENTS	2	3
WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD	134,583	25,606
EDIBLE NUTS AND FRUITS	137,024	959,417
OF WHICH:		
CASHEW NUTS IN SHELL	113,223	185,983
CASHEW NUTS WITHOUT SHELL	2,021	200
OTHER NUTS	21,780	773,234
GROUNDNUT AND ITS DERIVATIVES	182,243	981,850
OF WHICH:		
GROUNDNUT SHELLED	163,451	981,633
GROUNDNUT IN SHELL	18,792	218
BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	7,963	262
OF WHICH:		
ALCOHOL	7,963	262

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FROM AND TO ECOWAS MEMBER STATES

Merchandise trade between The Gambia and ECOWAS has been persistently high as opposed to other geographic/economic zones. Overall, total value of imports from ECOWAS accounted for GMD5.6 billion. Out of this, Cote d'Ivoire recorded the highest value of imports with GMD2.97 billion which is because of the high volume of petroleum and fuel products imported, followed by Senegal with GMD2.6 billion.

A different pattern was observed for exports with overall low export value compared to imports for almost all the ECOWAS countries (GMD34.2 million). Out of this, Senegal registered the highest export value of GMD28.9 million, followed by Guinea with GMD3.2 million.

Table 10: Imports and exports from and to ECOWAS member states, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	FOB ALUES
Burkina Faso	3	-
Benin	1,554	163

Cote d'Ivoire	2,968,776	68
Cape Verde	1,372	-
Ghana	14,189	-
Guinea	33,479	3,215
Guinea-Bissau	422	-
Mali	1,521	22
Nigeria	19,138	1,523
Sierra Leone	793	35
Senegal	2,550,061	28,909
Togo	2,857	-
Liberia	3	260
Niger	588	-
ECOWAS	5,594,754	34,194

EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS AT HS6 DIGITS

Table 11 below shows detailed information on exports of products at HS6 digits for 2015. Senegal had a greater share of the total exports value (GMD28.9 million) of which 'Coniferous wood in chips or particles' and 'Almonds in shell, fresh or dried' were its main export products for 2015, with GMD10.8 million and GMD5.3 million respectively. The lowest value of exports was observed for Mali and Sierra Leone with GMD22 thousand and GMD35 thousand respectively.

Table 11: Exports of products at HS6 digits on annual basis to ECOWAS countries, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES
Benin	Vehicles with sparkignition engine of cylinder capacity 1500 to 3000cc	163
Cote d'Ivoire	Beauty, makeup, skincare (incl. suntan), nes	68
Guinea	Dried fish, not smoked (excl. cod)	11
	Cashew nuts, in shell, fresh or dried	280
	Shelled groundnuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked	2,924
Mali	Fresh or chilled salmonidae (excl. 0302.11 and 0302.12)	9
	Dried fish, not smoked (excl. cod)	13
Nigeria	other live fish	16
	Fresh or chilled salmonidae (excl. 0302.11 and 0302.12)	13
	Fresh or chilled tunas, nes	3
	Fresh or chilled fish, nes	67
	Frozen flat fish (excl. halibut, plaice and sole)	38
	Flours, meals and pellets of fish, fit for human consumption	12
	Livers and roes of fish, dried, smoked, salted or in brine	35
	Dried fish, not smoked (excl. cod)	767
	Anchovies salted or in brine but not dried or smoked	5
	Scallops (excl. live, fresh or chilled)	559
	Prepared or preserved fish (excl. minced), nes	8
	Sauces and sauce preparations; mixed condiments and	35

Sierra Leone	seasonings, nes	
Senegal	Fresh or chilled flat fish (excl. halibut, plaice and sole)	2,113
	Other frozen fish excl fish fillets	68
	Frozen salmonidae (excl. pacific, atlantic, danube salmon and trout)	1,250
	Frozen tunas, nes	25
	Frozen fish, nes	75
	Smoked fish (excl. salmon and herrings)	55
	Dried fish, not smoked (excl. cod)	513
	Brazil nuts, in shell, fresh or dried	705
	Cashew nuts, in shell, fresh or dried	556
	Almonds in shell, fresh or dried	5,272
	Groundnuts in shell, not roasted or otherwise cooked	599
	Prepared or preserved fish (excl. minced), nes	260
	Beer made from malt	3,476
	Other spirituous beverages, nes	2,956
	Boxes, cases, crates and similar articles	15
	Coniferous wood in chips or particles	10,827
	Garments, made up of knitted or crocheted fabrics of heading	90
	Buckets, shovels, grabs and grips of machinery of 84.26, 84.29 and 84.28	56
Liberia	Juice of any other single fruit or vegetable	78
	Mixtures of juices	86
	Other food preparations, nes	97
TOTAL		34,194