



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

BY

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS UNIT



Kanifing Institutional Layout

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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 based on highest ten by value (GMD) and country.

Trade flow by top ten products: This indicates trade flows (import, exports, re-exports) by main products sorted based on the highest Cost Insurance 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 (Free on Board) 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 of the goods plus the 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 2016. 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 internationalmerchandise 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.

Datacleaningis continuousas 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. 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 2016

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows that 80.2 per cent of the total merchandise trade goes to imports while exports registered the least share of total trade with 3.8 per cent. Whereas re-exports constituted 16.0 per cent of total trade. Overall, total trade stood at GMD19.8 billion with a trade deficit of GMD(11.98) billion.

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

TRADEFLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	15,898,749	80.2
EXPORTS	744,428	3.8
RE-EXPORTS	3,179,193	16.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,923,621	19.8
TOTAL TRADE	19,822,370	100.0
TRADE BALANCE	-11,975,128	

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 2 shows data on monthly trade statistics for the period under review. It is observed that the highest value of imports was registered in November with GMD2.0 billion. This was followed by December, June and May with GMD1.4 billion each. Furthermore,, exports were highest in the months of March, June and April with GMD190.7 million, GMD131.4 and GMD102.5 million respectively. However, the lowest value of exports was registered in December with GMD9.5 million. Whereas the highest value of re-exports was recorded in November and June with GMD635.8 million and GMD606.2 million respectively.

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

MONTHS	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	RE-EXPORTS	TOTAL EXPORTS
January	1,026,800	51,943	145,767	197,710
February	1,093,520	68,002	8,712	76,715
March	1,302,499	190,702	338,444	529,145
April	1,389,603	102,458	10,865	113,322
May	1,432,382	58,803	6,475	65,278
June	1,425,958	131,440	606,157	737,596
July	1,344,569	21,724	437,104	458,829
August	1,220,751	22,783	338,968	361,752
September	1,063,439	49,746	277,824	327,570
October	1,166,894	17,768	282,342	300,110
November	1,983,019	19,558	635,814	655,372
December	1,449,314	9,501	90,721	100,223
TOTAL	15,898,749	744,428	3,179,193	3,923,621

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS AND ECONOMIC ZONES

Merchandise trade between The Gambia and selected continents and economic zones/blocs in table 3 shows that Europe has the highest value of imports with GMD4.6 billion, of which European Union contributed 28.4 per cent of total imports from Europe. Furthermore, a higher proportion of Gambia's imports also came from Africa (GMD3.7 billion) this is estimated to be 23.5 per cent of total imports, ECOWAS constituted 21.9 per cent of imports from Africa. Trade agreements and regional integration initiatives is the major contributing factor for the high import values from Africa especially ECOWAS. Europe, Asia and America were also major markets for Gambia's imports in 2016.

Gambia's export market is dominated by Asia with GMD607.9 million. This is followed by Europe with GMD26.3 million; of which European Union (EU) contributed 100 per cent of exports to Europe. The EU market has persistently been Gambia's major trading partner in terms of exports.

Table 3: Imports and exports by selected continent/ ecozones, Values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	%	FOB VALUES	%
EUROPE	4,578,379	28.8	26,330	3.5
<i>Of Which:</i>				
EUROPEAN UNION	4,520,937	28.4	26,330	3.5
AFRICA	3,732,479	23.5	11,632	1.6
<i>Of Which:</i>				
ECOWAS	3,482,740	21.9	5,604	0.8
OTHER AFRICA	249,739	1.6	6,028	0.8
AMERICA	2,439,320	15.3	2,347	0.3
ASIA	2,883,359	18.1	607,856	81.7
SUB TOTAL	13,633,536	85.8	648,165	87.1
REST OF THE WRLD	2,265,213	14.2	96,263	12.9
TOTAL	15,898,749	100.0	744,428	100.0

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Imports by top ten partners shows each major partner's CIF value and share of the total imports. Cote d'Ivoire recorded the highest value of imports with GMD2.7 billion (17.2 %), followed by Brazil and Spain with GMD1.9 billion (11.8 %) and GMD1.8 billion (11.1 %) respectively. India had the lowest import value of GMD56.8 million (0.4 %).

Furthermore, it can also be seen from the table below that 69 per cent of the total imports came from the top ten partners, while 31 per cent of the imports came from the rest the of the world.

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

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	%
Cote d'Ivoire	2,732,396	17.2
Brazil	1,873,892	11.8
Spain	1,771,341	11.1
China	1,148,083	7.2
Malaysia	720,653	4.5
Netherlands	555,046	3.5
Belgium	544,300	3.4
Senegal	540,693	3.4
United Kingdom	515,982	3.2
India	56,820	0.4
SUB TOTAL	10,964,206	69.0
REST OF THE WORLD	4,934,542	31.0
TOTAL IMPORTS	15,898,749	100.0

EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

The Annual trade statistics data on exports by top ten countries indicates that from the major trading partners; more than one-third of the total domestic exports goes to Viet Nam with GMD472.1million (63.4 %), followed by India and China with GMD94.9 million (12.8 %) and GMD78.4million (10.5 %) respectively. United Kingdom had the lowest share of domestic exports among the main partners with GMD4.0million (0.5 %).

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

PARTNER	FOB VALUES	%
Viet Nam	472,097	63.4
India	94,913	12.8
China	78,351	10.5
Netherlands	17,518	2.4
Republic of Korea	17,393	2.3
Hong Kong	14,668	2.0
Spain	10,885	1.5
Denmark	6,555	0.9
Senegal	4,886	0.7
United Kingdom	3,954	0.5
SUB TOTAL	721,220	96.9
REST OF THE WORLD	23,208	3.1
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS	744,428	100.0

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Imports of top ten major products for 2016 stood at GMD11.5 billion. Among these '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*CEREALS*' and '*Animal or vegetable fats and oils and cleavage products.....*' registered the highest with GMD2.8 billion, GMD1.9 billion and 1.7 billion respectively. While '*Man-made filaments*' recorded the least among the major imported products with GMD320.9 million (2.0 %). The sum of the major imported products (GMD11.5 billion) forms almost three-quarters of the total imports (72.4 %).

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	2,821,449	17.7
Cereals	1,910,621	12.0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,705,397	10.7
Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,243,864	7.8
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	990,070	6.2
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	829,344	5.2
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	687,900	4.3
machinery and mechanical appliances	555,776	3.5
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	441,933	2.8
Man-made filaments	320,908	2.0
SUB TOTAL	11,507,263	72.4
OTHER PRODUCTS	4,391,486	27.6
TOTAL IMPORTS	15,898,749	100.0

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products amounted to GMD737.3 million. Out of which, '*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains.....*' and '*Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates*' registered the highest shares of exports with 51.7 per cent (GMD384.6 million) and 15.1 per cent (GMD112.5 million) respectively. The data further shows that exports of the top ten products constituted 99.0 per cent of total domestic exports while only 1.0 per cent (GMD7.1 million) of total domestic exports were other products.

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

PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES	%
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	384,609	51.7
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	112,508	15.1
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	101,401	13.6
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	96,666	13.0
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	29,527	4.0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	4,343	0.6
Iron and steel	2,251	0.3
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	2,106	0.3
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	1,942	0.3
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	1,937	0.3
SUB TOTAL	737,290	99.0
OTHER PRODUCTS	7,138	1.0
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS	744,428	100.0

IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC PRODUCTS

Imports of selected products consists 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 vegetable cooking oil with GMD1.7 billion, followed by rice (GMD1.5 billion) which is Gambia's main staple food and Sugar with GMD1.2 billion. Furthermore, as construction activities are on the increase year on year the table below shows a high value of imports for cement which registered GMD760.6 million, of which Portland cement had the highest import value of GMD757.2 million and white cement GMD3.1 million.

Table 8: Imports of selected basic products, Values GMD (‘000)

PRODUCTS	CIF VALUES	QUANTITY
TOTAL VEGETABLES	299,250	24,457
OF WHICH:		
POTATOES FRESH OR CHILLED	40,158	4,297
ONIONS AND SHALLOTS	161,150	18,932
RICE	1,488,629	127,284
WHEAT FLOUR	415,017	32,419
EGGS	51,088	79,963
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS	252,063	20,431
SUGAR	1,208,885	116,734
VEGETABLE COOKING OIL	1,684,803	46,338
TOMATO PASTE	71,959	6,445
BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	116,467	4,142
OF WHICH:		
ALCOHOL	39,273	215
VINEGAR	500	-
WATERS (INC. NATURAL AND MINERAL)	2,705	200
TOTAL CEMENT	760,640	326,525
OF WHICH:		
PORTLAND CEMENT	757,196	325,937
WHITE CEMENT	3,110	492
OTHER CEMENT	334	96

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EXPORTED

Table 9 below shows principal domestic exports. It can be observed from the table that ‘*Groundnut and its derivatives*’ registered the highest FOB value with GMD383.4 million, followed by ‘*Fish, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates....*’, and ‘*Edible fruit and nuts*’ with GMD112.5 million and GMD101.4 million respectively. Among the ‘*Edible fruit and nuts*’ GMD82.6 million was ‘*cashew nuts in shell*’ which is an indication that the cashew industry is still vibrant in The Gambia’s export market.

Table 9: Principal domestic exports, Values GMD (‘000)

PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES	QUANTITY
1. FISH CRUSTACEANS AND AQUATIC	112,508	48,988
2. TOTAL VEGETABLES	6	0
3. SOAP ORGANIC SURFACE ACTIVE AGENTS	951	10
4. WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD	96,666	17,988
5. EDIBLE NUTS AND FRUITS	101,401	595,398
OF WHICH:		
5.1. CASHEW NUTS IN SHELL	82,568	589,186
5.2. OTHER NUTS AND FRUITS	18,833	6,212
6. GROUNDNUT AND ITS DERIVATIVES	383,435	11,142
OF WHICH:		
6.1. GROUNDNUT IN SHELL	24,815	703
6.2. GROUNDNUT SHELLED	358,620	10,439
7. BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	2,106	42
OF WHICH:		
7.1. ALCOHOL	2,099	42

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FROM AND TO ECOWAS MEMBERS STATES

Table 10 presents imports from and to ECOWAS countries. Overall, total value of imports from the ECOWAS sub region accounted for GMD3.5 billion. Cote d'Ivoire has persistently been the partner in ECOWAS with the largest share of imports with more than three-quarter of total imports from ECOWAS countries (GMD2.7 billion). Followed by Senegal and Ghana with GMD540.7 million and GMD91.3 million respectively.

A different pattern was observed for exports with overall low export value compared to imports. The total domestic export value of exports to ECOWAS member states registered GMD5.6 million. Of which, Senegal registered the highest export value of GMD4.8 million, while Sierra Leone has the lowest with GMD65 thousand.

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

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	FOB VALUES
Cote d'Ivoire	2,732,396	190
Senegal	540,693	4,886
Ghana	91,298	216
Togo	53,088	-
Nigeria	30,460	-
Guinea	25,508	94
Sierra Leone	4,347	65
Mali	3,650	-
Benin	465	-
Liberia	415	154
Cape Verde	230	-
Burkina Faso	101	-
Guinea Bissau	89	-
SUBTOTAL	3,482,740	5,604
REST OF THE WORLD	12,416,009	738,824
TOTAL	15,898,749	744,428

EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS AT HS6 DIGITS

Exports of products at HS6 digits detail by ECOWAS member states is presented in table 11 below. Overall, Senegal had the largest portion of the total products exported with GMD4.9 million. Followed by Ghana with GMD216 thousand and the least was Sierra Leone with GMD65 thousand.

Table 12: Exports of products at HS6 digits on annual basis for 2016, Values GMD (‘000)

PARTNER	PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES
Cote d'Ivoire	Other furniture nes	190
Ghana	Dried fish, not smoked (excl. cod)	216
Guinea	Printed woven fabrics of artificial filament yarn, nes	94
Liberia	Carboys bottles flasks... stoppers lids and other closures of glass	154
Senegal	Anchovies salted or in brine but not dried or smoked	478
	Almonds in shell, fresh or dried	556
	Beer made from malt	1,906
	Boxes,cases,crates and similar articles	10
	Generating sets with compressionignition engines, =<75 kVA	1,937
Sierra Leone	Other food preparations, nes	42
	Other nonalcoholic beverages, nes	6
	Stoppers, lids and other closures of glass	4
	Carboys bottles flasks... stoppers lids and other closures of glass	13
TOTAL		5,604

