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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 (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 Freight or Free On Board value (D'000) at 2-digit Harmonized 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 2017. 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 usually contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports and Exports by major trading partners, Imports and Exports by top ten countries, Imports of selected commodities etc. Before the report is finalised, the National Harmonization Committee of international merchandise trade statistics validates the report.

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 Nations 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 2017

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 presents trade flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total imports imputed in 2017 amounted to GMD25.5 billion (96.1 %), whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD630.3 million and re-exports GMD403.6 million. It is evident from the table below that re-exports has dropped significantly from the preceding year.

Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD26.6 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable recording a deficit of GMD -24.5 billion.

Table 1: Trade summary, values GMD ('000), 2016 and 2017

TRADEFLOW	2016	%	2017	%
IMPORTS	15,898,749	80.2	25,529,208	96.1
EXPORTS	744,428	3.8	630,304	2.4
RE-EXPORTS	3,179,193	16	403,587	1.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,923,621	19.8	1,033,891	3.9
TOTAL TRADE	19,822,370	100.0	26,563,099	100.0
TRADE BALANCE	-11,975,128		-24,495,317	

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for 2017 is presented in the table below. The highest value of imports was registered in December with GMD3.8 billion, followed by October with GMD3.5 billion. While January recorded the least value with GMD1.1 billion. On the other hand, Exports in March recorded the highest FOB value (GMD182.2 million), followed by February with GMD106.6 million and the least was recorded in November (GMD13.9 million).

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

MONTHS	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	RE-EXPORTS
January	1,120,182	76,879	177,153
February	1,195,100	106,606	94,990
March	1,806,322	182,206	5,985
April	1,741,117	43,619	4,787
May	2,308,463	28,135	3,187
June	2,487,342	28,011	95,763
July	1,679,124	41,263	7,144
August	2,243,291	40,918	1,390
September	1,408,184	28,543	3,585
October	3,536,503	18,608	6,182
November	2,177,698	13,934	1,470
December	3,825,883	21,583	1,951
TOTAL	25,529,208	630,304	403,587

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Table 3 below shows trade flow by selected continents and the economic zones/blocs. Gambia's imports from Africa recorded the highest value with GMD12.3 billion. Out of which Economic Countries Of West African States registered GMD12.0 billion which constitutes 47.1 per cent of total imports, followed by Europe and Asia with GMD5.4 billion and GMD3.2 billion respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD492.2 million which forms 78.1 per cent of Total Domestic Exports. This is followed by Europe with GMD56.4 million, of which the European Union (EU) registered GMD53.9 million. The EU market which was Gambia's main trading block in terms of exports is now overtaken by the Asian Market as can be evidently seen from table 3 below.

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

PARTNER	CIFVALUES	%	FOB VALUES	%
AFRICA	12,330,119	48.3	18,031	2.9
OF WHICH				
ECOWAS	12,023,623	47.1	5,331	0.8
OTHER AFRICA	306,496	1.2	12,700	2.0
EUROPE	5,359,163	21.0	56,370	8.9
OF WHICH				
EUROPEAN UNION	4,509,736	17.7	53,867	8.5
AMERICA	2,506,069	9.8	11,230	1.8
ASIA	3,173,834	12.4	492,157	78.1

SUBTOTAL	23,369,185	91.5	577,788	91.7
REST OF THE WORLD	2,160,023	8.5	52,516	8.3
TOTAL	25,529,208	100.0	630,304	100.0

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows that total imports from top ten countries for the period under review amounted to GMD20.6 billion (80.6 %) Cote d'Ivoire registered the highest value with GMD7.3 billion (28.6 %) of total imports. This is followed by Senegal with GMD4.7 billion (18.2 %) and China with GMD2.1 billion (8.3 %). However, Turkey registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD549.6 million accounting for only 2.1 per cent of total imports.

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

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	%
Cote d'Ivoire	7,264,989	28.5
Senegal	4,653,757	18.2
China	2,117,680	8.3
Brazil	1,604,072	6.3
Spain	1,393,814	5.5
Malaysia	860,782	3.4
India	795,336	3.1
Netherlands	737,140	2.9
Belgium	601,837	2.4
Turkey	549,567	2.2
SUBTOTAL	20,578,974	80.6
REST OF THE WORLD	4,950,235	19.4
TOTAL IMPORTS	25,529,208	100.0

EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

The table below shows the domestic exports values and percentage share of domestic exports to Gambia's top ten partners against total domestic exports. Viet Nam dominated the domestic export market to The Gambia with a share of about 62.0 per cent (GMD390.6 million) of domestic exports, followed by China and India with 8.3 per cent (GMD52.5 million) and 8.3 per cent (GMD52.4 million) of domestic exports respectively. Republic of South Africa recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with 0.8 per cent (GMD4.9 million) of domestic exports.

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

PARTNER	FOB VALUES	%
Viet Nam	390,601	61.97
China	52,516	8.33
India	52,419	8.32
Republic of Korea	35,530	5.64
Netherlands	16,174	2.57
Spain	15,152	2.40
Italy	13,180	2.09
United States	11,230	1.78
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	7,878	1.25
Republic of South Africa	4,908	0.78
SUB TOTAL	599,590	95.13
REST OF THE WORLD	30,715	4.87
TOTAL	630,304	100.00

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

As shown in table 6 below, 'Mineral products registered the highest value among the top ten with GMD7.4 billion (29.0 %), followed by '*Salt; sulphur; earths and stone.....*' with GMD4.7 billion (18.4 %). While dairy products registered the least value of imported products with GMD311.1 million (1.3 %). Cereals registered GMD2.0 billion which also formed the bulk of Gambia's imports during this period most of which is rice Gambia's staple food.

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	7,399,380	29.0
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	4,689,261	18.4
Cereals	2,036,580	8.0
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,745,089	6.8
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,462,985	5.7
Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,161,983	4.6
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	953,861	4.4
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	474,766	3.7
Meat and edible meat offal	320,065	1.9
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere	311,175	1.3

specified or included		
SUBTOTAL	20,555,147	80.5
OTHER PRODUCCTS	4,974,062	19.5
TOTAL IMPORTS	25,529,208	100.0

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 7 below shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. '*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, seeds and fruit.....*' registered the highest FOB value with GMD348.2 million (55.2 %) which in previous years was mainly '*wood and articles of wood.....*'. This is followed by '*Fish and crustaceans, molluscs....*' with GMD134.2 (21.3 %) and Edible fruits and nuts recorded GMD66.7 million.

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	348,165	55.2
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	134,206	21.3
edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	66,705	10.6
wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	50,681	8.0
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	8,764	1.4
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	7,073	1.1
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	3,196	0.5
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,335	0.2
Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	1,029	0.2
Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preps, candles & similar articles etc	800	0.1
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	774	0.1
SUBTOTAL	622,729	98.8
REST OF THE WORLD	7,575	1.2
TOTAL	630,304	100.0

IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Imports of selected basic commodities constitute the most basic products 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 (GMD2.0 billion) – which is Gambia’s main staple food, followed by vegetable cooking oil with GMD1.4 billion and sugar GMD1.1 billion. Out of the total cement imported for the (GMD862.1 million); Portland cement had the highest import value with GMD842.8 million and white cement 18.2 million.

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

SELECTED BASIC PRODUCTS	CIF VALUES	QUANTITY
TOTAL VEGETABLES	219,911	24,683
OF WHICH:	-	-
POTATOES FRESH OR CHILLED	27,960	3,021
ONIONS AND SHALLOTS	167,237	19,082
OTHER VEGETABLES	24,714	2,579
RICE	2,035,722	178,399
WHEAT FLOUR	841,749	57,192
EGGS	44,014	38,499
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS	267,126	795,801
SUGAR	1,123,735	90,985
VEGETABLE COOKING OIL	1,445,809	61,662
TOMATO PASTE	50,573	5,564
BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	83,515	4,131
OF WHICH:		
ALCOHOL	3,917	52
VINEGAR	210	27
WATERS (INC. NATURAL AND MINERAL)	1,769	196
TOTAL CEMENT	862,055	369,709
OF WHICH:		
PORTLAND CEMENT	842,776	360,107
WHITE CEMENT	18,200	9,242
OTHER CEMENT	1,078	360

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EXPORTED

Information in table 9 shows Gambia's principal domestic exports. The results show that principal domestic exports were dominated by *'fish and crustaceans, molluscs.....'* value of GMD134.2 million. This was followed by the exportation of edible fruits and nuts (GMD66.7 million), of which GMD59.8 million was cashew nuts in shell. Furthermore, it can be seen that *'Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal'* registered GMD50.7 million.

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

PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES	QUANTITY
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	134,206	4,990
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	66,705	19,288
<i>OF WHICH:</i>		
Cashew nuts in shell,	59,812	16,421
Other fruits and nuts	6,893	2,867
Soap	800	15
Wood and article of wood, wood charcoal	50,681	10,212
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	54	2
<i>OF WHICH:</i>		
Alcohol	54	2

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FROM AND TO ECOWAS MEMBER STATES

Trade between Gambia and the ECOWAS sub region on imports continue to be very high compared to the EU which was the main trading partner from 1999 to 2009. Out of the total imports value of GMD12.0 billion from ECOWAS. Cote D'Ivoire being the main partner, registered an import value of GMD7.3 billion, followed by Senegal which registered an import value of GMD4.7 billion.

The table below also shows the exports to ECOWAS member states of which Senegal registered the highest value of GMD2.9 million, followed by Togo GMD871 thousand, and the least export goes to Cote d'Ivoire with GMD123 thousand.

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

PARTNER	CIF VALUES	FOB VALUES
Benin	237	—
Burkina Faso	527	—
Cape Verde	95	—
Cote d'Ivoire	7,264,989	123
Ghana	17,600	—
Guinea	23,027	195
Guinea-Bissau	103	—
Liberia	807	288
Mali	1,523	616
Niger	266	—
Nigeria	29,936	355
Senegal	4,653,757	2,884
Sierra Leone	27,594	—
Togo	3,161	871
SUBTOTAL	12,023,623	5,331
REST OF THE WORLD	13,505,585	624,973
TOTAL	25,529,208	630,304

EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS AT HS6 DIGITS

Merchandise trade between The Gambia and ECOWAS sub region has been persistently high over the years as opposed to other geographic/economic zones. Overall, total value of imports from the ECOWAS sub region accounted for GMD5.0 million. Out of this, Senegal recorded the highest value of imports with GMD2.8 million which is driven mainly by the exports of '*Cashew nuts, in shell, fresh or dried*', '*Soap and organic surface active products in bars*' among others , followed by Togo with GMD871 thousand.

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

PARTNER	PRODUCTS	FOB VALUES
Cote d'Ivoire	Anchovies salted or in brine but not dried or smoked	123
Guinea	Anchovies salted or in brine but not dried or smoked	61
	Margarine, excluding liquid margarine	134
Mali	Rock lobster and other sea crawfish	616
Nigeria	Parts and accessories of bodies (incl. cabs)	355
Senegal	Cashew nuts, in shell, fresh or dried	1,545
	Protein concentrates and textured protein substances	437
	Beer made from malt	54
	Soap and organic surface active products in bars, etc,	800
	Boxes, cases, crates and similar articles	35
	Buckets, shovels, grabs and grips of machinery of 84.26, 84.29 and 84.28	12
Togo	Printed woven fabrics, containing <85% silk	97
	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like	774
TOTAL		5,043