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**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018**

**BY**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT**



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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 2018. 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 EUROTRACE<sup>1</sup>.

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. The latest annual reports can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics' website ([www.data.gbos.gov.gm](http://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

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<sup>1</sup> 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) 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 2018

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports and re-exports for 2018. The data show that total trade stood at GMD32.6 billion with a trade deficit of GMD31.4 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh exports since The Gambia is an import dependent country (98.2 % vs. 0.6 %) respectively.

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

| TRADEFLOW          | VALUES             | %            |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| IMPORTS            | 31,996,019         | 98.2         |
| EXPORTS            | 187,667            | 0.6          |
| RE-EXPORTS         | 402,973            | 1.2          |
| TOTAL EXPORTS      | 590,641            | 1.8          |
| <b>TOTAL TRADE</b> | <b>32,586,659</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>BALANCE</b>     | <b>-31,405,378</b> |              |

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 2 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in September with GMD6.7 billion. This is followed by October and May with GMD4.7 billion and GMD2.5 billion respectively. Exports were highest in the months of May and November with GMD28.0 million and GMD25.2 million respectively. However, the lowest value of exports was registered in August and March with GMD10.2 million and GMD10.6 million respectively.

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

| MONTH        | IMPORTS           | %            | EXPORTS        | %            |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| January      | 2,061,082         | 6.4          | 11,057         | 5.9          |
| February     | 1,753,420         | 5.5          | 14,771         | 7.9          |
| March        | 1,742,585         | 5.4          | 10,586         | 5.6          |
| April        | 1,931,098         | 6.0          | 15,612         | 8.3          |
| May          | 2,542,867         | 7.9          | 28,036         | 14.9         |
| June         | 2,238,810         | 7.0          | 21,290         | 11.3         |
| July         | 2,149,141         | 6.7          | 16,755         | 8.9          |
| August       | 1,910,589         | 6.0          | 10,154         | 5.4          |
| September    | 6,687,196         | 20.9         | 12,447         | 6.6          |
| October      | 4,658,740         | 14.6         | 10,745         | 5.7          |
| November     | 2,524,513         | 7.9          | 25,221         | 13.4         |
| December     | 1,795,978         | 5.6          | 10,992         | 5.9          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>31,996,019</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>187,667</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## 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 GMD14.8 billion. Out of this ECOWAS member states contributed 44.9 per cent of total imports from Africa. This is followed by Europe with GMD8.1 billion, Asia GMD3.8 billion and America GMD3.3 billion. Gambia's export market is dominated by Asia with GMD90.2 million, followed by Europe with GMD62.0 million and Africa with GMD30.5 million.

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

| <b>PARTNER</b>           | <b>IMPORTS</b>    | <b>%</b>     | <b>EXPORTS</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| AFRICA                   | 14,846,718        | 46.4         | 30,502         | 16.3         |
| <i>OF WHICH</i>          |                   |              |                |              |
| ECOWAS                   | 14,369,359        | 44.9         | 19,764         | 10.5         |
| OTHER AFRICA             | 477,359           | 1.5          | 10,738         | 5.7          |
| AMERICA                  | 3,332,031         | 10.4         | 4,897          | 2.6          |
| ASIA                     | 3,790,909         | 11.8         | 90,221         | 48.1         |
| EUROPE                   | 8,059,788         | 25.2         | 62,048         | 33.1         |
| <i>OF WHICH</i>          |                   |              |                |              |
| EU                       | 7,067,943         | 22.1         | 62,048         | 33.1         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>          | <b>30,029,445</b> | <b>93.9</b>  | <b>187,667</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b> | <b>1,966,574</b>  | <b>6.1</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>31,996,019</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>187,667</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Data in table 4 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for 2018. Overall, the highest values of imports was from Cote d'Ivoire and United Kingdom with GMD13.4 billion and GMD3.8 billion respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 84 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 16 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

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

| <b>PARTNER</b> | <b>IMPORTS</b> | <b>%</b> |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Cote d'Ivoire  | 13,435,172     | 42.0     |
| United Kingdom | 3,801,340      | 11.9     |
| Brazil         | 2,365,504      | 7.4      |
| China          | 1,930,768      | 6.0      |
| India          | 1,462,331      | 4.6      |
| Spain          | 829,775        | 2.6      |
| Turkey         | 808,311        | 2.5      |
| Malaysia       | 762,798        | 2.4      |
| Netherlands    | 758,689        | 2.4      |
| Senegal        | 733,292        | 2.3      |



|                          |                   |              |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>          | <b>26,887,980</b> | <b>84.0</b>  |
| <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b> | <b>5,108,039</b>  | <b>16.0</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>     | <b>31,996,019</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 5 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners India, Republic of Korea and Vietnam registered the highest values with GMD32.9 million (17.5 %), GMD28.8 million (15.3 %) and GMD24.7 million (13.2 %) respectively. Senegal had the lowest value of domestic exports with GMD5.5 million (2.9 %). The data further shows that 86.1 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 13.9 per cent went to the rest of the world.

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

| <b>PARTNER</b>           | <b>EXPORTS</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| India                    | 32,910         | 17.5         |
| Republic of Korea        | 28,787         | 15.3         |
| Viet Nam                 | 24,717         | 13.2         |
| Netherlands              | 21,885         | 11.7         |
| Spain                    | 20,519         | 10.9         |
| Guinea-Bissau            | 8,196          | 4.4          |
| Tunisia                  | 6,923          | 3.7          |
| United Kingdom           | 6,626          | 3.5          |
| Guinea                   | 5,529          | 2.9          |
| Senegal                  | 5,495          | 2.9          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>          | <b>161,588</b> | <b>86.1</b>  |
| <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b> | <b>26,080</b>  | <b>13.9</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>     | <b>187,667</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Imports of top ten major products for 2018 stood at GMD26.1 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*articles of steel*', and '*cereals*' registered the highest values with GMD13.6 billion, GMD3.4 billion and 24 billion respectively. However, '*Meat and edible meat offal*' recorded the least value among the major imported products with GMD404.3 million (1.3 %).

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

| <b>PRODUCTS</b>  | <b>IMPORTS</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--|----------------|----------|
| Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 13,587,457     | 42.5     |
| Articles of iron or steel  | 3,415,732      | 10.7     |
| Cereals  | 2,383,035      | 7.4      |
| Sugars and sugar confectionery   | 1,494,885      | 4.7      |
| Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof              | 1,375,774      | 4.3      |

|   |                   |              |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement  | 1,041,710         | 3.3          |
| Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes  | 1,016,394         | 3.2          |
| 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 | 934,014           | 2.9          |
| Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten  | 413,803           | 1.3          |
| Meat and edible meat offal  | 404,282           | 1.3          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>   | <b>26,067,086</b> | <b>81.5</b>  |
| <b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>   | <b>5,928,385</b>  | <b>18.5</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>  | <b>31,995,471</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products amounted to D176.5 million (94 %). Out of which, '*Fish and crustaceans ....*' and '*Edible fruit and nuts .....*' registered the highest share of exports with 51.9 per cent and 18.5 percent respectively. The data further shows that '*Glass and glassware*' recorded the least value with 2 million (1.1 %).

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

| <b>PRODUCTS</b>  | <b>EXPORTS</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates   | 97,392         | 51.9         |
| Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons  | 34,772         | 18.5         |
| Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder | 12,567         | 6.7          |
| Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder  | 9,543          | 5.1          |
| Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten   | 6,219          | 3.3          |
| Articles of iron or steel  | 5,653          | 3.0          |
| Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes           | 3,948          | 2.1          |
| Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans      | 2,209          | 1.2          |
| Iron and steel   | 2,176          | 1.2          |
| Glass and glassware  | 1,996          | 1.1          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>176,476</b> | <b>94.0</b>  |
| <b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>  | <b>11,191</b>  | <b>6.0</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>   | <b>187,667</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## 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 with GMD2.4 billion, which is Gambia's main staple food, followed by sugar with GMD1.5 billion and vegetable cooking oil GMD999.8 million. Total cement imported also registered a significant amount of GMD684.4 million, of which Portland cement amounted to GMD603 million and white cement GMD1.7 million.

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

| <b>PRODUCTS</b>                                | <b>IMPORTS</b> |
|--|----------------|
| Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers | 287,398        |
| <i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>                         |                |
| Potatoes                                       | 50,588         |
| Onions and shallots                            | 208,870        |
| <b>RICE</b>                                    | 2,377,034      |
| Wheat or meslin flour                          | 375,512        |
| Total cement                                   | 684,365        |
| <i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>                         |                |
| Portland cement                                | 602,981        |
| White cement                                   | 1,744          |
| Other cement                                   | 79,640         |
| Beverages, spirits and vinegar                 | 128,746        |
| <i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>                         |                |
| Vinegar  | 602            |
| Alcohol  | 5,315          |
| Mineral Water                                  | 122,829        |
| Tomatoes paste                                 | 70,021         |
| Eggs   | 62,710         |
| Milk and milk products                         | 313,416        |
| sugar  | 1,458,630      |
| Vegetable oils                                 | 999,804        |