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**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019**

**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 based 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 based on the highest Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) or Free on Board (FOB) value in (GMD'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 2019. 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 Directorate of Economic Statistics 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 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.gbosdata.org](http://www.gbosdata.org)). 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.

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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 2019

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in May with GMD4.0 billion. This is followed by July and August with GMD2.7 billion and GMD2.7 billion respectively. Exports were highest in the months of February and May with GMD64.9 million and GMD54.0 million respectively. However, the lowest value of exports was registered in November and December with GMD10.8 million and GMD7.9 million respectively.

**Table 1: Monthly trade statistics 2019, values GMD ('000)**

MONTH	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
January	2,488,667	8.0	35,737	7.9
February	2,626,258	8.5	64,881	14.4
March	2,248,053	7.2	49,051	10.9
April	2,489,741	8.0	45,383	10.0
May	4,025,234	13.0	53,984	11.9
June	2,054,097	6.6	53,790	11.9
July	2,677,194	8.6	47,998	10.6
August	2,661,712	8.6	38,120	8.4
September	2,241,124	7.2	27,357	6.1
October	2,506,560	8.1	16,959	3.8
November	2,436,396	7.8	10,773	2.4
December	2,621,114	8.4	7,857	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,076,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>451,891</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 2 shows that Africa has the highest value of imports with GMD11.3 billion. Out of this ECOWAS member states contributed GMD10.5 billion (33.7 %) of total imports from Africa. This is followed by Asia with GMD8.9 billion, Europe GMD7.0 billion and America GMD3.7 billion. Gambia's export market is dominated by Asia with GMD344.0 million, followed by Europe with GMD53.4 million and Africa with GMD28.3 million.

**Table 2: Imports and exports by selected continents/economic zones 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	11,335,901	36.5	28,334	6.3
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>				
ECOWAS	10,464,440	33.7	19,688	4.4
REST OF AFRICA	871,461	2.8	8,645	1.9
EUROPE	7,044,110	22.7	52,367	11.6
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>				
EU	5,670,350	18.2	38,886	8.6
AMERICA	3,675,664	11.8	27,162	6.0
ASIA	8,986,188	28.9	344,028	76.1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>31,041,863</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>451,891</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>34,287</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,076,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>451,891</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS**

Data in table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for 2019. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Cote d'Ivoire (*main product imported is mineral fuels*) and India (*main product imported is electrical machinery and equipment*) with GMD9.5 billion and GMD3.0 billion respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 76 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 24 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

**Table 3: Imports from top ten partners 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	9,467,126	30.5
India	2,964,904	9.5
China	2,604,067	8.4
Brazil	2,593,469	8.3
Spain	1,528,091	4.9
Netherlands	1,102,497	3.5
Malaysia	993,959	3.2
Belgium	841,187	2.7
Turkey	801,280	2.6
United States	669,448	2.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>23,566,027</b>	<b>75.8</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>7,510,122</b>	<b>24.2</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>31,076,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners China (*main product exported is wood and articles of wood*), India (*main product exported is edible fruit and nuts*) and Vietnam (*main product exported is fish and crustaceans*) registered the highest values with GMD166.9 million (36.9 %), GMD71.6 million (15.8 %) and GMD62.5 million (13.8 %) respectively. United Kingdom had the lowest value of domestic exports with GMD6.3 million (1.4 %). The data further shows that 89.8 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 1.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

**Table 4: Exports to top ten partners 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	166,873	36.9
India	71,624	15.8
Viet Nam	62,488	13.8
Republic of Korea	34,109	7.5
Chile	19,222	4.3
Spain	18,522	4.1
Turkey	9,985	2.2
Netherlands	9,325	2.1
Niger	7,418	1.6
United Kingdom	6,255	1.4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>405,821</b>	<b>89.8</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>46,070</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>451,891</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for 2019 stood at GMD26.1 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*cereals*' and '*vehicles other than railway....*', registered the highest values with GMD9.7 billion, GMD2.5 billion and 2.0 billion respectively. However, '*Products of the milling industry*' recorded the least value among the major imported products with GMD521.8 million (1.2 %).

**Table 5: Imports of top ten products 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	9,689,819	31.2
Cereals	2,487,760	8.0
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,988,661	6.4
Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,852,130	6.0
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	1,707,992	5.5
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,705,360	5.5
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	1,072,797	3.5
Articles of iron or steel	744,975	2.4
Iron and steel	693,048	2.2
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	521,798	1.7
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>22,464,339</b>	<b>72.3</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>8,611,810</b>	<b>27.7</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>31,076,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below, amounted to GMD425.5 million (94.2 %). Out of which, '*Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal....*' and '*Fish and crustaceans .....*' registered the highest share of exports with 29.7 per cent and 26.6 per cent respectively. The data further shows that '*Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material....*' recorded the least value with GMD4.5 million (1 %).

**Table 6: Exports of top ten products 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	134,329	29.7
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	120,204	26.6
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	80,019	17.7
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	19,240	4.3
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	18,984	4.2
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	16,631	3.7
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	15,935	3.5
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	10,788	2.4
Iron and steel	4,900	1.1
Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	4,502	1.0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>425,532</b>	<b>94.2</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>26,359</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>451,891</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 7 below shows that 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 GMD2.0 billion, followed by sugar with GMD1.8 billion and vegetable cooking oil GMD1.7 billion. Total cement imported also registered a significant amount of GMD961.5 million, of which Portland cement amounted to GMD959.1 million and white cement GMD2.3 million.

**Table 7: Imports of selected basic commodities 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	166,391
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	21,077
Onions and shallots	104,558
Rice	2,003,105
Wheat or meslin flour	389,148
Refined cane sugar	1,767,627
Total Cement	961,459
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	959,141
White cement	2,294
Tomato Paste	44,976
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	233,819
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar obtained from acetic acid	564
Mineral water	228,254
Alcohol	5,002
Eggs	79,011
Milk and milk products	278,086
Vegetable Oil	1,680,609

## TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports and re-exports from 2015 - 2019. The data shows that total trade stood at GMD32.6 billion with a trade deficit of GMD29.5 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since The Gambia is an import dependent country (95.2 % vs. 1.4 %) respectively.

The data shows that imports has decreased from GMD16.6 billion in 2015 to GMD15.9 billion. However, it picked up in 2017 and continued to increase up to 2018. Then decreased again slightly in 2019 to GMD31.1 billion from GMD32.6 billion in 2018.

On the contrary, domestic exports shows a decreasing trend between 2015-2018, with 2018 being the biggest drop of all. This is may be due to the reduction in our groundnuts and

cashew exports due to the products not meeting international certified standards to be exported. Nonetheless, 2019 shows an increase, with GMD451.9 million from GMD225.0 million in 2018.

**Table 8: Trade summary from 2015-2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>YEARS</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>TRADEFLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>VALUES</b>
IMPORTS	16,640,430	15,898,749	25,678,051	32,621,590	31,076,150
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	814,775	744,428	639,284	225,018	451,891
RE-EXPORTS	2,929,893	3,179,193	403,587	403,141	1,121,193
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,744,668	3,923,621	1,042,871	628,159	1,573,084
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>20,385,098</b>	<b>19,822,370</b>	<b>26,720,923</b>	<b>33,249,749</b>	<b>32,649,234</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-12,895,763</b>	<b>-11,975,128</b>	<b>-24,635,180</b>	<b>-31,993,431</b>	<b>-29,503,066</b>