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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

FOR SECOND QUARTER 2019

BY

THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE 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 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 (GMD'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 second quarter 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 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 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.

The reports can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics' website (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.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

¹ Euro trace 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 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. 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.

The 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 SECOND QUARTER 2019

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 presents trade flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD9.0 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable recording a deficit of GMD -8.2 billion. Furthermore, total imports imputed in the second quarter of 2019 amounted to about GMD8.6 billion (95.4%), whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD153.2 million and re-exports GMD264.5 million.

Table 1: Trade summary second quarter 2019, values GMD (‘000),

TRADEFLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	8,569,064	95.4
EXPORTS	153,157	1.7
RE-EXPORTS	264,473	2.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	417,630	4.6
TOTAL TRADE	8,986,694	100.0
BALANCE	-8,151,433	

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for the second quarter 2019 is presented in the table below. The highest value of imports was registered in May with GMD4.0 billion, followed by April with about GMD2.5 billion. Similarly, Exports in May also recorded the highest FOB value with about GMD54.0 million, followed by June with GMD53.8 million and the least was recorded in April with about GMD45.4 million.

Table 2: Monthly trade statistics for second quarter 2019, values GMD (‘000)

MONTHS	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
April	2,489,733	29.1	45,383	29.6
May	4,025,234	47.0	53,984	35.2
June	2,054,097	24.0	53,790	35.1
TOTAL	8,569,064	100.0	153,157	100.0

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Table 3 shows trade flow by selected continents and the economic zones/blocs. Gambia's imports from Africa recorded the highest value with GMD2.9 billion accounting for 34.3 per cent of total imports out of which the Economic Community of West African States registered GMD2.6 billion constituting 30.8 per cent with the remaining 3.5 per cent registered for the rest of Africa. This is followed by Asia and Europe with GMD2.9 billion and GMD1.7 billion constituting 34.2 and 19.9 per cent of total imports respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD124.0 million accounting for 81 per cent of total domestic exports. This is followed by America with GMD13.5 million and Europe with about GMD9.5 million.

Table 3: Imports and exports by selected continents/economic zones for the second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
AFRICA	2,939,635	34.3	6,123	4.0
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	2,637,932	30.8	5,292	3.5
REST OF AFRICA	301,703	3.5	831	0.5
AMERICA	987,465	11.5	13,528	8.8
EUROPE	1,702,338	19.9	9,489	6.2
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,387,369	16.2	9,293	6.1
ASIA	2,934,379	34.2	124,017	81.0
SUBTOTAL	8,563,817	99.9	153,157	100.0
REST OF THE WORLD	5,247	0.1	0	0.0
TOTAL	8,569,064	100.0	153,157	100.0

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 shows that total imports from top ten countries for the period under review amounted to GMD6.8 billion (79.5%). Cote d'Ivoire registered the highest value with about GMD2.5 billion (29%) of total imports. This is followed by India with GMD1.5 billion (18%) and Brazil with GMD795.6 million (9.3%). Furthermore, Spain registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD160.1 million accounting for only 1.9 per cent.

Table 4: Imports from top ten partners for second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%
Cote d'Ivoire	2,483,946	29.0
India	1,543,862	18.0
Brazil	795,621	9.3
China	514,871	6.0
Netherlands	453,581	5.3
Belgium	247,154	2.9
Malaysia	234,428	2.7
Turkey	194,525	2.3
Algeria	181,968	2.1
Spain	160,148	1.9
SUBTOTAL	6,810,103	79.5
REST OF THE WORLD	1,758,961	20.5
TOTAL IMPORTS	8,569,064	100.0

EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 5 below shows the domestic export values and percentage share of domestic exports to Gambia's top ten partners against total domestic exports. China dominated the domestic export market to The Gambia with GMD52.0 million with a share of (34%). This is followed by India and Vietnam with GMD34.7 million, (22.7%) and GMD21.1 million (13.8%). Senegal recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with GMD2.0 million (1.3%).

Table 5: Exports to top ten countries for second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PARTNER	EXPORTS	%
China	52,044	34.0
India	34,703	22.7
Viet Nam	21,137	13.8
Republic of Korea	14,482	9.5
Chile	8,767	5.7
United Kingdom	4,367	2.9
Guinea-Bissau	2,971	1.9
Cuba	2,400	1.6
United States	2,361	1.5
Senegal	2,022	1.3
SUBTOTAL	145,252	94.8
REST OF THE WORLD	7,905	5.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	153,157	100.0

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

As shown in table 6 below, 'Mineral products' registered the highest value among the top ten products with about GMD2.5 billion (29.1%), followed by 'Sugars and sugar confectionery' with about GMD658.5 million (7.7%) and cereals with GMD588.7 million (6.9%). However, "dairy produce...." registered the least value of imported products with GMD127.5 million (1.5%).

Table 6: Imports of top ten products for second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	%
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,495,787	29.1
Sugars and sugar confectionery	658,462	7.7
Cereals	588,748	6.9
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	572,743	6.7
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	480,226	5.6
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	407,965	4.8
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	299,301	3.5

Iron and steel	221,595	2.6
Meat and edible meat offal	157,562	1.8
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	127,451	1.5
SUBTOTAL	6,009,840	70.1
OTHER PRODUCTS	2,559,224	29.9
TOTAL IMPORTS	8,569,064	100.0

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 7 shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. 'Wood and articles of wood...' registered the highest FOB value with about GMD47.0 million (30.7%). This is followed by 'Edible fruit and nuts....' with GMD38.6 million (25.2%) and 'fish and crustaceans' with about GMD38.0 million (24.8%).

Table 7: Exports of top ten products for second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	EXPORTS	%
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	46,954	30.7
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	38,569	25.2
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	37,985	24.8
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	9,015	5.9
Iron and steel	4,900	3.2
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	2,640	1.7
Other made up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	2,400	1.6
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	2,168	1.4
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	1,709	1.1
Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included	938	0.6
SUBTOTAL	147,279	96.2
OTHER PRODUCTS	5,878	3.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	153,157	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. Imports of selected basic products was dominated by refined cane sugar with GMD647.0 million, followed by vegetable oil with GMD473.3 million and rice with GMD472.9 million.

Table 8: Imports of selected basic commodities for second quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

PRODUCTS	IMPORTS
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	11,580
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	311
Onions and shallots	5,549
Rice	472,904
Wheat or meslin flour	106,521
Refined cane sugar	647,009
Total Cement	276,610
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Portland cement	275,415
White cement	1,194
Tomatoes Paste	9,219
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	62,492
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Alcohol	630
Mineral water	61,448
Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar obtained from acetic acid	414
Eggs	18,256
Milk and milk products	75,130
Vegetable Oil	473,286