



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**FOR THIRD QUARTER 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 (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 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 third 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 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 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](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> 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 THIRD QUARTER 2019

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 presents trade-flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD8.1 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable recording a deficit of GMD -7.1 billion. Furthermore, total imports imputed in the third quarter 2019 amounted to GMD7.6 billion (94.3%), whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD113.5 million and re-exports GMD462.1 million.

**Table 1: Trade summary third quarter 2019, values GMD ('000),**

<b>TRADEFLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	7,597,197	94.3
EXPORTS	113,476	1.4
RE-EXPORTS	348,633	4.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	462,109	5.7
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>8,059,306</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-7,135,088</b>	

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for the third quarter 2019 is presented in the table below. The highest value of imports was registered in August with GMD2.7 billion, followed by July with GMD2.7 billion. Similarly, Exports in July also recorded the highest FOB value with GMD48.0 million, followed by August with GMD38.1 million and the least was recorded in September with GMD27.4 million.

**Table 2: Monthly trade statistics for third quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
July	2,679,575	35.3	47,998	42.3
August	2,676,707	35.2	38,120	33.6
September	2,240,915	29.5	27,357	24.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,597,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>113,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 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. Out of which Economic Community of West African States registered GMD2.7 billion which constitutes 35 per cent of total imports. This is followed by Asia and Europe with GMD1.9 billion and GMD1.7 billion respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD79.6 million accounting for 70 per cent of total domestic exports. This is followed by Europe with GMD19.8 million and America with GMD9.8 million.

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	2,945,856	38.8	4,199	3.7
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	2,660,665	35.0	2,748	2.4
REST OF AFRICA	285,191	3.8	1,452	1.3
AMERICA	795,370	10.5	9,789	8.6
EUROPE	1,981,364	26.1	19,841	17.5
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,575,511	20.7	10,841	9.6
ASIA	1,873,044	24.7	79,646	70.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,595,634</b>	<b>99.98</b>	<b>113,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,597,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>113,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Table 4 shows that total imports from top ten countries for the period under review amounted to GMD5.7 billion (75.7%). Cote d'Ivoire registered the highest value with GMD2.4 billion (31.6%) of total imports. This is followed by China with GMD766.1 million (10.1%) and Spain with GMD623.9 million (8.2%). Furthermore, Russia registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD185.0million accounting for only 2.4 per cent.

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	2,397,839	31.6
China	766,136	10.1
Spain	623,944	8.2
Brazil	503,220	6.6
India	355,656	4.7
United Kingdom	264,700	3.5
United States	230,440	3.0
Malaysia	222,121	2.9
Belgium	199,138	2.6
Russia	184,974	2.4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5,748,169</b>	<b>75.7</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,849,028</b>	<b>24.3</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>7,597,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## 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. India dominated the domestic export market to The Gambia with GMD36.9 million which is a share of about (32.5%). This is followed by China and Vietnam with GMD22.8 million, (20.1%) and GMD12.8 million (11.3%). Republic of South Africa recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with GMD1.5 million (1.3%).

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
India	36,922	32.5
China	22,844	20.1
Viet Nam	12,827	11.3
Turkey	9,000	7.9
Chile	8,071	7.1
Spain	7,787	6.9
Republic of Korea	2,719	2.4
Netherlands	1,847	1.6
Senegal	1,776	1.6
Republic of South Africa	1,452	1.3
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>105,243</b>	<b>92.7</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>113,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

As shown in table 6 below, 'Mineral products' registered the highest value among the top ten products with GMD2.5 billion (33%), followed by 'Electrical machinery and equipment....' with GMD558.2 million (7.3%) and with cereals GMD467.6 million (6.2%). However, Fertilizers registered the least value of imported products with GMD167.4 million (2.2%).

**Table 6: Imports of top ten products for third quarter 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	2,504,983	33.0
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	558,212	7.3
Cereals	467,634	6.2
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	440,933	5.8
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	399,860	5.3
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	310,191	4.1

Sugars and sugar confectionery	265,496	3.5
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	241,413	3.2
Printed books, newspapers, pictures, and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	186,991	2.5
Fertilizers	167,389	2.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5,543,102</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>2,054,095</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>7,597,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 7 shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. 'Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons' registered the highest FOB value with GMD40.3 million (35.5%). This is followed by 'Fish and crustaceans' with GMD29.3 million (25.9%) and 'Salt; sulphur; earths and stone ....' with GMD13.7 million (12.1%).

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	40,250	35.5
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates	29,347	25.9
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	13,683	12.1
Works of art, collectors' pieces, and antiques	13,045	11.5
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	7,535	6.6
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	4,579	4.0
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	2,442	2.2
Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preps, candles & similar articles etc.	900	0.8
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	857	0.8
Printed books, newspapers, pictures, and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	475	0.4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>113,113</b>	<b>99.7</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>113,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 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 rice with GMD441.5 million, followed by total cement with GMD364.3; of which Portland cement amounted to GMD364.0 and white cement to GMD228 thousand and vegetable oil with GMD303.0 million.

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	30,206
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	2,145
Onions and shallots	20,383
Rice	441,471
Wheat or meslin flour	198,623
Refined cane sugar	246,376
Total Cement	364,257
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	364,014
White cement	228
Tomatoes, preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, nes	14,617
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	60,435
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	1,655
Mineral water	58,736
Vegetable Oil	302,964
Milk and milk products	81,226