



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**FOURTH QUARTER 2019**

**BY**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT**



**Kanifing Institutional Layout**

**P.O. Box 3504, Serekunda, The Gambia**

## **Table of Content**

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	3
Concepts and Definitions.....	4
Preface .....	5
Introduction.....	6
TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS .....	7
MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS.....	7
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES .....	7
IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS.....	8
EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS .....	9
IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS.....	9
EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS .....	10
IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES.....	10

## **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, and 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 fourth 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 trading 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.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

---

<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 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 FOURTH QUARTER 2019

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 presents trade-flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD7.9 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable recording a deficit of GMD -7.2 billion. Furthermore, total imports imputed in the fourth quarter of 2019 amounted to about GMD7.6 billion (95.3%), whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD35.6 million and re-exports GMD333.5 million.

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

<b>TRADEFLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
Imports	7,564,070	95.3
Exports	35,589	0.4
Re-exports	333,521	4.2
Total exports	369,110	4.7
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>7,933,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-7,194,960</b>	

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for fourth quarter 2019 is presented in the table below. The highest value of imports was registered in December with GMD2.6 billion, followed by October with about GMD2.5 billion. October recorded the highest FOB value with GMD17.0 million, followed by November with GMD10.8 million and the least was recorded in December with GMD7.9 million.

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

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
October	2,506,560	33.1	16,959	47.7
November	2,436,396	32.2	10,773	30.3
December	2,621,114	34.7	7,857	22.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,564,070</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35,589</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 accounting for about 38.5 per cent of total imports. Out of which the Economic Community of West African States registered GMD2.8 billion constituting 36.7 per cent and the remaining 1.8 per cent registered for the rest of Africa. This is followed by Europe and Asia with GMD1.9 billion and GMD1.8 billion constituting 24.5 and 24.3 per cent of total imports respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD22.0 million accounting for 61.9 per cent of total domestic exports. This is followed by Europe with GMD8.4 million and Africa with about GMD2.6 million.

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	2,911,300	38.5	2,634	7.4
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	2,772,232	36.7	1,463	4.1
REST OF AFRICA	139,068	1.8	1,172	3.3
AMERICA	964,463	12.8	2,496	7.0
EUROPE	1,853,218	24.5	8,427	23.7
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,483,906	19.6	8,427	23.7
ASIA	1,834,459	24.3	22,032	61.9
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,563,440</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35,589</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,564,070</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35,589</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 GMD6.0 billion (78.9%). Cote d'Ivoire registered the highest value with about GMD2.5 billion (32.8%) of total imports. This is followed by Brazil with GMD677.5 million (9%) and China with GMD519.1 million (6.9%). Furthermore, Senegal registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD242.0 million accounting for only 3.2 per cent.

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	2,482,168	32.8
Brazil	677,508	9.0
China	519,110	6.9
India	516,492	6.8
Spain	398,989	5.3
Turkey	322,123	4.3
Netherlands	294,407	3.9
Belgium	257,464	3.4
United Arab Emirates	257,309	3.4
Senegal	242,007	3.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5,967,576</b>	<b>78.9</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,596,494</b>	<b>21.1</b>



<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>7,564,070</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. China dominated the domestic export market from The Gambia with GMD10.7 million with a share of (30.2%). This is followed by Vietnam and Republic of Korea with GMD6.7 million, (18.9%) and GMD3.7 million (10.3%). Italy recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with about GMD568 thousand (1.6%).

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	10,731	30.2
Viet Nam	6,723	18.9
Republic of Korea	3,677	10.3
Spain	3,546	10.0
Netherlands	2,756	7.7
Chile	2,384	6.7
Senegal	1,258	3.5
Tunisia	1,172	3.3
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	901	2.5
Italy	568	1.6
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>33,715</b>	<b>94.7</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>35,589</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 GMD2.6 billion (33.9%), followed by 'Vehicles other than railway....' with GMD701.7 million (9.3%) and cereals with GMD553.4 million (7.3%). However, 'dairy produce...' registered the least value of imported products with GMD136.8 million (1.8%).

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

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,561,075	33.9
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	701,660	9.3
Cereals	553,424	7.3
Sugars and sugar confectionery	499,734	6.6
Articles of iron or steel	498,314	6.6

Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	309,262	4.1
Iron and steel	257,782	3.4
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	199,855	2.6
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	137,349	1.8
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	136,820	1.8
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5,855,274</b>	<b>77.4</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>1,708,796</b>	<b>22.6</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>7,564,070</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 7 shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. 'Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates' registered the highest FOB value with GMD16.7 million (46.9%). This is followed by 'Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal' with GMD5.9 million (16.5%) and 'Salt; sulphur; earths and stone ....' with GMD5.6 million (15.6%).

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

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	16,679	46.9
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	5,859	16.5
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	5,556	15.6
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	3,266	9.2
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	1,200	3.4
Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preps, candles & similar articles etc.	900	2.5
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	615	1.7
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	352	1.0
Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	300	0.8
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	300	0.8
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>35,027</b>	<b>98.4</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>35,589</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 GMD513.1 million, followed by refined cane sugar and vegetable oil with GMD486.2 million and GMD303.6 million respectively.

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	73,418
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes	11,603
Onions and shallots	42,227
Rice	513,099
Wheat or meslin flour	66,329
Refined cane sugar	486,230
Total Cement	109,666
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	108,978
White cement	681
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	53,425
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Vinegar and its substitutes	75
Alcohol	1,364
Mineral water	51,986
Tomatoes Paste	12,143
Eggs	23,196
Milk and milk products	78,398
Vegetable Oil	303,563