



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020**

**BY**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT**



**Kanifing Institutional Layout**

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

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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.

**Export 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.

**Import 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 year 2020. 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 every month to take into account of adjustments made from the input source i.e., GRA.

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 quarterly 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) 2017 tariff. The data presented in this report contains trade summary and other detailed information.

Trade summary covers the total imports, domestic 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 2020

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports and re-exports for 2020 and 2019 for comparison purposes. The results show that total trade increased from GMD32.6 billion in 2019 to GMD36.4 billion in 2020, representing a percentage increase of 12.3 percent. The increase in total trade is due to the increase in imports from 2019-2020 (GMD31.1 billion vs. GMD34.9 billion). This is as a result of a one-off multitude imports of the product code 89 (ships, boats and floating structures) which is not usually part of the top ten products imported as seen in the 2019 top ten products table. Furthermore, as evident from table 5, other products such as vehicles, cereals, salt and sulphur products have also slightly increased from 2019-2020.

Exports however, decreased significantly from GMD451.9 million in 2019 to GMD261.2 million in 2020. This drop in exports can be attributed to a huge reduction in the exports of the product code 44 (wood and articles of woods) from a GMD134.3 million in 2019 to a GMD3.0 million in 2020. Other products such as fish, edible fruits and nuts, animal or vegetable fats and oils also decreased contributing to the huge decline of exports form 2019-2020.

TABLE 1: TRADE SUMMARY FOR 2019 AND 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)

YEARS	2019		2020	
	VALUES	%	VALAUES	%
IMPORTS	31,076,150	95.2	34,913,753	96
EXPORTS	451,891	1.4	261,188	0.7
RE-EXPORTS	1,121,193	3.4	1,175,122	3.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,573,084	4.8	<b>1,436,310</b>	4
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>32,649,234</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36,350,063</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-29,503,066</b>		<b>-33,477,443</b>	

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 2 below shows that the highest value of imports was registered in January with GMD6.6 billion. The huge difference in imports for January and the other months is due to the fact that, in November and December 2019; there was a lot of imports on 'ships, boats and floating structures' equipment which is reflective in the January imports of 2020. This is followed by July and March with GMD3.2 billion and GMD2.9 billion respectively. April registered the highest exports with GMD49.0 million, followed by June with GMD37.5 million. However, the lowest value of exports was registered in November with GMD2.7 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR 2020****VALUE(D'000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
January	6,644,619	19.0	20,402	7.8
February	2,899,635	8.3	18,014	6.9
March	2,915,896	8.4	21,208	8.1
April	2,730,723	7.8	49,038	18.8
May	2,534,976	7.3	20,265	7.8
June	2,295,261	6.6	37,453	14.3
July	3,230,939	9.3	31,805	12.2
August	2,588,114	7.4	13,964	5.3
September	2,285,349	6.5	12,874	4.9
October	2,183,161	6.3	7,861	3.0
November	2,361,687	6.8	2,680	1.0
December	2,243,392	6.4	25,624	9.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,913,753</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>261,188</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 Europe has the highest value of imports to The Gambia GMD11.7 billion. This is followed by Africa which contributed GMD11.0 billion (31.6 %) of total imports, out of which Ecowas accounted for GMD10.3 billion. Asia registered GMD8.9 billion and the European Union with GMD4.7 million. Gambia's export market is dominated by Asia with GMD168.4 million, followed by Africa with GMD40.2 million and Europe with GMD40.1 million.



**TABLE 3: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES  
2020, VALUES GMD (‘000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPOERTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	11,048,208	31.6	40,229	15.4
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	10,336,080	29.6	37,497	14.4
REST OF AFRICA	712,128	2	2,732	1
EUROPE	11,720,447	33.6	40,059	15.3
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	4,712,551	13.5	31,205	11.9
ASIA	8,927,249	25.6	168,360	64.5
AMERICA	3,183,881	9.1	12,540	4.8
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>34,879,785</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>33,968</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,913,753</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Table 4 shows the imports value and share of The Gambia’s major trading partners for year 2020. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Cote d’Ivoire (*main product imported is Mineral fuel*) and Norway (*main product imported is ships, boats and floating structures*) with GMD6.3 billion and GMD3.9 billion representing 18.1 and 11.1 percentages of imports respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 71 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 28 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR 2020, VALUES GMD (‘000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d’Ivoire	6,327,659	18.1
Norway	3,878,482	11.1
China	2,984,504	8.5
Togo	2,829,640	8.1
Brazil	2,266,957	6.5
Turkey	2,194,742	6.3
India	1,304,250	3.7
Japan	1,132,499	3.2
Senegal	1,010,328	2.9
Spain	934,653	2.7
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>24,863,713</b>	<b>71.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>10,050,040</b>	<b>28.8</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>34,913,753</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 5 below shows The Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners exports to China (*Fish and crustaceans*), India (*Edible fruits and nuts*) and Senegal (*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits*) registered the highest values with GMD59.9 million (22.9%), GMD59.5 million (22.8 %) and GMD30.1 million (11.5 %) respectively. Italy had the lowest value of domestic exports with GMD4.9 million (1.9 %). The results further shows that 87.6 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 12.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 5: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	59,897	22.9
India	59,480	22.8
Senegal	30,107	11.5
Viet Nam	25,171	9.6
Republic of Korea	17,667	6.8
Netherlands	8,969	3.4
Chile	8,475	3.2
Spain	7,204	2.8
Turkey	6,894	2.6
Italy	4,889	1.9
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>228,752</b>	<b>87.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>32,436</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 6 below shows that imports of top ten major products for 2020 stood at GMD26.4 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*Ships, boats and floating structure*' and '*Vehicles other than railway*'....', registered the highest values with GMD9.4 billion, GMD3.9 billion and GMD2.8 million respectively. However, '*Electrical machinery and equipment*' recorded the least value among the major imported products with GMD909.6 million (2.6 %).

**TABLE 6: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	9,444,460	27.1
Ships, boats and floating structures	3,886,540	11.1
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,842,951	8.1
Cereals	2,598,994	7.4
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	1,753,048	5.0
Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,424,668	4.1
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,349,505	3.9
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	1,103,233	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	909,626	2.6
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>26,430,559</b>	<b>75.7</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>9,600,728</b>	<b>27.5</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>34,913,753</b>	<b>100</b>

## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 7 below amounted to GMD256.1 million (98.0 %). Out of which, *Fish and crustaceans .....* 'Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus and 'registered the highest share of exports with 78.7 per cent and 53.7 per cent respectively. The findings further show that '*work of art, collectors' pieces and antiques....*' recorded the least value with GMD3.0 million (1.2 %).

**TABLE 7: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	78,659	30.1
Edible Fruit and nuts; Peel of Citrus Fruit or Melons	53,667	20.5
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	51,247	19.6
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	18,595	7.1
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	15,980	6.1
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	12,488	4.8
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	10,931	4.2
Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	7,496	2.9
Ores, slag and ash	3,990	1.5
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	3,006	1.2
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>256,061</b>	<b>98.0</b>

<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 8 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 GMD2.3 billion, followed by Total cement GMD1.5 billion, out of which Portland cement amounted to GMD1.3 billion, and white cement amounted the least GMD3.1 million. Sugar also registered significant figure GMD1.4 billion.

**TABLE 8: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers	186,085
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	29,366
Onions and shallots	108,703
Rice	2,335,242
Wheat or meslin flour	1,076,550
Refined sugar	1,369,707
Total Cement	1,523,279
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	1,329,171
White cement	3,101
Tomatoes Paste	93,809
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	210,700
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	9,018
Mineral Water	200,722
Vinegar and substitutes	960
Milk and milk products	506,274
Eggs	88,507
Vegetable Cooking Oil	1,310,758