



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**FOR FIRST QUARTER 2020**

**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, 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 first quarter 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 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 that is, 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, 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 FIRST QUARTER 2020

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for the first quarter 2020 is presented in table 1 below. The highest value of imports was registered in January with GMD6.6 billion, followed by March with GMD2.9 billion. However, March recorded the highest FOB value with GMD21.2 million, followed by January with GMD20.4 million and the least was recorded in February with GMD18.0 million.

**Table 1: Monthly trade statistics for first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
January	6,644,619	53.3	20,402	34.2
February	2,899,635	23.3	18,014	30.2
March	2,915,896	23.4	21,208	35.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,460,151</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Table 2 shows trade flow by selected continents and the economic zones/blocs. Gambia's imports from Europe recorded the highest value with GMD5.9 billion. This is followed by imports from Africa with GMD3.6 billion, out of which Economic Community of West African States registered GMD3.3 billion which constitutes 26.7 per cent of total imports. Imports from Asia and America were GMD2.2 billion and GMD658.7 million respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD29.9 million accounting for 50.1 per cent of total domestic exports. This is followed by Europe with GMD17.1 million and Africa with GMD11.5 million.

**Table 2: Imports and exports by selected continents/economic zones for the first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	3,637,381	29.2	11,472	19.2
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	3,321,895	26.7	10,063	16.9
REST OF AFRICA	315,485	2.5	1,409	2.4
EUROPE	5,937,530	47.7	17,138	28.7
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,540,760	12.4	17,138	28.7
ASIA	2,218,300	17.8	29,865	50.1
AMERICA	658,711	5.3	1,149	1.9
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12,451,922</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,460,151</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 3 shows that total imports from top ten countries for the period under review amounted to GMD10.0 billion (80.3 %). Norway (*main product imported is ship boats and floating structures*) registered the highest value with GMD3.9 billion (31. %) of total imports. This is followed by Cote d'Ivoire (*main product imported is mineral fuels*) with GMD3.0 billion (23.7 %) and China with (*main product imported is man-made filaments*) GMD786.0 million (6.3 %). Spain registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD254.1 million accounting for only 2 per cent of total imports.

**Table 3: Imports from top ten partners for first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Norway	3,859,007	31.0
Cote d'Ivoire	2,950,736	23.7
China	786,008	6.3
Turkey	507,436	4.1
India	397,602	3.2
Brazil	343,709	2.8
Senegal	325,674	2.6
Russia	295,115	2.4
United Arab Emirates	282,548	2.3
Spain	254,120	2.0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>10,001,955</b>	<b>80.3</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,458,196</b>	<b>19.7</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>12,460,151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows the domestic exports values and percentage share of domestic exports to Gambia's top ten partners against total domestic exports. China (*main product exported is salt and sulphur products*) dominated the domestic export market from The Gambia with a share of about 19.9 per cent (GMD11.9) million, followed by Senegal (*main product exported is residue and waste products*) and Vietnam (*main product exported is residue and waste products*) with 14.5 per cent (GMD8.7) million and 14.4 per cent (GMD8.6) million respectively. United Kingdom recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with 2 per cent (GMD1.2) million of domestic exports.

**Table 4: Exports to top ten countries for first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	11,877	19.9
Senegal	8,672	14.5
Viet Nam	8,614	14.4
Netherlands	7,139	12.0



Republic of Korea	6,598	11.1
Italy	3,265	5.5
Spain	3,216	5.4
India	2,298	3.9
Cote d'Ivoire	1,391	2.3
United Kingdom	1,169	2.0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>54,239</b>	<b>91.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>5,385</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

As shown in table 5 below 'Ships, boats and floating structures' registered the highest value among the top ten products with GMD3.9 billion (30.9 %), followed by 'Mineral products' with GMD3.1 billion (25 %) and 'Products of the milling industry...' with GMD516.2 million (4.1 %). Furthermore, 'Electrical machinery and equipment...' registered the least value of imported products with GMD202.4 million (1.6 %).

**Table 5: Imports of top ten products for first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Ships, boats and floating structures	3,851,928	30.9
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,117,134	25.0
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	516,199	4.1
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	508,746	4.1
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	478,653	3.8
Cereals	427,930	3.4
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	326,881	2.6
Sugars and sugar confectionery	320,818	2.6
Plastics and articles thereof	214,848	1.7
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	202,354	1.6
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>9,965,491</b>	<b>80.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,494,660</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>12,460,151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 6 shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. 'Fish and crustaceans...' registered the highest FOB value with GMD26.2 million (43.9 %). This is followed by 'Residues and waste from the food industries...' with GMD16.3 million (27.3 %) and 'Salt; sulphur; earths and stone....' with GMD10.9 million (18.3 %).

**Table 6: Exports of top ten products for first quarter 2020, values GMD (‘000)**

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	26,161	43.9
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	16,269	27.3
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	10,931	18.3
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	2,298	3.9
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,902	3.2
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	517	0.9
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	517	0.9
Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	468	0.8
Other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn	366	0.6
Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included	128	0.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>59,557</b>	<b>99.9</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>59,624</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 flour with GMD509.2 million, followed by Cement with GMD409.2 million; out of which Portland cement recorded GMD393.9 million and white cement GMD234 thousand. Rice and vegetable oil also recorded GMD396.4 million and GMD315.4 million respectively.

**Table 7: Imports of selected basic commodities for first quarter 2020, values GMD (‘000)**

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	46,225
<b><i>OF WHICH</i></b>	
Potatoes	5,255
Onions and shallots	27,286
Rice	396,369
Wheat or meslin flour	509,170
Refined cane sugar	303,859
Total Cement	409,213
<b><i>OF WHICH</i></b>	
Portland cement	393,866

White cement	234
Tomatoes Paste	25,021
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	47,152
<b><i>OF WHICH</i></b>	
Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar obtained from acetic acid	76
Alcohol	1,167
Mineral water	45,909
Eggs	20,184
Milk and milk products	101,470
Vegetable Oil	315,439

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 presents trade flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD13.2 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable recording a deficit of GMD 11.7 billion. Furthermore, total imports imputed in the first quarter 2020 amounted to GMD12.5 billion (94.2 %) of total trade, whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD59.6 million (0.5 %) and re-exports GMD712.2 million (5.4 %).

**Table 8: Trade summary first quarter 2020, values GMD ('000),**

<b>TRADEFLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	12,460,151	94.2
EXPORTS	59,624	0.5
RE-EXPORTS	712,184	5.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	771,808	5.8
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>13,231,959</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-11,688,344</b>	