



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021**

**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 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 first quarter 2021. 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 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 quarterly 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.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

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 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 FIRST QUARTER 2021

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows that the highest value of imports was registered in March GMD3.4 billion. This is followed by February and January with GMD2.5 billion each. February registered the highest exports GMD160.0 million, followed by January GMD89.4 million, and the lowest value of exports was registered in March GMD67.0 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021, VALUES  
GMD ('000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
January	2,472,465	29.5	89,375	28.3
February	2,464,513	29.4	159,951	50.6
March	3,437,473	41.0	67,038	21.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,374,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>316,364</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 2 shows that imports from Africa has the highest value of GMD3.6 billion. Out of which Ecowas contributed GMD3.4 billion (41.1%) of total imports. This is followed by imports from Europe GMD1.9 billion, Asia GMD1.8 billion and American GMD1.0 million. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia GMD306.7 million, followed by Africa, GMD8.2 million and Europe GMD1.0 million.

**TABLE 2: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	3,613,588	43.2	8,191	2.6
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	3,439,540	41.1	8,191	2.6
REST OF AFRICA	174,048	2.1	0	0.0
EUROPE	1,882,251	22.5	1,026	0.3
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,183,363	14.1	1,026	0.3
ASIA	1,822,929	21.8	306,701	96.9
AMERICA	1,048,040	12.5	446	0.1
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>8,366,808</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>316,364</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,374,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>316,364</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for first quarter 2021. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Togo (*main product imported Mineral fuels*) and china (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) GMD3.2 billion and GMD691.8 million respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 77.6 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 22.4 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021 VALUE (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Togo	3,171,163	37.9
China	691,814	8.3
India	542,167	6.5
Brazil	511,988	6.1
Turkey	452,339	5.4
Netherlands	251,775	3.0
Argentina	228,084	2.7
Senegal	227,071	2.7
Spain	217,447	2.6
United States	204,861	2.4
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,498,709</b>	<b>77.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,875,740</b>	<b>22.4</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,374,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners China (*main product exported is Cereals*), Senegal (*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits*) and India (*main exported is Fish and crustaceans*), registered the highest values GMD 296.7 million (93.8%), GMD 4.0 million (1.3%) and GMD 3.5 million (1.1%) respectively. Domestic exports to Bangladesh had the lowest value GMD 785 thousand (0.2%). The results further shows that 99.3 percent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 0.7 percent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	296,678	93.8
Senegal	4,000	1.3
India	3,472	1.1
Viet Nam	1,931	0.6
Republic of Korea	1,764	0.6
Mali	1,725	0.5
Guinea-Bissau	1,701	0.5
Singapore	1,200	0.4
United Kingdom	1,026	0.3
Bangladesh	785	0.2
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>314,283</b>	<b>99.3</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>316,364</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for first quarter 2021 stood at GMD6.3 billion. Out of this, Mineral fuels, cereals and vehicles other than railways, registered the highest values GMD3.2 billion, GMD762.6 million and GMD455.1 million respectively. However, 'meat and edible meat offal recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD155.6 million.



**TABLE 5: IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,216,852	38.4
Cereals	762,577	9.1
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	455,102	5.4
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	405,938	4.8
Sugars and sugar confectionery	382,683	4.6
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	259,417	3.1
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	253,663	3.0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	222,762	2.7
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	200,877	2.4
Meat and edible meat offal	155,557	1.9
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,315,428</b>	<b>75.4</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,059,021</b>	<b>24.6</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,374,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS**

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD315.8 million. Out of which, cereals registered the highest share of exports 60.7 per cent, followed by Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits 25.4 per cent and fish and crustaceans 5.3 per cent. The data further shows that, other made-up textile articles recorded the least value GMD348 thousand (0.1%).

**TABLE 6: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cereals	191,986	60.7
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	80,420	25.4
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	16,891	5.3
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	10,845	3.4
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	7,788	2.5
Iron and steel	2,827	0.9
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	2,716	0.9
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	1,701	0.5
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	267	0.1
Other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	348	0.1
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>315,788</b>	<b>99.8</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>316,364</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 7 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 GMD456.7 million, followed by refined sugar cane GMD368.8 million. Total cement registered GMD350.8 million, out of which Portland cement registered GMD333.1 and white cement GMD1.2 million. Vegetable oil also registered a significant amount of GMD222.7 million.

**TABLE 7: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	101,989
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes	51,574
Onions and shallots	63,352
Rice	456,699
Wheat or meslin flour	191,359
Refined sugar cane	368,806
Total cement	350,779
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	333,083
White cement	1,169
Tomatoes paste	18,796
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	68,704
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	4,687
Vinegar	262
Mineral water	63,755
Milk and milk products	208,740
Eggs	44,447
Vegetable cooking oil	222,685

## TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports and re-exports for first quarter 2021. The result shows that total trade stood at GMD8.98 billion with a trade deficit of GMD7.8 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since The Gambia is an import dependent country (93.2 % vs. 3.5 %) respectively.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR FIRST QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000**

<b>TRADE FLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	8,374,450	93.2
EXPORTS	316,364	3.5
RE-EXPORTS	296,328	3.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	612,692	6.8
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>8,987,142</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	<b>-7,761,758</b>	