

**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022**

**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 2022. 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 up to six (6) or eight (8) digits according to the Harmonised commodity description and coding system (HS).

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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.

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

## 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 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 2022

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in March GMD4.3 billion. This is followed by February and January with GMD3.3 billion each. March registered the highest exports GMD176.3 million, followed by February GMD94.4 million and the lowest value of exports was registered in January GMD31.3 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022, VALUES  
GMD ('000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
January	3,288,580	30.2	31,342	10.4
February	3,291,458	30.2	94,426	31.3
March	4,316,399	39.6	176,329	58.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,896,437</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>302,097</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 Africa has the highest value of imports GMD5.6 billion. Out of this Ecowas contributed GMD5.4 billion (49.6%) of total imports. This is followed by Europe GMD2.1 and Asia GMD2.1 billion each. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia, GMD266.8 million, followed by Europe GMD22.1 million and Africa GMD6.0 million.

**TABLE 2: IMPOTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	5,550,039	50.9	6,002	2.0
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	5,407,399	49.6	6,002	2.0
REST OF AFRICA	142,640	1.3	0	0.0
EUROPE	2,133,851	19.6	22,115	7.3
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,713,224	15.7	18,994	6.3
ASIA	2,056,020	18.9	266,790	88.3
AMERICA	1,062,035	9.7	7,190	2.4
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>10,801,945</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>302,097</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>94,492</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,896,437</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>302,097</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 2022. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Cote d'Ivoire (*main product imported Mineral fuels*) and Senegal (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) GMD922.8 million. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 80.6 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 19.4 per cent came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022  
VALUE (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	4,400,758	40.4
Senegal	922,759	8.5
China	703,739	6.5
India	581,317	5.3
Belgium	565,854	5.2
Brazil	430,797	4.0
United States	382,074	3.5
Turkey	289,063	2.7
Netherlands	251,734	2.3
Spain	250,230	2.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>8,778,325</b>	<b>80.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,118,112</b>	<b>19.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,896,437</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 (*Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons*) and India (*Fish and fish products*) registered the highest values GMD13.0 million (41.8%), and GMD6.9 million (22.2%) respectively. The results further shows that 98.6 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 1.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	183,878	60.9
Viet Nam	53,013	17.5
Spain	10,371	3.4
Malaysia	10,167	3.4
Republic of Korea	9,488	3.1
India	7,753	2.6
Brazil	5,778	1.9
Italy	4,061	1.3
Turkey	3,121	1.0
Netherlands	3,028	1.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>290,658</b>	<b>96.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>11,439</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302,097</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for first quarter 2022 stood at GMD8.5 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation...*', '*vehicles other than railway and 'cereals'...*', registered the highest values GMD4.4 billion, GMD1.0 billion and GMD897.2 million respectively. However, meat and edible meat offal recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD179.5 million (1.6%).

**TABLE 5: IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,424,855	40.6
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,011,250	9.3



CEREALS	897,169	8.2
FERTILISERS	455,604	4.2
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	442,075	4.1
SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	296,167	2.7
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	249,250	2.3
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	247,961	2.3
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	247,465	2.3
Meat AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL	179,513	1.6
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>8,451,310</b>	<b>77.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,445,128</b>	<b>22.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,896,437</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD301.8 million. Out of which Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, miscellaneous registered the highest share of exports 55.2 per cent. This is followed by 'fish products' 17.3 per cent and Animal or vegetable fats 17. per cent. The table further shows that man-made staple fibres recorded the least value GMD150 thousand

**TABLE 6: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

PRODUCTS	EXPORTS	%
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	166,890	55.2
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	52,330	17.3
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	52,273	17.3
EDIBLE FRUIT AND NUTS; PEEL OF CITRUS FRUIT OR MELONS	13,276	4.4
WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD; WOOD CHARCOAL	6,671	2.2
IRON AND STEEL	5,283	1.7
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	2,667	0.9
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	1,115	0.4
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	996	0.3
Man-made staple fibres	150	0.0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>301,652</b>	<b>99.9</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>0.1</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>302,097</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 7 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 GMD532.2 million, followed by total cement GMD 325.6 million, out of which Portland cement registered GMD 271.0 and white cement registered GMD 833 thousand.

**TABLE 7: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR FIRST QUARTER  
2022 VALUES (D'000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	43,497
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes	12,453
Onions and shallots	25,407
Rice	532,168
Wheat or meslin flour	5,697
Refined sugar cane	219,382
Total cement	325,612
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	271,007
White cement	833
Tomatoes, paste	33,671
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	59,857
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	2,498
Vinegar	224
Mineral water	57,135
Milk and milk products	211,018
Eggs	37,879
Vegetable cooking oil	247,961

## **TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS**

Table 8 shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports, and re-exports for first quarter 2022. The result shows that total trade stood at GMD12.2 billion with a trade deficit of GMD9.6 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since the Gambia is an import dependent country (89.3 % vs. 2.5 %) respectively.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR FIRST QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD ('000**

<b>TRADE FLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	10,896,437	89.3
EXPORTS	302,097	2.5
RE-EXPORTS	1,002,509	8.2
<b>TOTAL EXPORT</b>	<b>1,304,605</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>12,201,042</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	<b>-9,591,832</b>	