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DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

BY

THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT



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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 fourth 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 EUROTRACE¹.

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).

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). 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

¹ 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 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 FOURTH QUARTER 2022

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in October GMD5.9 billion. This is followed by November 5.2 billion and December with GMD2.8 billion each. December registered the highest exports GMD235.0 million, followed by November GMD45.6 million and the lowest value of exports was registered in October GMD35.1 million.

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

MONTHS	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
October	5,949,418	42.8	35,060	11.1
November	5,165,486	37.1	45,649	14.5
December	2,794,736	20.1	234,982	74.4
TOTAL	13,909,640	100.0	315,691	100.0

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 Asia has the highest value of imports GMD6.6 billion (47.3%) of total imports. Africa contributed GMD3.7 billion (26.6%) of which Ecowas was GMD3.3. Europe GMD2.8 billion and America GMD761,3 million had the least imports value. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia GMD 221.9 million, followed by Europe and EU GMD65.4 million and GMD41.0 million.

TABLE 2: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD (D '000)

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
AFRICA	3,705,541	26.6	18,877	6.0
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	3,334,777	24.0	16,325	5.2
REST OF AFRICA	370,764	2.7	2,552	0.8
EUROPE	2,852,295	20.5	65,448	20.7
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	2,089,757	15.0	41,967	13.3
ASIA	6,584,654	47.3	221,883	70.3
AMERICA	761,253	5.5	1,045	0.3
SUB TOTAL	13,903,743	100.0	307,253	97.3
REST OF THE WORLD	5,897	0.0	8,438	2.7
TOTAL	13,909,640	100.0	315,691	100.0

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for fourth quarter 2022. Overall, the highest values of imports were from United Arab Emirates (*main product imported Mineral fuels*) GMD2.6 billion and China (*main product imported Electrical machinery and equipment*) GMD2.1 billion. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 77.2 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 22.8 per cent came from the rest of the world.

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

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%
United Arab Emirates	2,562,268	18.4
China	2,084,057	15.0
Cote d'Ivoire	1,475,038	10.6
Togo	1,015,685	7.3
India	839,437	6.0
Senegal	801,662	5.8
Turkey	726,434	5.2

Greece	495,143	3.6
Brazil	417,554	3.0
Belgium	318,081	2.3
SUB TOTAL	10,735,360	77.2
REST O THE WORLD	3,174,280	22.8
TOTAL	13,909,640	100.0

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 animal or vegetable fats*) and Viet Nam (*main product exported oil seeds and oleaginous fruits*) registered the highest values GMD165.1 million (52.3%), and GMD24.6 million (7.8%) respectively. The results further shows that 97.2 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 2.8 per cent went to the rest of the world.

TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022, VALUES (D'000)

PARTNER	EXPORTS	%
China	165,093	52.3
Viet Nam	24,620	7.8
Turkey	23,480	7.4
India	21,039	6.7
Spain	20,926	6.6
Guinea	14,309	4.5
Italy	12,773	4.0
Republic of Korea	9,101	2.9
Liberia	8,438	2.7
Netherlands	6,932	2.2
SUB TOTAL	306,711	97.2
REST O THE WORL	8,980	2.8
TOTAL	315,691	100.0

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for fourth quarter 2022 stood at GMD10.8 billion. Out of this, 'Mineral fuels, Electrical machinery and equipment and vehicle products registered the highest values GMD5.7 billion, GMD1.3 billion and GMD908.8 million respectively. However, iron and steel recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD215.1 million (1.5%).

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

PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	%
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	5,668,870	40.8
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	1,309,230	9.4
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	908,772	6.5
Articles of iron or steel	607,289	4.4
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	520,589	3.7
Cereals	502,646	3.6
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	433,067	3.1
Fertilizers	319,603	2.3
Sugars and sugar confectionery	310,788	2.2
Iron and steel	215,143	1.5
SUB TOTAL	10,795,997	77.6
REST OF THE WORLDD	3,113,643	22.4
TOTAL	13,909,640	100.0

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD302.6 million. Out of which animal or vegetable fats and oils, registered the highest share of exports 31.6 per cent. This is followed by Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits 21.2 per cent and fish products 15.1 percent. The table further shows that Sugar and sugar confectionery; recorded the least value GMD4.4 million (1.4%).

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

PRODUCTS	EXPORTS	%
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	99,642	31.6
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	67,071	21.2
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	47,605	15.1
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts, or other parts of plants	21,286	6.7
Iron and steel	16,277	5.2
Ores, slag and ash	14,309	4.5

Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	13,703	4.3
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	9,660	3.1
Man-made filaments	8,650	2.7
Sugars and sugar confectionery	4,389	1.4
SUB TOTAL	302,590	95.9
REST O THE WORLD	13,101	4.1
TOTAL	315,691	100.0

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 vegetable cooking oil GMD520.6 million, followed by rice GMD500.8 million and sugar GMD305.2 million. Total cement registered GMD 280.2 million, of which Portland cement registered GMD167.2 million and white cement registered GMD2.4 million.

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

PRODUCTS	IMPORTS
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	48,041
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Potatoes	15,447
Onions	28,780
Rice	500,818
Wheat or meslin flour	65
Sugar	305,157
Total cement	280,230
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Portland cement	167,205
White cement	2,438
Tomato paste	2,910
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	46,437
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Alcohol	5,679
Vinegar	460

Mineral water	40,298
Milk and milk products	98,188
Eggs	26,074
Vegetable cooking oil	520,589

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports, and re-exports for fourth quarter 2022. It shows that total trade stood at GMD14.3 billion with a trade deficit of GMD13.6 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since the Gambia is an import dependent country (97.6 % vs. 2.2 %) respectively.

TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD (D'000)

TRADEFLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	13,909,640	97.6
EXPORTS	315,691	2.2
RE-EXPORTS	25,242	0.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	340,933	2.4
TOTAL TRADE	14,250,573	100.0
TRADE BALANCE	-13,568,707	