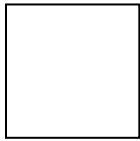


REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics



DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2023

[August, 2023]

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II. Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for first quarter 2023. 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 enhance 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 WORLD) 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 Harmonized 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 WORLD (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.

III. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASYCUDA WORLD	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
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

IV. 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 the 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 Harmonized 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.

Total Exports: This is the value of domestic exports plus re-exports.

V. Executive Summary

- The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022 declined from GMD13.49 billion to GMD11.4 billion.
- A total value of GMD11.4 billion of importation of goods was incurred during the first quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022 of GMD10.9 billion. This Shows an increase of GMD0.5 billion over the period.
- First quarter 2022 shows larger importation of mineral fuel and vehicles compared to the same period in 2022.
- Oil seeds, fish products and animal or vegetables fats and oils were mostly exported in the first quarter of 2023.
- Senegal, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire were the main import partners during the first quarter of 2023.

VI. Summary of Quarterly Trade Statistics 2022-2023

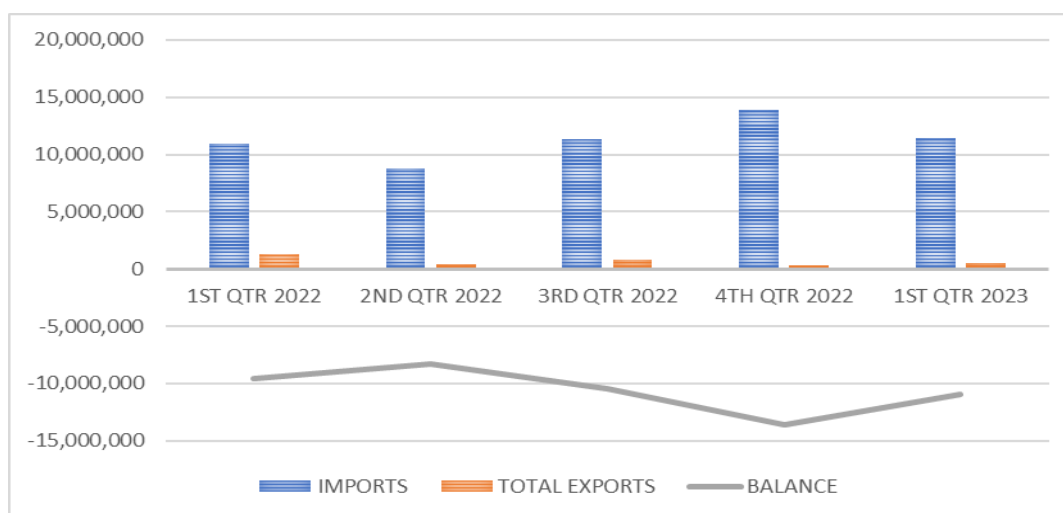
Table 1 below shows the quarterly trade statistics. The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022 declined from GMD13.49 billion to GMD11.4 billion. This indicates a drop in imports by 21.3 percentage points which is equivalent to GMD2.5 billion. However, the first quarter of 2022 compared to the first quarter of 2023, imports increased by 4.6 percent equivalent to GMD10.9 billion.

The value of total exports (i.e., domestic exports +re-exports) in the fourth quarter of 2022 increased from GMD 340.9 million to GMD518.4 in the same period of 2023. Whereas the value of total exports in the first quarter of 2022 decreased from GMD1.3 billion to GMD518.4 in first quarter 2023.

Furthermore, a similar trend is also observed in the trade balance between the first quarter of 2023 and the fourth quarter of 2022. The trade balance in the fourth quarter of 2022 decreased from GMD13.6 billion to GMD10.9 billion in the first quarter 2023. However, the trade balance between the first quarters of 2022 and 2023 increased from GMD9.6 billion to GMD10.9 billion.

Table 1: Quarterly Trade Summary for First Quarter 2022-2023					
VALUES (GMD'000)					
TRADEFLOW	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
IMPORTS	10,896,437	8,759,140	11,323,558	13,909,640	11,439,105
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,304,605	457,696	851,778	340,933	518,437
BALANCE	-9,591,832	-8,301,444	-10,471,780	-13,568,707	-10,920,667

Figure 1: Trade flows for First Quarter 2022-2023 Values (GMD'000)



Source: GBoS

VII. Imports by products

Import by Products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in the first quarter 2023 and 2022. The products imported are the same for both quarters. Of the overall imports the most imported product was mineral fuels. During the first quarter of 2022, 40.6 percent of this product was imported compared to 28.8 percent of the product in the same period in 2023. This was followed by importation of vehicles of 9.3 percent and 8.7 percent in the first quarters of 2022 and 2023 respectively. The third most imported products were cereals which shows that more of the product was imported during the first quarter of 2023 (8.5 %) compared to the first quarter of 2022 (8.2 %).

Figure 2: Imports of Top Three Products for First Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)

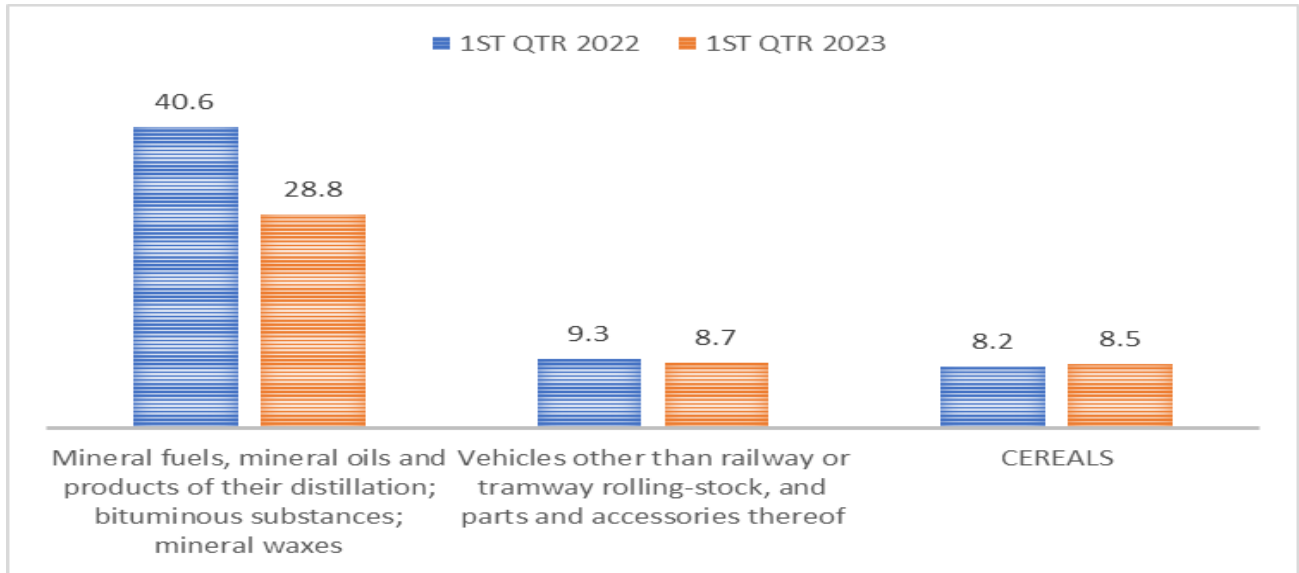


Table 2: Top Ten Products for First Quarter 2022-2023 Values (GMD'000)

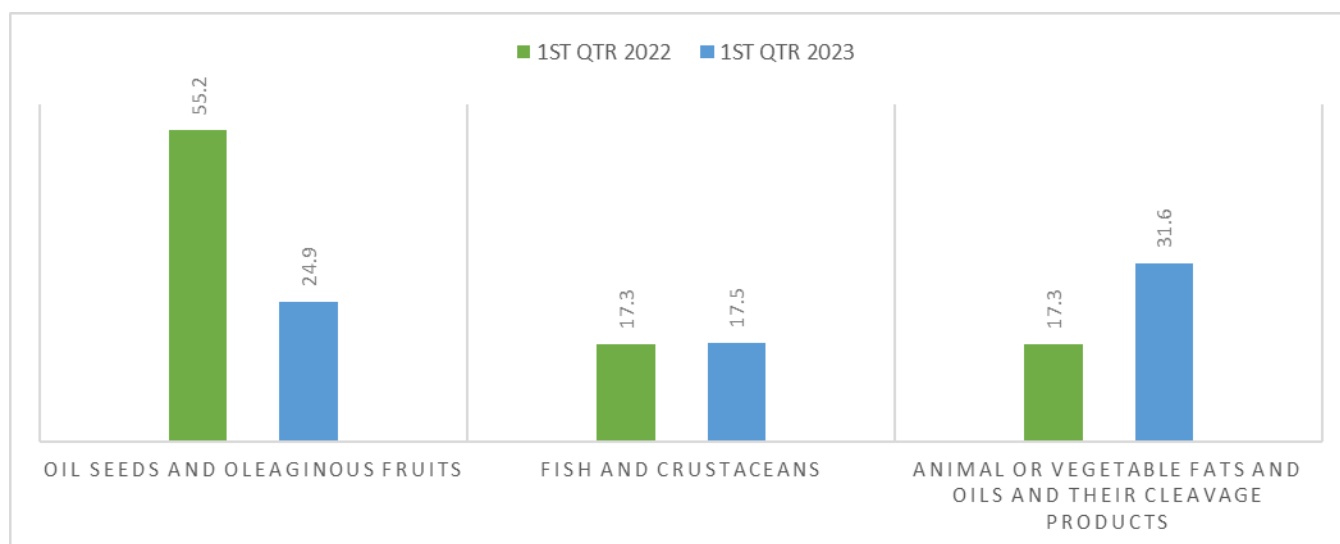
PERIOD	1ST QTR 2022	PERIOD	1ST QTR 2023
PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS
Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,424,855	Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,295,489
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,011,250	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	994,844
Cereals	897,169	Cereals	972,610
Fertilizers	455,604	Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	607,673
Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	442,075	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	436,253
Sugars and sugar confectionery	296,167	Iron and steel	408,592

Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	249,250	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	389,682
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	247,961	Sugars and sugar confectionery	289,143
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	Meat and edible meat offal	280,828
Meat and edible meat offal	179,513	Plastics and articles thereof	277,428
SUBTOTAL	8,451,310	SUBTOTAL	7,952,540
OTHER PRODUCTS	2,445,128	OTHER PRODUCTS	3,486,565
TOTAL IMPORTS	10,896,437	TOTAL IMPORTS	11,439,105

VIII. Exports by product

Exports of top three products from figure 3 shows that, the oil seeds, fish products and animal or vegetables fats and oils were mostly exported in the first quarter of 2023 and 2022. Animal or vegetable fats and oils (31.6 %) were the largest products exported in 2023, while oil seeds (55.2 %) were exported more in 2022.

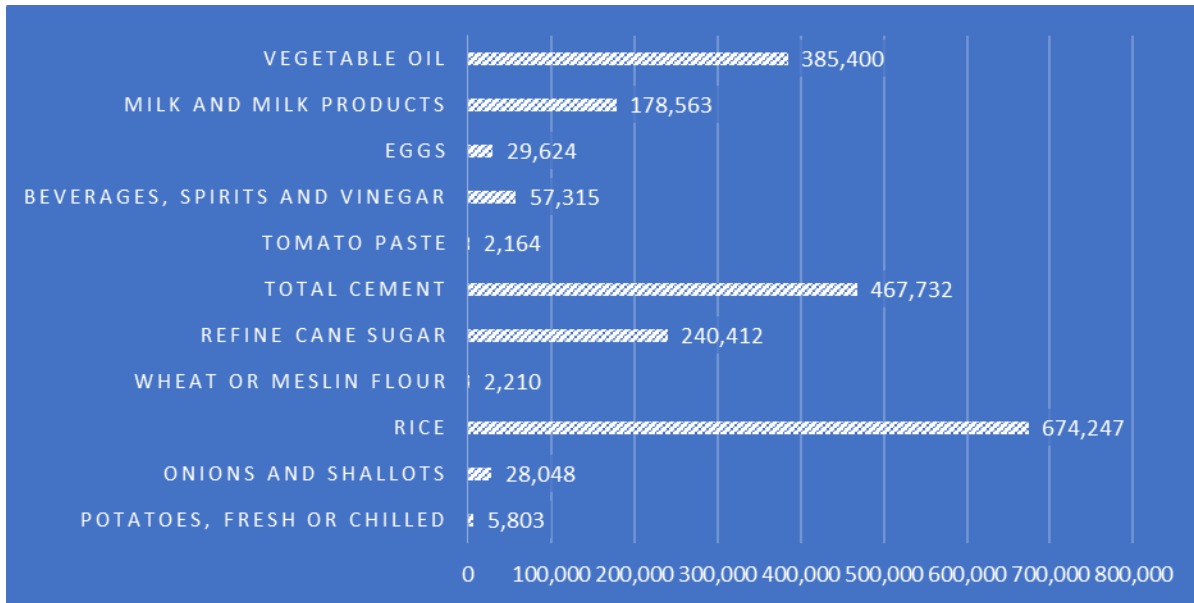
Figure 3: Exports of Top Three Products for First Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)



IX. Imports of selected products for first quarter 2023

Imports of selected products for first quarter 2023 shows that the largest imported product was rice GMD (674.2 million), followed by cement GMD (467.7 million), vegetable oil GMD (385.4 million) and refine cane sugar GMD (240.4 million).

Figure 4: Imports of Selected Products for First Quarter 2023 Values (GMD'000)

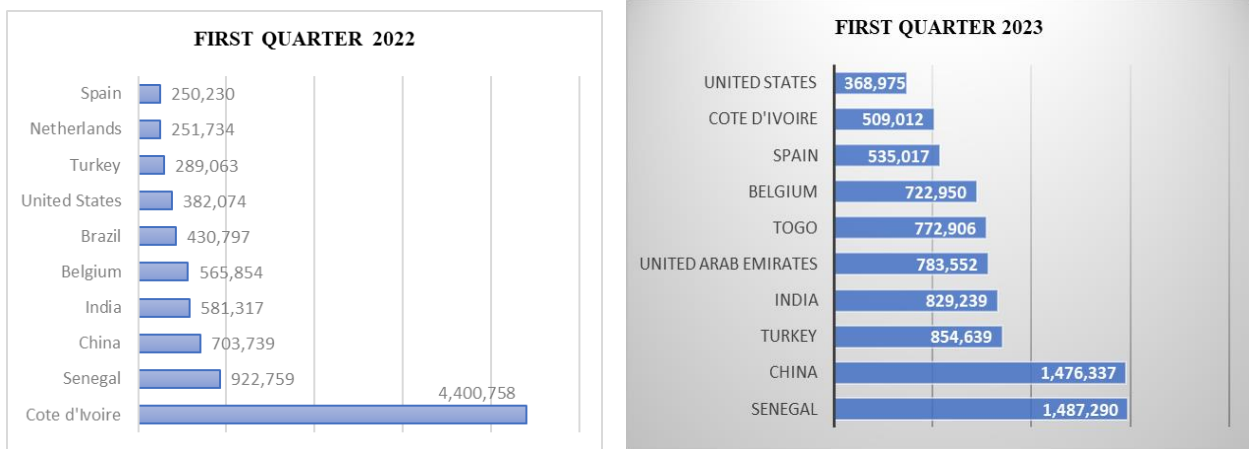


X. Trade by partners

The Gambia main import trade partners

Figure 5 below shows imports from partners for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023. The top three countries where most of the goods into the country were imported from during the first quarter of 2022: Senegal (13.0 %), China (12.9 %) and Turkey (7.5 %). During the first quarter, most of the imports were from cote d'Ivoire (40.4 %), Senegal (8.5 %), and China (6.5 %).

Figure 5: Imports of Top Ten Partners for First Quarter 2022-2023 (in GMD'000)



The Gambia main export trade partners

Table 3 below shows that China had the largest share of exports from The Gambia, however, its share decreased from 60.9 percent in the first quarter of 2022 to 55.0 percent in the same quarter of 2023. During the first quarter of 2022, the second largest partner of exports from The Gambia was to Vietnam (17.5 %) and for the same quarter in 2023, the second largest export partner was Turkey (9.8 %). The third partner of exports from the Gambia was Spain (3.4 %) and India (6.5 %) in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

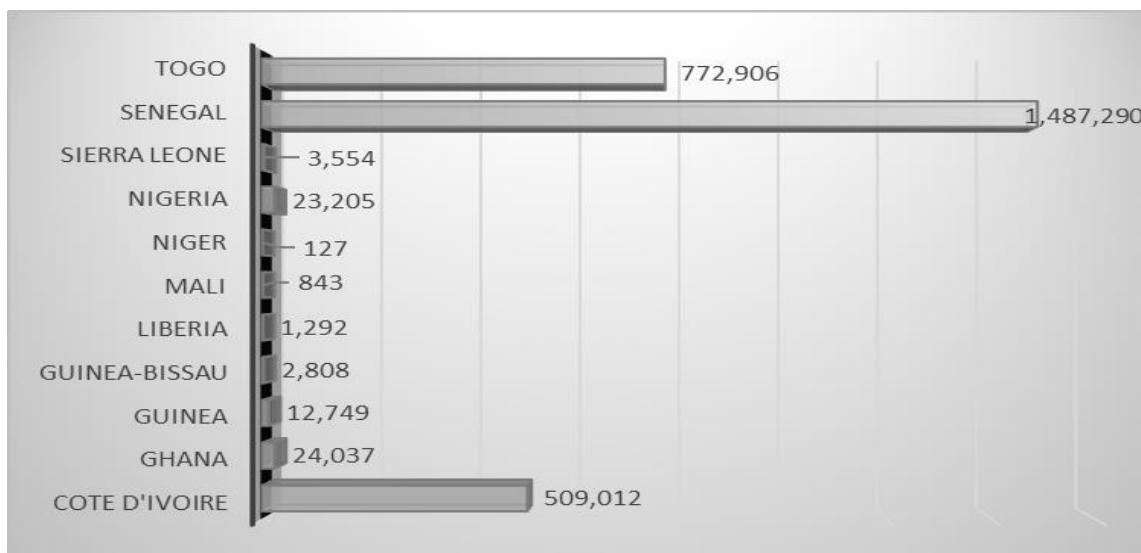
Table 3: Exports of Top Ten Partners for First Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)

PERIOD	1ST QTR 2022	PERIOD	1ST QTR 2023
PARTNER	%	PARTNER	%
China	60.9	China	55.0
Viet Nam	17.5	Turkey	9.8
Spain	3.4	India	6.5
Malaysia	3.4	Spain	6.3
Republic of Korea	3.1	Republic of Korea	4.4
India	2.6	Italy	4.4
Brazil	1.9	United Kingdom	3.8
Italy	1.3	Viet Nam	3.6
Turkey	1.0	Greece	1.2
Netherlands	1.0	Liberia	0.9
SUBTOTAL	96.2	SUBTOTAL	95.8
REST OF THE WORLD	3.8	REST OF THE WORLD	4.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0	TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0

XI. Intra Regional Trade (ECOWAS)

Figure 7 shows the imports from main ECOWAS partners in the first quarter of 2023. Senegal GMD (1.4 billion) had the highest import value, followed by Togo GMD (772.9 million) and Cote d'Ivoire GMD (509.0 million).

Figure 6: Imports from ECOWAS Partners for First Quarter 2023 Values (GMD'000)



Source : GBoS

XII. Tables

Table 1: Overall statistics on trade in goods excluding oil in GMD'000 for first quarter 2022-2023

	FLOW	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
VALUES IN THOUSANDS	Imports	6,471,582	5,247,814	7,183,614	8,240,770	8,143,616
	Total Exports	1,052,230	396,954	285,682	340,933	437,833
	Balance	-5,419,352	-4,850,860	-6,897,932	-7,899,837	-7,705,784
WEIGHTS IN TONS	Imports	364,582	296,038	387,522	569,522	493,834
	Total Exports	29,310	17,721	32,497	28,739	39,785

Source : GBoS

Table 2A: Imports by SECTION SITC for First Quarter 2022-2023 (Value GMD'000)

SITC	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
Food and live animals	1,996,472	2,118,867	1,602,574	1,557,384	2,125,825
Beverages and tobacco	68,980	84,522	88,724	51,732	67,407
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	178,754	90,664	134,507	191,260	227,691
Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials	4,423,322	3,511,326	4,138,537	5,668,870	3,244,231
Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes	229,805	101,490	126,010	514,384	385,106
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	836,575	461,745	760,605	770,214	524,575
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,208,172	919,915	1,284,841	1,877,164	1,882,961
Machinery and transport equipment	1,644,063	1,179,202	2,214,111	2,578,158	2,145,938
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	303,209	290,996	929,721	658,802	766,764

Table 2B: Imports by SECTION SITC for First Quarter 2022-2023 (Net-weight in tons)

SITC	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
food and live animals	134,310	127,512	82,011	105,501	132,996
beverages and tobacco	2,851	2,863	3,334	1,824	2,009
crude materials, inedible, except fuels	66,950	25,656	71,319	217,904	98,352
mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials	115,653	62,124	68,994	98,379	46,986
animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes	10,231	4,055	4,668	15,951	10,893
chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	25,585	21,001	24,796	19,168	8,310
manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	93,053	88,997	127,452	174,945	213,963
machinery and transport equipment	19,496	14,433	57,466	16,994	14,864
miscellaneous manufactured articles	12,163	11,499	15,878	16,057	12,677

Table 3: Imports by SITC3 (Value GMD'000)

SITC3	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
IMPORTS	10,896,437	8,759,126	11,279,658	13,874,014	11,375,221
NET-WEIGHT (In tons)	480,298	358,150	455,919	666,907	541,134

Table 4A: Imports by Continent (Value GMD'000)

PARTNER	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
AMERICAS	1,062,035	1,404,893	561,833	761,474	936,280
ASIA	2,056,020	1,570,988	2,415,341	6,584,654	4,100,387
AFRICA	5,643,242	4,017,048	6,278,974	3,705,779	3,027,792
EUROPE	2,133,851	1,763,405	2,060,727	2,852,295	3,369,288

Table 4B: Imports by Continent (Net-weight in tons)

PARTNER	1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
AMERICAS	69,306	94,478	51,070	57,783	67,645
ASIA	109,175	68,040	78,203	137,792	91,397
AFRICA	205,810	120,981	292,742	415,948	275,560
EUROPE	95,963	74,549	34,480	56,337	107,120

Table 5A: Imports by Regional Economic Communities (Value GMD'000)

ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING		1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023
ALADI	Latin American Association for Integration	578,455	1,043,362	289,223	429,210	544,619
ASEN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	337,307	181,456	201,776	548,003	647,883
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	30,906	34,336	20,399	83,464	52,574
EU 27	European Union	1,512,899	1,368,423	1,290,966	1,930,917	2,287,987
EURO	EURO zone	1,482,321	1,347,149	1,263,972	1,898,571	2,253,081
MRU	Mano River Union	4,467,225	3,489,102	4,126,393	1,490,263	526,606
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement	406,352	309,949	192,180	235,239	392,553
OCI	Organization of Islamic Cooperation	6,447,832	4,534,968	7,228,776	7,673,874	5,316,835
SADC	Southern African Development Community	23,871	17,524	14,487	27,617	16,095
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union	5,323,858	3,823,401	5,113,431	3,293,802	2,772,985
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union	183,425	107,945	1,082,472	268,815	126,838
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	5,407,399	3,860,088	5,162,607	3,334,777	2,837,820

Table 5B: Exports by Regional Economic Communities (Net-weight in tons)

ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING		1ST QTR 2022	2ND QTR 2022	3RD QTR 2022	4TH QTR	1ST QTR2023
ALADI	Latin American Association for Integration	43,593	68,219	27,242	38,832	51,484
ASEN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	16,775	9,486	9,471	17,113	14,787
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	425	449	120	600	1,280
EU 27	European Union	51,031	28,154	22,608	43,035	47,174
EURO	EURO zone	49,682	27,214	21,543	41,957	46,226
MRU	Mano River Union	119,482	62,573	68,925	24,089	8,743
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement	10,487	17,314	8,864	8,948	16,171
OCI	Organization of Islamic Cooperation	270,296	174,017	311,558	489,332	360,239
SADC	Southern African Development Community	419	362	386	504	248
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union	167,006	113,390	285,016	406,782	228,073
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union	33,081	5,634	5,939	7,016	44,573
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	171,940	114,603	286,282	408,020	229,550

Source : GBoS