

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

THIRD QUARTER 2023

[July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023]

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## I. Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for third 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 (ASYCUDAWORLD) 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 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](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 ASYCUDAWORLD (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> 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.

## II. 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     |

### III. 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.

#### IV. Executive Summary

- The total value of imports in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter of 2023 declined from GMD13.6 billion to GMD13.1 billion.
- Third quarter 2023 shows larger importation of mineral fuel, whereas mineral fuels, vehicles and cereals compared to the same period in 2022.
- Mineral fuels, vehicles other than railway and cereals were mostly exported in the third quarter of 2023.
- Edible fruits and nuts, fish and crustaceans, oils seeds and salt were mostly exported in the third quarter of 2023.
- Senegal, China, and India were the main import partners during the third quarter of 2023.



## V. Summary of Quarterly Trade Statistics 2022-2023

Table 1 below shows the quarterly trade statistics. The total value of imports in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the third quarter of 2022 declined from GMD13.6 billion to GMD13.1 billion.

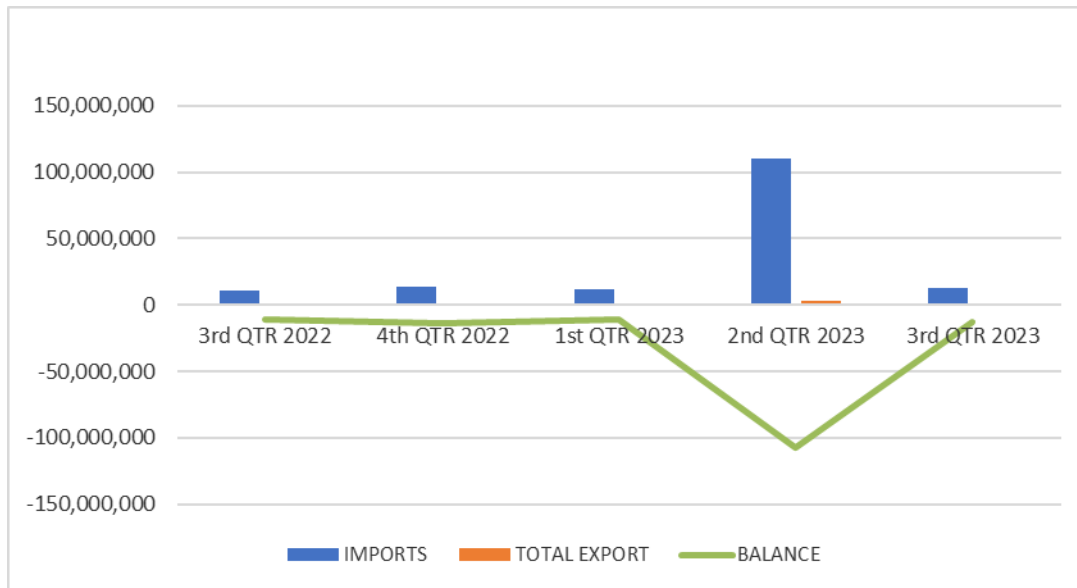
The value of total exports (i.e., domestic exports + re-exports) in the third quarter of 2023 decreased from GMD 3.5 million to GMD653.5 billion in the third quarter of 2023. Whereas the value of total exports in the third quarter of 2022 decreased from GMD851.7 million to GMD653.5 billion in the third quarter 2

Furthermore, the reverse is observed in the trade balance between the second quarter of 2023 and the third quarter of 2023. That is an increase in the trade balance in the second quarter of 2023 from GMD10.2 billion to GMD12.4 billion in the third quarter 2023. However, the trade balance between the third quarter of 2022 and 2023 increased from GMD10.5 billion to GMD12.4 billion.

Table 1: Quarterly Trade Summary for Third Quarter 2022-2023 Values (GMD'000)

| <b>TRADEFLOW</b>    | <b>3RD QTR 2022</b> | <b>4TH QTR 2022</b> | <b>1ST QTR 2023</b> | <b>2nd QTR 2023</b> | <b>3RD QTR 2023</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>IMPORTS</b>      | 11,323,558          | 13,909,640          | 11,439,105          | 13,636,110          | 13,098,449          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPORT</b> | 851,778             | 340,933             | 518,437             | 3,471,334           | 653,514             |
| <b>BALANCE</b>      | <b>-10,471,780</b>  | <b>-13,568,707</b>  | <b>-10,920,667</b>  | <b>-10,164,776</b>  | <b>-12,444,934</b>  |

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



### Import by Products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in the third quarter 2022 and 2023 respectively. The most imported product was minerals. During the third quarter of 2022, 22.1 percent of this product was imported compared to 36.6 percent of the product in the same period in 2023. This was followed by importation vehicles and fertilizers 16.6 percent and 14.2 percent in the third quarters of 2022 and 2023 respectively. The third most imported products were cereals which shows that less of the product was imported during the third quarter of 2023 (8.5 %) compared to the third quarter of 2022 (6.4 %)

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

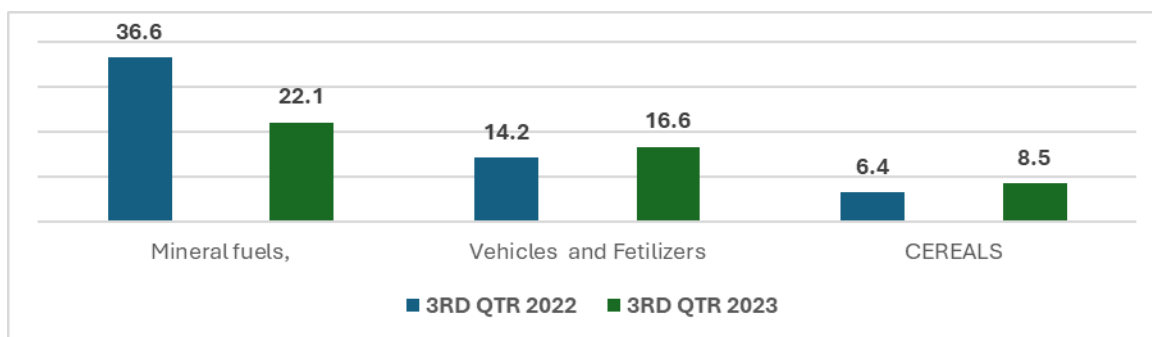


Table 2: Top Ten Products for Third Quarter 2022-2023 Values (GMD'000)

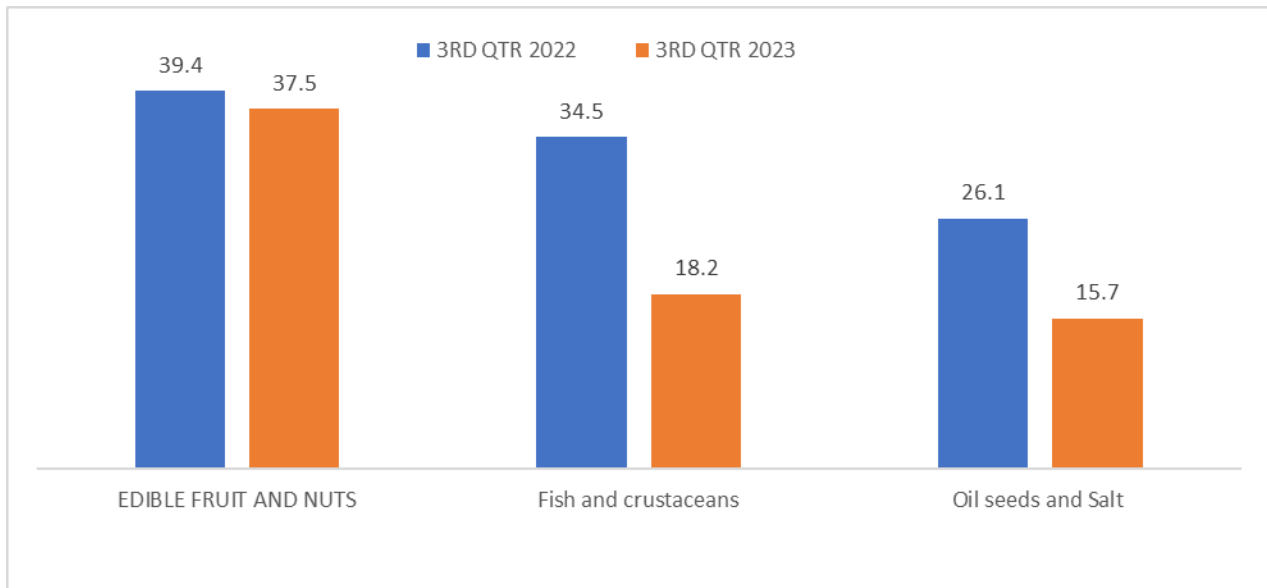
| PERIOD | 3RD QTR | PERIOD | 3rd QTR |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|--------|---------|--------|---------|

|   | 2022              |   | 2023              |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| PRODUCTS  | IMPORTS           | PRODUCTS  | IMPORTS           |
| Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes  | 4,139,944         | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes  | 2,889,517         |
| Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof   | 1,612,437         | FERTILISERS   | 2,172,703         |
| CEREALS   | 720,295           | CEREALS   | 1,114,451         |
| PLASTICS AND ARTICLES THEREOF   | 548,439           | 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 | 744,758           |
| 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 | 397,369           | PLASTICS AND ARTICLES THEREOF   | 736,538           |
| Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten  | 343,365           | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof   | 671,285           |
| FERTILISERS   | 321,635           | ARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL   | 668,512           |
| Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement  | 320,966           | Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement  | 402,035           |
| ARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL   | 217,847           | Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes  | 389,286           |
| CERAMIC PRODUCTS  | 215,562           | CERAMIC PRODUCTS  | 258,876           |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>  | <b>8,837,859</b>  | <b>SUB TOTAL</b>  | <b>10,047,96</b>  |
| <b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>   | <b>2,485,699</b>  | <b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>   | <b>3,050,488</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>  | <b>11,323,558</b> | <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>  | <b>13,098,449</b> |

## VI. Exports by product

Exports of top three products from figure 3 shows that, edible fruit and nuts, fish and crustaceans, and oils seeds and salt were mostly exported in the third quarter of 2023 and 2022. Furthermore, Edible fruit and nuts, (37.5 %) and (39.4 %) were the highest exported in the third quarter of both 2023 and 2022 respectively.

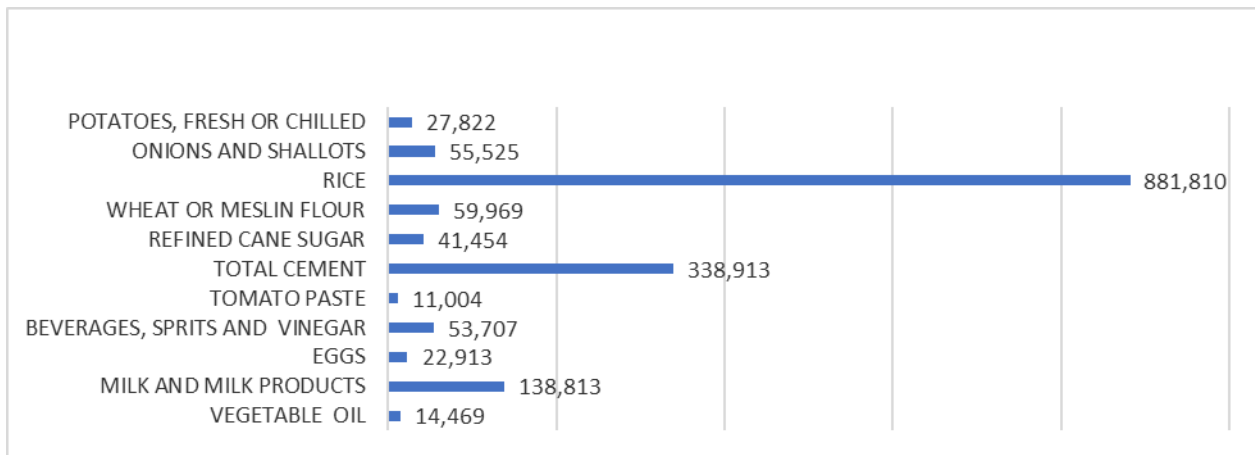
**Figure 3: Exports of Top Three Products for Third Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)**



**I. Imports of selected products for third quarter 2023**

Imports of selected products for third quarter 2023 shows that the highest imported product was rice GMD (881.8 million), followed by cement GMD (338.9 million), milk and milk product GMD (138.9 million) and wheat or meslin flour GMD (60.0 million).

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



## Trade by partners

### ***The Gambia main import trade partners***

Figure 5 below shows imports from partners for the third quarters of 2022 and 2023. The top three countries where most of the goods into the country were imported from during the third quarter of 2022: Cote d'Ivoire (36.2 %), Morocco (9.2 %) and Senegal (8.9 %). Whereas, during the third quarter 2023, most of the imports were from Senegal (26.6 %), China (12.2 %), and India (10.9 %).

**Table 3: Imports of Top Ten Partners for Third Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)**

| <b>THIRD QUARTER 2022</b> |                   | <b>THIRD QUARTER 2023</b> |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Partner</b>            | <b>Percentage</b> | <b>Partner</b>            | <b>Percentage</b> |
| Cote d'Ivoire             | 36.2              | Senegal                   | 26.5              |
| Morocco                   | 9.2               | China                     | 12.2              |
| Senegal                   | 8.9               | India                     | 10.9              |
| India                     | 7.6               | Cote d'Ivoire             | 8.4               |
| China                     | 7.3               | Turkey                    | 5.2               |
| Turkey                    | 4.7               | Togo                      | 3.8               |
| Brazil                    | 2.4               | United Kingdom            | 3.5               |
| Poland                    | 2.3               | France                    | 3.3               |
| United Arab Emirates      | 2.1               | Brazil                    | 3.1               |
| France                    | 2.0               | United Arab Emirates      | 2.7               |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>          | <b>82.7</b>       | <b>SUB TOTAL</b>          | <b>79.5</b>       |
| <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>  | <b>17.3</b>       | <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>  | <b>20.5</b>       |
| <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>      | <b>100.0</b>      | <b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>      | <b>100.0</b>      |

### *The Gambia main export trade partners*

Table 6 below shows that China had the largest share of exports from The Gambia in the second quarter of 2022, however, India (35 %) dominated the share of exports from the Gambia in the third quarter of 2023. The second largest partner of exports from The Gambia was to Mali in the third quarter of 2022 (25.1 %) and to China (23.7 %) in the same quarter of 2023. The third largest export partners from the Gambia in the third quarters of 2022 and 2023 were India (14.3 %) and Viet Nam (13.8 %) respectively.

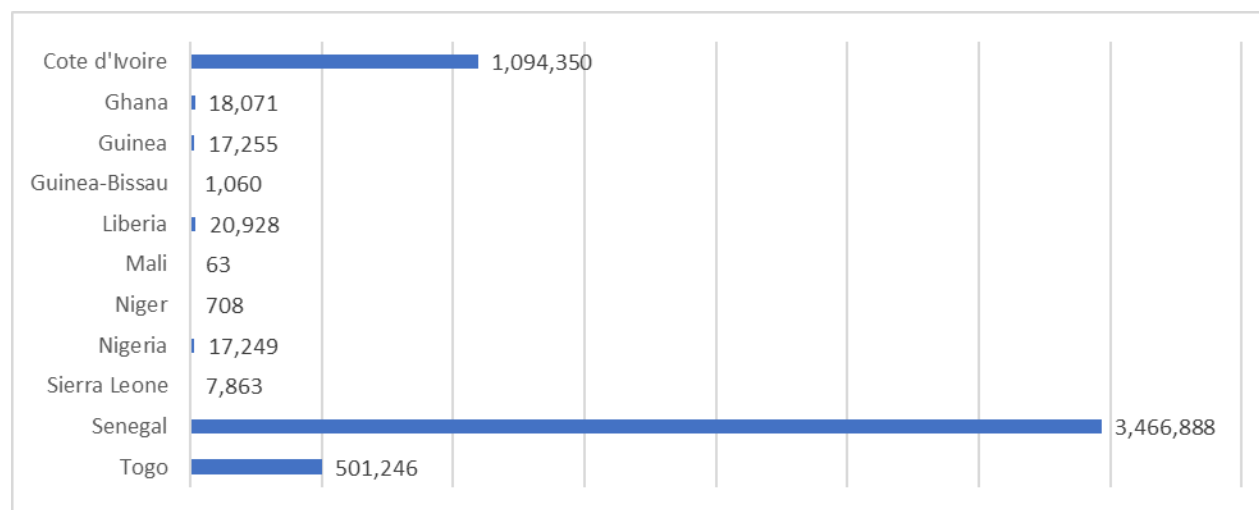
Table 4: Exports of Top Ten Partners for Third Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)

| 3RD QTR2022              |              | 3RD QTR 2023             |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| PARTNER                  | %            | PARTNER                  | %            |
| China                    | 26.6         | India                    | 35.0         |
| Mali                     | 25.1         | China                    | 23.7         |
| India                    | 14.3         | Viet Nam                 | 13.8         |
| Spain                    | 12.1         | Spain                    | 6.3          |
| Italy                    | 7.3          | Senegal                  | 4.9          |
| Viet Nam                 | 4.0          | Italy                    | 4.5          |
| United Arab Emirates     | 2.9          | Republic of Korea        | 2.8          |
| United Kingdom           | 1.5          | United Kingdom           | 2.3          |
| Republic of Korea        | 1.1          | Netherlands              | 2.2          |
| Pakistan                 | 1.0          | United States            | 1.0          |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>         | <b>96.0</b>  | <b>SUB TOTAL</b>         | <b>96.4</b>  |
| <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b> | <b>4.0</b>   | <b>REST OF THE WORLD</b> | <b>3.6</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>100.0</b> |

## II. Intra Regional Trade (ECOWAS)

Figure 7 shows the imports from main ECOWAS partners in the third quarter of 2023. Senegal GMD (3.5 billion) had the highest import value, followed by Cote d'Ivoire GMD (1.1 billion) and Togo GMD (501.2 million).

Figure 5: Imports from ECOWAS Partners for Third Quarter 2023 Values (GMD'000)



## I. Tables

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

|                            | <b>FLOW</b>   | <b>3RD QTR<br/>2022</b> | <b>4TH QTR<br/>2022</b> | <b>1ST QTR<br/>2023</b> | <b>2ND QTR<br/>2023</b> | <b>3RD QTR<br/>2023</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>VALUES IN THOUSANDS</b> | Imports       | 11,323,558              | 13,909,640              | 11,439,105              | 13,703,311              | 10,208,931              |
| <b>WEIGHTS IN TONS</b>     | Total exports | 851,778                 | 340,933                 | 518,437                 | 3,471,334               | 653,514                 |
|                            | Balance       | -10,471,780             | -13,568,707             | -10,920,667             | -10,231,977             | -9,555,417              |
|                            | Imports       | 456,620                 | 667,902                 | 541,870                 | 469,407                 | 449,638                 |
|                            | Total exports | 32,554                  | 28,739                  | 41,379                  | 60,716                  | 47,819                  |

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

| <b>SITC</b>                                       | <b>3RD QTR<br/>2022</b> | <b>4TH QTR<br/>2022</b> | <b>1ST QTR<br/>2023</b> | <b>2ND QTR 2023</b> | <b>3RD QTR<br/>2023</b> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Food and live animals                             | 1,602,574               | 1,557,384               | 2,125,825               | 2,571,663           | 2,013,070               |
| Beverages and tobacco                             | 88,724                  | 51,732                  | 67,407                  | 57,681              | 68,748                  |
| Crude materials, inedible, except fuels           | 134,507                 | 191,260                 | 227,691                 | 275,668             | 105,881                 |
| Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials  | 4,138,537               | 5,668,870               | 3,244,231               | 3,488,008           | 2,889,507               |
| Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes        | 126,010                 | 514,384                 | 385,106                 | 547,867             | 382,521                 |
| Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.            | 760,605                 | 770,214                 | 524,575                 | 1,080,607           | 2,600,888               |
| Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material | 1,284,841               | 1,877,164               | 1,882,961               | 2,047,080           | 2,084,051               |
| Machinery and transport equipment                 | 2,214,111               | 2,578,158               | 2,145,938               | 3,022,126           | 1,740,665               |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles               | 929,721                 | 658,802                 | 766,764                 | 714,640             | 1,209,798               |

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

| SITC  | 3RD QTR 2022 | 4TH QTR 2022 | 1ST QTR 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3RD QTR 2023 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Food and live animals                             | 82,011       | 105,501      | 132,996      | 152,827      | 110,428      |
| Beverages and tobacco                             | 3,334        | 1,824        | 2,009        | 2,040        | 2,150        |
| Crude materials, inedible, except fuels           | 71,319       | 217,904      | 98,352       | 72,230       | 71,147       |
| Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials  | 68,994       | 98,379       | 46,986       | 53,035       | 47,683       |
| Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes        | 4,668        | 15,951       | 10,893       | 17,919       | 12,357       |
| Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.            | 24,796       | 19,168       | 8,310        | 10,526       | 19,211       |
| Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material | 127,452      | 174,945      | 213,963      | 120,906      | 134,341      |
| Machinery and transport equipment                 | 57,466       | 16,994       | 14,864       | 27,106       | 39,281       |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles               | 15,878       | 16,057       | 12,677       | 12,745       | 12,946       |

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

| SITC3                      | 3rd Quarter 2022 | 4th Quarter 2022 | 1ST QTR 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3rd Quarter 2023 |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>IMPORTS</b>             | 11,323,558       | 13,909,640       | 11,439,105   | 12,416,712   | 11,323,558       |
| <b>NETWEIGHT (In Tons)</b> | 456,620          | 667,902          | 541,870      | 469,407      | 449,638          |

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

| PARTNER | 3RD QTR 2022 | 4TH QTR 2022 | 1ST QTR 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3RD QTR 2023 |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AMERICA | 67,013       | 761,474      | 936,280      | 996,259      | 51,070       |
| ASIA    | 117,126      | 6,584,441    | 4,100,387    | 5,309,883    | 78,203       |
| AFRICA  | 216,473      | 3,705,779    | 3,027,792    | 4,404,366    | 292,742      |
| EUROPE  | 48,898       | 2,852,295    | 3,369,288    | 1,219,397    | 34,480       |

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

| PARTNER | 3RD QTR 2022 | 4TH QTR 2022 | 1st Quarter 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3RD QTR 2023 |
|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| AMERICA | 51,070       | 57,783       | 67,645           | 59,018       | 67,013       |
| ASIA    | 78,203       | 137,774      | 91,397           | 142,887      | 117,126      |
| AFRICA  | 292,742      | 415,948      | 275,560          | 206,532      | 216,473      |
| EUROPE  | 34,480       | 56,337       | 107,120          | 60,883       | 48,898       |



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

| ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING |   | 3RD QTR 2022 | 4TH QTR 2022 | 1ST QTR 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3RD QTR 2023 |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ALADI                          | Latin American Association for Integration    | 289,223      | 429,210      | 544,619      | 490,293      | 437,814      |
| ASEN                           | Association of Southeast Asian Nations        | 201,776      | 548,003      | 647,883      | 645,010      | 482,343      |
| COMESA                         | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa | 20,399       | 83,464       | 52,574       | 269,331      | 164,368      |
| EU                             | European Union                                | 1,290,966    | 1,930,917    | 2,287,987    | 1,966,680    | 1,499,956    |
| EURO                           | EURO zone                                     | 1,263,972    | 1,898,571    | 2,253,081    | 1,913,931    | 1,458,854    |
| MRU                            | Mano River Union                              | 4,126,393    | 1,490,263    | 526,606      | 1,063,951    | 1,140,397    |
| NAFTA                          | North American Free Trade Agreement           | 192,180      | 235,239      | 392,553      | 499,013      | 258,535      |
| OIC                            | Organization of Islamic Cooperation           | 7,228,649    | 7,672,605    | 5,314,026    | 6,368,054    | 6,916,432    |
| SADC                           | Southern African Development Community        | 14,487       | 27,617       | 16,095       | 28,377       | 17,725       |
| UEMOA                          | West African Economic and Monetary Union      | 5,113,431    | 3,293,802    | 2,772,985    | 3,790,262    | 5,064,741    |
| UMA                            | Arab Maghreb Union                            | 1,082,472    | 268,815      | 126,838      | 263,157      | 165,999      |
| ECOWAS                         | Economic Community of West African States     | 5,162,607    | 3,334,777    | 2,837,820    | 3,854,447    | 5,146,109    |

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

| ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING |   | 3rd QTR 2022 | 4th QTR 2022 | 1ST QTR 2023 | 2ND QTR 2023 | 3RD QTR 2023 |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ALADI                          | Latin American Association for Integration    | 27,242       | 38,832       | 51,484       | 41,863       | 35,884       |
| ASEN                           | Association of Southeast Asian Nations        | 9,471        | 17,113       | 14,787       | 26,349       | 17,955       |
| COMESA                         | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa | 120          | 600          | 1,280        | 2,419        | 6,325        |
| EU                             | European Union                                | 22,608       | 43,035       | 47,174       | 42,566       | 26,124       |
| EURO                           | EURO zone                                     | 21,543       | 41,957       | 46,226       | 41,071       | 24,904       |
| MRU                            | Mano River Union                              | 68,925       | 24,089       | 8,743        | 17,792       | 20,585       |
| NAFTA                          | North American Free Trade Agreement           | 8,864        | 8,948        | 16,171       | 16,779       | 30,874       |
| OIC                            | Organization of Islamic Cooperation           | 311,557      | 489,320      | 360,218      | 249,157      | 251,673      |
| SADC                           | Southern African Development Community        | 386          | 504          | 248          | 359          | 414          |
| UEMOA                          | West African Economic and Monetary Union      | 285,016      | 406,782      | 228,073      | 173,612      | 176,895      |
| UMA                            | Arab Maghreb Union                            | 5,939        | 7,016        | 44,573       | 29,031       | 29,949       |
| ECOWAS                         | Economic Community of West African States     | 286,282      | 408,020      | 229,550      | 174,599      | 179,805      |