

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

FOURTH QUARTER 2023

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Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for fourth 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 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 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

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.

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

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 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.

Executive Summary

- The total value of imports in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023 declined from GMD13.1 billion to GMD13.0 billion.
- Fourth quarter 2022 shows larger importation of mineral fuels and Cereals compared to the same period in 2023.
- Animal or vegetable fats and oil, oil seeds and Oleaginous fruits; fish and crustaceans, were mostly exported in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- Belgium, Senegal, and India were the main import partners during the fourth quarter of 2023.

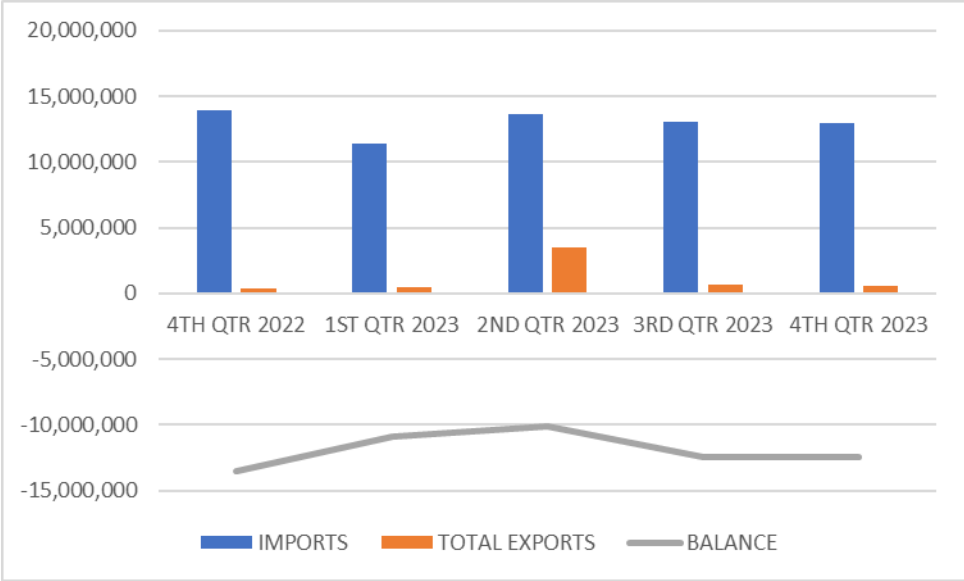
Summary of Quarterly Trade Statistics 2022-2023

Table 1 below shows the quarterly trade statistics for fourth quarter 2022 and 2023. The total value of imports in the third quarter of 2023 declined slightly from GMD13.1 billion to GMD13.0 billion in the fourth quarter of the same year. Whereas the value of imports between the fourth quarter of 2022 and 2023 declined from GMD13.9 billion to GMD13.0 billion.

The value of total exports (i.e., domestic exports +re-exports) in the third quarter of 2023 decreased from GMD 653.5 million to GMD541.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2023. Whereas the value of total exports in the fourth quarter of 2022 increased from GMD340.9 million to GMD541.2 in the same period for 2023.

The trade balance in the third quarter of 2023 increased slightly from GMD12.4 billion to GMD12.5 billion in the fourth quarter 2023. However, the trade balance between the fourth quarter of 2022 and 2023 decreased from GMD13.6 billion to GMD12.5 billion.

Table 1: Quarterly Trade Summary for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023				
4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
13,909,640	11,439,105	13,636,110	13,098,449	12,995,985
340,933	518,437	3,471,334	653,514	541,170
-13,568,707	-10,920,667	-10,164,776	-12,444,934	-12,454,816



Imports and Exports by Products

Import by Products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in the fourth quarter 2022 and 2023 respectively. Although all the products imported are the same for both quarters. Of the overall imports the most imported product was mineral fuels. During the fourth quarter of 2023, 46.6 percent of this product was imported compared to 40.8 percent of the product in the same period in 2022. This was followed by importation of Electrical machinery 9.4 percent in fourth quarter of 2022, whereas cereal (6.1 %) was the second highest product imported in the fourth quarter 2023. The third most imported product was vehicles which shows that less of the product was imported during the fourth quarter of 2023 (4.8 %) compared to 2022 (6.5 %).

Figure 1: Imports of Top Three Products for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)

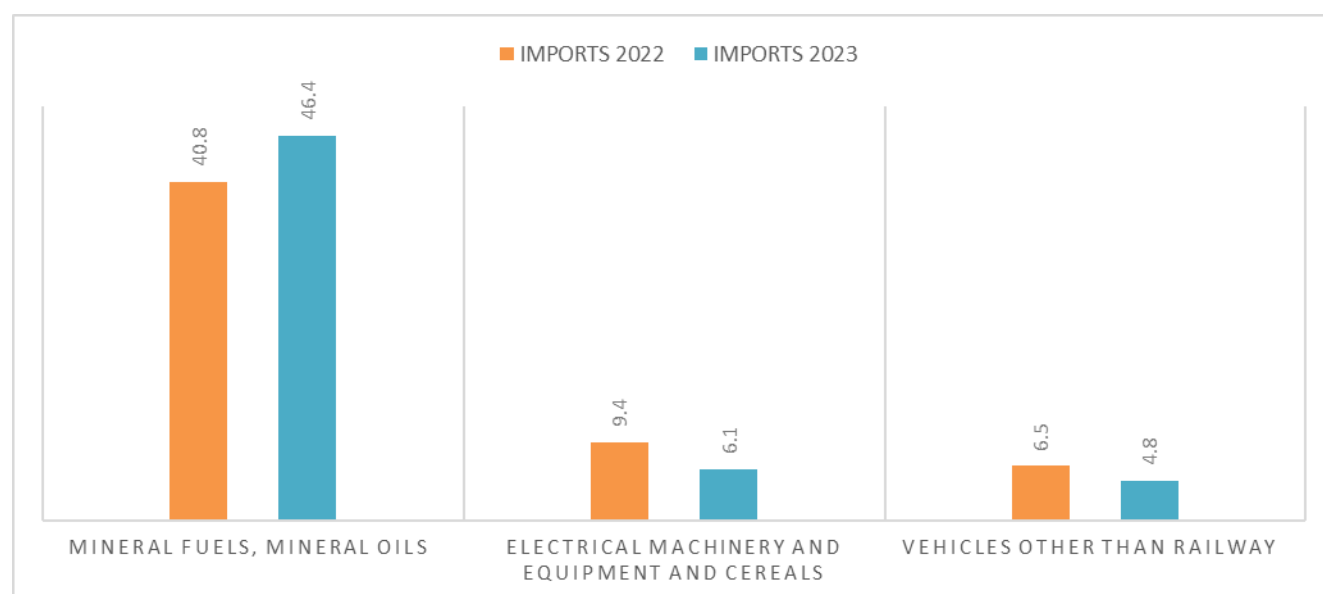


Table 1: Top Ten Products for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 Values (GMD'000)

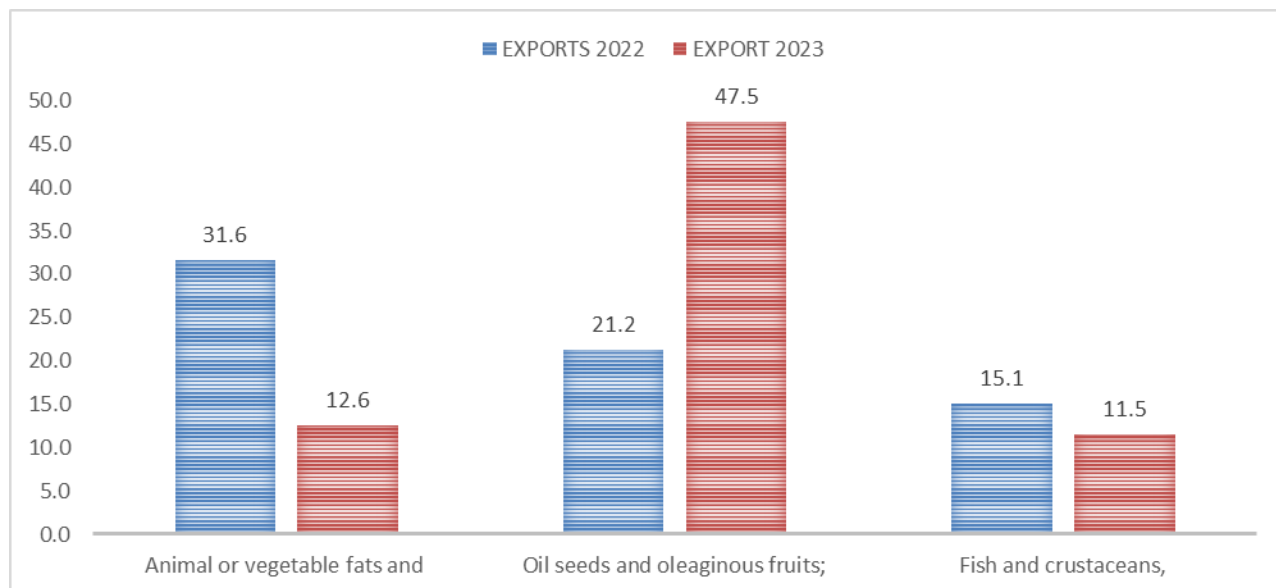
PERIOD	4TH QTR2022	PERIOD	4TH QTR 2023
PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	5,668,870	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	6,023,834
Electrical 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	CEREALS	791,624
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	908,772	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	622,735
ARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL	607,289	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	450,694
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	520,589	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	413,320
CEREALS	502,646	ARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL	389,728

Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	433,067	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	299,691
FERTILISERS	319,603	SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	287,390
SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	310,788	Meat AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL	264,521
IRON AND STEEL	215,143	CERAMIC PRODUCTS	238,975
SUB TOTAL	10,795,997	SUB TOTAL	9,782,514
OTHER PRODUCTS	3,113,643	OTHER PRODUCTS	3,213,472
TOTAL IMPORTS	13,909,640	TOTAL IMPORTS	12,995,985

Exports by product

Exports of top three products from figure 3 shows that, Animal or vegetable fats and oil, Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, Fish and crustaceans were mostly exported in the fourth quarter of 2023 and 2022. Furthermore, oil seeds and Oleaginous fruits (47.5 %) was the highest product exported in 2023, while Animal or vegetable fats and oil (31.6 %) was the most exported product in 2022 and fish and crustaceans were the least exported product in both 2022 (15.1 %) and 2023 (11.5 %) respectively.

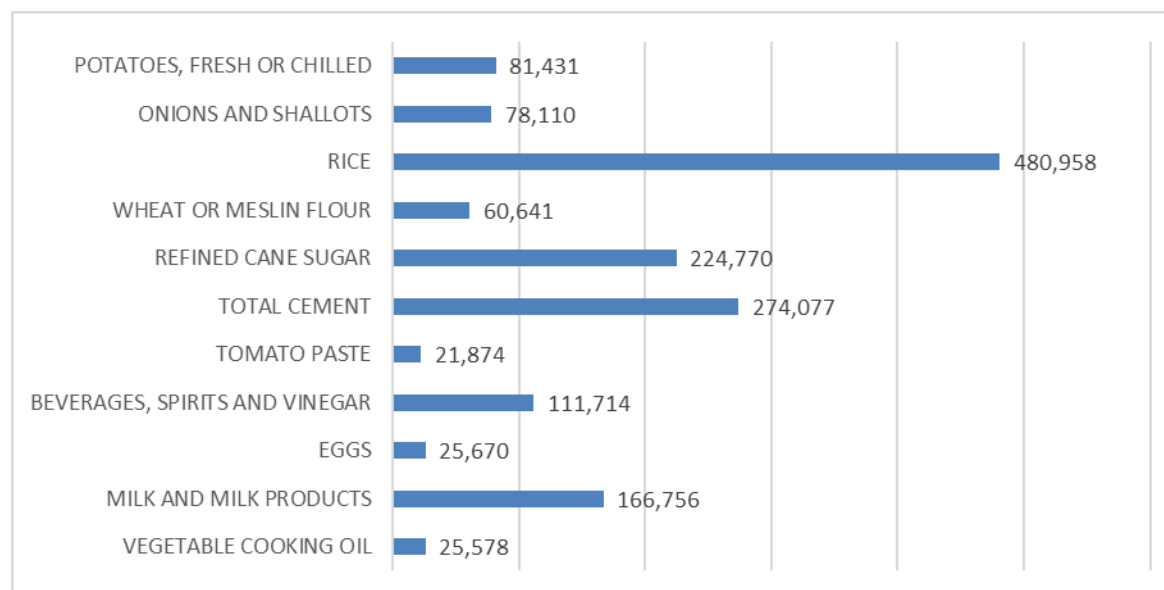
Figure 2: Exports of Top Three Products for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)



Imports of selected products for fourth quarter 2023

Imports of selected products for fourth quarter 2023 shows that the highest imported product was rice GMD (481.0 million), followed by total cement GMD (274.1 million), refined cane sugar GMD (224.8 million) and milk and milk products GMD (166.8 million).

Figure 3: Imports of Selected Products for Fourth Quarter 2023 Values (GMD '000)



Trade by partners

The Gambia main import trade partners

Table 3 below shows imports from partners for the fourth quarter of 2022 and 2023. The top three countries where most of the goods into the country were imported from during the fourth quarter of 2022 were United Arab Emirates (18.4 %), China (15.0 %) and Cote d'Ivoire (10.6 %). Whereas, during the fourth quarter of 2023, most of the imports were from Belgium (25.2 %), Senegal (10.7 %), and India (8.3 %).

Table 3: Imports of Top Ten Partners for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 (in GMD'000)

PERIOD	4TH QTR 2022	PERIOD	4TH QTR 2023
PARTNER	%	PARTNER	%
United Arab Emirates	18.4	Belgium	25.2
China	15.0	Senegal	10.7
Cote d'Ivoire	10.6	India	8.3
Togo	7.3	China	6.9

India	6.0	Cote d'Ivoire	6.8
Senegal	5.8	Russian	5.4
Turkey	5.2	Brazil	4.3
Greece	3.6	Netherlands	4.1
Brazil	3.0	Turkey	2.9
Belgium	2.3	United Arab Emirates	2.1
SUB TOTAL	77.2	SUB TOTAL	76.6
REST OF THE WORLD	22.8	REST OF THE WORLD	23.4
TOTAL IMPORTS	100.0	TOTAL IMPORTS	100.0

The Gambia main export trade partners

Table 4 below shows that China had the largest share of exports from The Gambia, however, its share increased from 52.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022 to 61.1 percent in the same quarter of 2023. The second largest partner of exports from The Gambia was to Vietnam in the fourth quarter of 2022 (7.8 %) and to India (12.4 %) in 2023. The third partner exports from the Gambia for 2022 and 2023 was Turkey (7.4 %) and Republic of Korea (4.8 %) respectively.

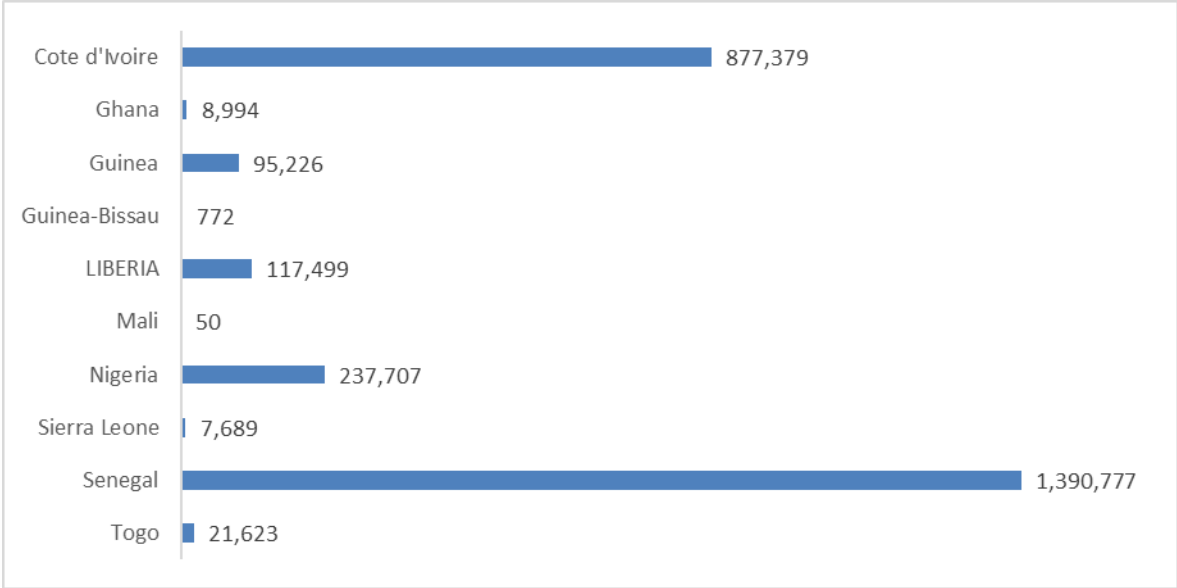
Table 4: Exports of Top Ten Partners for Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 (in percentages)

PERIOD	4TH QTR 2022	PERIOD	4TH QTR 2023
PARTNER	%	PARTNER	%
China	52.3	China	61.1
Viet Nam	7.8	India	12.4
Turkey	7.4	Republic of Korea	4.8
India	6.7	Turkey	4.8
Spain	6.6	Viet Nam	3.2
Guinea	4.5	Italy	2.4
Italy	4.0	Belgium	2.2
Republic of Korea	2.9	Spain	1.1
Liberia	2.7	Malaysia	1.0
Netherlands	2.2	Nigeria	0.8
SUB TOTAL	97.2	SUB TOTAL	93.7
REST OF THE WORLD	2.8	REST OF THE WORLD	6.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0	TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0

Intra Regional Trade (ECOWAS)

Figure 5 shows the imports from main ECOWAS partners in the fourth quarter of 2023. Senegal GMD (1.3 billion) had the highest import value, followed by Cote d'Ivoire GMD (877.4 million) and Nigeria GMD (237.7 million).

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



Tables

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

FLOW		4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
VALUES IN THOUSANDS	IMPORTS	8,240,770	8,143,616	8,781,337	10,208,932	6,972,151,
	TOTAL EXPORTS	340,933	437,833	412,072	251,484	349,839
NET WEIGHT IN TONS	IMPORTS	667,902	439,834	414,041	401,955	638,138
	TOTAL EXPORTS	28,739	39,785	58,847	40,104	43,867

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

SITC	4th QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
Food and live animals	1,557,384	2,125,825	2,571,663	2,013,070	2,171,631
beverages and tobacco	51,732	67,407	57,681	68,748	126,628
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	191,260	227,691	275,668	105,881	243,169
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	5,668,870	3,244,231	3,488,008	2,889,507	6,016,096
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	514,384	385,106	547,867	382,521	277,556
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	770,214	524,575	1,080,607	2,600,888	339,604
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,877,164	1,882,961	2,047,080	2,084,051	1,593,595
Machinery and transport equipment	2,578,158	2,145,938	30,022,126	1,740,665	1,445,124
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	658,802	766,764	714,640	1,209,798	778,699

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

SITC	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
Food and live animals	105,501	132,996	152,827	110,428	124,769
Beverages and tobacco	1,824	2,009	2,040	2,150	3,909
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	217,904	98,352	72,230	71,147	332,877
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	98,379	46,986	53,035	47,683	52,550

Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	15,951	10,893	17,919	12,357	9,226
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	19,168	8,310	10,526	19,211	9,940
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	174,945	213,963	120,906	134,341	125,657
Machinery and transport equipment	16,994	14,864	27,106	39,281	18,203
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	16,057	12,677	12,745	12,946	13,574

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

SITC3	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
IMPORTS	13,909,640	11,439,105	110,766,856	13,098,449	12,995,985
NETWEIGHT	667,902	541,870	469,407	449,638	690,838

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

PARTNER	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
AMERICA	761,474	936,280	996,259	713,067	944,462
ASIA	6,584,441	4,100,387	5,309,883	4,225,309	2,960,163
AFRICA	3,705,779	3,027,792	4,404,366	5,493,662	2,902,599
EUROPE	2,852,295	3,369,288	3,091,881	2,662,421	6,187,673

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

PARTNER	4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
AMERICA	57,783	67,645	59,018	67,013	63,996
ASIA	137,774	91,397	142,887	117,126	86,126
AFRICA	415,948	275,560	206,532	216,473	459,932
EUROPE	56,337	107,120	60,883	48,898	80,710

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

ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING		4th Quarter 2022	1st Quarter 2023	2nd Quarter 2023	3rd Quarter 2023	4th Quarter 2023
ALADI	Latin American Association for Integration	429,210	544,619	490,293	437,814	616,722
ASEN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	548,003	647,883	645,010	482,343	371,822

COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	83,464	52,574	269,331	164,368	45,266
ECOWAS	European Union	3,334,777	2,837,820	3,854,447	5,146,109	2,757,716
EU	EURO zone	1,930,917	2,287,987	98,920,855	1,499,956	4,852,250
EURO	Mano River Union	1,898,571	2,253,081	98,868,105	1,458,854	4,790,939
MRU	North American Free Trade Agreement	1,490,263	526,606	1,063,951	1,140,397	1,097,794
NAFTA	Organization of Islamic Cooperation	235,239	392,553	499,013	258,535	298,024
OIC	Southern African Development Community	7,672,605	5,314,026	6,368,054	6,916,432	3,791,382
SADC	West African Economic and Monetary Union	27,617	16,095	28,377	17,725	27,093
UEMOA	Arab Maghreb Union	3,293,802	2,772,985	3,790,262	5,064,741	2,290,600
UMA	Economic Community of West African States	268,815	126,838	263,157	165,999	79,833

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

ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROUPING		4TH QTR 2022	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023
ALADI	Latin American Association for Integration	38,832	51,484	41,863	35,884	51,681
ASEN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	17,113	14,787	26,349	17,955	13,785
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	600	1,280	2,419	6,325	1,964
ECOWAS	European Union	408,020	229,550	174,599	179,805	454,086
EU	EURO zone	43,035	47,174	42,566	26,124	58,692
EURO	Mano River Union	41,957	46,226	41,071	24,904	57,285
MRU	North American Free Trade Agreement	24,089	8,743	17,792	20,585	18,864
NAFTA	Organization of Islamic Cooperation	8,948	16,171	16,779	30,874	10,459
OIC	Southern African Development Community	489,320	360,218	249,157	251,673	488,194
SADC	West African Economic and Monetary Union	504	248	359	414	479
UEMOA	Arab Maghreb Union	406,782	228,073	173,612	176,895	444,777
UMA	Economic Community of West African States	7,016	44,573	29,031	29,949	3,608