



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

FOR FIRST QUARTER 2019

BY

THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT



Kanifing Institutional Layout

P.O. Box 3504, Serekunda, The Gambia

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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, 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 (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 Freight or Free On-Board value (GMD'000) at 2-digit Harmonized System product code which groups related commodities.

Exports trade: The exports of merchandise goods are valued at F.O.B (Free on Board) 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.

Imports trade: The value of imported goods includes the cost of the goods plus the 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 2019. 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 that is, six (6) or eight (8) digits according to the Harmonised commodity description and coding system (HS).

The report usually contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports and Exports by major trading partners, Imports and Exports by top ten countries, Imports of selected commodities etc.

The 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 Euro trace 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 Nations 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) 2007 tariff. The data presented in this report contains trade summary and other detailed information.

The 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
2019**

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 1 presents trade flow in The Gambia for the period under review. Total international merchandise trade amounted to GMD7.6 billion. The trade balance remains unfavorable, recording a deficit of GMD -6.9 billion. Furthermore, total imports imputed in the first quarter 2019 amounted to GMD7.2 billion (95.7 %) of total trade, whereas total Domestic Exports registered GMD149.2 million (2 %) and re-exports GMD174.6 million (2.3 %).

Table 1: Trade summary first quarter 2019, values GMD ('000),

| TRADEFLOW | VALUES | % |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| IMPORTS | 7,237,764 | 95.7 |
| EXPORTS | 149,198 | 2.0 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 174,565 | 2.3 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 323,764 | 4.3 |
| TOTAL TRADE | 7,561,528 | 100.0 |
| BALANCE | -6,914,001 | |

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Monthly trade statistics for the first quarter 2019 is presented in table 2 below. The highest value of imports was registered in February with GMD2.6 billion, followed by January with GMD2.5 billion. Similarly, Exports in February also recorded the highest FOB value with GMD64.9 million, followed by March with GMD48.6 million and the least was recorded in January with GMD35.7 million.

Table 2: Monthly trade statistics for first quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

| MONTHS | IMPORTS | EXPORTS | RE-EXPORTS |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| JANUARY | 2,487,237 | 35,737 | 96,819 |
| FEBRUARY | 2,599,476 | 64,881 | 63,864 |
| MARCH | 2,151,052 | 48,580 | 13,882 |

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Table 3 shows trade flow by selected continents and the economic zones/blocs. Gambia's imports from Africa recorded the highest value with GMD2.5 billion. Out of which Economic Community of West African States registered GMD2.4 billion which constitutes 33 per cent of total imports. This is followed by Asia and Europe with GMD1.6 billion and GMD1.5 billion respectively.

Asia dominated The Gambia's Domestic Export market with GMD36.6 million accounting for 45.1 per cent of total domestic exports. This is followed by Africa with GMD15.4 million and Europe with GMD14.6 million.

Table 3: Imports and exports by selected continents/economic zones for the first quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

| PARTNER | IMPORTS | % | EXPORTS | % |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| AFRICA | 2,533,069 | 35.0 | 15,377 | 18.9 |
| OF WHICH | | | | |
| ECOWAS | 2,388,938 | 33.0 | 10,185 | 12.5 |
| REST OF AFRICA | 144,131 | 2.0 | 5,191 | 6.4 |
| EUROPE | 1,457,865 | 20.1 | 14,610 | 18.0 |
| OF WHICH | | | | |
| EU 28 | 1,296,599 | 17.9 | 10,325 | 12.7 |
| AMERICA | 881,752 | 12.2 | 1,349 | 1.7 |
| ASIA | 1,552,438 | 21.4 | 36,607 | 45.1 |
| SUBTOTAL | 6,425,124 | 88.8 | 67,943 | 83.6 |
| REST OF THE WORLD | 812,640 | 11.2 | 81,255 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | 7,237,764 | 100.0 | 149,198 | 183.6 |

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 shows that total imports from the top ten countries for the period under review amounted to GMD5.4 billion (74.5 %). Cote d'Ivoire registered the highest value with GMD2.1 billion (29.1 %) of total imports. This is followed by China with GMD802.5 million (11.1 %) and Brazil with GMD572.1 million (7.9 %). Vietnam registered the least import value among the top ten countries with GMD151.8 million accounting for only 2.1 per cent of total imports.

Table 4: Imports from top ten partners for first quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

| PARTNER | IMPORTS | % |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Cote d'Ivoire | 2,103,173 | 29.1 |
| China | 802,529 | 11.1 |
| Brazil | 572,058 | 7.9 |
| India | 545,789 | 7.5 |
| Malaysia | 376,096 | 5.2 |
| Spain | 319,083 | 4.4 |
| Netherlands | 189,085 | 2.6 |
| United States | 171,713 | 2.4 |
| Germany | 157,251 | 2.2 |
| Viet Nam | 151,754 | 2.1 |
| Subtotal | 5,388,532 | 74.5 |
| Rest of the world | 1,849,233 | 25.5 |
| Total imports | 7,237,764 | 100.0 |

EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 5 below shows the domestic exports values and percentage share of domestic exports to Gambia's top ten partners against total domestic exports. China dominated the domestic export market from The Gambia with a share of about 55 per cent (GMD81.3) million, followed by Vietnam and Republic of Korea with 14.6 per cent (GMD21.8) million and 8.9 per cent (GMD13.2) million of domestic exports respectively. United Kingdom recorded the least share of domestic exports among the top ten countries with 0.7 per cent (GMD1.2) million of domestic exports.

Table 5: Exports to top ten countries for first quarter 2019, values GMD ('000)

| PARTNER | EXPORTS | % |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| China | 81,255 | 54.5 |
| Viet Nam | 21,801 | 14.6 |
| Republic of Korea | 13,231 | 8.9 |
| Niger | 7,418 | 5.0 |
| Spain | 5,912 | 4.0 |
| Tunisia | 3,480 | 2.3 |
| Switzerland | 3,300 | 2.2 |
| Netherlands | 3,041 | 2.0 |
| Republic of South Africa | 1,711 | 1.1 |
| United Kingdom | 1,070 | 0.7 |
| Subtotal | 142,219 | 95.3 |
| Rest of the world | 6,979 | 4.7 |
| Total exports | 149,198 | 100.0 |

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

As shown in table 6 below, ‘Mineral products registered the highest value among the top ten with GMD2.1 billion (29.4 %), followed by cereals with GMD877.3 million (12.1 %) and Vehicles with GMD605.8 million (8.4 %). However, Wood and articles of wood registered the least value of imported products with GMD126.7 million (1.8 %).

Table 6: Imports of top ten products for first quarter 2019, values GMD (‘000)

| PRODUCT | IMPORTS | % |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 2,127,922 | 29.4 |
| Cereals | 877,334 | 12.1 |
| Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes | 605,838 | 8.4 |
| Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof | 437,695 | 6.0 |
| Sugars and sugar confectionery | 383,376 | 5.3 |
| 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 | 364,840 | 5.0 |
| Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement | 210,281 | 2.9 |
| Meat and edible meat offal | 166,151 | 2.3 |
| Wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles thereof | 156,554 | 2.2 |
| Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal | 126,726 | 1.8 |
| Subtotal | 5,456,717 | 75.4 |
| Other products | 1,781,047 | 24.6 |
| Total imports | 7,237,764 | 100.0 |

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 7 shows the top ten domestic Exports by product. ‘Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal’ registered the highest FOB value with GMD76.9 million (51.6 %). This is followed by ‘Fish and crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates’ with GMD35.7 million (23.9 %) and ‘Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits....’ with GMD14.9 million (10 %).

Table 7: Exports of top ten products for first quarter 2019, values GMD (‘000)

| PRODUCT | EXPORTS | % |
|--|----------------|----------|
| Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal | 76,938 | 51.6 |
| Fish and crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates | 35,722 | 23.9 |
| Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder | 14,921 | 10.0 |
| Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard | 4,502 | 3.0 |
| Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder | 2,911 | 2.0 |
| Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates | 1,875 | 1.3 |
| Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes | 1,818 | 1.2 |
| Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans | 1,050 | 0.7 |

| | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| Cotton | 798 | 0.5 |
| Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preps, candles & similar articles etc. | 554 | 0.4 |
| Subtotal | 141,091 | 94.6 |
| Other products | 8,107 | 5.4 |
| Total exports | 149,198 | 100.0 |

IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Imports of selected basic commodities constitute the most basic products consumed in The Gambia. Most often these products record the highest import values among products imported.

Imports of selected basic products were dominated by vegetable oil with GMD600.8 million – followed by rice with GMD575.0 million and sugar with GMD343.0 million.

Table 8: Imports of selected basic commodities for first quarter 2019, values GMD (‘000)

| PRODUCTS | IMPORTS |
|---|------------------|
| Potatoes, fresh or chilled | 7,018 |
| Onions and shallots | 36,399 |
| Rice | 575,010 |
| Wheat or meslin flour | 17,674 |
| Refined Cane Sugar | 342,950 |
| Total Cement | 184,907 |
| <i>OF WHICH</i> | |
| Portland cement | 184,715 |
| White cement | 192 |
| Tomatoes, preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, nes | 8,508 |
| Beverages, spirits and vinegar | 58,233 |
| <i>OF WHICH</i> | |
| Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar obtained from acetic acid | 31 |
| Eggs | 19,090 |
| Vegetable Oil | 600,795 |
| Waters, including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated waters, not containing | 399 |
| Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter | 21,865 |
| Alcohol | 2,156 |
| Milk and milk products | 43,349 |
| Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or others | 55,646 |
| Total | 1,973,999 |