

**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021**

**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

**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.

**Export trade:** The exports of merchandise goods are valued at F.O.B. It refers to goods produced in the country and are leaving to other countries either through air, sea or land transport.

**Import trade:** The value of imported goods includes the cost, insurance and freight (C.I.F). It refers to goods originated from other countries and enter the Gambia either through air, sea or land transport.

**Monthly trade summary:** Includes imports, domestic 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.

**Trade flow by top ten products:** This indicates trade flows (import, domestic 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.

## Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for second quarter 2021. 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 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 i.e., GRA.

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](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 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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). The Gambia irrespective of, 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 SECOND QUARTER 2021

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in April GMD3.2 billion. This is followed by May GMD2.7 billion and June GMD 2.5. May registered the highest exports GMD54.7 million, followed by June GMD54.6 million, and the lowest value of exports was registered in April GMD28.8 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021, VALUES  
GMD ('000)**

MONTHS	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
April	3,223,870	38.2	28,818	20.9
May	2,664,381	31.6	54,660	39.6
June	2,546,399	30.2	54,614	39.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,434,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 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 Africa has the highest value of imports GMD4.2 billion. Out of this Ecowas contributed GMD4.0 billion (48.0%) of total imports. This is followed by Asia GMD1.7 billion, America and EU GMD1.1 million each. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia GMD103.6 million, followed by Africa, GMD28.9 million and Europe GMD3.0 million.

**TABLE 2: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	4,173,961	49.5	28,929	20.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	4,047,242	48.0	28,929	20.9
REST OF AFRICA	126,719	1.5	0	0.0
EUROPE	1,425,590	16.9	3,986	2.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,075,885	12.8	3,986	2.9
ASIA	1,713,012	20.3	103,620	75.0
AMERICA	1,118,933	13.3	1,558	1.1
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>8,431,496</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,434,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS**

Table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for second quarter 2021. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Togo (*main product imported is Mineral fuels*) and china (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) with GMD3.6 billion and GMD729.5 million respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 82.0 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 18.0 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021 VALUE (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Togo	3,588,002	42.5
China	729,488	8.6
Brazil	524,048	6.2
India	469,018	5.6
Senegal	386,868	4.6
Turkey	304,829	3.6
United States	232,569	2.8
Argentina	232,452	2.8
United Arab Emirates	230,310	2.7
Belgium	216,035	2.6
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,913,620</b>	<b>82.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,521,031</b>	<b>18.0</b>

<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,434,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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### 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 is Cereals*), Senegal (*Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits*) and India (*main exported is Fish and crustaceans*), registered the highest values 78.6 million (56.9%), GMD23.4 million (16.9%) and GMD 8.3 million (6.0%) respectively. United States had the lowest value of domestic exports of GMD 1.6 million (1.1%). The table further shows that 97.2 percent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 2.8 percent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	78,557	56.9
Senegal	23,388	16.9
India	8,278	6.0
Republic of Korea	5,345	3.9
Thailand	5,139	3.7
Viet Nam	4,039	2.9
Greece	3,386	2.5
Malaysia	2,262	1.6
Guinea-Bissau	2,234	1.6
United States	1,558	1.1
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>134,186</b>	<b>97.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 shows that imports of top ten major products for second quarter 2021 stood at GMD6.3 billion. Out of this, Mineral fuels, cereals and vehicles other than railways, registered the highest values GMD3.7 billion, GMD765.9 million and GMD436.0 million respectively. However, meat and edible meat offal recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD170.4 million.



**TABLE 5: IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,653,971	43.3
Cereals	765,870	9.1
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	436,036	5.2
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	281,637	3.3
Sugars and sugar confectionery	279,853	3.3
Iron and steel	159,921	1.9
Fertilizers	202,145	2.4
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	184,619	2.2
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	173,033	2.1
Meat and edible meat offal	170,436	2.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,307,522</b>	<b>74.8</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,127,128</b>	<b>25.2</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,434,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### **EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS**

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 amounted to GMD138.1 million. Out of which, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, registered the highest share of exports 46.1 per cent, followed by fish and crustaceans 28.6 per cent and edible fruits and nuts 12.2 per cent. The results further show that, edible miscellaneous preparations recorded the least value of GMD37 thousand (0.0%).

**TABLE 6: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	63,626	46.1
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	39,469	28.6
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	16,806	12.2
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	7,339	5.3
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	4,033	2.9
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	3,949	2.9
Sugars and sugar confectionery	2,234	1.6
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing	533	0.4

industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans		
Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	67	0.0
Miscellaneous edible preparations	37	0.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>138,093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 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.

Imports of selected basic products was dominated by rice GMD436.5 million, followed by refined sugar cane GMD230.6 million. Total cement registered GMD114.5 million, out of which Portland cement registered GMD111.1 and white cement GMD3.5 million. Vegetable oil also registered a significant amount of GMD184.6 million.

**TABLE 7: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	35,330
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	8,369
Onions and shallots	19,599
Rice	436,465
Wheat or meslin flour	235
Refined sugar cane	230,566
Total cement	114,535
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	111,084
White cement	3,450
Tomatoes paste	27,545
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	54,008
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	2,368
Vinegar	17
Mineral water	51,623
Milk and milk products	145,262

Eggs	27,594
Vegetable cooking oil	184,619

### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports and re-exports for second quarter 2021. Total trade stood at about GMD8.7 billion with a trade deficit of about GMD8.2 billion. Imports (96.8%) far outweigh domestic exports (1.6 %) since The Gambia is an import dependent country.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>TRADE FLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	8,434,650	96.8
EXPORTS	138,093	1.6
RE-EXPORTS	138,200	1.6
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>276,293</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>8,710,943</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	<b>-8,158,357</b>	