

**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR THIRD 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 the 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 Harmonized System product code which groups related commodities.

## **Preface**

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for third 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 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++) 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 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 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 a 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 THIRD QUARTER 2021

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in August GMD3.2 billion. This is followed by July and September GMD2.9 and GMD 2.7 billion respectively. July registered the highest exports GMD35.7 million, followed by September GMD24.8 million, and the lowest value of exports was registered in August GMD21.2 million.

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

TRADEFLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	8,726,691	97.1
EXPORTS	81,687	0.9
RE-EXPORTS	177,532	2.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	259,219	2.9
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>8,985,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-8,467,472</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 GMD4.1 billion. Out of this Ecowas contributed GMD3.9 billion (45.0%) of total imports. This is followed by Asia GMD2.1 billion, Europe GMD1.9 billion and America GMD537.4 million. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia GMD62.2 million, followed by Europe, GMD8.9 million and Africa GMD8.5 million.

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

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
AFRICA	4,098,576	47.0	8,510	10.4
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	3,924,973	45.0	7,670	9.4
REST OF AFRICA	173,603	2.0	840	1.0
EUROPE	1,993,275	22.8	8,943	10.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,439,852	16.5	8,943	10.9
AMERICAS	537,417	6.2	2,016	2.5
ASIA	2,094,558	24.0	62,218	76.2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>8,723,826</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,687</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,726,691</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,687</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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### IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for third quarter 2021. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Togo (*main product imported is Mineral fuels*) and Cote d'Ivoire (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) with GMD2.5 billion and GMD1.1 million respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 78.2 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 21.8 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Togo	2,525,322	28.9
Cote d'Ivoire	1,127,657	12.9
China	744,648	8.5
India	546,349	6.3
Turkey	421,392	4.8
Spain	408,300	4.7
Brazil	340,371	3.9
Senegal	246,441	2.8
United Arab Emirates	238,023	2.7
United Kingdom	224,938	2.6
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,823,442</b>	<b>78.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,903,249</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,726,691</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners India (*main product exported is Edible fruit and nuts*), Vietnam (*main product exported is Residues and waste from food*) and China (*main product exported is Fish and crustaceans*), registered the highest values 31.0 million (38.0%), GMD 23.07million (29.1%) and GMD 7.1 million (8.6%) respectively. Italy had the lowest value of domestic exports of GMD 1.1 million (1.3%). The table further shows that 95.3 percent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 4.7 percent went to the rest of the world.



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

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
India	31,030	38.0
Viet Nam	23,741	29.1
China	7,050	8.6
Senegal	5,918	7.2
Netherlands	2,742	3.4
Greece	2,635	3.2
Chile	1,300	1.6
Spain	1,263	1.5
Liberia	1,067	1.3
Italy	1,063	1.3
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>77,810</b>	<b>95.3</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>81,687</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### **IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS**

Table 5 shows that imports of top ten major products for third quarter 2021 stood at GMD6.6 billion. Out of this, Mineral fuels, cereals, and Salt; Sulphur; and stone, registered the highest values GMD3.7 billion, GMD588.1 million and GMD509.7 million respectively. However, Ceramic products recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD136.3 million.

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,709,758	42.5
Cereals	588,092	6.7
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	509,731	5.8
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	470,934	5.4
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	327,894	3.8
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared	316,221	3.6

edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes		
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	196,455	2.3
Sugars and sugar confectionery	152,180	1.7
Iron and steel	145,694	1.7
Ceramic products	136,338	1.6
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,553,297</b>	<b>75.1</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>2,173,394</b>	<b>24.9</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>8,726,691</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 amounted to GMD80.9 million. Out of which, Edible fruit and nuts registered the highest share of exports 57.6 per cent, followed by residues and waste from the food industries 19.0 per cent and fish and crustaceans 13.6 per cent. The results further show that, iron and steel recorded the least value of GMD709 thousand (0.9%).

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	47,032	57.6
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	15,524	19.0
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	11,105	13.6
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	2,215	2.7
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	2,078	2.5
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,300	1.6
Ceramic products	662	0.8
Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	607	0.7
Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	400	0.5
Iron and steel	55	0.1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>80,978</b>	<b>99.1</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>81,687</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 by traders/importers.

Imports of selected basic products was dominated by rice GMD508.6 million, Total cement registered GMD424.4 million, out of which Portland cement registered GMD 424.1 and white cement GMD 2 million. Vegetable oil and milk and milk products also registered a significant amount of GMD165.1 million and GMD309.6 million respectively.

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	54,853
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes, fresh or chilled	13,530
Onions and shallots	27,323
Rice	508,594
Wheat or meslin flour	84,780
Refined cane sugar	145,898
Total Cement	424,364
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	424,154
White cement	2
Tomato Paste	29,251
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	97,738
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Vinegar	239
Alcohol	2,017
Mineral Water	95,481
Vegetable Oil	309,591
Milk and Milk Products	165,076
Eggs	31,137

## TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports, and re-exports for third quarter 2021. Total trade stood at about GMD8.98 billion with a trade deficit of GMD8.5 billion. As expected, imports (97.1%) far outweigh domestic exports (0.9%) since The Gambia is an import dependent country.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR THIRD QUARTER 2021, VALUES**

**GMD (D'000)**

<b>TRADEFLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	8,726,691	97.1
EXPORTS	81,687	0.9
RE-EXPORTS	177,532	2
TOTAL EXPORTS	259,219	2.9
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>8,985,909</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-8,467,472</b>	