

**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2021**

**BY**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT**



**Kanifing Institutional Layout**

**P.O. Box 3504, Serekunda, the Gambia**

**Table of Contents**

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms ..... 3

Concepts and Definitions ..... 4

Preface..... 5

Introduction..... 6

MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS ..... 7

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES ..... 7

IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

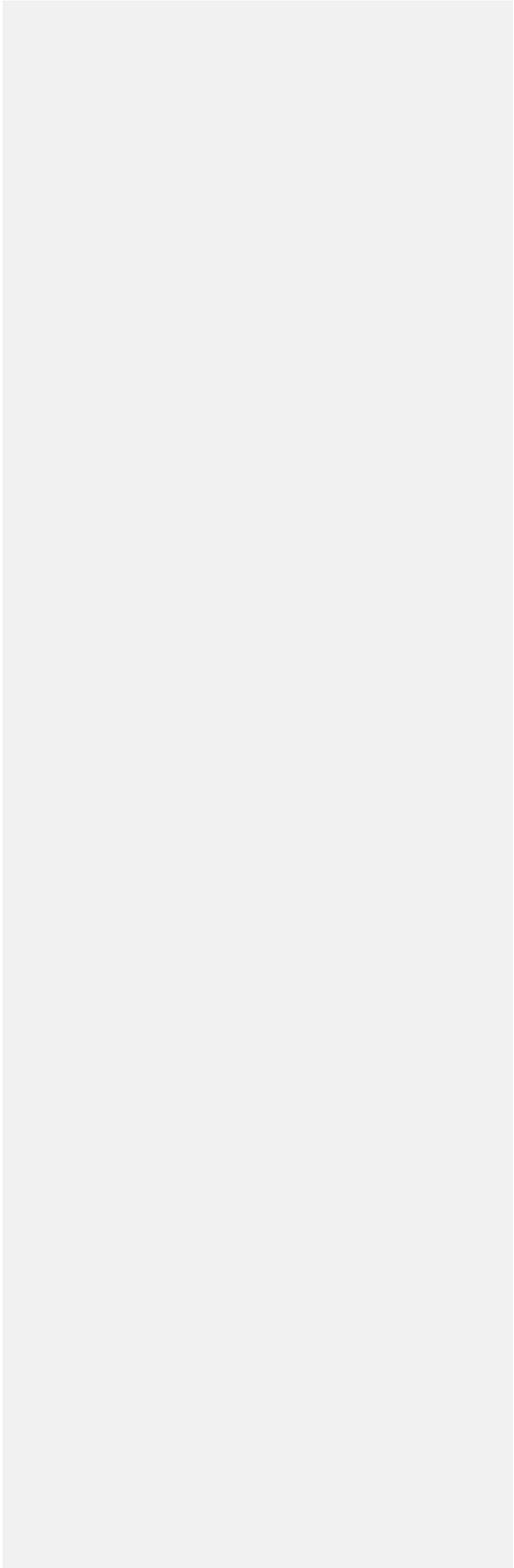
EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS ..... 9

EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS ..... 9

IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES ..... 10

TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS ..... 11



### **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 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 Harmonised 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.

## Preface

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

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> 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.

## **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) 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) 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 FOURTH QUARTER 2021

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows that the highest value of imports was registered in November GMD4.7 billion. This is followed by December and October with GMD3.3 billion and GMD3.0 billion each. November registered the highest exports GMD16.2 million, followed by October GMD10.7 million and the lowest value of exports was registered in December.

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

MONTHS	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
October	3,012,228	27.4	10,707	34.3
November	4,671,980	42.5	16,247	52.1
December	3,302,569	30.1	4,232	13.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,986,777</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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### 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 GMD4.3 billion. Out of this Ecowas contributed GMD4.1 billion (37.7%) of total imports. This is followed by Europe GMD4.136 billion, Asia GMD1.9 billion and American GMD685.8 million. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia, GMD21.2 million, followed by Europe GMD5.7 million and Africa GMD3.856 million.

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

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
AFRICA	4,322,006	39.3	3,753	12.0
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	4,142,671	37.7	3,552	11.4
REST OF AFRICA	179,335	39.3	201	0.1
EUROPE	4,121,582	37.5	5,739	18.4
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	3,908,320	35.6	5,606	18.0
ASIA	1,852,119	16.9	21,161	67.9
AMERICAS	685,804	6.2	533	1.7
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>10,981,511</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>5,266</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,986,777</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31,187</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 fourth quarter 2021. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Cote d'Ivoire (*main product imported Mineral fuels*) and Denmark (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) GMD3.4 billion and GMD2,089.7 million respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 83.6 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 16.4 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

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

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%
Cote d'Ivoire	3,366,877	30.6
Denmark	2,089,695	19.0
Senegal	736,779	6.7
Spain	623,471	5.7
China	614,676	5.6
India	498,739	4.5
Brazil	407,301	3.7
France	319,433	2.9
Belgium	279,290	2.5
Malaysia	252,535	2.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>9,188,797</b>	<b>83.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,797,981</b>	<b>16.4</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>10,986,777</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 (*Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons*) and India (*Fish and crustaceans, molluses and other aquatic invertebrates, fish products*) registered the highest values GMD13.0 million (41.8%), and GMD6.9 million (22.2%) and GMD2.4 million (6.7%) respectively. India had the lowest value of domestic exports GMD697 thousand (7.8%). The results further shows that 98.6 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 1.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

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

PARTNER	EXPORTS	%
China	13,027	41.8
India	6,934	22.2

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Netherlands	2,432	7.8	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Senegal	2,110	6.8	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Greece	1,457	4.7	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Benin	1,342	4.3	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Italy	1,250	4.0	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Korea, Republic of	1,200	3.8	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
Cuba	533	1.7	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
United Kingdom	467	1.5	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>30,752</b>	<b>98.6</b>	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>1.4</b>	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>	Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman

### IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for fourth quarter 2021 stood at GMD9.0 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*vehicles other than railway and 'cereals'...*', registered the highest values -GMD3.5 billion, GMD2.524 mbillion and 773.3 million respectively. However, '*dairy produce, bird's eggs*' recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD172.7 million (1.6%).

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

PRODUCT	IMPORTS	%
27:Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,472,100	31.6
87:Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,524,216	23.0
10:Cereals	773,302	7.0
82:Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal	761,798	6.9
15:Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	451,790	4.1
25:Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	274,465	2.5
85: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	249,058	2.3
72:Iron and steel	145,090	1.3
17:Sugars and sugar confectionery	196,633	1.8
04:Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	172,712	1.6

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>9,021,165</b>	<b>82.1</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,965,613</b>	<b>17.9</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>10,986,777</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD31.2 million. Out of which, 'Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons' registered the highest share of exports 33.2 per cent. This is followed by 'fish products' and 24.6 per cent and 'salt, sulphur products' 23.1 per cent respectively. The data-table further shows that 'Man-made filaments' recorded the least value GMD100 thousand (0.3%).

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

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	10,353	33.2
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	7,681	24.6
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	7,199	23.1
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	2,409	7.7
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	2,110	6.8
Plastics and articles thereof	533	1.7
Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans	467	1.5
Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	201	0.6
Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	133	0.4
Man-made filaments	100	0.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 7 below 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 -GMD576.9 million, followed by vegetable cooking oil GMD451.8 million, out of which white cement registered GMD421.8

million and Portland cement GMD111.1 million. Wheat or meslin flour imported also registered a significant amount of GMD165 thousand, sugar GMD154.6 million.

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

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PRODUCTS	IMPORTS
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	37,975
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Potatoes	6,671
Onions and shallots	21,374
Rice	576,930
wheat or meslin flour	165
Refined sugar cane	154,611
Total cement	111,487
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Portland cement	111,065
White cement	421,811
Tomatoes paste	22,712
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	92,084
<i>OF WHICH</i>	
Alcohol	2,354
Vinegar	90
Mineral water	89,640
Milk and milk products	145,719
Eggs	26,732
Vegetable cooking oil	451,790

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### TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports, and re-exports for fourth quarter 2021. The result shows that total trade stood at GMD11.2 billion with a trade deficit of GMD10.8 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since the Gambia is an import dependent country (98.1 % vs. 0.3 %) respectively.

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

TRADE FLOW	VALUES	%
IMPORTS	10,986,777	98.1
EXPORTS	31,187	0.3
RE-EXPORTS	180,616	1.6
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>211,802</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>11,198,580</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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**TRADE BALANCE**

**10,774,975**

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