

**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022**

**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

**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 third quarter 2022. 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> 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 is 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 THIRD QUARTER 2022

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows that the highest value of imports was registered in July GMD4.3 billion. This is followed by September 3.8 billion and August with GMD3.2 billion each. August registered the highest exports GMD100.9 million, followed by July GMD61.1 million and the lowest value of exports was registered in September GMD56.0 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022, VALUES  
GMD (D '000)**

<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
July	4,349,964	38.4	61,063	28.0
August	3,211,602	28.4	100,885	46.3
September	3,761,992	33.2	56,025	25.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,323,558</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>217,973</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 GMD6.2 billion. Out of this Ecowas contributed GMD5.2 billion (45.6%) of total imports. This is followed by Asia GMD2.4 and Europe GMD2.1 billion. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to Asia, GMD146.6 million, followed by Europe GMD67.3 million.

**TABLE 2: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD (D '000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
AFRICA	6,245,672	55.2	1,916	0.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	5,162,607	45.6	1,845	0.8
REST OF AFRICA	1,083,065	9.6	71	0.0
EUROPE	2,060,727	18.2	67,265	30.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,488,846	13.1	62,628	28.7
ASIA	2,415,341	21.3	146,617	67.3
AMERICA	561,833	5	2,176	1.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>11,283,572</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>217,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>39,985</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,323,558</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>217,973</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 third quarter 2022. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Cote d'Ivoire (*Mineral fuels*) GMD4.1 billion and Morocco (*Vehicles other than railway*) GMD1.0 billion. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 82.7 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 17.3 per cent came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022  
VALUE (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	4,094,171	36.2
Morocco	1,038,872	9.2
Senegal	1,003,091	8.9
India	865,818	7.6
China	825,599	7.3
Turkey	536,420	4.7
Brazil	277,138	2.4
Poland	264,301	2.3
United Arab Emirates	234,942	2.1
France	225,612	2.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>9,365,964</b>	<b>82.7</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,957,594</b>	<b>17.3</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>11,323,558</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 china (*Edible fruit and nuts*) and India (Fish and crustaceans....) registered the highest values GMD77.5 million (35.6%), and GMD41.5 million (19.0%) respectively. The results further shows that 95.6 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 4.4 per cent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
China	77,501	35.6
India	41,499	19.0
Spain	35,169	16.1
Italy	21,215	9.7
Viet Nam	11,777	5.4
United Arab Emirates	8,467	3.9
United Kingdom	4,336	2.0
Republic of Korea	3,328	1.5
Pakistan	3,003	1.4
Chile	2,035	0.9
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>208,328</b>	<b>95.6</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>217,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for third quarter 2022 stood at GMD8.8 billion. Out of this, 'Mineral fuels ...', Vehicles other than railway, and cereals, registered the highest values GMD4.1 billion, GMD1.6 billion and GMD720.3 million respectively. However, ceramic products recorded the least value among the major imported products GMD215.6 million (1.9%).

**TABLE 5: IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES GMD (D '000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation; bituminous substances;	4,139,944	36.6



mineral waxes		
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rollingstock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,612,437	14.2
Cereals	720,295	6.4
Plastics and articles thereof	548,439	4.8
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	397,369	3.5
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	343,365	3.0
Fertilizers	321,635	2.8
Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	320,966	2.8
Articles of iron or steel	217,847	1.9
Ceramic products	215,562	1.9
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>8,837,859</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2,485,699</b>	<b>22.0</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>11,323,558</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD212.4 million. Out of which edible fruit and nuts, registered the highest share of exports 27.5 per cent. This is followed by fish and crustaceans, molluscs 24.1 percent. and oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; 18.2 percent. The table further shows that aluminium and articles recorded the least value GMD2.8 thousand (1.3%).

**TABLE 6: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022,  
VALUES GMD (D '000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	59,897	27.5
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates	52,524	24.1
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds, and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	39,672	18.2
Iron and steel	16,437	7.5
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	10,981	5.0
Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	9,873	4.5
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	8,035	3.7
Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	7,381	3.4
Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime, and cement	4,861	2.2
Aluminum and articles thereof	2,759	1.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>212,419</b>	<b>97.5</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>217,973</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 GMD561.2 million, followed by wheat or meslin flour GMD250.4 million and total cement GMD 228.7; out of which a Portland cement registered GMD158.2 million, and white cement registered GMD224 thousand.

**TABLE 7: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR THIRD QUARTER  
2022 VALUES (D'000)**

<b>PRODUCT S</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	32,509
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes	14,755
Onions	11,653
Rice	561,245
Wheat or meslin flour	250,440
Sugar	5,973
Total cement	228,660
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	158,172
White cement	224
Tomato paste:	23,937
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	78,639
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	1,102
Vinegar	695
Mineral water	76,841
Milk and milk products	92,945
Eggs	18,530
Vegetable cooking oil	131,834

## TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 8 shows trade summary statistics on imports, domestic exports, and re-exports for third quarter 2022. The result shows that total trade stood at GMD12.1 billion with a trade deficit of GMD10.5 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since the Gambia is an import dependent country (93.6 % vs. 1.8 %) respectively.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022, VALUES GMD (D '000)**

<b>TRADE FLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	11,323,558	93.6
EXPORTS	217,973	1.8
RE-EXPORTS	560,932	4.6
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>778,905</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>12,102,463</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	<b>-10,544,653</b>	