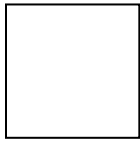


EPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

# INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2024

[APRIL, 2024]

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## II. Preface

This report presents the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) of The Gambia for the First quarter of 2024. 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 World (Automated System Customs Data) 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 Harmonized System (HS).

The quarterly report contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports and Exports by major trading partners. 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 World 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.

### III. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASYCUDA World	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
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
ALADI	‘Asociacion Latinoamericana de Integracion’
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
EURO	Eurozone Countries
MRU	The Mano River Union
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UEMOA	‘Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine’
UMA	‘Union du Maghreb Arabe’

## IV. 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 Gambian Dalasi (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 Harmonized 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 going out of the economic territory. 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 (CIF) value, it refers to all movable goods coming into the economic territory. 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.

**Total Exports:** This is the value of domestic exports plus re-exports.

## V. Executive Summary

- The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter of 2024 increased from GMD11.4 billion to GMD15.7 billion.
- A total value of Imports GMD15.7 billion was incurred during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 of GMD11.4 billion. This Shows an increase of GMD4.3 billion over the period.
- The first quarters of both 2023 and 2024 shows larger importation of mineral fuels.
- Oils and oleaginous fruits, fish products and vegetables fats and salt products were mostly exported in the first quarter of 2024.
- Belgium, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire were the main import partners during the first quarter of 2024.

## VI. Summary of Quarterly Trade Statistics First Quarter 2023-2024

Table 1 below shows the quarterly trade statistics. The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023 increased from GMD13.0 billion to GMD15.8 billion. This indicates a rise in imports equivalent to GMD2.8 billion. However, the first quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter of 2024, imports increased by GMD4.3 billion.

The value of total exports (i.e. domestic exports + re-exports) in the fourth quarter of 2023 increased from GMD 541.2 million to GMD1.2 billion in the first quarter of 2023. Whereas the value of total exports in the first quarter of 2023 increased from GMD518.4 million to GMD1.2 billion in the first quarter 2024.

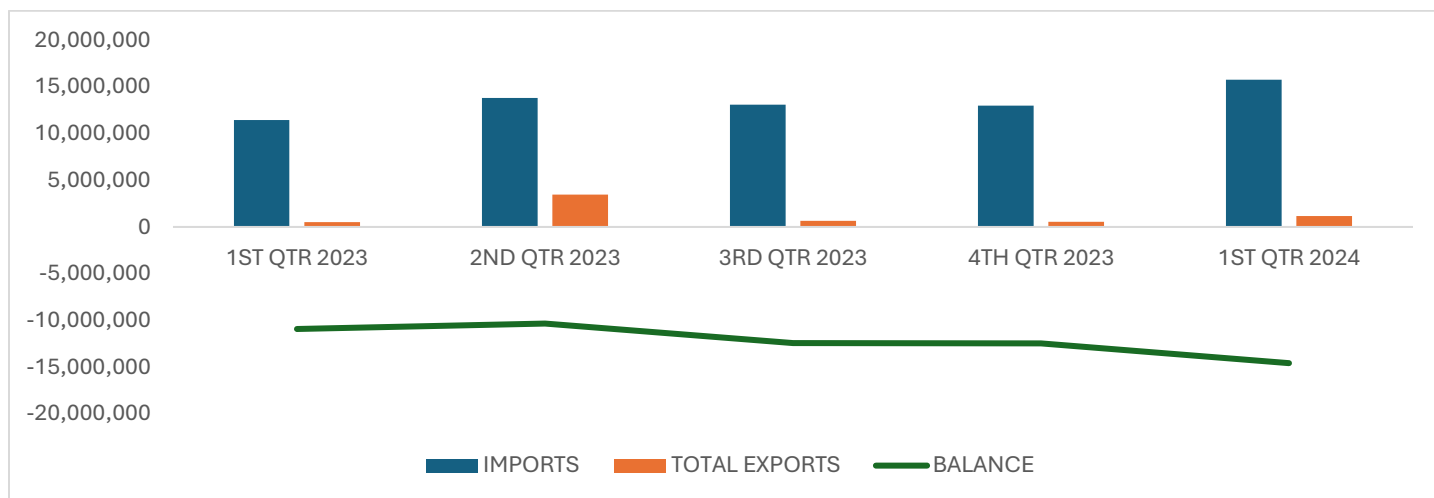
Furthermore, the observations in the trade balance between the first quarter of 2024 and the fourth quarter of 2023 are as follows: this shows a decrease in the trade balance<sup>2</sup> in the fourth quarter of 2023 from GMD12.5 billion to GMD14.6 billion in the first quarter 2024. However, the trade balance between the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 decreased from GMD10.9 billion to GMD14.6 billion.

**Table 1: Quarterly Trade Summary for The First Quarter 2023-2024**

VALUES GMD'000'

TRADEFLOW	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023	1ST QTR 2024
<b>IMPORTS</b>	11,439,105	13,812,682	13,098,449	12,995,985	15,765,535
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	518,437	3,471,334	653,514	541,170	1,184,998
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-10,920,667</b>	<b>-10,341,347</b>	<b>-12,444,934</b>	<b>-12,454,816</b>	<b>-14,580,537</b>

*Figure 1: Trade flows for First Quarter Values ('000') 2023-2024*



## VII. Imports by products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in the first quarter of 2023 and 2024 respectively. Although the top three products imported are the same for both quarters, there is still some variation in the volume imported

<sup>2</sup> All the trade balances are in negative values, so the negative sign is not shown in the write-up but is implied. From -1 to -2 is a decrease not an increase.



for each quarter. Mineral fuels were the highest imported product, 40.2 per cent of this product was imported in 2024 compared to 28.8 per cent for the same period in 2023. This was followed by importation of both vehicles and fertilizers which accounted for 8.7 and 5.8 per cents in the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 respectively. The third most imported product was Cereals which shows that less of the product was imported during the first quarter of 2024 5.4 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2023 8.5 per cent.

Figure 2: Imports of Top Three Products for The First Quarter 2023-2024 in per centages

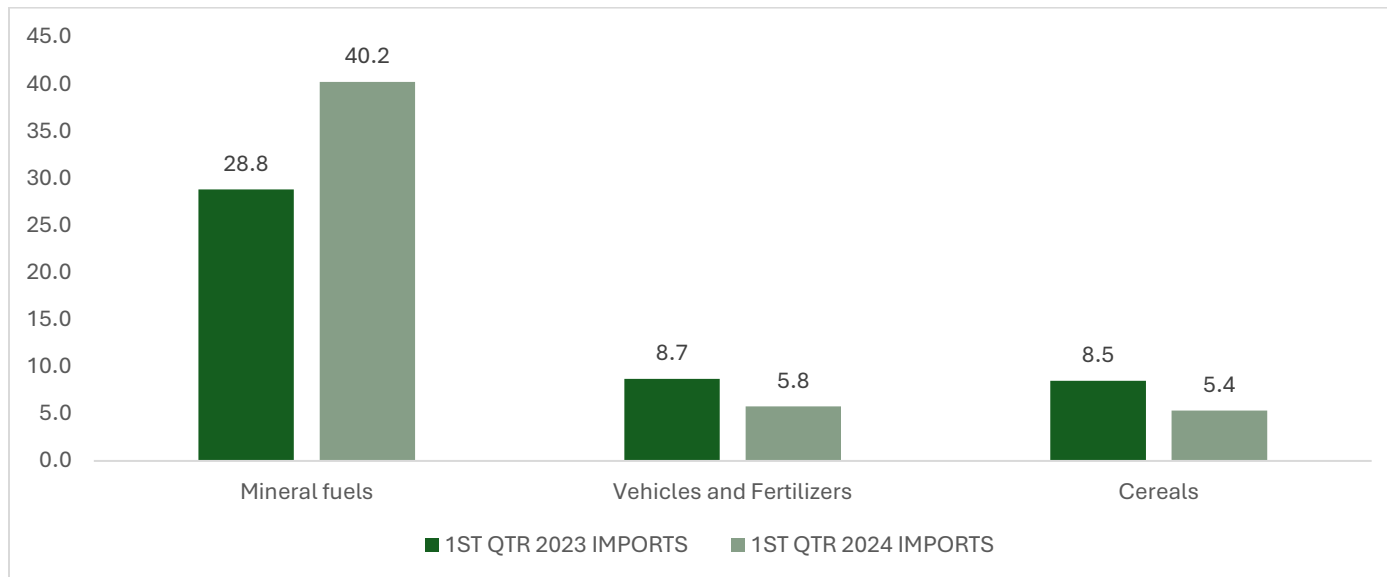


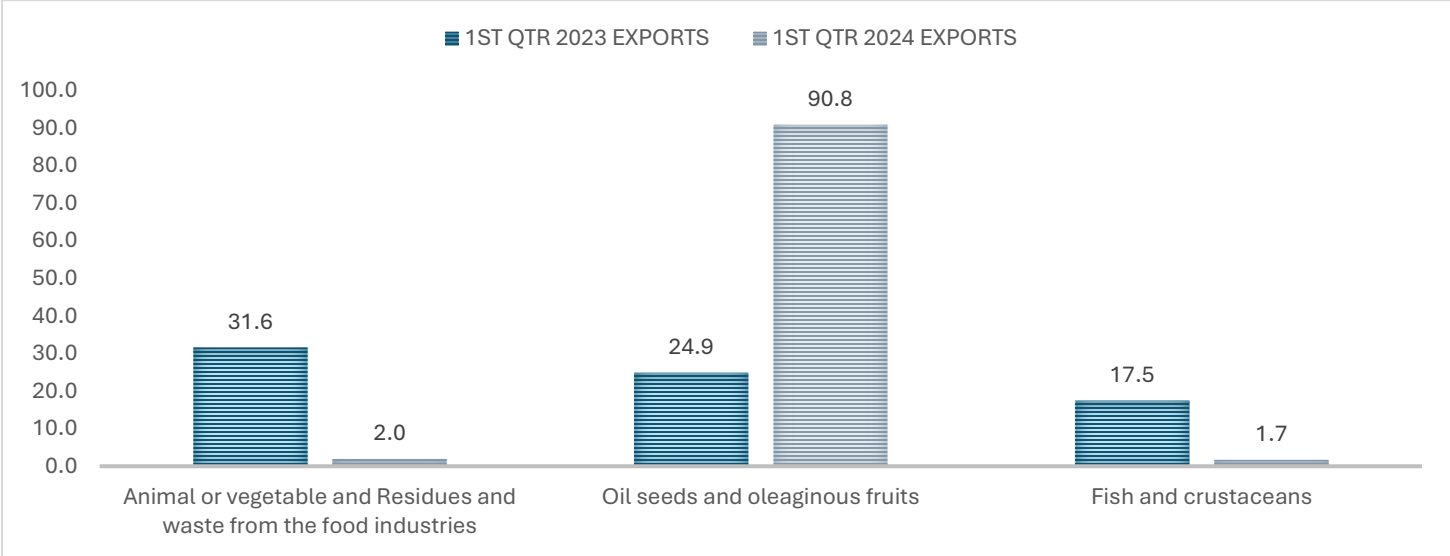
Table 2: Top Ten Products for First Quarter 2023-2024 Values (GMD'000)

PERIOD	1ST QTR 2023	PERIOD	1ST QTR 2024
PRODUCT	IMPORTS	PRODUCT	IMPORTS
Mineral fuels	3,295,489	Mineral fuels	6,338,885
Vehicles	994,844	Fertilisers	910,418
Cereals	972,610	Cereals	843,753
Salt	607,673	Vehicles	760,123
Electrical machinery and equipment	436,253	Electrical machinery and equipment	720,632
Articles Iron and Steel	408,592	Salt	556,846
Animal or vegetable fats and oils	389,682	Articles of Iron and Steel	454,528
Sugar	289,143	Furniture;bedding,mattresses	324,573
Meat and Edible Offal	280,828	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	298,828
Plastics and Articles thereof	277,428	Meat and Edible Offal	293,747
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>7,952,540</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>11,502,333</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>3,486,565</b>	<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>4,263,203</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>11,439,105</b>	<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>15,765,535</b>

### VIII. Exports by product

Exports of top three products from figure 3 shows that Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, Animal or vegetable and Residues and waste from food industries, and fish and crustaceans were mostly exported in the first quarters of 2023 and 2024. Furthermore, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits (90.8%) was the highest export in the first quarter of 2024 while animal or vegetable was the highest export for the same period in 2023.

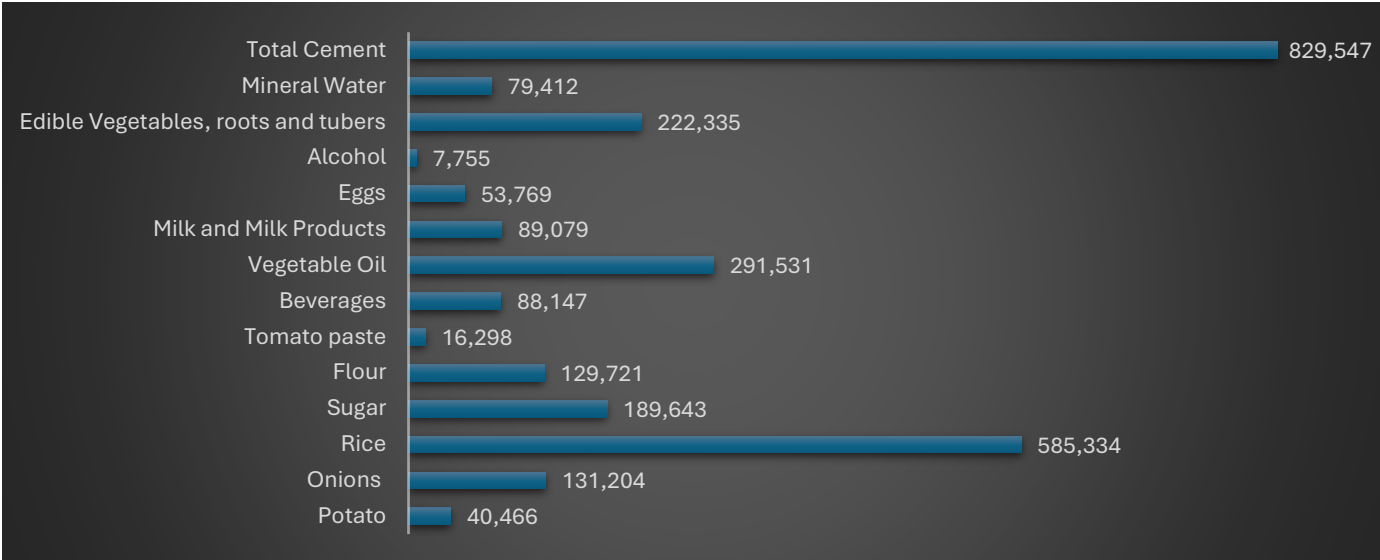
Figure 3: Exports of Top Three Products for First Quarter 2023-2024 in per centages



### IX. Imports of selected products for first quarter 2024

Imports of selected products for the first quarter of 2024 shows that the highest imported product was cement GMD 829.5 million, followed rice GMD 585.3 million, vegetable oil GMD 291.5 million and edible vegetables GMD 22 million.

Figure 4: Imports of Selected Products for First Quarter 2024 Values GMD '000'

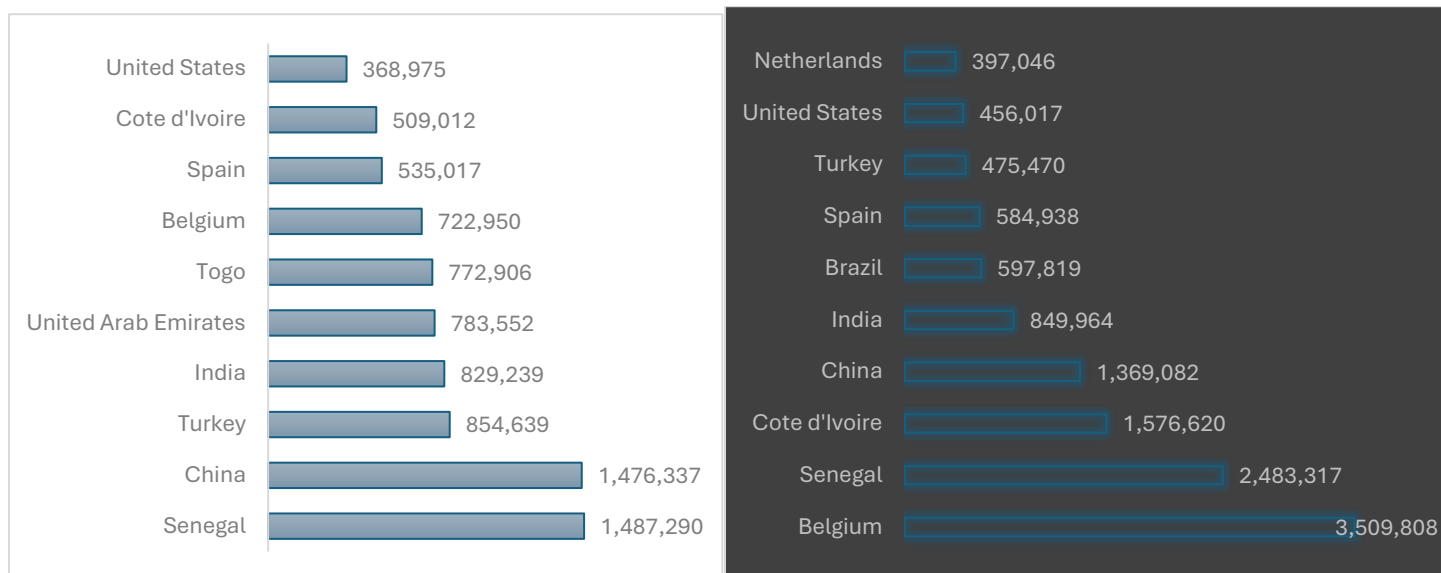


## X. Trade by partners

### The Gambia main import trade partners

Figure 5 below shows imports from partners for the first quarters of 2023 and 2024. The top three countries where most of the goods were imported from during the first quarter of 2023: Senegal GMD 1.5 billion, China GMD 1.5 billion and Turkey GMD 854.6 million. Whereas, during the first quarter 2024, most of the imports were from Belgium GMD 3.5 billion, GMD Senegal 2.5 billion, and Cote d'Ivoire GMD 1.6 billion.

*Figure 5: Imports of Top Ten Partners for First Quarter 2023-2024 (GMD'000')*



### The Gambia main export trade partners

Table 3 below shows that China had the largest share of exports from The Gambia, its share increased from (55.0%) to (92.3%) in the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 respectively, whereas Turkey (9.8%) and (1.7%) had the second highest share of export from The Gambia in the first quarters of 2023 and 2024. The third largest partner of exports from The Gambia was India (6.5%) and (1.7%) in the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 respectively.

**Table 3: Exports of Top Ten Partners for First Quarter 2023-2024 (in per centages)**

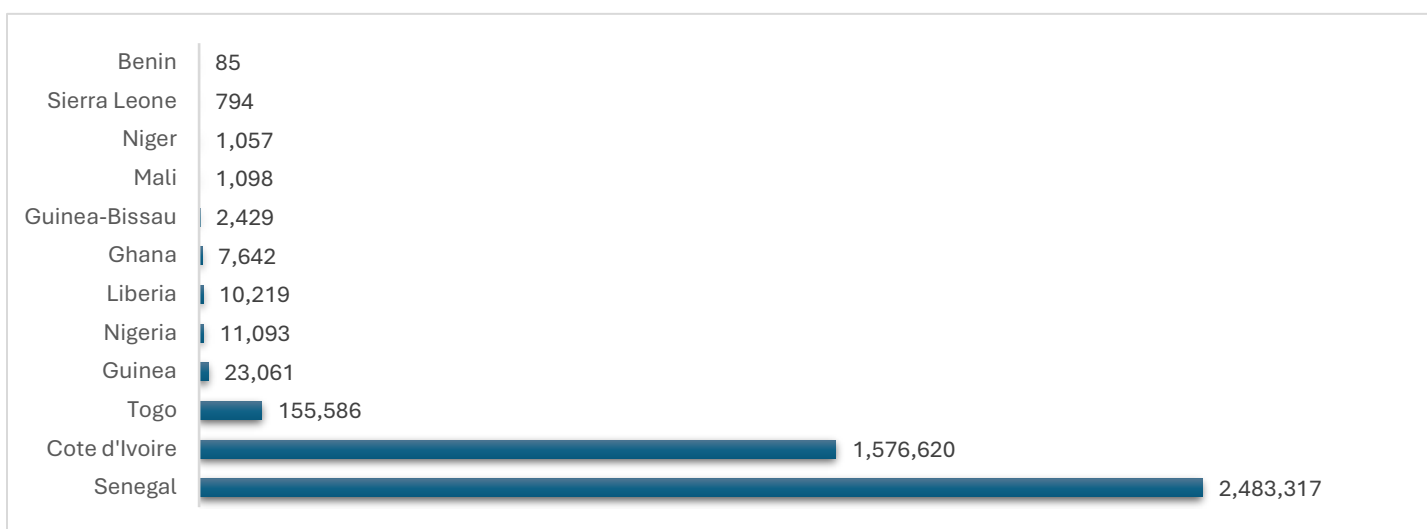
Year	1 <sup>ST</sup> QTR 2023	Year	1 <sup>ST</sup> QTR 2024
PARTNER	EXPORTS	PARTNER	EXPORTS
China	55.0	China	92.3
Turkey	9.8	Turkey	1.7
India	6.5	India	1.6
Spain	6.3	Viet Nam	1.2
Korea, Republic of	4.4	United Kingdom	0.5
Italy	4.4	Korea, Republic of	0.5
United Kingdom	3.8	Spain	0.4

Viet Nam	3.6	Senegal	0.3
Greece	1.2	Netherlands	0.3
Liberia	0.9	France	0.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>99.3</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## XI. Intra Regional Trade (ECOWAS)

Figure 6 shows the imports from main ECOWAS partners in the first quarter of 2024. Senegal GMD 2.5 billion had the highest imports value, followed by Cote d'Ivoire GMD 1.6 billion and Togo GMD 155.6 million.

Figure 6: Imports from ECOWAS Partners for First Quarter 2024 GMD '000'



## XII. Tables

Table 1A: Overall statistics on trade in goods excluding oil in GMD '000 for First quarter 2023-2024

VALUES IN THOUSANDS	TRADEFLOW	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023	1ST QTR2024
	IMPORTS		8,143,616	10,177,307	10,208,931	6,972,151
TOTAL		437,833	412,072	251,484	349,839	1,130,017
EXPORTS						
NET WEIGHT IN TONS	IMPORTS	493,834	414,041	401,955	638,138	437,782
	TOTAL	39,785	58,847	40,104	43,867	162,927
	EXPORTS					

Source : GRA

Table 2A: Imports by SITC SECTION for First Quarter 2023-2024 Value GMD '000'

SITC	1ST QTR 2023	2ND QTR 2023	3RD QTR 2023	4TH QTR 2023	1ST QTR 2024
<b>FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS</b>	2,125,825	2,571,663	2,013,070	2,171,631	2,224,308

<b>BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</b>	67,407	57,681	68,748	126,628	103,412
<b>CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS</b>	227,691	275,668	105,881	243,169	334,014
<b>MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>	3,244,231	3,488,008	2,889,507	6,016,096	6,164,650
<b>ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES</b>	385,106	547,867	382,521	277,556	291,565
<b>CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.</b>	524,575	1,080,607	2,600,888	339,604	1,413,437
<b>MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</b>	1,882,961	2,047,080	2,084,051	1,593,595	2,175,263
<b>MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</b>	2,145,938	3,022,126	1,740,665	1,445,124	2,031,620
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES</b>	766,764	714,640	1,209,798	778,699	1,024,230

*Table 2B: Imports by SITC SECTION for First Quarter 2023-2024 (Net-weight in tons)*

<b>SITC</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS</b>	132,996	152,827	110,428	124,769	113,978
<b>BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</b>	2,009	2,040	2,150	3,909	2,407
<b>CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS</b>	98,352	72,230	71,147	332,877	77,503
<b>MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>	46,986	53,035	47,683	52,550	54,801
<b>ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES</b>	10,893	17,919	12,357	9,226	9,097
<b>CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.</b>	8,310	10,526	19,211	9,940	11,071
<b>MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</b>	213,963	120,906	134,341	125,657	166,647
<b>MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</b>	14,864	27,106	39,281	18,203	43,709
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES</b>	12,677	12,745	12,946	13,574	16,436

*Table 3A: Imports by SITC3 Value GMD'000*

<b>SITC</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>IMPORTS</b>	11,375,221	13,812,682	13,098,449	12,995,985	15,765,535
<b>NET WEIGHTS</b>	541,134	469,407	449,638	690,838	495,690

*Table 4A: Imports by Continent (Value GMD'000)*

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>	3,027,792	4,404,366	5,493,662	2,902,599	4,841,148
<b>AMERICAS</b>	936,280	996,259	713,067	944,462	1,134,007

<b>ASIA</b>	4,100,387	5,310,182	4,225,917	2,960,361	3,414,746
<b>EUROPE</b>	3,369,288	3,091,882	2,662,421	6,187,673	6,372,510

*Table 4B: Imports by Continent (Net-weight in tons)*

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>	275,560	206,532	216,473	459,932	259,851
<b>AMERICAS</b>	67,645	59,018	67,013	63,996	64,032
<b>ASIA</b>	91,397	142,903	117,169	86,134	93,083
<b>EUROPE</b>	107,120	60,883	48,898	80,710	78,654

*Table 5A: Imports by Regional Economic Communities (Value GMD'000)*

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>ALADI</b>	544,619	490,293	437,814	616,722	632,374
<b>ASEN</b>	647,883	645,010	482,343	371,822	425,477
<b>COMESA</b>	52,574	269,331	164,368	45,266	82,326
<b>ECOWAS</b>	2,837,820	3,854,447	5,146,109	2,757,716	4,273,000
<b>EU</b>	2,478,061	2,538,709	1,956,588	5,066,968	5,827,345
<b>EURO</b>	2,253,081	1,913,931	1,458,854	4,790,939	5,435,634
<b>MRU</b>	526,606	1,063,951	1,140,397	1,097,794	4,508,399
<b>NAFTA</b>	392,553	499,013	258,535	298,024	497,206
<b>OCI</b>	5,316,835	6,370,427	6,917,492	3,792,154	5,916,098
<b>SADC</b>	16,095	28,377	17,725	27,093	78,660
<b>UEMOA</b>	2,772,985	3,790,262	5,064,741	2,290,600	4,220,191
<b>UMA</b>	126,838	263,157	165,999	79,833	414,646

*Table 5B: Imports by Regional Economic Communities (Net-weight in tons)*

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2023</b>	<b>2ND QTR 2023</b>	<b>3RD QTR 2023</b>	<b>4TH QTR 2023</b>	<b>1ST QTR 2024</b>
<b>ALADI</b>	51,484	41,863	35,884	51,681	51,772
<b>ASEN</b>	14,787	26,349	17,955	13,785	14,647
<b>COMESA</b>	1,280	2,419	6,325	1,964	2,027
<b>ECOWAS</b>	229,550	174,599	179,805	454,086	181,990
<b>EU</b>	51,544	52,092	36,021	65,232	63,317
<b>EURO</b>	46,226	41,071	24,904	57,285	56,090
<b>MRU</b>	8,743	17,792	20,585	18,864	30,172
<b>NAFTA</b>	16,171	16,779	30,874	10,459	12,026
<b>OCI</b>	360,239	249,220	251,765	488,206	291,530
<b>SADC</b>	248	359	414	479	596
<b>UEMOA</b>	228,073	173,612	176,895	444,777	180,570
<b>UMA</b>	44,573	29,031	29,949	3,608	75,393