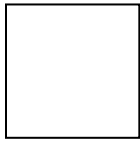


REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

# INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

ANNUAL, 2024

MARCH, 2025

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## II. Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for the year 2025. It aims to show the outlook of trade between The Gambia and its trading partners for the period under review. It could also catalyze 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 for Customs Data) in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format for processing using EUROTRACE<sup>1</sup>.

Data cleaning is a continuous process as various tables are produced to feed into the reports. The database is therefore updated from time to time to take account of the adjustments made from the input source.

The report contains a wide range of international trade statistics between The Gambia and its trading partners. This provides data users with information to facilitate planning and decision-making. Trade data can be provided to users based on the level of breakdown requested from two (2), four (4), six (6) to eight (8) digits according to the Harmonized System (HS).

The annual report contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports, and Exports by major trading partners. The latest reports can be accessed on the GBoS 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 GBoS wishes to express its profound gratitude to the ASYCUDA World Unit of GRA, for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the IMTS. 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	The 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
EUROZONE	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

**Trade summary:** Includes imports, total exports, and trade balance aggregated annually.

**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 the highest ten by value in Gambian Dalasi (GMD) and country/partner.

**Trade flow by top ten products:** This indicates trade flows (imports, 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 FOB; it refers to all movable goods going out of the economic territory. The share of domestic exports to total trade is the value of all goods exported to the rest of the world divided by total trade multiplied by 100.

**Import trade:** The value of imported goods includes the CIF value; it refers to all movable goods coming into the economic territory. The share of imports to total trade is the value of all goods imported from the rest of the world divided by total trade multiplied by 100.

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

## V. Executive Summary

- The trade deficit widened sharply from GMD 46.2 billion in 2023 to GMD 64.6 billion 2024, driven by surging imports and declining exports.
- A total value of imports of GMD 68.0 billion was recorded in 2024; on the other hand, 2023 recorded an imports value of GMD 51.3 billion. This shows an increase of GMD 16.7 billion over the period.
- The total exports from the Gambia decreased from GMD 5.2 billion in 2023 to GMD 3.4 billion in 2024. This shows a decline of GMD 1.8 billion in the Value of total exports from The Gambia.
- Both 2023 and 2024 show a larger importation of Mineral fuels with 30.9 and 32.0 per cent of Imports, respectively.
- Edible fruits and nuts, Fish and Crustaceans, and Salt and Oils/oleaginous fruits were mostly exported in 2023 and 2024.
- Senegal, Belgium, and China were the main import partners in 2024.
- Rice is the highest imported product amongst the selected products with GMD 4.8 billion, followed by Cement GMD 3.4 billion, then Sugar GMD 2.5 billion.
- Senegal, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire are the top three import partners from the ECOWAS regional bloc with GMD 14.4 billion, GMD 2.6 billion, and GMD 2.2 billion, respectively.

## VI. Summary of Annual Trade Statistics 2023-2024

Table 1 below shows the annual trade statistics. The total value of imports in 2024 compared to 2023 increased from GMD 51.3 to GMD 68.0 billion. This indicates a rise in imports equivalent to GMD 16.7 billion.

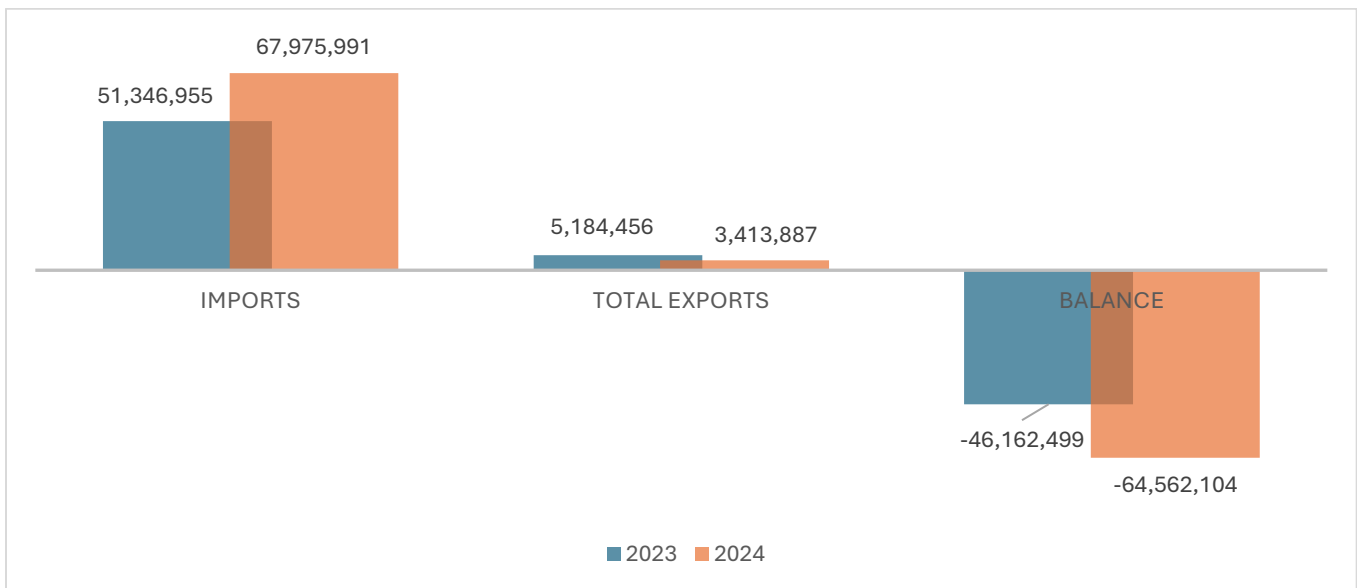
The value of total exports (i.e., domestic exports + re-exports) in 2023 decreased from GMD 5.2 billion to GMD 3.4 billion in 2024, which shows a decrease of GMD 1.8 billion.

Furthermore, the trade balance<sup>2</sup> was GMD 46.2 billion in 2023 compared to GMD 64.6 billion in 2024, illustrating a soaring trade deficit in a year. This shows that The Gambia is increasingly depending on Imports from 2023 to 2024.

*Table 1: Annual Trade Summary for 2023 and 2024 in GMD'000'*

TRADEFLOW	2023	2024
IMPORTS	51,346,955	67,975,991
TOTAL EXPORTS	5,184,456	3,413,887
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-46,162,499</b>	<b>-64,562,104</b>

*Figure 1: Annual Trade flows for 2023-2024 in GMD '000'*



<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.



## VII. Imports by products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Although the top three products imported are the same for both years, there are still some variations in the proportions imported for each year. Mineral fuels were the highest imported product, 32.0 per cent of this product was imported in 2024, compared to 30.9 per cent in 2023. This was followed by the importation of Vehicles which accounted for 10.7 per cent in 2024 and 7.2 per cent in 2023. Cereals were the least imported in the top three with 10.1 per cent in 2024 and 8.6 per cent in 2023.

Figure 2: Annual Imports of Top Three Products for 2023-2024 in percentages

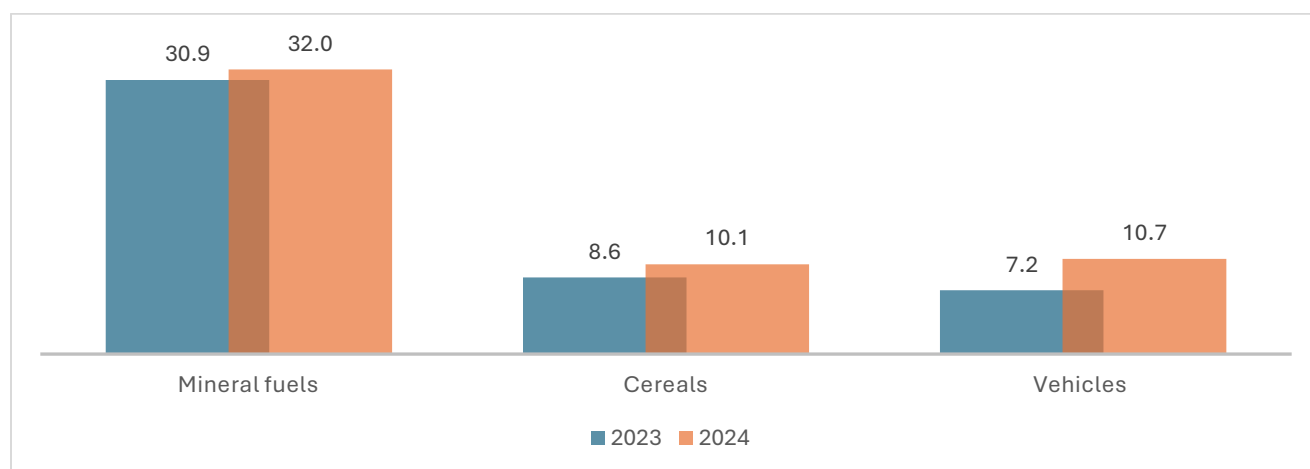


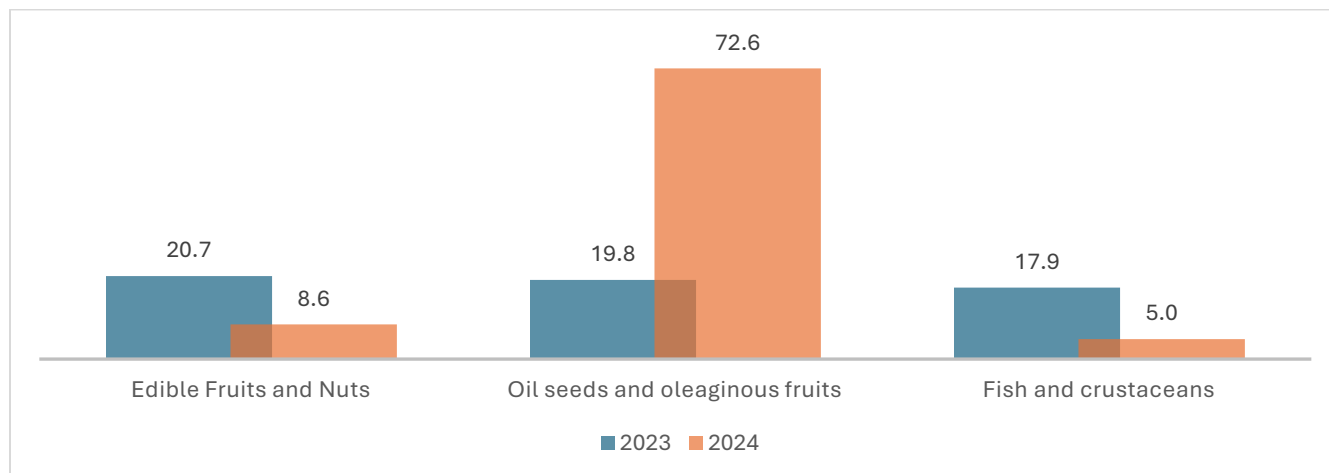
Table 2: Annual Imports of Top Ten Products for 2023-2024 in GMD'000'

PRODUCTS	IMPORTS 2023	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS 2024
Mineral fuels	15,844,215	Mineral fuels	21,768,750
Cereals	4,429,543	Vehicles	7,287,702
Vehicles	3,685,568	Cereals	6,869,191
Fertilizers	2,871,524	Salt	3,895,952
Electrical machinery	2,774,832	Electrical machinery and equipment	2,026,841
Salt	1,893,663	Fertilizers	1,996,618
Articles of Iron or Steel	1,789,931	Animal or vegetable fats	1,626,226
Animal or vegetable fats and oils	1,633,237	Iron and Steel	1,483,709
Plastics and Articles Thereof	1,399,364	Sugar	1,433,513
Ceramic Product	1,058,870	Articles of Iron or Steel	1,360,024
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>37,380,746</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>49,748,526</b>
<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>13,966,209</b>	<b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>18,227,465</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>51,346,955</b>	<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>67,975,991</b>

## VIII. Exports by product

Figure 3 shows the Exports of the top three products for 2023 and 2024. Oil Seeds and Oleaginous Fruits became the primary export driver, indicating a massive shift in production or demand (possibly for groundnuts, sesame, or other oil crops) in 2024 with 72.6 per cent of The Gambia’s exports from 19.8 per cent in 2023, this was followed by Edible Fruits and Nuts with 8.6 per cent in 2024 then the least exported product in the top three is Fish and crustaceans with 5.0 per cent of Exports in 2024.

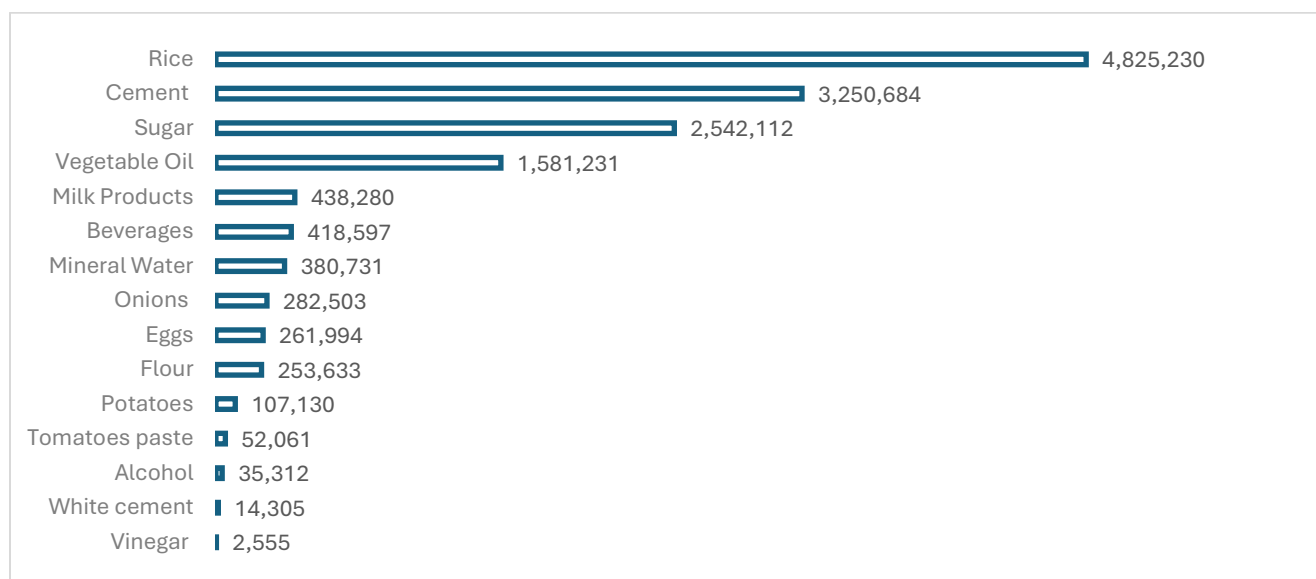
Figure 3: Annual Exports of Top Three Products for 2023-2024 in percentages



## IX. Imports of selected products for 2024

Figure 4 shows Imports of selected products for 2024, the highest imported product was Rice GMD 4.8 billion, Cement GMD 3.3 billion, Sugar GMD 2.5 billion, and Vegetable Oil GMD 1.6 billion. The Lowest among the selected products is Vinegar GMD 2.6 million.

Figure 4: Imports of Selected Products for The Year 2024 in GMD'000'



## X. Trade by partners

### The Gambia's main import trade partners

Table 3 below shows imports from partners for 2023 and 2024. The top three countries where most of the goods were imported from for 2023 were Senegal GMD 8.5 billion, India GMD 5.3 billion and China GMD 5.2 billion. In 2024, imports from Senegal nearly doubled compared to the previous year with GMD 14.4 billion recorded, this was followed by Belgium with GMD 6.8 billion and then China with GMD 5.9 billion. The least import partners in the top ten were the United Kingdom with 1.4 billion in 2023 and the United States with GMD 2.4 billion in 2024.

*Table 3: Annual Imports for The Top Ten Partners for 2023-2024 in GMD'000'*

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS 2023</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS 2024</b>
Senegal	8,466,270	Senegal	14,405,366
India	5,316,516	Belgium	6,817,402
China	5,246,634	China	5,913,885
Belgium	4,536,604	Russian Federation	3,503,758
Cote d'Ivoire	3,501,457	India	3,424,995
Turkey	2,424,529	Brazil	2,696,496
United Arab Emirates	2,388,409	Egypt	2,681,354
Togo	1,940,454	Nigeria	2,613,993
Brazil	1,761,318	Spain	2,409,095
United Kingdom	1,433,452	United States	2,371,026
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>37,015,643</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>46,837,372</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>14,331,312</b>	<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>21,138,619</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>51,346,955</b>	<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>67,975,991</b>

### The Gambia's main export trade partners

Table 4 below compares The Gambia's domestic export distribution across top partners in 2023 and 2024. China and India showed the largest share of domestic exports in both 2023 and 2024, China had a share of (41.6%) in 2023. In 2024, China's share surged to (78.7%), consolidating its position as The Gambia's primary exports destination. India on the other hand dropped sharply from (16.9%) in 2023 to (7.6%) in 2024. The United Kingdom was the third-highest export partner in 2023 and 2024 with (8.5%) and (3.1%) of exports, respectively. Belgium and the Netherlands had the lowest share of domestic exports from the top ten with (1.0%) for Belgium in 2023 and (0.6%) for the Netherlands in 2024.

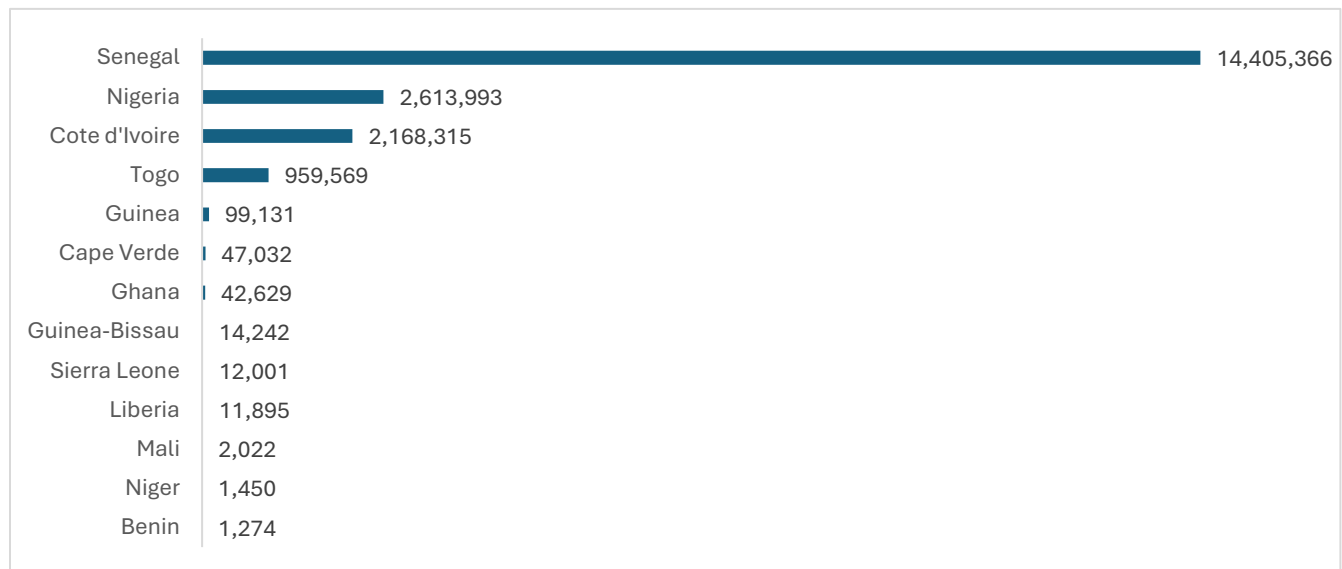
Table 4: Annual Exports to The Top Ten Partners for 2023-2024 in percentages

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS 2023</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS 2024</b>
China	41.6	China	78.7
India	16.9	India	7.6
United Kingdom	8.5	United Kingdom	3.1
Viet Nam	6.0	Turkey	1.9
Spain	5.4	Portugal	1.2
Turkey	4.5	Viet Nam	1.2
Korea, Republic of	4.1	Spain	1.2
Italy	3.8	Italy	0.8
Senegal	1.1	Korea, Republic of	0.7
Belgium	1.0	Netherlands	0.6
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>97.1</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## XI. Intra-Regional Trade Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Figure 5 highlights data on imports from the ECOWAS partners in 2024. Senegal is by far The Gambia's largest import partner within the regional bloc, contributing GMD 14.4 billion-significantly higher than all other countries combined, this is followed by Nigeria with GMD 2.6 billion, Cote d'Ivoire with GMD 2.2 billion, and the country with the least imports to The Gambia from the ECOWAS states was Benin with GMD 1.2 million. The Gambia's intra-ECOWAS trade in 2024 is heavily concentrated with Senegal, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire, reflecting strong regional ties with these economies. The other member states have negligible import volumes, suggesting limited trade integration with The Gambia.

Figure 5: Annual Imports from The ECOWAS Partners 2024 in GMD '000'



## XII. Annexes

*Annex 1A: Overall statistics on trade in goods excluding oil in GMD'000' for 2023-2024*

	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
VALUES	35,502,740	46,207,242
NETWEIGHT	1,947,967	2,332,455

*Annex 2A: Imports by SITC SECTION for 2023-2024 GMD'000'*

SITC	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
Food and Live Animals	8,886,742	12,889,937
Beverages and Tobacco	320,464	480,575
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	852,361	961,016
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials	15,637,842	21,572,955
Animal and Vegetable Oils, Fats And Waxes	1,593,349	1,581,451
Chemicals and Related Products, N.E.S.	4,548,045	5,072,783
Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly By Material	7,616,106	9,613,941
Machinery and Transport Equipment	8,375,490	12,016,574
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	3,496,393	3,768,224

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

SITC	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
Food And Live Animals	521,301	667,708
Beverages and Tobacco	10,107	10,741
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	574,604	295,694
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials	200,254	235,059
Animal and Vegetable Oils, Fats and Waxes	50,402	47,495
Chemicals and Related Products, N.E.S.	48,043	54,726
Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly By Material	595,064	1,101,325
Machinery and Transport Equipment	99,529	99,101
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	52,062	58,476

*Annex 3A: Imports by SITC3 for 2023-2024 GMD'000'*

VALUES	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
		51,346,955
NETWEIGHT	2,151,753	2,570,697

*Annex 4A: Imports by Continent for 2023-2024 GMD'000'*

PARTNER	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
AFRICA	15,828,419	24,509,013
AMERICA	3,590,068	6,092,144
ASIA	16,359,702	14,192,971
EUROPE	15,311,998	22,251,663
OCEANIA	7,660	618,082

*Annex 4B: Imports by Continent for 2023-2024 (Net-weight in tons)*

PARTNER	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
AFRICA	1,158,497	1,467,320
AMERICA	257,671	330,693
ASIA	432,218	385,396
EUROPE	297,611	371,181
OCEANIA	311	9,591

*Annex 5A: Imports by Regional Economic Communities for 2023-2024 GMD'000'*

PARTNER	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
ALADI	2,089,447	3,036,546
ASEN	2,147,058	1,936,996
COMESA	531,538	2,765,002
ECOWAS	14,596,092	20,378,921
EU	10,607,608	15,065,253
EURO	10,417,540	14,886,729
MRU	3,828,748	2,291,342
NAFTA	1,448,126	2,507,281
OIC	22,396,908	30,121,195
SADC	89,291	233,662
UEMOA	13,918,588	17,552,240
UMA	635,827	1,172,859

*Annex 5B: Imports by Regional Economic Communities for 2023-2024 (Net-weight in tons)*

PARTNER	IMPORTS 2023	IMPORTS 2024
ALADI	180,912	231,642
ASEN	72,877	62,863
COMESA	11,988	742,635
ECOWAS	1,038,039	607,034
EU	174,556	277,974
EURO	169,486	274,274
MRU	65,984	36,899
NAFTA	74,283	51,362
OIC	1,349,431	1,621,042
SADC	1,500	2,577
UEMOA	1,023,356	582,514
UMA	107,161	115,452