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The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2025

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IV. Preface

This report presents The Gambia's International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for the First Quarter 2025. It aims to show the trade outlook between The Gambia and its trading partners during the period under review. It could also catalyze to enhance the investment drive of the country by providing valuable insights into The Gambia's trade dynamics. 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 (Automated System for Customs Data) World in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format for processing using EUROTRACE¹.

The data is then cleaned and prepared for importation into the EUROTRACE Software. The EUROTRACE database is therefore updated periodically to reflect adjustments made from the input source. After the update, various tables are produced to feed into the IMTS reports for publication.

This report contains a wide range of international trade statistics between The Gambia and its trading partners, providing data users with information to facilitate planning and decision-making. 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 quarterly reports contain data on the Trade Balance, Imports, and Exports by major trading partners. All Trade Statistics reports can be accessed on the GBoS website (www.gbosdata.org). For users who have specific data needs, the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Unit could offer the necessary assistance.

GBoS wishes to express its profound gratitude to the ASYCUDA World Unit of the 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

¹ 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.

V. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALADI 'Asociacion Latinoamericana de Integracion'

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASYCUDA Automated System for Customs Data

CIF Cost, Insurance and Freight

COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

EU European Union

EUROZONE Eurozone Countries

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

MRU The Mano River Union

N.E.S Not elsewhere specified

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement

OIC Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

QTR Quarter

SADC Southern African Development Community

SITC Standard International Trade Classification

UEMOA 'Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine'

UMA 'Union du Maghreb Arabe'

UNSD United Nations Statistics Division

VI. Concepts and Definitions

International Merchandise Trade Statistics: This refers to a specialized multipurpose domain of official statistics concerned with the provision of data on the movements of goods between countries and areas.

Trade summary: The collection of imports, total exports, and trade balance disaggregated quarterly.

Trade flow by continents and regional economic blocs: Refers to the movement of goods between The Gambia and all continents and regional economic blocs, categorized as either imports, exports or reexports.

Direction of trade: Refers to the analysis of trade flows between The Gambia and its partners involved in imports, exports, and re-exports. It provides insights into which countries trade with The Gambia and the value of goods exchanged. The ranking is based on the top ten by value in Gambian Dalasi (GMD).

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 (HS) product code which groups related commodities.

Export trade: It refers to all movable goods going out of the economic territory. The exports of merchandise goods are valued at FOB. 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: It refers to all movable goods coming into the economic territory. The imported goods are valued at CIF. 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.

Re-Exports: It refers to the export of goods previously recorded as imports.

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

Trade Balance: It refers to the difference between total exports and imports. It could be a surplus or deficit depending on trade performance.

VII. Executive Summary

- The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2025 was GMD 21.6 billion, which surged compared to the first quarter of 2024, with GMD 15.8 billion. This shows an increase of GMD 6.3 billion over the period.
- The first quarter of both 2024 and 2025 shows that Mineral fuels have the largest value of imports.
- Animal/Vegetable fats and oils, Oil seeds and Oleaginous fruits, and Salt were mostly exported in the first quarter of 2025.
- Belgium, Spain, and Senegal were the top three import partners during the first quarter of 2025.
- In the first quarter of 2025, Cement has the highest imported value among the selected products with GMD 1.8 billion, followed by Rice, GMD 1.1 billion, then Sugar, GMD 1.1 billion.
- Senegal was the highest import partner from the ECOWAS regional bloc, with GMD 1.5 billion, a value more than double the import value for all of the other ECOWAS partners put together.

VIII. Summary of Quarterly Trade Statistics for the First Quarter of 2024-2025

Table 1 shows a summary of The Gambia's quarterly trade statistics. The total value of imports in the first quarter of 2025 is GMD 21.6 billion, compared to the first quarter of 2024, imports surged from GMD 15.8 billion to GMD 21.6 billion, indicating an increase in the value of imports equivalent to GMD 5.8 billion.

The value of total exports (i.e., domestic exports and re-exports) in the first quarter of 2025 is GMD 1.1 billion, compared to the first quarter of 2024 decreased slightly from GMD 1.2 billion to GMD 1.1 billion. However, in comparison to the immediate preceding quarter, i.e., the fourth quarter of 2024, the total exports increased from GMD 827.5 million to GMD 1.1 billion.

Additionally, from the table, the trade deficit was highest in the first quarter of 2025 with GMD 20.5 billion, which indicates that imports are rising higher than exports can offset. This could be explained by The Gambia's increasing reliance on imported goods.

TRADEFLOW 1st QTR 2024 2nd QTR 2024 3rd QTR 2024 4th QTR 2024 1st QTR 2025 **IMPORTS** 15,765,535 16,247,144 20,635,292 15,328,020 21,605,144 TOTAL EXPORT 1,184,998 638,761 762,574 827,554 1,146,557 **BALANCE** -14,580,537 -15,608,383 -19,872,718 -14,500,466 -20,458,587

Table 1: Quarterly Trade Summary for the First Quarter of 2024 to the First Quarter of 2025 (GMD'000')





IX. Imports by Products

Figure 2 shows the top three products imported in the first quarter of 2024 and 2025, respectively. Although the top three products imported are similar for both quarters, there are still some variations in the proportions imported for each quarter. Mineral fuels were the highest imported product in both years, with 40.2 per cent in 2024 and 52.9 per cent in 2025, which illustrates a 12.7 percentage point increase over the year. This was followed by the importation of Cereals in 2025, which accounted for 6.6 per cent, and Fertilisers in 2024, with 5.8 per cent. The final products in the top three were Salt 5.0 per cent in 2025, and Cereals 5.4 for the same period in 2024.

2024

Fertilisers, 5.8

Cereals, 5.4

Mineral fuels, 40.2

Cereals, 52.9

Mineral fuels, 52.9

Figure 2: Imports of Top Three Products for the First Quarter of 2024 and the First Quarter of 2025

Table 2: Imports of Top Ten Products for the First Quarter of 2024 to the First of 2025 (GMD'000)

	IMPORTS		IMPORTS
PRODUCTS	1st QTR 2024	PRODUCTS	1st QTR 2025
Mineral fuels	6,338,885	Mineral fuels	11,421,610
Fertilisers	910,418	Cereals	1,433,581
Cereals	843,753	Salt	1,088,690
Vehicles	760,123	Vehicles	905,463
Electrical machinery and equipment	720,632	Sugars	555,132
Salt	556,846	Articles of Iron or Steel	529,655
Articles of Iron or Steel	454,528	Electrical machinery and equipment	501,807
Furniture	324,573	Meat and Edible Meat Offal	433,018
Animal or vegetable fats and oils	298,828	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	369,315
Meat and Edible Meat Offal	293,747	Plastics and Articles Thereof	333,880
SUB TOTAL	11,502,333	SUB TOTAL	17,572,151
OTHER PRODUCTS	4,263,203	OTHER PRODUCTS	4,032,993
TOTAL IMPORTS	15,765,535	TOTAL IMPORTS	21,605,144

X. Exports by Product

Figure 3 shows the exports of the top three products in the first quarters of 2024 and 2025. For the first quarter of 2024, Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits dominated the domestic exports with a staggering 90.8 per cent share, the remaining two in the top three had negligible proportions with Residues and Waste from food Industries having 2.0 per cent of the domestic exports, and the last from among the top three in 2024 was Fish and Crustaceans which had a share of 1.7 per cent of the domestic exports. For the first quarter of 2025, Animal/Vegetable fats and oil had the highest share of domestic exports, with 42.5 per cent, this was followed closely by Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits which showed a decline to 36.9 per cent in 2025, the least in the top three products in 2025 was salt with a proportion of 8.1 per cent.

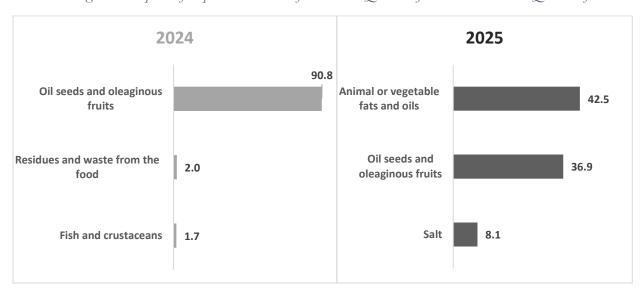


Figure 3: Exports of Top Three Products for the First Quarter of 2024 and the First Quarter of 2025

XI. Imports of Selected Products for the First Quarter of 2025

Figure 4 shows the imports of some of the most consumed products in The Gambia. Amongst the selected products, the highest imported product was Cement, which in Total was GMD 1.8 billion, then Rice GMD 1.1 billion, followed by Sugar GMD 1.1 billion, followed by Vegetable Oil GMD 358.7 million. The lowest among the selected products was Vinegar with GMD 1.2 million.

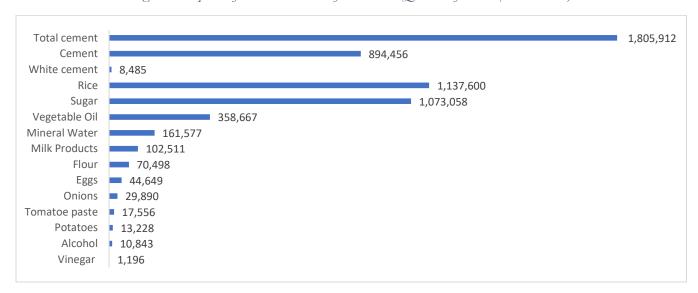


Figure 4: Imports of Selected Products for the First Quarter of 2025 (GMD'000')

XII. Trade by Partners

REST OF THE WORLD

TOTAL IMPORTS

The Gambia's main import trade partners

Table 3 below shows imports from partners for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025. The top three countries from which most of the goods were imported during the first quarter of 2024 are Belgium, GMD 3.5 billion, Senegal, GMD 2.4 billion, and Côte d'Ivoire, GMD 1.6 billion. In 2025, the highest import partner was again Belgium with GMD 7.3 billion, which is mainly due to mineral fuels as the driver of The Gambia's imports originating from Belgium. Spain followed in second place with GMD 2.0, and Senegal with GMD 1.5 billion. The least import partner in the top ten was the Netherlands in the first quarter of 2024 with GMD 397.0 million, and in the first quarter of 2025 it was India with GMD 523.1 million.

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	PARTNER	1st QTR 2025
Belgium	3,499,588	Belgium	7,350,818
Senegal	2,483,317	Spain	1,921,632
Cote d'Ivoire	1,576,620	Senegal	1,517,581
China	1,369,082	China	1,344,528
India	849,964	Russian Federation	1,104,340
Brazil	597,819	Brazil	836,335
Spain	584,938	Pakistan	804,047
Turkey	475,470	Gibraltar	770,222
United States	456,017	Egypt	681,931
Netherlands	397,046	India	523,126
SUB TOTAL	12,289,861	SUB TOTAL	16,854,560

REST OF THE WORLD

TOTAL IMPORTS

3,475,675

15,765,535

Table 3: Imports from Top Ten Partners for the First Quarter 2024 and 2025 (GMD'000')

4,750,657

21,605,217

The Gambia's main export trade partners

Table 4 shows the proportions of The Gambia's domestic exports to her top ten partners in the first quarters of 202 and 2025. As illustrated, China had the largest share of exports from The Gambia for the first quarters of both 2024 and 2025; her share of exports decreased slightly from 92.3 per cent in 2024 to 86.4 per cent in 2025. For the first quarter of 2024, China was followed by Türkiye with 1.7 per cent, while in the first quarter of 2025, China was followed by Hong Kong with 2.0 per cent.

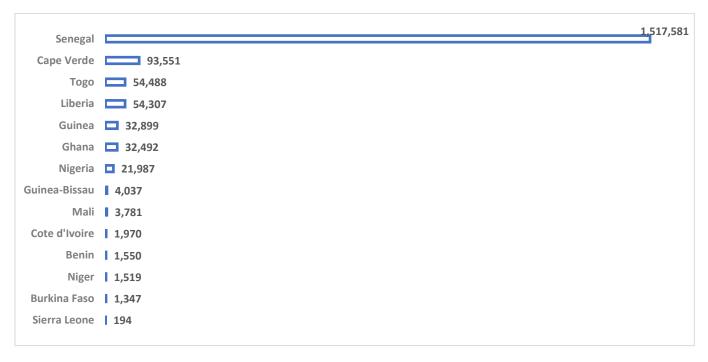
Table 4: Exports to	Top Ten Partners	for the First Quarter 2024 and 2025

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	PARTNER	1st QTR 2025
China	92.3	China	86.4
Türkiye	1.7	Hong Kong	2.0
India	1.6	Portugal	1.6
Viet Nam	1.2	Senegal	1.6
United Kingdom	0.5	Korea, Republic of	1.4
Korea, Republic of	0.5	Turkey	1.4
Spain	0.4	United Kingdom	1.0
Senegal	0.3	India	1.0
Netherlands	0.3	Viet Nam	0.7
France	0.3	Spain	0.6
SUB TOTAL	99.3	SUB TOTAL	97.7
REST OF THE WORLD	0.7	REST OF THE WORLD	2.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0	TOTAL EXPORTS	100.0

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

Figure 5 shows the imports from the ECOWAS partners in the first quarter of 2025. Senegal had an import value more than double the other ECOWAS partners put together with GMD 1.5 billion; the rest of the partners registered little to no significant imports compared to Senegal in the first quarter of 2025. The striking disparity between Senegal and other ECOWAS nations might be due to its geographic proximity. The heavy concentration of imports from Senegal in the bloc may expose The Gambia to vulnerabilities, such as supply chain risks or over-dependence on a single country. So, cultivating stronger trade links with underrepresented countries could expand mutual benefits and strengthen regional cohesion.





XIV. Annexes

Annex 1: Overall statistics on trade in goods excluding oil in for First Quarter 2024- First Quarter 2025 (GMD'000')

	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
VALUES	9,426,651	12,766,604	14,671,825	9,342,162	10,183,535
NETWEIGHT	437,782	545,004	797,943	551,726	672,776

Annex 2A: Imports by SITC SECTION for First Quarter 2024- First Quarter 2025 (GMD'000')

SITC	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
Food and Live Animals	2,224,308	3,220,570	4,161,831	3,283,227	3,187,559
Beverages and Tobacco	103,412	60,098	101,806	215,259	187,091
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	334,014	211,400	187,948	227,654	300,821
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related					
Materials	6,164,650	3,470,314	5,952,134	5,985,858	11,396,151
Animal and Vegetable Oils, Fats and Waxes	291,565	343,142	452,398	494,347	359,363
Chemicals and Related Products, N.E.S.	1,413,437	1,941,020	1,109,986	608,340	691,916
Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly by					
Material	2,175,263	2,258,490	3,086,322	2,093,867	2,850,788
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,031,620	3,858,880	4,641,057	1,485,017	1,977,287
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	1,024,230	878,936	939,743	925,315	651,713

Annex 2B: Imports by SITC SECTION for First Quarter 2024 – First Quarter 2025 (Net-weight in tons)

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	1st QTR
SITC	2024	2024	2024	2024	2025
Food and Live Animals	113,978	180,728	160,160	212,842	206,966
Beverages and Tobacco	2,407	1,262	2,229	4,844	4,624
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	77,503	70,067	61,030	87,094	105,644
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials	54,801	54,893	67,690	57,676	84,261
Animal And Vegetable Oils, Fats and Waxes	9,097	11,224	14,098	13,076	11,212
Chemicals and Related Products, N.E.S.	11,071	13,342	17,354	12,959	15,699
Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly by					
Material	166,647	233,609	509,952	191,116	295,598
Machinery and Transport Equipment	43,709	19,680	19,835	15,878	18,212
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	16,436	15,093	13,291	13,656	14,921

Annex 3: Imports by SITC3 Value (GMD'000'), First Quarter 2024-First Quarter 2025

	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
VALUES	15,765,535	16,247,144	20,635,292	15,328,020	21,605,144
NETWEIGHT	495,690	599,937	865,668	609,402	757,175

Annex 4A: Imports by Continent (GMD'000'), First Quarter 2024-First Quarter 2025

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
AFRICA	4,839,837	4,302,639	9,616,023	5,750,513	3,053,953
AMERICA	1,134,007	2,396,888	1,124,348	1,436,901	1,516,991
ASIA	3,340,198	3,935,807	3,305,902	3,611,064	3,961,843
EUROPE	6,372,510	4,959,887	6,521,965	4,397,302	12,186,364
OCEANIA	2,367	597,101	14,297	4,318	6,922

Annex 4B: Imports by Continent (Net-weight in tons), First Quarter 2024-First Quarter 2025

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
AFRICA	259,824	299,437	615,662	292,397	372,840
AMERICA	64,032	90,639	73,756	102,266	103,902
ASIA	91,702	86,831	90,148	116,715	128,324
EUROPE	78,654	112,752	84,362	95,413	138,332
OCEANIA	65	9,089	351	87	237

Annex 5A: Imports by Regional Economic Communities (GMD'000'), First Quarter 2024-First Quarter 2025

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
ALADI	632,374	790,558	670,909	942,704	949,146
ASEN	425,477	508,276	485,582	517,662	659,365
COMESA	82,326	525,306	1,656,889	500,480	717,084
ECOWAS	4,273,000	3,471,027	7,673,288	4,961,606	1,821,703
EU	5,483,240	3,703,582	2,447,524	3,430,907	10,164,302
EURO	5,435,633	3,634,746	2,412,200	3,404,150	10,111,238
MRU	1,610,694	585,880	40,148	54,621	89,370
NAFTA	497,206	1,251,671	361,090	397,313	431,902
OIC	5,916,098	5,774,926	11,228,227	7,201,944	4,668,838
SADC	78,660	67,467	43,662	43,873	190,317
UEMOA	4,220,191	3,423,078	7,600,178	2,308,793	1,586,273
UMA	414,646	264,200	243,456	250,558	355,943

Annex 5B: Imports by Regional Economic Communities (Net-weight in tons), First Quarter 2024-First Quarter 2025

PARTNER	1st QTR 2024	2nd QTR 2024	3rd QTR 2024	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
ALADI	51,772	50,179	52,806	76,884	78,550
ASEN	14,647	19,287	14,743	14,187	15,283
COMESA	2,027	130,650	472,097	137,861	190,540
ECOWAS	181,990	135,836	139,047	150,161	150,461
EU	56,981	83,389	61,085	76,519	69,402
EURO	56,090	82,133	60,272	75,779	68,075
MRU	25,063	9,619	1,004	1,213	1,471
NAFTA	12,026	10,524	12,416	16,397	13,634
OIC	291,530	341,936	662,633	324,943	396,770
SADC	596	586	751	645	4,159
UEMOA	180,570	134,716	137,282	129,946	82,155
UMA	75,393	32,335	3,810	3,914	30,763