

**THE REPUBLIC**



**OF THE GAMBIA**

**2007 ANNUAL TRADE REVIEW  
OF THE GAMBIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR TRADE  
INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT  
INDEPENDENCE DRIVE  
BANJUL**

## **1 EXTERNAL TRADE OF THE GAMBIA 2007**

The Gambia's total external trade has slightly improved in 2007 after a small decline the previous year. The year 2007 recorded an 8% increase, from D7.6 billion in 2006 to D8.2 billion in 2007. Import values in 2007, which stood at D7.95 billion, represented 96.8% of total external trade. Meanwhile, total exports amounted to D332.8 million. These developments led to a trade balance deficit of D7.61 billion, a deterioration of 15% relative to 2006.

Table 1: Summary of the Gambia External Trade (D'000)

Trade	2004	2005	2006	2007	% - Change
Total Trade	7,646,000	7,633,832	7,599,034	8,207,241	8.00%
Imports	7,105,000	7,422,502	7,277,284	7,945,367	9.18%
Domestic exports	342,000	201,039	288,198	312,167	8.32%
Re-exports	199,000	10,291	33,552	20,603	-38.59%
Total exports	542,000	211,330	321,750	332,771	3.43%
Trade Balance	-6,563,000	-7,211,172	-6,599,534	-7,612,596	-15.35%

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

### **1.1 Gambia's Imports**

Total imports in 2007 increased by 9.18% compared to a drop of 1.96% in 2006. The key imported products in 2007 consisted of petroleum products (16.8%); vehicles and their spare parts (13.5%); cereals (6.8%); edible oil (5.9%); electrical machines and equipment and parts thereof (5.6%) and sugar and sugar confectionaries (5%). These six main categories of imports accounted for 54% of The Gambia's total imports in 2007.

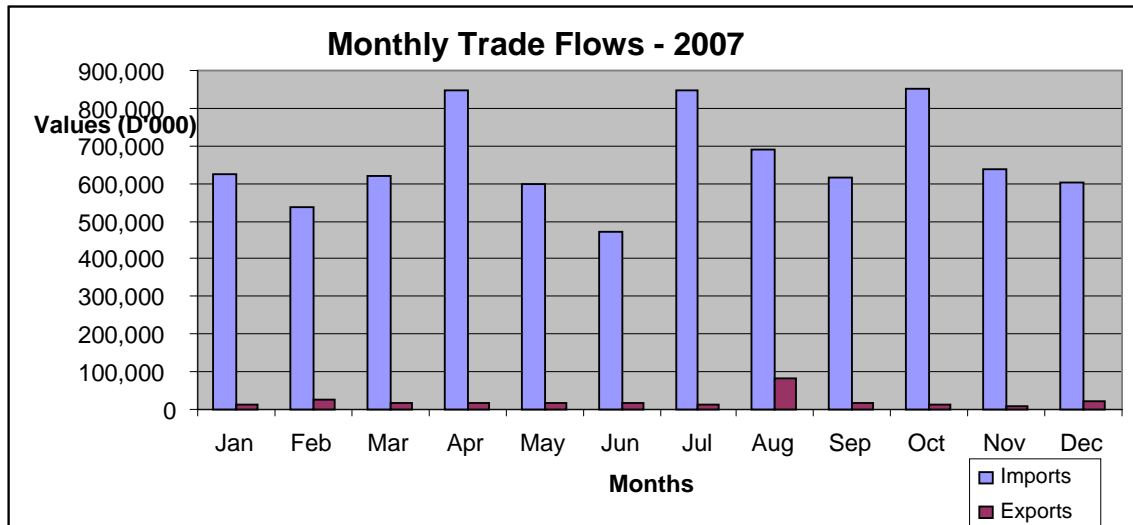
The share of imports of petroleum products from ECOWAS (mainly from Cote D'Ivoire and the European Union accounted 54% and 34% of imports of petroleum products respectively. Vehicles and their spare parts and electrical equipment are the mainly from the EU and accounted for 58% and 75% of total imports of these products in 2007 respectively. Edible oil is largely imported from Asia and constituted 46% of imported edible oil, while sugar is mainly imported from the Americas, representing 57% of imported sugar in 2007.

### **1.2 The Gambia's Exports**

Total exports increased by 3.43% in 2007 compared to an increase of 52.25% in the previous year. Exports consisted mainly of Groundnuts and groundnut products (32.5%), fish and fisheries products (23.7%), and horticultural products - vegetables and fruits (11.6%). These groups of products constitute 70% of total exported products in 2007. The EU is the main export market for fish and fisheries products and accounted for 84% of such exports. Groundnuts and groundnuts products are mainly exported to ECOWAS countries (Senegal) and the EU and these represented 55% and 40% of total exports of groundnuts related products.

### 1.3 The monthly trade flows

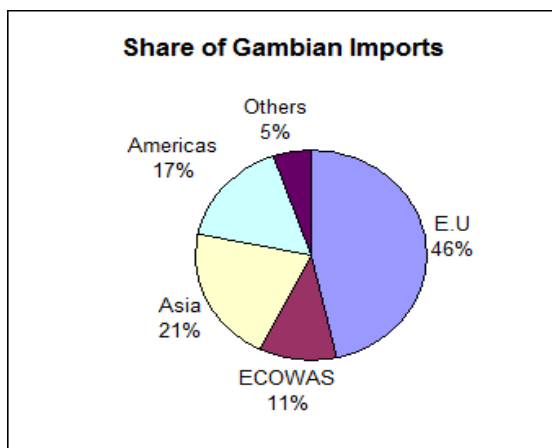
Figure 1: The Gambia monthly import and export flows in 2007



## 2 DIRECTION OF IMPORTS

The direction of imports during the year under review indicated that Europe continued to be The Gambia's major trading partner, representing 46.3% of total imports in 2007. This compares to 21% from Asia 17% from the Americas and 13% from the ECOWAS region. The main sources of imports from the EU are Denmark (31%), Germany (18%), United Kingdom (17%) and Netherlands (12%). These four countries constituted 78% of total imports from the EU and 36% of total imports in 2007. In Asia, China was the main source of Gambian imports in 2007 accounting for 51% of total imports from Asia while in the ECOWAS region, Cote D'Ivoire and Senegal were the main sources of Gambian imports.

Figure 2: Share of Gambia's imports by region for 2006 and 2007



## 2.1 The European Union

Imports from Europe increased by 8.18%, from D3.40 billion in 2006 to D3.68 billion during 2007. This is mainly due to the increase in the value of imports mainly from Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Belgium. The regional share however slightly dropped from 47% in 2006 to 46% in 2007. The main imports from the EU included Vehicles and their spare parts, Petroleum products, electrical machines and equipment, cereals, sugar and sugar confectionary, pharmaceutical products, and edible oil. These products account for 59% of imports from the EU and 27% of total imports in 2007.

Denmark continued to be the main source of Gambian imports though import values dropped by 5% in 2007 compared to 2006. The main imports from Demark are Petroleum products (29%) and rice (21%). These two products accounted for 50% of imports from Denmark in 2007.

Table 2: Direction of imports from EU by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of imports from EU	Share of Total imports
DENMARK	1,204,910	1,143,339	-5.11	31.1%	14.4%
GERMANY F.R	602,935	652,196	8.17	17.7%	8.2%
UK	512,632	612,672	19.51	16.6%	7.7%
NETHERLANDS	198,824	445,350	123.99	12.1%	5.6%
BELGIUM	278,094	306,542	10.23	8.3%	3.9%
FRANCE	358,736	236,156	-34.17	6.4%	3.0%
SPAIN	90,816	182,845	101.34	5.0%	2.3%
OTHERS	155,777	101,993	-34.53	2.8%	1.3%
<b>TOTAL E.U 27</b>	<b>3,402,724</b>	<b>3,681,093</b>	8.18	100.00	46.33%

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

## 2.2 Asia

Imports from Asia amounted to D1.66 billion in 2007 representing an increase of 18.9% over 2006. The increase in import values from Asia is due to the high imports from China and India, which increased by 24.7% and 130.3% respectively. This shows that India is emerging as one of The Gambia major trading partners in Asia. The share of imports from Asia thus increased from 19% in 2006 to 21% in 2007.

The main imports from Asia in 2007 included Vehicles and their accessories (19%), edible oil (13%), cotton (10%), electrical equipment and their accessories (6%), and cereal - mainly rice (4%). These products accounted for 52% of the imports from Asia and 11% of total imports in 2007.

Table 3: Direction of imports from Asia by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	%- change	Share of imports from Asia	Share of Total imports
CHINA	675 446	841 956	24.7	50.9%	10.6%
JAPAN	246 890	218 958	-11.3	13.2%	2.8%
HONG KONG	186 168	160 823	-13.6	9.7%	2.0%
INDIA	69 346	159 714	130.3	9.6%	2.0%
SINGAPORE	51 239	116 658	127.7	7.0%	1.5%
OTHERS	163 719	157 495	-3.80	9.5%	2.0%
<b>TOTAL ASIA</b>	<b>1 392 808</b>	<b>1 655 604</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

### 2.3 ECOWAS

The total imports from the ECOWAS region in 2007 was to the tune of D857.1 million in 2007, a decline of 10.5% relative to 2006. The fall in imports in 2007 reflected a reduction of imports from Cote D'Ivoire (15%) and Senegal (24%). The share of imports from ECOWAS thus dropped to 11% in 2007 from 13% in 2006. Cote D'Ivoire and Senegal were the two main sources of Gambia's imports in the ECOWAS region, accounting for 88% of total imports from the region.

The main imports from the region included petroleum products (75%) mainly from Cote D'Ivoire, which accounted for 79% of imports of petroleum products from ECOWAS. Imports of petroleum products from the ECOWAS region accounted for 84% of total imports from the sub-region and 9% of total imports in 2007. The main imports from Senegal in 2007 are petroleum products (65%), cement (8%) and butane gas (6%).

Table 4: Direction of Imports from ECOWAS by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of imports from ECOWAS	Share of total imports
COTE D'IVOIRE	628 961	533 001	-15.3	62.2%	6.7%
SENEGAL	288 291	218 306	-24.3	25.5%	2.7%
NIGERIA	10 048	67 222	569.0	7.8%	0.8%
GHANA	8 599	12 281	42.8	1.4%	0.2%
GUINEA-BISSAU	3 730	10 044	169.3	1.2%	0.1%
SIERRA LEONE	11 941	7 351	-38.4	0.9%	0.1%
GUINEA	4 906	5 136	4.7	0.6%	0.1%
OTHERS	1 283	3 723	190.18	0.4%	0.05%
<b>TOTAL ECOWAS</b>	<b>957 759</b>	<b>857 064</b>	<b>-10.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

## 2.4 Americas

Imports from the Americas are mainly from the United States (78%) and Brazil (21%) accounting 99% of imports from the region and 16.6% of total imports in 2007. Imports from the United States increased from D876 million in 2006 to D1, 035 million in 2007, up by 18%. The main imports from Americas are sugar (18%), rice (15%), petroleum products (13%), vehicles and their accessories (9%) and edible oil (8%). These products constituted 62% of total imports from the Americas in 2007.

## 3 DIRECTION OF EXPORTS

The value of exports in 2007 increased from D321.7 million in 2006 to D332.8 million in 2007, or by 3.4%. The direction of exports showed that the European Union continued to be the main market for Gambian exports.

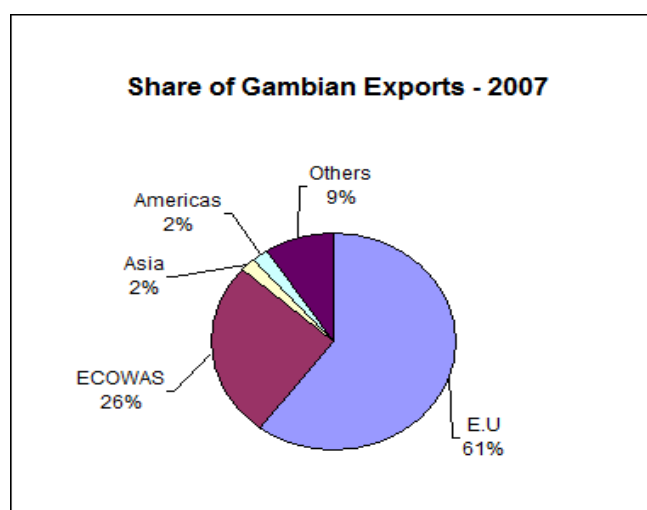
The share of exports to the EU remained at 61% both in 2006 and in 2007. Exports to the ECOWAS market, however, dropped by 16.9% in 2007 compared to 2006. Exports to Asia and the Americas remained marginal.

Table 5: Direction of exports by region (D'000)

Regions	2006	2007	%-Change
E.U	195,665	200,217	2.3%
ECOWAS	105,631	87,778	-16.9%
Asia	7,959	7,087	-11.0%
Americas	5,707	7,267	27.3%
Others	6,788	30,422	348.2%
Total Exports	321,750	332,771	3.43%

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

Figure 3: The share of Gambia's exports in 2007



### 3.1 European Union

The share of exports to the EU in 2007 remained high at 61%. The Gambia's main exports to the EU are Fish and fisheries products (33%), Groundnuts related products (24%) and vegetables and fruits (18%). These products constituted 76% of exports to the EU and 45% of total exports in 2007.

The United Kingdom and France are the main destinations of Gambian exports with a market share of 33% and 22.6% respectively. The most important exports to the UK are Fruits – mainly mangoes (36%), Groundnuts (20%), vegetables (18%) and Fish and fisheries products (13%).

Table 6: Direction of Gambian exports to the EU by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of Exports to EU	Share of Total Exports
UK	157,689	66,251	-58.0	33.1%	19.9%
FRANCE	15,018	45,297	201.6	22.6%	13.6%
GREECE	0	22,566		11.3%	6.8%
NETHERLANDS	3,616	21,489	494.3	10.7%	6.5%
BELGIUM	463	18,309	3854.4	9.1%	5.5%
SPAIN	1,111	9,644	768.0	4.8%	2.9%
PORTUGAL	0	8,597		4.3%	2.6%
GERMANY F.R	13,372	6,138	-54.1	3.1%	1.8%
OTHERS	196	315	60.7	0.48%	0.1%
<b>TOTAL E.U 27</b>	<b>195,665</b>	<b>200,217</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.2</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

### 3.2 ECOWAS Region

Exports to the ECOWAS sub-region dropped by 17% in 2007 compared to 2006. This resulted to a decrease in the share of exports to ECOWAS from 33% in 2006 to 29% in 2007. Exports to Senegal, Ghana and Guinea, all dropped in 2007 by 16%, 38%, and 66% respectively. The main exports to the sub-region in 2007 are groundnut crude oil(51%), groundnuts (17%) and fisheries products (11%).

Senegal received 95% of Gambian exports to ECOWAS countries in 2007. The main products exported to Senegal were groundnuts crude oil (53%) groundnuts (17%), Fish and fisheries products (9%), clothing (6%) and soap (2%).

Table 7: Direction of exports to ECOWAS by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of Exports to ECOWAS	Share of Total Exports
SENEGAL	99,069	83,570	-15.6	95.2%	25.1%
GHANA	2,904	1,786	-38.5	2.0%	0.5%
SIERRA LEONE	0	1,011	-	1.2%	0.3%
GUINEA	1,434	481	-66.5	0.5%	0.1%
LIBERIA	265	312	17.7	0.4%	0.1%
BURKINA FASO	0	248	-	0.3%	0.1%
GUINEA-BISSAU	721	206	-71.4	0.2%	0.1%
MALI	559	149	-73.3	0.2%	-
OTHERS	679	15	-97.8	0.8%	-
<b>TOTAL ECOWAS</b>	<b>105,631</b>	<b>87,778</b>	<b>-16.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

### 3.3 Asia

Table 8: Direction of exports to Asia by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of exports to Asia	Share of Total Exports
INDIA	480	2,505	421.9	35.3%	0.8%
JAPAN	1,290	2,033	57.6	28.7%	0.6%
CHINA	1,158	1,936	67.2	27.3%	0.6%
MALAYSIA	0	349	-	4.9%	0.1%
HONG KONG	85	264	210.6	3.7%	0.1%
THAILAND	4,946	0	-100.0	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASIAN</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>7,087</b>	<b>-11.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics

### 3.4 Americas

Table 9: Direction of exports to the Americas by country (D'000)

Country	2006	2007	% - change	Share of exports to Americas	Share of Total Exports
UNITED STATES	5,700	7,004	22.9	96.4%	2.1%
BRAZIL	0	263	-	3.6%	0.1%
CANADA	7	0	-100.0	-	-
<b>TOTAL AMERICAS</b>	<b>5,707</b>	<b>7,267</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics