



MINISTRY OF TRADE, REGIONAL INTEGRATION & EMPLOYMENT

THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS OF THE GAMBIA

2009

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1 OVERVIEW OF THE GAMBIA EXTERNAL TRADE

The Gambia's external trade in 2009 shows a substantial improvement in the value of total trade compared to 2008. The value of the external trade increased from D7.4 billion in 2008 to D9.8 billion in 2009 indicating an increase of 32.8%. Both the value of imports and exports increased reflecting the recovery in the performance of the Gambia's trade from the effects of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008. Imports increased by 13.7%, from D7.1 billion in 2008 to D8.1 billion in 2009 while the value of total exports also jumped significantly from D300.6 million in 2008 to D1, 755.2 million in 2009 due to the significant increase in both the domestic exports and re-exports and also because of the effect of exchange rate of the US dollar against the dalasi which depreciated from D22.00 in 2008 to D26.00 in 2009. The substantial increase in the value of total exports compared to the increase in imports resulted to a fall in the trade deficit by 7.07%

A summary of the trend of the value of The Gambia's external trade from 2006 to 2009 and the share of its imports and exports of the same period is shown in Table 1.1 and Figure 1 below.

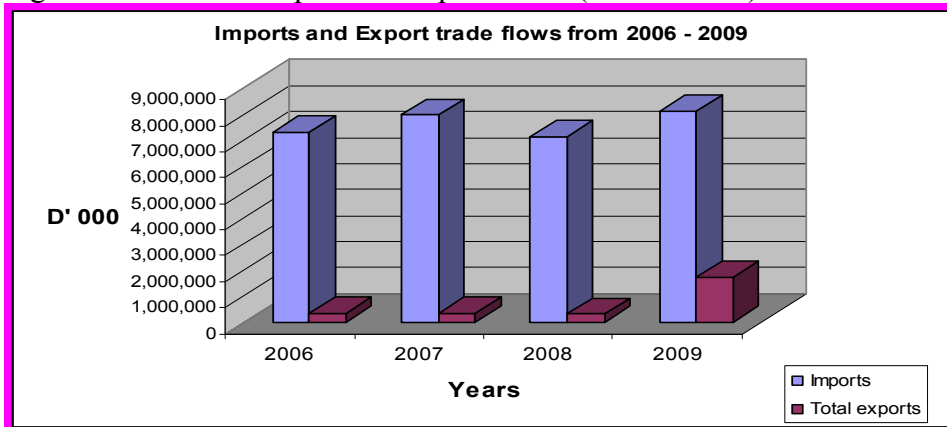
Table 1.1: Summary of The Gambia's external trade in D' 000

Trade	2006	2007	2008	2009	2008-2009 %Change
Total Trade	7,599,035	8,278,137	7,412,160	9,839,789	32.75
Imports	7,277,285	7,945,367	7,111,604	8,084,622	13.68
Domestic exports	288,197	312,167	277,282	712,544	156.97
Re-exports	33,553	20,603	23,274	1,042,623	4379.78
Total exports	321,750	332,770	300,556	1,755,167	483.97
Trade Balance	-65,955,535	-7,612,597	-6,811,048	-6,329,455	-7.07
<i>Total Trade (US\$ '000*)</i>	<i>281,445.7</i>	<i>341,968.4</i>	<i>336,916.4</i>	<i>376,653.9</i>	

Source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)

* Note: Average nominal exchange rate for 1 US\$: D27.00 for 2006, D24.00 for 2007, and D22.00 for 2008 and D26.00 for 2009

Figure 1: Gambia's import and export flows (2006 – 2009)



Source: GBOS 2009

Figure 2: Composition of the Gambia's external trade for 2008 and 2009

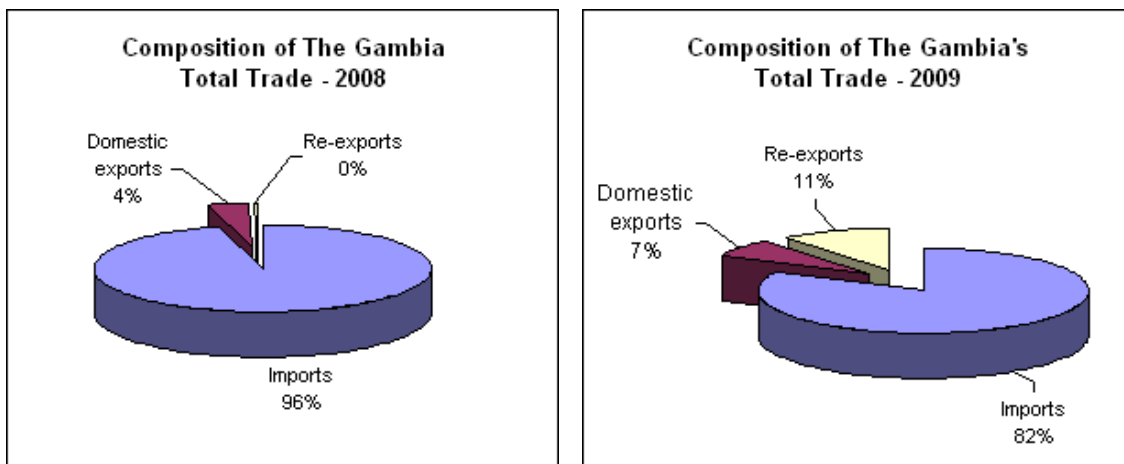
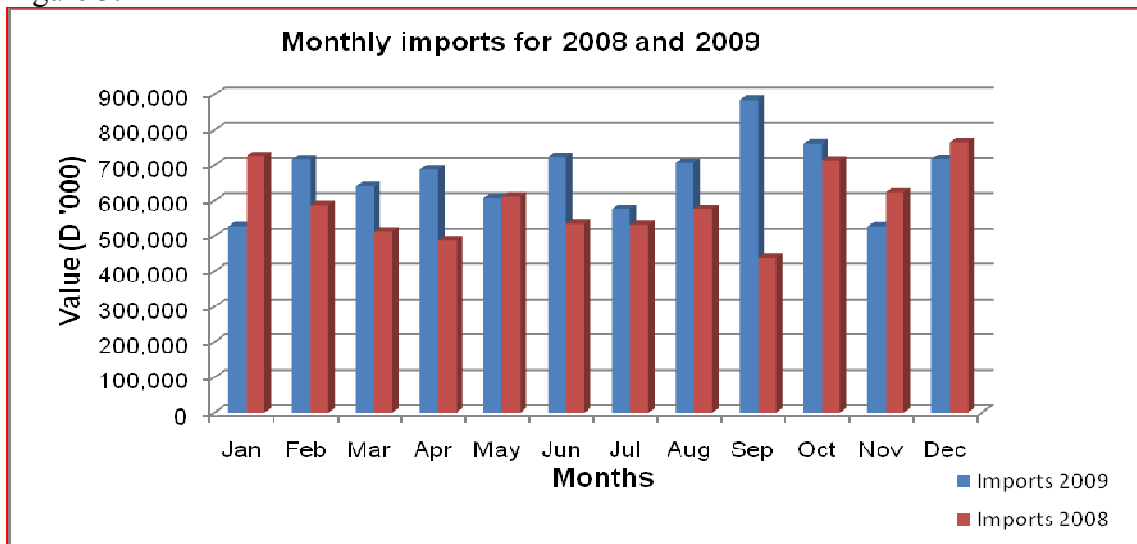


Figure 2 above shows that the share of domestic exports increased from 4% in 2008 to 8% in 2009 while re-exports jumped from less than 1% in 2008 to 11% in 2009. This improvement in export performance in 2009 resulted to a fall in the share of imports from 96% in 2008 to 82% in 2009.

1.1 Monthly imports

The value of the monthly imports in 2009 has been consistently above D600 million except for the month of January, July and November. The monthly imports for 2009 relative to 2008 are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3:



Source: GBoS

The month of September shows a significant different in import values between 2008 and 2009. The decrease in imports in 2008 was attributed mainly to the global price hikes of food commodities and petroleum products which led to low level of imports of these products.

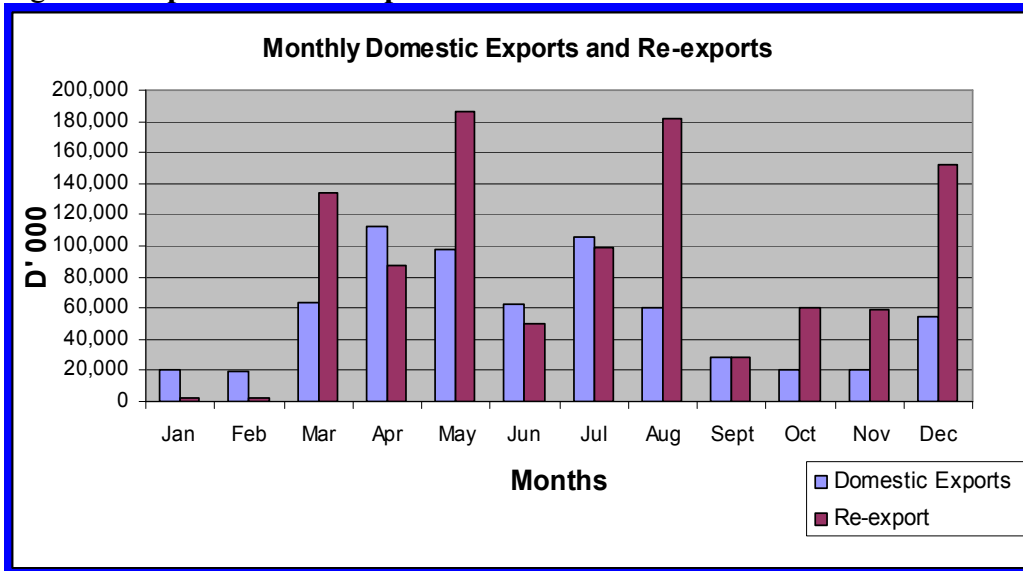
1.2 Monthly exports

The value of the monthly exports in 2009 has been consistently greater than in 2008. This is mainly due to an increase in the value of domestic exports and re-exports. The jump in the value of re-exports is as a result of an improvement in the collection of data on re-exported goods, which started in March 2009. The re-exports have been strong in May and August reaching over D180.0 million in 2009. The monthly exports and re-exports for 2009 relative to 2008 are shown in figure 4 and 5 respectively. A comparison of the monthly imports and exports for 2009 is also shown in figure 6 below.

Figure 4

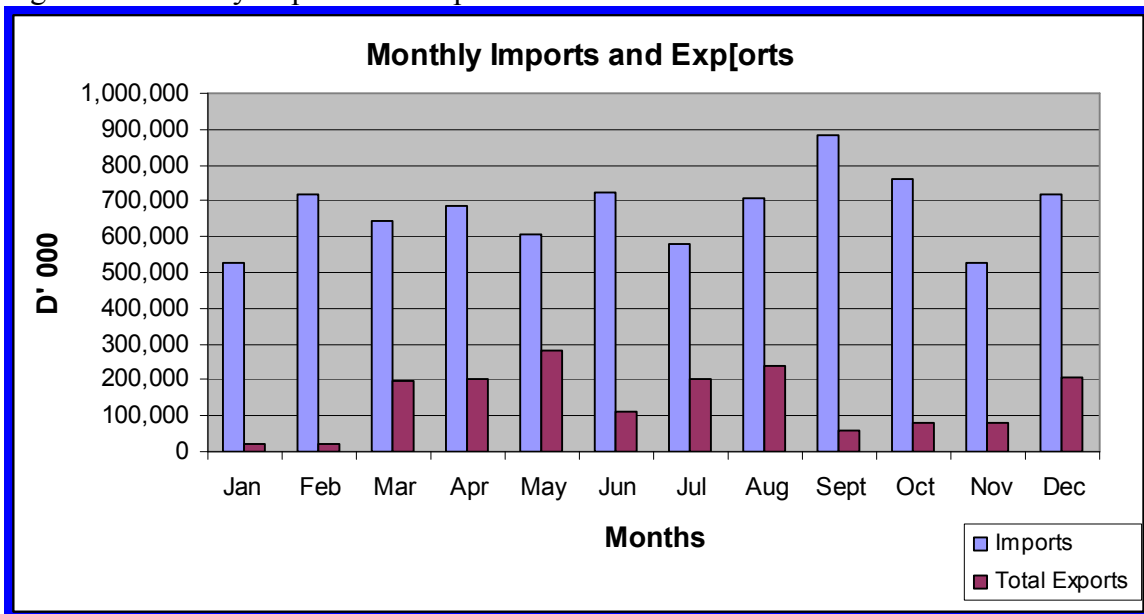


Figure 5- Exports and Re-exports 2008-2009



The figure 5 shows a substantial changes in both domestic and re-export in the months of May, August and December respectively. The months of May and August, the increase in re-exports was due to the increasing activities of the traders.

Figure 6 - Monthly Imports and Exports - 2009



2 DIRECTION OF IMPORTS

The value of The Gambia's total imports increased by 13.7% in 2009 compared to 2008 figures. The main imported products in 2009 continue to be petroleum products (15.5%), vehicles and accessories (10.2%), cereals (10.0%), animal or vegetable fat and oils or products thereof (7.4%), machinery and spare parts (5.3%), and electrical equipment and parts (4.9%). The value of imports of these six groups of products constituted 53% of value of total imports in 2009.

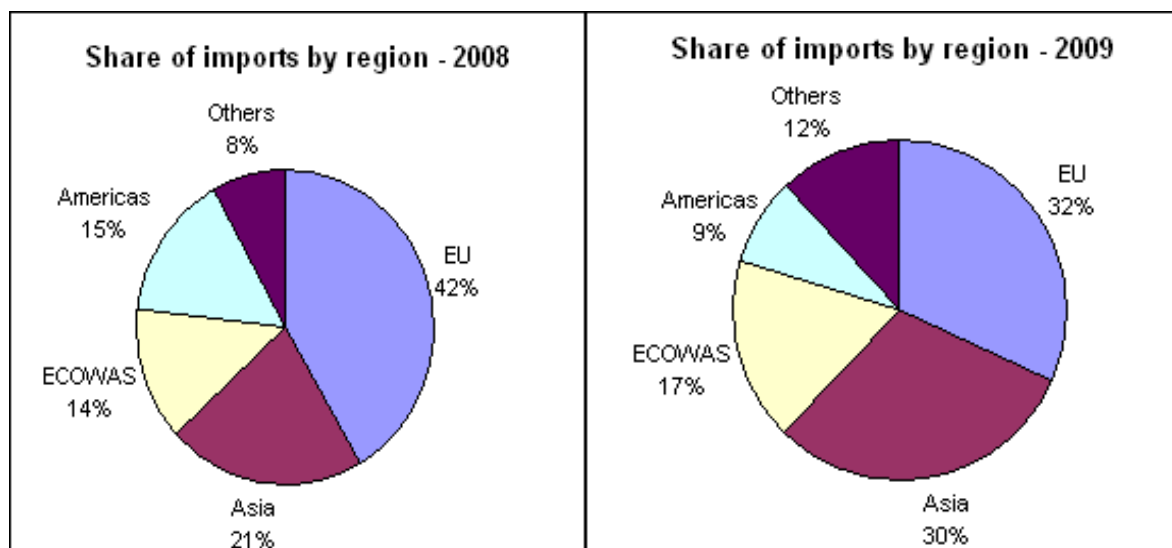
The EU and Asia were the main source of imports of the Gambia which accounted for 32% and 30% of the total imports in 2009 respectively. The share of imports from the EU dropped from 42% in 2008 to 32% in 2009 due to global economic crisis. The value of imports from Asia increased substantially from D1.5 billion in 2008 to D2.4 billion in 2009, basically due to the increase in demand for imported goods for Asia. The share of imports from Asia thus increased from 21% in 2008 to 30% in 2009. Table 2.1 and figure 2.1 below show the direction and share of The Gambia's imports in 2009 relative to 2008.

Table 2.1: Direction of imports in 2008 and 2009 (in D'000)

Regions	2008	2009	%-Change
EU	2,939,75	2,582,395	-12.1%
Asia	1,510,131	2,419,189	60.2%
ECOWAS	969,513	1,414,227	45.9%
Americas	1,080,515	693,166	-35.9%
Others	560,692	975,645	74.0%
Total Imports	7,111,604	8,084,622	13.7%

Source: GBoS

Figure 7: Share of Gambia's imports by region in 2008 and 2009



2.1 The European Union

The value of imports from the EU dropped by 12.1% from D2.99 billion in 2008 to D2.58 billion in 2009. This is the second consecutive drop in the value of imports from the EU since 2007 when imports from the EU accounted for D3.68 billion. This is partly due to the continued drop in imports of petroleum products and cereals from the EU since 2007. The value of imports of petroleum products dropped from D403.8 million in 2008 to 41.6 million in 2009. The share of import from the EU therefore dropped from 46% in 2007 and 42% in 2008 to 32% in 2009. The value of imports of vehicles and pharmaceutical products however increased from D311.3 million and D115.6 million in 2008 to D574.1 million and D260.5 million in 2009 respectively.

The main sources of imports from the EU in 2009 are United Kingdom (24.4%) mainly medicaments, Netherlands (17.8%) mainly onion, Germany (17.7%) mainly vehicles and machinery, Belgium (11.8%) and France (10.5%). These five countries accounted 82.2% of the value of imports from the EU and 26.3% of the total value of imports in 2009. The main imports from the EU are vehicles and spare parts, medicaments, cement and onion. Tables 2.2 and 2.3 below show the direction of imports and the main imports from the EU in 2009 respectively.

Table 2.2: Direction of imports from the EU by country

Country	Value of imports (D'000)	As % of imports from the EU	As % Total Imports
United kingdom	629,068	24.4%	6.4%
Netherlands	458,685	17.8%	4.7%
Germany	458,113	17.7%	4.7%
Belgium	303,758	11.8%	3.1%
France	272,435	10.5%	2.8%
Spain	171,968	6.7%	1.7%
Denmark	130,676	5.1%	1.3%
Italy	45,674	1.8%	0.5%
Sweden	44,124	1.7%	0.4%
Cyprus	34,796	1.3%	0.4%
Portugal	27,898	1.1%	0.3%
Others	5,200	0.2%	0.1%
Total	2,582,395	100.0	26.2%

Source: GBoS

Table 2.3: Main imported products from the EU in 2009

Products	Value (D'000)	As % of imports from Asia	As % Total Imports
Edible oil	540,913	22.4	6.7
Rice	443,416	18.3	5.5
textiles	205,247	8.5	2.5
Vehicles	145,248	6.0	1.8
Electrical equipment	127,941	5.3	1.6
Soap and detergents	95,726	4.0	1.2
Plastic articles	85,889	3.6	1.1
Inorganic products	73,120	3.0	0.9
Footwear	58,673	2.4	0.7
Dairy products	49,850	2.1	0.6
others	525,185	21.7	6.5
Total	2,351,208	22.4	6.7

Source: GBoS

2.2 Asia Region

The value of imports from Asia increased markedly by 60.2% from D1.51 billion in 2008 to D2.42 billion in 2009. The increase in value of imports from Asia is due to the strong demand of edible oil, rice electrical equipment, fabrics and footwear imported mainly from Asia. The value of imports of edible oil, broken rice and woven fabrics all increased in 2009 compared to 2008.

The main sources of imports from Asia are China (38.4%), Malaysia (15.0%), Thailand (11.8%) and India (11.7%) and the value of imports from these countries increased substantially in 2009 compared to 2008. These countries represented 78.9% of the value of imports from Asia and 23.1% of the value of total imports in 2009. The share of imports from Asia therefore jumped from 21% in 2008 to 30% in 2009.

The main imports from Asia in 2009 are edible oil (33.4%) mainly from Malaysia and India, broken rice (18.3%) mainly from Thailand, Pakistan and China. Other main imports from Asia include electrical equipment, soap, foot wears, and dairy products.

Tables 2.4 and 2.5 below show the direction of imports and the main imports from the Asia in 2009 respectively.

Table 2.4: Direction of imports from Asia by country

Country	Value of imports (D'000)	As % of imports from Asia	As % Total Imports
China	929,072	38.4%	11.5%
Malaysia	362,039	15.0%	4.5%
Thailand	287,629	11.8%	3.6%
India	283,838	11.7%	3.5%
Singapore	148,450	6.1%	1.8%
Pakistan	136,910	5.7%	1.7%
Japan	119,518	4.9%	1.5%
Hong Kong	104,626	4.3%	1.3%
Others	47,107	1.9%	0.6%
Total	2,419,189	100%	29.9%

Source GBoS

Table 2.5: Main imported products from Asia in 2009

Products	Value (D'000)	As % of imports from Asia	As % Total Imports
Edible oil	540,913	33.4	6.7
Rice	443,416	27.4	5.5
Vehicles	145,248	9.0	1.8
Electrical equipment	127,941	7.9	1.6
Soap and detergents	95,726	5.9	1.2
Plastic articles	85,889	5.3	1.1
Inorganic products	73,120	4.5	0.9
Footwear	58,673	3.6	0.7
Dairy products	49,850	3.1	0.6

Source: GBoS

2.3 The ECOWAS

The ECOWAS region continues to be the main source of Gambian imports in the African region. The value of imports from ECOWAS countries stood at D1, 414.2 million representing 17.5% of the total value of imports in 2009. Total imports from the ECOWAS region increased from D969.5 million in 2008 to D1, 414.2 million in 2009, up by 45.9%. This is the second consecutive year in the increase in the value of Gambia imports from ECOWAS since 2007 when the value of imports from ECOWAS was D857.1 million. This is mainly due to an increase in value of imports from Côte-d'Ivoire (82%), Ghana (1.3%), Guinea, (1.2%) and Guinea Bissau (0.8%) in the past two years. In the case of Côte-d'Ivoire, this rise was mainly due to an increase in imports of petroleum products, which increased from D828.4 million in 2008 to D1, 198.5 million in 2009 and accounted for 97.2% of the value of imports from Côte-d'Ivoire and 84.7% of imports from ECOWAS in 2009. The share of imports from ECOWAS therefore increased from 11% in 2007 and 14% in 2008 to 17.5% in 2009.

Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal remain the two main sources of imports in the ECOWAS region accounting for 81.8% and 10.5% respectively in 2009. Imports from Senegal were mainly rice of about (36.4%), petroleum products (26.5%), and cement (9.6%). Imports from Nigeria were mainly petroleum products (68.8%) while from Ghana it is mainly stainless steel bars and rods (36.5%).

Tables 2.6 and 2.7 below show the direction of imports and the main imports from the ECOWAS region in 2009 respectively.

Table 2.6: Direction of imports from ECOWAS by country

Country	Value of imports (D'000)	As % of imports from ECOWAS	As % Total Imports
Cote D'Ivoire	1,156,277	81.8%	14.3%
Senegal	148,095	10.5%	1.3%
Nigeria	57,988	4.1%	0.7%
Ghana	18,402	1.3%	0.2%
Guinea	16,649	1.2%	0.2%
Guinea Bissau	11,303	0.8%	0.1%
Others	5,513	0.4%	-
Total	1,414,227	100%	17.5%

Source: GBoS

Table 2.7: Main imported products from ECOWAS in 2009

Products	Value (D'000)	As % of imports from ECOWAS	As % Total Imports
Petroleum products	1,198,532	91.9	14.8
Cereal (mainly rice)	54,668	4.2	0.7
Wood and articles of wood	21,552	1.7	0.3
Inorganic products/chemicals	18,659	1.4	0.2
Plastic articles	10,634	0.8	0.1

Source: GBoS

2.4 The Americas

The value of imports from the Americas has dropped substantially by 35.9% in 2009 compared to the value of imports in 2008. Imports dropped from D1, 328.3 million in 2007 and D1, 080.5million in 2008 to D693.2 million in 2009. This is mainly due to the huge fall in imports from the United States, which dropped from D769.0 million in 2008 to D189.2 million in 2009, down by 75.4%. The share of imports from the Americas thus decreased from 17% in 2007 and 15% in 2008 to 9% in 2009.

Imports from the Americas were mainly from Brazil (66.5%), United States (27.3%) and Argentina (6.0%). These three countries represented 99.8% of imports from the Americas and 8.6% of value of the Gambia's total imports in 2009. Imports from Brazils in 2009 were mainly sugar (54.9%) and broken rice (38.8%) and these two products accounted 93.7% of imports from Brazil and 62.3% of imports from the Americas. Tables 2.8 below show the direction of imports from the Americas in 2009.

Table 2.8: Direction of imports from the Americas by country

Country	Value of imports (D'000)	As % of imports from Americas	As % Total Imports
Brazil	460,716	66.5%	5.7%
United States	189,207	27.3%	2.3%
Argentina	41,503	6.0%	0.5%
Others	1,740	0.3%	-
Total	693,166	100.0%	8.6%

Source: GBoS

3 DIRECTIONS OF EXPORTS

The value of Gambia's exports in 2009 was D1.76 billion, an increase of 484.3 % from 300.6 million in 2008. The increase is due to both an increase in domestic exports and an improvement in the collection of data on re-exported goods to the sub-region in 2009. The ECOWAS region thus became the main destination for Gambian Exports, mainly re-exports.

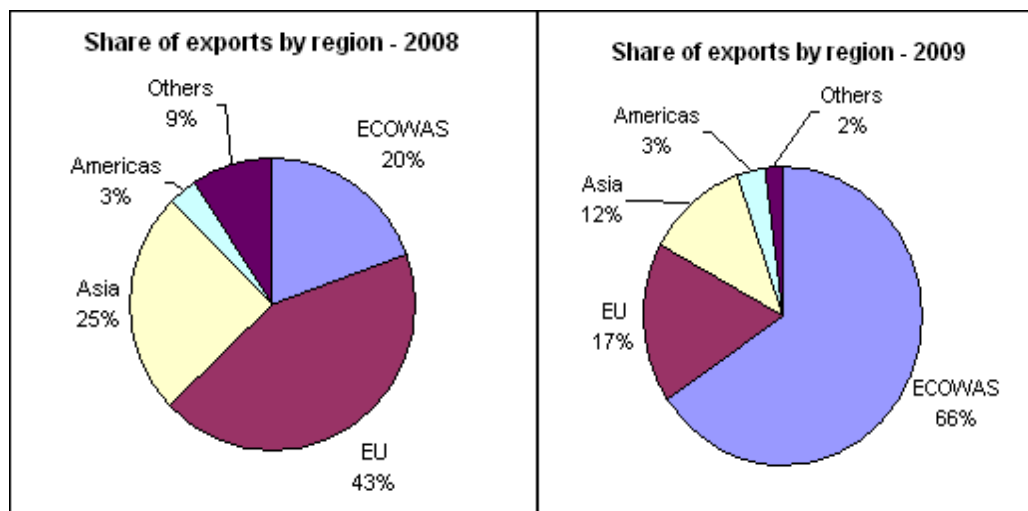
The share of exports to ECOWAS therefore increased from 20% in 2008 to 66% in 2009 and this jump is as a result of re-exports. The table and figure below shows the direction and share of Gambian exports by region respectively.

Table 3.1: Direction of exports by region in D'000

Regions	2008	2009	%-Change
ECOWAS	59,200	1,144,785	1833.8%
EU	128,696	347,028	137.4%
Asia	75,232	210,972	180.4%
Americas	10,158	19,849	500.3%
Others	27,270	32,533	19.2%
Total Exports	300,556	1,755,167	484.3%

Source: GBoS

Figure 8: Share of exports by region



3.1 The European Union

The European Union is the second main destination of Gambian exports. It is however the main market for The Gambia's domestically produced products. The value of exports to the EU increased from D128.7 million in 2008 to D305.5 million in 2009, mainly due to an increase in the value of exports of groundnut products which jumped from D10.57 million in 2008 to D237.61 million in 2009. Exports of fruits also picked up from D9.28 million in 2008 to D52.42 million in 2009. United Kingdom and France were the main markets of Gambia's export as these two countries accounted for 86.9% of the value of exports to the EU in 2009.

The main exported products to the EU are groundnuts (crude oil and shell) mainly to France, United Kingdom and Denmark, fruits and vegetables mainly to United Kingdom and fish and fishery products mainly to the Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom. Exports of fishery products however dropped from D53.79 million in 2008 to D29.33 million in 2009.

The main countries in the region importing products from The Gambia are United Kingdom (37.9%), France (49.0%), Netherlands (6.5%), Denmark (3.9%) and Spain (1.6%) of the total exports from EU. The value of exports to France which increased substantially from D5, 578 million in 2008 to D170, 055 million in 2009 is mainly attributed to a major increase in the export of crude ground-nut oil.

Table 3.2 and 3.3 below show the direction of Gambia's exports and the main exported products to the EU respectively

Table 3.2: Direction of exports to the EU by country in 2009

Country	Value of Exports (D'000)	As % of exports to the EU	As % Total Exports
United Kingdom	131,353	37.9%	7.5%
France	170,055	49.0%	9.7%
Netherlands	22,621	6.5%	1.3%
Denmark	13,473	3.9%	0.8%
Spain	5,383	1.6%	0.3%
Germany	1,940	0.6%	0.1%
Belgium	1,298	0.4%	0.1%
Others	905	0.3%	0.1%
Total	347,028	100.0%	19.8%

Source: GBoS

Table 3.3: Main exported products to the EU 2009

Main exports to the EU	Value of exports (D'000)	As % of exports to the EU	As % of Total exports
Groundnuts oil and palm oil	168,843	48.7	9.6
Groundnuts shelled	68,767	19.8	3.9
Fruits and vegetables	52,423	15.1	3.0
Fish and fish preparation	29,333	8.5	1.7
Printed books and newspapers	6,860	2.0	0.4
Others	47,802	13.8	2.7
Total	374,028		

3.2 Exports to ECOWAS region

The value of exports (mainly re-exports) to the ECOWAS region increased substantially from D59.2 million in 2008 to D1, 146.3 million in 2009. This is mainly due to the improvement in collection of data on re-exported goods, which started in March 2009. The share of exports to the ECOWAS region thus jumped from 20% in 2008 to 66% in 2009.

The main destinations of Gambia's export to the ECOWAS region are Senegal (42.7%), Guinea (36.4%) and Guinea-Bissau (20.1%). Exports to these three countries accounted for 99.2% of the value of exports to the ECOWAS region and 65.2% of the value of total exports in 2009.

The main products re-exported to the region are woven or cotton fabrics, fruit juice, milk and cream, green tea, batteries dairy products, electrical equipment and bicycles mainly to Guinea, Senegal and Guinea Bissau.

Table 3.4 and 3.5 below show the direction of Gambia's exports and the main exported products to the ECOWAS region respectively

Table 3.4: Direction of exports to the ECOWAS by country in 2009

Country	Value of Exports (D'000)	As % of Exports to ECOWAS	As % Total Exports
Senegal	488,859	42.7	27.9
Guinea	416,747	36.4	23.7
Guinea Bissau	229,619	20.1	13.1
Nigeria	2,611	0.2	0.1
Ghana	2,469	0.2	0.1
Mali	2,372	0.2	0.1
Others	2,108	0.2	0.1
Total ECOWAS	1,144,785	100.0	65.2

Source: GBoS

Table 3.5: Main exported products to the ECOWAS Region

Main exports to the ECOWAS region	Value of exports (D'000)	As % of exports to ECOWAS	As % of Total exports
Woven fabrics	434,858	37.9	24.8
Dairy products	102,618	9.0	5.8
Preparations of vegetable fruits	96,785	8.4	5.5
Coffee, tea, and spices	89,646	7.8	5.1
Electrical equipments	69,441	63.2	41.2

3.3 Exports to Asia

The value of exports to Asia has increased by 180.4% from D75, 232 million in 2008 to D219, 929 million in 2009. This is due to the increase in value of exports of cashew nuts and fishery products to Asia. India continued to be the main market for Gambian export with a market share of 37.0%. Other important destinations for Gambia's export in Asia are China (17.4%), Hong Kong (17.0%) and Singapore (16.7%).

Cashew nuts and fishery products were the two main products exported to Asia, accounting for 62.1% of the value of exports to Asia in 2009. Exports of cashew nuts increased from D36.1 million in 2008 to D73.6 million in 2009 while fish and fishery products increased from D3.0 million to D57.4 million. Exports of cashew nut to India stood at D68.8 million representing 88.1% of the value of exports to India in 2009

Table 3.6 and 3.7 below show the direction of Gambia's exports and the main exported products to Asia respectively

Table 3.6: Direction of exports to Asia by country in 2009

Country	Value of Exports (D'000)	As % of exports to Asia	As % Total Exports
India	78,040	37.0%	4.4%
China	36,645	17.4%	2.1%
Hong Kong	35,754	17.0%	2.0%
Singapore	35,135	16.7%	2.0%
Thailand	13,262	6.3%	0.8%
Others	12,093	5.7%	0.7%
Total Asia	210,929	100%	12.0%

Table 3.7: Main exported products to Asia

Main exports to Asia	Value of exports (D'000)	As % of exports to Asia	As % of Total exports
Cashew nuts	73,616	34.9	4.2
Fish and Fishery products	57,446	27.2	3.3
Other natural sand	52,729	25.0	3.0
Iron and steel	18,190	8.6	1.0

3.4 Exports to the Americas

The value of exports to the Americas increased from D10.2 million in 2008 to D19.8 million in 2009 representing only 3.5% of the total value of exports in 2009. The United States is the main market for Gambia's export to the Americas, which is valued at D16.7 million accounting for 84.1% of the value of exports to the Americas. The main exports to the United States are Crude Ground-nut oil and Natural sands. For other part of Americas, the exports products include frozen fish to Uruguay, and fresh or chilled potatoes to Canada. Table 3.8 below show the direction of Gambia's exports to the Americas

Table 3.8: Direction of exports to the Americas by country in 2009

Country	Value of Exports (D'000)	As % of exports to Americas	As % Total Exports
United States	16,688	84.1	1.0
Uruguay	3,135	15.8	0.2
Canada	25	0.1	0.0
Total Americas	19,848	100.0	1.1

Source: GBOS

