

Gambia, The

Official name: Republic of The Gambia.

Form of government: multiparty republic with one legislative house (National Assembly [53]).

Head of state and government: President.

Capital: Banjul.

Official language: English.

Official religion: none.

Monetary unit: dalasi (D); valuation (Sept. 1, 2014) 1 U.S.\$ = D 39.60; 1 £ = D 65.79.



Area and population					
	area	population		area	population
	sq km	2013 census ²		sq km	2013 census ²
Divisions			Municipal Council		
Basse	2,048	239,916	Kanifing ^{3, 4}	76	382,096
Brikama	1,764	699,704			
Janjanbureh (Georgetown)	1,463	126,910	City		
Kerewan	2,199	221,054	Banjul ⁴	12	31,301
Kuntaur	1,501	99,108	TOTAL	11,632 ⁵	1,882,450
Mansakonko	1,561	82,361			

Demography

Population (2014): 1,958,000.

Density (2014): persons per sq mi 436.0, persons per sq km 168.3.

Urban-rural (2011): urban 58.9%; rural 41.1%.

Sex distribution (2012): male 48.50%; female 51.50%.

Age breakdown (2009): under 15, 40.9%; 15–29, 29.9%; 30–44, 16.3%; 45–59, 8.2%; 60–74, 3.8%; 75–84, 0.8%; 85 and over, 0.1%.

Population projection: (2020) 2,211,000; (2030) 2,597,000.

Doubling time: 24 years.

Ethnic composition (2003): Malinke c. 42%; Fulani c. 18%; Wolof c. 16%; Diola c. 10%; Soninke c. 9%; other c. 5%.

Religious affiliation (2005): Muslim c. 90%; Christian (mostly Roman Catholic) c. 9%; traditional beliefs/other c. 1%.

Major cities/urban areas (2013): Serekunda (2006) 335,700³; Brikama 95,000; Bakau (2006) 45,500³; Banjul 31,301 (Greater Banjul 758,153⁴); Farafenni 19,572.

Vital statistics

Birth rate per 1,000 population (2013): 32.6 (world avg. 19.5).

Death rate per 1,000 population (2013): 7.4 (world avg. 8.1).

Natural increase rate per 1,000 population (2013): 25.2 (world avg. 11.4).

Total fertility rate (avg. births per childbearing woman; 2013): 3.98.

Marriage/divorce rates per 1,000 population: n.a.

Life expectancy at birth (2013): male 61.8 years; female 66.5 years.

Major causes of death per 100,000 population (2002): infectious and parasitic diseases c. 404, of which malaria c. 94; cardiovascular diseases c. 172; lower respiratory infections c. 145; accidents c. 80.

Adult population (ages 15–49) **living with HIV** (2009): 2.0% (world avg. 0.8%).

National economy

Budget (2010). Revenue: D 5,205,000,000 (tax revenue 66.9%; nontax revenue 15.0%; grants 18.1%). Expenditures: D 6,049,000,000 (current expenditure 64.5%, of which wages and salaries 25.1%; capital expenditure 36.0%; net lending –0.5%).

Production (metric tons except as noted). Agriculture, forestry, fishing (2012): peanuts (groundnuts) 119,614, millet 116,089, paddy rice 54,219, corn (maize) 30,106, sorghum 23,146, cassava 10,500, sesame seeds 2,928, pulses 2,500, mangoes, mangosteens, and guavas 1,300; livestock (number of live animals; 2013) 380,000 cattle, 320,000 goats, 150,000 sheep; roundwood (2013) 834,692 cu m, of which fuelwood 86%; fisheries production 36,095 (from aquaculture, negligible). Mining and quarrying: sand, clay ([2007] 6,713), and gravel are excavated for local use. Manufacturing (value added in U.S.\$; 2004): food products and beverages 1,400,000; textiles, clothing, and footwear 910,000; glass and glass products 440,000; furniture 400,000. Energy production (consumption): electricity (kW-hr; 2010) 245,000,000 (245,000,000); coal, none (none); crude petroleum, none (none); petroleum products (metric tons; 2010) none (154,000); natural gas (cu m; 2010) none (2,600,000).

Population economically active (2008)⁶: total 743,000; activity rate of total population 44.8% (participation rates: ages 15–64, 77.8%; female 46.3%; unemployed, n.a.).

Price index (2005 = 100)							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Consumer price index	100.0	102.1	107.5	112.3	117.4	123.4	129.3

Household income and expenditure. Average household size (2003) 8.6; income per household: n.a.; sources of income: n.a.; expenditure (1991)⁷: food and beverages 58.0%, clothing and footwear 17.5%, energy and water 5.4%, housing 5.1%, education, health, transportation and communications, recreation, and other 14.0%.

Land use as % of total land area (2009): in temporary crops or left fallow (2007) 34.8%, in permanent crops 0.6%, in pasture 26.0%, forest area 47.8%⁸.

Gross national income (GNI; 2013): U.S.\$941,000,000 (U.S.\$510 per capita); purchasing power parity GNI (U.S.\$1,620 per capita).

Structure of gross domestic product and labour force

	2010		1993	
	in value D '000,000	% of total value	labour force ⁹	% of labour force ⁹
Agriculture	8,538	29.5	181,752	52.6
Mining	716	2.5	398	0.1
Manufacturing	1,308	4.5	21,682	6.3
Construction	957	3.3	9,679	2.8
Public utilities	349	1.2	1,858	0.5
Transp. and commun.	3,109	10.7	14,203	4.1
Trade, hotels	7,409	25.6	54,728	15.8
Finance, real estate	3,688	12.7	2,415	0.7
Public admin., defense	1,232	4.3	41,254	11.9
Services	528	1.8		
Other	1,128 ¹⁰	3.9 ¹⁰	17,412 ¹¹	5.0 ¹¹
TOTAL	28,963^{12, 13}	100.0	345,381	100.0¹³

Public debt (external, outstanding; 2012): U.S.\$396,000,000.

Selected balance of payments data. Receipts from (U.S.\$'000,000): tourism (2012) 88; remittances (2013) 148; foreign direct investment (2011–13 avg.) 29; official development assistance (2012) 139. Disbursements for (U.S.\$'000,000): tourism (2012) 8; remittances (2012) 48.

Foreign trade¹⁴

Balance of trade (current prices)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.S.\$'000,000	–62.3	–50.0	–106.0	–142.5	–138.2	–171.5
% of total	18.6%	19.1%	35.4%	46.8%	45.1%	48.4%

Imports (2007): U.S.\$262,900,000 (imports for domestic use 70.0%, of which petroleum products 10.8%; imports for reexport [principally to Senegal] 30.0%). **Major import sources:** Denmark c. 14%; U.S. c. 13%; China c. 11%; Germany c. 8%; U.K. c. 8%.

Exports (2007): U.S.\$91,400,000 (reexports 86.3%; peanut [groundnut] oil 3.3%; peanuts [groundnuts] 2.7%; fish 2.0%). **Major export destinations:** reexports (principally to Senegal) 86.3%; domestic exports 13.7%, of which to Senegal 3.5%, to U.K. 2.7%, to France 1.9%.

Transport and communications

Transport. Railroads: none. Roads (2004): total length 2,325 mi, 3,742 km (paved 19%); passenger-km (2003) 16,100,000,000; metric ton-km cargo (2008) n.a. Vehicles (2007): passenger cars 8,815; trucks and buses 3,613. Air transport (2001)¹⁵: passenger arrivals 300,000, passenger departures 300,000; cargo loaded and unloaded 2,700 metric tons.

Communications

Medium	date	number in '000s	units per 1,000 persons	Medium	date	number in '000s	units per 1,000 persons
Televisions	2003	20	13	PCs	2007	53	33
Telephones				Dailies	2009	4 ¹⁶	2.3 ¹⁶
Cellular	2013	1,849 ¹⁷	1,000 ¹⁷	Internet users	2009	130	76
Landline	2013	64	35	Broadband	2013	0.4 ¹⁷	0.2 ¹⁷

Education and health

Educational attainment: n.a. **Literacy** (2010): total population age 15 and over literate 51.1%; males literate 60.9%; females literate 41.9%.

Education (2011–12)

	teachers	students	student/teacher ratio	enrollment rate (%) ¹⁸
Primary (age 7–12)	7,206	244,033	33.9	72
Secondary/Voc. (age 13–18)	4,358 ¹⁹	124,397 ²⁰	24.1 ¹⁹	...
Tertiary	362 ¹⁹	5,358	17.9 ¹⁹	4 (age 19–23)

Health: physicians (2003) 156 (1 per 9,769 persons); hospital beds (2005) 1,221 (1 per 1,250 persons); infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2009) 75.5; undernourished population (2006–08) 300,000 (19% of total population based on the consumption of a minimum daily requirement of 1,770 calories).

Military

Total active duty personnel (November 2013): 800²¹ (army 100%). **Military expenditure as percentage of GDP** (2008): 2.2%; per capita expenditure U.S.\$10.

¹Includes 5 appointed seats. ²Preliminary results. ³Kanifing includes the urban areas of Serekunda and Bakau. ⁴Kanifing and Banjul make up most of Greater Banjul. ⁵Includes national area near the mouth of the Gambia River not allocated by division. ⁶ILO estimates. ⁷Low-income population in Banjul and Kanifing only; weights of consumer price index components. ⁸Forest area overlaps with other categories. ⁹Based on census data excluding numerous unemployed. ¹⁰Indirect taxes and taxes on products less imputed bank service charges and subsidies. ¹¹Not adequately defined. ¹²In 2008 reexports made up about 1/3 of The Gambia's GDP; goods imported into The Gambia under lower taxes were reexported (sometimes illegally) to nearby countries (particularly Senegal). ¹³Detail does not add to total given because of rounding. ¹⁴Imports c.i.f.; exports f.o.b. ¹⁵Yundum International Airport at Banjul. ¹⁶Circulation. ¹⁷Subscribers. ¹⁸2008–09. ¹⁹2007–08. ²⁰2009–10. ²¹Of which deployed as UN peacekeepers in Sudan, 213.

Internet resources for further information:

- Central Statistics Department
www.gambia.gm/Statistics/Statistics.htm
- Central Bank of The Gambia
www.cbq.gm