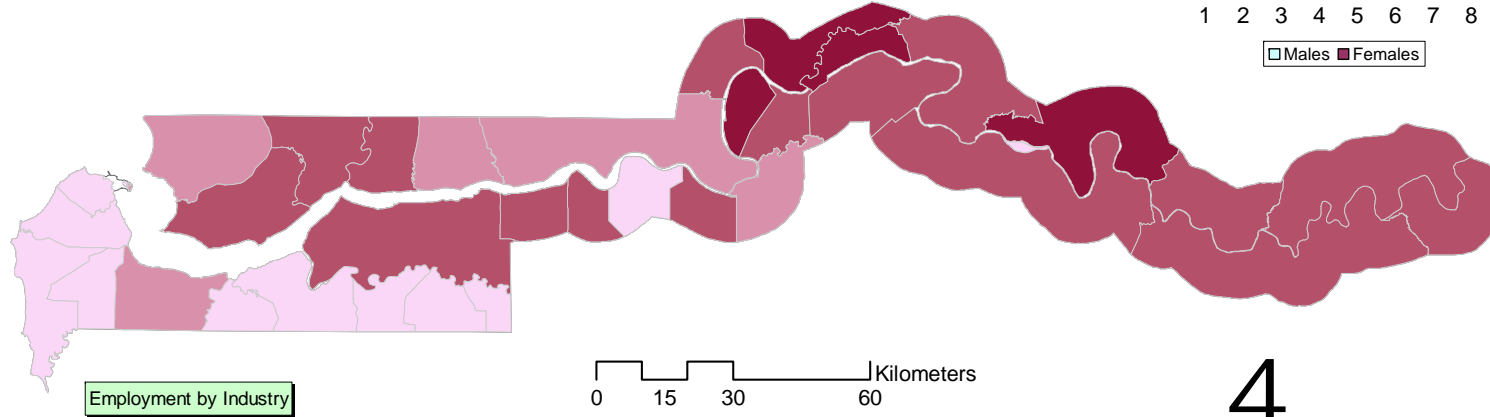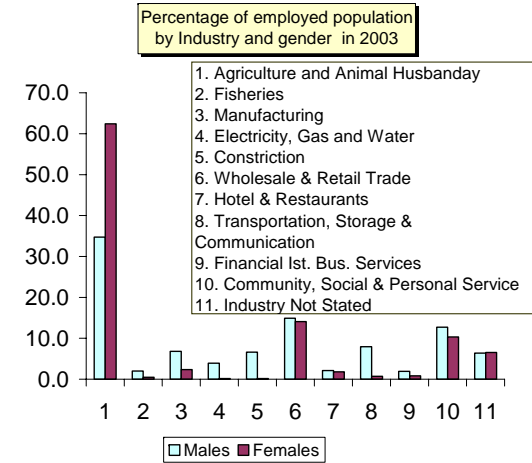# Chapter 7. Employment and Economic Activity

The following pages present information on employment and economic activities in the Gambia in 2003. Overall, forty-five percent of Gambia's economically active population were employed in 2003. Forty-seven percent of those employed were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry; 14% in services, shops and market and 15% in wholesale and retail. Dependency rate is higher in urban than rural areas, although majority of rural residents are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry.
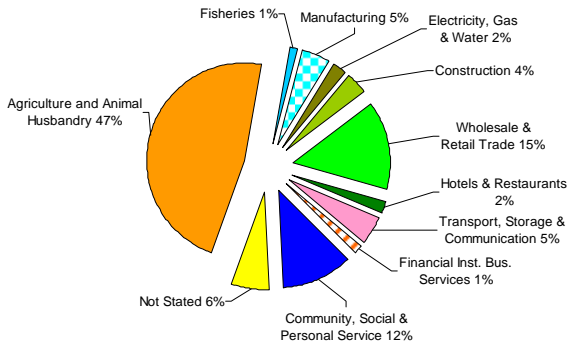
In all regions, there were more females than males engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry although they are less represented in other occupations. Low literacy rate, combined with lower incidence of migration to urban centers, means that most females  who, left in the village have little choice but agriculture and animal husbandry as a main occupation and source of livelihood.

## Employment of the economically active population in 2003

Forty-five percent of the economically active population reported being employed. The economically active population includes all persons 7 years and over. Agriculture and animal husbandry is the largest employer engaging forty-nine percent followed by wholesale and retail trade (15%). Employment in manufacturing accounts for only 5% of the total employed.
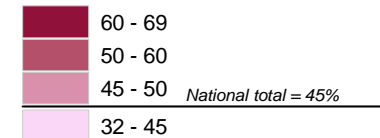
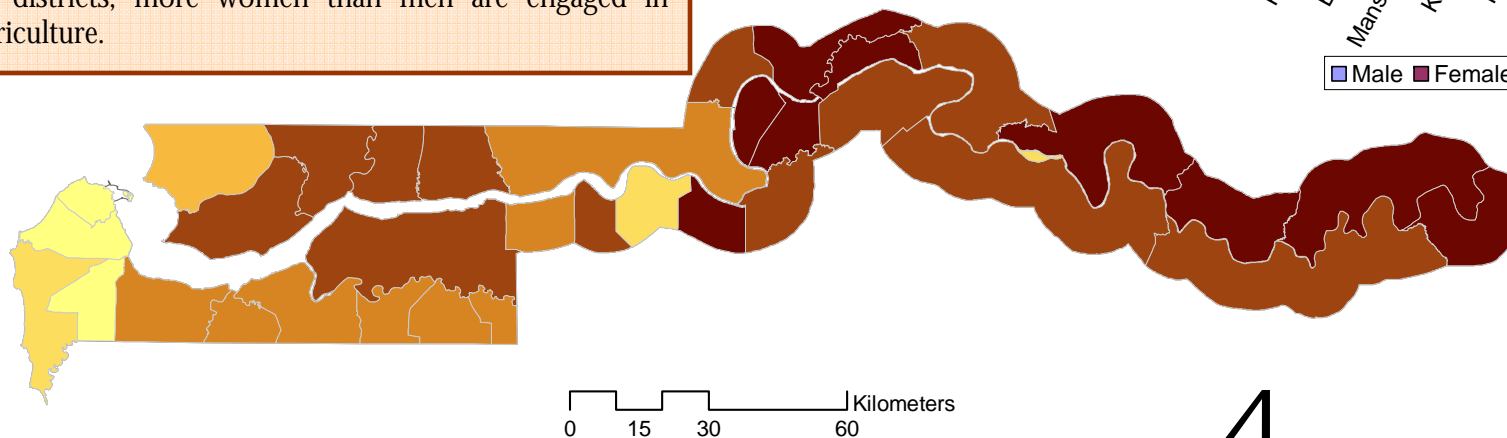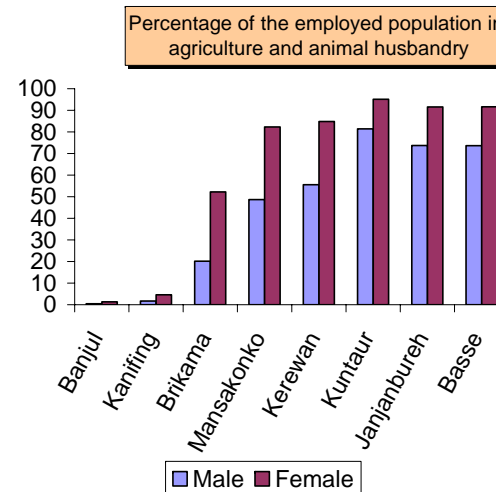Percentage of employed population by Industry and gender in 2003

1. Agriculture and Animal Husbanday
2. Fisheries
3. Manufacturing
4. Electricity, Gas and Water
5. Constriction
6. Wholesale & Retail Trade
7. Hotel & Restaurants
8. Transportation, Storage & Communication
9. Financial Ist. Bus. Services
10. Community, Social & Personal Service
11. Industry Not Stated

□ Males ■ Females

Employment by Industry

Fisheries 1%
Manufacturing 5%
Electricity, Gas & Water 2%
Construction 4%
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry 47%
Wholesale & Retail Trade 15%
Hotels & Restaurants 2%
Transport, Storage & Communication 5%
Financial Inst. Bus. Services 1%
Community, Social & Personal Service 12%
Not Stated 6%

Kilometers
0   15   30   60

4

Percentage of economically active population employed in 2003

60 - 69
50 - 60
45 - 50    *National total = 45%*
32 - 45

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

## Population employed in agriculture and animal husbandry in 2003

Forty-seven percent of the employed population were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in 2003 with considerable regional variation. In Central River and Upper River Divisions over 75% percent of the employed population are engaged in agriculture. Within Greater Banjul and Brikama LGA, the two most urbanized districts less than 25% of the employed population were in agriculture and animal husbandry. In all districts, more women than men are engaged in agriculture.

Percentage of the employed population in agriculture and animal husbandry



Kilometers
0   15   30      60

Districts with highest and lowest percentage of their employed population in agriculture and animal husbandry

| District | % in Agric. | District | % in Agric. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Banjul South | 1 | Sami | 91 |
| Banjul Central | 1 | Upper Saloum | 92 |
| Banjul North | 1 | Sandu | 92 |
| Kanifing Municipality | 3 | Nianija | 95 |
| Kombo North | 16 | Niamina Dankunku | 95 |

4

Percentage of the employed population in agriculture and animal husbandry in 2003
*National total = 47%
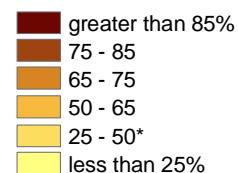
- greater than 85%
- 75 - 85
- 65 - 75
- 50 - 65
- 25 - 50*
- less than 25%

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

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## Dependency Rate in 2003

Dependency rate is the percentage of dependent persons in the population. Dependent persons are those too young to work (under 15 years) and those too old to work (65 years and over). At the national level, 65 percent of the population is identified as dependant, a decrease from 68% in 1993. Dependency rate is higher in urban than rural areas. Brikama LGA has the highest dependency rate (70.1).
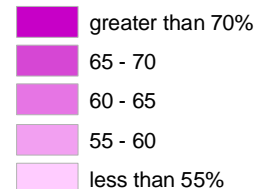
**Dependency Rate in 2003 by LGA**

| LGA | Rate |
|-----|------|
| Banjul | 61.5 |
| Kanifing | 67.8 |
| Brikama | 70.1 |
| Mansakonko | 61.3 |
| Kerewan | 62.3 |
| Kuntaur | 54.1 |
| Janjanbureh | 58.4 |
| Basse | 59.0 |

Kilometers
0    15    30    60

4

Percentage of dependent population to total population
National rate = 65%

| | |
|---|---|
| greater than 70% | |
| 65 - 70 | |
| 60 - 65 | |
| 55 - 60 | |
| less than 55% | |

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

Districts with highest and lowest dependency rates.

| District | Dependency Rate | District | Dependency Rate |
|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Upper Saloum | 51.20 | Foni Kansala | 68.87 |
| Niamina Dankunku | 51.71 | Foni Bondali | 69.49 |
| Nianija | 55.02 | Foni Bintang Karanai | 70.58 |
| Sami | 55.19 | Kombo North | 70.59 |
| Kiang Central | 56.38 | Kombo Central | 74.29 |