Namibia Trade Statistics Bulletin

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February 2023



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> Namibia Statistics Agency



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BRIC:	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CIF:	Cost, Insurance and Freight
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DRC:	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC:	East African Community
EFTA:	European Free Trade Association
EPZ:	Export Processing Zone
EU:	European Union
FOB:	Free on Board
MERCOSUR:	Southern Common Market
OECD:	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ROW:	Rest of World
SACU:	Southern African Customs Union
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
VAR:	Various Countries
AfCFTA:	Africa Continental Free Trade Area



PREFACE

International merchandise trade plays a crucial role in economic development as it links producers and consumers located in different countries into a global economic system. In this context, availability of timely and high-quality trade statistics becomes a precondition for an in-depth analysis of the employment, production, income, consumption, and overall welfare both at the country and global level. It is in that light that since its establishment, the NSA has strived to make provision of timely and quality statistics through various publications. This publication outlines the monthly developments of Namibia's merchandise trade with the rest of the world during the period of February 2023. The excel tables used in the compilation of this publication can be downloaded at www.nsa.

org.na

During the month of February 2023, the country's trade balance remained in a deficit improving by 86.2 percent (month - on - month) and 84.9 percent (year - on - year) from N\$3.0 billion recorded in January 2023 and N\$2.8 billion observed in February 2022, respectively. Namibia's trade composition by partner showed that South Africa emerged as Namibia's largest market for exports as well as imports. The composition of the export basket for the month of February 2023 mainly comprised of minerals such as Precious stones (diamonds), Uranium, Nonmonetary gold and Copper blisters. Fish was the only non-mineral product within the top five products exported. On the other hand, the import basket mainly comprised of Petroleum oils, Motor cars for the transportation of persons, Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods, Civil engineering and contractors' equipment as well as Alcoholic beverages.

For the month of February 2023, re-exports decreased by 3.1 percent month-on-month and 25.0 percent year-on-year. The re-exports basket mainly comprised of Copper blisters, Precious stones (diamonds) and Petroleum oils.

Analysis for the commodity of the month focused on both the exportation and importation of Sheath contraceptives. For the month of February 2023, Namibia imported Sheath contraceptives worth N\$0.1 million wholly sourced from South Africa while no export of Sheath contraceptives was witnessed in the month under review.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders who made it possible for the production of this report. I would also like to urge our Traders and Clearing Agents to continue providing all the required information when declaring their goods as this information is vital in the production of trade statistics. In the same vein, I would like to urge our users of statistical information to send to us any comments that may enhance the quality of this report at info@nsa.org.na

ALEX SHIMUAFENI STATISTICIAN GENERAL & CEO

SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Revisions for January 2022

International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), like many published statistics, are subject for revisions as new information becomes available. Thus, the trade statistics is revised monthly as additional information becomes available from the data source.

Table 1: Revisions (N\$ m), January 2023 as reported in February 2023

FIOW	As reported in Jan_2023 Bulletin (N\$ m)	As reported in Feb_2023 (N\$ m)	Difference (N\$ m)	Difference in %
Total Export	7,017	7,799	781	11.1%
Total Imports	9,966	10,780	814	8.2%
Trade balance	-2,949	-2,982	-33	1.1%

Both trade flows were revised upwards with exports increasing by 11.1 percent while imports increased by 8.2 percent (Table 1). The trade deficit widened by 1.1 percent, from a deficit of N\$2.9 billion to N\$3.0 billion.

Table 2: Revisions (N\$ m) Exports

SITC/COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	As reported in Jan_2022 Bulletin (N\$ m)	As reported in Feb_2022(N\$ m)	Difference(N\$ m)
Copper ores and concentrates	-	658	658
Petroleum oils	362	505	143
Fish	1,087	1,225	138

The current revisions on exports were mainly attributed to the revised export value of 'Copper ores and concentrates', Petroleum oils and Fish.

Table 3: Revisions (N\$ m) Imports

IMPORTS				
SITC/COMMODITY DESCRIPTION		As reported in Feb_2023 (N\$ m)	Difference(N\$ m)	
Aircraft and associated equipment	13	274	261	
Petroleum oils	3,228	3,340	112	
Inorganic chemical elements	27	112	85	

On the demand side the revision was mainly reflected in 'Aircraft and associated equipment',

Petroleum oils and Inorganic chemical elements.

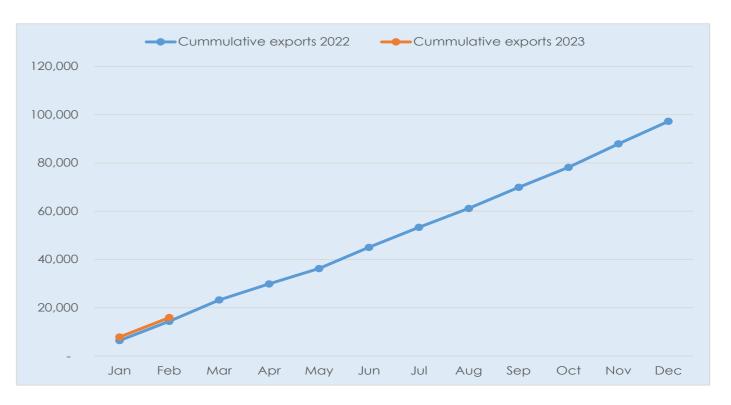
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During February 2023, Namibia's exports earnings increased by 3.8 percent from N\$7.8 billion recorded the previous month to N\$8.1 billion. The imports bill on the other hand for the month under review amounted to N\$8.5 billion representing a decrease of 21.1 percent from N\$10.8 billion recorded in January 2023 resulting in a trade deficit of N\$412 million in February 2023, a notable improvement of 86.2 percent when compared to a deficit of N\$3.0 billion recorded the previous month.

Cumulative trade values

Namibia's trade activities continue to increase in 2023 when compared to the same period of 2022 showing an increase of 10.9 percent.

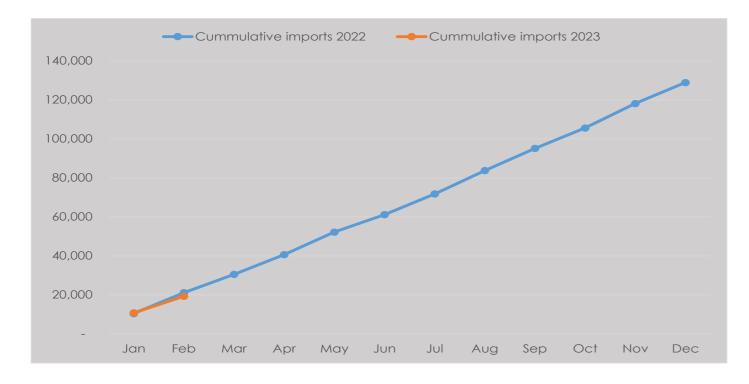
Chart 1: Cumulative exports value (N\$ m)



On the other hand, on the import side, cumulative trade decreased by 8.8 percent from N\$21.1 billion recorded in the same period of the previous year.

1

Chart 2: Cumulative imports value (N\$ m)



Trade highlights by category

Monthly change (up by 3.8%) in exports of goods was mainly reflected in:

- 1. Precious stones (diamonds) increased by N\$1.6 billion
- 2. Copper blisters increased by N\$675 million
- 3. Petroleum oils increased by N\$101 million
- 4. Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites increased by N\$32 million
- 5. Inorganic chemical elements increased by N\$31 million

Monthly change (down by 21.1%) in imports of goods was mainly reflected in:

- 1. Petroleum oils decreased by N\$1.8 billion
- 2. Paper and paperboard decreased by N\$209 million
- 3. Aircraft and associated equipment decreased by N\$172 million
- 4. Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods decreased by N\$140 million
- 5. Precious stones (diamonds) decreased by N\$130 million

The trade by industry is based on the International Standard of Industry Classification (ISIC), Rev.4.

The International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) consists of a coherent and consistent classification structure of economic activities based on a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, principles and classification rules. In February 2023, the Manufacturing industry maintained its position as the industry with the largest exported goods with a value of N\$4.4 billion, absorbing 54.4 percent of total exports, products from the industry decreased by a mere N\$26 million from the value recorded in January 2023. Products from the Mining and quarrying industry came in second position with exports valued at N\$3.3 billion in February 2023. Exported products from this industry, increased by N\$500 million when compared to the value recorded in January 2023.

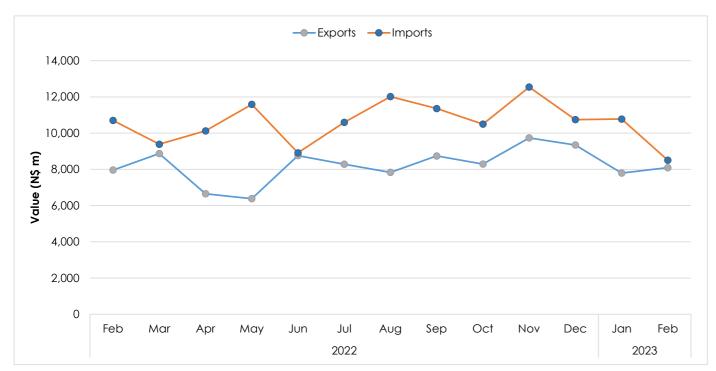
The demand side was largely dominated by products from the Manufacturing industry, with an import bill of N\$6.6 billion in February 2023, a decrease of 4.3 percent from N\$6.9 billion recorded the previous month. Mining and quarrying goods imports accounted for 19.0 percent of the total imports for the month of February 2023 amounting to N\$1.6 billion, a decrease of N\$1.9 billion from N\$3.6 billion recorded in January 2023.

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1.3 Total exports and total imports

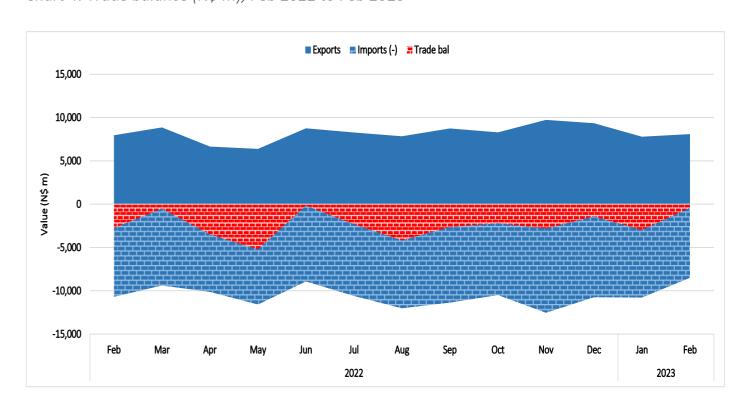
The exports¹ in February 2023 increased by 3.8 percent to N\$8.1 billion from N\$7.8 billion recorded in January 2023. In addition, when compared to N\$8.0 billion recorded in February 2022, exports increased by 1.6 percent (Chart 3). Imports stood at N\$8.5 billion, reflecting a decrease of 21.1 percent month-on-month and 20.5 percent on a yearly basis.

Chart 3: Total exports and imports (N\$ m), Feb 2022 to Feb 2023





The trade balance² compares the country's trade flow with the ROW in terms of export earnings and expenditure on imports³. During the month under review, Namibia recorded a trade deficit amounting to N\$412 million, reflecting an improved trade balance when compared to N\$3.0 billion recorded the preceding month. Reflecting on the trade deficit recorded in February 2022 of N\$2.7 billion, the current deficit improved tremendously by 84.9 percent, (Chart 4). Over the period of February 2022 to February 2023, Namibia recorded no trade surplus of which trade deficits averaged N\$2.4 billion. *Chart 4: Trade balance (N\$ m), Feb 2022 to Feb 2023*



¹Exports represents total exports derived from the sum of domestic exports and re-exports. ²Trade balance here is measured as the difference between the country's total exports and total imports. A positive balance is referred to as a surplus while a negative balance is referred to as a deficit.

³The value of imports here is denoted as negative to show an out flow.

1.5 Trade balance by partner

This sub-section analyses partner countries that Namibia traded with during the month of February 2023. Namibia witnessed trade surpluses with Botswana of N\$1.2 billion, Belgium (N\$759 million) and Zambia (N\$663 million). On the other hand, Namibia recorded a trade deficit against South Africa of (N\$2.5 billion), India (N\$477 million) and Japan (N\$141 million).

1.6 Trade balance by product

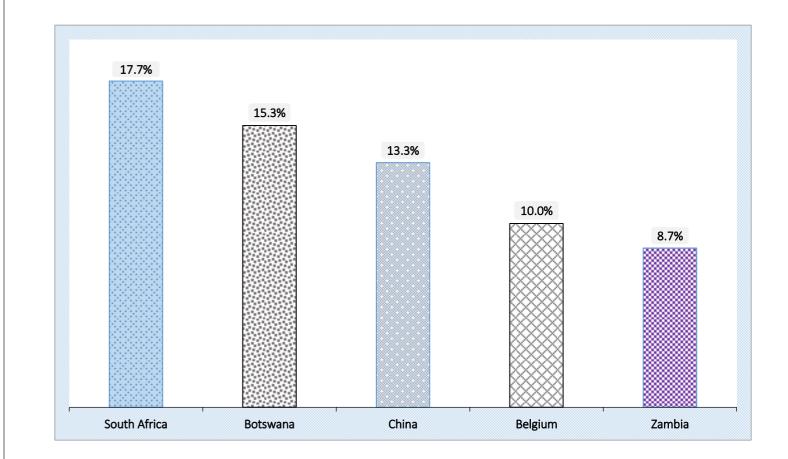
Namibia's trade improved when compared to the month of January 2023, however, certain goods contributed more to the monthly deficit with Petroleum oils recording an import bill of N\$1.5 billion and a deficit of N\$935 million, in second place was Motor cars for the transportation of person with an import bill of N\$413 million and a deficit of N\$403 million. On the other hand, Namibia exported Precious stones (diamonds) worth N\$2.0 billion whereby the import value of the commodity stood at N\$20 million, export value of Fish amounted to N\$1.2 billion, importing only N\$59 million worth of Fish.

SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE

2.1 Top five export markets

February 2023 saw Namibia's top five export markets accounting for 65.0 percent of total exports, South Africa maintained her first position as Namibia's export destination with a percentage share of 17.7 percent, while Botswana came second with a share of 15.3 percent and China in third position with a share of 13.3 percent. Belgium (10.0 percent) and Zambia (8.7 percent) came in fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

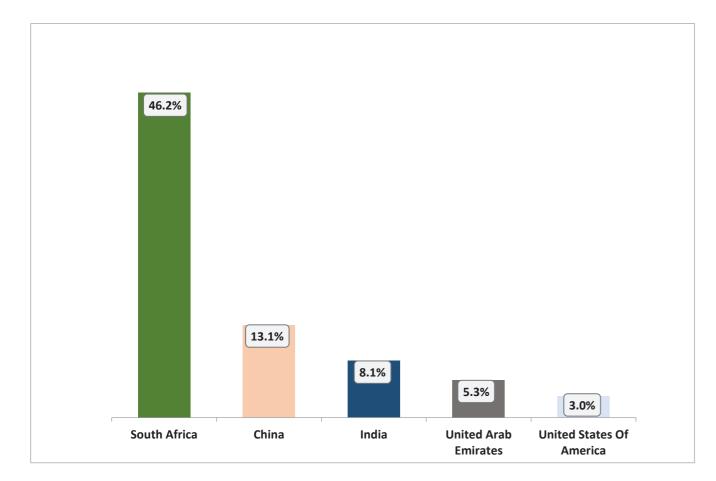
Chart 5: Top five export share by country for February 2023, Percent



2.2 Top five import markets

During the month under review the top five import markets for the country accounted for 75.8 percent, in first position was South Africa with a percentage share of 46.2 percent. In second position was China with a share of 13.1 percent followed by India in third position with a share of 8.1 percent. The United Arab Emirates and the United States of America took fourth and fifth positions with percentage shares of 5.3 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

Chart 6: Top five import share by country for February 2023, Percent



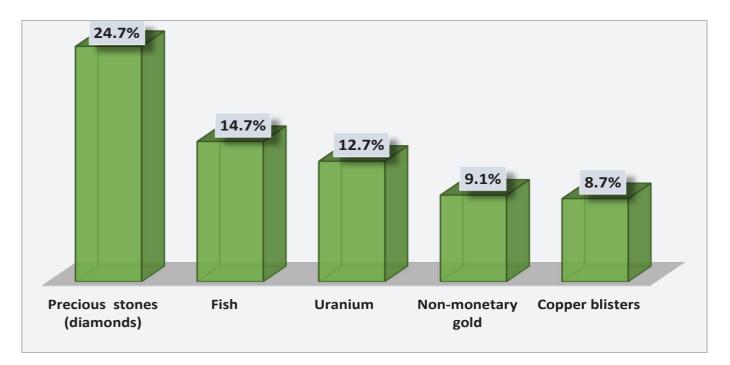
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS

This section outlines Namibia's trade flow based on the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (SITC rev 4). The SITC groups all commodities into headings suitable for economic analysis, in this section, the SITC is disaggregated to 3-digit level.

3.1 Top five export products

Precious stones (diamonds) were Namibia's largest export commodity during February 2023 (Chart 7), accounting for 24.7 percent of total exports mostly destined to Botswana, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates. Fish and Uranium came second and third in the list accounting for 14.7 percent and 12.7 percent of total exports, respectively. Fish was destined to Spain, Zambia and Mozambigue, while Uranium was wholly destined to China.

Chart 7: Top five products export shares for February 2023, Percent



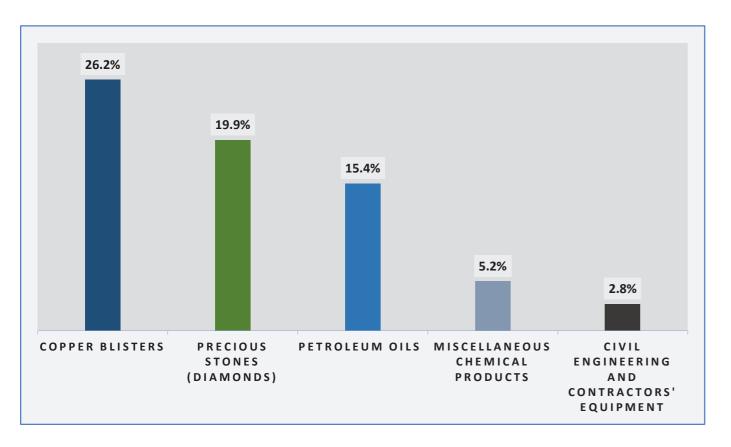
In the fourth position was Non-monetary gold accounting for 9.1 percent of total exports solely destined to South Africa. Finally, Copper blisters took the fifth position with a share of 8.7 percent of total exports and was destined to Belgium and the Netherlands. The top five export commodities jointly accounted for 70.0 percent of total exports.

3.2 Top five re-export products

Re-exports are commodities imported by residents who assume short-term ownership of the commodities. Accordingly, these commodities are exported without undergoing any significant industrial transformation. Even though there are no large transformation, re-exports are proficient of benefiting the intermediate country by rendering services such as sorting, re-packaging, storage, transport, and trade mediation services this including lack of commodities interest. This implies that the country's services sector greatly benefits from activities of re-exports. Additionally, re-exports serve as an indication of favorable corporate tax in the transitional country.

During the month of February 2023, goods amounting to N\$2.7 billion were re-exported, a decrease of 3.1 percent month-on-month and 25.0 percent year-on-year when compared to N\$2.8 billion recorded the previous month and N\$3.6 billion observed the same month in 2022.

Chart 8: Share of top five re-export products for February 2023, Percent

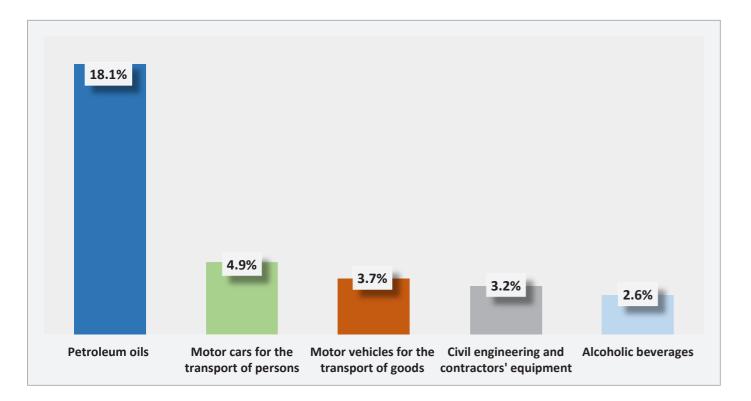


The top five commodities re-exported in February 2023 were Copper blisters with a share of 26.2 percent of the nation's re-exports of which was primarily destined to Belgium and the Netherlands. Precious stones (diamonds) followed in second place with a share of 19.9 percent of total re-exports mainly destined to the United States of America, Hong Kong and Belgium. Petroleum oils ranked third on the list contributing 15.4 percent which was mostly destined to Botswana. Lastly, Miscellaneous chemical products and Civil engineering and contractors' equipment took the fourth and the fifth positions with respective shares of 5.2 percent and 2.8 percent of all commodities re-exported. Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo were the main consumers of Miscellaneous chemical products while Civil engineering equipment were mainly exported to South Africa and Zambia (Chart 8).

3.3 Top five import products

The top five commodities imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 32.6 percent of total imports. Petroleum oils topped the list of imported goods for the month of February 2023, with a share of 18.1 percent of the nation's total import value. In second position was Motor cars for the transportation of persons with a share of 4.9 percent, while Motor vehicles for the transport of goods and Civil engineering and contractors' equipment were ranked third and fourth in the list accounting for 3.7 percent and 3.2 percent of all commodities imported, respectively. Finally, Alcoholic beverages occupied the fifth position after contributing 2.6 percent to the total imports (Chart 9).

Chart 9: Share of Top Five Import products for January2023, Percent



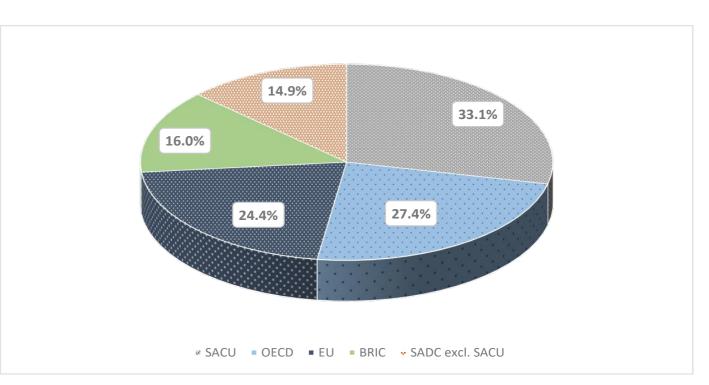
Petroleum oils were mostly sourced from India, the United Arab Emirates and Italy. while Motor cars for the transportation of persons were mainly sourced from China, South Africa and Japan. Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods and Civil engineering and contractors' equipment were mostly imported from South Africa and China. Lastly, Alcoholic beverages were mainly imported from South Africa and the UK.

SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

SACU was the most dominant export destination for Namibia's goods during the month under review with a 33.1 percentage share of total exports (Chart 10). OECD and the EU followed in the second and third positions with 27.4 percent and 24.4 percent of Namibia's total exports, respectively. BRIC and SADC excl. SACU markets took the fourth and fifth positions absorbing 16.0 percent and 14.9 percent of Namibia's total exports.

Chart 10: Share of export for the top five economic regions, February 2023, Percent



Exports to SACU comprised mainly of Precious stones (diamonds), Non-monetary gold and Petroleum oils whereas Copper blisters, Fish and Precious stones (diamonds) were destined to the OECD and EU region. The export basket to BRIC mostly comprised of Uranium, Precious stones(diamonds) and 'Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates', while the basket to the SADC excl. SACU region mainly consisted of Fish and Miscellaneous chemical products.

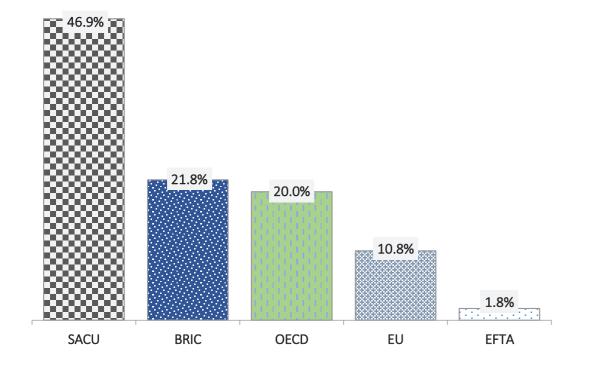


4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

During the month of February 2023, SACU took the first position as the largest source of imports for Namibia, contributing 46.9 percent and supplied Namibia mainly with Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods, Alcoholic beverages and 'Sugar, molasses and honey'. BRIC was in second position with a share of 21.8 percent of all goods imported providing the country mostly with Petroleum oils, Motor cars for the transportation of persons and 'Arms and ammunition'.

The OECD and EU regions ranked in the third and fourth positions accounting for 20.0 percent and 10.8 percent, respectively. The OECD supplied Namibia mostly with Petroleum oils and Rubber tyres while EU with Petroleum oils and Wheat.

Chart 11: Share of import for the top five economic regions, February 2023, Percent



Finally, EFTA occupied the fifth position and supplied Namibia with mainly Petroleum oils and contributing 1.8 percent of total imports.

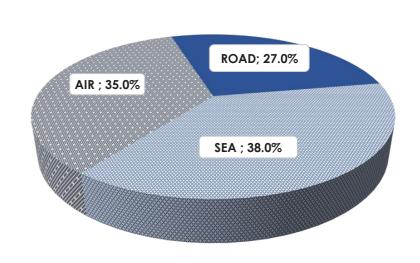
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

5.1 Export by mode of transport

During the month of February 2023, a total of N\$3.1 billion, representing a 38.0 percent share of total exports left the country by Sea (Chart 12). This translates into a decrease of 18.3 percent when compared to N\$3.8 billion recorded in January 2023. Furthermore, a decrease of 30.5 percent was noted when compared to N\$4.4 billion recorded in February 2022. The basket of exports via Sea comprised mainly of Uranium, Fish and Copper blisters.

Goods exported via Air accounted for 35.0 percent of total exports, of which its export basket was mainly made up of Precious stones (diamonds), Non-monetary gold and Printed matter. Lastly, Road transportation accounted for 27.0 percent and Petroleum oils, Fish and Miscellaneous chemical products were the most exported commodities via the respective mode of transport.

Chart 12: Share of export by mode of transport for February 2023, Percent



In terms of volume, a total of 284 043 tons of goods left the country showing an increase of 27.0 percent and a decrease of 24.8 percent when compared to the month of January 2023 and February the previous year.

About 144 895 tons left the country by Sea in the month of February 2023, indicating an increase of 55.3 percent when compared to 93 325 tons recorded in the preceding month and a decrease of 43.5 percent when compared to 256 661 tons recorded the same month in 2022.



The month of February 2023 recorded 138 874 tons of goods having left the country by Road compared to 130 076 tons registered in January 2023. This represents an increase of 6.8 percent month-on-month and 14.9 percent on an annual basis when compared to the corresponding month of 2022.

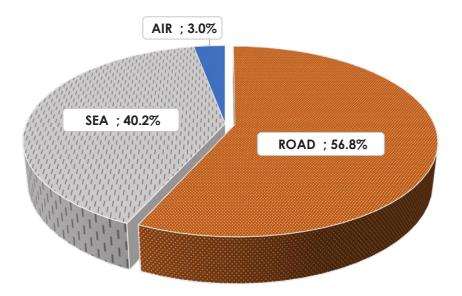
Finally, 247 tons of goods were exported via Air during the month under review. This is an increase of 9.5 percent and 61.7 percent when compared to the tons recorded in January 2023 and February 2022, respectively.

5.2 Import by mode of transport

Road transportation was the common mode of transport used for imports during the month of February 2023. Imports by Road were valued at N\$4.8 billion, representing 56.8 percent of all goods imported into the country (Chart 13). Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods; Alcoholic beverages and Civil engineering and contractors' equipment were the most imported commodities via Road.

Sea transport followed in second place, accounting for 40.2 percent of all goods imported into the country and its basket comprised mainly of Petroleum oils, Motor cars for the transportation of persons; and 'Sugars, molasses and honey'. Finally, 3.0 percent of goods reached Namibia by Air where Telecommunication equipment, 'Aircraft and associated equipment'; and 'Instruments for medical purposes' were the main products imported via the respective mode of transport.

Chart 13: Share of import by mode of transport for February 2023, Percent



With respect to volume, on the demand side, goods imported into the country totaled to 298 984 tons during the month under review which is a decrease of 32.3 percent when compared to the previous month and a decline of 5.7 percent from 317 010 recorded in February 2022. About 152 402 tons of goods entered the country by Sea. This is a decrease of 43.9 percent from the tons of products recorded the previous month and 79.6 percent increase from 84 868 tons recorded in February 2022. On the other hand, 146 443 tons of goods arrived in Namibia by Road compared to 170 027 tons recorded in January 2023. Translating into a decrease of 36.8 percent when compared to the tons of goods imported in February the previous year. Finally, 123 tons of goods arrived in the country by Air, representing a decrease of 39.3 percent and 8.2 percent when compared to the tons of products imported in the previous month and the same month of 2022, respectively.

SECTION 6: TRADE BY MAIN BORDER POST/OFFICE (TOP 10)

This section outlines trade based on the main border posts for both trade flows by their respective customs offices for the month of February 2023.

Figure1: Exports by main border post (N\$ m), February 2023

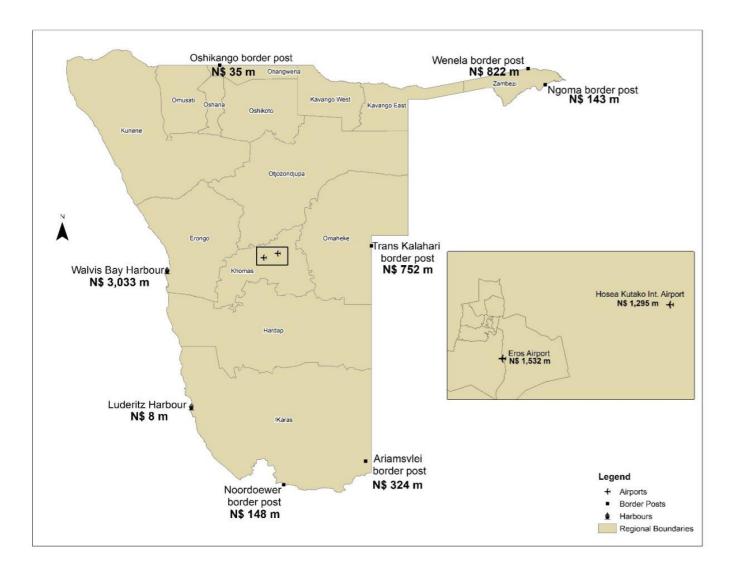
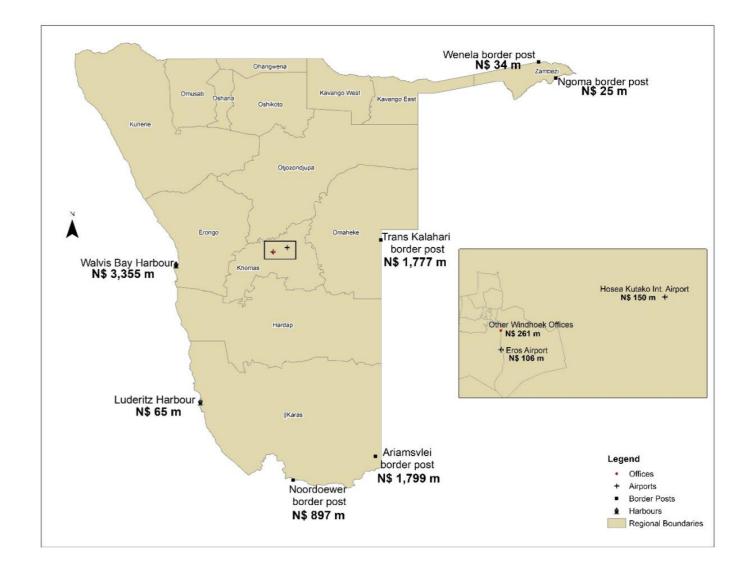


Figure 2: Imports by main border post (N\$ m), February 2023



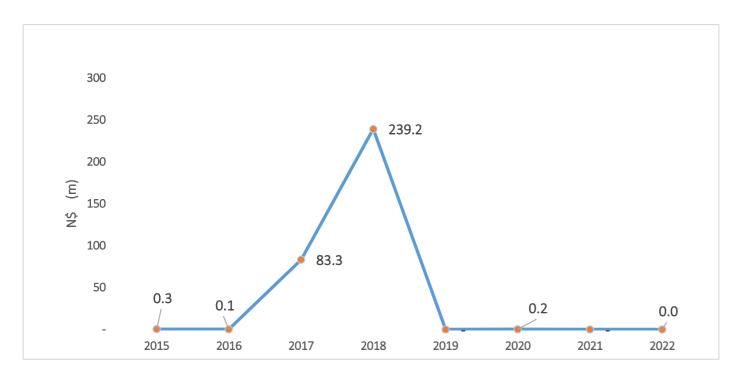
SECTION 7: AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. It is a high ambition trade agreement, with a comprehensive scope that includes critical areas of Africa's economy, such as digital trade and investment protection, amongst other areas.

The specific objective of the AfCFTA is to progressively eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and liberalize trade in services; cooperate on investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy.

For the month under review, the report looks at Namibia's trade with Liberia. Namibia exported goods to a value of N\$95.7 million during the period 2015 to 2022 while on the demand side, Namibia imported goods amounting to N\$323.1 million over the same period (Chart 14).

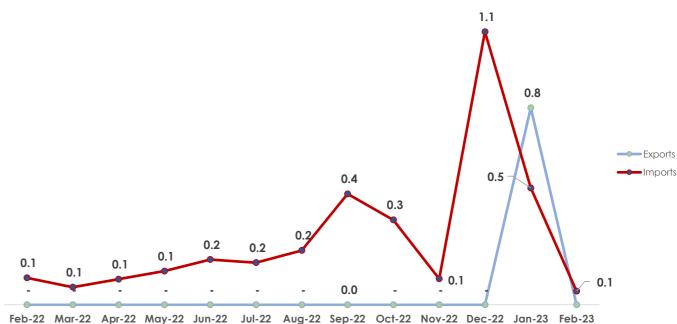
Chart 14: AfCFTA; Imports from Liberia



Namibia exported goods worth N\$27, 004 in February 2023 while on the demand side, Namibia imported goods at a mere value of N\$552. The export basket to Liberia comprised of solely 'Works' of art, collectors' pieces and antiques'.

SECTION 8: COMMODITY OF THE MONTH - SHEATH CONTRACEPTIVES

This section provides an insight into the importation and exportation of Sheath contraceptives over the period of February 2022 to February 2023. Chart 15: Imports and Exports of Sheath contraceptives (N\$ m)



During the month of February 2023, Namibia imported Sheath contraceptives valued at N\$0.1 million which was all sourced from South Africa (Chart 15). Over the entire period (February 2022 to February 2023), the import value of Sheath contraceptives monthly averaged at N\$0.3 million with the largest value of N\$1.1 million recorded in December 2022 and the lowest value of N\$ 0.1 million recorded in February 2023.

No export of Sheath contraceptives took place in February 2023.

Conclusion

In February 2023, Namibia's exports stood at N\$8.1 billion and imports at N8.5 billion, resulting in the country's trade deficit of N\$412 million.

During February 2023, exports increased by 3.8 percent from its value of N\$7.8 billion recorded in January 2023. Additionally, exports increased by 1.6 percent from N\$8.0 billion registered in February 2022. The import value decreased by 21.1 percent when compared to the value recorded in January 2023 and 20.5 percent when compared to its value of N\$10.7 billion recorded in February 2022.

South Africa emerged as the country's largest export destination, with a share of 17.7 percent of all goods exported followed by Botswana with a share of 15.3 percent. Furthermore, China, Belgium, and Zambia formed part of Namibia's top five export markets. The demand side saw South Africa maintaining her first position as the country's largest source of imports, accounting for 46.2 percent of total imports into Namibia followed by China in the second position with 13.1 percent of the market share. India, the UAE and USA also formed part of Namibia's top five import markets.

The analysis of exports by commodities revealed that Precious stones (diamonds) had the largest share of 24.7 percent in Namibia's total exports ahead of Fish with 14.7 percent and Uranium with a share of 12.7 percent. Non-monetary Gold accounted for 9.1 percent in fourth and in fifth position was Copper blisters accounting for 8.7 percent. In terms of imports, Petroleum oils was the highest valued commodity with a share of 18.1 percent of total imports, followed by Motor cars for the transportation of persons with a share of 4.9 percent and Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods came third with a share of 3.7 percent. Furthermore, Civil engineering and contractors' equipment accounted for 3.2 percent while Alcoholic beverages contributed 2.6 percent of Namibia's total imports.

In terms of regional composition, SACU emerged as the largest export market during the month of February 2023, contributing 33.1 percent of total exports. OECD ranked second with a market share of 27.4 percent while EU and the BRIC accounted for 24.4 percent and 16.0 percent, respectively. The SADC excl. SACU market absorbed 14.9 percent of Namibia's total exports. Subsequently, SACU emerged as the largest source of Namibia's imports with a share of 46.9 percent of the total import bill followed by the BRIC market with contributions of 21.8 percent while OECD came third in the list with a percentage share of 20.0 percent. The EU and EFTA markets had a share of 10.8 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

Namibia's trade by mode of transport revealed that in February 2023, vast goods were exported via Sea, accounting for 38.0 percent of total exports, followed by Air transport with 35.0 percent and Road transport with 27.0 percent. From the demand side, Road transport was the most frequent mode of transport accounting for 56.8 percent of total imports followed by Sea with 40.2 percent and Air with 3.0 percent.

On the African Continental Free Trade Area, the focus country was Liberia for the month under review, and Namibia was the net exporter.

Finally, an analysis on the importation and exportation of Sheath contraceptives as the commodity of the month revealed that in February 2023, Namibia imported Sheath contraceptives from South Africa valued at N\$0.1 million. Exports of the commodity on average, recorded an amount of N\$0.1 million over the period Feb 2022 – Feb 2023.

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