


Windhoek – 28 April 2016

## Release of the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey 2015 report

The Namibian Statistics Agency conducted Informal Cross Border Trade Survey (ICBTS) in September 2015. This is the second ICBTS with the first one conducted November 2014. The Namibia Statistics Agency is therefore delighted to release the ICBTS report for the year 2015.

1. This report complements the formal trade that is normally recorded by the Ministry of Finance, Customs to be specific, which do not necessarily records the goods below customs threshold.
2. The informal trade that occurred at the border posts that were included in this survey amounted to a total value of 13.4 million which is a 1.7 percentage of the formal trade.
3. During the 2015 ICBTS, it is pleasant to note that Namibia registered a trade surplus to the tune of N\$10.6 million with regards to the informal trade mainly due to a significant value in exports via Oshikango border post. This means that the Namibian businesses are also supported by the inhabitants of the neighboring companies. That is, the 'market size' of the local shop owners are expanded in a way because most of the time when people put up shop they normally, and rightfully so, only have the local market in consideration.
4. Informal exports were estimated at N\$12 million, representing a 2 percent decline from N\$12.3 million recorded in 2014 while the informal imports increased drastically with a humongous 535 percent from N\$ 217 000 in 2014 to N\$1.4 million.

5. This N\$ 1.4 million import of 2015 (during the survey period) was driven by Alcoholic beverages (N\$294 000), vegetables (N\$183 000), maize and mahangu meal (N\$101 000); clothing and jewelry (N\$98 000); non-alcoholic beverages (N\$69 000), rice and pasta (N\$60 000); electronics (N\$50 000) and electrical appliances (N\$45 000).
6. Informal exports through all surveyed border posts increased except for Oshikango which registered a 10 percent decrease in 2015. However, Angola maintained its position as the main export destination for Namibia. The leading informal export commodities include fish (N\$2.2 million), building materials (N\$713 000), toiletries (N\$671 000), vehicle parts and bicycles (N\$624 000); and clothing and jewelry (N\$610 000) in that respective order.
7. The major exit border post for informal exports were Oshikango (N\$8.4 million), Wenela (N\$1.8 million) and Omahenene (N\$1.1 million) with a combined share of 95 percent of the total exports. Oshikango was the leading entry point for imports in 2015 accounting for a share of 38 percent of the total informal import bill.
8. The way forward on the ICBTS: it is the intension of the NSA to expand this survey by expanding the hours spent at the border posts where the surveys are to be undertaken as well as by including more border posts. However, these initiatives also have financial implications and we are also working on ways how we could become more efficient in the quest for these data collections.



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