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RELEASE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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The NSA is pleased to release the following economic statistics to the nation:

- Government Wage Index for the fourth quarter of 2021;
- Agriculture Statistical Bulletin for the fourth quarter of 2021;
- Annual Merchandise Trade Statistics for 2021;
- Preliminary National Accounts 2021; and
- Census of Business Establishment 2019/2021.

The NSA is delighted to be releasing these statistics in Erongo region as we continue to strive to make statistical information available and accessible for regional development.

A. GOVERNMENT WAGE INDEX FOR Q4 OF 2021

1. The Government Wage Index measures the level of prices that government employees charge in exchange for labor services they provide.
2. During the fourth quarter of 2021, the Government Wage Index rose by 1.3 percent. The growth in the index is ascribed to the increase in index of all government sectors.
3. The central government is estimated to have employed 108,875 official as at 31st December 2021. Out of which 61.8 percent of employees were from Public Administration, followed employees from Education sector with 28.0 percent and 10.2 percent of employees from the Health sector.

4. Government wage bill for the fourth quarter of 2021 expanded and stood at N\$6.3 billion relative to N\$6.2 billion registered in the corresponding quarter of 2020.

B. AGRICULTURE STATISTICAL BULLETIN FOR Q4 OF 2021

5. 'Agriculture, fishing and forestry' sector deteriorated in fourth quarter of 2021, by recording a marginal decline of 0.2 percent in real value added compared to a growth of 4.4 percent posted in the same period of 2020. The decline in the sector emanates from Livestock and Fishing subsector that recorded a reduction of -2.2 percent and -9.3 percent, respectively.
6. 'Agriculture, fishing and forestry' sector share to GDP remained somewhat stagnant from 8.8 percent noted in quarter four of 2020 to 8.9 percent recorded for quarter four of 2021.
7. Looking at international trade, Namibia's export earnings from commodities of 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector for the fourth quarter of 2021 amounted to N\$3.7 billion whereas the import bill stood at N\$1.2 billion.
8. The Fisheries products accounted for the highest foreign earnings at N\$2.1 billion followed by the Agriculture commodities that brought income of N\$1.3 billion.
9. In terms of import, Agriculture commodities topped the list with an import bill of N\$794.1 million during the fourth quarter of 2021.
10. The food price inflation observed continue to be increasing at a faster pace than other commodities in the CPI basket.

C. ANNUAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS FOR 2021

11. The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), like many published statistics, are subject for revisions as new information becomes available. Thus, the trade statistics published are subject for revision on a monthly basis as additional information becomes available.
12. The NSA would like to inform our Stakeholders and the general public that amendments have been made to the scope of merchandise trade statistics as outlined in the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) 2010 manual. The amendments are as a result of one-year research and consultation with United Nations Department of Statistics (UNSD), NamRA and Clearing Agents.
13. The transactions that were reviewed are related to copper ores and blister; and manganese of which are temporary imported into Namibia for warehousing or storage purpose only, further transactions related to vessels were also reviewed that are temporary imported. All these commodities are subsequently, re-exported in the same state to the rest of the world. These transactions formed part of Namibia trade statistics since 2016 but now have been excluded in line with the IMTS guidelines as these specific transactions do not add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of Namibia by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory.
14. In 2021, Namibia exports to the rest of the world amounted to N\$68.3 billion compared to N\$63.7 billion in 2020. While the total import bill amounted to N\$97.6 billion from N\$81.3 billion registered a year ago. Thus Namibia recorded a trade deficit of N\$29.3 billion in 2021.

15. Pearls and precious stones (diamonds) dominated the export basket in 2021 accounting for 19.4 percent of the total export followed by uranium (15.2%), fish (14.8%), non-monetary gold (9.5%) and copper blisters (7.9%)
16. While on the demand side, petroleum oils topped the list of products that Namibia sourced from the rest of the world in 2021 accounting for 12.7 percent of the total import followed by copper ores and concentrates (5.4%); motor vehicles for transport of goods (3.1%), pearls and precious stones(diamonds) (2.8%) and vessels (2.4%).
17. The main export destinations for Namibia's products in 2021 were South Africa accounting for 20.1 percent of export followed by China (17.9%), Botswana (12.6%), Zambia (7.3%), and Spain (6.3%).
18. Namibia sourced 49.1 percent of her products from South Africa in 2021 followed by China (7%), India (4.7%), Peru (3.7%) and USA (2.6%).
19. In 2021, Namibia trade dependence index (a measure of the importance of international trade in the overall economy) stood at 45.9 percent, indicating that Namibia's economy has been largely dependent on international trade.
20. While the import penetration rate (the degree to which domestic demand is satisfied by imports) revealed that imports satisfied 46.4 percent of the aggregate demand in Namibia in 2021.

D. PRELIMINARY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2021

21. The size of the economy as measured by nominal GDP stood at N\$ 180.8 billion relative to the N\$ 173.9 billion registered in 2020, expanding by N\$7.0 billion. However, gross value added remains below pre-pandemic levels of N\$181.1 billion recorded in 2018 and N\$181.2 billion in 2019.
22. Following the relaxation of COVID-19 measures imposed in 2020 due to the receding pandemic, economic activities started to pick up in 2021. In real terms, the economy rebounded to a positive growth rate for the first time in two years, growing by 2.4 percent in 2021 compared to a contraction of 7.9 percent recorded in 2020 during the height of COVID-19 pandemic.
23. The improved performance of the economy was observed in the Primary industry mainly in the 'Mining and quarrying' sector which posted a growth rate of 13.6 percent in real value added during the period under review.
24. Furthermore, expanded economic activities in the Tertiary industries were driven by an increase in demand for goods and services resulting in improved performances in the 'Wholesale and retail trade' sector. The sector posted a positive performance of 6.1 percent following consistent contractions for the last four years.
25. Similar observation is evident in the 'Transport' sector, which jumped from a contraction of 22.7 percent witnessed in 2020 to a positive growth rate of 2.8 percent during the period under review.
26. Demand for hospitality services started to pick up in 2021 resulting in 'Hotels and Restaurants' sector to register a growth of 10.4 percent during the period under review.

27. Overall positive performance in Tertiary industries were observed in almost all sectors except for 'Financial and insurance' and 'Administrative and support' services activities. However, both sectors are showing signs of improvement.

E. CENSUS OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT 2019/2021

1. Last but not least, the Namibia Statistics Agency is launching the first of its kind, the Census of Business Establishment 2019/21 report. The Census is a large scale statistical undertaking which collected basic information from all establishments across all regions.
2. The main objectives of the Establishment Census was to provide detailed structural and demographic characteristics of establishments. The census of Establishments was conducted from October 2019 to April 2021. It covered all business establishments countrywide with a fixed location, irrespective of the number of employees except for open market and communal farming activities. In addition, establishments that were attached to household structures were also excluded.
3. A total of 61,502 establishments were contacted during the enumeration period of the census. Establishments were mostly concentrated in Omusati region (18.0%), Ohangwena region (15.6%) and Khomas region (15.0%). Omaheke region recorded the least number accounting for 2.0 percent of the total establishments. More than half of the establishment are situated in rural areas (56.9%).

4. Based on the Micro, Small Medium Enterprises classification of the size of establishments which is based on the number of employees, the census revealed that the majority of establishments are categorized as micro establishments of about 55,804 (90.7%), followed by small establishments at 3,918 (6.4%) and medium establishments at 1,435 (2.3%). Only 345 establishments accounting for 0.6 percent are considered to be large.
5. Furthermore, the census revealed that, 63.1 percent of establishments (38,797) were sole proprietors while 19.9 percent (12,210) were close cooperation. Establishments with ownership status of sole proprietors were mainly owned by male with a share of 53 percent. Nearly 50 percent of establishment were in 'Accommodation and food service activities' sector while 'Wholesale and retail trade sector accounted 25.2 percent of total establishments.
6. During the census period, establishments reported to have 348,822 employees. Most of employees were recruited in 'Wholesale and retail trade' (66,770 employees) and 'Accommodation and food service activities' (54,840 employees) sectors. In relation to nationality, the census revealed that 98.0 percent of the employees were Namibians while 2.0 percent were Non-Namibians. Non-Namibians employees were prominent in Education and 'Wholesale and retail trade' sectors.

F. CONCLUSION

Let me take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders who made it possible for the production of these publications. The cooperation and support of our stakeholders that provides the relevant data used in compilation of statistics are very much appreciated and goes a long way to assist with policy interventions and investment decisions for both private and public sectors.

The NSA welcomes views and comments from the users of this publication, to help us improve the quality of national account estimates in Namibia. In order to access the publications released today, please visit our website (www.nsa.org.na).

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About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

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