

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

RELEASE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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1. As customary, it is a duty and honour for the NSA to release the economic statistics to the nation.
2. Today we are releasing statistical information for quarter one of 2021 on Government Wage Index; Producer Price Index; Agriculture Bulletin and Quarterly GDP.

GOVERNMENT WAGE INDEX THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021

3. The Government Wage Index measures the level of prices that government employees charge in exchange for their labour services.
4. During the period under review, the Government Wage Index posted a marginal increase of 0.1 percent. The increase in the index mainly emanates from the education sector.

5. The Education index surged with a moderate growth of 1.6 percent compared to a decline of 0.6 percent registered in the corresponding quarter of 2020. The improved performance is attributed to the increased number of teachers within the public education sector.
6. Public administration index remained subdued, recording a decline of 0.6 percent during the first quarter of 2021 relative to a strong growth of 1.3 percent recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2020. The weak performance is ascribed to the reduction in the number of employees compensated within the central government.
7. Contrary, the Health index fell by 0.9 percent during the first quarter of 2021. In spite of the augmented number of employees observed in the health sector, the decline in the index was mainly attributed to reductions in the average wages of senior medical personnel.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021

8. The Producer Price Index (PPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices which domestic producers received for their products. They exclude any taxes, transport and trade margins that the purchaser may have to pay.
9. The inflation for Mining of uranium, and thorium ores for the first quarter of 2021 registered a decline of 29.2 percent compared to an increase of 54.8 percent recorded during the same period of the preceding year.

10. The inflation for Mining of other non-ferrous metal ores declined by 29.2 percent from 83.7 basis points recorded during the same period of the preceding year.
11. The inflation for other mining and quarrying rose by 0.3 percent as opposed to an increase of 18.2 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2020.
12. The inflation for processing and preserving of meat for this category grew by 38.8 percent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 5.4 percent recorded in the same period of 2020.
13. The inflation rate for manufacturing of malt liquors and malt rose by 4.2 percent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 0.1 percent recorded in the same quarter of 2020.
14. The inflation for non-alcoholic beverages grew by 5.3 percent during the period under review compared to 1.3 percent obtained during the same quarter of 2020.
15. The annual inflation for manufacture of cement, lime and plaster increased by 0.8 percent during the period under review compared to that of 0.0 percent recorded in the corresponding period of last year.
16. The inflation rate for the manufacturing of basic precious metals and other non-ferrous metals increased by 33.6 percent in the quarter under review compared to a decline 15.3 percent recorded during the same period of last year.

17.The annual inflation rate for local electric power generation, transmission and distribution declined by 7.5 percent in the first quarter of 2021 as oppose to a decline of 23.9 percent recorded in first quarter of 2020.

18.The annual inflation for water collection, treatment and supply was stagnant during the first quarter of 2021 compared to an increase of 6.1 percent registered during the same period of last year.

AGRICULTURE STATISTICAL BULLETIN

19.In line with the Global Strategy of the United Nations to improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010, the NSA has developed a quarterly Agriculture Statistical Bulletin using administrative data.

20.The Quarterly Agriculture Statistical Bulletin presents an overview of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery sector in Namibia. The objective of the bulletin is to illustrate the short term performance of the sectors and explore their international merchandise trade pattern, auction prices and food inflation rate development on a quarterly basis. The statistical bulletin will assist users, analysts and researchers in planning and decision making as well as to carry out an in depth-analysis and decision making in the area of agriculture.

21.Agricultural activities for the quarter under review experienced massive challenges such as the locust outbreak as well as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) which

destroyed the grazing land and restricted animal movements for marketing.

22. The size of the sector for the first quarter of 2021 (Value Added) in nominal terms expanded to N\$3.8 billion from N\$3 billion registered in the corresponding quarter of 2020. The contribution of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector to GDP in the first quarter of 2021 was 8.1 percent an expansion from a share of 6.1 percent recorded in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.

23. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector's trade deficit widened over the year from N\$197.2 million recorded in the first quarter of 2020 to N\$231.5 million registered in the quarter under review. Thus, an indication of the country increased dependence on imports during the quarter under review.

GDP FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021

24. The domestic economy continued to contract since the first quarter of 2020, recording a contraction of 6.5 percent during the first quarter of 2021 compared to a decline of 2.5 percent recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2020.

25. The Real GDP for the quarter stood at N\$ 31.9 billion compared to 34.2 billion in 1Q20. This is a decline by N\$2.2 billion in Real GDP.

26. The poor performance that was registered in the quarter under review was observed across all the major sectors of the economy. Leading the pack, was the construction sector that dropped by 23.9 percent, followed by the

manufacturing sector registering a contraction of 22.3 percent, in real value added. Furthermore, the following sectors all posted declines: mining and quarrying (-19.0%), financial services activities (-13.8%), 'hotels and restaurants' (-12.0%), 'transport and storage' (-8.7%) and wholesale and retail sector (-8.2%).

27. In as much as the Construction sector posted the deepest contraction of 23.9 percent, the sector only accounted for a reduction of 0.5 percentage points to the GDP growth rate of -6.5 percent. The largest negative contributor to the GDP during the period under review was the Manufacturing sector that was responsible for -2.5 percentage points to the overall GDP decline.

28. However, a positive performance was observed in the 'Information and communication' sector as demand for data services and internet connectivity continues to steadily grow as Covid-19 pandemic continues unabated. The sector registered a strong growth of 17.6 percent in real value added.

29. The increase in covid-19 cases reported, resulted in high demand for health workers, resulting in improved performance for the health sector, registering a 12.8 percent growth in value added. The 'Electricity and water' sectors posted positive performance of 7.7 percent in real value added following good rainfalls during the period under review.

CONCLUSION

30. I would also like to emphasize the importance of accurate and timely delivery of data from our stakeholders in private and public sectors to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), on which compilation of these statistics depends.

31. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all the data providers; both institutions and individuals, without whose assistance these publication would not have been possible especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Further I would like to request all our esteemed stakeholders to continue supporting and providing NSA with the required data so that collectively we can make the production of accurate, reliable and timely statistics a resounding success.

32. To the media, thanks for sharing what the Agency does with the nation, highly appreciated.

I thank you!

To access the publications released today and others please visit our website at www.nsa.org.na or download our statistical app onto your mobile phone to have all statistics at your fingertips.

I thank you



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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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