

26 March 2020

For immediate release

Windhoek

Preliminary National Accounts 2019

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency is pleased to release the 2019 Preliminary National Accounts. The report reflects on the preliminary assessment of the domestic economy performance in 2019.
2. The domestic economy continues to be suppressed in 2019, contracting by 1.1 percent compared to an increase of 0.7 percent registered in 2018. In nominal terms, the GDP expanded slightly by 0.4 percent to reach N\$178,677 million in 2019 from N\$178,052 million in 2018.
3. The contraction in GDP was mainly due to the Primary industries that declined by 7.8 percent in 2019 compared to an increase of 8.5 percent in 2018. On the other hand, Tertiary Industries posted a positive growth of 0.6 percent in 2019 compared to a decline of 1.4 in 2018. While, the growth in the Secondary industries remained constant at 0.9 percent during the period under review.
4. The subdued performance in the Primary industries was witnessed across the sectors with the 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector posting a decline of 2.6 percent and 'Mining and quarrying' sector dropping by 11.1 percent in real value added.
5. The downturn in the economic activities for 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' is attributed to the devastating drought which negatively affected hectares planted across the major crops while at the same time reducing the livestock numbers due to drought related deaths. However, positive performance is observed in the Fishing and fish processing on board subsector posting 6.1 percent in the period under review.
6. The Mining and quarrying sector's economic activities stumbled across all the subsectors except for 'Other mining and quarrying' which registered a positive growth of 2.5 percent in real value added. The 'Diamond' and 'Uranium' mining subsectors both contracted in real value added by 17.7 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively. The poor performance in the 'Diamond mining' subsector is due to a vessel maintenance and repair coupled with a closure of on-shore mine whereas the 'Uranium' subsector was facing headwinds of weak spot prices leading to lower production while one of the mine was placed under care and maintenance.

7. The recovery in the Tertiary industries is owed to the upturn in the economic activities of following sectors: 'Financial and insurance services' (6.0 percent), 'Public administration and defence' (2.2 percent), 'Education' (2.7 percent) and 'Information and Communication' (8.6 percent). Overall, the rest of the other services sectors remain subdued however, showing signs of improvement when compared to the preceding year.
8. In 2019, the ratio of savings and investment to GDP stood at 8.9 percent and 16.2 percent, respectively.
9. The final consumption expenditure stood at N\$ 177,087 million in 2019 composed of private consumption at N\$ 130,787 million and government consumption at N\$ 46,300 million.
10. In conclusion, the domestic economy remained suppressed posting a contraction of 1.1 percent in real terms. The poor performance is attributable to the Primary industries. However, Tertiary industries recovered to record a positive growth whilst the Secondary industries registered a constant growth relative to the preceding year.
11. Finally, let me thank our data providers and stakeholders who made it possible for the production of this publication. It is my hope that the information contained in the 2019 Preliminary National Accounts would go a long way in guiding our policy makers, researchers and business people in evidence based decision making.

I thank you



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