Mission Statement

“Leveraging on partnerships and innovative technologies, to produce and disseminate relevant, quality, timely statistics and spatial data that are fit-for-purpose in accordance with international standards and best practice”

Vision Statement

“Be a high performance institution in quality statistics delivery”

Core Values

- Integrity
- Excellent Performance
- Accuracy
- Team Work
- Accountability
- Transparency
Preface

International merchandise trade plays a crucial role in economic development as it binds 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 production, consumption, employment, income 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 the various publications. This publication outlines the monthly developments of Namibia's trade in merchandise with the rest of the world during the period of June 2020.

The month of June 2020 saw Namibia's total merchandise trade totaling N$14.1 billion, which was 12.2 percent lower than N$16.1 billion recorded in May 2020 and lower by 8.9 percent when compared to its level of N$15.5 billion recorded in June 2019. The country recorded a trade surplus of N$324 million compared to deficits of N$1.1 billion and N$1.6 billion recorded in May 2020 and June 2019.

Namibia's trade composition by partner was skewed towards a few countries. China emerged as Namibia's largest export market while South Africa reclaimed its position as the number one source of imports for Namibia. The composition of goods exported remained the same mainly comprising of minerals such as non-ferrous metals, non-metallic mineral manufactures, non-monetary gold, as well as chemicals. Fish remained the only non-mineral products among the top five list of exports. On the other hand, the import basket comprised mainly of non-ferrous metals, vehicles, petroleum and petroleum products; pharmaceutical products and inorganic chemicals.

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 all 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 vain I would like to urge our users of statistical information to send to us any comments that may enhance the improvement of this report.

ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN GENERAL & CEO
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BRIC:</td>
<td>Brazil, Russia, India and China</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIF:</td>
<td>Cost, Insurance and Freight</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMESA:</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC:</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>EAC:</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFTA:</td>
<td>European Free Trade Association</td>
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<td>EPZ:</td>
<td>Export Processing Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU:</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOB:</td>
<td>Free on Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROW:</td>
<td>Rest of World</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACU:</td>
<td>Southern African Customs Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC:</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAR:</td>
<td>Imported from Various Countries</td>
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</table>
1.1 Total Exports and Total Imports

In June 2020, the value of exports weakened, declining by 3.9 percent to N$7.2 billion from its revised level of N$7.5 billion recorded in May 2020. While, when compared to its level of N$7.0 billion obtained in June 2019, exports increased by 3.9 percent. Imports on the other hand dropped by 19.5 percent and 19.2 percent when compared to May 2020 and June 2019, respectively. This resulted in Namibia’s total merchandize trade with the ROW weakening by 12.2 percent compared to May 2020 and by 8.9 percent when compared to June 2019 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Total exports and imports June 2019 to June 2020

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1 Exports represents total exports derived from the sum of domestic exports and re-exports.
2 Rest of the world (ROW).
1.2 Trade Balance

The trade balance compares the country’s trade with the ROW in terms of earnings (exports) and expenditure (imports). In June 2020, Namibia registered a trade surplus of N$324 million, the second surplus recorded since March 2020. The recent surplus follows a revised deficit of N$1.1 billion recorded in May 2020. The deficits have persisted since June 2019 (Chart 2).

*Chart 2: Trade balance, June 2019 to June 2020*

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3 The value of imports here is denoted as negative to show an out flow.
2.1 Top Five (5) Export Markets

The composition of Namibia’s export market in June 2020 did not change much, maintaining the same countries (such as China, Botswana, South Africa, and Spain) as in May 2020 with Belgium as the latest addition to the list. These markets absorbed 69 percent of Namibian exports to the rest of the world (Chart 3).

In June 2020, China maintained its position as the largest export market for domestic goods, absorbing 29.3 percent of all goods exported, ahead of Botswana in the second place which absorbed 15.5 percent of total exports. South Africa claimed the third position to account for 14.1 percent while Belgium followed in the fourth place with a share of 5.3 percent of total exports. Finally, Spain occupied the fifth position with a contribution of 4.8 percent to domestic exports.
2.2 Top Five (5) Import Markets

South Africa, Zambia, China, DRC, and India remained the main suppliers of the most needed import requirements for Namibia. These countries accounted for a combined share of 82.3 percent of total imports (Chart 4).

Chart 4: Import market share by top five countries

South Africa remained at the top as Namibia's largest import market with a share of 46.7 percent of the value of all goods received into the country during June 2020. Zambia followed in the second position with a contribution of 18.6 percent to total imports from the rest of the world. China's contribution to Namibia's total imports was 7 percent, subsequently ranking that country the third largest source of imports into the domestic economy. Finally, DRC and India rounded off the top five list with contributions of 6.9 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.
Section 3 of this report outlines Namibia’s trade flow based on the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (SITC4). The SITC groups all commodities into headings suitable for economic analysis, here the SITC is disaggregated to 2-digit level. The SITC is recommended by the United Nations for use in external trade data and thus promotes international comparability of trade statistics.

3.1 Top Five (5) Export Products

Non-ferrous metals appeared as the largest export product for Namibia during the month of review accounting for 38.8 percent mainly to China, Belgium and Germany ahead of non-metallic mineral manufactures which accounted for 24 percent and was mainly absorbed by Botswana, United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Israel. Fish primarily destined to Spain, Zambia, DRC and Italy claimed the third position with a 10.6 percent contribution to total exports followed by non-monetary gold with 7.5 percent as South Africa continued to be Namibia’s only export market for gold. Finally, inorganic chemicals came in the fifth position with a contribution of 3.2 percent and Finland was the largest recipient for this group of commodities. The top five commodities jointly accounted for 84.1 percent of total export (Chart 5).

Chart 5: Top five export by products (percentage share)
The June 2020 figures show that total re-exports were up by 20 percent to N$4.0 billion from its levels of N$3.3 billion obtained in May 2020 and 27.7 percent higher than N$3.1 billion witnessed in June 2019.

In terms of commodities, non-ferrous metals remained the largest product that was re-exported, constituting a share of 68.1 percent of total re-exports mainly to China, Belgium and Germany. It was followed by non-metallic mineral manufactures with a market share of 10.7 percent which were mostly destined to United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Israel. Re-exports of inorganic chemicals accounted for 5.9 percent of all commodities re-exported and was mostly destined to Finland, Belgium and DRC. The other categories of vehicles, and petroleum & petroleum products accounted for 2.1 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively (Chart 6).
3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products

In June 2020, total imports into Namibia reached N$6.9 billion from N$8.6 billion recorded in May 2020. The top five commodities that were imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 43 percent of total import with non-ferrous metals accounting for the largest share of 22.9 percent. Vehicles followed in the second place with a share of 5.9 percent. Petroleum and petroleum products ranked third with 5.6 percent of the total import and finally pharmaceutical products and inorganic chemicals followed with respective contributions of 4.3 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively (Chart 7).

Non-ferrous metals were mostly imported from Zambia, DRC and South Africa while most vehicles imported into Namibia came from South Africa, UK, Japan and Botswana. Domestic demand for petroleum and petroleum products were mainly met by India, South Africa, Oman and the Netherlands while South Africa, Germany and India supplied the most needed pharmaceuticals. Finally, the DRC, Morocco, China and South Africa satiated Namibia’s demand for inorganic chemicals.
4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) became the largest export destination region for Namibia’s goods (mostly diamonds and live animals) during the month of review, with a market share of 29.6 percent of the total exports. Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) and the European Union (EU) followed in the second and third positions, accounting for a market share of 29.4 percent and 18.3 percent, respectively (Chart 8). Exports to BRIC comprised mainly of copper, while copper and fish were responsible for the large volume of exports to the EU. SADC-excluding-SACU followed in fourth place with a share of 8.4 percent due to high exports of fish. Finally, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) came in fifth position with a market share of 7.7 percent. Fish was the largest export commodity to the COMESA region.

*Chart 8: Top five export by Economic Regions (percentage share)*

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4 The percentages for economic regions are based on the world aggregates because of overlapping member states for some regions hence the percentages do not add up to 100%.
4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

In June 2020, the SACU region emerged as the largest source of imports for Namibia accounting for 47.8 percent of all goods imported (mainly vehicles and machinery). Copper was responsible for the high value of imports from COMESA which had a share of 26.1 percent of total imports and hence making it the second largest source of imports into the country. The SADC excluding SACU region accounted for 25.6 percent of Namibia’s total import bill, followed by the BRIC and EU in the fourth and fifth position with 11.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively (Chart 9).

*Chart 9: Top five import by economic regions (percentage share)*

Imports from SADC excluding SACU comprised mainly of non-ferrous metals whereas metalliferous ores and scrap metals and; petroleum and petroleum products were responsible for the high import value from the EU and EFTA. Furthermore, petroleum and petroleum products; and cereals were the main commodities imported from BRIC during the period under review.
5.1 Export by mode of transport

During the month of June 2020, exports amounting to N$2.9 billion, representing 39.7 percent of total exports left the country by sea reflecting a significant drop when compared to the value of goods exported in May 2020 (N$3.9 billion) and June 2019 (N$3.9 billion). The drop was attributed to COVID-19 measures that were put in place for the Erongo region. While, air and road transportation accounted for 31.3 percent and 29.0 percent of total exports, respectively (Chart 10).

In terms of tonnage, for the month of June 2020 about 112,835 tons of goods left Namibia by sea, up from 109,652 tons recorded in May 2020 and further up from 110,363 tons registered in June 2019. About 105,447 tons of goods left the country by road compared to 85,556 tons registered in the previous month and from 127,078 tons recorded in the same month last year. Only 25 tons left the country by air after registering only 330 tons in May 2020 and 389 tons in June 2019.
5.2 Import by mode of transport

For the month of June 2020, goods that entered Namibia via road were valued at N$5.5 billion representing 79.4 percent of all goods imported in the country. While 18.6 percent of the goods that reached the country came by sea and the remaining 2.0 percent arrived in by air (Chart 11).

In terms of tonnage, about 164,269 tons of all goods that reached Namibia came in by road while 160,237 tons reached the country by sea. A further 303 and 79 tons of goods were imported into the country via rail and air, respectively.
This section focuses on selected commodities mostly making up food parcels distributed by the Government to the public in the wake of COVID-19. Since the country’s lock down measures, the supply of certain basic commodities was disrupted and hence became of interest to the agency to monitor as government responded to the pandemic. Among these commodities, are food items such as sunflower oil, rice, sugar as well as maize grains and wheat. Non-food items constitutes disinfectants, toilet paper and breathing appliances. Chart 12 show the trend of imports for the commodities outlined above since Jan-2020 to Jun-2020.

Analysis of Chart 12 shows an upward trajectory of sugar from N$69.4 million in Jan-2020 to N$74.8 million in Feb-20 before dropping to N$69.7 million in Mar-2020. A sharp increase was observed in Apr-2020 in which imports of sugar reached N$113.4 million before it declined to N$23.0 million in May-2020 and subsequently rising to N$50.2 million in Jun-2020. Import of cooking oil has been relatively stable starting with N$36.4 million in Jan-2020 and declining slightly in Feb-2020 (6 percent) and May-2020 (10.4 percent) with improvements reflected in Mar-2020 (8.7 percent), Apr-2020 (5.1 percent) and Jun-2020 (31.8 percent). Further analysis showed a declining trend in imports of maize starting from a high value of N$94.2 million in Jan-2020 to the lowest value of N$28.3 million in Jun-2020 representing a decline of 40.9 percent. On average, maize imports dropped by 95.9 percent since Jan-2020 to Jun-2020.

Importation of wheat also exhibited an upward trend with an average growth of 66.7 percent from Jan-2020 to Mar-2020 before it plunged by 54.6 percent in Apr-2020, before increasing by 119.4 percent in May-2020 but dropped by 94.5 percent in Jun-2020.
The import trend for rice and other non-food items such as breathing appliances, disinfectants and toilet paper are also reflected in Chart 12. Imports of breathing appliances were more prevalent between Feb-2020 to May-2020 while Jun-2020 figures were almost negligible. Imports of disinfectants declined in Jun-2020 while import of toilet paper rose compared to May-2020.
Namibia is among the world’s top exporters of meat and has since 2019 established new markets for this product. This section provides an in-depth analysis on the performance of meat in terms of exports, emphasizing more on the value and market composition since June 2019 to June 2020.

**CHART 13: Exports of meat**

The meat export recorded high values as from June 2019 to September 2019 before it started to decline in October 2019 (Chart 13). The decline from October 2019 persisted through November 2019 and December 2019 before it stabilized between January 2020 and March 2020, with a slight improvement in February 2020. The situation improved in April 2020 and May 2020 but fell slightly (0.9 percent) in June 2020 compared to the previous month. But when compared to the corresponding month of 2019, meat exports declined significantly, falling by 34 percent in June 2020.

The highest level of meat export was reached in September 2019 with a value of N$167.7 million while March 2020 saw the lowest value of N$44.4 million. The establishment of new export market could not cushion the severe effects of droughts experienced by the country in 2019 and the years before as well as the country’s lock down measures due to COVID-19 since March 2020.

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5 Meat comprise of edible meat and meat offal of all animals except meats of fish. The N$91.4 million recorded in June 2020 constitute: Beef (53.9%), Poultry (43.6%) and Other (2.5%).
In June 2020, exports of meat reached N$91.4 million mainly distributed among the following countries DRC (40 percent), USA (15.5 percent), UK (13.3 percent), the Netherlands (10.8 percent), China (9.8 percent) and South Africa (5.2 percent) as reflected in Chart 14. Furthermore, Zambia, Botswana, Italy and Zimbabwe jointly accounted for the remaining 5.4 percent of total meat export.
In June 2020, Namibia’s exports stood at N$7.2 billion and imports at N$6.9 billion, subsequently the country’s trade balance resulted in a surplus of N$324 million.

The June 2020 figures show that exports weakened, falling by 3.9 percent from its revised level of N$7.5 billion in May 2020. While it increased by 3.9 percent when compared to its level of N$7.0 billion recorded in June 2019. Total imports dropped by 19.5 percent from its level of N$8.6 billion in the preceding month and similarly declined by 19.2 percent when compared to its level of N$8.5 billion recorded in June 2019.

China maintained its dominance as the country’s largest export destination, with a share of 29.3 percent of all goods exported, and followed by Botswana which accounted for 15.5 percent of total exports. Furthermore, South Africa, Belgium and Spain formed part of Namibia’s top five export destinations. The demand side saw South Africa maintaining its first spot as the country’s largest source of imports, it accounted for 46.7 percent of total imports into Namibia. Zambia also remained firm on its usual second position with 18.6 percent of the total market share. Countries such as China, DRC and India also formed part of Namibia’s top five sources of imports.

The analysis of commodities revealed that the category of non-ferrous metals had the largest share (38.8 percent) in Namibia’s total exports ahead of non-metallic mineral manufactures (24 percent), fish (10.6 percent), non-monetary gold (7.5 percent) and inorganic chemical (3.2 percent). In terms of imports, non-ferrous metals also appeared as the most imported commodity with a relative share of 22.9 percent of total imports, followed by vehicles with 5.9 percent and petroleum and petroleum products with 5.6 percent. Moreover, pharmaceutical products contributed 4.3 percent whereas inorganic chemicals had a share of 4.2 percent in Namibia’s total imports.

In terms of regional composition, SACU was the largest export market during the month of June 2020, with a market share of 29.6 percent of total exports followed by the BRIC region with relative market shares of 29.4 percent. On the imports side SACU also emerged as the main source of Namibia’s imports having a share of 47.8 percent in the country’s total import bill followed by COMESA with a share of 26.1 percent.

The composition of trade by mode of transport show that in June 2020, the majority of goods exported left the country by sea, accounting for 39.7 percent of total exports. Whereas most goods that entered Namibia came in by road, accounting for 79.4 percent of total imports.

Finally, most of the meat that was exported during the month of June 2020 was mostly destined to DRC, USA, UK, Netherlands, China and South Africa. Export of meat showed a declining trend despite the establishment of new markets as a result of persistent droughts as well as the impact of COVID-19.

Conclusion