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
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 various publications. This publication outlines the monthly developments of Namibia's trade in merchandise with the rest of the world during the period of July 2020.

The month of July 2020 saw Namibia's total merchandise trade totaling N$15.3 billion, which was 4.6 percent higher than N$14.7 billion recorded in June 2020 and lower by 12.2 percent when compared to its level of N$17.5 billion recorded in July 2019. The country recorded a trade deficit of N$3.5 billion compared to a surplus of N$270 million recorded in June 2020 and a deficit of N$2.2 billion recorded in July 2019.

Namibia's trade composition by partner was skewed towards a few countries. China emerged as Namibia's largest export market while South Africa maintained 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, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, 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, metalliferous ores and metal scrap; petroleum and petroleum products; vehicles 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
## Table of Contents

List of acronyms .......................................................................................................................... vi

SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS .......................................................................................... 1
  1.1 Total Exports and Total Imports .................................................................................... 1
  1.2 Trade Balance .................................................................................................................. 2

SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE (DOT) ............................................................................ 3
  2.1 Top Five (5) Export Markets .......................................................................................... 3
  2.2 Top Five (5) Import Markets .......................................................................................... 4

SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS ....................................................................................... 5
  3.1 Top Five (5) Export Products .......................................................................................... 5
  3.2 Top Five (5) Re-export Products .................................................................................... 6
  3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products .......................................................................................... 7

SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS ................................................................. 8
  4.1 Exports by Economic Regions ....................................................................................... 8
  4.2 Imports by Economic Regions ....................................................................................... 9

SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT .......................................................... 10
  5.1 Export by mode of transport ....................................................................................... 10
  5.2 Import by mode of transport ....................................................................................... 11

6. Impact of COVID-19 ........................................................................................................... 12

7. Commodity of the Month ................................................................................................... 14

Conclusion .................................................................................................................................. 16
List of acronyms

BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India and China
CIF: Cost, Insurance and Freight
COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC: East African Community
EFTA: European Free Trade Association
EPZ: Export Processing Zone
EU: European Union
FOB: Free on Board
ROW: Rest of World
SACU: Southern African Customs Union
SADC: Southern African Development Community
VAR: Imported from Various Countries
SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Total Exports and Total Imports

In July 2020, the value of exports weakened, declining by 21.1 percent to N$5.9 billion from its revised level of N$7.5 billion recorded in June 2020. While, when compared to its level of N$7.6 billion obtained in July 2019, exports declined by 23 percent. Imports on the other hand rose by 31.2 percent and dropped to 3.8 percent when compared to June 2020 and July 2019, respectively resulting in Namibia’s total merchandise trade with the ROW weakening by 12.2 percent compared to June 2020 and increasing by 4.6 percent when compared to July 2019 (Chart 1).

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

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 July 2020, Namibia registered a trade deficit of N$3.5 billion, the highest deficit over the period under review (July 2019-July 2020). The deficit follows a revised surplus of N$270 million recorded in June 2020 which was the second surplus during the period under review (Chart 2).

*Chart 2: Trade balance, July 2019 to July 2020*
SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE (DOT)

2.1 Top Five (5) Export Markets

The composition of Namibia’s export market in July 2020 did not change much, maintaining the same countries (such as China, South Africa, Belgium and Spain) as in June 2020 with the frequent Botswana falling out the list and replaced by Zambia. These top five markets absorbed 76.4 percent of Namibian exports to the rest of the world (Chart 3).

*Chart 3: Export market share by top five countries*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Export Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In July 2020, China maintained its position as the largest export market for domestic goods, absorbing 40.1 percent of all goods exported, ahead of South Africa in the second place which absorbed 18.3 percent of total exports. Belgium claimed the third position to account for 6.9 percent while Spain followed in the fourth place with a share of 5.9 percent of total exports. Finally, Zambia occupied the fifth position accounting for 5.2 percent to total exports.
2.2 Top Five (5) Import Markets

South Africa, Zambia, DRC, Chile and Bulgaria were the main suppliers of the most needed import requirements for Namibia. These countries accounted for a combined share of 71 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 37.4 percent of the value of all goods received into the country during July 2020. Zambia followed in the second position with a contribution of 14.8 percent to total imports from the rest of the world. DRC’s contribution to Namibia’s total imports was 7.4 percent, subsequently ranking that country the third largest source of imports into the domestic economy. Finally, Chile and Bulgaria rounded off the top five list with contributions of 6.2 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS

Section 3 of this report outlines Namibia’s trade flow based on the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (SITC rev 4). The SITC groups all commodities into headings suitable for economic analysis, in this section, 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 28.8 percent. Exports of this product was mainly destined to China, Belgium and Germany ahead of metalliferous ores and metal scrap which accounted for 23.4 percent and was mainly absorbed by China, Brazil and Singapore. Fish primarily destined to Spain, Zambia, South Africa and DRC claimed the third position with 11.7 percent contribution to total exports followed by non-monetary gold with 10.4 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 3.5 percent and Finland was the largest recipient for this group of commodities. The top five commodities jointly accounted for 77.7 percent of total export (Chart 5).

Chart 5: Top five export by products (percentage share)
3.2 Top Five (5) Re-export Products

The July 2020 figures show that total re-exports decreased by 32.9 percent to N$2.7 billion from its levels of N$4 billion obtained in June 2020 and 10.5 percent lower than N$3 billion witnessed in July 2019.

Chart 6: Top five re-export by products (percentage share)

In terms of commodities, non-ferrous metals remained the largest product that was re-exported, constituting a share of 59.3 percent of total re-exports mainly to China, Belgium and Germany followed by inorganic chemicals with a share of 7.6 percent of total re-exports which were mostly destined to Finland, China and DRC. Re-exports of petroleum and petroleum products accounted for 5.4 percent of all commodities re-exported and was mostly destined to Botswana. The other categories of non-metallic mineral manufactures, and metalliferous ores & metal scrap accounted for 5.1 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively (Chart 6).
3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products

In July 2020, total imports into Namibia reached N$9.4 billion from N$7.2 billion recorded in June 2020. The top five commodities that were imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 53 percent of total import with non-ferrous metals accounting for the largest share of 18.7 percent. Metalliferous ores and metal scrap followed in the second place with a share of 14.6 percent. Petroleum and petroleum products ranked third with 11.6 percent of the total import and finally vehicles and inorganic chemicals followed with respective contributions of 4.6 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively (Chart 7).

*Chart 7: Top five import by products (percentage share)*

Non-ferrous metals were mostly imported from DRC while most of metalliferous ores and metal scrap imported into Namibia came from Chile, Bulgaria, Peru and DRC. Domestic demand for petroleum and petroleum products were mainly met by United Arab Emirates, Oman and South Africa, with South Africa also supplying the most needed vehicles. Finally, the DRC, South Africa and Australia satiated Namibia's demand for inorganic chemicals.
SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC)) became the largest export destination region for Namibia’s goods (mostly copper) during the month of review, with a market share of 41.8 percent of the total exports. The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the European Union (EU) followed in the second and third positions, accounting for a market share of 22.4 percent and 21.9 percent, respectively (Chart 8). Exports to SACU comprised mainly of diamonds, mineral fuels and live animals, 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 9.1 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 8.4 percent. Fish was the largest export commodity to the COMESA region.

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

* 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 July 2020, the SACU region emerged as the largest source of imports for Namibia accounting for 38.2 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 22.5 percent of total imports and hence making it the second largest source of imports into the country. The SADC excluding SACU region accounted for 22.3 percent of Namibia's total import bill, followed by the EU and BRIC in the fourth and fifth positions with 9.3 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively (Chart 9).

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

Imports from SADC excluding SACU comprised mainly of copper; while ores were responsible for the high import value from the EU. Furthermore, iron and steel were the main commodities imported from BRIC during the period under review.
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

5.1 Export by mode of transport

During the month of July 2020, exports amounting to N$4 billion, representing 67.4 percent of total exports left the country by sea reflecting a remarkable increase of 32.2 percent when compared to the value of goods exported in June 2020 (N$3.0 billion) and 0.7 percent when compared to July 2019 (N$3.9 billion). The improvement was attributed to the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions which were lifted as Erongo region migrated from Stage 2 to 3. Road and air transportation accounted for 19.7 percent and 12.9 percent of total exports, respectively (Chart 10).

*Chart 10: Export by mode of transport (percentage share)*

In terms of tonnage, for the month of July 2020 about 150,277 tons of goods left Namibia by road, up from 101,384 tons recorded in June 2020 and further up from 111,475 tons registered in July 2019. About 86,334 tons of goods left the country by sea compared to 105,065 tons registered in the previous month and from 89,601 tons recorded in the same month last year. Only 32 tons left the country by air after registering only 23 tons in June 2020 and 364 tons in July 2019.
5.2 Import by mode of transport

For the month of July 2020, goods that entered Namibia via road were valued at N$6 billion representing 63.2 percent of all goods imported in the country. While 35.6 percent of the goods that reached the country came by sea and the remaining 1.2 percent arrived by air (Chart 11).

*Chart 11: Import by mode of transport (percentage share)*

In terms of tonnage, about 285,150 tons of goods that reached Namibia came in by road while 164,838 tons reached the country by sea. A further 69 and 61 tons of goods were imported into the country via rail and air, respectively.
6. Impact of COVID-19

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 responds 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 of disinfectants, toilet paper and breathing appliances. The trend of imports for the commodities outlined above since Jan-2020 to July-2020 are illustrated in Chart 12.

**CHART 12: Import of selected commodities**

Analysis shows a fluctuating trend in import of all the commodities related to Covid-19 (Chart 12). Sugar for instance increased from N$69.4 million in January 2020 to N$74.8 million in February 2020 recording an increase of 7.7 percent before dropping to N$69.7 million in March 2020. A sharp increase was further observed in April 2020 in which import of sugar reached N$113.4 million before declining to N$23.0 million in May 2020. However, in June 2020 the import rise to N$50.4 million (119.0%) and to N$75.9 million in the reporting month. Import of cooking oil has been relatively stable starting with N$36.4 million in January 2020, it declined by 6 percent in February 2020 to record N$34.2 million. In March 2020 the import of cooking oil rose by 8.7 percent and continue to grow in April 2020 to 5.1 percent. In contrast, during the month of May 2020, the country expenditure on import of cooking oil dropped by 10.4 percent before rising again by 34 percent in June 2020 and finally dropping to 2.6 percent in July 2020. Further analysis indicates that Namibia’s expenditure on maize was on an increase from January 2020 (N$33.3 million) through to March 2020 (N$90.6 million), however it dipped in April 2020 to N$41.2 million. In May 2020, import of maize registered a significant increase of 119.4 percent to record N$90.4 million before falling by 94.5 percent to a mere N$4.9 million in June 2020 and in July 2020 it increases to N$43.5 million.

Importation of rice exhibited a fluctuating trend until May 2020 and followed a downward trend
through to July 2020. On average, import of rice declined by 22.6 percent from January to July 2020. While the importation of wheat increased by 7.5 percent on average from N$9.8 million in January 2020 to N$10.9 million in July 2020.

The import trend for other non-food items such as breathing appliances, disinfectants and toilet paper are also reflected in Chart 12. Imports of disinfectants were more prevalent between February 2020 to May 2020 while January and June 2020 figures were around N$1.0 million and in July 2020 increased to N$2.1 million. Import of toilet paper amounted for more values when compared to other non-food items.
7. Commodity of the Month

During the period under review, fish continued to demonstrate its significance as one of the country’s major export revenue earner, ranking third among the top five major export commodities. This section provides an in-depth analysis on the performance of fish in terms of exports, emphasizing more on the value and market composition from July 2019 to July 2020.

**CHART 13: Exports of fish**

Over the period under review, fish exports declined at an average of 0.3 percent, reaching an all-time high of N$1 billion in January 2020 and a record low of N$635.3 million in November 2019. On average, the country earned N$858 million per month from fish over the period under review.
In July 2020, exports of fish reached N$663.6 million mainly distributed among the following countries: Spain N$334.1 million (50.3%), Zambia N$91.5 million (13.8%), South Africa N$57.4 million (8.7%), DRC N$42.7 million (6.4%), France N$33.9 million (5.1%), Italy N$28.4 million (4.3%) and Mozambique N$24.7 million (3.7%) as reflected in Chart 14. The rest of the countries such as Portugal, Zimbabwe, Netherlands, Austria, Singapore, Germany and Canada accounted for the remaining 7.7 percent of total fish export.
**Conclusion**

In July 2020, Namibia's exports stood at N$5.9 billion and imports at N$9.4 billion, subsequently the country's trade balance resulted in a deficit of N$3.5 billion.

The July 2020 figures show that exports weakened, falling by 21.1 percent and 23 percent from its revised level of N$7.5 billion in June 2020 and N$7.6 billion recorded in July 2019 respectively. Total imports increased by 31.2 percent from its level of N$7.2 billion in the preceding month and declined by 3.8 percent when compared to its level of N$9.8 billion recorded in July 2019.

China maintained its dominance as the country's largest export destination, with a share of 40.1 percent of all goods exported, and was followed by South Africa which accounted for 18.3 percent of total exports. Furthermore, Belgium, Spain and Zambia 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, accounting for 37.4 percent of total imports into Namibia. Zambia also remained firm on its usual second position with 14.8 percent of the market share. Countries such as DRC, Chile and Bulgaria 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 (28.8%) in Namibia's total exports ahead of metalliferous ores and metal scrap (23.4%), fish (11.7%), non-monetary gold (10.4%) and inorganic chemical (3.5%). In terms of imports, non-ferrous metals also appeared as the most imported commodity with a relative share of 18.7 percent of total imports, followed by metalliferous ores and metal scrap with 14.6 percent; and petroleum and petroleum products with 11.6 percent. Moreover, vehicles contributed 4.6 percent whereas inorganic chemicals had a share of 3.5 percent in Namibia's total imports.

In terms of regional composition, BRIC was the largest export market during the month of July 2020, with a market share of 41.8 percent of total exports followed by the SACU region with relative market shares of 22.4 percent. On the imports side SACU remained the main source of Namibia's imports having a share of 38.2 percent in the country's total import bill followed by COMESA with a share of 22.5 percent.

Namibia's trade by mode of transport shows that in July 2020, the majority of goods exported left the country by sea, accounting for 67.4 percent of total exports. Whereas most goods that entered Namibia came in by road, accounting for 63.2 percent of total imports.

An analysis in the import of COVID-19 related products indicates that sugar, cooking oil, maize and toilet papers topped the list of such product and breathing appliance was the least imported product for the month of July 2020.

Finally, fish was selected as the commodity of the month (July 2020) and the figures shows that exports of fish stood at N$663.6 million mainly distributed among the following countries Spain (50.3%), Zambia (13.8%), South Africa (8.7%), DRC (6.4%) and France (5.1%).