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 links 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 employment, production, income, consumption 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 merchandise trade with the rest of the world during the period of September 2021. The dataset analyzed in this publication can be downloaded at www.nsa.org.na

The month of September 2021, saw Namibia’s total merchandise trade amounting to N$17.5 billion, a decline of 5.5 percent and 10.1 percent when compared to the level of N$18.5 billion and N$19.5 billion recorded in August 2021 and September 2020, respectively. However, the country’s trade balance remained in a deficit surging to N$3.1 billion from N$2.9 billion recorded in August 2021 and N$1.6 billion obtained in September 2020.

Namibia’s trade composition by partner showed that China emerged as Namibia’s largest market for exports whereas South Africa maintained her position as the largest import market for the country. The composition of the export basket mainly comprised of minerals such as copper, precious stones (diamonds), non-monetary gold, petroleum oils and fuels; and ores and concentrates of base metals. As usual, fish remained the only non-mineral product among the top five exports. On the other hand, the import basket comprised mainly of copper, petroleum oils and fuels; ships, boats and floating structures; copper ores and concentrates; and inorganic chemicals.

The September 2021 trade figures indicated that re-exports improved slightly, rising by 0.1 percent month-on-month and a noticeable declining of 12 percent year-on-year. As always, copper had the largest share of all goods re-exported, accounting for 64.4 percent of total re-exports mainly destined to China. Most of the re-exported copper originated from Zambia and D.R.C. Notably, copper featured as the most dominant commodity on both trade flows indicating the vital role the country plays as a major logistics hub for SADC in terms of copper.

Analysis for the commodity of the month for September 2021 focused on charcoal. The N$73 million export value reflected in September 2021 shows an increase of 13.2 percent from the N$64 million recorded in August 2021. The largest increase of 38.9 percent was recorded between April and May 2021. Notably, most charcoal exported from Namibia is lump charcoal i.e. unpacked, hence there is a possibility for adding value to the product by packaging it. South Africa (29.3%), the Netherlands (16.7%), Belgium (14.4%) and United Arab Emirates (7.3%) emerged as the largest destinations for Namibia’s charcoal industry.

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 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 vein, I would like to urge our users of statistical information to send to us any comments that may enhance the quality of this report at info@nsa.org.na

ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN GENERAL & CEO
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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 Summary

For the month of September 2021, Namibia’s exports earnings stood at N$7.2 billion (down by 8.1% on monthly basis) while the imports bill amounted to N$10.3 billion (down by 3.6% on monthly basis), resulting in a trade deficit of N$3.1 billion.

Although both flows suffered a decline, the trade deficit recorded in September 2021 was higher than the trade deficit of N$2.9 billion recorded in August 2021, as imports remains relatively higher than exports. The higher import value resulted from the increases in imports of copper, ships, boats and floating structure; Copper ores and concentrates; inorganic chemicals; and medicinal and pharmaceutical products.

Trade Highlights by Category

The August to September 2021 change (down by 8.1%) in exports of goods was mainly reflected in:

- Uranium or thorium ores and concentrates decreased by N$395 million (-100%)
- Fish decreased by N$161 million (-17%)
- Precious stones-diamonds decreased by N$156 million (-12.1%)
- Live animals decreased by N$31 million (-20.4%)

The August to September change (down by 3.6%) in imports of goods was mainly reflected in:

- Petroleum oils and fuels decreased by N$798 million (-51.8%)
- Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles decreased by N$139 million (-75.2%)
- Precious stones-diamonds decreased by N$138 million (-57.1%)
- Manufacture of base metal decreased by N$133 million (-61.3%)

Trade Highlights by World Zone

Africa: The deficit widened from N$3.8 billion in August 2021 to N$4.4 billion in September 2021. Exports increased by N$109 million to N$3.2 billion and imports increased by N$691 million to N$7.6 billion.

Asia: The surplus increased from N$781 million in August 2021 to N$1.7 billion in September 2021. Exports increased by N$101 million to N$2.9 billion whereas imports decreased by N$769 million to N$1.3 billion.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): The trade balance moved from a surplus of N$593 million in August 2021 to a deficit of N$159 million in September 2021. Exports decreased by N$739 million to N$900 million whereas imports increased by N$13 million to N$1.1 billion.
**EU:** The surplus decreased from N$1 billion in August 2021 to N$221 million in September 2021. Exports declined by N$648 million to N$725 million and imports increased by N$136 million to N$504 million.

**Trade highlight by Industry**

The trade by industry is based on the International Standard of Industry Classification (ISIC). Among the various industries of the economy, the manufacturing industry emerged as the largest exporting industry. In September 2021 the industry exported goods worth N$5.5 billion, representing 76.8 percent of total exports. Out of the N$5.5 billion worth of manufactured goods exported, 63.3 percent are re-exports, this is a reflection of the country’s small manufacturing base. Export of goods from this industry rose by N$180 million from N$5.3 billion in August 2021. Additionally, goods from the mining and quarrying industry came in the second place after recording exports valued at N$1.4 billion. Exports from that industry however, declined by N$739 million from N$2.1 billion recorded in August 2021.

The demand side also showed a similar trend, with goods from the manufacturing industry emerging on top of the list of goods imported, with an import bill of N$8.7 billion in September 2021. An increase of N$297 million from N$8.4 billion recorded in August 2021. Furthermore, the mining and quarrying industry imported goods to the tune of N$1.3 billion representing a decline of N$752 million from N$2.1 billion in August 2021.

### 1.2 Revisions for August 2021

International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), like many published statistics, are subject for revisions as new information becomes available. Thus the trade statistics is revised on a monthly basis as additional information becomes available.

**Table 1: Revisions for August-2021 Trade Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>Value (N$ Millions)</th>
<th>As reported in August-2021 Bulletin</th>
<th>As reported in September-2021</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Difference as %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Export</td>
<td>7,061</td>
<td>7,822</td>
<td></td>
<td>671</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Imports</td>
<td>10,007</td>
<td>10,703</td>
<td></td>
<td>695</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade balance</td>
<td>-2,946</td>
<td>-2,881</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 above shows that both trade flows were revised upwards, exports went up from N$7.1 billion to the current level of N$7.8 billion while imports went up from the level of N$10 billion to N$10.7 billion resulting in the deficit for August to remain at N$2.9 billion. The current revisions on exports were mainly attributed to revised export value for copper, precious stones (Diamonds), and fish while revisions on imports stemmed from petroleum oils and fuels; and copper.
1.3 Total Exports and Total Imports

The value of exports\(^1\) in September 2021 declined, falling by 8.1 percent to N$7.2 billion from its August 2021 level of N$7.8 billion. Similarly, when compared to its level of N$9 billion in September 2020, exports declined by 19.7 percent (Chart 1). Imports stood at N$10.3 billion, reflecting a decline of 3.6 percent month-on-month and a 1.9 percent year-on-year decline from its September 2020 level of N$10.5 billion. Following weakening developments in both flows, Namibia's total merchandize trade (exports plus imports) with the ROW\(^2\) decreased by 5.5 percent from its August 2021 level of N$18.5 billion to N$17.5 billion recorded in September 2021. Similarly, total trade weakened by 10.1 percent when compared to N$19.5 billion recorded in September 2020.

*Chart 1: Total exports and imports September 2020 to September 2021*

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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).
1.4 Trade Balance

The trade balance\(^3\) compares the country’s trade flow with the ROW in terms of export earnings and expenditure on imports\(^4\). During the month under review, Namibia recorded a trade deficit to the tune of N$3.1 billion, reflecting a widening deficit when compared to N$2.9 billion recorded in August 2021 and even wider when compared to a deficit of N$1.6 billion recorded in September 2020 (Chart 2). Over the period (Sep-20 to Sep-21), Namibia recorded a deficit averaging to N$2.3 billion without recording any surplus.

*Chart 2 Trade balance, September 2020 to September 2021*

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\(^3\) Trade balance here is measured as the difference between the country’s total exports and total imports. A positive balance is referred to as a surplus while a negative balance is referred to as a deficit.

\(^4\) The value of imports here is denoted as negative to show an outflow.
2.1 Top Five Export Markets

During the month of September 2021, Namibia’s top five export partners were China, South Africa, Botswana, Spain and Zambia (Chart 3). These top five markets accounted for 79 percent of Namibia’s total exports, up from the 69.6 percent witnessed in August 2021 and 74.2 percent recorded in September 2020.

**Chart 3: Percentage share of export by country**

Maintaining her usual position, China emerged as the main export market for Namibia, absorbing 34.6 percent of all goods exported, ahead of South Africa which also maintained her second position with a market share of 21.6 percent of total exports.

Following trends from past months, Botswana claimed the third position to account for 13.3 percent while Spain and Zambia occupied the fourth and fifth positions with respective shares of 4.9 percent and 4.6 percent.
2.2 Top Five Import Markets

The month of September 2021 saw Namibia heavily depending on countries such as South Africa, Zambia, DRC, China and India for its import requirement. The top five import markets supplied Namibia with 76.7 percent of all imports required by the country, up from its August 2021 level of 69.7 percent and 73.1 percent recorded in September 2020. The individual contribution of each of these countries to Namibia’s total imports is shown in Chart 4.

*Chart 4: Percentage share of imports by country*

South Africa remained Namibia’s largest source of imports with a share of 42.1 percent of the value of all goods received into the country during the month under review. Following in the second place was Zambia with a contribution of 18.8 percent of total imports. Furthermore, D.R.C. came in the third place accounting for 9.1 percent of Namibia’s total imports followed by China and India contributing 3.8 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively.
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS

This section 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 3-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 Export Products

Copper was Namibia's largest export commodity during the month under review (Chart 5), accounting for 35.5 percent of total exports mainly destined to China, and Netherlands. This was followed by precious stones (mainly diamonds) which accounted for 15.8 percent of total exports destined mostly to Botswana, UAE, Belgium, Israel, and the U.S. Non-monetary gold ranked third on the list with a share of 12.1 percent and was absorbed by South Africa alone.

Chart 5: Percentage share of the top five export products

Fish constituting 10.9 percent of total export of which most was destined to Spain, DRC, Italy, and the Netherlands occupied the fourth position. Finally, petroleum oils and fuels accounted for 2.5 percent of total export and was absorbed by Botswana, Zambia, South Africa and activities of the high sea. The aforementioned top five export commodities jointly accounted for 76.7 percent of total exports.
3.2 Top Five Re-Export Products

Re-exports are commodities imported by residents who assume short-term ownership of the commodities. The commodities are subsequently exported without undergoing any significant industrial transformation. Even though no substantial transformation is done, re-exports have the potential to benefit the intermediate country by rendering services such as sorting, re-packaging, storage, transport and trade mediation services. This implies that the country’s services sector greatly benefits from activities of re-exports. Additionally, re-exports serve as an indication of favorable corporate tax in the intermediate country.

In September 2021, total re-exports stood at N$4 billion unchanged from the previous month and N$4.5 billion during the corresponding month of last year.

As indicated earlier, re-exports are foreign goods and hence imported from other countries. Looking at the origin of the main products which were re-exported, copper was mainly sourced from Zambia, DRC and South Africa. Precious stones (diamonds) were mostly imported from Botswana after consolidation whereas petroleum oils and fuels were imported from Malaysia, Tunisia, and India.

The top five commodities that utilized Namibia’s logistical services in September 2021 were copper with a share of 64.4 percent of total re-exports mostly destined to China, and the Netherlands (Chart 6). Following in the second place was precious stones (diamonds) with a share of 9 percent of total re-exports which was mostly destined to UAE, Belgium, Israel and the U.S among others. Petroleum oils and fuels accounted for 3.8 percent of all commodities re-exported and was mostly destined to Botswana, High Sea and South Africa. Inorganic chemicals; ores and concentrates of base metals accounted for 3.6 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively, with Finland taking the lead as the preferred destination for inorganic chemicals whereas Singapore was the major destination for ores and concentrates of base metals.
3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products

During the period under review, the value of imports into the country amounted to N$10.3 billion down from N$10.7 billion and N$10.5 billion witnessed in August 2021 and September 2020, respectively. The top five commodities imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 40.9 percent of total imports with copper taking the lead with the largest share of 25.4 percent. Following in the second position is petroleum oils and fuels with a share of 7.2 percent of all commodities imported. Ships, boats and floating structures was ranked third after contributing 3.6 percent to total imports while copper ores and concentrates; and inorganic chemicals followed in the fourth and fifth position with contributions of 2.5 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively (Chart 7).

Chart 7: Percentage share of the top five import products

The copper imported into the country in September 2021 was mostly sourced from Zambia and DRC while most of the petroleum oils were mainly sourced from Malaysia, Tunisia, and India. Ships, boats and floating structures were imported from South Africa whereas much of the country’s demand for copper ores and concentrates was satiated by DRC, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Inorganic chemicals were sourced from Morocco, DRC, South Korea as well as from South Africa.
SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

The Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), and BRIC emerged as the largest export destination for Namibia’s goods during the month of review with each having a market share of 34.9 percent of total exports (Chart 8). The EU and SADC-Non-SACU groups of countries followed in the second and third positions absorbing 10.1 percent and 9.3 percent of the Namibia’s total export share respectively. In addition, COMESA market absorbed 8.4 percent of Namibia’s total export to the rest of the world.

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

Exports to SACU comprised mainly of gold; precious stones (diamonds); petroleum oils and fuels; and alcoholic beverages whereas copper; precious stones (diamonds); stone, sand and gravel; and feeding stuff for animals were the most exported commodities to the BRIC group of countries. Fish; inorganic chemicals; and precious stones (Diamonds) made up the largest share of exports to the EU. The SADC-Non SACU followed in fourth place with a share of 9.3 percent due to high exports of fish; other plastics in primary forms; other meat and edible meat offal. Finally, the Common Markets for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) market settled for the fifth position with a market share of 8.4 percent. Fish; other plastics in primary forms; other meat and edible meat offal made up the largest share of exports to that market.
4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

In September 2021, the SACU market remained the largest source of imports for Namibia, accounting for 43.1 percent of all goods imported (mainly ships, boats and floating structures; ores and concentrates of base metals; alcoholic beverages, and sugar, molasses and honey) followed by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) with a share of 30.6 percent with copper; copper ores and concentrates; petroleum oils and fuels, and inorganic chemicals making up the main commodities imported from that region. The SADC-Non-SACU and the BRIC contributed 28.6 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively and hence ranking these regions to be the third and fourth largest source of imports into the country.

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

Copper; copper ores and concentrates; inorganic chemicals; and glassware were responsible for the high value of imports from SADC-Non-SACU while petroleum fuels and oils; wheat; medicaments, and medicinal; and pharmaceutical products had the largest share of imports from the BRIC region. Finally, the EU concluded the list in the fifth position with a contribution of 4.9 percent and supplied Namibia with aircraft and associated equipment, civil engineering and contractor’s plants and equipment; and electric power machinery.
5.1 Export by mode of transport

During the month of September 2021, exports amounting to N$3.2 billion, representing 44.1 percent of total exports left the country by sea (Chart 10). This translated into a decline of 28.7 percent when compared to its August 2021 level of N$4.4 billion. Similarly, a decline of 45.7 percent was noted when compared to its level of N$5.8 billion recorded in September 2020. Air and road transportation accounted for 28.2 percent and 27.7 percent of total exports, respectively.

In terms of tonnage, the month under review saw about 136,134 tons of goods leaving Namibia by sea. This is a decline from its August 2021 level of 178,271 tons and from the level of 128,122 tons registered in September 2020. About 126,113 tons of goods left the country by road compared to 124,580 tons registered in the previous month and from 112,961 recorded in September 2020. Additionally, only 145 tons left the country by air in the month of September 2021 and 152 tons for the previous month and 128 tons in same month a year ago.
5.2 Import by mode of transport

Transport by road was the most frequent mode of transport used for imports during the period of review. Imports by road amounted to N$7.6 billion, representing 73.6 percent of all goods imported into the country (Chart 11). Following in the second place was sea transport which accounted for 22.6 percent of all the goods that reached the country while 3.7 percent arrived by air.

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

In terms of tonnage, about 231,609 tons of goods entered the country by road. This was less than its level of 235,703 tons of imports observed in August 2021 but more than its August 2020 level of 190,831. Whereas 95,111 tons of goods reached the country by sea compared to its level of 739,361 in August 2021 and 136,525 tons in September 2020.

5.3 Trade by Border Post

This section is a review a trade through various border posts covering the past three months of 2021 (Jul-Sep). As it can clearly be seen in chart 12, Walvis Bay continued to dominate as a major point of exit for goods leaving the country.

Further analysis shows that Eros Airport, Wenela, Trans Kalahari, and Ariamsvlei formed part of the top five border posts in terms of export during the month of September 2021.

A total of N$9.8 billion worth of exports was recorded at Walvis Bay over the period July to September 2021 indicating a monthly average of N$3.3 billion. This translate in Walvis Bay accounting for 49.7 percent and 50.7 percentage share of export in September and August 2021, respectively.
The demand side is reflected in Chart 13, showing the top five border posts by value of goods imported. Again, Wenela border post emerged as the main entry point used for imports, accounting for 27.9 percent of total imports in September 2021 followed by Ariamsvlei (21.6%), Walvis Bay (18.5%), Trans Kalahari (11.2%) and Noordoewer (8.8%).

A total of N$6.8 billion worth of imports was registered at Wenela as of July to September 2021 indicating a monthly average of N$2.3 billion. Additionally, these border posts jointly recorded a total of N$6.2 billion worth of imports in September 2021 with an average of N$1.6 billion per border post.
6. Commodity of the Month - Charcoal

The charcoal industry remains to be one of growing industry in the country despite the burden caused by COVID-19 pandemic that has triggered disruptions in many industries of the economy. During this period (Sept-20 to Sept-21) the average export value of charcoal stood at N$81 million with the largest export value of N$105 million reflected in May 2021 while the lowest value of N$64 million was recorded in August 2021.

The N$73 million export value reflected in September 2021 shows an increase of 13.2 percent from the N$64 million recorded in August 2021. The largest increase of 38.9 percent was recorded between April and May 2021. Notably, most charcoal exported from Namibia is lump charcoal i.e. unpacked, hence there is a possibility for adding value to the product by packaging it.

On the other hand, the industry also experienced setbacks in the exportation of charcoal with the largest declines of 16.5 percent and 16 percent recorded in June 2021 and August 2021, respectively. Additionally, the month of July 2021 also recorded a significant decline of 12.5 percent to N$77 million. South Africa absorbed most of Namibia’s charcoal exports, about 29.3 percent of the country’s charcoal exports was destined to South Africa. Netherlands, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, and Poland absorbed 16.7 percent, 14.4 percent, 7.3 percent, and 6.2 percent, respectively.
In September 2021, Namibia's exports stood at N$7.2 billion and imports at N$10.3 billion, subsequently the country's trade balance resulted in a deficit of N$3.1 billion. Overall, the country's total trade for September 2021 stood at N$17.5 billion.

In September 2021, exports decreased by 8.1 percent and 19.7 percent from its level of N$7.8 billion and N$9 billion recorded in August 2021 and September 2020, respectively. Imports also dropped, falling by 3.6 percent and 1.9 percent when compared to its levels of N$10.7 billion in August 2021 and N$10.5 billion in September 2020, respectively.

China emerged as the country's largest export destination, with a share of 34.6 percent of all goods exported followed by South Africa with a share of 21.6 percent. Furthermore, Botswana, Spain and Zambia formed part of Namibia's top five export markets. The demand side saw South Africa maintaining her first position as the country's largest source of imports, accounting for 42.1 percent of total imports into Namibia followed by Zambia in the second position with 18.8 percent of the market share. D.R.C, China, and India also formed part of Namibia's top five sources of imports.

The analysis of exports by commodities revealed that copper had the largest share (35.5%) in Namibia's total exports ahead of precious stones (diamonds), (15.8%), gold, non-monetary (12.1%), fish (10.9%), and petroleum oils and fuels (2.5%). In terms of imports, copper was the most imported commodity with a relative share of 25.4 percent of total imports, followed by petroleum oils with a share of 7.2 percent, and ships, boats and floating structures with a share of 3.6 percent. Moreover, copper ores and concentrates and inorganic chemicals contributed 2.5 percent and 2.2 percent to Namibia's total imports, respectively.

In terms of regional composition, SACU and BRIC emerged as the largest export markets during the month of September 2021, with each contributing 34.9 percent of total exports followed by the EU with relative market shares of 10.1 percent while the SADC excl. SACU and COMESA had respective shares of 9.3 percent, 8.4 percent. On the imports side, SACU remained the largest source of Namibia's imports with a share of 43.1 percent of total import bill followed by COMESA and SADC excl. SACU with contributions of 30.6 percent and 28.6 percent respectively. BRIC and the EU had a share of 7.9 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively.

Namibia's trade by mode of transport shows that in September 2021, the majority of goods exported left the country by sea, accounting for 44.1 percent of total exports, followed by air transport with 28.2 percent and road transport with 27.7 percent. On the demand side, most commodities that entered the country came in by road, accounting for 73.6 percent of total imports followed by sea (22.6%) and air (3.7%).
The country exported most of goods to the rest of the world via the port of Walvis Bay (49.7 %), followed by Eros Airport and Wenela with 25.4 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively. While in the case of imports, Namibia's importation mostly came in through Wenela (27.9%), Ariamsvlei (21.6%) and Walvis Bay (18.5%)

Finally, an analysis of the exportation of charcoal as the commodity of the month showed that in September 2021 the export value of charcoal stood at N$73 million, this represents an increase of 13.2 percent from its level of N$64 million recorded in August 2021.