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

This publication outlines the quarterly developments of Namibia’s trade in merchandise with the rest of the world during for q4-2019 compared to q4-2018.

Namibia total merchandise trade amounted to N$52,149 million in q4-2019 which is 5.6 percent lower than N$55,243 million recorded during the same quarter of 2018. This decline is mainly attributed to exports which fell by 10.8 percent as opposed to a decline of 0.8 percent in imports. As the result of exports falling by a higher margin than imports over the quarter, the trade deficit deteriorated by 104.5 percent to a current balance of N$5,113 million when compared to N$2,501 million recorded during q4-2018.

Namibia trade continues to be concentrated to a few trading partners and key commodities and the top five in each segment being it export or import makes up more than 50 percent of trade. During the last quarter of 2019, China emerged as Namibia’s top export destination; mainly because of uranium ores and copper cathodes that the country exported to China. While, South Africa remained the main source of the country’s import and the overall leading trading partner in terms of total trade. Our exports are still being dominated by minerals such as diamonds, gold, copper cathodes, ores (mainly uranium) and fish which is the only non-mineral product that keep on resurfacing on the top five list over the years. Similarly, copper cathodes coming in for storage from Zambia and ores coming for processing have been recurring on the top five import products into the country together with mineral fuels and oils, industrial machinery along with motor vehicles and parts. In terms of trade with economic region, SACU remains the overall major economic region for the country exports as well as imports.

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 this report. In the same vain I would like to urge our users of statistical information to send to us any comments that may enhance statistical production and contribute to the improvement of this report.

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 Revisions

Revisions are always necessary as certain data only becomes available after the reference period. The table below presents revised data for the q3-2019 comparing figures as at December 2019 report and the current report.

Table 1: Revisions to q3-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>Revised q3-2019</th>
<th>Value (N$ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As reported in q3-2019</td>
<td>Difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Export</td>
<td>20,480</td>
<td>19,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Imports</td>
<td>27,404</td>
<td>26,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade balance</td>
<td>-6,924</td>
<td>-6,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows revisions made to export and import values of q3-2019. The value of both exports and imports were revised upwards with exports rising from N$19,360 million to N$20,480 million while imports rose from N$26,153 million to N$27,404 million. The revisions widened the trade deficit by N$132 million from N$6,792 million to N$6,924 million.

Most of the revisions on exports were largely driven by precious stones and metals, fish as well as vessels and boats while on imports industrial machinery, copper; as well as vessels and boats reflected most of the revisions.
1.2 Total Exports and Total Imports

Total exports stood at N$23,518 million in q4-2019, declining from N$26,371 million in q4-2018 (Chart 1).

On the other hand, total imports also followed the same trend, reducing to N$28,631 during the period under review from N$28,872 million registered a year ago. The contraction in exports was mainly induced by a decline in the export value of precious stones and metals as well as ores. The downturn in the imports followed a decline in import of industrial machinery.

1.3 Trade Balance

The trade balance compares the country’s trade in terms of earnings (exports) and expenditure (imports) with the rest of the world. Considering the period from q3-2017 to q4-2019, the country experienced continuous quarterly trade deficits. Trade balance amounted to a deficit of N$5,113 million in q4-2019, up from N$2,501 million in the corresponding quarter of 2018 and down from N$6,924 million registered in the previous quarter. Subsequently, the deficit deteriorated by 104.5 percent, as the value of exports during the quarter weakened by a higher margin of 10.8 percent in comparison to imports whose value
declined by 0.8 percent. On the contrary, the gap between exports and imports improved, narrowing by 26.2 percent when compared to the previous quarter as exports grew by 14.8 percent compared to a 4.5 percent increase observed in the value of imports.

**Chart 2: Trade Balance, q3-2017 to q4-2019**

Chart 2 shows the quarterly trade balance for the past ten quarters, q3-2017-q4-2019. The highest deficits over the period shown in chart 2 were recorded in q1-2018 (N$8,752 million), q3-2017 (N$8,050 million), q3-2019 (N$ 6,924 million) and q4-2017 (N$5,470 million). Whereas the lowest deficits of N$932 million, N$2,501 million and N$2,519 million were observed in q2-2018, q4-2018 and q2-2019, respectively.

Furthermore, Chart 2 reveals an unsteady trend in the deficit, with the most significant growth of 391.7 percent recorded in q3-2018. The average growth of the deficit over a ten-quarter period stood at 53.1 percent.

The persistent deficit is mostly driven by the country’s high demand for high-valued manufactured commodities and industrial machinery from the rest of the world as opposed to exporting low valued primary commodities such as raw minerals, unprocessed fish as well as fruits and nuts.
1.4 Trade Balance by Country

This section discusses the trade balance by countries to clearly identify Namibia trade deficit and trade surplus by countries. Chart 3 and 4 shows top 10 countries against which Namibia recorded trade deficit and surplus. Among the countries shown in chart 3 the highest trade deficits for the quarter were registered against South Africa; the country’s main trading partner, followed by Zambia, and India while the lowest deficit was recoded with Russia Federation.

CHART 3: Trade Balance by Country

Despite the deficit, Namibia also recorded bilateral surpluses with countries such as China, Botswana, Belgium, United Arab Emirates and Netherlands (Chart 4).
SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE (DOT)

2.1 Top Five (5) Export Markets and Products Composition

During the period under review, Namibia’s exports were mostly destined to five countries namely; China, South Africa, Botswana, Belgium and Zambia (Chart 5). These are the same countries that absorbed huge volumes of Namibia’s exports in the previous quarter except for Zambia which replaced Spain. Together, these countries made up the largest share of the value of all goods exported to the rest of the world, with 69.5 percent of the value of all goods exported destined to these markets. Despite overall downturn in total exports, export to these markets improved, growing by 20.5 percent to register N$16,346 million after recording N$13,561 million in the corresponding quarter a year ago. A further increase of 20.9 percent from N$13,516 million was observed when compared to the previous quarter.

![Chart 4: Main export products to top 5 export markets]

China, like in the previous quarter emerged as Namibia’s largest export destination, absorbing 30.2 percent of all goods exported while South Africa occupied the second position, absorbing 16.9 percent of the total domestic exports. Botswana in the third position accounted for 11.5 percent whereas Belgium was responsible for 6.6 percent of Namibia’s total exports and finally Zambia whose contribution to domestic exports stood at 4.4 percent.
Copper and ores (mostly uranium) constituted 97.9 percent of the total export to China during the reporting quarter while precious stones and metals (mainly gold) plus fish took the lead in export products to South Africa accounting for 48.6 percent of total share. Similarly, precious stones and metals (diamonds) accounted for 91.3 percent of exports to Botswana. Exports to Belgium was dominated by copper as well as precious stones and metals (diamonds) with a combined share of 90.1 percent. Finally, fish together with iron and steel were the main exports to Zambia with a total share of 48.7 percent.

More bilateral analysis of Chart 6 shows that domestic exports absorbed by four of this group of countries increased, with China experiencing the largest growth of 69.3 percent (N$2,908 million) to N$7,107 million from N$4,199 million witnessed in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Exports to Botswana also improved, rising by 26.9 percent to register N$2,697 million after recording N$2,126 million in the corresponding period a year ago. Furthermore, the value of exports to Zambia grew by 11.9 percent to register N$ 1,035 million from the amount of N$925 million recorded in the corresponding period of last year. Finally, Namibia saw exports to South Africa increasing by 5.7 percent to register N$3,965 million.
from N$3,751 million compared with the corresponding quarter a year earlier. Despite the growth experienced in exports to four of the top five countries, exports to Belgium declined by 39.8 percent to register N$1,541 million after recording N$2,560 million in the same period of last year.

The improvement in exports to China was mainly owed to copper and ores while to Botswana, the growth was led by precious stones and metals. Moreover, fish as well as iron and steel were responsible for the increase in exports to Zambia whereas exports to South Africa were impacted by precious stones and metals. On the other hand, the decline in exports to Belgium was on account of weakened export of copper to this country.

2.2 Top Five (5) Import Markets and Products Composition

Namibia’s persistent reliance on foreign goods was mostly sustained by South Africa, Zambia, India, DRC and China, as they supplied the domestic economy with the most needed import requirements (Chart 6). Together, these countries accounted for the largest share of Namibia’s total imports, with 71.9 percent of the value of all imported goods into Namibia. Subsequently, the value of imports from these markets strengthened, rising by 5 percent to register N$ 20,580 million, exceeding q4-2018’s estimated value of N$19,603 million. Similarly, overall imports edged up by N$334 million (1.6%) from N$20,247 million observed in the previous quarter.

*CHART 6: Main import products from top 5 import countries*
South Africa accounted for the largest share (44.1%) of the value of all goods absorbed into Namibia during the period under review, subsequently topping the list as Namibia’s largest import market. After South Africa, Zambia followed contributing 14.9 percent to Namibia’s total imports from the rest of the world. India’s contribution stood at 5 percent of total imports and hence ranked the third largest source of imports for the domestic economy.

Moreover, DRC and China’s respective shares of the country’s total imports stood at 4.3 percent and 3.5 percent, hence, occupying fourth and fifth position, respectively. Chart 7 shows that the major products imported from South Africa in q4-2019 were vehicles, industrial machinery as well as mineral oils and fuels with a combined share of 26.6 percent. Copper accounted for 95.4 and 93.6 percent of Namibia’s total imports from Zambia and DRC respectively. Imports from India were mainly mineral fuels and oils together with pharmaceuticals, constituting 91.5 percent of total imports. Moreover, the main imports from China were electrical machinery along with iron and steel with a pooled share of 39.5 percent.

Chart 8 shows that the value of imports from South Africa stood at N$12,640 million, 9.7 percent less than N$14,006 million recorded in q4-2018 and 6.2 percent lower when compared to N$13,471 million registered in the previous quarter. After South Africa, Zambia followed in the second position, contributing N$4,277 million to Namibia’s total imports from the rest of the world.
Unlike the case of South Africa, imports from that country increased, rising by 15.3 percent from N$3,708 million recorded in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Similarly, when compared to the previous quarter, imports from Zambia grew from N$4,236 million, representing an increase of 1 percent. Further, India’s contribution stood at N$1,446 million of total imports and hence ranked the third largest source of imports for the domestic economy. Like Zambia, Namibia saw a rise (280.4%) in imports from India when compared to N$380 million recorded in q4-2018. A comparison to the prior quarter also shows a growth (82.1%) from N$794 million recorded in q3-2019. Moreover, DRC and China’s respective contributions to the country’s total imports stood at N$1,219 million and N$998 million, hence, occupying fourth and fifth position respectively. Imports from DRC rose, with the largest growth of 4577.3 percent from a meagre N$26 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018. Whereas Imports from China dropped by 32.7 percent from N$1,482 million registered in q4-2018.

The recent growth in imports from Zambia and DRC emanates from high levels of domestic demand of copper from these countries. The increase observed in imports from India was mainly due to increased demand of mineral oils and fuels from that country. Although increase in imports was realized from three of the five countries, domestic demand of goods from South Africa and China dropped. The most decline was recorded with China were Namibia’s demand for Chinese goods (industrial machinery; iron and steel) slipped. Whereas the drop in imports from South Africa was mostly due to slowing demand of vehicles and parts; industrial machinery as well as mineral oils and fuels.
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS

3.1 Top Five (5) Export Products

Copper (N$6,662 million), precious stones and metals (N$6,272 million); ores (N$2,842 million), fish (N$2,226 million), as well as fruits and nuts (N$808 million) were the leading commodities exported by Namibia in q4-2019. Together, these commodities made up 80 percent of the total exports. Given a significant contribution coming from these commodities, the overall export value of these commodities improved, growing by N$1,262 million (7.2 percent) to register N$18,811 million from N$17,549 million in q4-2018.

*CHART 8: Top 5 export products*

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>q4-2019</th>
<th>q3-2019</th>
<th>q4-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>6,662</td>
<td>5,450</td>
<td>7,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precious stones &amp; metal</td>
<td>6,272</td>
<td>5,489</td>
<td>7,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ores</td>
<td>2,842</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>3,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>2,226</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>2,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and nuts</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>871</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

The observed growth in exports was largely driven by high foreign demand of three of the top five export products, with the most noticeable increase reflected in the value of copper (38.1 percent) followed by fruits and nuts (29.1 percent) and finally by fish (8.6%) (Chart 9). Unlike the increase recorded in three of the top five export products, the export value of ores together with precious stones and metals fell by 17.8 percent and 4.8 percent respectively.
The increase in the value of copper from N$4,825 million obtained in q4-2018 to the current N$6,662 million was attributed to a soaring export of copper to China. In the case of fruits and nuts, the growth from N$626 million in q4-2018 to the current N$808 million was ascribed to a hike in export of fruits to UK, Netherlands and Germany. In addition, fish export increased from N$2,049 million in q4-2018 to N$2,226 million during the current quarter mainly due to a hike in demand of fish by Namibia’s key export markets for fish such as Spain, South Africa, DRC and Zambia. As for the declines, export of ores contracted from N$3,459 million in same quarter a year ago to record N$2,842 million during the reporting quarter primarily due to a weak demand of ores by France. The export of precious stones and metals also tumbled from N$6,590 million in q4-2018 to the current N$6,272 million mostly due to low export of products of this category to United Arab Emirates and USA.

3.2 Fish Exports and Major Markets

During the period under review, fish continued to demonstrate its significance as one of the country’s major export revenue earner, ranking fourth among the top five major export commodities (Chart 10). Fish accounted for 9.5 percent of all the goods exported to the rest of the world.

*Chart 9: Top 5 key export markets for fish*

Chart 10 shows that Spain was by far Namibia’s top export market for fish with the largest share of 35.8 percent. It was followed by South Africa (17.3 percent), DRC (15.2 percent), Zambia (13.8 percent) and
Italy (3.5 percent). Collectively, these markets absorbed 85.6 percent of the country total export of fish to the rest of the world.

Chart 11 shows that even though overall total export fell, fish continued to play an important role in generating revenue for the country. Current figures show that fish earnings rose from N$2,049 million recorded in q4-2018 to the current N$2,226 million, indicating an improvement of 8.6 percent. Spain, South Africa, DRC and Zambia emerged as the main drivers behind the increase in fish exports.

Over the past ten quarters, fish exports grew at an average of 1 percent, reaching an all-time high of N$2,735 million in q2-2019 and a record low of N$2,011 million in q4-2017. On average, the country earned N$2,402 million from fish per quarter over the last ten quarters.

Q-on-q, the strongest growth in fish exports were recorded in q1-2018 (23.7%) and q1-2019 (22.5%). On the other hand, some quarters recorded significant declines, with the most noticeable declines observed in q4-2018 (21.8%) and q4-2019 (13.1%).
3.3 Top Five (5) Re-export Products

Namibia’s total re-exports stood at N$10,737 million in the current quarter, 7.3 percent lower than N$11,588 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018. Copper, precious stones and metals; motor vehicles and parts; industrial machinery, as well as iron and steel were the most dominant re-exports by value (Chart 12). A combined re-export value of the aforementioned commodities increased, rising by N$2,394 million (35.2 percent) from N$6,798 million recorded in q4-2018 to N$9,192 million witnessed in the current quarter. Together, these commodities accounted for 85.6 percent of Namibia’s total re-export value, up from 58.7 percent and 80.2 percent recorded in q4-2018 and q3-2019 respectively.

CHART 11: Top 5 re-export products

The yearly increase in the total re-export value was mainly driven by an upswing in re-export of copper, precious stones and metals; as well as iron and steel. Re-export of copper rose by N$1,836 million (40.9 percent) from N$4,488 million registered in q4-2018 to the current N$6,325 million. This increase was mainly attributed to the growth in the re-export value of copper destined to China.

Re-exports of precious metals and metals grew by N$525 million (34.8 percent) to register N$2,032 million when compared to N$1,507 million witnessed in q4-2018. This was primarily on account of an increase in
re-export of products under this category to Belgium, United Arab Emirates and Botswana. Additionally, re-export of iron and steel increased by N$124 million (145.8 percent) to register N$209 million when compared to N$85 million recorded in q4-2018. This growth was mainly led by a rise in re-export of these products to Zambia.

Apart from the increase recorded in three of the top five products, re-export of motor vehicles and parts fell by N$77 million (19.4 percent) to register N$321 million from the N$399 million recorded in q4-2018, this was mainly due to a reduction in the value of these products re-exported to South Africa. Finally, re-export of industrial machinery also declined by N$14 million (4.3 percent) to register N$305 million lower than N$319 million recorded in the corresponding quarter a year earlier, mainly on account of a fall in demand of products of this category by Angola.

3.4 Top Five (5) Import Products
Copper, mineral oils and fuels; motor vehicles and parts; industrial machinery and ores emerged as the most commodities imported into Namibia (Chart 13). These commodities accounted for a combined share of 49 percent of the value of all goods imported, up from 39.8 percent but slightly less than 49.7 percent recorded in q4-2018 and q3-2019, respectively. The overall import value of these commodities combined grew by N$2,518 million (21.9 percent) to register N$14,019 million when compared to N$11,501 million recorded in q4-2018. A similar trend was observed when compared to the previous quarter, where imports of the aforementioned commodities rose by 3 percent after registering N$13,606 million in q3-2019.
The recent growth in imports was mainly attributed to a hike in domestic demand of four of the top five import products, with the most noticeable increase witnessed in the import value of ores which grew by 71.5 percent from N$949 million recorded in q4-2018 to the current amount of N$1,627 million. The increment experienced in ores was mainly explained by a rise in the value of copper ores entering the country for processing, mostly imported from Bulgaria and Peru. Following the ores, there was also a significant increase in import of copper whose value increased by 43 percent to record N$5,238 million, when compared to an amount of N$3,664 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018. Much of this increase was reflected to a growth in import of copper from DRC and Zambia. Importation of mineral oils and fuels also increased, rising from N$3,094 million in q4-2018 to the current N$3,462 million, translating to 11.9 percent increment. The increase reflected in mineral oils and fuels was owed to a surge in domestic demand of commodities under this category mainly sourced from India and Italy. Additionally, import of motor vehicles and parts increased too, growing by 3.2 percent above N$1,670 million reported in q4-2018 to register the current N$1,724 million. This increase was mainly on account of a rise in import of these products from Japan and UK. On the contrary, import of industrial machinery declined, falling by 7.4 percent from N$2,125 million in q4-2018 to N$1,968 million observed in q4-2019. The downswing experienced in importation of industrial machinery was mostly reflected in the value of imports from South Africa.
On a quarterly basis, Namibia recorded a growth in the import value of copper and ores; whereas the import value of mineral oils and fuels; vehicles and parts together with industrial machinery declined.
SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) excluding South Africa dominated Namibia’s export market compared to other economic regions during the period under review (Chart 14). Y-on-y export revenue from that region increased by 65.4 percent to register N$7,290 million, from N$4,408 million recorded in q4-2018. Q-on-q, exports to BRIC rose by 50.9 percent when compared to N$4,831 million recorded in q3-2019. At the other extreme, BRIC absorbed 30.1 percent of Namibia’s total exports, the largest share compared to all other economic regions. In comparison, the current percent share is more than 16.7 percent recorded in q4-2018 and 23.6 percent accounted for in q3-2019.

CHART 13: Export by Economic Regions

The Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) was Namibia’s second largest export market. Y-on-y exports to SACU strengthened, rising to N$6,667 million in q4-2019 after recording N$5,878 million in q4-2018, translating to an increase of 13.4 percent. Q-on-q exports to that region rose from N$6,323 million registered in q3-2019, representing 5.4 percent increase. In terms of export share, SACU accounted for 28.3 percent of the total exports, up from 22.3 percent recorded in q4-2018 and down from 30.9 percent registered in the previous quarter.
The European Union (EU) ranked third as the largest export market for the domestic economy. Y-on-y domestic exports absorbed by the EU dropped, registering N$3,749 million from N$5,655 million, indicating a 33.7 percent decrease. Similarly, Q-on-q exports to that market weakened from an estimated N$4,082 million, representing an 8.2 percent decrease. The EU’s contribution towards Namibia’s total exports revenue dropped to 15.9 percent, from a share of 21.4 percent and from 19.9 percent recorded in q4-2018 and q3-2019 respectively.

The SADC-non-SACU region ranked fourth as an important export market for the local economy. Y-on-y exports to that market rose, registering N$1,987 million compared to N$1,970 million recorded in q4-2018, translating to a 0.9 percent increase. Q-on-q exports to this market slightly declined by 0.1 percent after recording N$1,988 million in q3-2019. Additionally, SADC-non-SACU’s contribution to Namibia’s total export revenue stood at 8.4 percent, up from 7.5 percent y-on-y and down from 9.7 percent of its q-on-q contribution.

Another important export destination for the domestic economy was the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), absorbing N$1,730 million worth of domestic exports compared to N$1,599 million recorded in q4-2018, which translates to an 8.2 percent increase. Q-on-q exports to that market weakened, falling by 0.8 percent compared to the amount of N$1,745 million registered in q3-2019. In terms of contribution, COMESA accounted for 7.4 percent of Namibia’s total export revenue in q4-2019, up from 6.1 percent of q4-2018 and down from 8.5 percent recorded in q3-2019.

4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

SACU emerged as Namibia’s largest supplier of imported goods (Chart 15), after recording N$13,392 million worth of imports in q4-2019. Overall imports from SACU declined by 10.3 percent when compared to N$14,937 million recorded in q4-2018. Imports from that region fell by 3.2 percent after registering N$13,840 million in q3-2019. In addition, 46.8 percent of Namibia’s total import requirements in q4-2019 were supplied by SACU, down from 51.1 percent in q4-2018 and 50.5 percent in q3-2019.

COMESA was the second largest source of imports for the domestic economy. The import bill from that market was estimated at N$5,640 million in the quarter under review. This represents 45.1 percent increase when compared to N$3,887 million recorded in the same quarter of last year. Similarly, an 11.1
percent increase was registered when compared to N$5,104 million recorded in the previous quarter. Subsequently, COMESA accounted for 19.7 percent of Namibia’s overall import bill in q4-2019, up from 13.5 percent q4-2018 and from 18.6 percent accounted for in q3-2019.

CHART 14: Import by Economic Regions

SADC-non-SACU occupied the third position as a crucial source of imports for the domestic market. Imports from that market increased by 45 percent, registering N$5,567 million in q4-2019 after recording N$3,816 million in q4-2018. When compared to the previous quarter, imports from that market also rose from N$5,011 million representing an 11.1 percent increase. SADC-Non-SACU accounted for a share of 19.4 percent of Namibia’s overall import bill in q4-2019, increasing from 13.2 percent accounted for in the same quarter last year and from 18.3 percent witnessed in the preceding quarter.

BRIC ranked fourth as a major source of imports for Namibia. Imports from BRIC increased, registering N$2,643 million compared to N$2,104 million recorded in q4-2018, which translated to 25.6 percent rise. When compared to the previous quarter, imports from that region also picked up from N$2,050 million in q3-2019, representing 28.9 percent increase. BRIC accounted for 9.2 percent of the overall import bill in q4-2019, down from 7.3 percent in q4-2018 and 7.5 percent in q3-2019.
The EU also played a vital role in supporting the domestic economy's demand for imports. Overall imports from that region amounted to N$2,478 million in q4-2019 after recording N$1,591 million in q4-2018, indicating an increase of 55.8 percent. Similarly, 12.3 percent decrease was registered when compared to N$2,208 million recorded in q3-2019. The EU accounted for 8.7 percent of total imports, up from 5.5 percent registered in q4-2018 and from 8.1 percent witnessed in the previous quarter.
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

5.1 Exports

Recent figures show that domestic goods amounting to N$11,246 million left the borders of Namibia by sea. This amount is equivalent to 47.8 percent of the value of all commodities exported from the domestic market to the rest of the world, down by 8.3 percentage points from 56.1 percent when compared to the corresponding period a year ago and down by 5.1 percentage points from 52.9 percent recorded in the previous quarter. The current export figure of N$11,246 million shows a contraction of 24.0 percent (N$3,561 million) from its q4-2018 level of N$14,807 million. A different trend was observed when compared to the previous quarter in which exports increased by 3.7 percent after registering an amount of N$10,843 million in q3-2019. The large volume of exports by sea was mainly reflected in minerals (mostly copper and uranium) and fish.

Air was the second most used means of transporting domestic exports to the rest of the world (Chart 16) following a 19 percent rise in the volume of airborne exports to the level of N$6,434 million compared to N$5,407 million recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier. A similar trend was noted when compared to the previous quarter in which exports rose by 27.9 percent from the level of N$5,031 million. Subsequently, the share of airborne exports rose to 27.4 percent up 2.8 percentage points higher than its q4-2018 level of 24.6 percent and 6.9 percentage points more than its rate of 20.5 percent in q3-2018. Mineral (precious stones and metals) and fish accounted for the largest share of airborne exports.

CHART 15: Export by mode of transport
Road ranked third as the most used means of transporting exports following a 4.7 percent decline from its q4-2018 level of N$6,126 million to N$5,837 million (Chart 16). Nevertheless, a different trend was observed when compared to the previous quarter in which road bound exports rose by N$1,259 million (27.5%) from N$4,578 million. In terms of contributions, the percentage share of exports fell 1.6 percentage points to 24.8 percent of the value of all goods exported, from 23.2 percent in corresponding quarter in 2018, but rose by 2.5 percentage from 22.4 percent registered in the third quarter of 2019. Copper, grapes, fish and beer were the main commodities exported by road.

5.2 Imports

Most of the cargo imported into Namibia were road bound (Chart 17), with copper, motor vehicles and parts; precious stones and metals; animal feeds and; mineral fuels and oils accounting for the largest share in road bound imports. Subsequently, road bound imports rose by N$682 million (3.7%) to N$19,337 million from its q4-2018 level of N$18,655 million. When compared to the previous quarter, imports also improved, rising by N$1,528 million (8.6%) after recording N$17,809 million in the previous quarter of 2018. The value of road bound imports remained high compared to other mode of transports during the period under review, as reflected by its contribution of 67.5 percent of total imports, up by 2.9 percentage points from its annual rate of 64.6 percent, and up 22.5 percentage points from its quarterly rate of 65 percent.
Sea transport was ranked the second most used mode of transport in terms of imports. This was mainly attributed by large volumes of commodities such as mineral fuels and oils; ores; sugar and sugar confectionaries which contributed the largest shares in seaborne imports. Despite its ranking, seaborne imports showed a contraction of 12.4 percent (N$1,100 million) from its q4-2018 level of N$8,839 million to register N$7,739 million. Similarly, imports slipped by N$755 million (8.9%) when compared to the level of N$8,494 million in the previous quarter. The contraction in seaborne imports was also reflected in its contribution to total imports which fell by 3.6 percentage points from its annual rate of 30.6 percent to 27 percent and further down from its quarterly rate of 31 percent. Airborne transport also showed its significance during the analyzed period after ranking third on the import chart. As in the case of exports, precious stones and metals emerged as the largest contributor to imports transported by air. Furthermore, recent figures show that airborne imports increased by N$255 million (19.8%) to register N$1,544 million after it was recorded at N$1,289 million in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Similarly, imports strengthened when compared to the previous quarter, rising by N$491 million (46.7%) from N$1,053 million recorded in q3-2019. In terms of contributions, airborne imports accounted for 5.4 percent of the total imports, up from 4.5 percent and 3.8 percent accounted for in q4-2018 and q3-2019 respectively. Finally, the value airborne imports were negligible compared to the value of road bound and seaborne imports.
Conclusion

In the fourth quarter of 2019, Namibia’s export was valued at N$23,518 million, indicating a contraction of 10.8 percent when compared to its level of N$26,371 million in q4-2018 whereas this level was 14.8 percent higher than N$20,480 million in the previous quarter. On the other hand, imports were N$28,631 million, showing a slight decline of 0.8 percent after recording N$28,872 million in the same quarter a year earlier. A declining trend of 4.5 percent was also observed when compared to the level of N$27,404 million in the previous quarter. The simultaneous decline observed in the both exports and imports resulted in a trade deficit to the tune of N$5,113 million, which implies that the deficit worsened (rose) by more than double (104.5%) when compared to its q4-2018 level of N$2,501 million.

China remained the largest export destination for domestic goods after absorbing 30.2 percent of all the goods exported from Namibia. South Africa claimed the second spot with a market share of 16.9 percent of Namibia’s total exports, while Botswana and Belgium settled for third and fourth places absorbing 11.5 percent and 6.6 percent share of total exports, respectively. Furthermore, Zambia only absorbed 4.4 percent of total exports, this was the least share accounted for within the top five export markets. On the other hand, imports were mainly sourced from South Africa, which supplied the largest share of 44.1 percent of total imports to Namibia, followed by Zambia and India with 14.9 and 5 percent respectively. Other significant markets such as DRC and China contributed 4.3 percent and 3.5 percent respectively.

The analysis on commodities revealed that exports were mostly led by copper (28.3 percent), precious stones and metals (26.7 percent), ores (12.1 percent), fish (9.5 percent) followed by fruits and nuts (3.4 percent). Similarly, two commodities out of the aforementioned commodities also featured on the list of re-exports with the exception of industrial machinery, motor vehicles and parts; and ores. While, re-exports were mainly led by copper (58.9 percent), precious stones and metals (18.9 percent) along with motor vehicles and parts (3.0 percent). Industrial machinery together with iron and steel followed, contributing 2.8 percent and 1.9 percent respectively.

On the other hand, imports were dominated by copper (18.3 percent), mineral oils and fuels (12.1 percent), industrial machinery (6.9 percent), motor vehicles and parts (6 percent), and finally ores (5.7 percent).

In terms of regional composition, Namibia’s exports were mostly absorbed by BRIC and SACU, with BRIC absorbing the largest share of 30.1 percent, SACU with 27.6 percent, EU with 15.5 percent, SADC-Non-
SACU with 8.2 percent, and COMESA with 7.1 percent. Equally, imports were also sourced from the same economic regions with SACU taking the lead by 46.8 percent of total imports, COMESA with 19.7 percent, SADC-Non-SACU with 19.4 percent, BRIC with 9.2 percent and EU with 8.7 percent.

The composition of trade by mode of transport clearly shows that Namibia’s goods were mostly exported by sea, air and road, with sea emerging as the most used means of transport, accounting for the lion’s share of 47.8 percent of total exports, followed by air with 27.4 percent, while road freight held steady in its third position as the most used means of transport with a share of 24.8 percent. On the other hand, most commodities imported into Namibia were road bound and seaborne which contributed a share of 67.5 percent and 27 percent respectively. Air transport accounted for 5.4 percent of the value of all goods imported.