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
Table of Contents
Table of Contents .......................................................... i
List of Charts .................................................................. ii
List of acronyms .............................................................. iii
Preface ........................................................................ iv
SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS ............................................ 1
  1.1 Revisions for November 2021 ....................................... 1
  1.2 Summary ............................................................... 1
  1.3 Total exports and total imports ................................... 5
  1.4 Trade balance for the period December 2020 to December 2021 .... 6
SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE ........................................... 7
  2.1 Top Five Export Markets ........................................... 7
  2.2 Top Five Import Markets .......................................... 8
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS ............................................ 9
  3.1 Top Five Export Products .......................................... 9
  3.2 Top Five Re-Export Products .................................... 10
  3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products .................................... 11
SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS ........................... 13
  4.1 Exports by Economic Regions ................................... 13
  4.2 Imports by Economic Regions .................................... 14
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT AND BORDER POST ........................................... 15
  5.1 Export by mode of transport ...................................... 15
  5.2 Import by mode of transport ...................................... 16
  5.3 Trade by Border Post ............................................... 17
  6. Commodity of the Month – Beauty, make-up & skin care products .... 19
Conclusion .................................................................. 20
List of Table & Charts

Table 1: Revisions for November 2021 ........................................................................................................1
Chart 1: Cumulative total trade values(N$ m) ..........................................................................................2
Chart 2: Total exports and imports for the period Dec 2020 - Dec 2021 ..............................................5
Chart 3: Trade balance for the period Dec 2020 - Dec 2021 ..................................................................6
Chart 4: Percentage share export by top five partners, Dec 2021 ........................................................7
Chart 5: Percentage share of top five imports partners, Dec 2021 .........................................................8
Chart 6: Percentage share of top five export products, Dec 2021 ........................................................9
Chart 7: Percentage share of top five re-export products, Dec 2021 ....................................................10
Chart 8: Percentage share of top five import products, Dec 2021 .........................................................11
Chart 9: Percentage share of top five export economic regions, Dec 2021 ...........................................13
Chart 10: Percentage share of top five import economic regions, Dec 2021 ........................................14
Chart 11: Percentage share of export by modes of transport, Dec 2021 ...............................................15
Chart 12: Percentage share of import by modes of transport, Dec 2021 ..............................................16
Chart 13: Export by border posts, Oct 2021 - Dec 2021 ......................................................................17
Chart 14: Import by border posts, Oct 2021 - Dec 2021 ......................................................................18
Chart 15: Import of beauty, make-up & skin care products, Dec 2020 - Dec 2021 ..........................19
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
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 December 2021. The dataset analyzed in this publication can be downloaded at www.nsa.org.na

The month of December 2021, Namibia’s total merchandise trade registered N$ 21.1 billion, a decline of 6.8 percent when compared to the levels of N$22.6 billion recorded in November 2021 however, an increase of 25.4 percent when compared to the levels of N$16.8 billion recorded in December 2020. However, the country’s trade balance remained in a deficit, standing at N$2.4 billion from a deficit of N$3.2 billion recorded in November 2021, which is by far worse when compared to a deficit N$425 million witnessed in December 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 source market for the country. The composition of the export basket for the month of December 2021 was mainly comprised of minerals such as Copper blisters, Precious stones (diamonds), Uranium as well as Non-monetary gold. Fish continued to be the only non-mineral commodity within the top five products exported. On the other hand, the import basket was mainly comprised of Copper blisters, Petroleum oils, Ores and concentrates of precious metals’, ‘Copper ores and concentrates’ as well as inorganic chemical elements.

For the month of December 2021, re-exports increased by 23.0 percent month-on-month and 21.7 percent year-on-year. The re-exports basket mainly consisted of Copper blisters, which accounted for 65.6 percent mainly sourced from Zambia and DRC.

Analysis for the commodity of the month for December 2021 focused on import of skin-care products. Namibia imported skin care products valued at N$38.5 million of which 88.8 percent were from South Africa.
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
SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Revisions for November 2021

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

Table 1: Revisions for November 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>As reported in Nov_2021 Bulletin (N$ m)</th>
<th>As reported in Dec_2021 (N$ m)</th>
<th>Difference (N$ m)</th>
<th>Difference in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Export</td>
<td>8,784</td>
<td>9,702</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Imports</td>
<td>12,089</td>
<td>12,887</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade balance</td>
<td>-3,305</td>
<td>-3,184</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 above shows that both trade flows were revised upward, exports increased from N$8.8 billion to the current level of N$9.7 billion while imports increased from the level of N$12.1 billion to N$12.9 billion resulting in the deficit of N$3.2 billion. The current revisions on exports were mainly attributed to the revised export value for Copper blisters, precious stones (diamonds), vehicles for transport of goods and fish while the revisions on imports stemmed from Copper blister, motor vehicles for transport of goods, other meat and edible meat offal; and sugar.

1.2 Summary

For the month of December 2021, Namibia’s exports earnings stood at N$ 9.3 billion (decrease by 3.8% on a monthly basis) while the imports bill amounted to N$11.7 billion (down by 9.0% on a monthly basis). This resulted in a trade deficit of N$2.4 billion, which is an improvement from the trade deficit of N$3.2 billion recorded in November 2021.
1.2.1 Cumulative total trade values

Namibia’s trade activities picked up for the period of January to December 2021 when compared to the same period of 2020. Cumulative total trade (import + export) for the period of January 2021 to December 2021 stood at N$223.8 billion compared to N$195.1 billion recorded during the same period of 2020 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Cumulative total trade values (N$ m)

1.2.2 Trade highlights by category

The monthly decline of 3.8 percent in export of goods recorded December 2021 was mainly reflected in:

- Uranium decreased by N$572 million (-35.6%)
- Precious stones (diamonds) decreased by N$346 million (-22.1%)
- Ores and concentrates of base metals decreased by N$299 million (-78.9%)
- Non-monetary gold decreased by N$229 million (-23.2%)
- Rubber tyres decreased by N$125 million (-92.8%)
The monthly decline of 9.0 percent in import of goods recorded for December 2021 was mainly reflected in:

- Copper blisters decreased by N$ 428 million (-11.1%)
- Precious stones (diamonds) decreased by N$ 191 million (-53.2%)
- Petroleum oils decreased by N$165 million (-19.1%)
- Motor vehicles for transport of goods decreased by N$149 million (-44.6%)
- Other meat and edible offal decreased by N$123 million (-60.7%)

1.2.3 Trade balance highlights by world zones

Africa: The trade deficit shrunk from N$5.9 billion in November 2021 to N$4.6 billion registered in December 2021. Exports declined by N$619 million to N$3.0 billion whereas imports decreased by N$1.9 billion to N$7.7 billion.

Asia: The trade balance decreased from a surplus of N$3.3 billion in November 2021 to a surplus of N$1.6 billion recorded in December 2021. Exports declined by N$1.3 billion to N$3.3 billion while imports increased by N$448 million to N$1.7 billion.

Europe: The trade balance dropped from a surplus of N$110 million in November 2021 to N$88 million posted for December 2021. Exports increased by N$324 million to N$1.3 billion and imports increased by N$345 million to N$1.2 billion.

America: The trade balance improved from a deficit of N$225 million in November 2021 to a surplus N$1.0 billion in December 2021. Exports surged by N$1.1 billion to N$1.3 billion whereas imports declined by N$183 million to N$220 million.

Oceania/Australia: The trade balance weakens from a deficit of N$15 million in November 2021 to a deficit of N$24 million that was recorded in December 2021.
1.2.4 Trade highlight by International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) provide a set of activity categories that can be utilized for the collection and reporting of statistics according to such activities.

In December 2021, manufactured products emerged as the largest exported goods with a value of N$6.0 billion, representing 63.9 percent of total exports. Export of products from the manufacturing industry increased by N$869 million from N$5.1 billion recorded in November 2021. The Mining and quarrying industry came in second place with export valued of N$2.6 billion recorded for December 2021. Export of products from this industry, decreased by N$1.3 billion from N$3.9 billion recorded for November 2021.

The demand for products was mainly dominated by commodities from the manufacturing industry, with an import bill of N$9.2 billion in December 2021. This is a decline of N$1.7 billion from N$10.9 billion recorded in November 2021. Furthermore, the country imported goods from the mining and quarrying industry amounting to N$2.3 billion representing an increase of N$588 million from N$1.7 billion recorded in November 2021.
1.3 Total exports and total imports

The value of exports\(^1\) in December 2021 decreased by 3.8 percent to N$9.3 billion from its November 2021 level of N$9.7 billion. On the other hand, when compared to its level of N$8.2 billion recorded in December 2020, exports increased by 14.1 percent (Chart 2). Imports stood at N$11.7 billion, reflecting a decrease of 9.0 percent month-on-month and an increase of 36.2 percent on a yearly basis. Following these developments in both flows, Namibia’s total merchandize trade (exports plus imports) with the ROW\(^2\) decreased by 6.8 percent from its November 2021 level of N$22.6 billion to N$21.1 billion recorded in December 2021. On the contrary, total trade value increased by 25.4 percent when compared to N$16.8 billion recorded in December 2020.

\[\text{Chart 2: Total exports and imports for the period Dec 2020 - Dec 2021}\]

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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 for the period December 2020 to December 2021

The trade balance\(^3\) compares the country’s trade flow with the ROW in terms of export earnings and expenditure on imports\(^3\). During the month under review, Namibia recorded a trade deficit to the tune of N§2.4 billion, reflecting an improved deficit when compared to the N§3.2 billion recorded in November 2021 but exacerbated when compared to a deficit of N§425 million recorded in December 2020 (Chart 3). Over the period (Dec-20 to Dec-21), Namibia recorded a deficit averaging to N§2.6 billion without recording any trade surplus.

*Chart 3: Trade balance for the period Dec 2020 - Dec 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 out flow.
2.1 Top Five Export Markets

During the month of December 2021, Namibia’s top five export partners were China, South Africa, Botswana, USA and France (Chart 4). These top five markets accounted for 72.2 percent of Namibia’s total exports, up from 69.8 percent witnessed in November 2021 and 65.6 percent recorded in December 2020.
2.2 Top Five Import Markets

In December 2021, South Africa, Zambia, DRC, China and India were the major source of imports for Namibia. The top five import markets supplied Namibia with 75.1 percent of all imports required by the country, down from its November 2021 level of 76.9 percent and 75.7 percent recorded in December 2020. The individual contribution of each of these countries to Namibia’s total imports is shown in Chart 5.

*Chart 5: Percentage share of top five imports partners, Dec 2021*

South Africa remained Namibia’s largest source of imports with a share of 31.1 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 21.4 percent of total imports. Furthermore, DRC came in the third place accounting for 10.9 percent of Namibia’s total imports followed by China and India contributing 6.5 percent and 5.3 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.

3.1 Top Five Export Products

Copper blister\(^4\) remains Namibia’s largest export commodity during the month under review (Chart 6), accounting for 34.4 percent of total exports mainly destined to China. This was followed by precious stones (diamonds) which accounted for 13.1 percent of total exports destined mostly to Botswana, UAE, Belgium and Hong Kong. Uranium was ranked third on the list with a market share of 11.1 percent that was destined to China, France and Canada.

*Chart 6: Percentage share of top five export products, Dec 2021*

Non-monetary gold accounted for 8.1 percent of total exports of which most was destined to South Africa and Angola. Finally, fish that accounted for 6.9 percent of total export mostly destined to

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\(^5\) Copper blister is partly purified copper being, about 98.5 to 99.5 per cent pure with a blistered surface formed during smelting
Spain, Zambia and South Africa. The aforementioned top five export commodities jointly accounted for 73.5 percent of total exports during the period under review.

3.2 Top Five Re-Export Products
Re-exports are commodities imported by residents who assume short-term ownership of the commodities. Subsequently, these commodities are exported without undergoing any significant industrial transformation. Even though there are no substantial transformation, 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 December 2021, total re-exports stood at N$4.9 billion from N$4 billion recorded in the previous month and the corresponding month of last year.

*Chart 7: Percentage share of top five re-export products, Dec 2021*

The top five commodities that utilised Namibia’s logistical services in December 2021 were Copper blisters with a share of 65.6 percent of total re-exports mostly destined to China, USA, Netherlands and Zambia (Chart 7). Following in the second place was precious stones (diamonds) with a share of 8.2 percent of total re-exports, which was destined to the UAE, Botswana and Belgium. Inorganic
chemical elements accounted for 4.2 percent of all commodities re-exported and was mostly destined to Finland and USA. Copper ores and concentrates and petroleum oils accounted for 3.9 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively, with China taking the lead as the destination for copper ores and concentrates whereas Botswana was the major destination for petroleum oils.

As indicated earlier, re-exports are foreign goods and hence imported from other countries. Looking at the origin of the major products which were re-exported, Copper blister was imported mainly from Zambia and the DRC, precious stones (diamonds) were mainly sourced from Botswana whereas inorganic chemicals was mostly imported from the DRC and South Africa. Switzerland, Bulgaria and Botswana supplied most of the copper ores and concentrates.

### 3.3 Top Five (5) Import Products

During the period under review, the value of imports into the country amounted to N$11.7 billion down from N$12.9 billion witnessed in November 2021 and an increase from N$8.6 billion recorded in December 2020. The top five commodities imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 48.0 percent of total imports with copper blisters taking the lead with the largest share of 29.2 percent. Following in the second position is petroleum oils with a share of 6.0 percent of all commodities imported. ‘Ores and concentrates of precious metals’ was ranked third after contributing 5.7 percent to total imports while copper ores and concentrates; and inorganic chemicals followed in the fourth and fifth position with contributions of 5.4 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively (Chart 8).

*Chart 8: Percentage share of top five import products, Dec 2021*
Copper blisters imported into the country in December 2021 originated mainly from Zambia and DRC while most of the petroleum oils came from India. ‘Ores and concentrates of precious metals’, and ‘Copper ores and concentrates’ were mainly sourced from Bulgaria and Switzerland whereas inorganic chemicals were sourced mainly from DRC and South Africa.
**SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS**

**4.1 Exports by Economic Regions**

BRIC emerged as the largest export destination for Namibia’s goods during the month of review with 31.6 percent of total exports (Chart 9). OECD and SACU countries followed in the second and third positions absorbing 28.9 percent and 25.5 percent of the Namibia’s total export shares, respectively. In addition, the EU market absorbed 12.2 percent of Namibia’s total export whereas SADC excl. SACU had a market share of 6.8 percent of the country’s exports.

*Chart 9: Percentage share of top five export economic regions, Dec 2021*

Exports to BRIC comprised mainly of copper blisters; uranium; ‘copper ores and concentrates’; and ‘stone, sand and gravel’ whereas, copper blisters; uranium and fish were the main exported commodities to the OECD group of countries. Precious stones (diamonds) and gold made up the largest share of exports to SACU. Namibia exports to the EU market comprised mostly of fish and uranium whereas, fish and other plastics in primary forms were exported to ‘SADC excl. SACU’ for the month.
4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

In December 2021, the COMESA market emerged as the largest source of imports for Namibia accounting for 32.9 percent of all goods imported. This was followed by SACU and ‘SADC excl. SACU’ markets with a share of 32.7 percent and 32.6 percent, hence ranking second and the third, respectively. Namibia mainly imported copper blisters, inorganic chemicals, ‘copper ores and concentrates’ from COMESA and ‘SADC excl. SACU’ markets while ‘motor vehicles for the transport of goods’, alcoholic beverages; and ‘ores and concentrates of base metals’ were main products imported from SACU. The OECD and BRIC contributed 13.1 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively and hence ranking these two regions to be the fourth and fifth place.

*Chart 10: Percentage share of top five import economic regions, Dec 2021*

Namibia mainly imported ‘ores and concentrates of precious metals’; ‘copper ores and concentrates’; and Petroleum oils from the OECD while petroleum oils, ‘Iron and steel bars’ were the major products sourced from the BRIC.
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT AND BORDER POST

5.1 Export by mode of transport

Throughout the month of December 2021, exports amounting to N$4.2 billion, representing 44.7 percent of total exports left the country by sea (Chart 11). This represent a decline of 17.8 percent when compared to its November 2021 level of N$5.1 billion. Similarly, a decrease of 16.3 percent was detected when compared to its level of N$5.0 billion recorded in December 2020. Road and air transportation accounted for 33.4 percent and 21.9 percent of total exports, respectively.

*Chart 11: Percentage share of export by modes of transport, Dec 2021*

In terms of tonnage, about 99,614 tons of goods were transported out of Namibia by sea during the month under review. This displays a massive decrease from its November 2021 level of 190,233 tons as well as from the level of 113,557 tons registered in December 2020. About 128,951 tons of goods left the country by road compared to 145,438 tons recorded in the previous month and from 124,551 tons posted in December 2020. Only 216 tons of goods were transported out of the country by air in the month of December 2021 more than 106 tons and 177 tons registered in the previous month and the same month a year ago, respectively.
5.2 Import by mode of transport

Transport by road was commonly the mode of transport used for imports during the period under review. The value of imports by road amounted to N$8.4 billion, representing 71.4 percent of all goods imported into the country (Chart 12). Sea transport came in at second-place accounting for 25.5 percent of all the goods imported in the country while 3.0 percent, arrived by air.

*Chart 12: Percentage share of import by modes of transport, Dec 2021*

In terms of tonnage, the month under review recorded about 223,095 tons of goods entered the country by road. This is less than the weight of 272,748 tons and 241,130 tons of imports observed in November 2021 and December 2020, respectively. Imports weighing 68,426 tons came into the country via sea compared to the weights of 100,679 recorded in November 2021 and 144,708 tons in December 2020.
5.3 Trade by Border Post

This sub-section provides the trade value of commodities passing through commercial border posts for the past three months of 2021 (Oct - Dec).

*Chart 13: Export by border posts, Oct 2021 - Dec 2021*

Chart 13 indicates in December 2021, Walvis Bay (N$5.3 billion), Eros Airport (N$1.8 billion), Noordoewer (N$597 million), Wenela (N$507 million) and Trans Kalahari (N$388 million) were the major border posts where Namibia’s exports were processed. In total, the five border posts accounted for N$8.6 billion (92.5%) of total export earnings for the month.
On the import side, Wenela (N$3.8 billion), Walvis Bay (N$3.0 billion), Ariamsvlei (N$1.9 billion), Trans Kalahari (N$1.3 billion) and Noordoewer (N$890 million) were the main entry points/border posts through which commodities entered the country (Chart 14). In total, these five border posts accounted for N$ 11.0 billion and 93.7 percent of total import bill during December 2021.
6. Commodity of the Month – Beauty, make-up & skin care products

This section provides an insight into import of ‘beauty, make-up and skin care’ products over the period December 2020 to December 2021.

*Chart 15: Import of beauty, make-up & skin care products, Dec 2020 - Dec 2021*

During the month of December 2021, the country imported skin care products worth N$38.5 million (Chart 15). Over the entire period, import value of beauty, make-up and skin care products averaged N$41.6 million a month with the largest import value of N$61.4 million reflected in October 2021 and the lowest value of N$34.2 million recorded in April 2021. Namibia sourced 88.8 percent of skin-care products from South Africa for the month under review.
Conclusion

In December 2021, Namibia’s exports stood at N$9.3 billion and imports at N$11.7 billion, resulting in the country’s trade deficit of N$2.4 billion. Overall, the country’s total trade for December 2021 stood at N$21.1 billion.

During December 2021, exports decreased by 3.8 percent from its level of N$9.7 billion recorded in November 2021. On contrary, exports increased by 14.1 percent from N$8.2 billion registered in December 2020. Import value declined by 9.0 percent and increased by 36.2 percent when compared to its levels of N$12.9 billion in November 2021 and N$8.6 billion in December 2020, respectively.

China emerged as the country’s largest export destination, with a share of 31.4 percent of all goods exported followed by South Africa with a share of 14.0 percent. Furthermore, Botswana, USA and France 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 31.1 percent of total imports into Namibia followed by Zambia in the second position with 21.4 percent of the market share. DRC, China and the India also formed part of Namibia’s top five sources of imports.

The analysis of exports by commodities revealed that copper blister had the largest share 34.4 percent in Namibia’s total exports ahead of precious stones (diamonds) with 13.1 percent followed by uranium with a market share of 11.1 percent, non-monetary gold at 8.1 percent and fish 6.9 percent. In terms of imports, copper blister were the most imported commodities with a relative share of 29.2 percent of total imports, followed by petroleum oils with a share of 6.0 percent in the second position whereas ores and concentrates of precious metals came third with a share of 5.7 percent. Moreover, copper ores and concentrates; and inorganic chemicals contributed 5.4 percent and 1.8 percent to Namibia’s total imports, respectively.

In terms of regional composition, BRIC emerged as the largest export market during the month of December 2021, contributing 31.6 percent of total exports. OECD ranked second with a relative market share of 28.9 percent while the SACU and the EU accounted for 25.5 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively. SADC excl. SACU absorbed 6.8 percent of Namibia’s total exports. On the imports side, COMESA emerged as the largest source of Namibia’s imports with a share of 32.9 percent of total import bill followed by SACU and SADC excl. SACU with contributions of 32.7 percent and 32.6 percent, respectively. OECD and BRIC had a share of 13.1 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively.
Namibia’s trade by mode of transport revealed that in December 2021, the majority of goods exported left the country by sea, accounting for 44.7 percent of total exports, followed by road transport with 33.4 percent and air transport with 21.9 percent. On the demand side, most commodities that entered the country came in by road, accounting for 71.4 percent of total imports followed by sea (25.5%) and air (3.0%).

The country exported most of goods to the rest of the world via the port of Walvis Bay (57.2 %), Eros Airport (19.3%), Noordoewer (6.4), Wenela (5.4%), and Trans Kalahari (4.2%). While in the case of imports, Namibia’s importation mostly came in through Wenela (32.3%), Walvis Bay (26.0), Ariamsvlei (16.6%), Trans Kalahari (11.3%) and Noordoewer (7.6%)

Finally, an analysis of the importation of skin-care products as the commodity of the month showed that in December 2021, Namibia imported skin care products valued at N$38.5 million and 88.8 percent were sourced from South Africa.