Namibia Trade Statistics Bulletin

MARCH 2022
**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
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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
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 month of March 2022. The dataset analyzed in this publication can be downloaded at www.nsa.org.na

The month of March 2022, saw Namibia’s total merchandise trade amounting to N$15.0 billion, a decrease of 12.5 percent when compared to the level of N$17.1 billion recorded in February 2022 and an increase of 22.0 percent when compared to N$12.3 billion recorded in March 2021. On the contrary, the country’s trade deficit improved to N$2.9 billion from the revised deficit of N$4.6 billion recorded in February 2022 and exacerbated slightly from a deficit of N$2.8 billion witnessed in March 2021.

Namibia’s trade composition by partner showed that South Africa emerged as Namibia’s largest market for both exports and imports. The composition of the export basket for the month of March 2022 was mainly comprised of minerals such as Precious stones (diamonds), Inorganic chemical elements, Copper blister 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 Petroleum oils, Civil engineering and contractor’s equipment, Precious stones (diamonds) as well as Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods.

For the month of March 2022, re-exports increased by 49.2 percent month-on-month and an increase of 67.7 percent year-on-year. The re-exports basket mainly consisted of Precious stones (diamonds), which accounted for 21.5 percent, Inorganic chemical
elements with a share of 16.7 percent, followed by Copper blisters (14.8%), Petroleum oils (9.0%) and Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment (3.3%).

Analysis for the commodity of the month for March 2022 focused on Cheese. Namibia imported cheese valued at N$14.6 million during the period under review, mostly sourced 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 February 2022

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 (N$ m) for February 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>As reported in Feb_2022 Bulletin (N$ m)</th>
<th>As reported in Mar_2022 (N$ m)</th>
<th>Difference (N$ m)</th>
<th>Difference in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Export</td>
<td>5,747</td>
<td>6,254</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Imports</td>
<td>9,589</td>
<td>10,842</td>
<td>1,253</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade balance</td>
<td>-3,841</td>
<td>-4,588</td>
<td>-747</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both trade flows were revised upward, exports increased from N$5.7 billion to N$6.3 billion while imports increased by a notable N$1.3 billion from N$9.6 billion to N$10.8 billion resulting in a deficit of N$4.6 billion (Table 1). The revised N$1.3 billion of imports was brought about by an increase in Petroleum oils which rose by N$359 million from the previous levels of N$873 million, Iron and steel bars increased from the levels of N$52 million to the current value of N$176 million. Plastics in its primary forms increased by N$99 million from the reported value of N$86 million in February 2022 while Precious stones (diamonds) rose by N$94 million from the value of N$185 million. The current revisions on exports were mainly attributed to the revised export value for Fish, Uranium and Precious stones (diamonds) while on the import side Petroleum oils, Iron and steel bars and Other plastics in primary forms increased the import value.
1.2 Summary

For the month of March 2022, Namibia’s exports earnings stood at N$6.0 billion (a decrease of 3.4% monthly) while the imports bill amounted to N$8.9 billion (a decline of 17.7% monthly). This resulted in a trade deficit of N$2.9 billion, a significant improvement of 37.3 percent when compared to the deficit of N$4.6 billion recorded in February 2022.

Cumulative total trade values

Namibia’s trade activities picked up for the month of March 2022 when compared to the same month of 2021. Cumulative total trade (import + export) for the month of March 2022 stood at N$15.0 billion, a conspicuous 22.0 percent increase from N$12.3 billion witnessed in March 2021.

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

![Chart 1: Cumulative total trade values (N$ m)](chart.png)
Trade highlights by category

The 3.4 percent monthly decrease in exports of goods recorded in March 2022 was mainly reflected in:

- Uranium decreased by N$1.2 billion (-100%)
- Fish decreased by N$132 million (-13.5%)
- Printed matter decreased by N$105 million (-99.8%)
- Medicinal and pharmaceutical products decreased by N$69 million (-94.5%)
- Non-monetary gold decreased by N$66 million (-12.1%)

The 17.7 percent monthly decline in imports of goods recorded in March 2022 was mainly reflected in:

- Vessels declining by N$2.5 billion (-100.0%)
- Inorganic chemical elements declining by N$260 million (-70.7%)
- Ores and concentrates of base metals declining by N$145 million (-100.0%)
- Iron and steel bars declining by N$109 million (-61.7%)
- Other plastics in primary form declining by N$98 million (-53.3%)
Trade balance highlights by world zones

**Africa:** Namibia’s trade activities (export + import) with the African region for the month under review when compared to the previous month, decreased by a notable N$222 million. The trade balance however improved from a deficit of N$1.4 billion down to a deficit of N$936 million. This saw an increase in exports by N$104 million while imports declined by N$326 million.

**America:** The month witnessed Namibia exporting lesser to the American market when compared to the previous month from an export bill of N$553 million to the current bill of N$188 million. Imports from that market increased significantly by N$425 million, which resulted in a trade balance recording a deficit of N$544 million from a surplus of N$246 million recorded the previous month.

**Asia:** Total trade with the Asian market when compared to the month of February 2022 decreased by N$236 million from the levels of N$3.0 billion to N$2.7 billion, this is a result of exports decreasing by N$254 million from N$938 million whereas, imports increased with a mere N$18.0 million. This resulted in the worsening of the trade balance from a deficit of N$1.0 billion to a deficit of N$1.3 billion.

**Europe:** Trade with Europe increased significantly for the month under review when compared to the previous month, from the level of N$1.1 billion exports increased to N$1.2 billion subsequently, imports from Europe increased from N$618 million to N$799 million. The trade balance however, worsened from N$511 million to N$372 million.

**Oceania/Australia:** The trade balance improved from a deficit of N$32.0 million to a deficit of N$22.0 million, the month saw the export bill increase to N$9.0 million from a mere N$2.0 million recorded the previous month while the import bill decreased by N$3.0 million from a bill of N$34.0 million.
Trade highlight by International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)

The International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) consists of a coherent and consistent classification structure of economic activities based on a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, principles and classification rules.

In March 2022, manufactured products emerged as the largest exported goods with a value of N$4.3 billion, absorbing 70.3 percent of total exports. Export of products from the manufacturing industry increased by N$919 million from N$3.3 billion recorded in February 2022. The Mining and quarrying industry maintained its position in second place with exports valued at N$1.5 billion in March 2022. Exported products from this industry, decreased with a notable N$1.1 billion from N$2.5 billion recorded in February 2022.

The demand side was mainly dominated by products from the manufacturing industry, with an import bill of N$6.7 billion obtained in March 2022 translating into a staggering 74.7 percent share of the total import bill, this however is a decrease of N$2.2 billion from its levels of N$8.9 billion recorded the previous month. Mining and quarrying goods imported took a share of 22.4 percent of the total imports for the month of March 2022, the bill increased by N$302 million to its current levels of N$2 billion. Imports from the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector increased by a mere N$24 million to N$243 million.
1.3 Total exports and total imports

The value of exports\(^1\) in March 2022 decreased by 3.4 percent to N$6 billion from its February 2022 level of N$6.3 billion. On the other hand, when compared to its level of N$4.7 billion recorded in March 2021, exports increased with a notable 27.9 percent (Chart 2). Imports stood at N$8.9 billion, reflecting a decrease of 17.7 percent month-on-month and an increase of 18.3 percent when compared to the same month the previous year. Following these developments in both flows, Namibia’s total merchandize trade (exports plus imports) with the ROW\(^2\) decreased by 12.5 percent from its February 2022 level of N$17.1 billion, when compared to the same month the previous year total trade increased by 22.0 percent.

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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\(^2\) 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\$2.9 billion, reflecting an improved deficit when compared to the N\$4.6 billion recorded the previous month and a slightly worsened trade deficit when compared to the N\$2.8 billion recorded in the month of March 2021 (Chart 3). Over the period (Mar-21 to Mar-22), Namibia only recorded trade surpluses in April and November 2021.

\(3\) 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.
SECTION 2: DIRECTION OF TRADE

2.1 Top Five Export Markets

During the month of March 2022, Namibia’s top five export partners were South Africa, Botswana, Netherlands, Zambia and the United Arab Emirates (Chart 4). These top five markets accounted for 62.3 percent of Namibia’s total exports, up from 52.2 percent and 48.5 percent witnessed in February 2022 and March 2021, respectively.

*Chart 4: Percentage shares of export by top five partners*

South Africa emerged as the main export market for Namibia, absorbing 20.8 percent of all goods exported, Botswana in second position with a market share of 15.6 percent of total exports.

The Netherlands ranked third with a share of 9.9 percent while Zambia and the United Arab Emirates occupied the fourth and fifth positions with respective shares of 8.7 percent and 7.2 percent.
2.2 Top Five Import Markets

In March 2022, South Africa, China, India, Saudi Arabia and Brazil were the major source of imports for Namibia. These top five import markets supplied Namibia with 63.2 percent of all imports required by the country, up from its February 2022 level of 49.8 percent and 58.9 percent recorded in March 2021. The individual contribution of each of these countries to Namibia’s total imports is reflected in Chart 5.

*Chart 5: Percentage shares of import by top five partners*

South Africa remained Namibia’s largest source of imports with a share of 44.2 percent of the value of all goods received into the country during the month under review. Following in second place is China with a share of 6.2 percent of total imports, India came in the third place accounting for 6.0 percent of Namibia’s total imports followed by Saudi Arabia and Brazil contributing 4.1 percent and 2.6 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

Precious stones (diamonds) was Namibia’s largest export commodity during the month under review accounting for 25.0 percent of total exports mainly destined to Botswana, United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Hong Kong; followed by fish, which accounted for 14.0 percent of total exports destined mostly to Spain, Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique. Inorganic chemical elements ranked third on the list with a share of 8.0 percent destined mostly to Finland, Netherlands and Canada (Chart 6).

![Chart 6: Percentage shares of top five export products](image)

Non-monetary gold accounted for 8.0 percent of total exports of which was solely destined to South Africa. Finally, copper blisters which accounted for 7.2 percent of total
export was mainly destined to the Netherlands, China and South Africa. The aforementioned top five export commodities jointly accounted for 62.2 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. 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.

Chart 7: Percentage shares of top five re-export products

In March 2022, total re-exports stood at N$2.9 billion from N$1.9 billion recorded the previous month and N$1.7 billion recorded during the corresponding month of last year.
The top five commodities that utilized Namibia’s logistical services in March 2022 were Precious stones (diamonds) with a share of 21.5 percent of total re-exports mostly destined to the Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and United States of America (US) (Chart 7). Following in the second place was Inorganic chemical elements with a share of 16.7 percent of the total re-exports which was mostly destined to Finland, Netherlands and Canada. Copper blisters accounted for 14.8 percent of all commodities re-exported and were mostly destined to the Netherlands and Zambia. While Petroleum oils accounted for 9.0 percent mostly destined to Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment was the fifth commodity among the top five which were mostly re-exported and accounted for 3.3 percent, with Zambia and DRC taking the lead as the destinations.
3.3 Top Five Import Products

During the period under review, the value of imports into the country amounted to N$8.9 billion down from N$10.8 billion witnessed in February 2022 and an increase from N$7.5 billion recorded in March 2021. The top five commodities imported into Namibia jointly accounted for 31.6 percent of total imports with Petroleum oils taking the lead with the largest share of 18.4 percent. Following in the second position is Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment share of 3.8 percent of all commodities imported. Precious stones (diamond) were ranked third after contributing 3.4 percent to total imports while Motor vehicles for the transport of goods and Sugar, molasses and honey followed in the fourth and fifth position with contributions of 3.1 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively (Chart 8).

The Petroleum oils that was imported in March 2022 originated from India, Saudi Arabia and Oman while most of the Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment came from Finland, USA, China and South Africa. Precious stones where mainly sourced from the South African market while the Motor vehicles for the transport of goods was sourced from South Africa, Finland, UK and Thailand. Whereas, Sugar molasses and honey were imported from Brazil, Zimbabwe and South Africa.
SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

SACU emerged as the largest export destination for Namibia’s goods during the month of review with a 36.4 percent share of total exports (Chart 9). The OECD and EU countries followed in the second and third positions absorbing 23.4 percent and 19.0 percent of the Namibia’s total export share respectively. In addition, the SADC excl. SACU market absorbed 16.7 percent of Namibia’s total export to the rest of the world. Finally, 16.3 percent of total exports was absorbed by the COMESA market.

Chart 9: Top five export by Economic Regions (percentage share)

Exports to SACU comprised mainly of Precious stones (diamonds), Gold, Petroleum oils and Live animals whereas Fish, Inorganic chemical elements, Precious stones (diamonds), Crustaceans were listed as the most exported commodities to the OECD countries. Fish, Inorganic chemical elements and Precious stones (diamonds) made up the largest share of exports to the EU. SADC excl. SACU market, export products mainly comprised of Fish, Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment and Other plastics in primary forms. Finally, COMESA with a share of 16.3 percent, her basket composition mainly consisted of Fish, Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment and Other plastics in primary forms.
4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

In March 2022, SACU continued to be the largest source of imports for Namibia, accounting for 45.6 percent of all goods imported (mainly Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, and persons, alcoholic beverages) and Maize. In second place was OECD with a share of 17.1 percent and supplied Namibia with Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment, Petroleum oils, Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats. Petroleum oils, Sugar, Molasses and honey and Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment were mainly destined to BRIC that ranked third with 14.9 percent shares. The EU and MERCOSUR markets contributed 7.8 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively and hence ranking these economic regions to be the fourth and fifth largest source of imports for the country.

*Chart 10: Top five import by economic regions (percentage share)*
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT AND BORDER POST

5.1 Export by mode of transport

In the course of the month of March 2022, a total of N$2.4 billion, representing 40.0 percent share of total exports left the country by road (Chart 11). This transformed into an upsurge of 45.6 percent when compared to its February 2022 level of N$1.7 billion. Additionally, a noticeable increase of 60.2 percent was noted when compared to its level of N$1.5 billion recorded in March 2021. Air and sea transportation accounted for 35.3 percent and 24.7 percent of total exports, respectively.

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

With reference to tonnage, the month under reporting recorded about 120,734 tons of goods leaving Namibia by Road. This is an increment from its level of 120,036 tons and 120,145 tons recorded in the previous month and the same month in 2021, respectively. About 102,939 tons of goods left the country by Sea compared to 133,110 tons registered in February 2022. Also, this is an increase of 15.7 percent from 88,989 recorded in the same month, the previous year. Only 161 tons left the country by air in the month of March 2022, recording an increase when compared to 156 tons the previous month and a 60.5 percent lower when compared to the same month in 2021.
5.2 Import by mode of transport

Transport by road continued being the most frequent mode of transport used for imports during the period under review. Imports by road reached to N$5.2 billion, representing 58.4 percent of all goods imported into the country (Chart 12). Sea transport came in the second position accounting for 34.5 percent of all goods imported into the country while 7.0 percent of goods arrived by air.

Chart 12: Import by mode of transport (percentage share)

On the subject of tonnage, about 175,644 tons of goods entered the country by road. This was less than its level of 231,617 tons recorded in February 2022 and more than 162,332 tons of imports observed in the previous year, the same month. Meanwhile, 115,147 tons of goods arrived in Namibia by sea, compared to its level of 84,335 tons in February 2022. In addition, a decrease of 39.0 percent was recorded when compared to the resultant month, of the preceding year.
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 2022 (Jan to Mar).

Chart 13: Exports by Border Posts (N$ m), Jan-22 to Mar-22

The month of March 2022 revealed that Walvis bay (N$ 1.9 billion), Eros Airport (N$ 1.4 billion), Wenela (N$ 771 million), Chief Hosea Kutako International Airport (N$ 675 million), and Trans Kalahari (N$ 577 million) were the major border posts offices that were used for exports (Chart 13). These border posts accounted for 87.1 percents of total export earnings for the past three months amounting to N$ 17.7 billion.
In terms of the goods imported into Namibia, Walvis bay (N$3.1 billion), Ariamsvlei (N$2.0 billion), Trans Kalahari (N$1.7 billion), Noordoewer (N$936 million) and Eros Airport (N$338 million), were the most entry points through which commodities entered the country (Chart 14). Overall, these border posts accounted for N$8.1 billion representing 90.6 percent of total imports during March 2022. Throughout the period of the last three months, imports through these border posts accumulated N$25.1 billion.
**SECTION 6: Commodity of the Month – Cheese**

This section provides an insight into the importation of cheese products over the period March 2021 to March 2022.

*Chart 15: Import trend of Cheese (N$ m), Mar_2021 - Mar_2022*

During the month of March 2022, the country imported cheese worth N$14.6 million (Chart 15). During the period of March 2021 to March 2022, Namibia on average imported cheese to a value of N$14.2 million on a monthly basis. During this period, the lowest import value of N$11.0 million was observed during the month of February 2022 while the highest import value of 18.5 million was recorded in October 2021. Most of the cheese imported during March 2022 originated from South Africa.
Conclusion

In March 2022, Namibia’s exports stood at N$6.0 billion and imports at N$8.9 billion, resulting in the country’s trade deficit of N$2.9 billion. Overall, the country’s total trade for March 2022 stood at N$15.0 billion.

During March 2022, exports decreased by 3.4 percent from its level of N$6.3 billion recorded in February 2022. On the other hand, exports increased by 27.9 percent from N$4.7 billion registered in March 2021. Import value declined by 17.7 percent and increased by 18.3 percent when compared to its levels of N$10.8 billion in February 2022 and N$7.5 billion in March 2021, respectively.

South Africa emerged as the country’s largest export destination, with a share of 20.8 percent of all goods exported, Botswana followed with a share of 15.6 percent. Furthermore, the Netherlands, Zambia and the UAE formed part of Namibia’s top five export markets accounting for 9.9 percent, 8.7 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively. The demand side saw South Africa maintaining her first position as the country’s largest source of imports, accounting for 44.2 percent of total imports into Namibia followed by China in the second position with 6.2 percent of the market share. India, Saudi Arabia and Brazil also formed part of Namibia’s top five sources of imports contributing shares of 6.0, 4.1 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

The analysis of exports by commodities revealed that precious stones (diamonds) had the largest share of 25.0 percent of Namibia’s total exports ahead of fish with 14.0 percent, Inorganic chemical elements and Non-monetary gold with a market share of 8.0 percent each and Copper blisters with 7.2 percent. In terms of imports, Petroleum oils were the most imported commodities with a share of 18.4 percent of total imports, followed by Civil engineering and contractors’ equipment with a share of 3.8 percent whereas, Precious stones (diamonds) came third with a share of 3.4 percent. Motor vehicles for the transportation of goods accounted for 3.1 percent while Sugars, molasses and honey accounted for 3.0 percent to Namibia’s total imports.

In terms of regional composition, SACU emerged as the largest export market during the month of March 2022, contributing 36.4 percent of total exports. OECD ranked second with a relative market share of 23.4 percent while EU and the SADC excl. SACU markets accounted for 19.0 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively.
COMESA absorbed 16.3 percent of Namibia’s total exports. On the imports side, SACU emerged as the largest source of Namibia’s imports with a share of 45.6 percent of the total import bill followed by OECD with 17.1 percent, BRIC market with 14.9 percent while the EU and MERCOSUR had a share of 7.8 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively.

Namibia’s trade by mode of transport revealed that in March 2022, vast of goods exported left the country by road, accounting for 40.0 percent of total exports, followed by air transport with 35.3 percent and sea transport with 24.7 percent. Similarly, the road transport was the most frequent mode of transport accounting for 58.4 percent of total imports followed by sea transport with a share of 34.5 percent and air transport with a share of 7.0 percent.

In March 2022, Namibia exported most her goods to the rest of the world through the port of Walvis Bay with 31.0 percent, followed by Eros Airport and Wenela with 22.6 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively. While in terms of the imports, Namibia’s import mostly came in through the port of Walvis Bay at 34.6 percent, Ariamsvlei at 22.7 percent and Trans Kalahari at 19.0 percent.

Finally, an analysis of the importation of cheese products as the commodity of the month displayed that in March 2022, Namibia imported cheese valued at N$14.6 million, mainly from South Africa.