

## PRESS RELEASE

### Monthly NCPI and Trade Statistics

**Windhoek – 15 May 2014** – The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is releasing the monthly NCPI and Trade Statistics.

As usual, it gives the Namibia Statistics Agency great pleasure to share with the nation some of the most recent economic statistics released today; namely the latest NCPI figures as well as the March 2014 Trade Statistics.

**Inflation:** The monthly inflation rate for April 2014 stood at 1.0 per cent, recording an increase of 0.4 percentage points over 0.6 per cent recorded a month earlier. During the period April 2013 and April 2014, the highest monthly inflation rates were observed in the months of April and January 2014 at 1.0 and 0.9 per cent respectively, as well as 0.7 per cent for July 2013 and February 2014 respectively. The lowest monthly inflation rates were observed during May 2013 and December 2013 at 0.1 per cent respectively.

The annual inflation rate for April 2014 was estimated at 5.9 per cent showing no change as compared to 5.9 per cent recorded during the same period last year. During the period April 2013 to April 2014 the annual inflation rate fluctuated between 4.4 and 6.2 per cent. The month of June 2013 recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 6.2 per cent whilst November 2013 recorded the lowest inflation rate of 4.4 per cent.

The biggest contributor to overall inflation for the period under review was food and non alcoholic beverages which contributed 24.7 per cent to overall inflation. This was closely followed by the transport sector which contributed 22.7 per cent. Housing, water and electricity contributed 16.6 per cent whilst alcoholic beverages contributed 14.9 per cent. All the other groups' contribution stood at 21.1 per cent.

**Trade Balance:** Namibia's trade balance recorded a deficit as imports grew stronger compared to the growth in exports. The deficit reached N\$ 2.5 billion in March 2014 growing by 35.1 per cent from a monthly revised deficit of N\$ 1.8 billion in February 2014. The recorded deficit is the largest since December 2013 and underscores Namibia's dependence on imports, as well as her vulnerability to any slowdown in supply from the largest trading partner, South Africa.

Namibia's overall imports rose by 23.1 percent, from N\$5.2 billion a month earlier to N\$6.4 billion now. The increase in imports reflects the strengthening in domestic spending, mainly on boilers, vehicle and mineral fuels and oils. The import cost of the aforementioned commodities rose by 32.8 percent to N\$2.6 billion from N\$1.8 billion the previous month, as well as by 121 percent from N\$1.2 billion a year earlier. Also, the overall value of imported goods from South Africa alone increased by 11.8 percent to N\$4.2 billion from 3.8 billion a month ago, while the cost of imports from the USA increased by 324.4 percent to N\$338 million from N\$80 million the previous month.

On the other hand, imports from DRC, UK and China weakened. The most decline observed was from DRC which was reflected in the imported value of copper, which fell to N\$90 million from N\$227 million a month earlier. The main import items include boilers; vehicles; mineral fuels and oils; electrical machinery and; precious stones (diamonds).

Similarly, export earnings rose by 16.6 percent over the same period month-on-month to N\$3.9 billion from N\$3.4 billion the previous month, as revenue from sales to all the major markets except Switzerland, Angola, and Zambia strengthened. The growth in export revenue was boosted by sales of ores, fish and precious stones (diamonds) to buyers from South Africa and overseas. Zinc exports increased the most by N\$189 million, and precious stones (diamonds) by N\$174 million. In addition, exports to the USA increased the most, by N\$225 million, China by N\$221 million and Germany by N\$100 million.

On the other hand, overall export earnings slid by 14.2 percent from N\$4.6 billion recorded in the same month of the preceding year. Exports to Switzerland and Angola fell by 21.8 percent to N\$790 million from N\$1 billion a month ago. The decline in exports to Angola was due to weakening demand for vehicles, boilers, furniture and electrical machinery, while the cause for decline in exports to Switzerland was mainly caused by falling export revenues for ores, which declined by 63.2 percent to N\$132 from N\$359 million a month earlier.

Namibia's export market in March 2014 was dominated by South Africa, Switzerland, USA, Angola, and Spain. These export markets accounted for 55.7 percent of total export earnings, down from 62 percent the previous month, but up from 47.6 percent a year ago. Export earnings from these markets advanced by 4.8 percent to N\$2.17 billion when compared to N\$2.09 billion a month ago. When compared to the same month of the preceding year, export revenue from these markets grew slightly by 0.4 percent from N\$ 2.18 billion.

*For more information:*

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***About NSA:***

***The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is a statutory body established in terms of the Statistics Act, 2011 (Act No.9 of 2011). The Agency is mandated, among others, to constitute the central statistical authority of the State and to collect, produce, analyze and disseminate official and other statistics in the country.***