



# GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

FIRST QUARTER  
2012

Embargoed Until  
09 August 2012  
10:00

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FIRST QUARTER  
2012

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<i>Forth coming issue:</i>	Expected release date
<i>Second quarter 2012</i>	13 September 2012

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## *Preface*

This publication presents an overview of economic developments in Namibia during the first quarter of 2012. Quarterly GDP estimates are meant to assist in the analysis of the short term movements of the economy. Other economic indicators such as the volume indices of production, distributive trade indices and levels of employment can also be used for that purpose; however, national accounts aggregates such as the GDP are more comprehensive as compared to the latter.

The real unadjusted GDP growth rate slowed to 3.6 percent during the first quarter of 2012 from 7.6 percent during the same quarter of the preceding year. The slow growth observed over the year was mainly due to the primary industries that registered a decline of 8.9 percent during the period under review. The secondary industries on the other hand recorded a relative strong performance of 5.5 percent during the same period. When adjusted for seasonality, the performance of the Namibian economy was even weaker, as it recorded a minor contraction of 0.8 percent when compared to the preceding quarter.

I would like to emphasize the importance of accurate and timely delivery of data to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), on which the compilation of quarterly GDP depends. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to all data providers both institutions and individuals without whose assistance the publication would not have been possible.



John Steytler  
Statistician-General

Windhoek, August 2012

## ***Introduction***

The main purpose of quarterly national accounts is to provide a picture of current economic development that is more timely and frequent than provided by annual national accounts. Quarterly data serves to determine the short-term movements in the series, while the annual data determine the overall level and long term movements in the series.

In principle, the only difference between quarterly and annual national accounts is the reference period, quarter and calendar year, respectively. The definitions and conceptual frameworks, as well as the accounts and accounting identities of the 1993 SNA are equally valid for the two accounts. In practice, the constraints of data availability and resources would mean that quarterly national accounts are usually less complete than annual national accounts. The Namibia Statistics Agency has made the compilation of quarterly GDP at constant prices as a first step in embarking on quarterly national accounts compilation.

Because quarterly and annual estimates are often based on different kinds of source data, the annual total derived as the sum of four quarterly will differ from the same annual estimate based on more comprehensive source data. Therefore, it is necessary to align the quarterly estimates with their annual estimates. The process to achieve this is described as benchmarking. Benchmarking deals with the problem of combining a time series of high frequency data with less frequent but more accurate data.

Quarterly estimates quite often show very short term variations due to weather,

habits, etc. usually defined as seasonal fluctuations. Although seasonality is an integral part of quarterly data, it is often an impediment to the correct identification and analysis of the business cycle and trend. Therefore, quarterly estimates needs to be seasonally adjusted in addition to the unadjusted estimates. Seasonal adjustment is an analytical technique to break down a series into its components.

The purpose is to identify the different components of the time series and thus provide a better understanding of the behavior of the time series. Both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates serve their own purposes. Unadjusted estimates show the actual economic events while seasonally adjusted estimates show characteristics that seasonal movements tend to mask, especially changes in the direction of the series.

## ***Revisions***

Revisions are essential part of good quarterly national accounts compilation practice because they provide users with data that are as accurate as possible. Revisions provide the possibility to incorporate new and more accurate information, and thus to improve the accuracy of the estimates, without introducing breaks in the time series. Due to the availability of more comprehensive data, revisions are made of estimates for the latest quarters.

## ***Sources and timeliness***

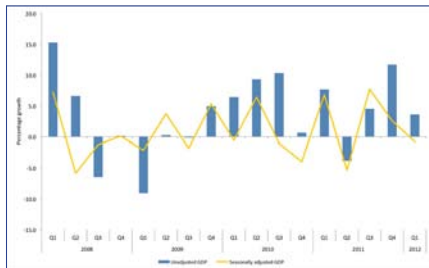
The sources for quarterly national accounts are quarterly economic surveys and administrative data. Quarterly GDP estimates are released with a time lag of 90 days from the reference quarter.

## Key findings

The first quarter seasonally adjusted GDP which allows comparison of consecutive quarters continued to show a decelerating trend, recording a marginal decline of 0.8 percent compared to 2.6 percent registered in the preceding quarter (Figure 1). Year-on-year, the unadjusted GDP for the first quarter of 2012 also registered a slower growth of 3.6 percent compared to a 7.6 percent recorded in the same period of 2011.

The top contributor to the 3.6 percent overall growth of the first quarter was the wholesale and retail trade sector contributing a 1.1 percentage point, followed by transport and communication with 0.8 of a percentage point.

Figure 1: Adjusted and unadjusted GDP growth



## Agriculture and forestry:

The agricultural sector was flat at 0.0 percent in real value added during the first quarter of 2012 compared to the 3.4 percent growth registered in the corresponding quarter of 2011. The slow down in the activities of agriculture was mainly due to the livestock subsector that registered a decline of 1.8 percent in real value added during the period under review. The poor performance in livestock was mainly due to the number of livestock marketed that declined by 15.6 percent. Food and mouth disease outbreak in Caprivi region and the Oshakati Meatco

which was under renovation are some of the main reasons behind the sluggish performance of the livestock subsector.

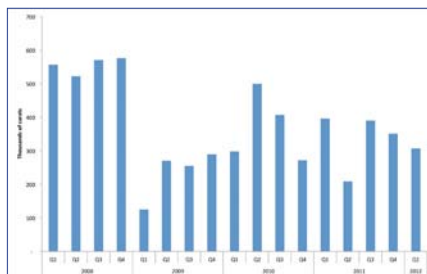
## Fish and fish processing on board

Fish and fish processing on board is estimated to have recorded a decline of 17.7 percent in real value added during the first quarter of 2012 compared a 5.0 percent growth registered in the same period of 2011. The sector was mainly influenced by the demersal and pelagic fisheries landings that have declined by 15.1 percent and 61.0 percent, respectively.

## Mining and quarrying

Mining and quarrying real value added recorded a decline of 9.8 percent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to a growth of 26.8 percent of the corresponding quarter of 2011. The decline in the sector was mainly reflected in the diamond subsector that registered a decline of 13.2 percent in the period under review. This poor performance resulted from low diamond production (Figure 2), that was caused by the closure of one mining area in the Northern Coastal Diamond Operation and some of the vessels that were under maintenance during this period. Other mining and quarrying on the other hand recorded an increase in real value added of 3.4 percent during the period under review.

Figure 2: Diamond production



Source: Ministry of Mines and Energy

## Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector recorded a decline of 3.6 percent in real value added for the first quarter of 2012 compared to an increase of 10.4 percent recorded for the same quarter in 2011. The main subsectors that have contributed to this negative performance were diamond processing, fish processing on shore and basic metals. Fish processing on shore and basic metals recorded declines in real value added of 51.7 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively. Manufacturing n.e.c. which includes diamond cutting and processing also registered a decline of 14.3 percent in the period under review. The category of beverages on the other hand recorded an increase of 16.7 percent; this however was not significant enough offset the decline in the overall manufacturing.

## Construction

The real value added of the construction sector recorded a growth of 11.4 percent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to an increase of 18.3 percent recorded in the same quarter of 2011. This performance is attributable to the construction works in the general government that registered a growth in real value of 33.1 percent. However, the value of building plans completed recorded a decline of 3.7 percent during the period under review.

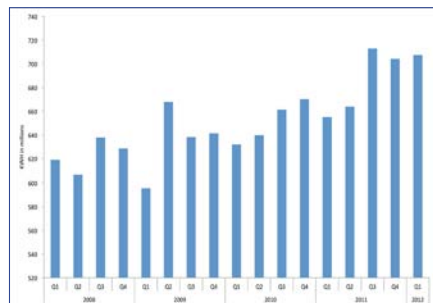
## Wholesale and retail trade

The wholesale and retail trade sector recorded a growth of 9.4 percent in real value added during the first quarter of 2012 compared to a 2.6 percent registered in the corresponding quarter of 2011. This performance is attributed to clothing, furniture and supermarket subsectors that recorded increases of 9.2 percent, 9.0 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. Wholesalers have registered a slight growth of 0.6 percent, while vehicle sales recorded a decline of 0.4 percent.

## Electricity and water

The electricity and water sector recorded an increase in real value added of 6.1 percent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to 2.5 percent registered in same period of 2011. The acceleration in growth was mainly due to the electricity sub-sector that registered a growth in value added of 7.3 percent. This growth was reflected in the units of electricity sales that increased by 7.9 percent during the first quarter of 2012 (Figure 3). The local generation of electricity increased by 6.5 percent that is more than the 1.8 percent increase in imported electricity over the same period.

Figure 3: Sales of electricity



Source: Nampower

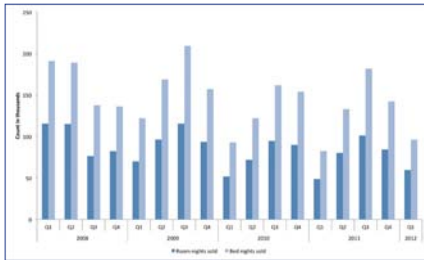
## Hotels and restaurants

The hotels and restaurants' real value added recorded an increase of 14.6 percent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to a decline of 21.4 percent registered in the same quarter of 2011. This exceptional performance in the sector was reflected in the number of bed nights sold and room nights sold that increased by 16.6 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively (Figure 4).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The variation in the figure of hotels & restaurants should be interpreted with caution as they are based only on HAN membership.



Figure 4: Bed nights and room nights sold



Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN)

### **Transport and communication**

The transport and communication sector recorded a growth of 13.2 percent in real value added during the first quarter of 2012 compared to a 2.2 percent recorded in the

same quarter of 2011. This growth was mainly observed in the telecommunication and air transport subsectors that registered growths of 7.2 percent and 32.2 percent, respectively. Other transport subsectors also recorded growths in their real value added during the period under review.

### **Financial intermediation**

The financial intermediation sector accelerated during the first quarter of 2012 registering an increase of 4.8 percent in real value added following a 3.8 percent growth recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2011. This growth emanated from the banking sector that has grown by 6.1 percent.

## ***Methodological Note***

### ***System of National Accounts 1993:***

The SNA 1993 is an internationally agreed methodology used for compilation of national accounts estimates published by the United Nations in co-operation with other international organizations. This means that the methodology, concepts and classifications, are in accordance with the latest guidelines of an internationally agreed system of national accounts.

### ***Quarterly GDP estimates:***

Quarterly estimates of value added in real terms were based on the annual real estimates. Short-term indicators are used to estimate the quarterly GDP, however, they are by their nature in terms of coverage and annual changes output measured through them are generally not as reliable as in instances where the results of annual surveys are used. Therefore, the quarterly estimates must be adapted to the independent annual estimates when such estimates become available. To this extent, the Proportional Denton Method is used. It is a technique that generates a series of the quarterly estimates as proportional to the indicator as possible subject to the restrictions provided by the annual data.

### ***Seasonal adjustment:***

Quarterly estimates often show very short-term variations due to seasonal variations. Although seasonality is an integral part of quarterly data; it is often an impediment to the correct identification and analysis of the business cycle and trend. Therefore, quarterly estimates need to be seasonally adjusted as an addition to the original estimates. The seasonally adjusted data intend to show the short-term movements after the effects of seasonality have been taken away. The remaining short-term movements include trend, business cycle and irregular changes. The effect of the latter can have a huge impact on the overall growth rate in a small and open economy like Namibia's. Only total GDP has been seasonally adjusted and not its components, the values added, making up, GDP. The X-12 program released by the U.S. Bureau of the Census is used for seasonal adjustment.

### ***Classifications:***

The estimates of value added by industry are classified according to the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC), with suitable adaptations for Namibian conditions

*Table 1 Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Activity*  
Constant 2004 prices – N\$ million

Year	Quarter	Agriculture	Fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity and water	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade	Hotels and restaurants	Transport and communication
2004	1	389	476	1,034	1,644	208	257	821	165	565
	2	625	460	999	1,180	228	280	1,070	214	594
	3	463	364	1,244	1,267	227	343	1,617	196	591
	4	775	265	871	1,248	236	259	1,129	195	654
2005	1	493	399	1,042	1,394	280	274	1,163	200	618
	2	686	443	866	1,483	283	267	1,172	191	634
	3	601	326	849	1,452	296	320	1,300	235	674
	4	811	267	940	1,413	260	305	1,452	162	701
2006	1	483	417	1,129	1,491	308	384	1,216	174	717
	2	715	373	1,153	1,547	319	379	1,294	216	731
	3	556	324	1,294	1,624	285	436	1,419	250	775
	4	932	193	1,141	1,234	270	402	1,543	206	776
2007	1	528	306	1,445	843	340	449	1,310	237	761
	2	735	269	1,044	1,106	327	492	1,432	206	801
	3	540	252	995	2,842	339	463	1,527	229	818
	4	761	232	1,259	1,610	228	429	1,635	264	780
2008	1	395	395	1,087	2,174	315	706	1,406	302	776
	2	563	280	1,054	1,486	372	448	1,495	285	783
	3	403	225	1,185	1,497	297	432	1,577	174	837
	4	741	103	1,281	1,380	231	429	1,594	199	848
2009	1	398	348	430	1,575	305	538	1,462	206	824
	2	551	282	723	1,616	358	396	1,487	245	832
	3	429	265	673	1,736	232	374	1,579	262	879
	4	736	152	837	1,993	327	336	1,731	228	881
2010	1	389	299	762	1,823	334	388	1,551	192	851
	2	542	299	1,127	1,921	343	457	1,626	219	882
	3	427	289	938	2,095	292	489	1,777	259	890
	4	700	182	706	1,832	283	447	1,800	269	870
2011	1	402	314	966	2,012	342	458	1,591	151	871
	2	580	272	320	1,836	346	541	1,609	241	862
	3	447	334	1,008	1,838	320	558	1,818	314	910
	4	805	217	937	2,086	299	511	1,959	251	963
2012	1	402	258	872	1,940	363	511	1,741	173	985

Table 1 Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Activity (Continues)

Constant 2004 prices – N\$ million

Year	Quarter	Financial inter- mediation	Real estate activities and business services	Public admi- nistration	Education	Health	Other private services	FISIM	All indust. at basic prices	Taxes on products	GDP at market prices	GDP, seasonally adjusted
2004	1	408	955	966	833	525	457	122	9,579	663	10,242	10,246
	2	408	972	972	833	451	469	113	9,642	782	10,425	10,426
	3	428	989	967	833	450	479	116	10,341	1,174	11,515	11,473
	4	443	1,007	952	833	379	487	117	9,615	883	10,498	10,500
2005	1	465	1,029	932	767	434	494	123	9,861	911	10,772	10,789
	2	489	1,044	917	767	355	499	133	9,962	867	10,829	10,894
	3	493	1,055	911	767	351	504	131	10,002	917	10,920	10,855
	4	494	1,062	913	767	306	508	133	10,227	1,012	11,239	11,167
2006	1	492	1,066	928	794	379	512	141	10,351	899	11,250	11,319
	2	500	1,075	943	794	341	514	150	10,745	913	11,658	11,765
	3	507	1,089	962	794	375	516	150	11,058	982	12,040	11,967
	4	524	1,110	983	794	366	518	152	10,841	1,065	11,906	11,741
2007	1	532	1,140	1,009	841	392	520	161	10,491	970	11,461	11,595
	2	546	1,161	1,038	841	400	521	156	10,761	963	11,724	11,847
	3	594	1,178	1,067	841	410	522	170	12,449	978	13,426	13,347
	4	595	1,190	1,098	841	344	523	166	11,625	1,136	12,761	12,517
2008	1	602	1,198	1,133	890	470	524	171	12,201	1,010	13,211	13,421
	2	607	1,209	1,160	890	451	526	168	11,440	1,058	12,498	12,636
	3	625	1,224	1,180	890	443	530	170	11,350	1,206	12,557	12,479
	4	654	1,244	1,195	890	363	535	162	11,524	1,249	12,773	12,496
2009	1	674	1,272	1,207	926	491	544	163	11,037	974	12,011	12,226
	2	693	1,289	1,217	926	466	547	165	11,467	1,061	12,528	12,680
	3	700	1,301	1,231	926	451	546	164	11,418	1,122	12,540	12,445
	4	726	1,306	1,247	926	369	541	175	12,159	1,245	13,404	13,103
2010	1	730	1,305	1,265	975	505	531	180	11,720	1,060	12,780	13,028
	2	720	1,308	1,284	975	482	528	174	12,538	1,155	13,693	13,864
	3	734	1,315	1,303	975	460	530	179	12,595	1,237	13,832	13,717
	4	759	1,326	1,323	975	373	538	191	12,193	1,295	13,489	13,169
2011	1	758	1,342	1,343	1,058	507	552	181	12,486	1,272	13,758	14,061
	2	757	1,353	1,358	1,058	482	563	185	11,992	1,174	13,166	13,311
	3	782	1,360	1,368	1,058	464	570	194	12,956	1,499	14,456	14,335
	4	793	1,364	1,387	1,058	377	574	204	13,377	1,686	15,063	14,703
2012	1	794	1,364	1,373	1,107	511	574	202	12,765	1,487	14,253	14,585

Table 2 Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Activity

Constant 2004 prices – percentage changes

Year	Quarter	Agriculture	Fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity and water	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade	Hotels and restaurants	Transport and communication
2004	1	-3.7	-9.9	43.9	11.5	-0.4	33.7	-26.7	16.1	27.8
	2	4.2	-9.5	45.3	-12.5	2.0	-10.2	1.5	22.9	19.0
	3	1.2	3.4	74.5	2.5	8.0	16.8	39.9	-4.1	11.6
	4	22.6	-9.3	17.3	-1.1	19.3	-6.6	18.3	2.8	23.2
2005	1	26.7	-16.2	0.8	-15.2	34.6	6.7	41.6	21.7	9.4
	2	9.6	-3.9	-13.3	25.6	23.7	-4.4	9.5	-10.9	6.8
	3	29.7	-10.3	-31.7	14.6	30.2	-6.7	-19.6	19.8	14.1
	4	4.6	0.8	7.9	13.2	10.1	17.7	28.6	-16.9	7.2
2006	1	-1.9	4.7	8.3	6.9	10.0	40.3	4.5	-13.0	16.0
	2	4.3	-15.7	33.1	4.4	12.8	41.7	10.5	13.1	15.2
	3	-7.4	-0.6	52.4	11.9	-3.6	36.1	9.2	6.5	15.0
	4	15.0	-27.5	21.5	-12.6	3.9	31.7	6.3	27.1	10.8
2007	1	9.3	-26.7	28.0	-43.5	10.2	16.9	7.7	35.7	6.2
	2	2.7	-27.9	-9.5	-28.5	2.5	29.8	10.7	-4.9	9.6
	3	-2.9	-22.4	-23.1	75.0	19.0	6.3	7.6	-8.3	5.6
	4	-18.4	20.3	10.3	30.4	-15.6	6.7	5.9	28.4	0.5
2008	1	-25.3	29.1	-24.8	157.9	-7.3	57.2	7.4	27.8	1.9
	2	-23.4	4.1	0.9	34.4	13.9	-8.9	4.4	38.7	-2.3
	3	-25.5	-10.4	19.1	-47.3	-12.7	-6.6	3.3	-24.0	2.2
	4	-2.6	-55.7	1.8	-14.3	1.3	0.0	-2.5	-24.6	8.7
2009	1	0.9	-11.8	-60.5	-27.6	-3.2	-23.7	4.0	-31.7	6.1
	2	-2.1	1.0	-31.4	8.8	-3.8	-11.6	-0.5	-14.0	6.3
	3	6.6	17.4	-43.2	16.0	-21.8	-13.5	0.1	50.0	5.0
	4	-0.7	47.5	-34.7	44.5	41.5	-21.6	8.6	14.5	3.9
2010	1	-2.3	-14.2	77.3	15.8	9.5	-28.0	6.1	-6.8	3.4
	2	-1.8	5.8	55.9	18.8	-4.2	15.5	9.3	-10.6	5.9
	3	-0.6	9.2	39.3	20.7	25.9	30.9	12.6	-1.2	1.2
	4	-4.8	20.0	-15.7	-8.1	-13.4	33.1	4.0	18.0	-1.2
2011	1	3.4	5.0	26.8	10.4	2.5	18.3	2.6	-21.4	2.2
	2	7.0	-9.1	-71.6	-4.4	0.8	18.2	-1.0	10.1	-2.3
	3	4.8	15.5	7.4	-12.2	9.8	14.1	2.3	21.6	2.3
	4	14.9	18.8	32.8	13.9	6.0	14.4	8.9	-6.5	10.6
2012	1	0.0	-17.7	-9.8	-3.6	6.1	11.4	9.4	14.6	13.2

Table 2 Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Activity (Continues)  
Constant 2004 prices – percentage changes

Year	Quarter	Financial interme- diation	Real estate activities and business services	Public admi- nistration	Education	Health	Other private services	FISIM	All indust. at basic prices	Taxes on products	GDP at market prices	GDP, seasonally adjusted
2004	1	22.4	7.3	6.8	19.8	26.7	10.1	26.9	9.0	-5.9	7.9	7.8
	2	15.7	7.2	5.6	19.8	2.3	10.7	18.4	6.5	31.9	8.1	1.8
	3	14.3	7.2	3.4	19.8	-5.1	10.5	16.3	16.4	87.2	21.0	10.0
	4	6.6	7.3	0.3	19.8	-15.4	9.5	-11.3	8.8	41.8	11.0	-8.5
2005	1	14.0	7.7	-3.6	-8.0	-17.3	8.2	0.2	2.9	37.3	5.2	2.7
	2	19.8	7.4	-5.6	-8.0	-21.3	6.6	17.3	3.3	10.8	3.9	1.0
	3	15.3	6.7	-5.8	-8.0	-22.1	5.3	13.0	-3.3	-21.8	-5.2	-0.4
	4	11.6	5.5	-4.1	-8.0	-19.2	4.3	13.0	6.4	14.6	7.1	2.9
2006	1	5.9	3.7	-0.4	3.5	-12.8	3.7	14.8	5.0	-1.3	4.4	1.4
	2	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.5	-3.8	3.0	12.7	7.9	5.3	7.7	3.9
	3	2.9	3.3	5.6	3.5	7.1	2.4	14.7	10.6	7.1	10.3	1.7
	4	6.0	4.5	7.7	3.5	19.4	1.9	14.6	6.0	5.2	5.9	-1.9
2007	1	8.0	6.9	8.8	6.0	3.4	1.5	14.1	1.4	7.9	1.9	-1.2
	2	9.1	8.0	10.0	6.0	17.1	1.3	4.1	0.2	5.4	0.6	2.2
	3	17.1	8.2	11.0	6.0	9.2	1.1	13.2	12.6	-0.4	11.5	12.7
	4	13.6	7.2	11.7	6.0	-5.9	1.1	9.1	7.2	6.7	7.2	-6.2
2008	1	13.2	5.1	12.2	5.8	20.0	0.8	6.1	16.3	4.1	15.3	7.2
	2	11.2	4.1	11.7	5.8	12.9	1.0	7.4	6.3	9.9	6.6	-5.8
	3	5.2	3.9	10.6	5.8	8.2	1.5	0.0	-8.8	23.4	-6.5	-1.2
	4	9.9	4.6	8.8	5.8	5.3	2.3	-2.2	-0.9	9.9	0.1	0.1
2009	1	12.0	6.2	6.5	4.1	4.6	3.7	-4.6	-9.5	-3.6	-9.1	-2.2
	2	14.3	6.7	5.0	4.1	3.4	3.9	-1.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.7
	3	11.9	6.2	4.3	4.1	1.7	3.0	-3.5	0.6	-6.9	-0.1	-1.9
	4	11.0	4.9	4.3	4.1	1.6	1.0	7.6	5.5	-0.3	4.9	5.3
2010	1	8.3	2.6	4.8	5.3	2.7	-2.3	10.8	6.2	8.8	6.4	-0.6
	2	3.8	1.5	5.5	5.3	3.3	-3.5	5.6	9.3	8.9	9.3	6.4
	3	4.9	1.1	5.9	5.3	2.1	-2.9	9.1	10.3	10.2	10.3	-1.1
	4	4.5	1.6	6.1	5.3	1.2	-0.4	9.2	0.3	4.0	0.6	-4.0
2011	1	3.8	2.8	6.2	8.5	0.5	4.0	0.6	6.5	20.0	7.6	6.8
	2	5.2	3.4	5.8	8.5	0.0	6.7	6.6	-4.4	1.6	-3.8	-5.3
	3	6.6	3.4	5.0	8.5	0.8	7.6	8.7	2.9	21.2	4.5	7.7
	4	4.4	2.8	4.8	8.5	1.1	6.6	7.3	9.7	30.2	11.7	2.6
2012	1	4.8	1.7	2.2	4.6	0.6	3.8	11.4	2.2	16.9	3.6	-0.8





Est. by Statistics Act 9 of 2011

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