The Transport sector is the sixth largest employer in Namibia with a per cent share of 4.5. The sector decelerated to the index of 77.3 points in March 2014, compared to an index of 91.1 points in March 2013, consequently way below the base period (March 2010=100). Month-on-month, the transport sector also declined albeit with a larger margin from an index of 108.8 reflecting an underperformance recorded in all the sub-sectors during the review period with the exception of the category ‘sea-shipped’ (Charts 1 & 2).

(Chart 2) Shipment by sea, (sea-shipped category) in March 2014 improved slightly on a monthly basis registering an index of 148.3 from that of 147.7 but declined by 0.5 points on a yearly basis.

Imports via sea (sea – landed) accounts for more than 60 per cent of the of cargo handled by the Namibian Ports Authority recording a decline of 100.2 points, declined by 18 points when compared to the previous month, but slightly exceeding the reference month with only 0.2 points.

Transhipped cargo negatively affected the presentation of the sector by dropping to 41.4 points from an index of 130.8 points registered in February 2014. Road and rail cargo registered massive declines of 70.0 points and 75.3 points, respectively; considerably below the reference month, March 2010 (2010=100).

Road and rail cargo categories both under-performed on a monthly basis. Sub-sector index declined from 102.7 to that 70.0 while the latter sub-category fell from 75.9 to only 75.3 in March 2014. Year-on-year, rail cargo improved from while the road cargo transport declined (Chart 2).