The composite mining production index for April 2014 was below the index of the base month, indicating that on an aggregate level, it did not exceed the output level of January 2008. However, in the month under review, the overall mining production index rose from 83.8 points in April 2013 to 91.7 points in April 2014 (Chart 1). This represents an increase of 7.9 points when compared to the previous year of the same month, and an increase of 2.7 points when compared to the preceding month of the same year. On a monthly basis the production of all minerals recorded an increase, except that of uranium and gold.

Chart 2, provides more detailed analysis of the performance of the main minerals mined in Namibia for the month of April 2014. Year-on-year, and month-on-month, the production of diamonds increased by 39.1 points and 31.3 points, respectively. The index for diamonds stood at 102.9 in April.

Uranium performance was very poor compared to the previous year of the same month and the preceding month of the same year by registering an index of 47.3 in April 2014. This shows a decline of 61.7 points, year-on-year, and a decline of 70.9 points month-on-month.

In April 2014, output of copper production index rose to 85.5 from 55.8 recorded in March 2014, and 65.5 in the preceding month of the previous year. On the other hand, gold production index increased when compared to the previous year of the same month, while it declined when compared to the previous month of the same year by registering an index of 94.6 in April 2014. The production index for zinc rose to 142.6 during the month of April 2014 from 103.9 recorded for March 2014. This also showed an increase when compared to that of 126.3 registered in the same month of the previous year.

The mining and quarrying sector contributed 9.3 per cent in real value added to GDP in 2013 compared to 10.8 per cent in 2012.