Namibia Statistics Agency

Namibia International Merchandise Trade Statistics Bulletin

May 2026

Mission Statement

“Leveraging on partnerships and innovative technologies, to produce and disseminate relevant, quality, timely statistics and spatial data that are fit-for-purpose.”

Vision Statement

“To be a high-performing and sustainable institution in quality statistics and spatial data delivery for research, planning, and decision-making.”

Core Values

Integrity

Excellent Performance

Professionalism

Accountability

Partnerships

Customer-focused

Table of Contents

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF CHARTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	: African Continental Free Trade Agreement
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
EPA	: Economic Partnership Agreement
EPZ	: Export Processing Zone
EU	: European Union
FOB	: Free on Board
FTA	: Free Trade Agreement
IMTS	: International Merchandise Trade Statistics
ISIC	: International Standard Industrial Classification
MERCOSUR	: Southern Common Market
OECD	: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ROW	: Rest of the World
SACU	: Southern African Customs Union
SADC	: Southern African Development Community
HS	: Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
SITC	: Standard International Trade Classification
SADC excl. SACU	: SADC excluding SACU

PREFACE

International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) measures the quantity and value of merchandise (goods) moving into or out of the country, thereby adding to or subtracting from the country's material stock of goods by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its territory. IMTS plays a crucial role in economic development as it links producers and consumers located in different countries across the world into an integrated global market system. These statistics provide essential data for understanding a country's economic performance, its role in the global market, and trade relationships with the rest of the world (ROW). Yet, trade statistics are crucial for economic policy, monitoring trade performance, and calculating trade balances (exports minus imports).

In this context, the availability of timely and high-quality trade statistics becomes a prerequisite for comprehensive assessment of employment creation, production, revenue generation, demand, and overall welfare of the domestic economy as well as at the global level. It is in that light that since its establishment, the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has strived sustainably to make provision of timely and quality trade statistics through various publications. This publication outlines the monthly developments of Namibia's merchandise trade with the rest of the world for May 2026. For more in-depth data used to compile this report, excel tables have been provided for download at www.nsa.org.na.

In May 2026, Namibia's trade figures show exports amounting to N$12.4 billion, while imports were higher at N$15.5 billion, resulting in a trade deficit (a negative difference between the country's exports and imports) of N$3.1 billion. This development reflects an improved trade balance when compared to a N$4.4 billion deficit recorded in April 2026. Further analysis shows a N$115 million surplus recorded in the same month of the previous year.

The analysis of Namibia's top trading partners revealed that China emerged as the country's largest market for exports, while South Africa was recorded as the country's main source of imports. On the goods front, the country's export basket for May 2026 was mainly composed of commodities from the mining sector, such as uranium, precious stones (diamonds), non-monetary gold and 'nickel ores and concentrates'. Fish was the only non-mineral product among the top five exports. Re-exports notably increased by 49.7 percent on a monthly basis and by 3.8 percent on an annual basis. The re-export basket primarily comprised 'nickel ores and concentrates', petroleum oils, 'ores and concentrates of base metals', 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and fertilizers. On the other hand, the import basket mainly comprised of petroleum oils, 'nickel ores and concentrates', motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons.

A closer review of trade in food items revealed that Namibia was a net exporter (exported more food than it imported) with a trade surplus of N$510 million, while for beverages, Namibia was a net importer (imported more beverages than it exported) having recorded a deficit amounting to N$226 million.

The current report considered potatoes as the commodity of the month. The analysis revealed that, on the supply side, the country exported fresh potatoes worth N$35 565, destined to Angola while on the demand side, the country imported seed potatoes worth N$119 000, sourced from South Africa. Fresh potatoes were sourced from China and India at a value of N$17.9 million.

…………………………….
ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN GENERAL & CEO

SECTION 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Revisions for April 2026

In harmony with statistical standards, the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) are subject to revision whenever new information from data sources becomes available. Consequently, trade statistics are revised monthly to take account of additional information as it becomes available from the data sources.

Table 1: Trade Flow Revision for April 2026[1]

Flow	As reported in April_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	As reported in May_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	Difference (N$ m)	Difference in %
Total Exports	9 755	9 861	106	1.1%
Total Imports	14 154	14 214	59	0.4%
Trade balance	**-4 399**	**-4 353**	**46**	**-1.1%**

As shown in Table 1, upward revisions were noted in both flows when compared to the figure reported in the previous month, with export increasing by 1.1 percent whereas imports increased by 0.4 percent.

Table 2: Exports Revision for April 2026[2]

SITC/COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	As reported in April_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	As reported in May_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	Difference (N$ m)
001 : Live animals other than animals of division 03	202	277	75
112 : Alcoholic beverages	105	113	8
034 : Fish, fresh (live or dead), chilled or frozen	1 517	1 523	6

Regarding exports, upward revisions were noticed in commodities such as live animals, which increased by N$75 million, as well as alcoholic beverages and fish with respective upward revisions of N$8 million and N$6 million.

Table 3: Imports Revision for April 2026

SITC/COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	As reported in April_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	As reported in May_2026 Bulletin (N$ m)	Difference (N$ m)
781 : Motor vehicles for the transport of persons	350	363	13
723 : Civil engineering and contractors' equipment	524	536	12
695 : Tools for use in the hand or in machines	49	55	6

[1] Figures are rounded off to the nearest whole number

For imports, the upward revision was mainly reflected in commodities such as motor vehicles for the transportation of persons, increasing by N$13 million, 'civil engineering and contractor's equipment' with N$12 million and 'tools for use in the hand or in machines' with N$6 million.

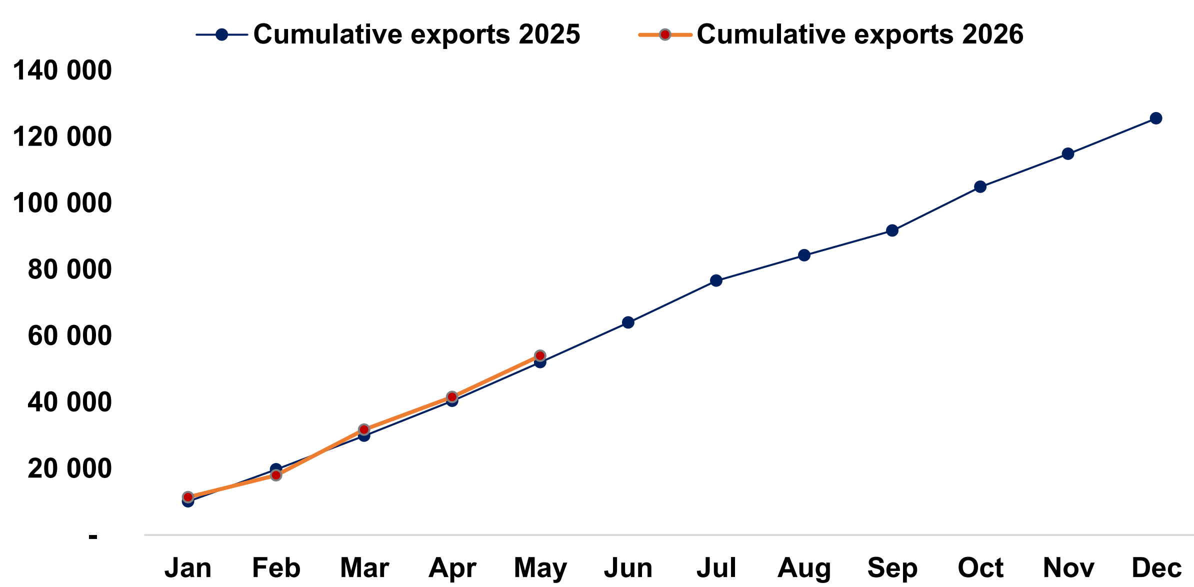
1.2 Summary

The country reported an export value to the tune of N$12.4 billion in May 2026, which reflected a 25.9 percent increase when compared to the export value recorded the previous month. Similarly, the country spent N$15.5 billion on imports, a 9.3 percent increase when compared to the import value recorded in April 2026. The export and import positions translated into a significant trade deficit of N$3.1 billion.

Cumulative trade values

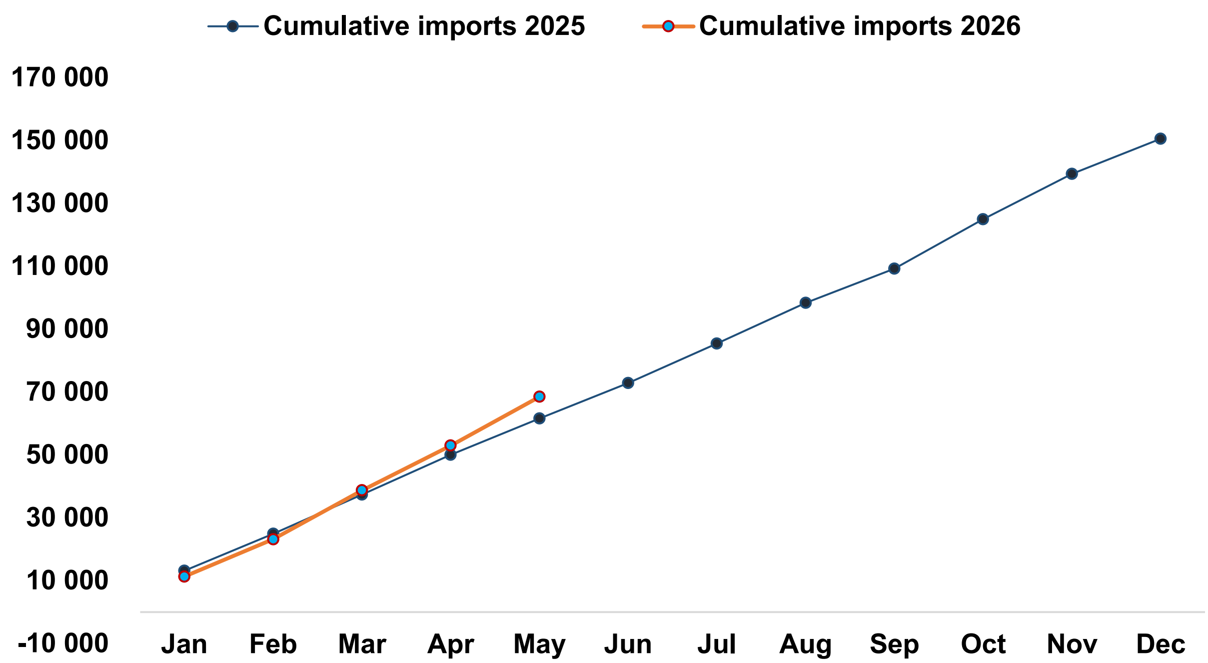
Namibia's 2026 cumulative exports amounted to N$54.0 billion in May 2026, which is N$1.9 billion higher when compared to the same period of the previous year.

Chart 1: Cumulative exports (N$, m)



On the import side, the cumulative value for 2026 amounted to N$68.4 billion during the month under review, which is an increase from N$61.5 billion recorded over the same period in 2025.

Chart 2: Cumulative imports (N$ m)



During the month under review, both trade flows recorded comparable year-on-year values, suggesting minimal variation in trade dynamics when compared to the same period last year.

Trade highlights by category

Monthly increase in exports of goods was mainly reflected in:

1. Uranium, up by N$1.3 billion
2. Ores and concentrates of base metals increased by N$628 million
3. Nickel ores and concentrates rose by N$411 million
4. Petroleum oils, up by N$152 million
5. Miscellaneous chemical products, increased by N$152 million

Monthly increase in imports of goods was mainly reflected in:

1. Petroleum oils, increased by N$753 million
2. Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites, up by N$311 million
3. Wheat rose by N$300 million
4. Rubber tyres, increased by N$171 million

5. Pumps, air or other gas compressors and fans, up by N$98 million

Trade by industry is based on the International Standard of Industrial Classification (ISIC)[3], Revision 4 (Rev.4).

Regarding the sectoral share of total exports, May 2026 saw the Mining and quarrying sector occupying the first position with the largest export value of N$6.6 billion, subsequently generating more than half of the country's total export revenue, while a month-on-month comparison reflects an increase of N$2.7 billion in exports of products from this sector. The manufacturing sector was second, accounting for 42.8 percent of total exports in May 2026, with the export value of goods from this sector decreasing by a value of N$125 million when compared to the previous month. Furthermore, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector ranked third, making up 3.1 percent of the country's total export basket. This analysis shows that the country's exports is heavily reliant on products from the three industries as outlined in Table 4, which presents the main categories of exported goods within each of the top three industries.

Table 4: Main exports of top three industries, May 2026

Industry	ISIC group	Value (N$ m)
Mining and quarrying	B07: Mining of metal ores	4 507
	B08: Other mining and quarrying	1 220
	B09: Mining support service activities	922
Manufacturing	C10: Manufacture of food products	2 049
	C24: Manufacture of basic metals	1 478
	C20: Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	719
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	A01: Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	224
	A02: Forestry and logging	147
	A03: Fishing and aquaculture	14

The demand side displays the country's reliance on foreign manufactured goods after recording huge import flows of products from this industry. For instance, in May 2026, the import bill for products of the manufacturing industry stood at N$10.1 billion, indicating an increase of 3.7 percent when compared to April 2026. Following in the second position was the mining and quarrying industry, which stood at N$4.9 billion, reflecting a 17.9 percent increase when

[3] This is a classification of all economic activities, consisting of a coherent and consistent classification structure of economic activities based on a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, principles and classification rules. This allows for international comparability among countries globally and forms the basis from which the section below is presented.

compared to the preceding month. Lastly, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector occupied the third position with imports valued at N$497 million. Table 5 shows the main categories of imported goods within the top three industries. These categories reflect industry-level classifications rather than specific individual products.

Table 5: Main imports of top three industries, May 2026

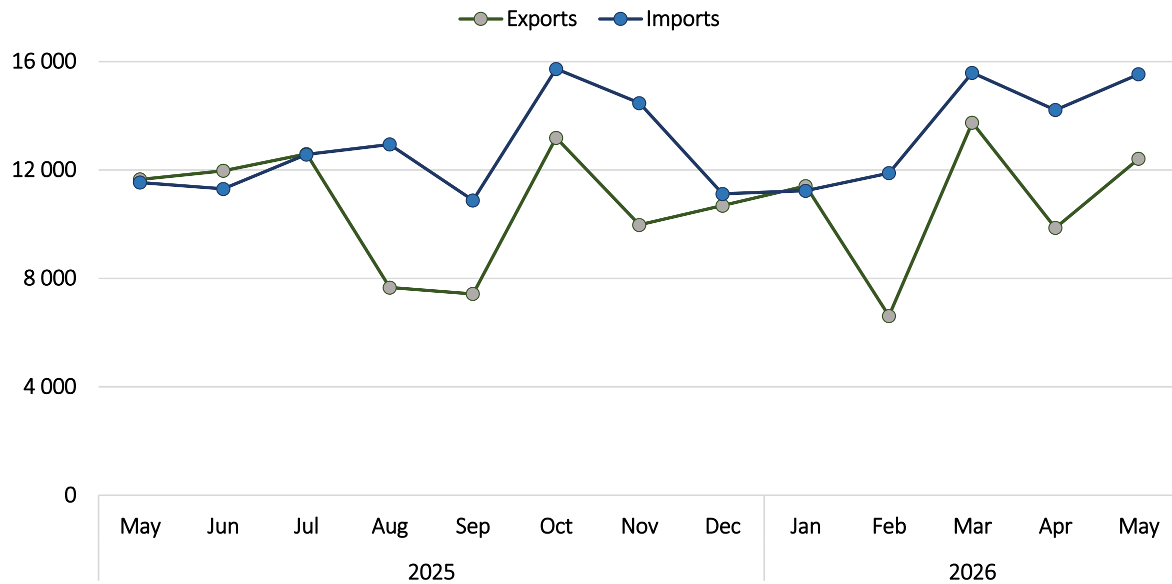
Industry	ISIC group	Value (N$ m)
Manufacturing	C20: Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	1 666
	C28: Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	1 566
	C10: Manufacture of food products	1 117
Mining and quarrying	B09: Mining support service activities	3 281
	B07: Mining of metal ores	1 391
	B08: Other mining and quarrying	205
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	A01: Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	487
	A03: Fishing and aquaculture	7
	A02: Forestry and logging	3

1.3 Total export and total import

During the month under review, export[4] revenue increased by 25.9 percent to N$12.4 billion when compared to the value of exports recorded in April 2026. Moreover, exports increased by 6.6 percent when compared to N$11.7 billion registered in the corresponding month of 2025. On the demand side, according to the May 2026 figures, the import value was N$15.5 billion, representing a 9.3 percent month-on-month and 34.6 percent year-on-year increase.

[4]Exports represent total exports derived from the sum of domestic exports and re-exports.

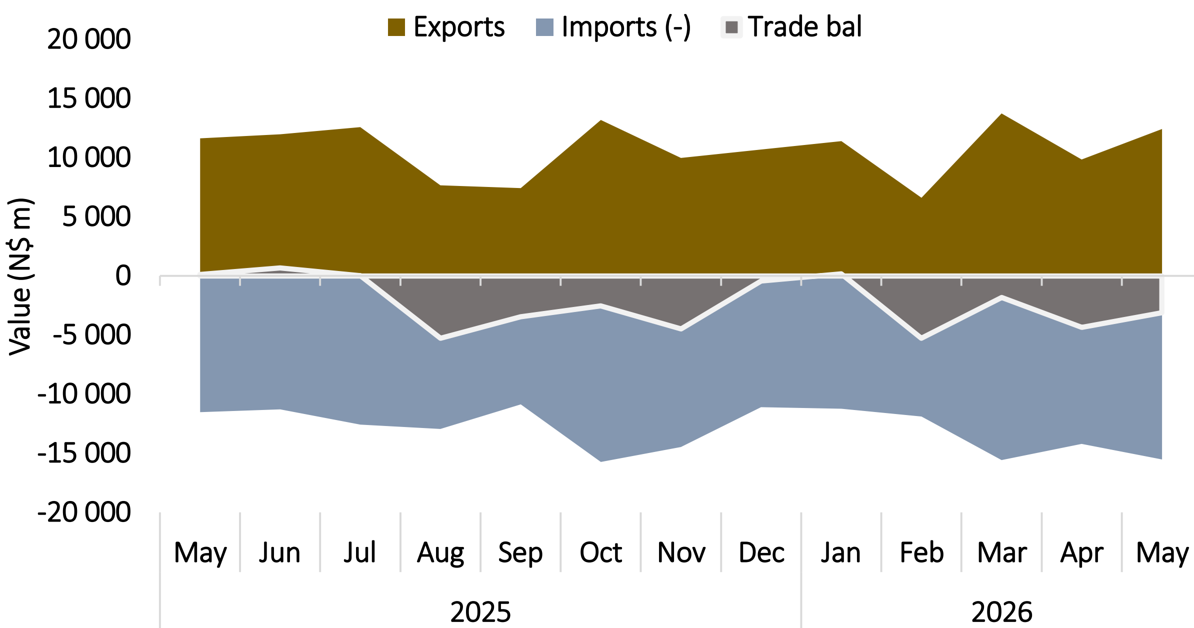
Chart 3: Total exports and imports (N$ m), May 2025 to May 2026



1.4 Trade balance

In May 2026, the country's trade balance (the difference between exports and imports) reflected an improved trade deficit valued at N$3.1 billion, after recording a N$4.4 billion deficit in April 2026. However, a trade surplus of N$115 million was recorded in May 2025. Between May 2025 and May 2026, the country experienced persistent trade deficits (Chart 4), with consecutive trade surpluses occurring only in May, June, and July 2025, as well as in January 2026. Over this period, the trade balance averaged a deficit of N$2.3 billion, indicating the country's continued reliance on foreign goods to meet domestic demand.

Chart 4: Trade flows and trade balance, May 2025 to May 2026



1.5 Trade balance by partner

The May 2026 figures show Namibia's trade surpluses with countries such as China (N$1.5 billion), Botswana (N$1.3 billion), and Canada (N$463 million). On the other hand, the country recorded trade deficits against South Africa (N$2.5 billion), the USA (N$2.2 billion) and Sweden (N$624 million).

1.6 Trade balance by product

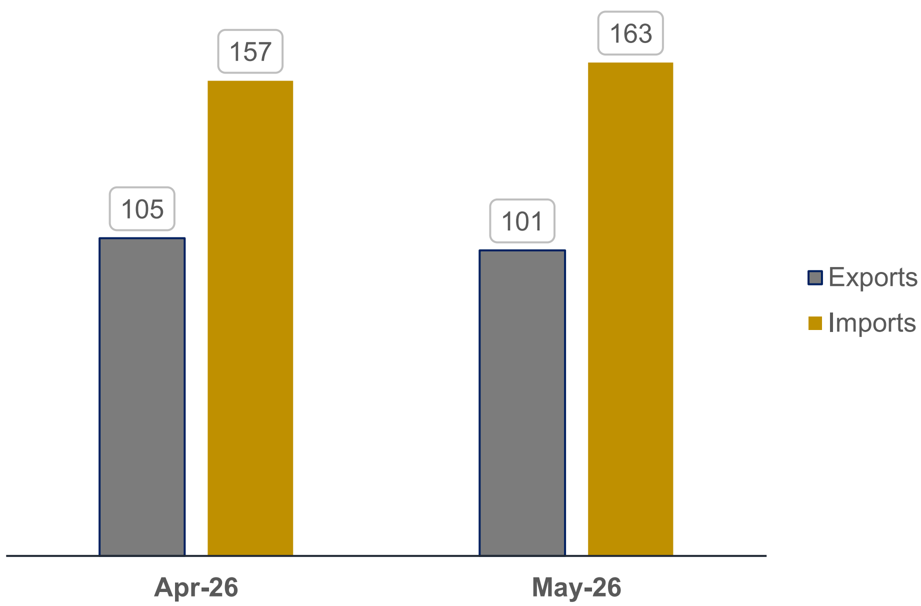
The May 2026 figures saw trade deficits recorded on goods such as petroleum oils (N$2.4 billion), motor vehicles (for commercial purposes) at N$532 million, and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons at N$378 million. Contrastingly, the country recorded trade surpluses on commodities such as uranium (N$2.8 billion), fish and non-monetary gold, both at N$1.3 billion and precious stones (diamonds) at N$1.2 billion.

SECTION 2: DIRECTIONS OF TRADE

2.1 Total Import and Export Markets

During the period under review, the country exported goods to a total of 101 markets, which is four (4) fewer than the markets recorded in April 2026. Whereas the demand side observed the country importing goods from 163 markets across the world, which is six (6) more than the markets recorded in April 2026 *(Chart 5)*. These developments are well aligned with the country's export and import market diversification agenda.

Chart 5: Total number of markets Namibia traded with (April 2026 vs May 2026)



2.2 Top five trade markets

This section highlights trade based on the top five (5) trading partners for both trade flows during the period under review.

Figure 1: Top five export markets for May 2026, Percentage Share

Figure 2: Top five import markets for May 2026, Percentage Share

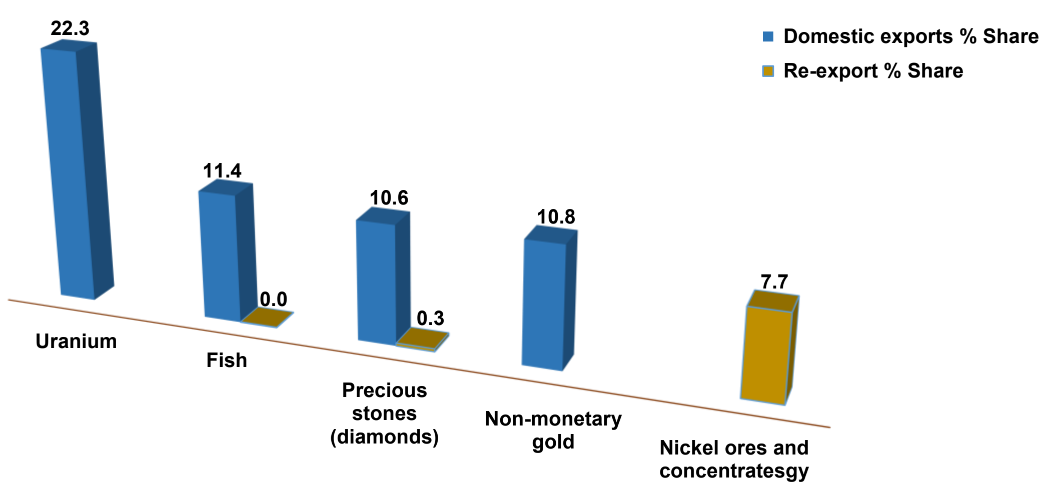
SECTION 3: TRADE BY PRODUCTS

This section outlines Namibia's trade flows 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 at 3-digit level, which provides a more detailed categorization of commodities.

3.1 Top five export products

Uranium was Namibia's largest exported commodity in May 2026 (Chart 6), accounting for 22.3 percent of total exports, mainly absorbed by China. Fish emerged as the second most exported commodity, accounting for 11.4 percent of total exports, destined mainly for Spain, Zambia and the DRC. Precious stones (diamonds), destined mainly for Botswana, the USA and Hong Kong occupied the third position, accounting for 10.8 percent of total exports. Non-monetary gold occupied the fourth position with a share of 10.8 percent of total exports, solely absorbed by South Africa.

Chart 6: Top five export products for May 2026, Percentage Share

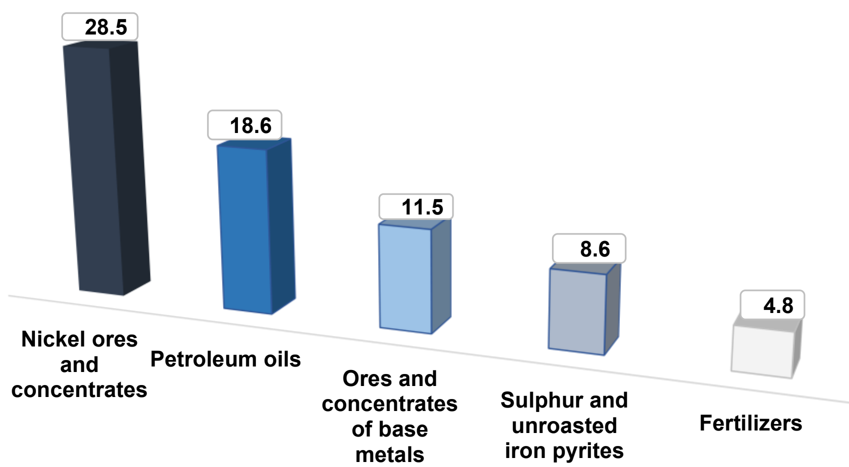


Nickel ores and concentrates occupied the fifth position, contributing 7.7 percent (which was solely a re-export) to the country's total export revenue, and was mostly destined for Canada, China and Finland. The top five export commodities jointly accounted for 63.0 percent of total exports.

3.2 Top five re-export products

The month of May 2026 saw the country re-exporting goods worth N$3.3 billion, representing an increase of 49.7 percent month-on-month and 3.8 percent year-on-year, respectively.

Chart 7: Top five re-export products for May 2026, Percentage Share



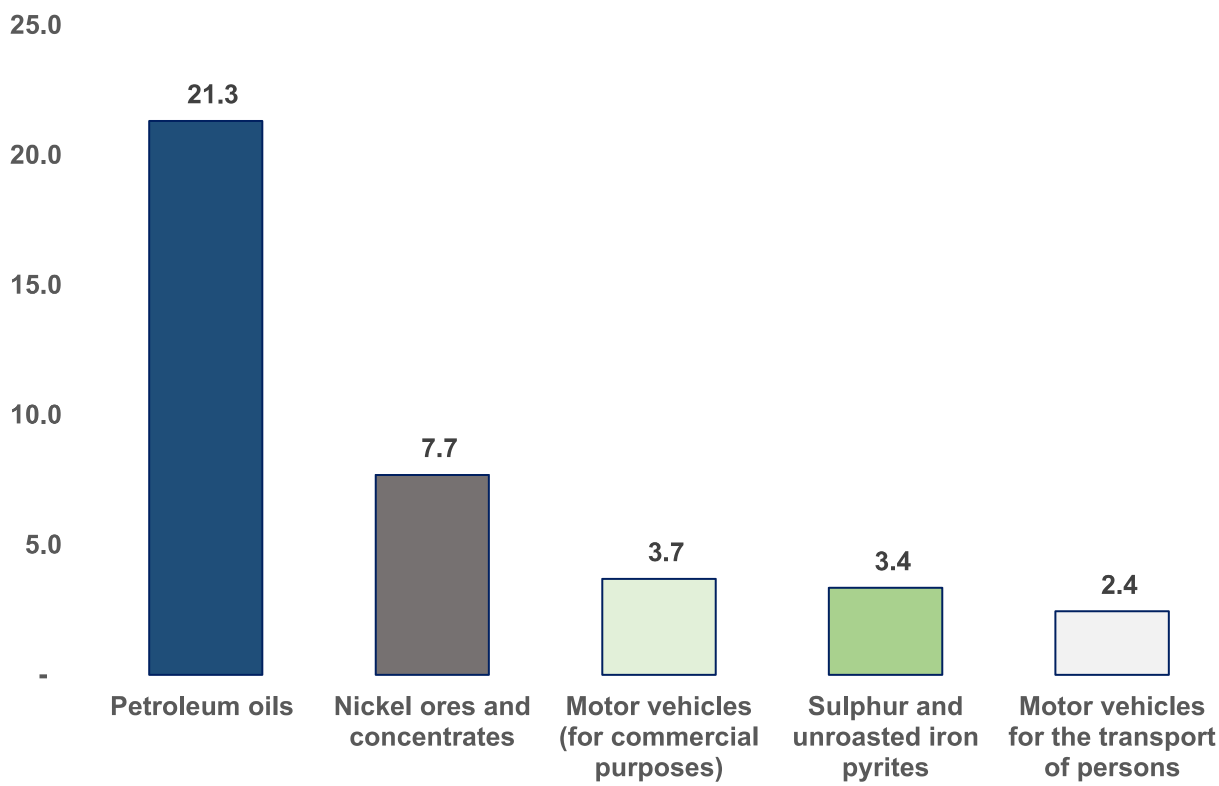
The top five commodities re-exported in May 2026 were 'nickel ores and concentrates', occupying the first position with a share of 28.5 percent of total re-exports and was mainly destined to Canada, China and Finland. Petroleum oils and 'ores and concentrates of base metals' followed in second and third place, accounting for 18.6 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively, with petroleum oils mainly destined for Botswana and Zambia, while the latter was destined mainly to South Africa and Belgium.

Lastly, 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and fertilizer, ranked fourth and fifth with shares of 8.6 percent and 4.8 percent, correspondingly, and they were both mainly destined for the Zambian market.

3.3 Top five import products

The top five commodities imported into the country jointly accounted for 38.5 percent of total imports. Petroleum oils emerged at the top of the list during the month under review, accounting for 21.3 percent of total imports. In second and third positions were 'nickel ores and concentrates' and motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), gaining shares of 7.7 percent and 3.7 percent of total imports, in that order. 'Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, having a share of 3.4 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively (Chart 8).

Chart 8: Top five import products for May 2026, Percentage Share



The United States of America was the largest import market for petroleum oils, while 'nickel ores and concentrates' were sourced mainly from Zambia. Motor vehicles (for commercial purposes) were sourced mainly from South Africa and China. 'Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' were sourced from the United States of America, Norway and South Africa. Lastly, motor vehicles for the transportation of persons were mainly sourced from Japan, South Africa and China.

3.4 Top 10 traded products

Table 6 below provides a snapshot of the top ten (10) export and import products[5], thereby showcasing the country's trade dynamics and economic priorities.

Table 6: Top 10 exported and imported commodities, May 2026

Exports			Imports		
SITC/Commodity Description	**Value(N$ m)**	**%Share**	**SITC/Commodity Description**	**Value(N$ m)**	**%Share**
286:Uranium	2 769	22.3	334:Petroleum oils	3 312	21.3
034:Fish	1 414	11.4	284:Nickel ores and concentrates	1 197	7.7
667:Precious stones (diamonds)	1 345	10.8	782:Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	575	3.7
971:Non-monetary gold	1 338	10.8	274:Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites	520	3.4
284:Nickel ores and concentrates	952	7.7	781:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons	380	2.4
334:Petroleum oils	926	7.5	041:Wheat (including spelt) and meslin, unmilled	342	2.2
287:Ores and concentrates of base metals	765	6.2	625:Rubber tyres	326	2.1
011:Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen	329	2.6	723:Civil engineering and contractors' equipment	299	1.9
274:Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites	288	2.3	542:Medicaments (including veterinary medicaments)	251	1.6
598:Miscellaneous chemical products, n.e.s.	184	1.5	743:Pumps, air or other gas compressors and fans	214	1.4
000: Other commodities	2 106	17.0	000: Other commodities	8 115	52.2
Total	**12 415**	**100**	**Total**	**15 531**	**100**

The top 10 traded commodities highlight the country's dependence on mineral exports, with uranium, precious stones (diamonds) and non-monetary gold emerging as top export revenue sources, thereby underscoring the country's wealth and opportunities in the extractive industry (mining). However, this reliance poses risks due to the unpredictable price volatility of minerals on the global market and the most prevalent geopolitical conflicts. Imports were mainly dominated by essential commodities such as petroleum oils and motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), thus reflecting dependency on foreign industrial factors to support domestic activities. This composition suggests a need for increased industrialization, particularly in the manufacturing sector and export diversification to reduce import dependency while enhancing economic resilience.

[5] Time series data for top 5 traded commodities for each flow are available in the excel sheet (Tab 22)

SECTION 4: TRADE BY ECONOMIC REGIONS

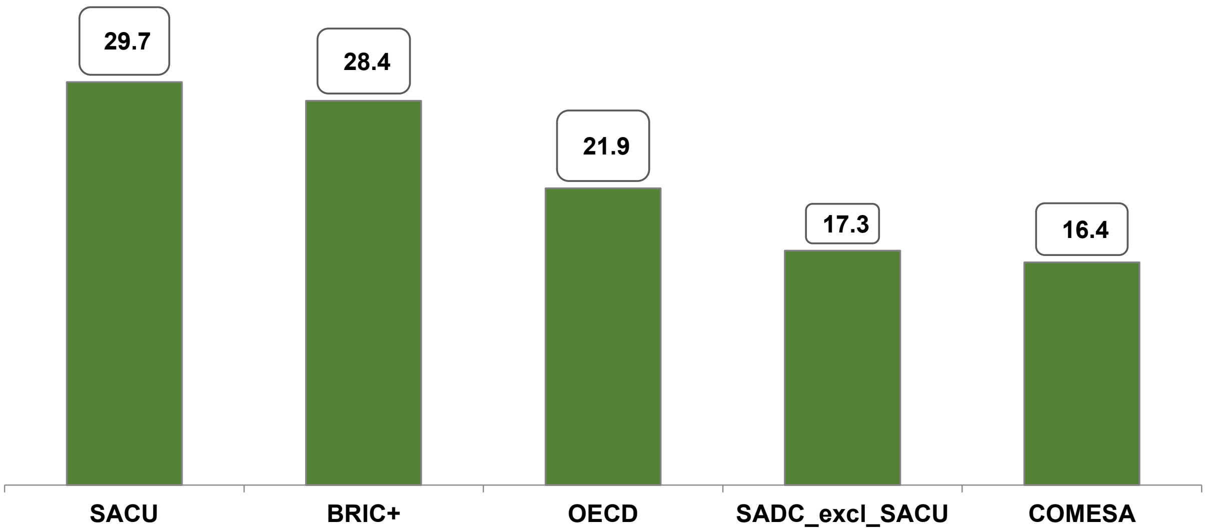
Namibia's trade strategy is anchored on its participation in key Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) such as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA); the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade; the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) as well as the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), among others. Through these agreements, Namibia benefits from reciprocal preferential access to regional and global markets, subsequently allowing preferential treatment on certain commodities in these markets. This explains higher trade volumes between Namibia and these markets when compared to the rest of the world.

4.1 Exports by Economic Regions

SACU emerged as the largest export destination for Namibian goods during the month under review, with a share of 29.7 percent of the total export value (Chart 9). BRIC+[6] and the OECD markets followed in second and third positions, contributing 28.4 percent and 21.9 percent to Namibia’s total export value, respectively. SADC_excl_SACU and COMESA markets occupied the fourth and fifth positions, accounting for 17.3 percent and 16.4 percent of total export revenue, accordingly.

[6] BRIC+ Includes the new member states

Chart 9: Exports for the top five economic regions for May 2026, Percentage Share

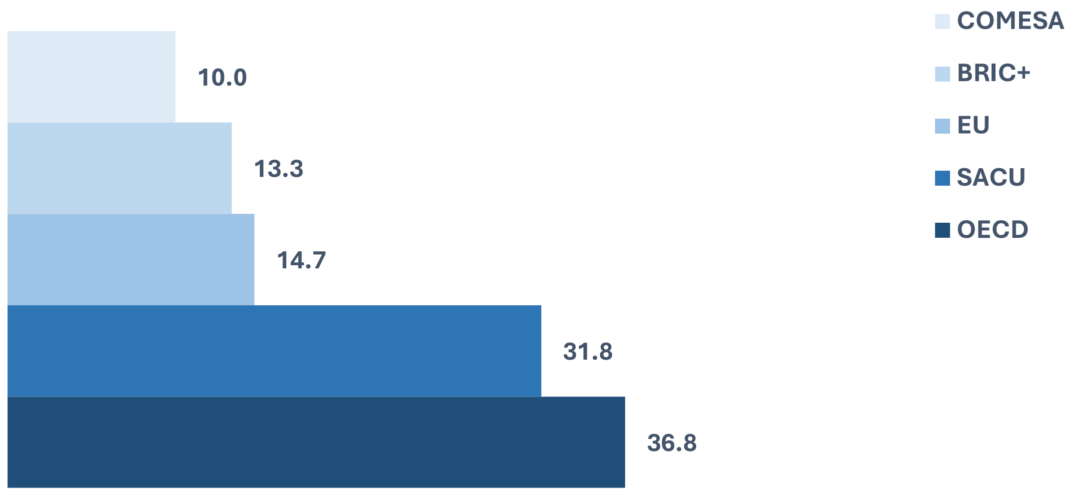


Exports to SACU comprised mainly of non-monetary gold, petroleum oils and precious stones (diamonds), while exports to BRIC+ was dominated largely by uranium, 'ores and concentrates of base metals' and precious stones (diamonds). The OECD's basket comprised of fish, 'nickel ores and concentrates' and uranium. Exports to SADC_excl_SACU and COMESA were mainly fish, 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and petroleum oils.

4.2 Imports by Economic Regions

The May 2026 figures revealed that the OECD was Namibia's largest market for imports, accounting for 36.8 percent of total imports, which were predominantly made up of petroleum oils, 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and 'wheat and meslin'. SACU came second with a share of 31.8 percent, supplying the country mostly with motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), alcoholic beverages and medicaments while the EU and BRIC+ took the third and fourth positions with respective shares of 14.7 percent and 13.3 percent of the total import value. The EU supplied the country mainly with petroleum oils, 'pumps, air or other gas compressors' and motor vehicles (for commercial purposes) while BRIC+ supplied the country mainly with motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), 'civil engineering and contractors' equipment' and telecommunication equipment. COMESA occupied the fifth position, accounting for 10.0 percent of total imports and supplied Namibia mainly with ‘nickel ores and concentrates’, ‘ores and concentrates of base metals’ and zinc.

Chart 10: Imports for the top five economic regions for May 2026, Percentage share



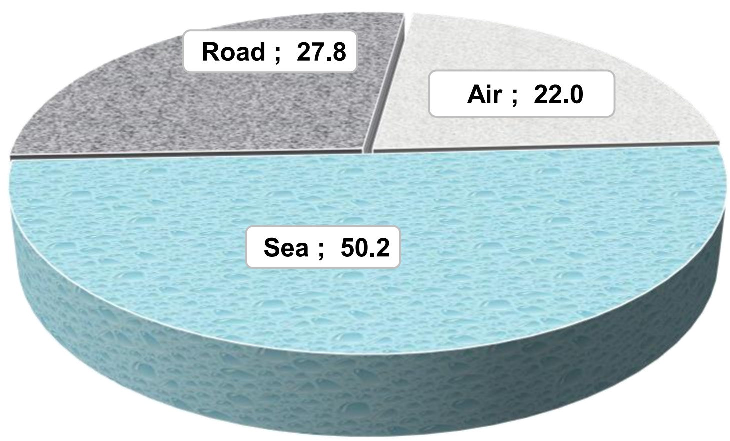
SECTION 5: TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

5.1 Exports by mode of transport

During the month under review, sea transportation occupied the top position as the leading mode of transport for exports, handling exports valued at N$6.2 billion. This export value represents 50.2 percent share of the total exports during the period under study (Chart 11). The basket of exports via sea comprised mainly of uranium, 'nickel ores and concentrates' and fish. The second place was occupied by road transportation, contributing 27.8 percent of the total export value and its export basket was mainly made up of petroleum oils, fish and 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites'.

Lastly, air transportation accounted for 22.0 percent, with precious stones (diamonds), non-monetary gold and fish being the highest-valued commodities transported via this mode of transport.

Chart 11: Share of exports by mode of transport for May 2026, Percent



Regarding trade volumes, a total of 393 168 tons of goods left the country, representing an increase of 52.1 percent and 7.3 percent when compared to April 2026 and May 2025, respectively.

During the month under review, 211 407 tons of goods were recorded as exported via sea, representing an increase of 120 644 tons month-on-month and 15 083 tons year-on-year.

A total of 181 613 tons of goods left the country by road, yielding an increase of 8.4 percent and 7.0 percent when compared to tons recorded in April 2026 and May 2025, correspondingly.

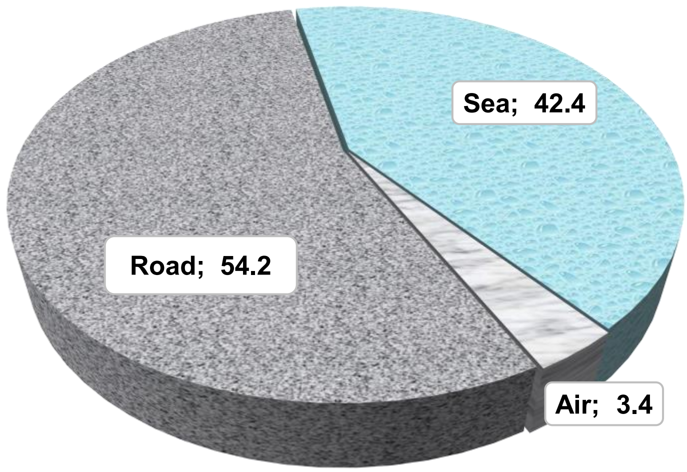
Finally, only 148 tons of goods left the country by air during May 2026, indicating decreases of 22.4 percent and 3.1 percent month-on-month and year-on-year, respectively.

5.2 Imports by mode of transport

Road transport accounted for the highest import value among all modes of transportation during the month under review. Imports via road were valued at N$8.4 billion, representing a 54.2 percent share of the total import value of all goods (Chart 12). 'Nickel ores and concentrates' motor vehicles (for commercial purposes) and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons constituted the highest value of total imports via road transport.

Sea transportation was second, accounting for 42.4 percent of the total value of all goods imported into the country and its basket consisted mainly of petroleum oils, 'sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and 'wheat and meslin'. Finally, in a distant third place was air transport, accounting for 3.4 percent of the total value of goods imported in the country. Precious stones (diamonds), telecommunication equipment and 'aircraft and associated equipment' were the top imported commodities via this mode of transport.

Chart 12: Share of imports by mode of transport for May 2026, Percent



In terms of trade by volume, on the demand side, May 2026 saw 520 874 tons of goods imported into the country, increasing by 11.8 percent and 49.7 percent when compared to the previous month and year-on-year, respectively.

Moreover, 311 920 tons of goods arrived in the country by sea, translating into an increase of 15.0 percent and 95.7 percent when compared to 271 276 tons and 159 395 tons recorded in April 2026 and May 2025, respectively. May 2026 saw 208 753 tons of goods entering the country by road, translating into increases of 7.4 percent and 10.9 percent when compared to 194 287 tons recorded in the previous month and 188 263 tons recorded in May 2025, respectively.

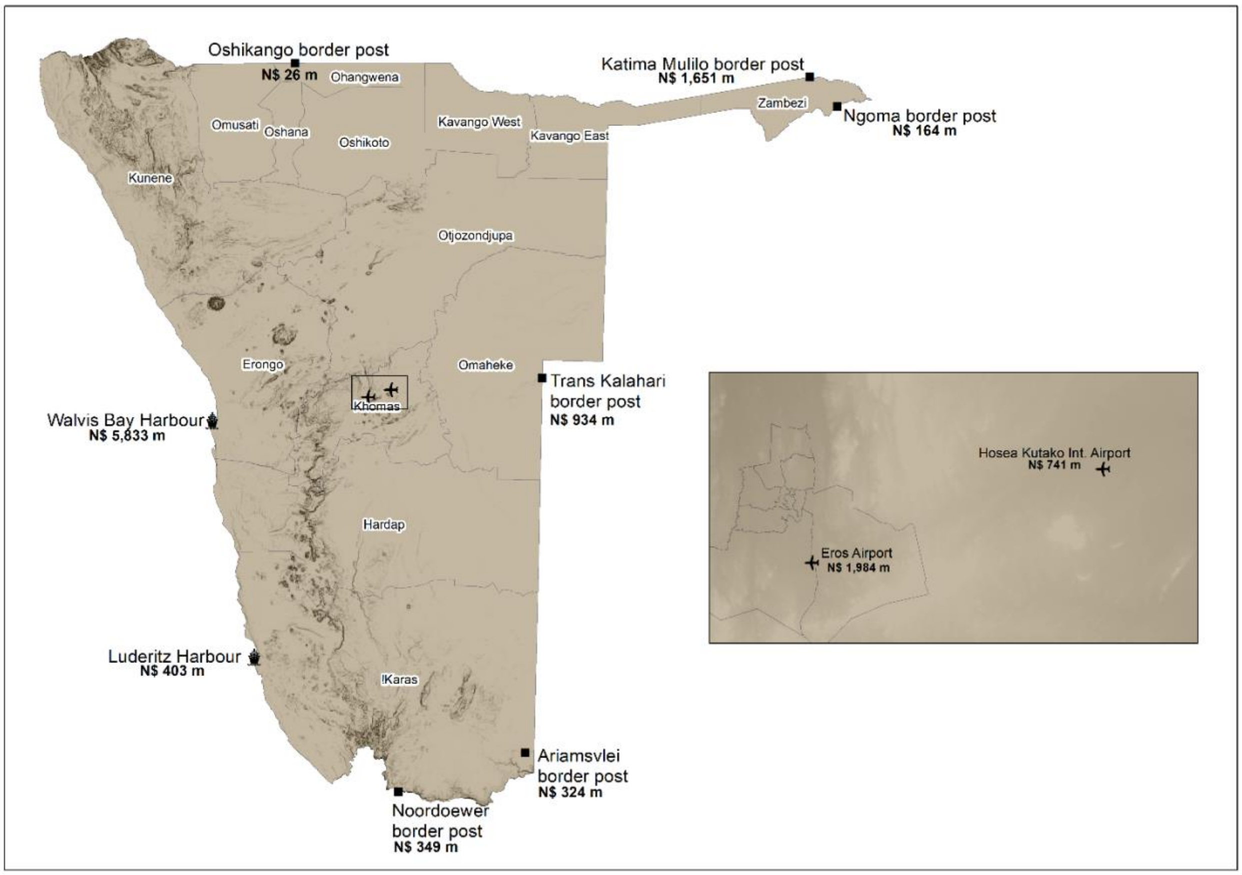
Finally, 152 tons of goods arrived in the country by air during the period under review, yielding decreases of 9.3 percent and 11.2 percent when compared to the tons recorded in April 2026 and May 2025, respectively.

SECTION 6: TRADE BY MAIN BORDER POST/OFFICE

This section outlines Namibia's trade with the rest of the world through major border posts/ offices for May 2026, reflecting the leading points of entry/exit by value.

The export side saw the port of Walvis Bay facilitating goods worth N$5.8 billion, followed by Eros Airport and Katima Mulilo border post, with N$2.0 billion and N$1.7 billion, respectively.

Figure 3:Exports by main border posts (N$ m), May 2026



The demand side saw Walvis Bay maintaining its position as the top entry point for imports, handling cargo valued at N$6.4 billion, ahead of Ariamsvlei and the Trans-Kalahari border posts, which facilitated goods worth N$3.0 billion and N$2.1 billion, individually.

Figure 4: Imports by main border posts (N$ m), May 2026

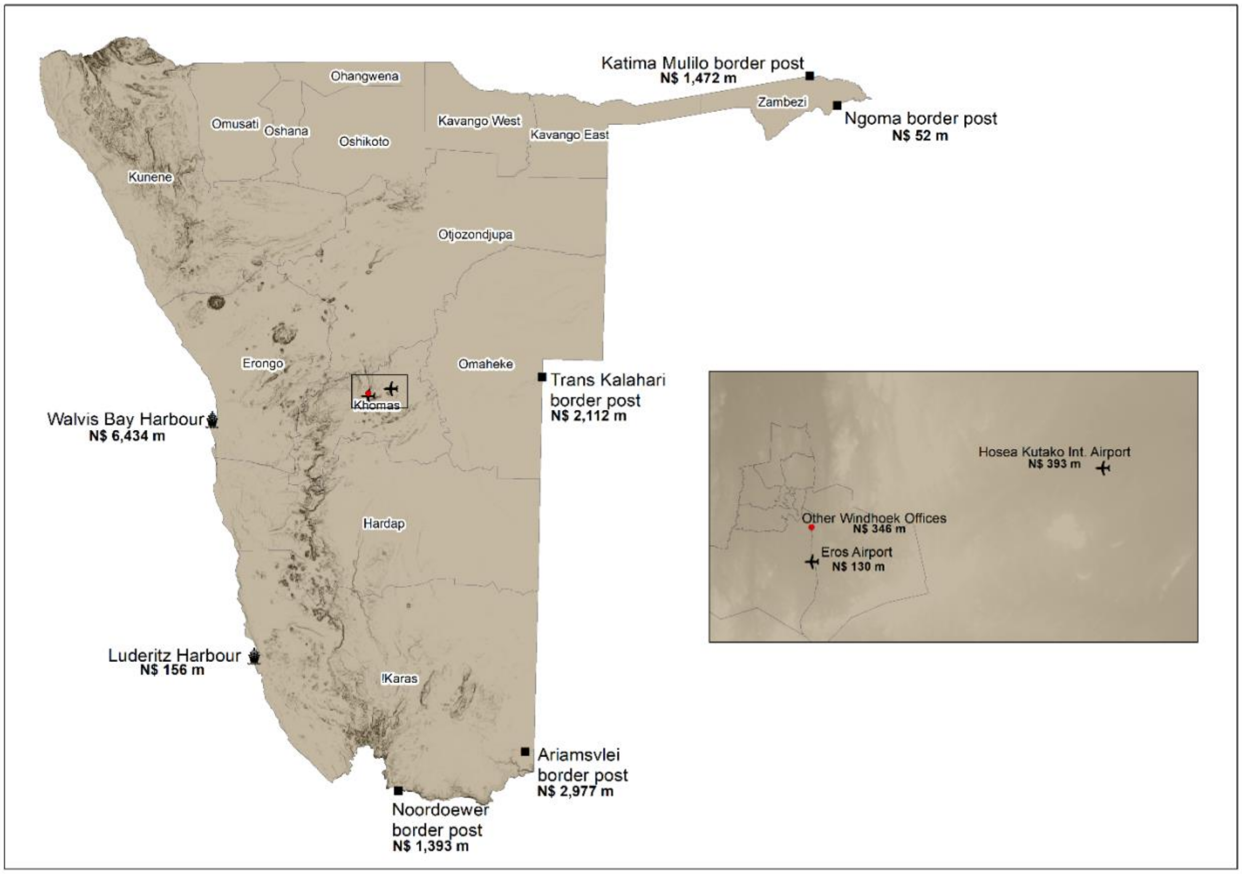


Table 7: Time series – Oshikango border posts (N$ m)

Period/Flow	2025								2026				
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Total Exports	42.2	45.6	70.6	45.1	32.8	46.2	39.8	37.3	58.6	34.7	45.6	42.7	25.5
Total Imports	36.3	15.1	15.5	34.7	30.5	27.1	26.0	20.3	14.8	16.8	16.7	10.2	14.7

Table 8: Top 3 commodities traded via Oshikango (N$ m), May 2026

SITC Commodity description	Exports (N$ m)	%Share	SITC Commodity description	Imports (N$ m)	%Share
821: Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses and similar stuffed furnishings	2	7.9	663: Mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	3	18.2
292: Crude vegetable materials, n.e.s.	2	6.5	811: Prefabricated buildings	2	15.3
081: Feeding stuff for animals	2	6.4	081: Feeding stuff for animals	2	13.2

SECTION 7: NAMIBIA INTRA-AFRICA TRADE

Intra-African trade is vital for promoting economic diversification, industrialization, and resilience by reducing dependence on external markets. Through initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and regional blocs like the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), it enhances market access, strengthens regional value chains and supports sustainable economic growth across the continent.

In May 2026, Namibia's intra-African trade recorded exports valued at N$ 5.9 billion. On the other hand, the country imported goods worth N$7.0 billion from the continent, yielding a trade deficit of N$1.2 billion and total trade of N$12.9 billion. A comparison of Namibia's trade with Africa and the rest of the world highlights the significant role of regional markets, with intra-African exports accounting for 47.2 percent of total exports and imports from Africa making up 45.2 percent of total imports. This indicates that almost half of Namibia's trade is regionally concentrated, underscoring the importance of African markets in balancing external trade dependence and strengthening regional economic integration.

Namibia's exports were mostly absorbed by countries such as South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe (Chart 13.1). In contrast, most imports came from the same countries, except for Zimbabwe and Botswana, which were replaced by Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria. Charts 13 - 16 reflect Namibia's intra-Africa exports and imports by partners and product.

Chart 13: Namibia's top 5 intra-Africa export destinations, May 2026, Percent

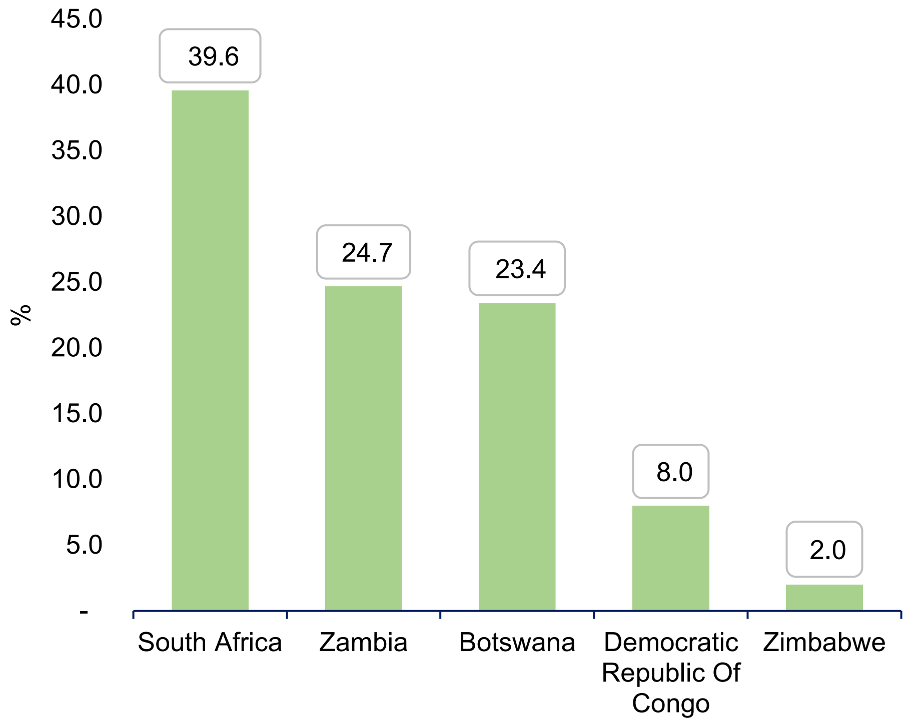


Chart 14: Namibia's intra-Africa export by top 5 products, May 2026, Percent

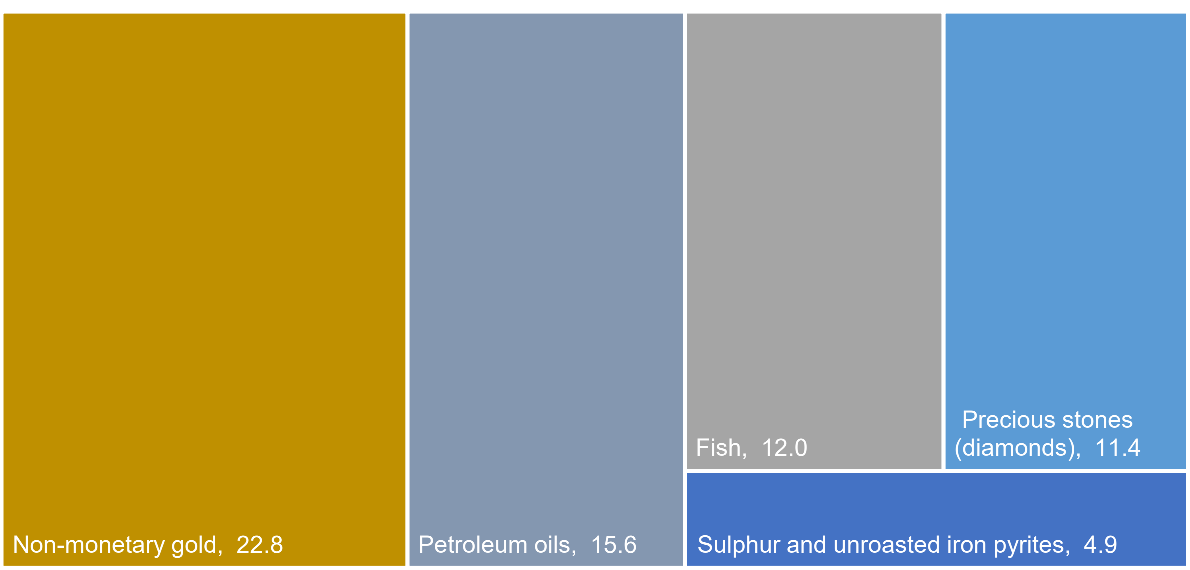


Chart 15: Namibia’s top 5 intra-Africa import destinations, May 2026, Percent

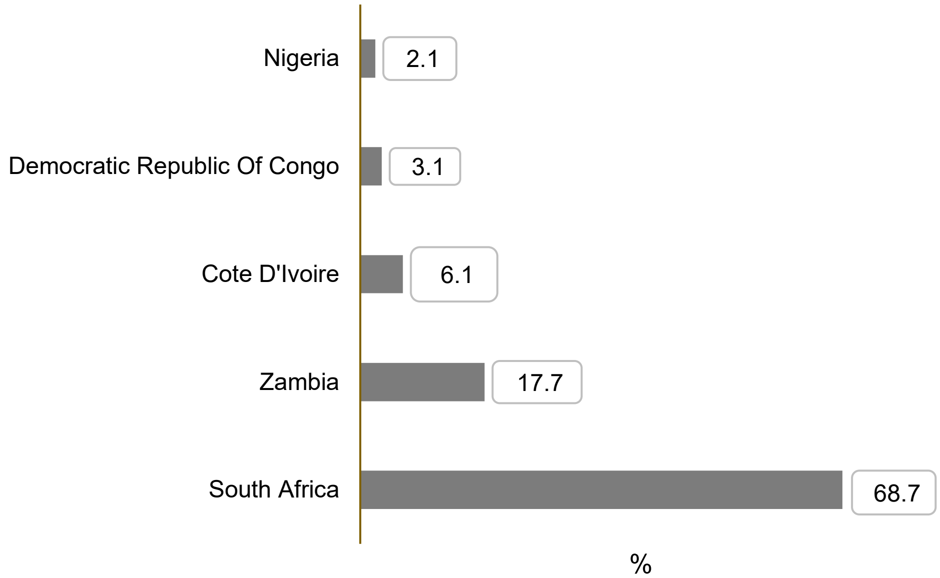
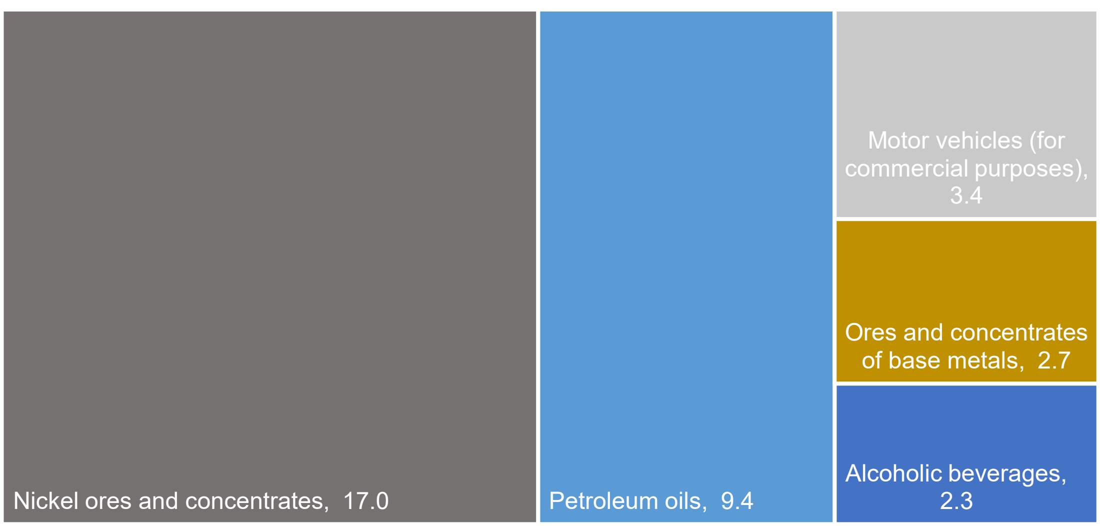


Chart 16: Namibia's intra-Africa imports by top 5 products, May 2026, Percent



SECTION 8: NAMIBIA INTRA-SADC TRADE

In May 2026, Namibia's exports to the African continent were predominantly concentrated in the southern region, accounting for 99.7 percent of the total intra-Africa exports. Overall, intra-SADC exports represented 47.1 percent of Namibia's total global export value during the month under review. Charts 17 and 18 below show the top five SADC markets to which goods from Namibia were destined and the top five products exported to the SADC community, respectively.

Chart 17: Namibia's top 5 intra-SADC export destinations for May 2026, Percent

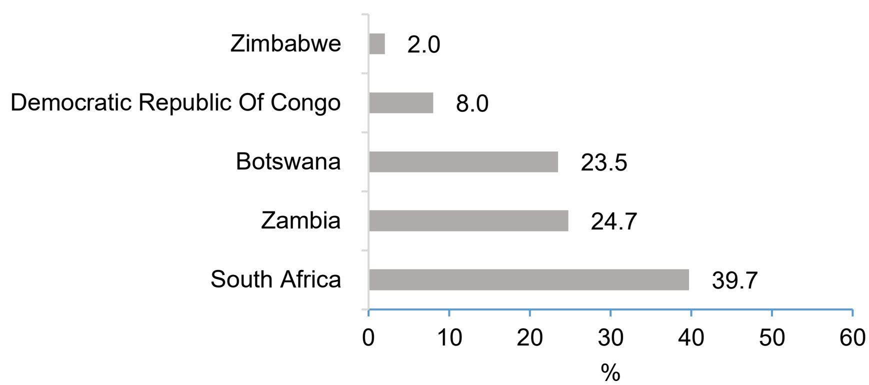
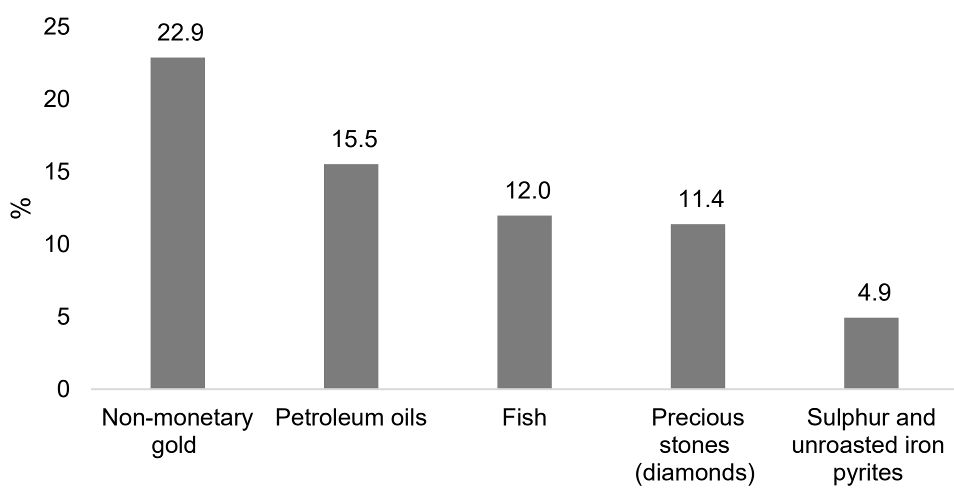


Chart 18: Namibia's intra-SADC exports by top 5 products for May 2026, Percent



On the demand side, the month under review highlighted the significance of Southern African markets to the Namibian economy, with 91.6 percent of the total value of goods imported from Africa being sourced from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Consequently, Namibia's intra-SADC imports accounted for 41.4 percent of the total value of imports from the world.

Chart 19: Namibia's top 5 intra-SADC import markets for May 2026, Percent

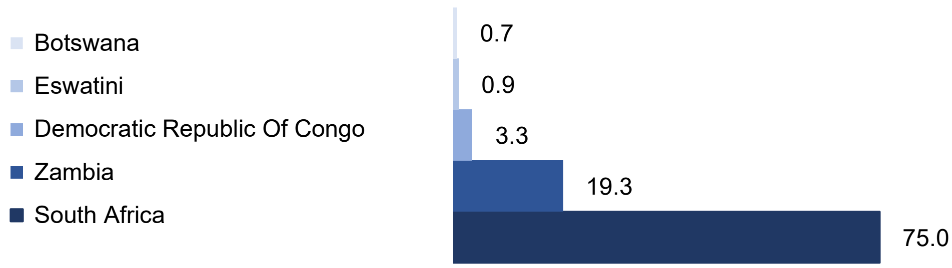
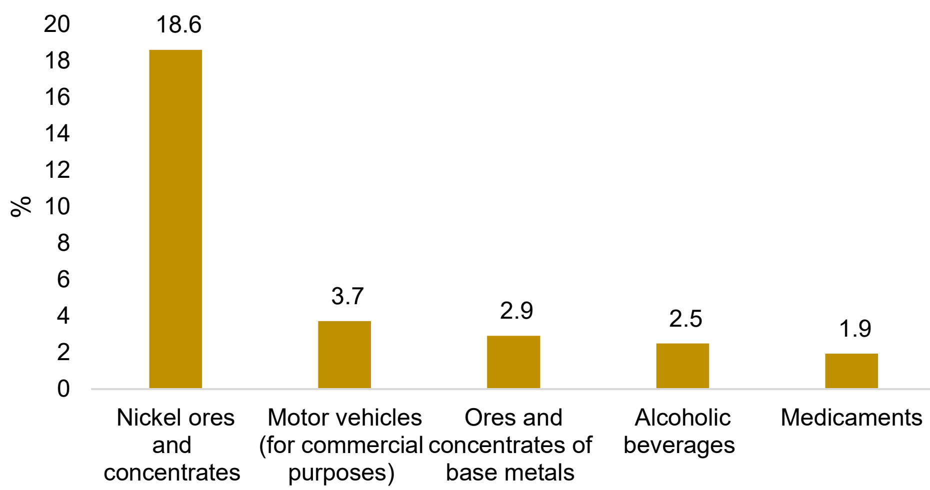


Chart 20: Namibia's Intra-SADC imports by top 5 products for May 2026, Percent



SECTION 9: TRADE ON FOOD ITEMS AND BEVERAGES

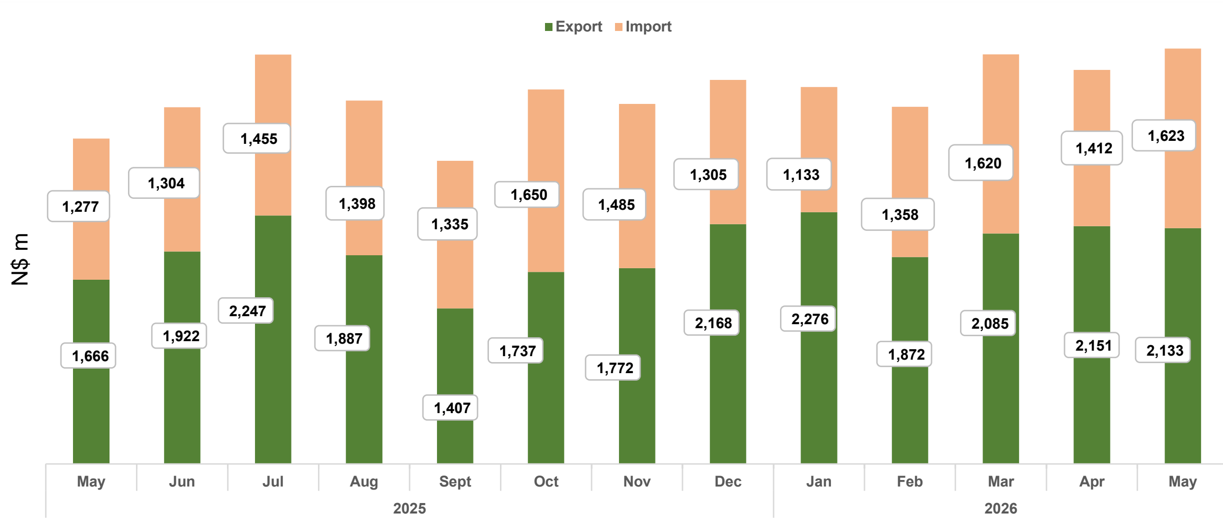
9.1 Food Items

This section analyses the trend of Namibia's trade on food items[7] following the HS commodity classification at the chapter level (HS 2-digit codes). HS 2-digit codes correspond to chapters in the Harmonized System and are used to present trade data at an aggregated level, providing broad product groupings rather than detailed commodity descriptions.

The month under review saw the country recording a trade surplus to the value of N$510 million on food items. The surplus on food items was mainly attributed to the export of fish and 'meat and edible meat offal', which stood at N$1.5 billion and N$426 million, respectively.

Over the period spanning May 2025 to May 2026, Namibia's overall trade on food items averaged a trade surplus amounting to N$536 million. The highest trade surplus was N$1.1 billion, observed in January 2026, followed by December 2025 and July 2025 with N$864 million and N$792 million, respectively (Chart 21). There was no trade deficits recorded during the period.

Chart 21: Exports and Imports of Food items, May 2025 - May 2026 (N$ m)



[7] Food items exclude trade in Live animals.

Table 9: Top 5 Exports of Food items (N$ m), May 2025 - May 2026

HS Commodity description	2025								2026					May 2026 %
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Shares
03: Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	1,278	1,499	1,675	1,446	1,045	1,199	808	941	1,457	1,400	1,544	1,617	1,483	69.5
02: Meat and edible meat offal	223	248	358	245	213	289	285	268	152	240	362	345	426	20.0
08: Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	37	25	35	19	35	48	463	808	535	96	65	71	63	3.0
19: Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	42	48	48	57	31	47	51	43	43	38	46	44	40	1.9
12: Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit	17	19	11	6	6	8	7	13	11	9	8	6	25	1.2

The May 2026 figures show that fish contributed the highest to the food basket with a share of 69.5 percent followed by ‘meat and edible meat offal’ with 20.0 percent. The third commodity in the list was ‘edible fruit and nuts’ with 3.0 percent. The top five food exports jointly accounted for a share 95.5 percent of the total exports.

Table 10: Top 5 Imports of Food items (N$ m), May 2025 – May 2026

HS Commodity description	2025								2026					May 2026 %
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Shares
10: Cereals	86	189	124	151	433	282	130	195	124	166	268	187	410	25.3
17: Sugar and sugar confectionery	197	208	283	220	157	195	205	153	152	274	200	210	158	9.7
02: Meat and edible meat offal	76	57	71	61	79	115	102	81	86	97	130	119	134	8.3
19: Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	122	103	135	111	77	117	120	100	84	120	114	117	116	7.2
21: Miscellaneous edible preparations	108	107	122	125	77	138	142	126	103	98	127	115	104	6.4

On the demand side, cereals dominated the import list with a share of 25.3 percent while ‘sugar and sugar confectionery’ and ‘meat and edible meat offal’ took the second and third positions, having accounted for 9.7 percent and 8.3 percent, correspondingly. The top five imported food items accounted for 56.8 percent of the basket during the month under review.

9.2 Beverages

Imports of beverages[8] averaged N$330 million between May 2025 and May 2026, with October 2025 registering the highest value of N$677 million. During the same period, exports averaged N$91 million, with November 2025 noting the largest value at N$179 million, while the lowest value, amounting to N$51 million being recorded in September 2025.

Table 11: Exports and Imports of Beverages (N$ m), May 2025 – May 2026

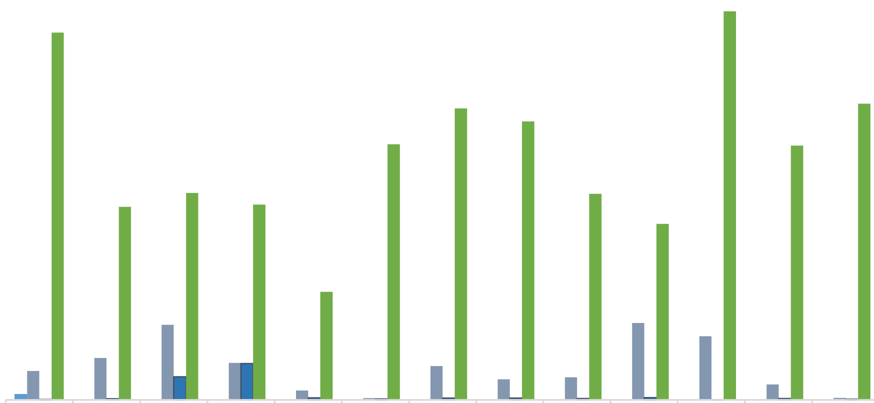
Year	Period	Total Exports	Total Imports	Trade balance
2025	May	84	262	- 178
	Jun	96	282	- 186
	Jul	67	321	- 254
	Aug	83	349	- 266
	Sept	51	260	- 210
	Oct	125	677	- 552
	Nov	179	430	- 251
	Dec	100	302	- 202
2026	Jan	90	330	- 240
	Feb	53	252	- 200
	Mar	71	270	- 199
	Apr	114	258	- 143
	May	69	295	- 226
Average		**91**	**330**	**-239**

[8] Beverage includes both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

SECTION 10: COMMODITY OF THE MONTH – Potatoes

This section provides an insight into trade for the commodity of the month—potatoes[9], from May 2025 to May 2026.

Chart 22: Exports and Imports of potatoes (N$ m)[10]



	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
	2025								2026				
Total Exports_seed potatoes_(N$ m)	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imports_seed potatoes_(N$ m)	1.8	2.5	4.5	2.2	0.6	0.1	2.1	1.2	1.4	4.6	3.8	0.9	0.1
Total Exports_other fresh potatoes_(N$ m)	0.0	0.1	1.4	2.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Imports_other fresh potatoes_(N$ m)	22.2	11.7	12.5	11.8	6.5	15.5	17.6	16.8	12.5	10.6	23.5	15.4	17.9

In May 2026, the country exported fresh potatoes valued at N$35 565 destined to Angola with no seed potatoes exported during the period. On the other hand, the country imported seed potatoes worth N$119 000, sourced from South Africa. Fresh potatoes were sourced from China and India at a value of N$17.9 million.

---

[9] Potatoes are made up of seed potatoes and other fresh potatoes

[10] '-' represents '0' values

Conclusion

In May 2026, Namibia's exports were valued at N$12.4 billion, while imports stood at N$15.5 billion, resulting in the country's trade deficit amounting to N$3.1 billion.

During May 2026, exports increased by 25.9 percent when compared to the export value recorded in April 2026 and by 6.6 percent when compared to May 2025. The import value increased by 9.3 percent month-on-month and 34.6 percent year-on-year.

China emerged as the country's largest export destination, with a share of 25.2 percent of all goods exported, followed by South Africa with a share of 18.7 percent. Furthermore, Zambia, Botswana and Canada formed part of Namibia's top five export markets. Additionally, South Africa was the country's largest source for imports, accounting for 31.1 percent of total imports into Namibia, followed by the USA with 14.9 percent of the market share. China, Zambia and Sweden were among the country's top five import markets.

The analysis of exports by commodities revealed that uranium had the largest share of the export basket, accounting for 22.3 percent of Namibia's total exports, ahead of fish, which accounted for 11.4 percent. precious stones (diamonds), non-monetary gold and 'nickel ores and concentrates' also formed part of the top five exported products. In terms of imports, petroleum oils, with a share of 21.3 percent was the highest imported commodity during the month under study, while 'nickel ores and concentrates' in second accounted for a share of 7.7 percent. 'Motor vehicles (for commercial purposes), 'Sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites' and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons were part of the top five imported products.

Regarding economic blocs, SACU emerged as the largest export market during May 2026, contributing 29.7 percent to total exports, followed by the BRIC+ market which accounted for 28.4 percent while the OECD contributed 21.9 percent in third place. SADC_excl_SACU (17.3%) and the COMESA (16.4%) occupied fourth and fifth positions. On the demand side, the OECD emerged as the largest source for Namibia's imports with a share of 36.8 percent of the total import bill, followed by SACU and the EU with contributions of 31.8 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively. The BRIC+ (13.3%) and COMESA (10.0%) were also among the top five economic blocs and occupied the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

In terms of mode of transport, the largest share of goods was exported by sea, accounting for 50.2 percent of the total export value, followed by road (27.8%) and air (22.0%). On the demand side, road transport took the first position, accounting for 54.2 percent of the total import value, followed by sea and air transport, contributing 42.4 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively.

On Namibia's intra-African trade, for the period under study, Namibia was a net importer, implying that the country imported more than it exported to African countries.

Regarding trade on food items and beverages, during May 2026, Namibia was a net exporter when it comes to food items with a trade surplus of N$510 million, while beverages recorded a deficit of N$226 million.

Finally, an analysis of the trade in potatoes as the commodity of the month revealed that in May 2026, Namibia exported fresh potatoes worth N$ 35 565, destined Angola. On the demand side, the country imported seed potatoes worth N$119 000, sourced from South Africa. Fresh potatoes were sourced from China and India at a value of N$17.9 million.

Namibia International Merchandise Trade Statistics Bulletin

May 2026

Namibia Statistics Agency
P.O. Box 2133,
Mutual Platz Building,
6958 Post Street Mall,
Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: +264 61 431 3200
Fax: +264 61 431 3253
Email: info@nsa.org.na
www.nsa.org.na