

MEDIA RELEASE

(NSA launches 2023 Population and Housing Census
Fertility, Mortality, Migration and Population
projections)

30 September 2026

NSA Head Office

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of 2023 Population and Housing Census Fertility, Mortality, Migration and National Population projections reports Wednesday, 30 September 2026

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency, today 30 September 2026 released the concurrent launch of four major census thematic demographic reports:
 - *Fertility Report,*
 - *Mortality Report,*
 - *Migration Report,*
 - *and National Population Projections Report.*
 2. This joint release offers an unprecedented, multi-dimensional view of national demographic dynamics. By combining detailed insights into birth rates, life expectancy, population movement, and future growth projections, the four reports collectively establish the evidence base for long-term development planning, health policy, education, and infrastructure investment over the coming decade.
- ### 3. Overview of the Four Reports
- a. **The Fertility Report:** Analyzes trends in Total Fertility Rates (TFR), adolescent birth rates, and spatial distribution of births.
 - b. **The Mortality Report:** Details changes in life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality rates

- c. **The Migration report:** Examines internal migration patterns as well as international in migrants.
- d. **The National Population Projections Report:** Outlines low, medium, and high variant scenarios for national population trajectory for the next 30 years, assessing future dependency ratios, labor supply capacity, and public services demand.

4. Key statistical highlights

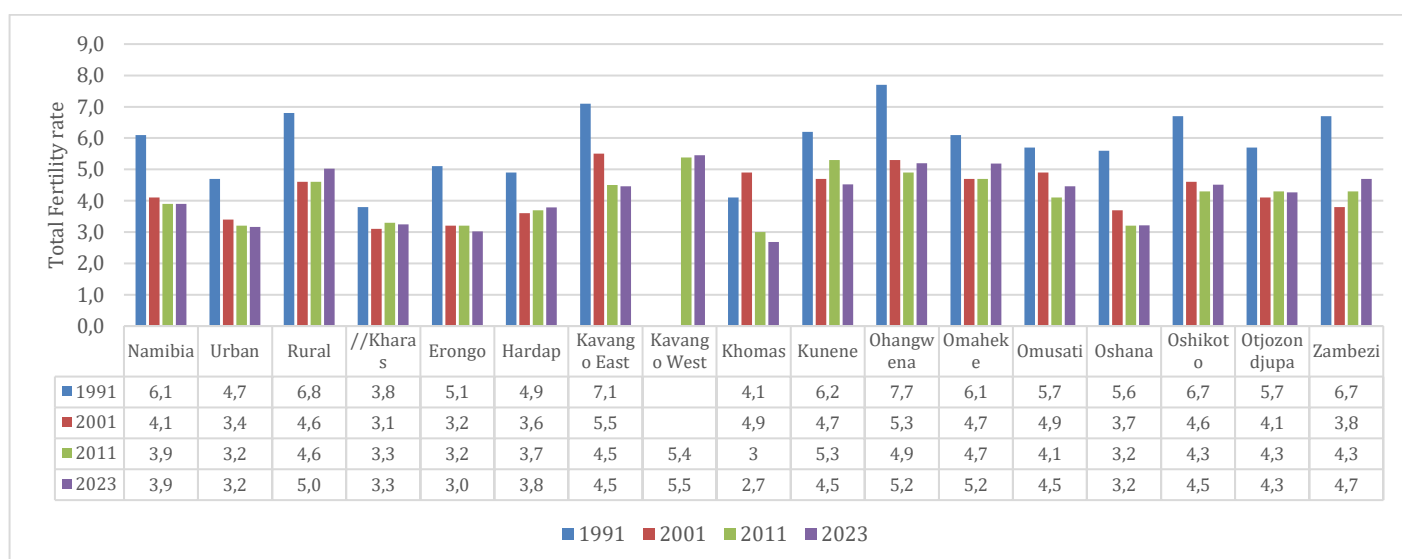
Fertility

National Trend: Namibia's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) experienced a steep decline from 6.1 births per woman in 1991 to 4.1 in 2001, eventually stabilizing at 3.9 births per woman through 2011 and 2023.

Urban areas saw a steady drop from 4.7 (1991) to 3.2 (2011–2023). Rural areas dropped sharply from 6.8 (1991) to 4.6 (2001–2011) but slightly increased to 5.0 births per woman in 2023.

Regional variation (2023): **Lowest TFR:** Khomas (2.7), Erongo (3.0), Urban Areas (3.2), and Oshana (3.2). **Highest TFR:** Kavango West (5.5), Ohangwena (5.2), Omaheke (5.2), and Rural Areas (5.0).

Table 1: Total Fertility rate by Census years



Migration

Internal migration varies widely across regions. Over 30 percent of residents in Khomas and Erongo in 2023 were born outside those regions, suggesting net migration into those regions from elsewhere. In contrast, slightly over 19 percent of people born in Kavango West and Omusati now reside in other regions.

Figure 1: The region with the highest inflows (residents who were born elsewhere)

inflows vs. Birthplace Population (%)

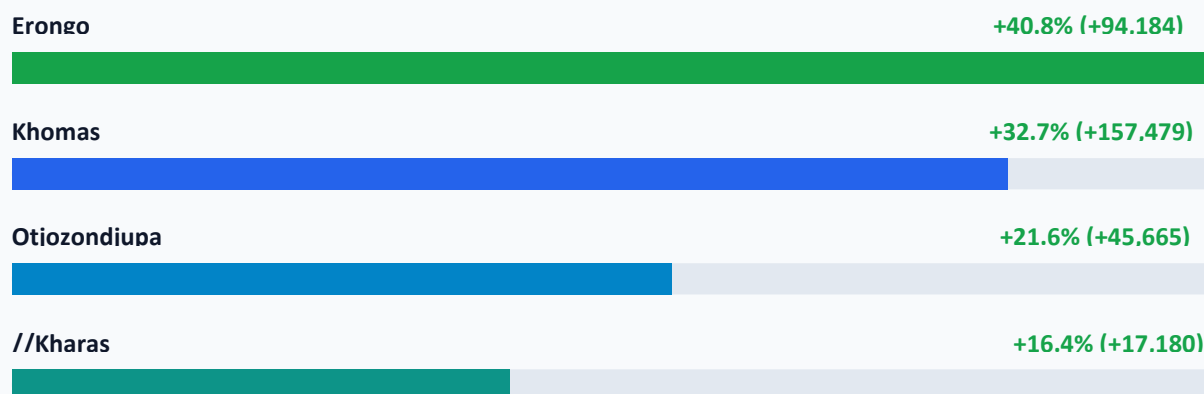


Figure 2: The region with highest number of outflows (negative net migration)

Net -migration (%)

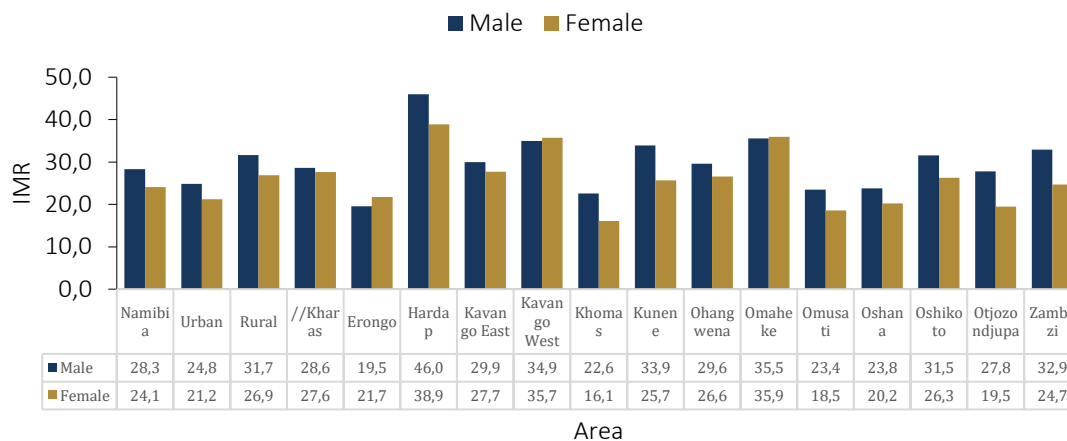


Mortality

In terms of child mortality levels and trends, Namibia had an Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 26.2 infant deaths per 1,000 livebirths, with a higher IMR observed in rural areas compared to urban areas (29.3 infant deaths per 1,000 livebirths in rural areas compared to urban areas with 23.0 infant deaths per 1,000 livebirths).

The IMR varied at regional level, Hardap region recorded the highest infant deaths followed by Omaheke with 42.6 and 35.7 infant deaths per 1,000 livebirths respectively. The lowest infant deaths were observed in Khomas, at 19.4 deaths per 1,000 livebirths. In terms of infant deaths by sex, the IMR for male infants was higher compared to the IMR for female across all areas, except in Erongo, Kavango West and Omaheke regions.

Figure 3: Infant mortality rate by sex and area, 2023 Census



The life expectancy at birth in Namibia is 64.0 years for males and 72.7 years for females. Furthermore, the life expectancy at birth for both males and females were higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. Life expectancy at birth for males was highest in Erongo region, with 73.1 while that of females was highest in Oshana region with 77.3 years.

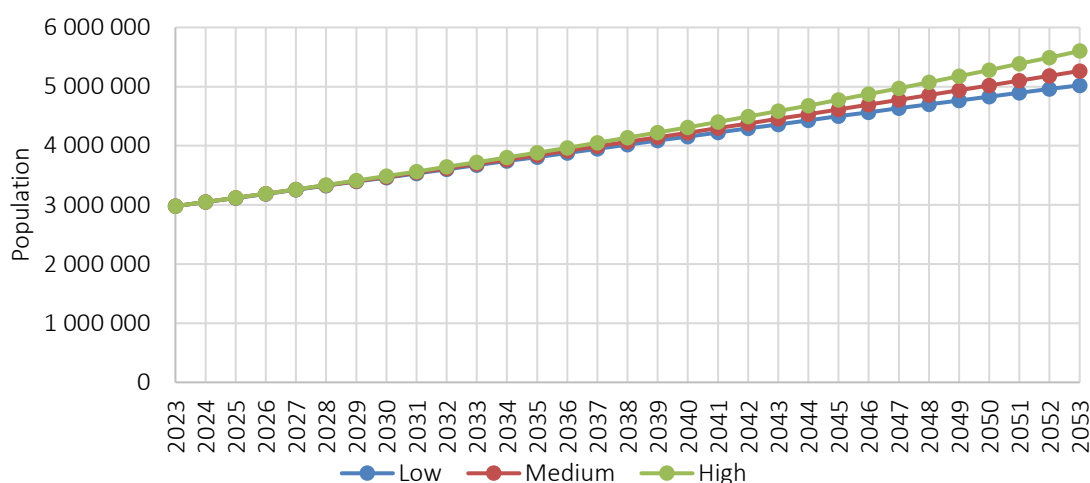
Figure 4: Life expectancy at birth by sex and area

Area	Life Expectancies at birth		Gap
	Male	Female	
Namibia	64.0	72.7	8.7
Urban	65.9	72.3	6.4
Rural	61.3	71.6	10.3
//Kharas	61.9	68.7	6.8
Erongo	73.1	74.6	1.5
Hardap	57.8	64.1	6.3
Kavango East	60.4	69.7	9.3
Kavango West	62.1	70.9	8.8
Khomas	70.0	74.7	4.7
Kunene	59.6	65.8	6.2
Ohangwena	60.3	73.8	13.5
Omaheke	59.5	61.0	1.5
Omusati	59.5	76.0	16.5
Oshana	65.4	77.3	11.9
Oshikoto	63.4	74.6	11.2
Otjozondjupa	65.8	69.5	3.7
Zambezi	66.2	72.3	6.1

Population Projections

The population size for the medium variant in 2053 will be 5.26 million. The range for the low and high projection in 2053 is 5.02 million and 5.60 million respectively.

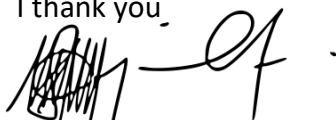
Figure 5: Projected Population by variants and year



5. The NSA encourage government institutions, policymakers, researchers, development partners, and the public to make full use of these reports. By doing so, we ensure that decisions at every level are guided by facts, ultimately fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development.
6. Only aggregated data is reported and is the norm for the rest of the results under the Statistics Act (Act 9 of 2011). The Act places a legal restriction on publishing confidential information of individuals. All personal details are protected and removed from all publications and datasets to protect the confidentiality of respondents.
7. The management of the Namibia Statistics Agency expresses its sincere appreciation to the government institutions, and partners for their invaluable support throughout the production of these reports.

8. These reports are now available on the website ensuring open access to all stakeholders. For more information and updates on this and other reports from the Census Data, please visit our official website at www.nsa.org.na or contact our office at 061 431 3200 or email info@nsa.org.na

I thank you.



Alex Shimuafeni
Statistician-General & CEO

About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing, and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

Issued by:
Iipumbu Sakaria
Manager: Corporate Communications
Namibia Statistics Agency
Post Street Mall
P O Box 2133
Windhoek
Tel: +264 061 431 3200
Fax: + 264 061 431 3253
+264 811 247939
Email: isakaria@nsa.org.na
info@nsa.org