

# Namibia QER Q3 2023

Namibia Quarterly Economic Review

July-September 2023

Quarter Summary	Special Feature Namcor - Namibia's	News Highlights	Key Economic Variables	Data Trends
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## **Quarter Summary**

## Macroeconomic Situation

The economy continues on the path to recovery from the severe damage imposed by the Covid pandemic in 2020 despite the higher interest rate environment. The NSA's full National Accounts for 2022 showed that the size of the economy as measured by real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.5% in 2021 and 4.6% in 2022 after falling by a revised 8.1% in 2020. In real terms, Namibia's economy in 2022 was still smaller than it was in 2014 but is expected to surpass its pre-pandemic size this year. In its latest 2023 Economic Outlook, the Bank of Namibia sees GDP growing by 3.3% in 2023, 3.0% in 2024 and 2.9% in 2025. The Bank of Namibia's repo rates remained stable over the quarter having reached 7.75% at the end of June. Namibia's repo has remained 50 basis points lower than in South Africa where the repo stands at 8.25%. Many are hoping this represents a peak but the outlook is uncertain.

## Feature: Namcor - Namibia's Flawed Oil and Gas Champion

## Introduction

Namibia is not yet an oil-producing country and has no capacity to refine crude oil for the production of petrol and diesel fuels. All fuels and lubricants are therefore imported, primarily by ship from South African refineries in Durban and Cape Town through the port of Walvis Bay. Economic activity in Namibia is vitally dependent on these imported fuels and





lubricants. From 1990 to 2022 refined petroleum products have accounted for over 10% of all Namibia's merchandise imports by value. The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) regulates the industry.

The National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor) is a legally enacted entity with limited liability under the Namibian Companies Act with Government as the sole shareholder. Namcor, which is provided for under the Petroleum Act of 1991, acts as the operational arm of Government in both the upstream (exploration and drilling) and downstream (wholesale and distribution) parts of the petroleum industry through its wholly owned subsidiaries Namcor Exploration and Production (Pty) Ltd (upstream) and Namcor Petroleum Trading and Distribution (Pty) Ltd (downstream). The former engages in oil, gas, petroleum and other related industries on behalf of Government including exploration, research and production. The latter sells and distributes petroleum products to Government, public enterprises and private businesses in sectors including mining, construction, and transport. Namcor also acts as advisor to the MME and assists in the allocation of oil and gas licences and monitoring of exploration activities. However, it is MME that officially allocates exploration and production licences.

The discovery of oil and gas in the offshore Orange Basin announced in early 2022 by Shell and TotalEnergies (with Namcor as a 10% partner in both projects) changed the prospects for Namcor and turned attention to its governance and performance. In the timeline below we chart the main events of Namcor's 33-year history. These are taken from the company's annual reports and from public media sources.

**Table 1: Namcor Timeline** 

Year	Event
1990	Ministry of Mines and Energy is created after Independence.
	Andimba Toivo ya Toivo is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy.
	Skerf Pottas is appointed MD of Namcor.
	The Petroleum Products and Energy Act 1990 is passed.
	The National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor) is established out of Swakor.
1991	The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1991 is passed.
	The Petroleum (Taxation) Act 1991 is passed.
1992	The Petroleum Matters (Amendment and Validation) Act 1992 is passed.
1993	The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Amendment Act 1993 passed.
1994	The Petroleum Products and Energy Amendment Act 1994 is passed.
1997	Joe Mazeingo is appointed MD of Namcor.





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	The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Amendment Act 1997 is passed.
	The quarterly fuel price adjustment mechanism is introduced.
1998	The Petroleum Laws Amendment Act 1998 is passed.
1999	Jesaya Nyamu is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy.
	In May 1999 Cabinet mandates Namcor to import 50% of Namibia's petroleum requirements. The first shipments arrive in March 2003.
2000	The Petroleum Products and Energy Amendment Act 2000 is passed.
	A dedicated 3 cents per litre levy on regulated fuel is introduced to support Namcor.
2002	Dr Nickey Iyambo is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy after Nyamu is sacked.
2003	The Petroleum Products and Energy Amendment Act 2003 is passed.
	The Basic Fuel Price methodology replaces In Bond Landed Cost methodology.
	The dedicated Namcor levy of 3 cents per litre on fuel is terminated.
	Namcor imports its first shipment of 20,000 tonnes of fuel into Namibia.
2004	Norconsult finalises a report on strategic reserve storage for Namcor.
2005	Erkki Nghimtina is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy.
	South African refineries shut down causing fuel shortages in Namibia.
	In 2005 South Africa's Sasol, with local partner Namibia Liquid Fuel (NLF), is awarded the contract to supply Namcor's mandated supply in a controversial tender beating off six other bidders. The contract with NLF is highly controversial for several reasons: it involves high-level people inside Government, it is supposed to be an example of "broad-based black economic empowerment", and it is not clear whether the local company made any contribution towards the work required to supply the fuel <sup>1</sup> . Although the award of the contract is later investigated and cleared by the Anti-Corruption Commission <sup>2</sup> , it ends in 2007 and is not renewed.
2006	Leaded petrol is phased out in accordance with a SADC decision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See "NLF: Low Risk High Returns", *Insight Namibia*, August 2006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See "Liquid Fuel a 'Clean Deal'", The Namibian, 18 July 2007





	Monthly changes to controlled fuel prices replace quarterly changes.
	Government allocates N\$156 million to the National Energy Fund.
2007	Sam Beukes is appointed MD of Namcor.
	Namibia Liquid Fuel (NLF) contract is terminated and not renewed.
	The NLF contract is investigated and cleared by the Anti-Corruption Commission.
	Namcor awards the fuel supply contract to Afroneft owned by UK-based Glencore.
2008	At the beginning of 2008 a shipment of fuel from Namcor's new supplier Afroneft is held up by the refusal of the Namibian wholesalers to unload it claiming the single-hulled vessel, the Farandol, does not meet international safety standards. A task team set up by Minister Erkki Nghimtina to investigate the incident ends up recommending that the contract with Afroneft be terminated.
	Namcor decides against building a fuel refinery but opts instead for a fuel storage facility.
2009	Namcor runs into further problems when it emerges in March 2009 that the company is asking for N\$200 million from Government to cover "under-recoveries" due to foreign exchange losses <sup>3</sup> . Namcor announces it will terminate the existing agreement and set up a 50:50 joint venture called Namcor International Trading with Afroneft instead. However, Namcor MD Sam Beukes, who had been appointed in 2007, is put on "special leave" in November 2010 then officially suspended in February 2011 before eventually being sacked in November 2011. He is called before a disciplinary inquiry following a forensic audit ordered by Cabinet into the petroleum supply contract with Glencore, which finds that Beukes and the entire former Namcor board had failed to do a "proper due diligence regarding the supply agreement". Government eventually pays N\$538 million to Glencore when it terminates the supply contract <sup>4</sup> .
	Namibia signs an MoU with Nigeria for the construction of an oil refinery.
	In November 2009 Namcor announces it has been invited by PetroSA to become a 10-15% shareholder in a new 400,000 barrels a day refinery project <sup>5</sup> . At this stage a joint venture like this probably holds out the best

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  See "Namcor N\$200m in Red", *The Namibian*, 19 March 2009

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See "Namibia Offered Stake in SA Refinery", *The Namibian*, 30 November 2009



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See "Axed Namcor MD Fights for 'Justice'", *The Namibian*, 9 November 2011



	hope for Namibia to become involved in oil refining but the initiative comes to nothing as management and financial woes overwhelm Namcor.
2010	Isak Katali is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy.
	Sam Beukes is suspended as Namcor MD and replaced by Acting MD Robert Mwanachilenga on 15 November 2010.
	In October 2010 Cabinet decides to revoke Namcor's mandate to import 50% of Namibia's fuel due to technical insolvency, something which is unsuccessfully challenged in court by partners Glencore Energy and Petroneft International after the case goes all the way to Namibia's High Court <sup>6</sup> . At the same time, Cabinet approves the introduction of a Namcor levy of 7.6 cents per litre of regulated fuel products from 2010/11 as part of the National Energy Fund levy to provide the company with an income stream.
	In March 2010, BP announces it is pulling out of Namibia and four other southern African countries following a strategic review of its African assets. This is followed by a similar announcement from Shell. At the time the two companies command 45% of the local retail market in Namibia. Trafigura-owned Puma Energy ends up buying BP's southern African assets for N\$3.2 billion including its 29 service stations and storage facilities in Namibia.
2011	Johannes !Gawaxab replaces Siseho Simasiku as Namcor board chair on 10 December 2011.
	Sam Beukes is officially suspended on 4 November 2011.
2012	Robert Mwanachilenga resigns as Namcor Acting MD on 29 February 2012 and is replaced by Eugene Shepherd as Acting MD on 1 February 2012 who resigns on 31 May 2012 and is replaced by Obeth Kandjoze who is appointed Namcor MD from 1 November 2012.
	Shell ends up selling a majority share in its African downstream assets in October 2011 to joint-venture partner Vivo Energy in a deal which sees Vivo manage and run the fuel outlets and the distribution chain of Shell-branded fuel and lubricants.
	Namcor launches a branded fleet of tanker trucks.
	The first International Oil & Gas Conference is held in Windhoek.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See "Glencore, Petroneft Lose Against Govt", *The Namibian*, 22 June 2012





2013	Low sulphur diesel Automotive Diesel Oil (ADO) 50 is introduced from 1 May 2013.
	Lead Replacement Petrol (LRP) 93 is phased out from 1 May 2013.
2014	The second International Oil & Gas Conference is held in Windhoek.
	Namcor had already announced it would build a N\$700 million storage facility instead of an oil refinery <sup>7</sup> . After a period of management and board instability, Namcor chair !Gawaxab confirms in October 2012 that the 75 million litre storage project is still on but will cost N\$1 billion. After years of delay, a N\$4 billion tender is awarded in 2014 to a consortium consisting of China Harbour Construction Engineering Company, the Roads Contractor Company and Babyface Civils, a company owned by businessman Vaino Nghipondoka. The project includes a 75-million-litre oil storage facility, petroleum pipelines, an oil tanker jetty and buffer pump station. However, despite costs escalating astronomically, no one is held accountable although a final warning is given to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Ericah Shafudah. As the chair of the Tender Board, Shafudah was supposed to safeguard the Government's financial interests. She denies any wrongdoing. Permanent Secretary at the National Planning Commission, Leevi Hungamo and chief legal adviser in the Office of the Attorney General Chris Nghaamwa are also charged over the project's cost escalation but both are acquitted and Hungamo resigns from Government shortly afterwards. The ground-breaking ceremony takes place in early 2015 and the National Oil Storage Facility is completed in June 2018 at a cost of N\$5.5 billion although further upgrades are necessary to meet international firefighting standards <sup>8</sup> . It receives its first consignment of diesel in December 2020. A dedicated levy on fuel of 60c/l within the NEF levy is introduced to help pay for the facility.
2015	Obeth Kandjoze is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy after being made one of President Geingob's nominated eight MP to the National Assembly.
	Immanuel Mulunga, who had spent the previous ten years as the Petroleum Commissioner, replaces Kandjoze as MD of Namcor after Cabinet reportedly overturns the initial appointment of Leonard Apollus from De Beers Marine Namibia <sup>9</sup> . In 2011, oil exploration company Chariot had accused Mulunga of a soliciting a bribe in exchange for an oil

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  See "Namcor Eyes Storage Tanks", *The Namibian*, 1 September 2008

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See "Cabinet Overturns Namcor Appointment", Windhoek Observer, 7 August 2015



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See "Oil Storage Keeps Gobbling Up Millions", The Namibian, 6 August 2019



	exploration licence telling Chariot it had "not done enough personally for him" and that he was "human and had needs" 10.
2016	Patrick Kauta replaces Johannes !Gawaxab as board chair from 1 October 2016.
	The fuel tax is increased for first time since 1998.
2017	In December the Kauta-led board suspends Mulunga over a fuel suppoly tender for Hyrax Oil, a Malaysian company. He is reinstated in January 2018.
2018	Tom Alweendo is appointed Minister of Mines and Energy.
	In June 2018, newly appointed Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo and Public Enterprises Minister Leon Jooste block a plan by Namcor's board to suspend Mulunga over an oil supply tender by Malaysian company Hyrax Oil <sup>11</sup> .
2019	Patrick Kauta resigns in October 2018 and is replaced by Engelhardt Kongoro from February 2019.
	Diesel 500ppm is phased out from 1 January 2019.
	Namcor again attempts to secure a mandate to import 50% of Namibia's fuel requirements. However, in November 2019, the Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC) refuses to grant an exemption to Namcor from provisions of the Competition Act for its application for a 50% import mandate for fuel <sup>12</sup> . The NaCC is not convinced that the gains from such a decision will outweigh the anti-competitive effects.
	Immanuel Mulunga admits that Namcor has lost N\$2.2 million after paying money intended for Hyrax Oil into a fake account set up by international fraudsters.
	Namcor publishes its five-year Integrated Strategic Business Plan for 2019/20-2023/24.
	In November 2019, Namcor opens its first ever retail petrol station at Hosea Kutako International Airport representing a first step in establishing a national network of 33 profitable retail sites designed to provide an income stream for the company.
2020	Tom Alweendo is reappointed Minister of Mines and Energy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See "Chariot Alleges Bribery", New Era, 24 March 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See "NaCC Refuses Namcor 50% Import Mandate Exception", New Era, 19 November 2019



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See "Alweendo, Jooste Block Mulunga Suspenstion", *The Namibian*, 2 July 2018



2022

Jennifer Comalie replaces Johannes !Gawaxab as Namcor board chair from
10 August 2020.

Immanuel Mulunga is reappointed MD of Namcor on 1 October 2020 by its new board.

The first commissioning stock of fuel including diesel (ADO), Unleaded Petrol (ULP) and Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (LSFO) arrives at the National Oil Storage Facility (NOSF) on 1 December 2020.

# 2021 MME officially hands over the management and operation of the National Oil Storage Facility (NOSF) to Namcor on 1 March 2021.

On 25 January 2022 Shell announces a significant discovery of light oil at Graff-1 well in PEL039. Shell is partnering with Qatar Energies (45%) and Namcor (10%). Shell goes on to make a further four announcements about its drilling programme on 22 April 2022, 3 March 2023, 11 July 2023 and 31 August 2023.

On 24 February 2022 TotalEnergies annouces a significant light oil discovery at its Venus well. TotalEnergies is partnering with Qatar Energies (30%), Impact Oil (20%) and Namcor (10%).

On 12 April 2022, Sungara Energies Ltd, a joint venture involving Namcor and partners Petrolog Energies Ltd and Sequa Petroleum Ltd, signs a Sale and Purchase Agreement with Angola's Sonangol. This was to be Namcor's first foray into purchasing a production asset. The joint venture agrees to pay N\$8 billion (US\$451 million) to Sonangol for a 10% interest in block 15/06, a 40% working interest in block 23, and a 35% working interest in block 27. Each of the three equal partners are required to put up an initial capital investment totalling US\$22.6 million within five business days after receiving the conditions. Namcor agrees to pay US\$10 million (N\$170 million) towards the deposit. However, the joint venture partners only pay US\$6 million (N\$102 million), leaving a shortfall of US\$6.7 million (N\$100 million). It is not disclosed which partner fails to pay. Mulunga then takes the transaction to Namcor's board on 19 August 2022. But the board allegedly rejects the proposal to pay the N\$100 million and it appears that Mulunga goes ahead to finalise the transaction without the blessing of the board. Mulunga argues that the failure to pay would have resulted in losing the oil blocks that are apparently producing commercial oil.

On 6 February Canada-listed Reconnaissance Energy Africa announces a deal with Namcor to increase its ownership in the Kavango Basin Licence in which it would acquire an extra 5% stake in PEL73 from Namcor in exchange for the issue of 5 million shares in ReconAfrica and US\$2 million





in cash. This requires approval from MME as well as the Toronto Stock Exchange. It is not clear whether this is a sign that Namcor has lost faith in the project in Namibia and wants to cash in on any benefits while the share price is still relatively strong. ReconAfrica had already experienced international and local criticism for drilling in an environmentally sensitive part of Namibia and there is plenty of speculation about whether it would ever find commercial quantities of light oil.

In November 2022 after one of its suppliers fails to deliver fuel on time, Namcor uses over four million litres of fuel worth N\$69 million belonging to Validus Energy without permission. Validus is owned by Mathews Hamutenya, a friend of Namcor board chair Comalie. This fuel is replenished on 9 November 2022 as soon as Namcor's supplies arrive.

On 24 November 2022 Namcor receives notice from the MME to discontinue the fuel subsidy of 7.6 cents per litre from 1 April 2023.

2023

On 8 February 2023 Namcor enters into an exclusive partnership with a group of four companies: NSX-listed Anirep, Neogreen, US-owned Chariot, and France's TotalEnergies. There is some controversy about whether this is an exclusive deal in the area of green hydrogen which means that Namcor will not be able to enter into agreements with other companies.

On 27 March board chair Comalie is arrested after police find a stash of drugs including cocaine, crack cocaine and cannabis in her car prior to her attending a board meeting at which the cases of Mulunga and his close colleague Cedric Willemse are to be discussed. Comalie is allowed out on bail and continues as board chair.

The dispute between Mulunga and the board takes a further twist when the board suspends him on full benefits for six months on 4 April 2023. The board names Lionel Matthews as the new MD from 12 April but he then withdraws and Shiwana Ndeunyema continues as acting MD.

From 1 April 2023 Namcor no longer receives revenue in the form of the special 7.6 cents per litre on regulated fuels introduced in 2010/11.

Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises lipumbu Shiimi writes to Namcor about its relationship with a military contractor called Enercon Namibia, jointly owned by brothers Peter and Malakia Elindi and August 26 Holdings, questioning why Namcor was accepting a monthly repayment of N\$500,000 from the company which had received N\$60 million in taxpayers' money. Enercon has a 15-year contract to supply fuel to the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs as well as to build and refurbish oil depots. Enercon was forced to reverse the agreement with Namcor due





to objections from the military but failed to repay the N\$60 million immediately. The Namcor board said it had launched an investigation.

On 25 July an investigation the Anti-Corruption Commission clears Mulunga of any criminal intent over his payment of N\$100 million for Angolan oil blocks - going as far as to say that he had acted in the best interests of the company and the country.

On 3 October a magistrate strikes Comalie's case from the court roll. Mulunga's suspension is extended until the end of November.

On 13 October a media report says Namcor is in dire financial straits and has a debt of N\$2 billion<sup>13</sup>.

Although Namcor was classified as a commercial public enterprise under the Public Enterprise Governance Act of 2019, it has never been a fully commercial operation and its losses have been covered primarily by allowing it to benefit from additional levies on fuel paid by fuel consumers or by its strategy to move into the fuel retail market. The margins on sales of petroleum products have never been enough to fully cover its cost base although revenues are occasionally supplemented by cash payments from buyers of Namcor's stakes in petroleum licence acreage. The company's latest income statement from FY2021/22 illustrate its financial situation.

Table 2: Namcor's Income and Expenditure in FY2021/22

	2022
	N\$
Revenue	2,884,684,558
Cost of sales	(2,663,498,070)
Gross profit (loss)	221,186,488
Other income	158,447,018
Profit on sale of assets	_
Recoveries	15,652,503
Prior year correction	3,524,689
VET levy income	8,388
Foreign exchange differences	321,752
Fair value adjustments	-
Sundry income	14,200,460
Interest write off on non-compliance	-
Equity investments dividends	2,084,502
VAT impairment reversal	-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See "Cabinet rejects Namcor bailout proposal", The Namibian, 13 October 2023





Gain on IFRS 16 derecognition	23,337,268
Cash block dilution proceeds	99,317,456
Government grant	84,309,614
Distribution expenses	(20,827,254)
Impairment losses	(15,153,378)
Other operating expenses	(38,454,072)
Administration expenses	(263,680,960)
Operating Profit (loss)	125,827,456
Finance income	8,390,700
Finance costs	(20,833,454)
Profit (loss) before taxation	113,384,702
Taxation	915,300
Profit (loss) for the year	114,300,002

The profit for the year was attributable to proceeds from block dilution (selling stakes in licence acreage of N\$99,317,456) and the Government grant (income from the dedicated fuel levy of N\$84,309,614). Namcor itself in its 2021/22 Annual Report states that "Namcor faces an existential threat, in that it relies heavily on the fuel levy subsidy to service its operational requirements". The table below shows how Namcor's revenue and profit before and after tax has varied since 2008/09. Four out of the last five years have experienced losses. It is not clear how revenues from retail service stations are accounted for.

Table 3: Namcor Key Financial Indicators 2008/09-2021/22

Namcor Key Financial Indicators														
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	2950.4	1627.9	1703.7	227.1	n/a	694.6	696.9	648.3	574.8	734.3	773.3	1066.6	1338.7	2884.7
Net profit before tax	-253.5	-0.9	189.2	47.1	n/a	24.1	-75.1	156.2	50.3	-66.6	-60.1	-143.3	-180.5	113.4
Taxation	-3.5	12.4	1.9	12.7	n/a	61.7	9.4	-16.9	-7.6	5.8	-10.0	-49.1	-46.7	-0.9
Comprehensive profit (loss) for the year	-257.0	11.6	193.5	60.3	n/a	85.8	-65.7	140.0	42.7	-60.8	-50.0	-94.2	-133.8	114.3
Staff	42	43	42	44	n/a	64	83	100+	n/a	n/a	n/a	135	152	189
Government grants		100.0	268.0					75.9	40.6	25.5	87.9	86.8	80.2	84.3
Source: Namcor Annual Reports														

## **Conclusions**

Since the discovery of oil and gas offshore in early 2022, Namcor has found itself at the centre of excitement in the global oil and gas industry. Ironically this comes at the same time as it experiences one of the worst crises in its already chequered history. The experience of many countries which have discovered oil and gas – especially many in Sub-Saharan Africa – has not been a particularly happy one. Everyone agrees that good governance will play a critical role in ensuring Namibia's oil and gas discoveries are translated into a benefit for the country as a whole. Namcor will play a critical part in ensuring this takes place. Yet its track record has not been good. Government and Namcor will have to raise their game and break with past practices if Namibia's oil and gas experience is to be a positive one.





## **News Highlights**

Date	Highlight	Commentary
30 September	ReconAfrica broke Namibian laws (VOA)	A parliamentary investigation in Namibia found that Canadian oil exploration company ReconAfrica violated
		several of Namibia's laws. Despite these findings, ReconAfrica has been allowed to continue exploring for oil.
29 September	Cleanergy starts construction of green hydrogen demonstration plant (The Namibian)	Finance Minister lipumbu Shiimi laid the first brick for the N\$3.5 billion Cleanergy Solutions Namibia state-of-the-art green hydrogen plant, refuelling station, and hydrogen academy at Walvis Bay which is expected to start production by mid-2024. Clearnergy is a joint venture between Namibia's O&L Group and Belgium's CMB.TECH.
28 September	Green charcoal factory inaugurated (Namibia Economist)	Minister of Presidential Affairs Christine //Hoebes inaugurated the Green Charcoal Namibia factory in Arandis which will create 50 full-time jobs and inject N\$200 million into the local economy and is targeting 30,000 tons of charcoal packaged by 2024. Green Charcoal Namibia is a N\$60 million investment by European company Carbobois, a subsidiary of France's Tolefi Group.
27 September	Namibia ranked number one in Africa for FDI (The Namibian)	The Namibian Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) reported that Namibia had been ranked number one in Africa and 13 <sup>th</sup> n the world for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by the Greenfield FDI Performance Index which measures FDI attracted in proportion to a country's economic size.
23 September	Namibia launches online visa application service (Xinhua)	Home Affairs Minister Albert Kawana officially launched Namibia's online visa application service. This followed the successful introduction of visas on arrival earlier this year.
22 September	FlyNamibia launches new route to Cape Town (Xinhua)	Namibia's private airline FlyNamibia launched a new route connecting Windhoek and Walvis Bay to Cape Town every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
21 September	South African Reserve Bank keeps repo rate unchanged (SARB)	The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) maintained its repo rate at 8.25% and the prime lending rate at 11.75% at its Monetary Policy Committee meeting.
14 September	Namibia loses N\$1.5 billion in illegal fishing (The Namibian)	In a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Confederation of Namibian Fishing Associations (CNFA) states Namibia loses over N\$1.5 billion due to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing every year.
8 September	Government to decide on 24% stake in Hyphen in November (Namibian Sun)	Namibia's Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnype stated that the Government will decide in November whether to take up a stake in Hyphen Energy's green hydrogen project. Hyphen has offered Government a 24% equity



		stake under the Feasibility and Investment Agreement (FIA) signed in May 2023.				
4 September	Petrol and diesel prices to increase (Namcor)					
4 September	New agricultural minimum wage negotiated (Namibia Economist)	The Namibia Agricultural Labour Forum (NALF) announced a successful negotiation for an increase in the minimum wage for the agriculture sector covering both commercial and communal farmland. The new agreement signed on 1 September sees the minimum wage of 2022 increased by 10% from 1 October 2023 to N\$1,820 per month including rations.				
31 August	Shell Cullinan well fails to discover oil and gas (Reuters)	Shell announced that its exploration well Cullinan-1X failed to make a commercial oil and gas discovery in contrast to its previous four exploration wells in PEL-39 located in the Orange Basin.				
30 August	10 <sup>th</sup> Mining Expo opens (Chamber of Mines of Namibia)	Namibia's 10 <sup>th</sup> Mining Expo and Conference opened in Windhoek themed "Namibia's Role in the Sustainable Support of Minerals to Support the Global Energy Transition". Namibia's Vice President Nangolo Mbumba spoke in place of President Geingob.				
29 August	Namibia opens electricity market to new entrants (Xinhua)	Namibia's Electricity Control Board, Namibia Power Corporation and the Southern African Power Pool launched the SAPP and Modified Single Buyer (MSB) market access guide at a conference in Windhoek. The guide helps independent power producers understand necessary processes and outlines requirements for their participation in the regional power market.				
25 August	China ready to strengthen cooperation with Namibia in clean energy (Xinhua)	Chinese President Xi declared that China stands ready to strengthen cooperation with Namibia on clean energy and will encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Namibia. Xi made the remarks meeting with his Namibian counterpart President Geingob on the sidelines of the 15 <sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit which Namibia attended as an observer.				
22 August	South Africa commits to supplying Namibia with electricity (The Namibian)	During a one-day visit to Namibia, South African Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa announced South Africa would commit to continue providing Namibia with 100MW of power at any given time. He also discussed shared infrastructure, Kudu gas-to-power and green hydrogen with his Namibian counterpart Energy Minister Tom Alweendo.				
21 August	600 tonne monk freezer fish auction (The Namibian)	The Ministries of Finance and Fisheries have started a bidding process for the sale of 600 tonnes of monk freezer fish.				
19 August	Menzies evicted from Hosea Kutako (The Namibian)	The Namibia Airports Company (NAC) announced that Menzies Aviation will no longer provide ground handling facilities at Hosea Kutako International Airport following a Windhoek High Court ruling in June last year and upheld				



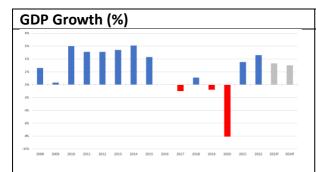
		by the Supreme Court on 9 June. Paragon Investment Holdings won the bid to provide the services. This led to passenger and freight disruption with planes being diverted from HKIA.					
19 August	Government and Hyphen announce road show (Hyphen)	The Government of Namibia and Hyphen Hydrogen Energy announced the dates for a National Green Hydrogen Roadshow which will run from August to October 2023 commencing in the Khomas Region on 22 August.					
16 August	Bank of Namibia holds rates (Bank of Namibia)	The Bank of Namibia's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its repo rate at 7.75% as it expects inflation to slow faster than previously forecast. Inflation for the year is expected to average 5.6%.					
16 August	Visitor numbers up 98.1% in 2022 (The Star)	Namibia recorded a 98.1% increase in international tourist arrivals rising from 232,756 in 2021 to 461,027 in 2022 according to the latest 2022 Tourism Arrival Statistical Report.					
8 August	Hyphen signs MoU with Itochu (Hyphen)	Hyphen Hydrogen Energy signed a memorandum of understanding with Itochu Corporation of Japan to explore areas for potential collaboration.					
8 August	Japan signs deal with Namibia to explore for rare earth minerals (Reuters)	The Japan Organisation for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) will collaborate with Namibia's state-owned mining firm Epangelo after Japan and Namibia signed an agreement to jointly explore for rare earth minerals.					
2 August	Otjikoto mine produces 44,056 ounces of gold in Q2 2023 (B2Gold)	B2Gold reported that its Otjikoto mine produced 44,056 ounces of gold in Q2 2023. Annual gold production is "expected to be 60% weighted to the second half of 2023 when mining is scheduled to reach the higher-grade portions of Phase 4 of the Otjikoto pit coupled with higher production from the Wolfshag underground mine."					
25 July	Anti-Corruption Commission clears Mulunga (Upstream Online)	The Anti-Corruption Commission completed its investigation into suspended Namcor MD Immanuel Mulunga finding no evidence of criminal intent.					
22 July	South African Reserve Bank maintains repo rate (SARB)	The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) announced it would maintain the repo rate at 8.25% meaning the country's prime lending rate stays at 11.75%.					
20 July	Namdeb produced 612,000 carats in Q2 2023 (AA)	Anglo American reported that Namdeb Holdings produced 612,000 carats in Q2 2023 compared to 619,000 carats in Q1 2023 and 565,000 carats in the same quarter of 2022. Out of the latest quarterly total 109,000 carats came from land-based operations.					
19 July	UK revokes visa free status for Namibians (UK Government)	The UK Government announced on 19 July that with immediate effect all Namibian nationals will need a visa before travelling to the UK including to visit. It justified this decision "because of the sustained and significant increase since 2016 in the number of UK asylum applications from Namibian nationals at the UK border."					



17 July	International trading platform for Namibian charcoal launched (Namibia Economist)	CMO International launched a new application for Namibian charcoal producers to further international supply chain options into the European and North American markets for charcoal products certified according to Forestry Stewardship Council standards. Namibia became the first country in the world to start trading on the ForestTrader portal (FSC-N Code).
11 July	Shell makes fourth oil find offshore Namibia (Upstream Online)	Oil supermajor Shell announced it had made a fourth successive discovery in Namibia's offshore Orange basin and announced it was starting to drill its fifth exploration probe.
10 July	Fortescue wants green hydrogen joint venture with Namibia (The Namibian)	Mark Hutchinson, CEO of Fortescue Future Industries (FFI) held closed door talks with President Geingob to discuss the creation of a 50:50 joint venture between FFI and Namibia to develop sustainable green hydrogen projects.
2 July	Lack of legal framework threatens green hydrogen (The Namibian)	The launch of a research paper on the legal framework for green hydrogen carried out by Oliver Ruppel and Magano Katoole revealed that the lack of appropriate legislation could hamper the development of Namibia's nascent green hydrogen sector.
1 July	FlyNamibia to commence Windhoek-Luderitz route (Xinhua)	Private airline FlyNamibia said in a statement that it would start a new route from Windhoek to Lüderitz scheduled for 3 July a reflection of Lüderitz's growing economic potential.



## **Key Economic Variables**



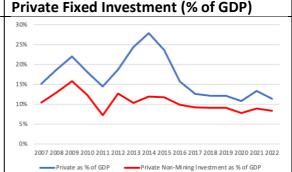
GDP grew by 4.6% in 2022 after growing by 3.5% in 2021. In its latest August 2023 forecast, the Bank of Namibia expects GDP to grow by 3.3% in 2023 and 3.0% in 2024.



In Q2 2023 GDP grew by 3.7% compared to 5.3% in Q1 2023, the ninth successive increase in economic activity after the last quarterly contraction experienced in Q1 2021.

# Fixed Investment (N\$bn in 2015 prices) 60 40 30 20 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

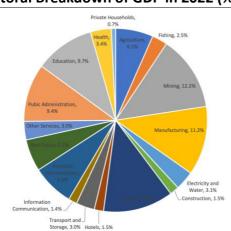
Investment by the private sector, SOEs, and government measured in 2015 prices rose slightly in 2021 but fell back again in 2022.



Total private and private non-mining fixed investment fell slightly after picking up marginally in 2021.

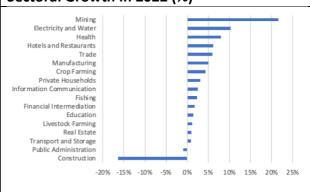






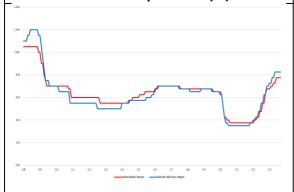
The chart shows the contributions made to overall economic activity in 2022 by the different sectors of the economy according to the full national accounts. Service sectors contributed 55.5% while primary and secondary sectors contributed 20.8% and 15.8% respectively.

## Sectoral Growth in 2022 (%)



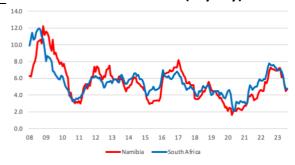
Most sectors of the economy experienced some degree of positive growth in 2022 led by the mining, electricity and water, and health sectors. However, the hard-hit construction sector continued to suffer a significant contraction.

## Namibian and SA Repo Rates (%)



In response to higher inflation primarily due to a more inflationary global environment, the Reserve Bank of South Africa and the Bank of Namibia started raising rates in early 2022 but rates have levelled off at 7.75% in Namibia, slightly lower than 8.25% in South Africa.

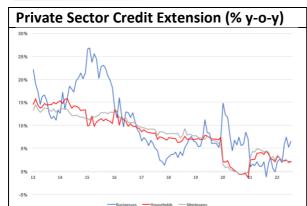
## Namibian and SA Inflation (% y-o-y)



After Namibian consumer inflation fell steadily to 4.5% in July but ticked up to 4.7% in August slightly less than the 4.8% in South Africa. The Bank of Namibia's MPC statement forecasts inflation to average 5.6% in 2023.

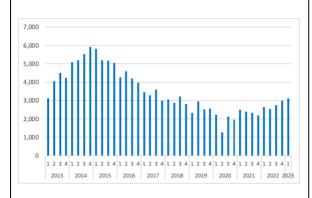






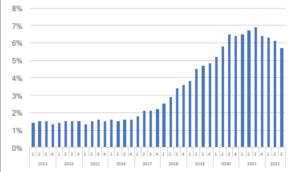
Credit growth to business has risen since the lows of 2021 whilst credit to households has remained subdued as is residential mortgage lending.

## **New Vehicle Sales (Unit Sold)**



The combined sales of new commercial and private vehicles rose from 2,993 in Q4 2022 to 3,127 in Q1 2023 the fourth successive quarterly rise.

## Non-Performing Loans (% of Total Loans)



The ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) reported by the commercial banks to the Bank of Namibia rose in Q1 2023 to 5.7% after falling for five successive quarters.

## Price of Petrol and Diesel (N\$/I)



Controlled petrol and diesel prices started Q3 2023 at N\$19.78 and N\$19.05 per litre respectively and ended the quarter at N\$20.98 and N\$20.95 for diesel 10ppm per litre.





## **Data Trends** Unit 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 Annual Economic Growth 0.0% -1.0% 1.1% -0.8% 3.5% 4.6% GDP current prices N\$m 157,708 171,570 181,067 181,211 174,243 183,940 206,205 Change in Mining Value Added -10.7% 14.2% 16.1% -8.7% -15.0% 11.0% 21.6% Change in Manufacturing Value Added % 10.0% -1.6% -0.4% 4.7% -17.1% -1.2% 5.0% **Fixed Investment** Fixed Investment % of GDP 21.8% 17.9% 16.9% 15.8% 13.7% 16.0% 14.1% Change in Fixed Investment -27.7% -13.7% -6.0% -9.5% -17.7% 18.4% -10.7% Fixed Investment - Government '000 N\$m 5,586 5,127 4,858 4,616 3,961 3,651 4,378 Fixed Investment - SOEs '000 NSm 4.000 4.068 3.678 2.034 1.048 1.237 1.245 Fixed Investment - Private '000 N\$m 24,836 21,570 22,008 21.893 18,802 24,550 23,378 **Prices and Interest Rates** 6.7% 4.3% 3.6% 6.1% Average Inflation 6.1% 3.7% 2.2% Year End Prime Lending Rate 10.75% 10.50% 10.50% 10.25% 7.50% 7.50% 10.50% Year End Repo Rate % 7.00% 6.75% 6.75% 6.50% 3.75% 3.75% 6.75% Trade and Balance of Payments N\$bn 56.6 57.5 69.7 Exports - total goods 48.0 49.8 53.7 53.8 Exports - total services N\$bn 7.2 7.9 5.0 8.4 8.4 4.8 7.9 Imports - total goods N\$bn 82.9 73.8 75.2 77.0 66.5 84.0 107.5 Imports - total services N\$bn 10.1 7.9 7.8 7.3 8.8 8.2 8.8 Trade Balance N\$bn -37.8 -24.0 -18.0 -18.3 -16.7 -33.6 -38.6 Balance of Payments N\$bn -23.3 -5.5 -4.3 -2.3 6.6 -18.4 -27.2 -10.0% as % of GDP -14.7% -3.2% -2.4% -1.3% 3.8% -13.2% Foreign Exchange Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to USD) N\$ 13.6240 12.3930 14.4116 14.0418 14.6246 15.8899 16.9831 Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to EUR) N\$ 14.3403 14.8063 16.4848 15.7437 17.9897 17.9794 18.1057 Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to GBP) NŚ 16.7264 16.6789 18.3424 18.4383 19.9801 21.4752 20.4714 Foreign Exchange Reserves NSbn 24.7 30.2 31.0 28.9 31.7 43.9 BBB- (-ve) BB+ (stable) BB+ (stable) BB BB (negative) BB (negative) BB- (stable) Fitch credit rating (at year end) Moody's credit rating (at year end) Ba2 (stable) Ba3 (negative) Ba3 (negative) B1 (stable) Baa3 (-ve) Ba1 (-ve) Ba1 (-ve) Financial Sector Private Sector Credit Extension Growth % 8.9% 5.1% 6.6% 6.8% 2.0% 1.2% 4.2% Non-Performing Loans % of total loans 2.5% 2.9% 3.6% 4.8% 6.4% 6.4% 5.6% NSX Overall Index (at year end) Index 1,069 1,206 1,303 1,306 1,232 1,572 1,639 NSX Local Index (at year end) 547 591 614 Index 621 456 529 507 New Local Listings 0 0 0 **Business Indicators** Namdeb Diamond Production '000 carats 1.573 1.805 2.008 1.700 1.448 1.467 2.137 Uranium Production tonnes 3.654 4.224 5.525 5.476 5.413 5.753 5.613 Gold Production kg 6,604 7,272 6,171 6,526 6,254 7,103 6,992 SHG Zinc Production 85,427 84,215 65,993 67,295 659 tonnes 0 Mining Licences Granted number 11 Exploration Licences Granted 142 174 259 297 243 number 97 Number of Companies Formed number 1,409 1,110 2,851 1,153 852 1,153 New Vehicle Sales number 17,038 13,352 11,998 10,379 7,606 9,414 10,919 Tourist Arrivals '000 1.469 1.499 1.557 1.596 170 233 461 - From Africa '000 1.094 1.091 1.164 1.252 112 163 256 155 - From Europe '000 295 312 306 256 45 59

- From RoW

International Arrivals at HKIA

Regional Arrivals at HKIA

'000

'000

1000

81

143

248

97

213

242

87

247

239

89

215

223

12

45

11

63

50

163

134



		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Employment									
Government		88,421	n/a	86,587	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Parastatals		25,558	n/a	30,654	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private Companies		235,877	n/a	214,693	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private Households		136,417	n/a	70,036	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total		486,273	n/a	401,970	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Government Finances		FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
Revenue	N\$bn	50.9	58.7	55.9	58.4	57.8	55.4	64.1	68.9
Expenditure	N\$bn	62.2	67.5	65.1	66.6	71.5	69.3	74.7	78.0
Balance	N\$bn	-11.4	-8.9	-9.2	-8.2	-13.7	-13.9	-10.6	-9.
Public Debt	N\$bn	69.9	74.5	87.5	100.4	110.6	126.0	138.4	149.
Interest Payments	N\$bn	4.3	5.4	6.3	7.0	7.4	7.7	9.1	9.9
Public Guarantees	N\$bn	6.4	11.0	10.9	11.1	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.
Revenue	% of GDP	31.6%	33.7%	30.9%	32.6%	32.8%	29.6%	31.4%	34.79
Expenditure	% of GDP	38.6%	38.8%	35.5%	37.3%	40.9%	37.5%	36.6%	39.39
Balance	% of GDP	-7.1%	-5.1%	-4.6%	-4.6%	-8.1%	-8.0%	-5.2%	-4.29
Public Debt	% of GDP	43.4%	42.8%	48.4%	56.0%	62.7%	67.2%	68.9%	70.19
Interest Payments	% of revenue	8.5%	9.3%	11.3%	11.9%	12.8%	13.9%	14.3%	13.49
Public Guarantees	% of GDP	3.9%	6.3%	6.0%	6.2%	5.8%	5.5%	4.9%	5.99
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
International Rankings									
Global Competitiveness Index Ranking		84/135	99/135	100/140	94/141	n/a	n/a	scrapped	scrapped
Global Competitiveness Index		4.0	4.0	4.0	54.5	n/a	n/a	scrapped	scrapped
Energy Transition Index Ranking		70/120	57/120	60/120	43/120	68/120	67/120	71/120	58/120
Energy Transition Index		50.6	53.6	54.4	57.8	53.5	54.2	54.6	55.1
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		104/189	108/190	106/190	107/190	104/190	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
Ease of Doing Business Index		59.61	59.57	60.29	60.53	61.4	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
Corruption Perceptions Index Ranking		n/a	53/180	52/180	56/180	57/180	58/180	59/181	n/a
Corruption Perceptions Index		52	51	53	52	51	49	49	n/a
Ibrahim Index of African Governance Ranking		7/54	8/54	7/54	7/54	8/54	8/54	n/a	n/a
Ibrahim Index of African Governance		64.7	64.4	64.7	64.3	64.1	64.1	n/a	n/a
Investment Attractiveness Index Ranking		53/104	54/91	60/83	55/76	52/77	59/84	38/62	n/a
Investment Attractiveness Index		66.11	60.67	56.66	58.22	59.72	52.59	59.88	n/a
Open Budget Index (out of 100)		n/a	50	n/a	51	n/a	42	n/a	n/a
World Press Freedom Index - Ranking		17/180	24/180	26/180	23/180	23/180	24/180	18/180	22/180

Sources: Anglo American, Bank of Namibia, Business and Intellectual Property Authority, Chamber of Mines of Namibia, Fitch Ratings, Fraser Institute, International Budget Partnership, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Moody's Investor Services, Namibia Airports Company, Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibian Stock Exchange, Reporters Without Frontiers, Transparency International, World Bank, World Economic Forum, World Nuclear Association

Note: On 16 September 2021 the World Bank issued a statement announcing it would discontinue its flagship Doing Business report. This followed a detailed investigation after data irregularities in Doing Business 2018 and 2020 were reported internally in June 2020. We will keep the Index and Rankings in our table for the time being.

Note: From Q4 2021 we have included the annual Energy Transition Index and Ranking produced by the World Economic Forum. In 2021 Namibia ranked 59<sup>th</sup> out of 115 countries.

