

# Namibia QER Q1 2026

Namibia Quarterly Economic Review

January-March 2026

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## Quarter Summary

### Macroeconomic Situation

In the course of her budget speech on 26 February 2026, Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah estimated growth for 2025 and 2026 at 2.9% and 3.1% respectively. However, a month later the Namibia Statistics Agency released the preliminary national accounts for 2025 showing growth in 2025 had been just 1.7%. In its Economic Outlook of December 2025, the Bank of Namibia revised its forecast for GDP growth to 3.0% in 2025, 3.8% in 2026 and 4.3% in 2027. On 18 February 2026 the Bank of Namibia announced it would again hold the repo rate constant at 6.50%, its lowest level since January 2023. In the Bank of Namibia’s latest statement in February, the MPC restated what it had said in December, namely that “to continue safeguarding the peg between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand, while supporting the domestic economy, the MPC decided to keep the Repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.”

### The Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy Announcement Dates for 2026

18 February 2026
22 April 2026
17 June 2026
12 August 2026
21 October 2026
2 December 2026

## Special Feature: Onwards to UHC!

This short feature presents a brief overview of Namibia's health system focussing on how the delivery of health services is financed. This is a highly complex topic which requires the analysis of much more data than is currently publicly available. Nonetheless, it is hoped that the concise nature of this feature will serve to provide an overview of some of the issues and the challenges being faced by policy-makers as they strive for the oft stated objective of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Namibia's Constitution makes little explicit mention of health but Article 95 on the Promotion of the Welfare of the People states the following:

(j) consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable level of nutrition and standard of living of the Namibian people and to improve public health;

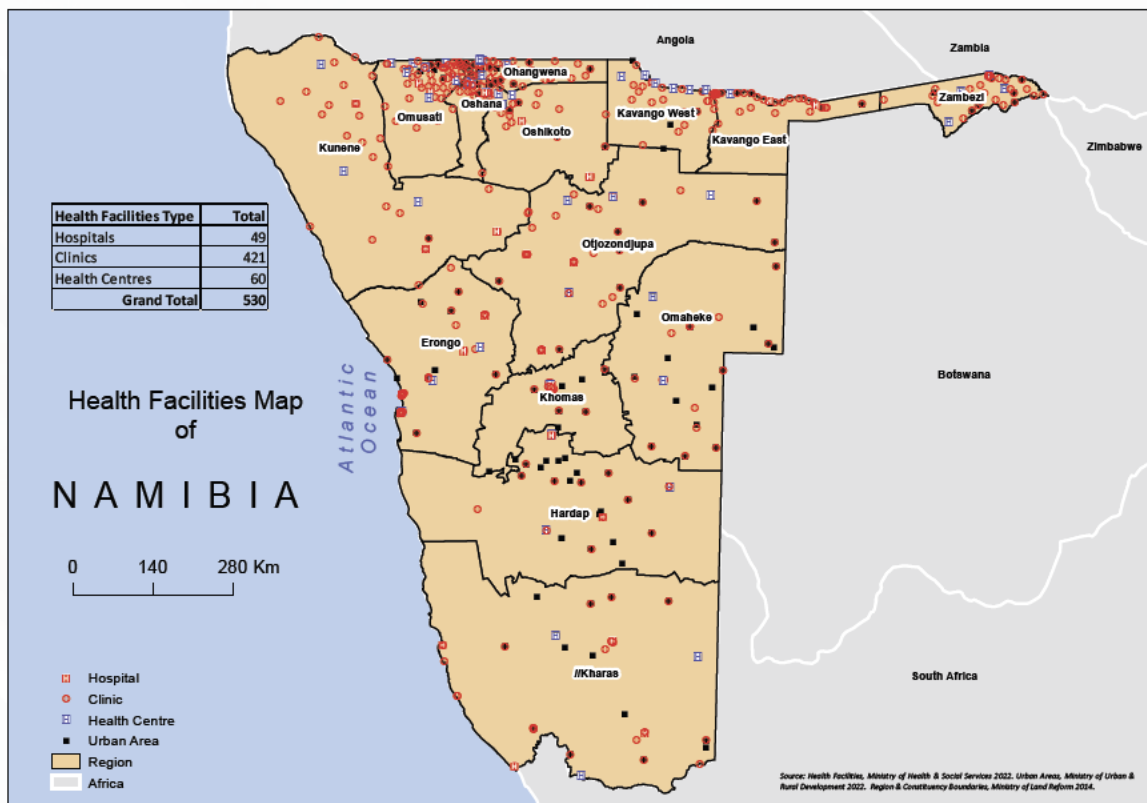
Namibia's population can be divided into three groups in terms of how individuals and households are provided with health services: 1) the general public which is covered by health services provided by the State; 2) public servants who are covered by the Public Servants Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS); and 3) individuals who can afford private medical insurance either with or without the help of their employers.

### State Provision

The State provides primary, secondary and tertiary health care services for all residents of Namibia. The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) determines national health policy and is directly responsible for providing health services across the country to all residents of Namibia. Health workers, including doctors and nurses, are employees of the State and covered by the [Public Service Commission of Namibia](#), an impartial and independent body in terms of Article 112 of the Constitution which is also established by statute under the Public Service Commission Act of 1990 (Act No. 2 of 1990). Professional registration, conduct, and scope of practice are regulated by the Health Professions Council of Namibia ([HPCNA](#)). The state-owned Namibia Institute of Pathology ([NIP](#)), a statutory body established under the Namibia Institute of Pathology Act of 1999 (Act No. 15 of 1999), is the largest diagnostic pathology service in Namibia, operating 36 laboratories to provide comprehensive medical laboratory testing for public and private healthcare sectors. The NIP was classified as a commercial public enterprise. Residents require a health card to access the public health system and these are available from the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Services are essentially free at the point of use although patients may face some out of pocket expenses for medicines. There is no clearly defined public benefits package outlining the health services available to users of public facilities.

Most public health services are delivered through 421 clinics, 60 health centres, and 49 hospitals across the country. These are shown in the map below taken from the National Infrastructure Atlas produced by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in 2023. In addition, private hospitals exist in Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Ongwediva, Grootfontein, Swakopmund, Tsumeb and Rundu and there are more than 200 other private health clinics and other facilities across the country.

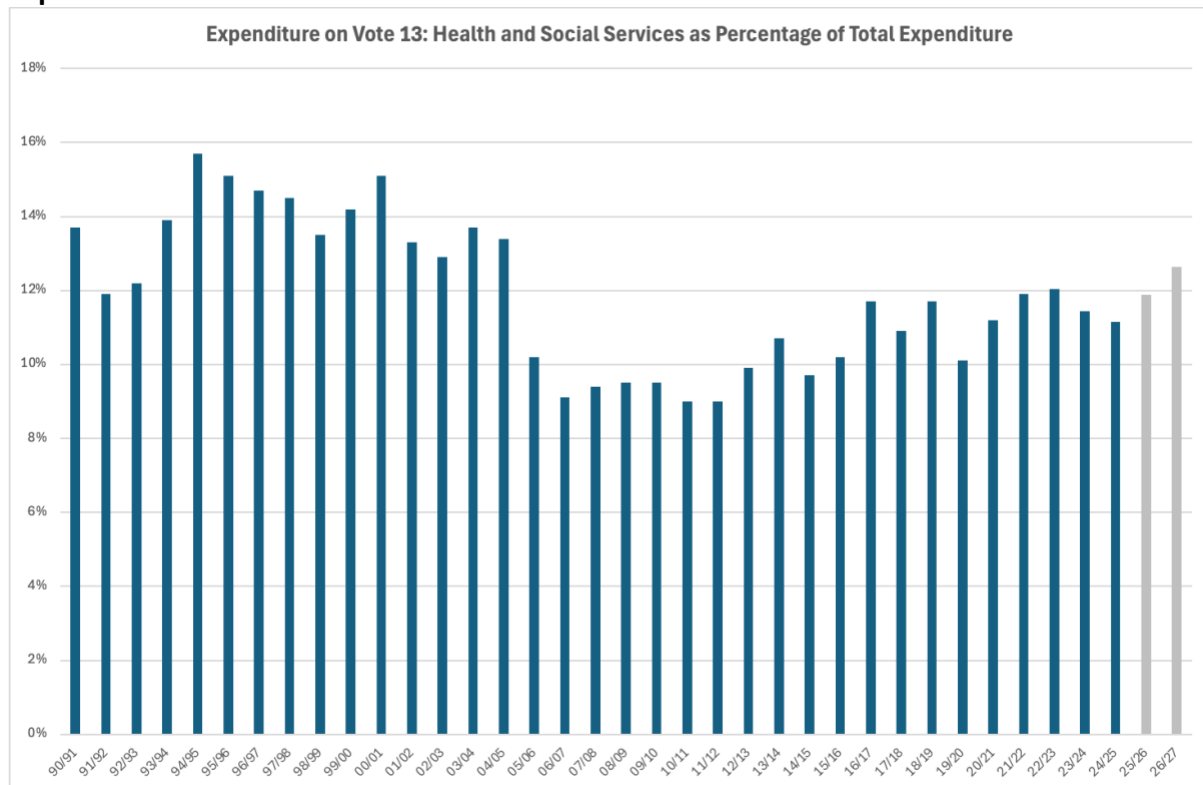
**Map 1: Public Health Facilities in 2023**



Source: Infrastructure Atlas 2023, NSA

Resources for the public health system are allocated every year through the national budget and allocated to Vote 13: Health and Social Services. The amount allocated to Vote 13 as a share of total expenditure has consistently amounted to between 10% and 12% of total expenditure in the last decade although it is set to rise to 12.6% in FY26/27. The amount allocated to Vote 13 differs from the amount allocated to Health (707) according to Table 1: Classification of Expenditure by Functions of Government According to Divisions and Groups contained in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure FY26/27. No revenues of significance are recorded under Administrative Fees and Charges Vote 13 which amount to N\$74.685 million of which N\$47.276 million (or 63.3%) are for health services. These revenues amount to 0.6% of total expenditure under the same Vote.

**Chart 1: Expenditure on Vote 13: Health and Social Services as Percentage of Total Expenditure**



Source: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure from 1990/91

Table 1 below shows actual, revised and budgeted expenditure on Vote 13 from FY24/25 to FY28/29 broken down according to the 13 Main Divisions that make up Vote 13.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Vote 13 by Main Division from FY24/25 to FY28/29**

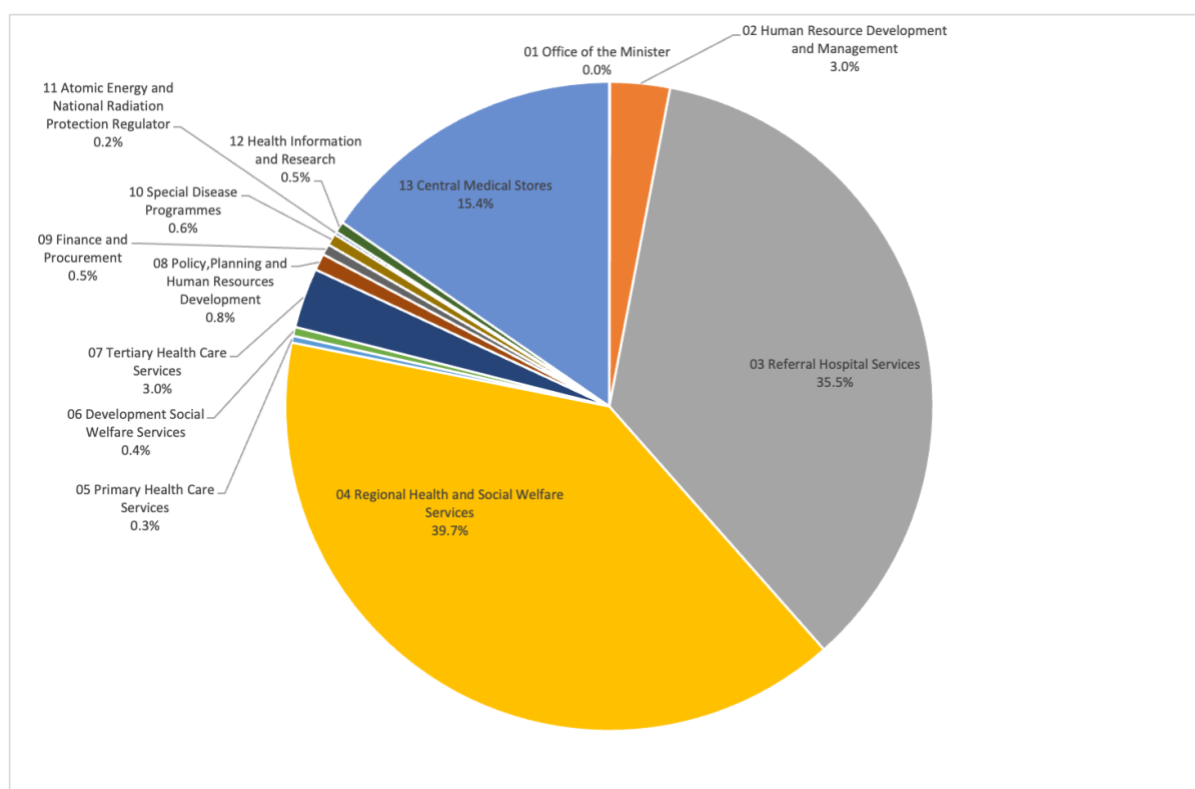
	FY24/25	FY25/26	FY26/27	FY27/28	FY28/29
<b>Vote 13</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
01 Office of the Minister	6,237,326	7,663,000	4,000,000	4,121,000	4,244,000
02 Human Resource Development and Management	316,990,258	403,407,000	390,992,000	389,391,000	401,113,000
03 Referral Hospital Services	3,297,085,542	3,590,787,000	4,651,101,000	4,745,251,000	4,765,654,000
04 Regional Health and Social Welfare Services	4,245,628,723	4,708,985,000	5,204,113,000	5,307,223,000	5,620,290,000
05 Primary Health Care Services	26,667,941	46,187,000	44,174,000	42,174,000	42,411,000
06 Development Social Welfare Services	18,710,070	37,423,000	58,443,000	39,547,000	29,567,000
07 Tertiary Health Care Services	1,157,564,088	1,264,414,000	392,160,000	367,425,000	372,998,000
08 Policy, Planning and Human Resources Development	107,888,445	127,668,000	109,578,000	72,562,000	89,690,000
09 Finance and Procurement	56,507,407	63,262,000	71,225,000	73,362,000	75,564,000
10 Special Disease Programmes	32,280,076	53,083,000	77,189,000	79,505,000	81,889,000
11 Atomic Energy and National Radiation Protection Regulator	10,919,839.98	15,095,000	20,095,000	20,700,000	21,321,000
12 Health Information and Research	44,558,465	15,095,000	71,303,000	73,442,000	75,646,000
13 Central Medical Stores	1,667,210,207	1,962,453,000	2,021,327,000	2,081,967,000	1,886,050,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,988,248,387</b>	<b>12,295,522,000</b>	<b>13,115,700,000</b>	<b>13,296,670,000</b>	<b>13,466,437,000</b>
<b>Percentage of total expenditure</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>

Source: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2026/27-2028/29

Chart 2 shows how expenditure under Vote 13 is broken down by Main Division in FY26/27. It can be seen that Human Resource Development (Main Division 02), Referral Hospital Services (Main Division 03), Regional Health and Social Welfare Services (Main Division 05), Tertiary Health Care Services (Main Division 07), and Central Medical Stores (Main Division

13) make up the lion's share of spending accounting for 96.5% of total spending under Vote 13. Namibia's population was 3,022,401 in 2023 growing at 3.0% a year according to the 2023 Census. Thus total health spending of N\$13.1 billion translates to approximately N\$3,971 per person in FY26/27.

**Chart 2: Breakdown of Vote 13 by Main Division for FY26/27**



Source: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2026/27-2028/29

## PSEMAS

Public servants are members of the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme ([PSEMAS](#)) as part of their conditions of service designed to help public servants with the cost of health care and promote the health of members. Its Managed Health Care system provides for contractual agreements between the Ministry of Finance, as the custodian of PSEMAS, and the providers of health care, mostly private providers. It includes a clearly defined benefits package. It is managed by NamHealth Administrators in association with [Methealth Administrators](#) which also manages Namibia Medical Care (NMC), a private open medical aid scheme. Public servants contribute a fixed monthly fee deducted from their salaries and this is supplemented by transfers from the budget under Vote 09 (Finance) Main Division 08 (Medical Aid Scheme).

For many years PSEMAS has been plagued by high costs, fraud and ghost payments to for members who no longer work for the public sector. In 2018, the World Bank estimated that

PSEMAS was losing N\$900 million to fraud annually<sup>1</sup>. In his FY21/22 budget speech, Finance Minister Shiimi stated that “a technical committee of public and private sector officials is assessing and proposing the reforms of the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS) as regards the optimal restructuring of the scheme, achieving internal cost savings and alternative modes of service provision.”

By the time of the FY21/22 Mid-Year Budget Review (MYBR) he announced that “the Office of the Prime Minister has appointed a private sector consultant to map out and cost the optimal restructuring of the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS).” By the time of the FY22/23 budget “the Office of the Prime Minister has received the first report from the consultant on the optimal restructuring of the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS), which is currently under review and discussion.” Finance Minister Shafudah announced in the FY25/26 budget that “the Ministry will strengthen oversight measures to improve efficiencies and realise savings on the Public Services Employess Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS).” On 9 March 2026 Prime Minister Dr Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare inaugurated a new PSEMAS Governance Committee, which is designed to replace the former coordinating committee and introduce a revised governance framework aimed at improving accountability and operational efficiency.

The FY26/27 budget sets aside N\$3.189 billion for PSEMAS which represents a subsidy of N\$26,819 per main member. Contributions to PSEMAS had remained largely unchanged for many years but from 1 April 2026 contributions have been set for two options: the Low Option at N\$240 per month for the main member plus N\$120 per month for dependents and the High Option for N\$500 per month for the main member plus N\$240 per month for dependents. Given an estimated 118,936 civil servants are covered by PSEMAS according to the Health Minister, this could be expected to raise over N\$1 billion if all members choose the low option and pay for 4 dependents which would imply a total allocation to PSEMAS exceeding N\$4 billion.

**Table 2: Budgeted allocations to Vote 09 Main Division 08: Medical Aid Scheme**

	FY24/25 Actual	FY25/26 Revised	FY26/27 Budget	FY27/28 Budget	FY28/29 Budget
Vote 09 Finance					
08 Medical Aid Scheme	3,672,390,413	3,383,516,008	3,189,797,000	3,219,869,000	3,154,284,000
	3.7%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%

Source: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2026/27-2028/29

### Private Medical Aid

All Namibian individuals and households are free to opt for private medical insurance if they can afford it. Medical aid funds (MAFs) are regulated by the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) according to the Medical Aid Funds Act of 1995 (No. 23 of 1995). At the end of 2024 there were seven approved MAFs:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.namibian.com.na/psemas-loses-n900m-to-fraud-yearly/>

### Open

- Namibia Health Plan (NHP)
- Namibia Medical Care (NMC)
- Renaissance Health
- Nammed
- Heritage Health

### Closed

- Napotel (for employees of NPTH, NamPost and Telecom Namibia)
- Gem Health (for employees of Namdeb)

Open MAFs are available to anyone but can be rejected at the discretion of the MAF. Closed MAFs are only available to specific groups of individuals. Bankmed Namibia, available to employees of banking institutions, has been wound up. Individuals and households pay monthly premiums for benefit packages offered by the MAFs either with or without co-contributions from their employers which may or may not form part of their conditions of employment. NAMFISA ensures MAFs are financially solvent and they invest their premiums in the approved manner according to investment regulations.

**Table 3: Membership and Premium Incomes for MAFs 2020-2024**

Membership	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Principal members	83,745	85,902	88,112	90,883	93,677
Dependants	104,242	106,156	108,572	111,162	111,556
Pensioners	12,214	12,655	12,861	13,721	14,557
Total members	200,201	204,713	209,545	215,766	219,790
Contributions received	4,480,538	4,626,003	4,893,151	5,429,461	6,071,364
Less: Healthcare cost	3,779,645	4,391,362	4,763,567	5,101,438	5,100,207

Source: NAMFISA Annual Report 2024

Table 3 shows that in 2024 the seven MAFs had 93,677 principal members and 111,556 dependents plus 14,557 pensioners who were still making contributions. In total some 219,790 individuals were covered by private health insurance, about 7.1% of the estimated population in 2024. Together they paid N\$6.071 billion in medical aid contributions and the MAFs paid out N\$5.100 billion in medical costs. On average each principal member and pensioner therefore paid N\$4,675 in monthly contributions or N\$56,094 a year.

### Reforms Under President Nandi-Ndaitwah

Government is committed to Universal Health Coverage defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the following way:

*Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial*

*hardship. It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care across the life course.*

The present government was elected on the basis of a manifesto that contained the following commitments on UHC:

-Enact the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) law as a matter of urgency and ensure its full implementation. [page 25]

-Spend N\$15 billion over 5 years on the provision of Universal Health Coverage, hospital upgrades, medical supply, and E-systems creating 30,147 [public sector] jobs in the process. [page 21]

President Nandi-Ndaitwah appointed a medical professional, Dr Esperance Luvindao, as Minister of Health and Social Services from 21 March 2025. In a major departure from usual practice, in July 2025 the President announced her administration would source medicines directly from international suppliers, thus bypassing Namibian middlemen under procurement exemptions contained in the Public Procurement Act<sup>2</sup>. The announcement came as the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) reportedly advanced investigations into a potential web of corruption involving medical tenders, suppliers, senior officials and former executives. The IPPR has pointed out that direct procurement carries its own corruption risks - see [here](#).

In a second major reform, in July 2025 President Nandi-Ndaitwah announced a presidential directive which would see all senior state employees under the PSEMAS use public healthcare facilities from April 2026<sup>3</sup>. For the first time senior policymakers would be obliged to use the same facilities as the rest of the general public. It was not clear whether civil servants could be obliged to use public facilities. Once senior policymakers had moved to the public sector the rest of the public service would follow. Historically they have been accustomed to using private facilities and PSEMAS insurance cover forms part of their terms of employment. It is assumed this announcement signaled the eventual demise of PSEMAS and that at some stage in the future budget allocations to PSEMAS would be transferred to the general health budget. This has not been clearly stated in public.

The previous administration invited the World Bank to conduct the first ever Public Expenditure Review (PER) on the health sector published in 2019<sup>4</sup>. This represented the first comprehensive and detailed analysis of Namibia's health sector. Its main findings were:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://neweralive.na/nnn-cuts-medicine-middlemen-goes-for-direct-procurement/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nampa.org/text/22689992>

<sup>4</sup> Report No: 139144, Namibia Public Expenditure Review, Health Sector Public Expenditure Review, May 31, 2019

- Government health spending is at a relatively high level, and the health system is hampered by substantial inefficiencies and inequalities.
- Access is low and unequal, raising concerns about productivity and idle capacity.
- The health workforce is inadequate to take care of the growing disease challenges.
- Medical technology and pharmaceuticals are among the high-cost areas in any health systems that need careful investment planning and regulations to manage future health expenditures.
- The Namibian government is considering changes to health financing to achieve universal health coverage and strengthen the health sector.
- The analysis presented in this report (PER) concludes with an alternative health financing option. It proposes one single pool for the entire population that provides coverage to a basic benefit package in the public and private sector. Services excluded from the basic package can still be offered as voluntary health insurance by the existing MAFs. Enrollment of low-income groups into the single-pool would have to be fully subsidised by the government, whereas middle- and higher-income groups would pay their contributions. For the system to be effective, substantial investment into the readiness of providers and the overarching governance system would be needed. Developing and implementing such ambitious reforms will take time in any country. In the meantime, this report has identified several recommendations to help the government strengthen the public health care system.

Further work culminated in the following key documents:

- Ministry of Health and Social Services Strategic Plan 2025/26-2029/30
- Universal Health Coverage Bill 2025
- Policy on Universal Health Coverage for Namibia 2024/25- 2044/45 Implementation Action Plan

The Bill envisages a radically new public health system consisting of two main elements:

### **Section 7**

An Essential Health Services Package (EHSP) determined by the Minister of Health and Social Services and revised at least every five years – this defines the range of health services that all beneficiaries benefitting from UHC are entitled to receive and cannot be denied on the grounds of inability to pay.

### **Section 14**

The establishment of a National Health Equity Fund (NHEF) overseen by the NHEF Board and audited by the Office of the Auditor General which would provide the funding needed to deliver the EHSP to all beneficiaries. Funding will be provided by budget appropriations, transfers from pooled financing mechanisms, earmarked levies or taxes, microcontributions or solidarity payments or other employer or sectoral levies prescribed by regulation, grants and donations, penalties and fees, equity based contributions, and other money lawfully received.

Two key questions arise:

**How will the EHSP be determined?** Clearly the more ambitious it is the more it will cost. The optimal approach would be to start with a relatively modest package and improve it over time as costs become clear. However, there are always likely to be very expensive health services that will not be included in the EHSP. Under the Bill the Minister is able to contract private, faith-based, or non-governmental providers to deliver services within the EHSP or other priority services for state patients.

**What will be the relationship between PSEMAS and MAFs to the NHEF?** The direction of travel appears to be that PSEMAS will eventually be phased out and its resources instead allocated to the NHEF. But will members of MAFs be obliged to make contributions towards the NHEF too or will individuals and households simply be able to opt out? This is not clear. However, clearly additional resources are going to be required if a meaningful EHSP which is better than the existing health system is to be offered to the entire population. The ultimate aim may be to oblige members of MAFs to become members of the NHEF. Section 8 of the Bill states that MAFs must offer health coverage at least as good as the EHSP. Furthermore, the draft Bill states clearly that nothing prevents medical aid funds from offering supplementary or complementary services beyond the EHSP, provided that such benefits do not undermine access to or financing of the EHSP.

## Conclusions

Since independence, health coverage to Namibian individuals and households has been provided through three main mechanisms: the public health sector (for the general population), PSEMAS (for public servants), and MAFs (for those able to afford private medical insurance). These mechanisms result give rise to highly unequal levels of resources available for health services and therefore highly unequal health delivery. While the general population receives an average amount of N\$3,971 per person on health services funded by the taxpayer, public servants enjoy a subsidy of N\$26,816 per person and can access private health services funded mainly by the taxpayer, while those who can afford private medical insurance pay an average of N\$56,094 on health insurance, some of which may be covered by their employers.

Government's aim to achieve UHC, while laudable, simply begs the question of where the additional resources required to deliver the EHSP to the entire population are to come

from? If the aim is to oblige current members of MAFs to pay for some or all of the additional resources required this needs to be clearly stated. As things stand the sums do not add up.

## News Highlights

Date	Highlight	Commentary
31 March	Remgro takes control of Mediclinic Namibia (Windhoek Observer)	Remgro took ownership of Mediclinic's Southern African operations. The deal will place Namibia's Mediclinic facilities under Remgro's sole control, subject to regulatory approvals.
31 March	Mopane recoverable reserves rise 57% (CNBC)	Estimates of contingent resources at Namibia's Mopane offshore field (PEL83), operated by Galp, have risen 57% to 1.38 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe) after recent appraisal drilling, Canadian shareholder Sintana Energy said. A final investment decision is targeted for 2028, with first oil expected in 2032, Sintana said.
30 March	MIME unveils strategic plan (Namibia Economist)	The Ministry of Industries, Mines, and Energy (MIME) officially launched its Strategic Plan for 2025/26–2029/30. The five-year roadmap is designed to accelerate industrialisation and tighten governance over the nation's natural resources.
29 March	NamBrew profits up (The Brief)	Namibia Breweries reported a 42% increase in operating profit to N\$830 million. The company said it expected a decline in export volumes following changes to its arrangement with Heineken.
29 March	NCCI appoints Mungunda as president (The Namibian)	At its general meeting in Windhoek on 27 March, the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) appointed Vetumbuavi Mungunda as president, deputised by Patty Karuaihe-Martin and Tarah Shaanika as first and second vice presidents, respectively.
27 March	IMF says Namibian economy doing well (The Namibian)	Wrapping up the IMF Article IV mission to Namibia, IMF delegation team leader Xiangming Li said many other countries are experiencing a financial crisis. "Namibia is not in any financial crisis situation. Many other countries are, but Namibia is not," Xiangming said. However, she said the country had to make reforms to support diversification and job creation.
27 March	MIME announces fuel price increase (Namibia Economist)	Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse announced a significant fuel price hike set to take effect on 1 April. Petrol prices will rise by N\$2.50 per litre, while both diesel variants will see a steeper increase of N\$4 per litre. Acknowledging the financial strain on motorists, Amutse said that during this difficult period, the government, as part of its efforts to mitigate the fuel price shock in the economy, has resolved to temporarily reduce fuel levies across the fuel price spectrum by 50%.

25 March	Bank of Namibia signs gold purchase with Navachab (Xinhua)	The Bank of Namibia signed a gold purchase agreement with QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine as part of efforts to strengthen the country's foreign reserves and enhance economic resilience. The Bank of Namibia is targeting gold to make up about 3% of its net foreign-exchange reserves, part of a broader rethink of how it allocates its assets.
23 March	CRAN turns down Starlink application (BBC)	The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) rejected an application by Elon Musk-owned Starlink for a licence to provide satellite internet services in the country. CRAN did not give a reason for its refusal, but noted that Starlink's Namibian subsidiary did not have local ownership. CRAN later stated Starlink only met three out of six legal requirements for a telecommunications licence. Namibia requires at least 51% local ownership for telecom companies, but Starlink is 100% foreign-owned. CRAN cited Starlink's previous legal breaches and failure to respond to regulatory summons as factors in the decision.
22 March	Namibia 108 <sup>th</sup> in World Happiness (The Namibian)	Namibia dropped from 103 <sup>rd</sup> in 2025 to 108 <sup>th</sup> in the 2026 World Happiness rankings, out of 147 countries globally. The World Happiness Report is the world's largest publication on global well-being and also makes recommendations for countries to improve on their rankings.
21 March	Prime Minister says Namibia has three months of fuel stocks (The Namibian)	Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare stated that Namibia would not run out of fuel, as most of the fuel imported into the country came from Nigeria, India and Europe and that Namibia had three months' of fuel reserves.
21 March	Foot and mouth disease control area declared (MAFWLR)	Namibia declared a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control area in the southern //Kharas Region to safeguard its FMD-free status and protect access to international export markets, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform announced.
20 March	Chamber raises concerns on Fraser rankings (Chamber of Mines of Namibia)	The Chamber of Mines of Namibia issued a media release expressing concern at the drop in Namibia's rankings in the latest Fraser Institute rankings and warned that policy uncertainty could deter critical exploration expenditure.
19 March	NaCC approves Nasan's service station purchase (The Namibian)	The Namibian Competition Commission approved Nasan Energies' acquisition of 52 Engen and Shell-branded service stations. The approval came with a ban on Nasan purchasing fuel from Vitol or its subsidiaries.
19 March	Prime Minister reaffirms commitment to NEEEF (BoN)	Speaking at a Bank of Namibia engagement, Prime Minister Dr Elijah Ngurare confirmed the government's commitment to implementing the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF).
18 March	Savanna Beef rights trade on NSX (The Namibian)	A total of 927 slaughter rights for Savanna Beef Operations traded on the Namibia Securities Exchange's over-the-counter platform, the first day of trading for the first quarter, at N\$300 per right.

13 March	Russian-Namibian Business Summit hosted in Windhoek	Namibia hosted the Russian-Namibian Business Forum, held as part of the 11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Russian-Namibian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.
9 March	Namibia maintains freeze on mining and petroleum licences (Mining & Energy)	Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse said the government will maintain its moratorium on new mining and petroleum licence applications while authorities review the performance of existing licence holders.
4 March	Namdeb launches 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary book (Namibia Economist)	Namdeb Diamond Corporation officially launched a landmark publication, Mining for Good: The Namdeb Story 1994-2024, documenting three decades of the transformative 50:50 partnership between the Government of Namibia and the De Beers Group.
2 March	Cheetah Cement faces closure (The Namibian)	In a notice to the Mineworkers' Union of Namibia (MUN) dated 2 March, Cheetah Cement said it faces closing operations and retrenching about 87 employees by 15 April, following sustained financial losses, regional import restrictions, and a merger attempt with Ohorongo that was blocked by the Namibia Competition Commission.
1 March	Ndafyaalako appointed as acting Namcor MD (The Namibian)	Mtundeni Ndafyaalako was appointed as the fifth Acting Managing Director of Namcor since 2023, taking over from Maureen Hinda-Mbuende.
28 February	US and Israel launch attack on Iran	After weeks of military build up the US and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran, a major oil producing nation with the ability to prevent one fifth of the world's oil supplies from passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Namibia called for urgent de-escalation.
26 February	Finance Minister tables national budget FY26/27	Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah tabled her second national budget in Parliament for FY26/27 which envisaged growth of 3.1% in 2026 and total expenditure of N\$104 billion and a budget deficit of 5.5% of GDP for FY26/27. The IPPR analysis is available <a href="#">here</a> .
22 February	Namibia bars foreign nationals from top jobs (The Namibian)	The government introduced regulations barring foreign nationals from top banking roles, including boards and chief executive officer posts, to prioritise Namibians for senior positions in the sector. Under the new citizenship and residency regulations published in the Government Gazette on 13 February, banks must ensure that at least 70% of their directors and CEO positions must be occupied by Namibians.
21 February	De Beers posts US\$511 million loss (De Beers)	De Beers, Africa's largest diamond miner and 50% shareholder in Namdeb Holdings, posted a sharply wider US\$511 million loss in 2025 as weak Chinese demand, US tariff pressures and softer global prices weighed on its worldwide operations, including key mines in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.
20 February	US Supreme Court strikes down reciprocal tariffs	In a 6-3 ruling, the US Supreme Court struck down President Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs. The differentiated tariffs were replaced by a single 15% tariff for the next 150 days. Namibia's tariff remained unchanged at 15%.

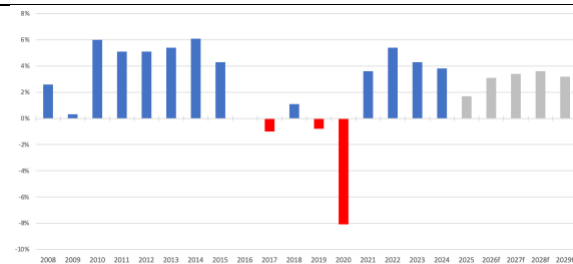
18 February	Otjikoto mine produces 50,725 ounces of gold in Q4 2025 (B2Gold)	B2Gold reported that its Otjikoto mine continued to outperform with quarterly output of 50,725 ounces of gold in Q4 2025 and 199,139 ounces in 2025, “near the high end of its guidance range of between 185,000 and 205,000 ounces.” On September 15, 2025, the Company announced it had approved a development decision on the Antelope underground deposit.
18 February	Bank of Namibia keeps repo unchanged (Bank of Namibia)	For the second time in a row the Bank of Namibia left its main lending rate unchanged at 6.50%, saying neighbouring South Africa's decision to lower its inflation target meant it had to be extra careful about controlling price pressures.
13 February	Chinese hand over satellite ground station (Reuters)	Chinese officials handed over a satellite ground station to Namibia outside the capital Windhoek, marking another step forward in China's expanding space programme overseas.
13 February	Bannerman secures Chinese funding (NucNet)	Australia-based Bannerman Energy entered a strategic partnership with CNNC Overseas Limited (CNOL), a subsidiary of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), to fund the development of the Etango uranium project.
9 February	Namibia formally joins Luanda Accord (Only Natural Diamonds)	Namibia formally joined Angola, Botswana and the DRC in the Luanda Accord marking an expansion of collective action in support of global generic marketing for natural diamonds, led by the Natural Diamond Council (NDC).
8 February	Namibia generates N\$413 million from visas in 8 months (The Namibian)	Namibia’s visa-on-arrival system generated N\$413 million in revenue for the state in less than 12 months. This follows its rollout on 3 March 2025, with 289,510 visas issued by 31 January according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.
6 February	TotalEnergies reaches deal with Petrobras (TotalEnergies)	TotalEnergies signed agreements to acquire a 42.5% operated interest in PEL104 Exploration licence, located offshore Namibia, from Eight Offshore Investments Holdings (“Eight”) and Maravilla Oil & Gas. Upon completion of the transaction, TotalEnergies will be the operator of the licence holding a 42.5% interest alongside Petrobras (42.5%), Namcor (10%) and Eight (5%). However, the deal was rejected by Government.
5 February	Namdeb produces 459,000 carats in Q4 2025 (AA)	Anglo American (AA) reported that Namdeb Holdings produced 459,000 carats in Q4 2025 compared to 457,000 carats in Q3 2025 and 584,000 carats in the same quarter of 2024. Out of the latest quarterly total 173,000 carats came from land-based operations.
3 February	AGOA extension signed into law	US President Donald Trump signed into law an extension to the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act until the end of 2026.
4 February	New Petroleum Bill tabled in Parliament	Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse tabled the Petroleum Amendment Bill in Parliament which he said seeks to modernise and strengthen the Petroleum Act of 1991, enhance institutional capacity, ensure regulatory clarity, and align Namibia’s petroleum governance with international best practice while maintaining accountability to parliament and the public.
4 February	Investment Bill “unconstitutional” (The Namibian)	In a report for the Namibia Institute for Economic Policy produced at the request of various Namibian investors and affected parties, and submitted to the Ministry of International

		Relations and Trade, Advocate Raymond Heathcote states the new Investment Promotion Bill improperly uses an act instead of a code, grants the minister excessive discretion, and replaces the rule of law with bureaucratic uncertainty, ultimately discouraging foreign investment.
30 January	TotalEnergies and Galp meet President (Yahoo Finance)	Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies, and Paula Amorim, Chairperson of Galp, held a joint meeting with President Nandi-Ndaitwah to reiterate their long-term commitment to the country and provide an update on the progress and next steps of their recently announced partnership across key offshore licences in the Orange Basin.
30 January	Government pays Meatco suppliers N\$30 million (Informante)	The Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) announced that the Government would honour N\$30 million in outstanding payments owed to livestock producers in a move interim CEO Ambassador Albertus Aochamub said was a “confidence-building measure” after the drought of 2024.
22 January	AfDB approves US\$10 million green hydrogen loan (New Era)	The African Development Bank’s (AfDB) Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) approved a US\$10 million loan to Hyphen Hydrogen Energy which will be used for detailed front-end engineering and design studies.
19 January	Namibian passport ranked 62 <sup>nd</sup> (Namibia Economist)	Henley and Partners released its 2026 passport index, placing Namibia fifth in the Southern African Development Community in terms of visa free access, and 62 <sup>nd</sup> globally. A Namibian passport allows visa free access to 76 countries. Seychelles and Mauritius have the strongest passports in Africa.

## Key Economic Variables

### GDP Growth (%)

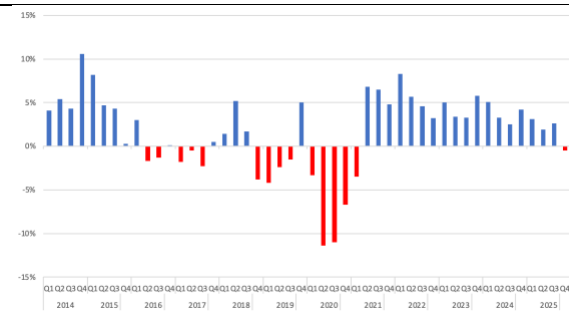
Source: NSA



The NSA published its preliminary estimates of GDP for 2025 which showed that GDP grew by just 1.7% after growing by 3.8% in 2024. The Bank of Namibia Economic Outlook for December 2025 forecast GDP growth at 3.0% in 2025 and 3.8% in 2026.

### GDP Quarterly Growth (%)

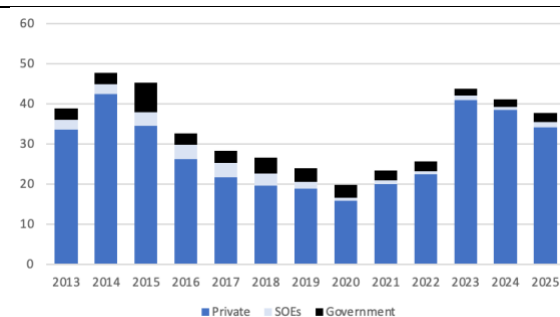
Source: NSA



GDP shrank by 0.5% in the final quarter of 2025, the first time a decline has been registered after eighteen successive increases in economic activity since the last quarterly contraction experienced in Q1 2021.

### Fixed Investment (N\$bn in 2015 prices)

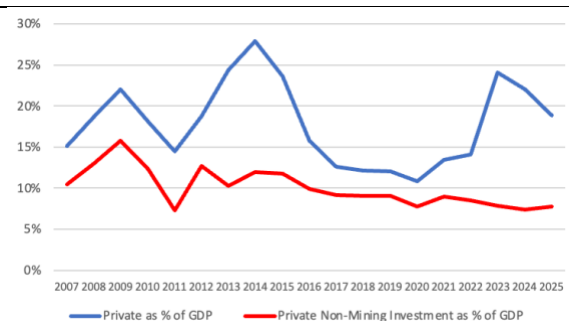
Source: NSA



Investment by the private sector fell slightly in 2025 after an exceptionally strong 2023 and 2024 on the back of oil and gas exploration in both years.

### Private Fixed Investment (% of GDP)

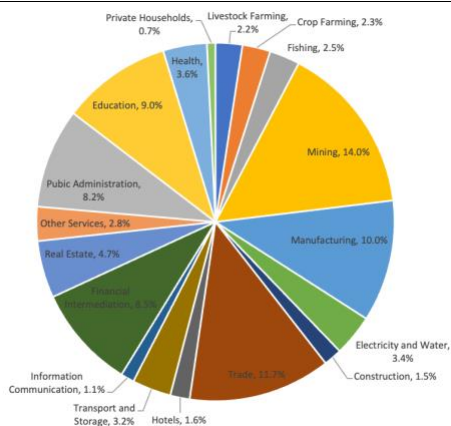
Source: NSA



Total private fixed investment fell somewhat as a percentage of GDP in 2025 but private non-mining investment rose slightly from 7.4% in 2024 to 7.8% of GDP in 2025.

### Sectoral Breakdown of GDP in 2025 (%)

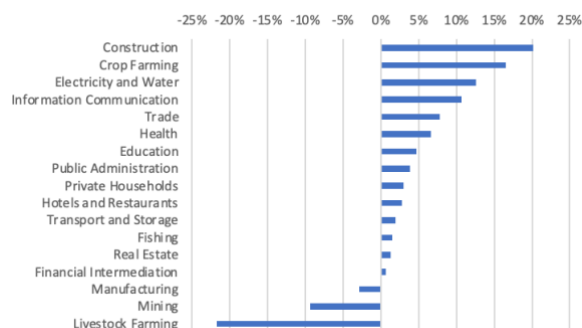
Source: NSA



The chart shows the contributions made to overall economic activity in 2025 by the different sectors of the economy according to the full national accounts. Service sectors contributed 55.1% while primary and secondary sectors contributed 21.0% and 14.9% respectively.

### Sectoral Growth in 2025 (%)

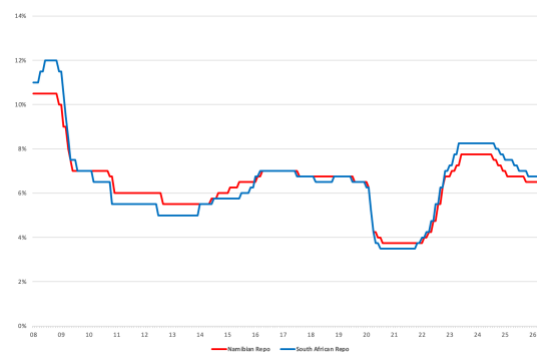
Source: NSA



Most sectors of the economy experienced positive growth in 2025 led by the construction, crop farming, electricity and water, ICT, trade, health, education and public administration sectors. However, three sectors suffered negative growth: manufacturing, mining, and livestock farming.

### Namibian and SA Repo Rates (%)

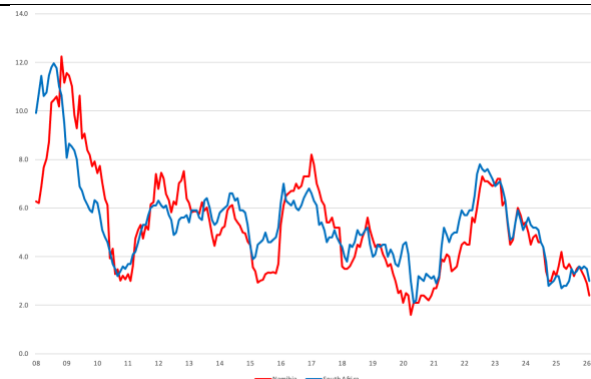
Source: BoN and SARB



As inflation subsided, the Bank of Namibia started cutting the repo rate in August 2024 and a fifth cut on 15 October 2025 brought it down to 6.50% where it has remained over the last two Monetary Policy Committee meetings. The South African repo rate has remained at 6.75% over Q1 2026.

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

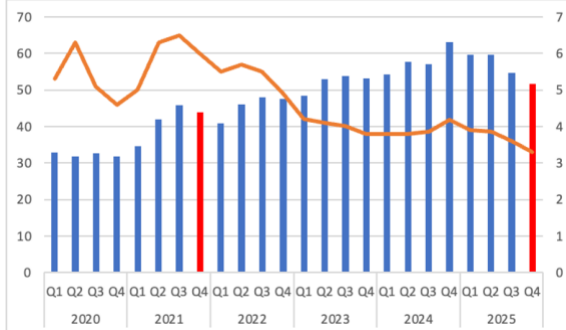
Source: NSA



Namibian consumer inflation fell slightly during the quarter to 2.9% in February 2026 whilst in South Africa consumer prices fell to 3.0% in February 2026.

### Foreign Exchange Reserves (% y-o-y)

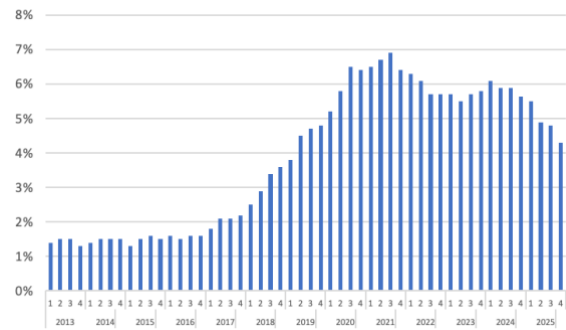
Source: BoN



Foreign exchange reserves ended 2025 at N\$50 billion or just above the Bank of Namibia’s rule of thumb of 3 months of import cover following the redemption of the US\$750 million Eurobond at the end of October 2025.

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

Source: BoN



The ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) reported by the commercial banks to the Bank of Namibia continued to fall steadily to reach 4.3% in Q4 2025.

### Private Sector Credit Extension (% y-o-y)

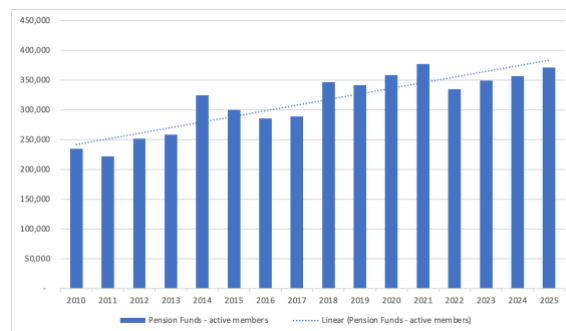
Source: BoN



Private sector credit extension to the business sector recovered somewhat after peaking in mid-2025. However, credit extension to households, including mortgage lending for dwellings, remained flat.

### Formal Sector Employment (Number of Active Members of Pension Fund)

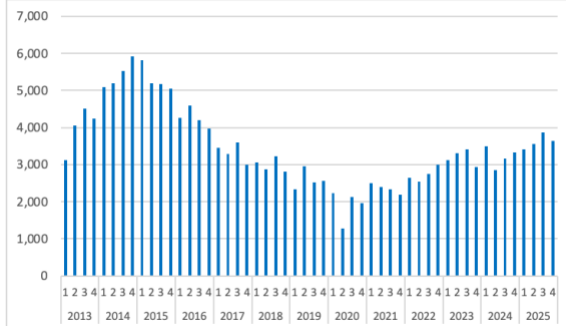
Source: NAMFISA



The number of active members of a pension fund (a proxy for formal sector employment) rose 4.1% from 356,617 in 2024 to 371,070 in 2025.

### New Vehicle Sales (Units Sold)

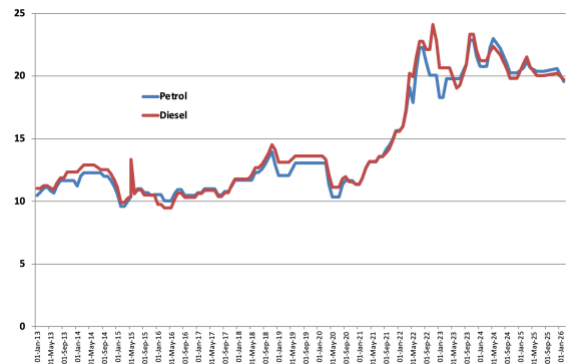
Source: BoN



The combined sales of new commercial and private vehicles fell from 3,873 in Q3 2025 to 3,649 in Q4 2025, the first fall after five consecutive quarters of growth.

### Price of Petrol and 10ppm Diesel (N\$/l)

Source: MIMME



Controlled petrol and 10ppm diesel prices started Q1 2026 at N\$20.58 and N\$20.23 per litre and ended Q1 2026 at N\$19.58 and N\$19.73 respectively.

## Data Trends

Key Economic Indicators	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Annual Economic Growth</b>									
GDP	%	1.1%	-0.8%	-8.1%	3.6%	5.4%	4.3%	3.8%	1.7%
GDP current prices	N\$m	181,067	181,211	174,243	183,292	205,584	230,985	250,025	269,768
Change in Mining Value Added	%	16.1%	-8.7%	-15.0%	8.7%	24.1%	19.3%	-3.4%	-9.4%
Change in Manufacturing Value Added	%	-0.4%	4.7%	-17.1%	-1.2%	5.2%	-2.2%	4.0%	-2.9%
<b>Fixed Investment</b>									
Fixed Investment	% of GDP	16.9%	15.8%	13.7%	16.0%	16.7%	26.2%	24.0%	21.5%
Change in Fixed Investment	%	-6.0%	-9.5%	-17.7%	18.0%	9.9%	71.0%	-6.0%	-8.3%
Fixed Investment - Government	'000 N\$m	4,858	4,616	3,961	3,536	4,007	3,105	3,649	4,380
Fixed Investment - SOEs	'000 N\$m	3,678	2,034	1,048	1,263	1,286	1,903	1,390	2,878
Fixed Investment - Private	'000 N\$m	22,008	21,893	18,802	24,576	29,062	55,527	55,060	50,790
<b>Prices and Interest Rates</b>									
Average Inflation	%	4.3%	3.7%	2.2%	3.6%	6.1%	5.9%	4.2%	3.5%
Year End Prime Lending Rate	%	10.50%	10.25%	7.50%	7.50%	10.50%	11.50%	10.75%	10.25%
Year End Repo Rate	%	6.75%	6.50%	3.75%	3.75%	6.75%	7.75%	7.00%	6.50%
<b>Trade and Balance of Payments</b>									
Exports - total goods	N\$bn	56.6	57.5	53.7	53.8	75.1	88.9	88.9	103.6
Exports - total services	N\$bn	8.4	8.4	5.0	4.8	8.1	11.1	13.8	16.9
Imports - total goods	N\$bn	75.2	77.0	66.5	84.0	108.0	121.0	132.6	133.2
Imports - total services	N\$bn	7.8	7.3	8.8	10.6	12.9	32.6	34.8	39.2
Trade Balance	N\$bn	-18.0	-18.3	-16.7	-36.0	-37.7	-53.7	-64.7	-51.9
Balance of Payments	N\$bn	-6.1	-3.8	5.0	-25.2	-30.2	-38.1	-41.5	-42.0
as % of GDP	%	-2.4%	-1.3%	3.8%	-12.6%	-13.6%	-15.5%	-15.4%	-14.7%
<b>Foreign Exchange</b>									
Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to USD)	N\$	14.4116	14.0418	14.6246	15.8899	16.9831	18.5826	18.7115	
Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to EUR)	N\$	16.4848	15.7437	17.9897	17.9794	18.1057	20.5839	19.4767	
Year End Exchange Rate (N\$ to GBP)	N\$	18.3424	18.4383	19.9801	21.4752	20.4714	23.6984	23.4801	
Foreign Exchange Reserves	N\$bn	31.0	28.9	31.8	43.9	47.6	52.2	63.0	
Fitch credit rating (at year end)		BB+ (stable)	BB	BB (negative)	BB (negative)	BB- (stable)	BB- (stable)	BB- (stable)	BB- (stable)
Moody's credit rating (at year end)		Ba1 (-ve)	Ba2 (stable)	Ba3 (negative)	Ba3 (negative)	B1 (stable)	B1 (stable)	B1 (+ve)	B1 (+ve)
<b>Financial Sector</b>									
Private Sector Credit Extension Growth	%	6.6%	6.8%	2.0%	1.2%	4.2%	1.9%	4.0%	n/a
Non-Performing Loans	% of total loans	3.6%	4.8%	6.4%	6.4%	5.6%	5.8%	5.7%	n/a
NSX Overall Index (at year end)	Index	1,303	1,306	1,232	1,572	1,639	1,624	1,797	2,138
NSX Local Index (at year end)	Index	621	614	456	529	507	672	691	808
New Local Listings		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Business Indicators</b>									
Namdeb Diamond Production	'000 carats	2,008	1,700	1,448	1,467	2,137	2,327	2,234	2,082
Uranium Production	tonnes	5,525	5,476	5,413	5,753	5,611	6,986	7,333	n/a
Gold Production	kg	6,171	6,526	6,254	7,103	6,992	9,800	10,064	n/a
SHG Zinc Production	tonnes	65,993	67,295	659	0	0	0	0	0
Mining Licences Granted	number	3	4	6	11	8	3	2	n/a
Exploration Licences Granted	number	259	297	243	97	56	97	71	n/a
Number of Companies Formed	number	2,851	1,153	852	1,038	1,265	1,153	1,411	
New Vehicle Sales	number	11,998	10,379	7,606	9,414	10,919	12,775	12,854	
Tourist Arrivals	'000	1,557	1,596	170	233	461	864	1,257	n/a
- From Africa	'000	1,164	1,252	112	163	256	621	902	n/a
- From Europe	'000	306	256	45	59	155	185	266	n/a
- From RoW	'000	87	89	12	11	50	58	89	n/a
International Arrivals at HKIA	'000	247	215	46	63	163	223	230	
Regional Arrivals at HKIA	'000	239	223	45	64	134	173	206	

<b>Employment</b>		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Number of active pension members		346,450	341,873	358,060	377,050	334,362	348,895	356,617	371,070	
Number of active GIPF members		102,254	101,917	101,762	101,027	98,623	97,512	99,722	n/a	
Government		86,587	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Parastatals		30,654	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Private Companies		214,693	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Private Households		70,036	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total		401,970	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Government Finances</b>		FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY26/27
Revenue and Grants	N\$bn	55.9	58.4	57.8	55.4	64.4	81.5	89.1	87.4	89.6
Expenditure	N\$bn	65.3	66.6	73.7	71.3	75.4	87.1	99.8	105.9	106.0
Budget Balance	N\$bn	-8.4	-8.2	-15.3	-14.8	-11.1	-5.2	-10.1	-15.6	-15.8
Public Debt	N\$bn	87.5	100.4	110.5	125.8	142.7	153.7	167.2	174.6	193.8
Interest Payments	N\$bn	6.3	7.0	7.4	7.7	9.4	11.8	13.1	14.3	16.2
Public Guarantees	N\$bn	10.9	11.1	10.1	10.3	9.4	8.3	8.5	7.6	11.8
Revenue and Grants	% of GDP	30.9%	32.6%	32.8%	29.6%	29.8%	35.0%	35.9%	34.1%	31.3%
Expenditure	% of GDP	35.5%	37.3%	41.9%	38.1%	35.0%	37.4%	40.2%	40.4%	37.1%
Balance	% of GDP	-4.6%	-4.6%	-8.7%	-7.9%	-5.1%	-2.2%	-4.1%	-6.0%	-5.5%
Public Debt	% of GDP	48.4%	56.0%	62.7%	67.2%	66.2%	66.0%	67.3%	66.6%	67.8%
Interest Payments	% of revenue	11.3%	11.9%	12.8%	13.9%	14.7%	14.5%	14.7%	16.0%	18.1%
Public Guarantees	% of GDP	6.0%	6.2%	5.8%	5.5%	4.4%	3.6%	3.4%	2.8%	4.1%
<b>International Rankings</b>		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Global Competitiveness Index Ranking		100/140	94/141	n/a	n/a	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
Global Competitiveness Index		4.0	54.5	n/a	n/a	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
IMD World Competitiveness Ranking		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	68/69	n/a
Energy Transition Index Ranking		66/118	53/118	74/118	65/118	68/118	72/118	64/118	64/118	n/a
Energy Transition Index		53.0	56.4	52.1	53.8	53.3	52.8	54.2	54.4	n/a
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		106/190	107/190	104/190	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
Ease of Doing Business Index		60.29	60.53	61.4	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped	scrapped
Corruption Perceptions Index Ranking		52/180	56/180	57/180	58/180	59/180	59/180	59/180	65/182	
Corruption Perceptions Index		53	52	51	49	49	49	49	46	
Ibrahim Index of African Governance Ranking		7/54	7/54	7/54	7/54	6/54	6/54	6/54	n/a	
Ibrahim Index of African Governance		65.2	64.2	63.6	63.3	63.6	63.9	63.9	n/a	
Investment Attractiveness Index Ranking		60/83	55/76	52/77	59/84	38/62	42/86	30/82	51/68	
Investment Attractiveness Index		56.66	58.22	59.72	52.59	59.88	56.43	66.88	56.21	
Open Budget Index (out of 100)		n/a	51	n/a	42	n/a	54	n/a	n/a	
World Press Freedom Index - Ranking		26/180	23/180	23/180	24/180	18/180	22/180	34/180	28/180	

Sources: Anglo American, Bank of Namibia, Business and Intellectual Property Authority, Chamber of Mines of Namibia, Fitch Ratings, Fraser Institute, Government Institutions Pension Fund, IMD, International Budget Partnership, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Moody's Investor Services, Namibia Airports Company, Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority, 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 QER Q4 2021 we have included the annual Energy Transition Index and Ranking produced by the World Economic Forum.

Note: From QER Q3 2025 we have included the World Competitiveness Ranking from the IMD.