May 2026

EU-Namibia Trade: A Partnership That Works

An Analysis of Namibian Trade Data for 2024 and 2025 with a Focus on the EU

Report Prepared for the EU Delegation in Windhoek

Compiled by Robin Sherbourne

Photo: Namport

Abbreviations

AfCFTA	-	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGOA	-	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
BRICS	-	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
CAoN	-	Charcoal Association of Namibia
DRC	-	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EPA	-	Economic Partnership Agreement
EC	-	European Commission
EU	-	European Union
FTA	-	Free Trade Area
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
ITC	-	International Trade Centre
NAMDIA	-	Namib Desert Diamonds
NDP	-	National Development Plan
NDTC	-	Namibia Diamond Trading Company
NSI	-	Namibian Standards Institution
NSA	-	Namibia Statistics Agency
SACU	-	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	-	Southern African Development Community
SITC	-	Standard International Trade Classification
UAE	-	United Arab Emirates
UN	-	United Nations
UK	-	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
US	-	United States of America
WTO	-	World Trade Organisation

FOREWORD

Her Excellency Ana Beatriz Martins,
European Union Ambassador to Namibia

The European Union is a multilateral institution like no other. It is a unique political and economic union, with shared institutions, a common legal order and the ability to act collectively on behalf of its 27 Member States. One of the EU's core competences is trade, where the EU acts as a single trading bloc with the rest of the world. Trade is one of the most powerful tools we have to build prosperity, stability, and opportunity.

The European Union is founded on the promise of freedom, equality, and democracy. In a world of rising geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, these values cannot be taken for granted. They must be actively upheld, both within our borders and through our partnerships abroad. No country can face global challenges alone. Lasting solutions require trusted partnerships grounded in cooperation, shared interests, and mutual respect. This is why the EU remains committed to being a reliable and long-term partner to Africa. Through diplomacy, cooperation, and trade, we strive to deliver tangible benefits for our citizens.

Trade has become a central pillar of the EU–Africa relationship. Today, the EU is Africa's largest trading and investment partner. In 2025, annual EU–Africa trade exceeded €350 billion, continuing a strong upward trajectory. Thanks to the EU's preferential trade arrangements, 97% of African exports enter the EU market duty-free or at reduced tariffs. Beyond trade itself, Team Europe, through the Global Gateway initiative, has mobilised more than €120 billion in grants and loans for African partners over the past five years. Not as traditional aid, but as a catalyst for private investment, infrastructure development, skills creation, and sustainable growth on both continents.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the EU–SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), we can proudly reflect on a trade relationship that has flourished through stability, mutual trust, and shared ambition. Namibia is an important part of this success story. Over the past decade, Namibia has more than doubled its exports to the European Union, reaching **€910** million (approximately **N$17.6 billion**) in 2025. The country has diversified its export basket, maintained a trade surplus, and supported more than 40,000 jobs linked to exports to the EU. And these figures reflect only trade in goods, services such as tourism continue to create countless additional opportunities for people and businesses.

Importantly, our trade relationship has evolved far beyond the export of raw materials. Today,it increasingly supports local value addition, industrial development, and job creation, from beef and charcoal to high-value grapes and blueberries, as well as industrial products such as directly reduced iron. The EU's trade proposition is therefore about much more thanmarket access. It is about predictability, supporting resilient export sectors, and helping Namibia integrate more deeply into global value chains.

The next chapter of the EU–Namibia partnership is equally clear. It is not only about increasing trade volumes, but about transformation: moving from raw materials to local value chains, from exports to industrialisation, and from potential to real opportunities and jobs. Namibia is emerging as a regional green industrial and logistics hub, at the forefront of the global green transition. Since the launch of the EU–Namibia Strategic Partnership on Green Hydrogen and Critical Raw Materials in 2022, we have moved steadily from vision to implementation.

The progress is already visible. Team Europe has mobilised €1.2 billion in grants and loans, with the potential to leverage more than €20 billion in private investment. Projects such as HyIron, Cleanergy, and other European investments across Namibia demonstrate what is possible when European investment and Namibian ambition come together: we build new industries, strengthen Namibia's green connectivity within the region, and create sustainable jobs for the future.

It is therefore my great pleasure to present this insightful report by independent economist Robin Sherbourne. His authoritative and meticulous analysis provides timely evidence of how trade opportunities between Namibia and the European Union have expanded and evolved. Most importantly, this report reflects a broader reality: the European Union is listening and responding to Namibia's call for more trade, more investment, greater value addition, and more opportunities for its young people.

The opportunity before us is significant. Now is the time to translate that opportunity into concrete investments, lasting partnerships, and tangible benefits for the people of Namibia.

■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robin Sherbourne,
Independent Economist

Robin Sherbourne is an economist by training with a master's degree from the London School of Economics and thirty years' experience in policy research and advice, journalism, international programme management, and government-industry relations. He has worked as an economic advisor within the UK Government and as an economist within the National Planning Commission and the Bank of Namibia. He was Old Mutual Namibia's first ever country economist. His international experience includes working with senior government officials on economic policy across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Western Balkans as head of the prestigious ODI Fellowship Scheme. As a freelance economist, he has been employed by a wide variety of public and private sector organisations and has carried out assignments on a range of issues including on public finance, trade, public enterprise reform, climate change and the green transition, including green hydrogen. He is the co-founder of the Windhoek-based Institute for Public Policy Research, the co-founder of Insight Namibia magazine, author of the Guide to the Namibian Economy, now in its fifth edition, an associate of IJG, and hosts the website www.economy.com.na.■

"Export diversification increases local value addition, economic growth and employment creation and reduces vulnerability to sector specific shocks. In general, a Namibia dollar invested in a capital-intensive sector such as mining generates fewer jobs than a Namibia dollar invested in labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, fishing or charcoal.

This report was authored by **Robin Sherbourne** and produced for the **European Union** in collaboration with the:

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Visit by EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jozef Sikela, with DEVE Committee of the European Parliament and Member States to key Global Gateway flagship projects and private sector initiatives.

Transforming Lüderitz into a global economic powerhouse with EU support of N$28.5 million (EUR 1.5 million): Hon. Amb. Dr Kaire Mbuende, Director General of National Planning Commission; H.E. Ms. Ana Beatriz Martins, Ambassador of European Union Delegation to Namibia; Cllr. Ockert Cornelis Theron, Chairman of the Management Committee of Lüderitz Town Council; Mr. Karim Boussak Regional Manager East and Southern Africa of VNG; Mr. Otto Shipanga, Acting CEO of Lüderitz Town Council and Mr. Bram Van Opijnen, Head of the Economic Section at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

EU Ambassador, H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins inspects a tote bag produced during the EU funded workshop.

Shared smiles, Shared vision: A light moment between H.E. Jozef Síkela, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships and H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, following their meeting during September 2025 on strengthening the EU–Namibia partnership through Global Gateway investments.

Investing in Namibia's agricultural future! In 2025, the European Union officially broke ground on the new N$78.9 million (EUR 3.9 million) Etunda Feedlot, a state-of-the-art facility featuring a 1,000-cattle capacity designed to strengthen the livestock sector in Namibia's Northern Communal Areas (NCAs).

Executive Summary:

1. Namibia's economy is highly dependent on trade with the rest of the world. Exports and imports of goods and services account for large shares of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Namibia generally runs a trade deficit importing more goods and services than it exports, which was the case in 2024 and 2025.

2. Unlike the other countries Namibia trades with, the European Union (EU) trades with the rest of the world as a single trading bloc incorporating a single market and a customs union and is the responsibility of the European Commission (EC). Any analysis of Namibia's trade patterns should take this fact into account.

3. Namibia's exports are highly concentrated on relatively few foreign markets. In 2024 and 2025 Botswana, China, the EU, and South Africa were the four most important export markets in terms of value.

4. The destination of Namibia's uranium, gold, fish, and diamond exports greatly determine the overall pattern of Namibia's trade in goods. Uranium goes mainly to China but also to Canada, the EU (France) and the US. Gold goes exclusively to South Africa. Fish go to a wide variety of markets including in Africa but over half go to the EU especially Spain. Diamonds go mainly to Botswana but also to the EU (Belgium), India, the US, China and the UAE.

5. Exports from Namibia to the EU increased significantly from N$14.975 billion in 2024 to N$17.567 billion in 2025. The EU was Namibia's third-largest export market in 2024 and 2025. In both years Namibia exported to all 27 members of the EU but six member states – Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, and Germany – accounted for 95% of all exports to the EU in 2025.

6. Not only is the EU a major trading partner in terms of overall value but it also imports a more diverse basket of Namibian products than many other partners. Namibia's exports to the EU are far more diversified and include fish, uranium, meat, fruit, charcoal, crustaceans, diamonds, stone, and base metal ores, all of which account for over 1% of exports to the EU.

7. Namibia imports the majority of its goods by value from relatively few countries. The EU has been one of Namibia's most important sources of imports during the past two years. It has also been a source of petroleum imports. Together Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, France and Sweden accounted for two-thirds of Namibia's imports from the 27 EU Member States in 2025.

8. Namibia's trade with the EU has been reasonably balanced in the past two years with a small trade deficit in 2024 and a trade surplus in 2025. The previous report produced for the EU showed that Namibia generally ran a trade surplus with the EU between 2004 and 2023.

9. Namibia exports a diversified range of products to the EU which generates an estimated direct 40,000 jobs for Namibians and an additional number of indirect jobs which have not been quantified in this report. This excludes jobs generated by tourism and other services for which further work is required to investigate Namibia's pattens of trade in services.

10. This report follows on from a previous report published in early 2025. This report uses data directly provided by the NSA whereas the previous report used data provided by the International Trade Centre. Since the previous study, the prices of uranium and gold have increased and the price of diamonds has decreased and this has had a significant impact on overall rankings.

Photo: Namport

1.Introduction

This short report examines Namibia's trade in goods for the years 2024 and 2025. It follows an earlier report prepared for the EU Delegation in December 2024 which examined longer-term trends in trade using data from the TradeMap online database of the International Trade Centre (ITC) up to the year 2023[1]. This report uses data provided by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) for 2024 and 2025 in Namibia dollars using the UN's Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) system of categorising all traded goods[2]. The NSA data covers trade in goods with 223 countries and territories. The report presents a description of trade patterns but stops short of offering policy analysis or prescriptions for Namibia or other trading partners. It consists of five main sections: macroeconomic variables, exports, imports, the trade balance, and the employment generated by exports to the EU.

Trade holds the key for any small economy wishing to achieve rapid economic growth. By exploiting demand for goods and services from much larger markets than would be available domestically, production can in theory exploit economies of scale to achieve levels of production, and thereby levels of incomes and jobs, that would otherwise not be possible. The challenge for any small economy is to identify those goods and services it can produce competitively and sell to world markets. The key role of trade has been recognised in Namibia, for example in the report of the High-Level Panel on the Namibian Economy published in March 2020 and, to a much lesser extent, the National Development Plan 6 (NDP6).

The focus of this paper is to examine exports and imports over the past two years using standard trade data in Namibia dollars classified according to SITC (see Annex 1). Trade data is typically presented by country. However, the EU, which comprises of 27 Member States – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden – is unusual because it trades with the rest of the world as a single trading bloc with a common external tariff around its customs union, common non-tariff barriers, common competition policy and common trading rules with the responsibility for trade matters lying not with the individual Member States but with the European Commission. Namibia trades with the EU on the basis of the **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** signed in June 2016. This paper therefore examines trade and investment patterns treating the 27 EU member states as a single trading entity. It is important to note that other important European trading parters are not members of the EU. Thus, Norway and Switzerland have never been members of the EU whilst the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 following a referendum in 2016. Nonetheless, all three countries have formal trading agreements with the EU. This is different to other major trading countries such as the US, Canada, China[3], Japan, Korea, India and Brazil none of which belong to a Single Market. Furthermore, the EU provides Namibia with support for its export drive such as to the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI).

It is important to understand that Namibia has formalised preferential trading arrangements with the African continent and other parts of the world.

- Since independence, Namibia has belonged to the 5-member **Southern African Customs Union (SACU)** along with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa. This is a customs union with a common external tariff and not a single market.

- Since 2008, Namibia has belonged to the 16-member **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area (FTA)** along with Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SADC FTA is a free trade area where members face no tariff barriers in trading with each other but impose different tariffs to countries in the rest of the world.

- Since 2021, Namibia has been trading with the rest of the African continent as part of the 54-member **African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** which includes all African countries except Eritrea.

- Since 2021, Namibia has traded with the United Kingdom under the **SACU and Mozambique (SACUM) Economic Partnership Agreement.**

- Since 2000, Namibia has been eligible to trade with the US under the **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**. In early 2026 AGOA was extended until the end of 2026.

These formal trade agreements have in all likelihood affected Namibia's patterns of trade. However, as will be shown later in this paper, having no explicit trade agreement with China along the lines of an EPA, FTA or Customs Union has not prevented the two countries from developing extensive trading links with each other since China joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2001.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that this report deals exclusively with trade in goods and not trade in services. Tourists from the EU undoubtedly form an important market for Namibia's tourist industry.

1. EU-Namibia Trade: A Partnership That Works, EU Delegation, February 2025
2. https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications/DimSitcRev3Products_Official_Hierarchy.pdf
3. In this report China includes Hong Kong and Macau which are separate customs territories and are therefore separately classified in the trade statistics and by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Photo: Mashare Berries Farming

Photo: Meatco

Photo: Aussenkehr Valley

Photo: Namport

Photo: Mining & Energy

2. Macroeconomic Variables

The importance of trade to the Namibian economy cannot be overstated. Namibia exports a large proportion of what it produces and with the proceeds from these exports purchases the imports the country requires. The values of exports and imports expressed as a percentage of GDP are typical of a small country that is open to the global economy. The table below shows that value of imports exceeded the value of exports in 2024 and 2025 giving rise to a significant overall trade deficit. This is not unusual (especially for a developing country) and has been the situation almost every year since 1990.

Table 1: Macroeconomic Trade Variables for 2024 and 2025

N$ million	2024	2025
GDP in current prices	250,025	269,768
Exports of goods in current prices	88,900	103,639
Exports of goods as % of GDP	35.6%	38.4%
Exports of goods and services in current prices	102,673	120,524
Exports of goods and services as % of GDP	41.1%	44.7%
Imports of goods in current prices	132,569	133,165
Imports of goods as % of GDP	53.0%	49.4%
Imports of goods and services in current prices	167,357	172,392
Imports of goods and services as % of GDP	66.9%	63.9%
Balance of trade in goods	-43,669	-29,526
Balance of trade in goods as % of GDP	-17.5%	-10.9%

Source: Preliminary National Accounts 2025, NSA

3. Namibia's Exports

Namibia exports a range of goods to the rest of the world. Charts 1 and 2 show how exports are broken down by different product groups in 2024 and 2025, the total value of which were N$79.4 billion and N$90.4 billion respectively. This analysis takes no account of re-exports, in other words products that are imported into Namibia only to be exported without any changes made to them or value added. An example of this would be mineral products from the DRC and Zambia that may be imported into Namibia only to be exported from Walvis Bay.

Chart 1: Composition of Total Exports in 2024

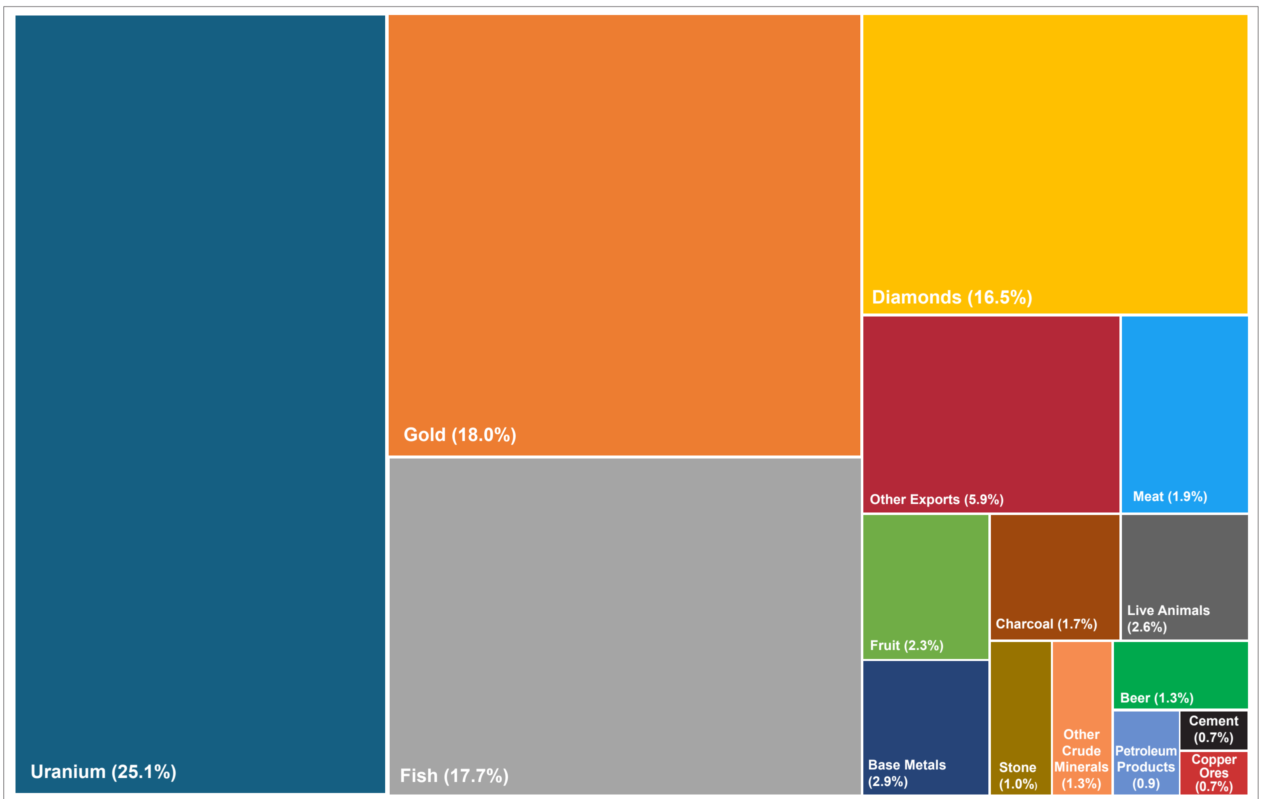
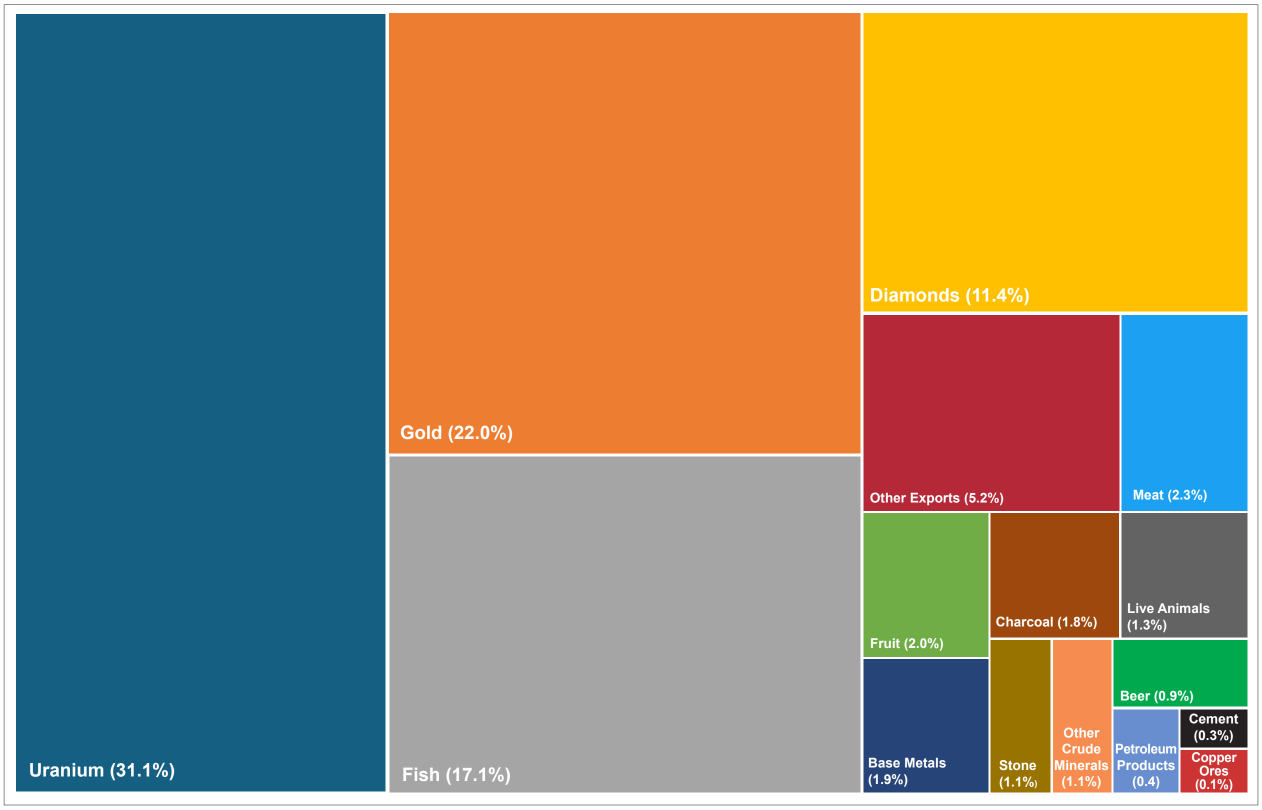


Chart 2: Composition of Total Exports in 2025



The charts show that four product groups – uranium, gold, fish and diamonds – dominated Namibia's exports (in that order)[4]. In 2024 and 2025 these four groups accounted for 77.4% and 81.8% of total exports by value respectively:

- According to the World Nuclear Association, Namibia has been the world's third largest producer of uranium since 2022. Uranium is produced by three mines, Husab, Rossing and Langer Heinrich, the former two are majority Chinese owned whilst the latter has a 25% Chinese shareholding.

- Gold is produced by two gold mines, B2Gold's Otjikoto mine and QKR's Navachab mine, both of which send their output to the Rand Gold Refinery in Germiston, South Africa, for further processing. The refinery is the world's largest single site integrated precious metals smelting and refining complex.

- Namibia's fishing industry includes many players with close links to South Africa and especially Spain. Namibia's horse mackerel and dried fish are popular in the DRC, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia.

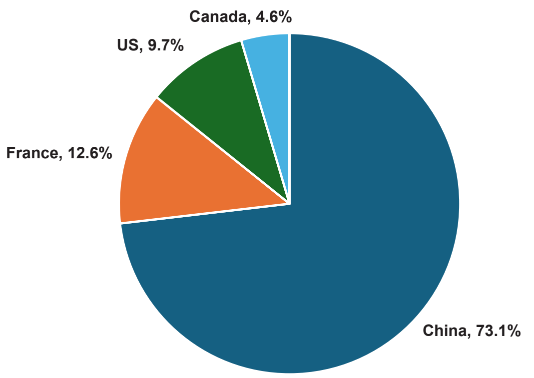
- Diamonds are produced by Namdeb Holdings in which De Beers has a 50% shareholding. A proportion of diamonds are sold to Namib Desert Diamonds (NAMDIA) and to local cutting and polishing companies and the rest are exported to De Beers Global Sales in Gaborone, Botswana.

Since the last trade study was conducted in 2023, the international prices of uranium and gold have risen significantly whilst diamond prices have fallen. Uranium exports grew from N$19.7 billion in 2024 to N$28.1 billion in 2025 whilst gold exports grew from N$14.3 billion to N$20.1 billion. Because these products account for such large shares of exports, this greatly affects the overall pattern of trade. Thus, although the volume of gold exported in 2025 was similar to that in 2023, a 65.6% increase in the average price of gold since 2023 meant that the value of gold exported rose to N$20.1 billion. If the price had remained the same as in 2023, gold exports in 2025 would have been worth N$12.1 billion or N$8.0 billion less and this would have reduced exports to South Africa by N$8.0 billion. Uranium experienced an increase in volume and average price. If prices had remained the same as in 2023, uranium exports would have been worth N$18.4 billion in 2025 and this would have reduced exports to China by N$6.9 billion.

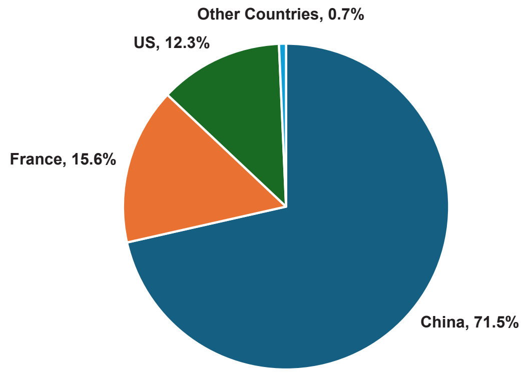
[4] Uranium (SITC 286), Gold (STIC 971), Fish (SITC 0034, 0035, 0036, 0037), Diamonds (SITC 667)

Charts 3-10: Destinations of Namibia's Major Exports

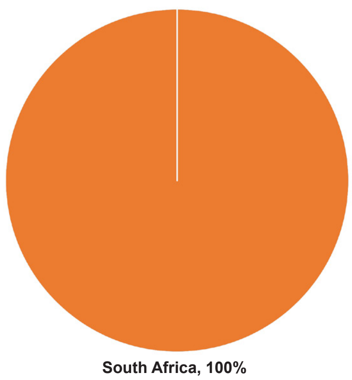
3. Uranium Exports 2024 (N$19.7 bn)



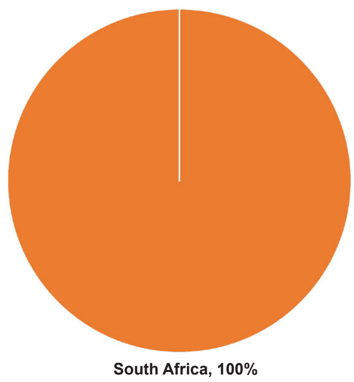
4. Uranium Exports 2025 (N$28.1 bn)



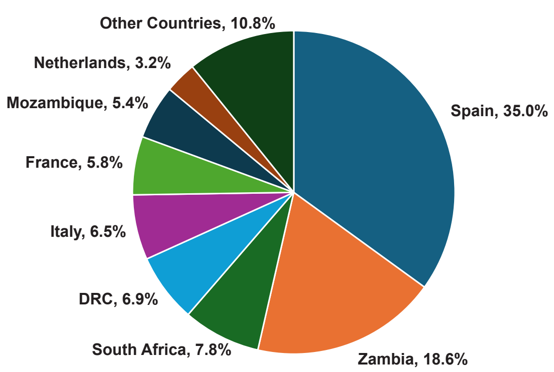
5. Gold Exports 2024 (N$14.3 bn)



6. Gold Exports 2025 (N$20.1 bn)

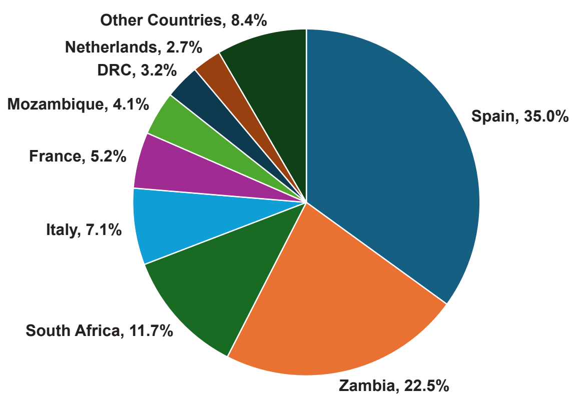


7. Fish Exports 2024 (N$14.2 bn)



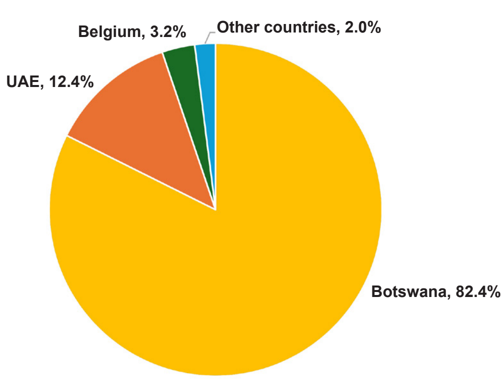
EU accounted for 53.5% of exports.

8. Fish Exports 2025 (N$15.4 bn)

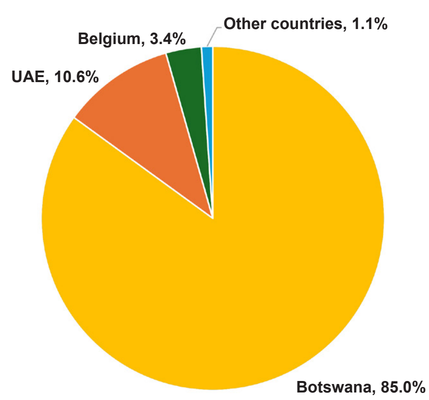


EU accounted for 53.6% of exports.

9. Diamond Exports 2024 (N$13.1 bn)



10. Diamond Exports 2025 (N$10.3 bn)



Namibia exports to many different countries but four destinations – Botswana, China, the EU, and South Africa – are by far the most important together accounting for 81.7% and 83.5% of total exports in 2024 and 2025 respectively. The tables below present a ranked list of export destinations for 2024 and 2025 and include all destinations that account for more than 0.1% of exports. The EU is included as are its member states. In both years South Africa, China, the EU and Botswana in that order have been Namibia's top four export markets. Nine EU member states appear in the top 30 in 2024 and ten in 2025. The increases in the prices and volumes of gold and uranium have served to boost South Africa and China in the rankings compared to 2023.

The table below show that, after the top four export destinations, the remaining export destinations tail off significantly with only six countries outside the EU accounting for more than 1% of total exports in 2024 and only three in 2025. This increased concentration is partly a result of price increases in uranium and gold.

Exports to Brazil, Russia and India (three members of the original BRICS grouping) are relatively modest and Brazil does not feature at all in the top 30 export markets in both years. Namibia exported more to Greece than to the Russian Federation in both years. The US ranks 8th and 6th in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

Exports to the SADC FTA (excluding Botswana and South Africa) and to the AfCFTA are relatively small. In 2024 exports to SADC accounted for 6.9% of total exports and exports to the AfCFTA 0.8% of total exports. In 2025 exports to SADC accounted for 6.2% of total exports and exports to the AfCFTA 0.6% of total exports.

The rankings of destinations which are not specified (Null and High Seas) are relatively low in both years.

In both years, the EU member states accounting for the greatest share of Namibian exports were Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Germany in that order.

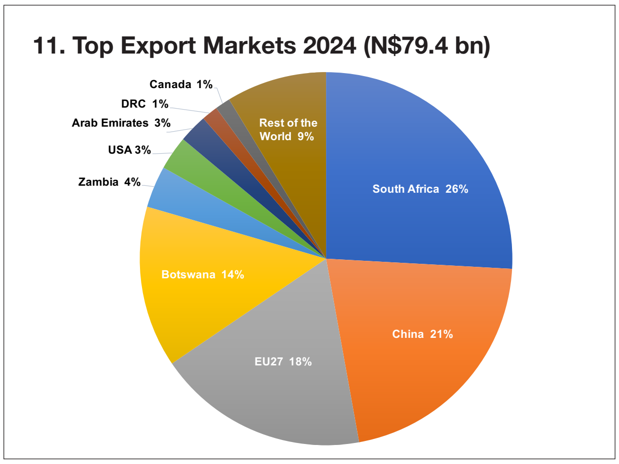
Table 2: Ranking of Top 20 Export Destinations in 2024 and 2025 by Export Value (N$bn)

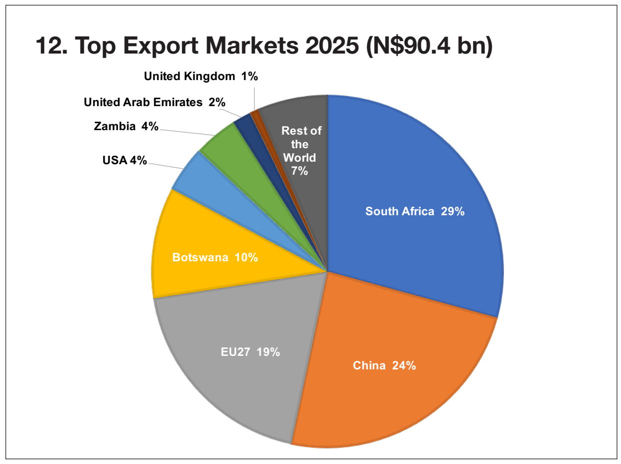
2024			2025		
Country	**N$**	**% of Total Exports**	**County**	**N$**	**% of Total Exports**
South Africa	21.116 bn	26.6%	South Africa	26.653 bn	29.5%
China	17.380 bn	21.9%	China	21.990 bn	24.3%
EU27	14.975 bn	18.9%	EU27	17.567 bn	19.4%
Botswana	11.429 bn	14.4%	Botswana	9.293 bn	10.3%
*Spain	5.534 bn	7.0%	*Spain	5.678 bn	6.3%
*France	3.426 bn	4.3%	*France	5.261 bn	5.8%
Zambia	2.956 bn	3.7%	US	3.845 bn	4.3%
*Netherlands	2.530 bn	3.2%	Zambia	3.710 bn	4.1%
US	2.406 bn	3.0%	*Netherlands	3.051 bn	3.4%
UAE	2.028 bn	2.6%	UAE	1.552 bn	1.7%
*Italy	1.211 bn	1.5%	*Italy	1.474 bn	1.6%
DRC	1.155 bn	1.5%	UK	0.751 bn	0.8%
Canada	1.077 bn	1.4%	DRC	0.709 bn	0.8%
Mozambique	0.773 bn	1.0%	Mozambique	0.648 bn	0.7%
UK	0.745 bn	0.9%	*Belgium	0.618 bn	0.7%
*Belgium	0.717 bn	0.9%	*Germany	0.617 bn	0.7%
*Germany	0.624 bn	0.8%	Thailand	0.500 bn	0.6%
Thailand	0.527 bn	0.7%	Norway	0.429 bn	0.5%
India	0.342 bn	0.4%	India	0.389 bn	0.4%
*Poland	0.297 bn	0.4%	Zimbabwe	0.331 bn	0.4%
Other	3.127 bn	3.9%	Other	2.905 bn	3.2%
Total	79.403 bn	100.0%	Total	90.403 bn	100.0%
SADC	5.459 bn	6.9%	SADC	5.629 bn	6.2%
AfCFTA	0.633 bn	0.8%	AfCFTA	0.54 bn	0.6%

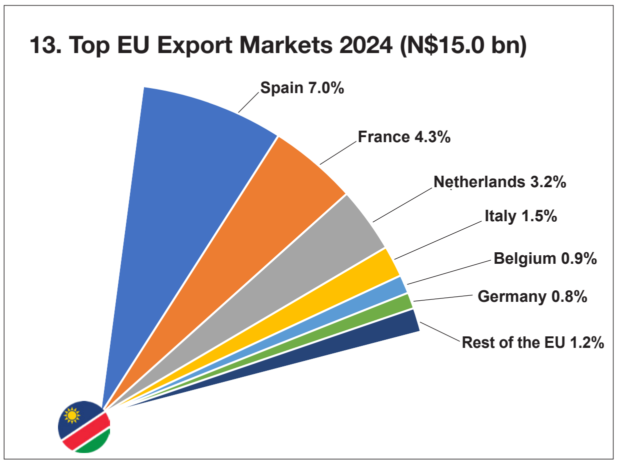
SADC excluding Botswana and South Africa
AfCFTA excluding SACU and SADC
*These individual EU Member States are included in the general EU27 category, and are included in this table to show internal EU27 breakdown with largest share in exports to the EU

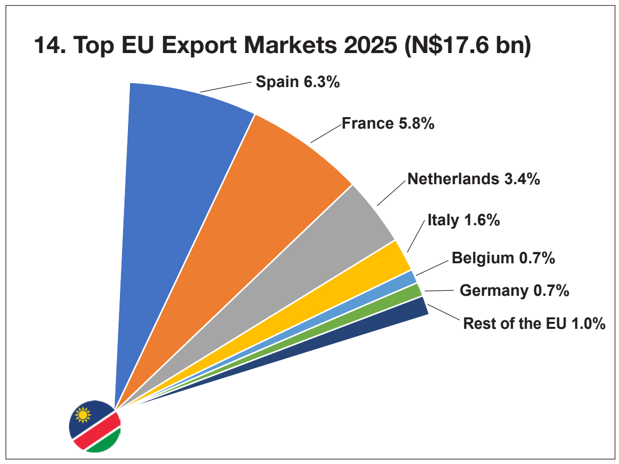
The charts below show the same information graphically for the top ten export markets presenting the EU member states as a single group and providing a breakdown of the EU by member states for 2024 and 2025.

Charts 11-14: Major Export Markets



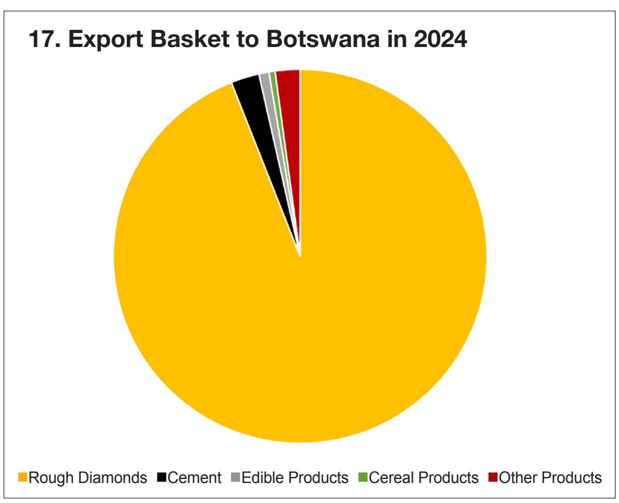


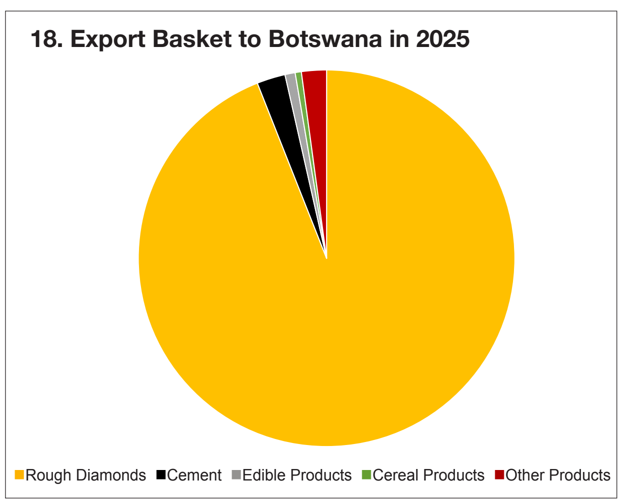




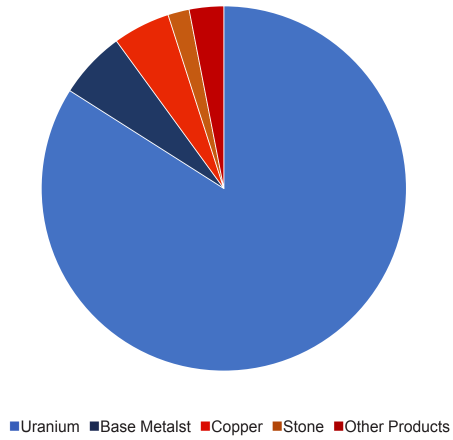
However, the overall value of exports to a particular market is just one part of the story. As important is the composition and diversity of the export basket since this has important implications for the economic benefits to Namibia that derive from the exports. The charts below present breakdowns of exports to Namibia's four major export markets – Botswana, China, the EU, and South Africa – by product grouping. It can be seen that while exports to Botswana and China are dominated by diamonds and uranium and exports to South Africa by gold, a diverse range of goods are exported to the EU including a wide range of fish products, uranium, meat, high-value fruit, charcoal, crustaceans, diamonds, dimension stone, and base metals. The EU is particularly important for Namibia's fishing industry (importing more than half of Namibia's fish exports in 2024 and 2025) and also for high value fruit (such as table grapes and blueberries) and charcoal.

Charts 17-24: Exports Baskets to Major Export Markets

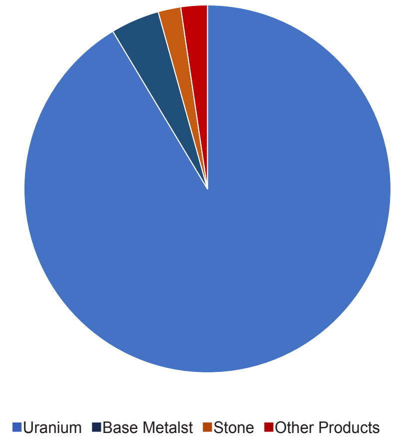




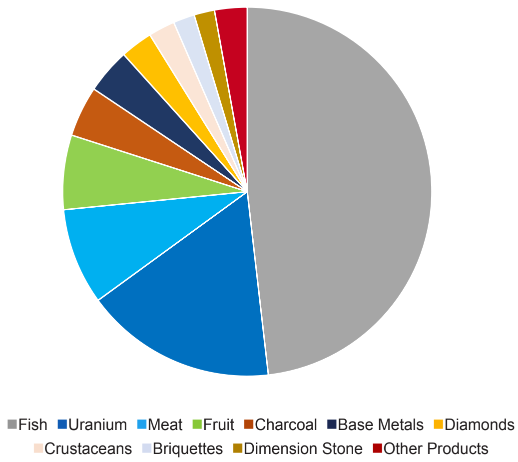
19. Export Basket to China in 2024



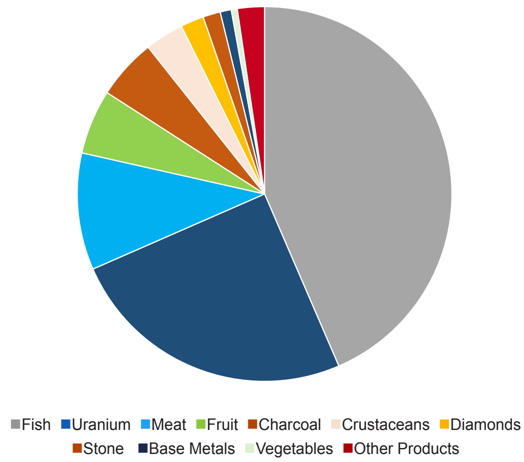
20. Export Basket to China in 2025



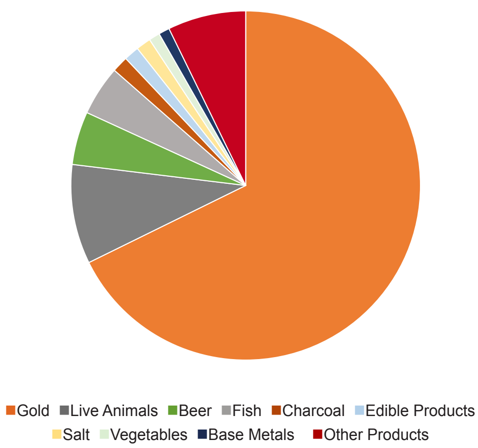
21. Export Basket to EU in 2024



22. Export Basket to EU in 2025



23. Export Basket to South Africa in 2024



24. Export Basket to South Africa in 2025

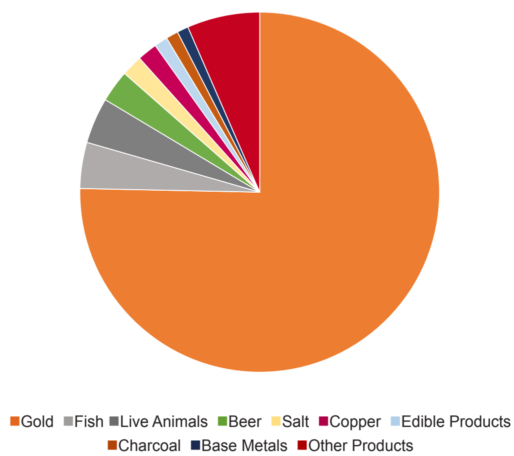


Photo: Namport

4. Namibia's Imports

Namibia imported N$158.5 billion worth of goods in 2024 and N$150.5 billion in 2025. The table below shows over 60% of imports came from three trading partners: South Africa, the EU and China with South Africa by far the largest source of imported goods. The EU was the second largest source of imports in 2024 and the third largest in 2025. The source of a large proportion of imports has not been specified (Null).

Table 3: Ranking of Top 20 Sources of Imports in 2024 and 2025 by Import Value (N$bn)

2024			2025		
South Africa	58.686 bn	37.0%	South Africa	57.044 bn	37.9%
EU27	18.842 bn	11.9%	China	18.485 bn	12.3%
China	18.015 bn	11.4%	EU27	16.496 bn	11.0%
Null	6.631 bn	4.2%	India	9.146 bn	6.1%
Peru	5.854 bn	3.7%	Null	5.625 bn	3.7%
India	5.723 bn	3.6%	Zambia	5.187 bn	3.4%
United Arab Emirates	5.460 bn	3.4%	Oman	5.089 bn	3.4%
US	5.152 bn	3.3%	US	4.793 bn	3.2%
Zambia	4.951 bn	3.1%	DRC	3.964 bn	2.6%
*Germany	4.450 bn	2.8%	*Germany	3.355 bn	2.2%
Oman	3.781 bn	2.4%	Japan	3.161 bn	2.1%
Bahrain	3.120 bn	2.0%	*Italy	2.408 bn	1.6%
Japan	2.747 bn	1.7%	Bahrain	2.194 bn	1.5%
*Italy	1.982 bn	1.3%	United Arab Emirates	1.622 bn	1.1%
*Netherlands	1.673 bn	1.1%	Morocco	1.443 bn	1.0%
*Belgium	1.657 bn	1.0%	*Spain	1.369 bn	0.9%
Brazil	1.556 bn	1.0%	UK	1.359 bn	0.9%
*Bulgaria	1.514 bn	1.0%	*Netherlands	1.327 bn	0.9%
UK	1.511 bn	1.0%	*France	1.215 bn	0.8%
Rest of the World	24.047 bn	15.2%	Rest of the World	23.710 bn	15.8%
	158.509 bn			150.508 bn	

Photo: New Era

Namibia is importing pork from the European Union (EU) to supplement its domestic supply, as local pork production falls short of meeting consumer demand.

The charts below show that Namibia's imports from South Africa, the EU and China are diversified, but that each partner plays a distinct role in Namibia's import structure. South Africa is an important source of imports across almost all main SITC categories and is particularly significant for regional and essential goods, including Food and Live Animals and Beverages and Tobacco, where imports from the EU and China remain limited. The EU's import profile is more concentrated in Petroleum and Lubricants, Chemicals and Related Products, and Machinery and Transport, pointing to the EU's role as a supplier of key inputs relevant to production, investment and industrial development. China, by contrast, is strongest in Manufactured Goods, Machinery and Transport, and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles, reflecting its importance as a supplier of manufactured and consumer-type goods. Overall, the data suggest that Namibia's three main import partners are complementary rather than interchangeable, with the EU particularly relevant in areas linked to productive capacity and economic upgrading.

Chart 25: Breakdown of Imports by Major Trading Partner 2024

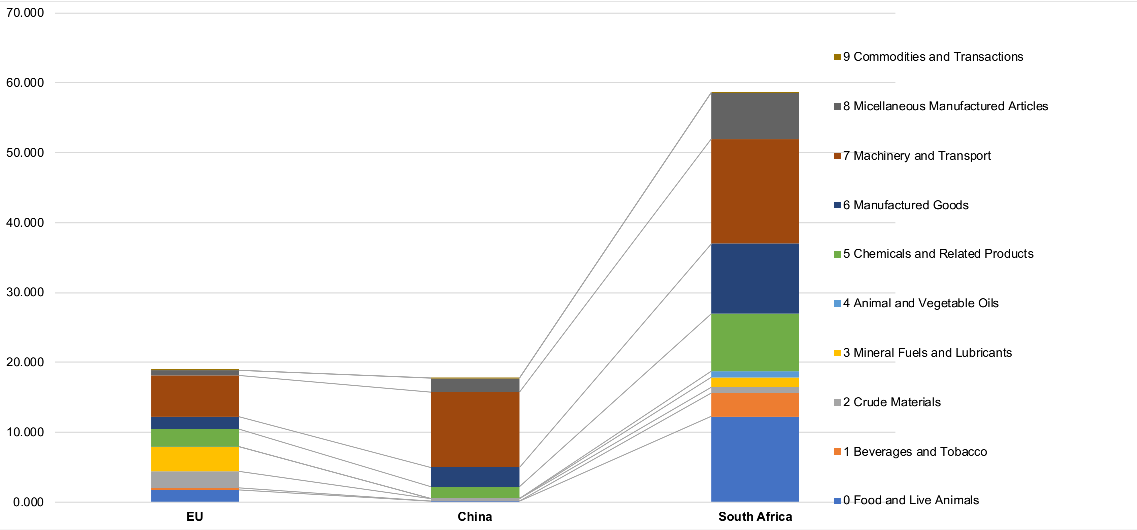
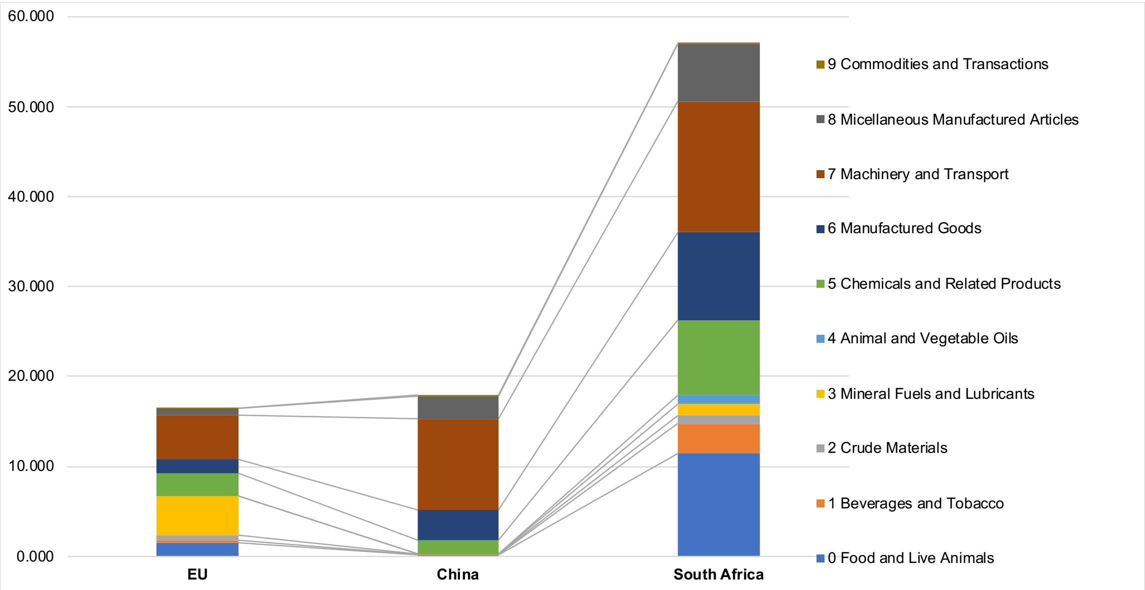


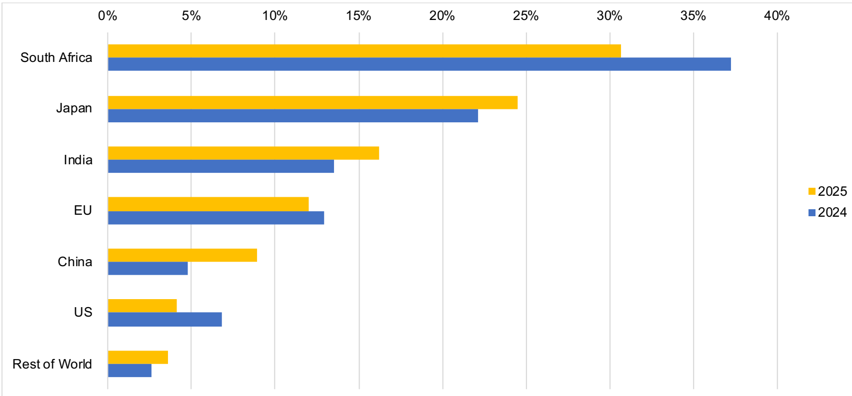
Chart 26: Breakdown of Imports by Major Trading Partner 2025



The charts below show imports of passenger and commercial vehicles by major trading partner. In 2025 passenger vehicle imports came from South Africa, Japan, India, the EU, China and the US whilst commercial vehicle imports came from South Africa, China, India, the EU, and Japan. Historically, Namibia has imported large numbers of second-hand cars from Japan. Multinational vehicle manufacturers from the EU (BMW, Volkswagen, Mercedes), India (Mahindra), Japan (Isuzu, Nissan, Toyota), Korea (Hyundai), and the US (Ford) manufacture vehicles in South Africa while Chinese brands are planning to commence production there too. In 2024 and 2025 the value of imports from South Africa has declined as a proportion of overall passenger and commercial vehicle imports.

Charts 27-28: Vehicle Imports by Major Trading Partner 2024 and 2025

27. Import of Passenger Vehicles



28. Import of Commercial Vehicles

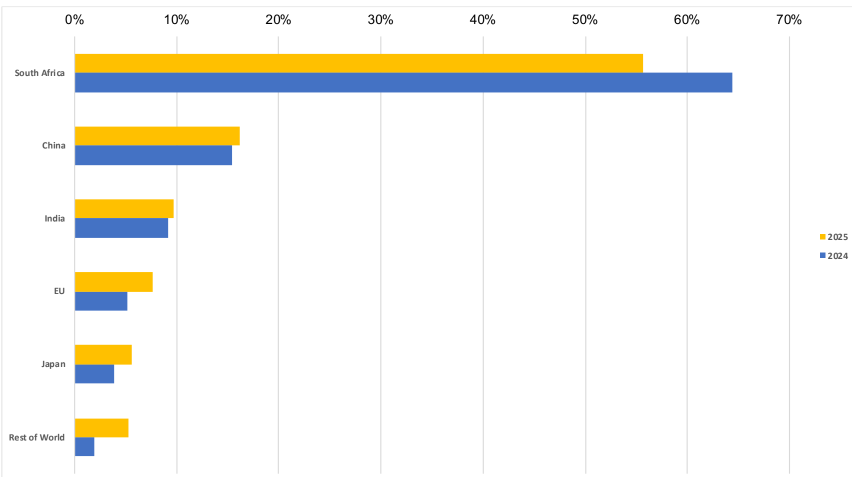
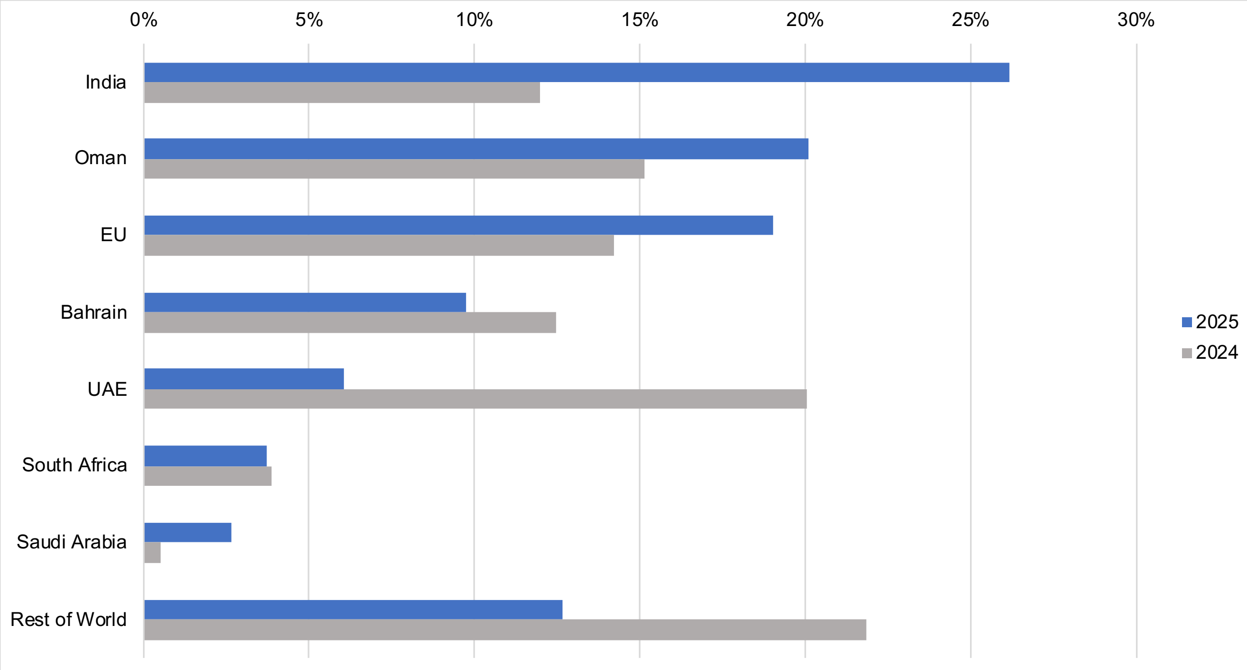


Photo: safety4sea.com

Namibia's economy is entirely dependent on petroleum imports. Namibia imported N$24.9 billion of petroleum products in 2024 and N$22.4 billion in 2025, which represented a significant share of overall imports. Because petroleum imports are so significant, countries which export petroleum to Namibia feature greatly in the rankings in Table 4. The chart below shows that Namibia imports the bulk of its petroleum products from a diverse range of countries including the Gulf (Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia), India, and also the EU (from Belgium, Estonia, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden). Imports from India rose massively between 2024 and 2025 when India became Namibia's most important source of petroleum imports.

Chart 29: Petroleum Imports in 2024 and 2025



In very broad terms, Namibia imports consumer goods (including food, clothing and motor vehicles) from South Africa, cereals, petroleum, and industrial goods from the EU, wheat and fertilizers from Russia, industrial goods, machinery and vehicles from China, and petroleum from the Gulf, India and the EU.

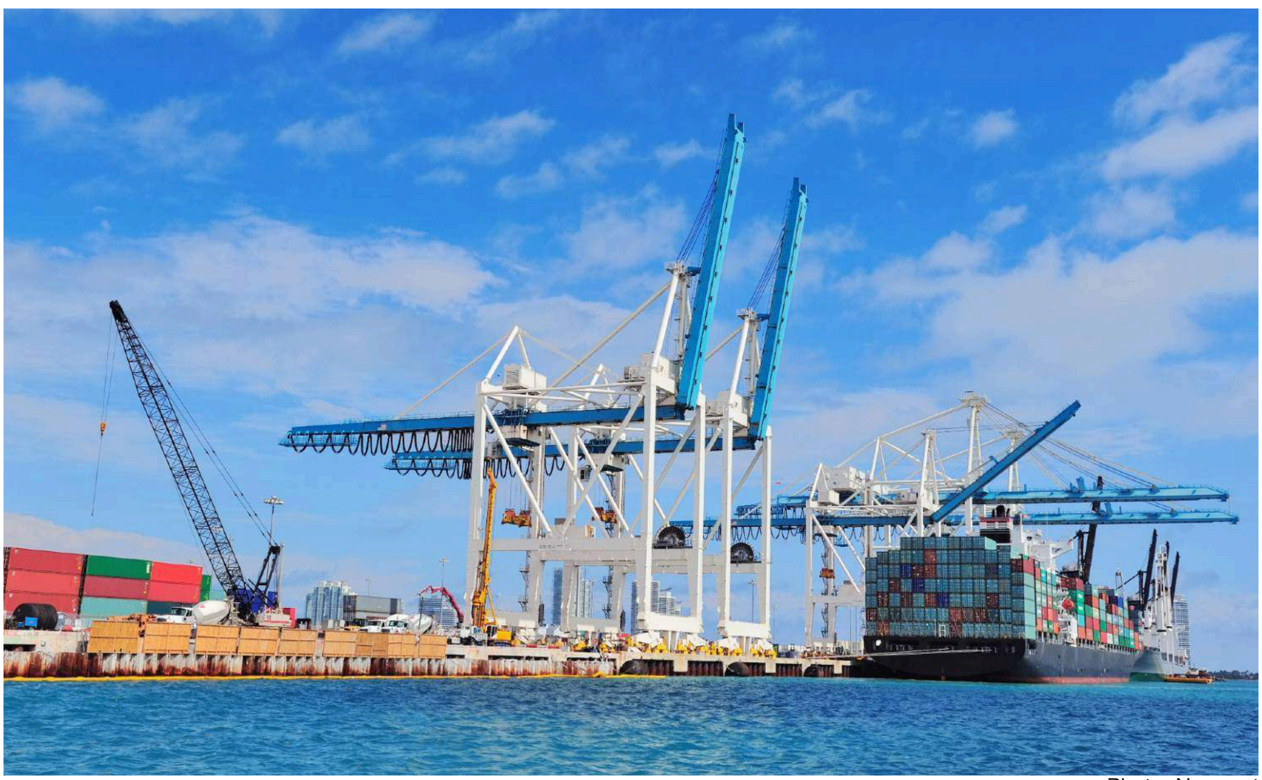


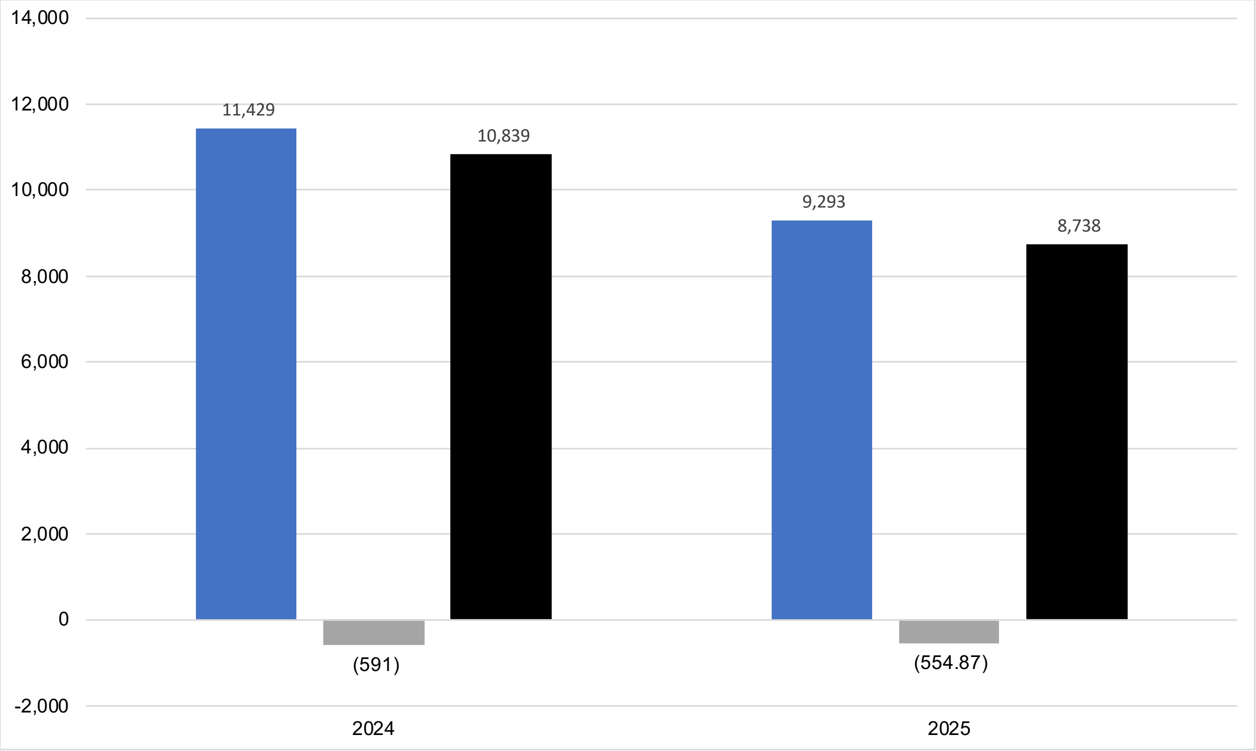
Photo: Namport

5. Balance of Trade

The NSA trade data allows the calculation of Namibia's trade balance in goods with each of the 223 trading partner countries. As shown earlier, Namibia has run a trade deficit in goods with the rest of the world in 2024 and 2025. The charts below show the trade balance for both years with Namibia's four main trading partners: Botswana, China, the EU, and South Africa.

Charts 30-33: Trade Balance with Major Trading Partners in 2024 and 2025 (N$m)

30. Trade Balance with Botswana in 2024 and 2025



31. Trade Balance with China in 2024 and 2025

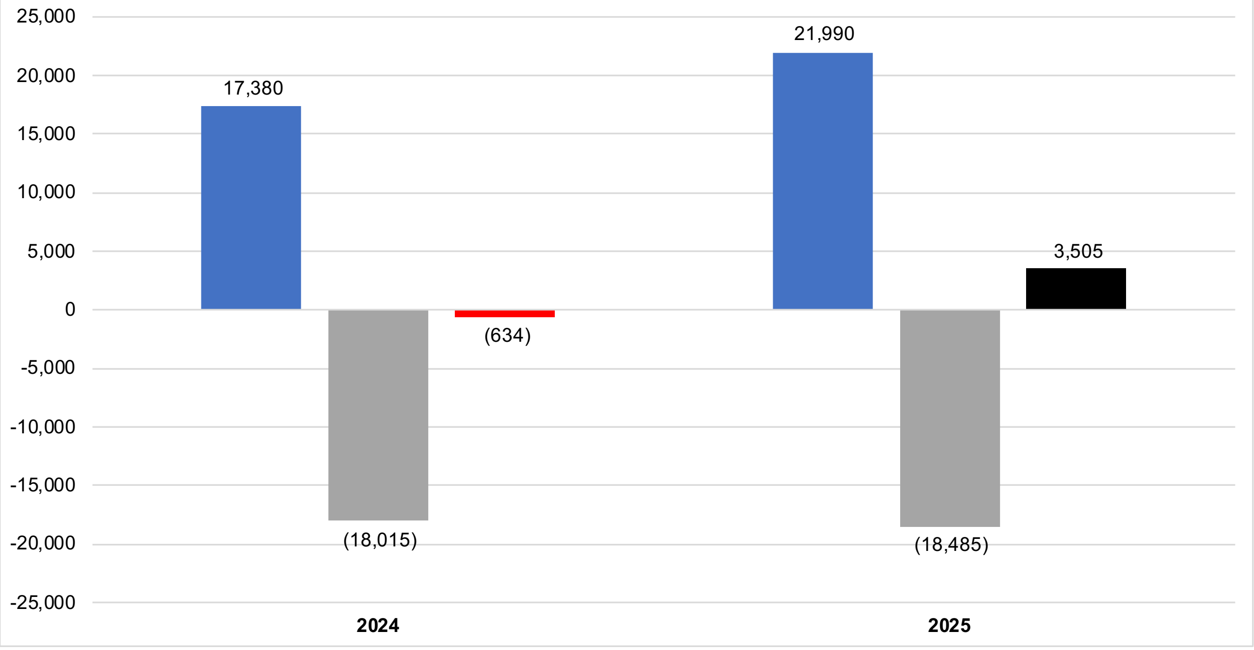
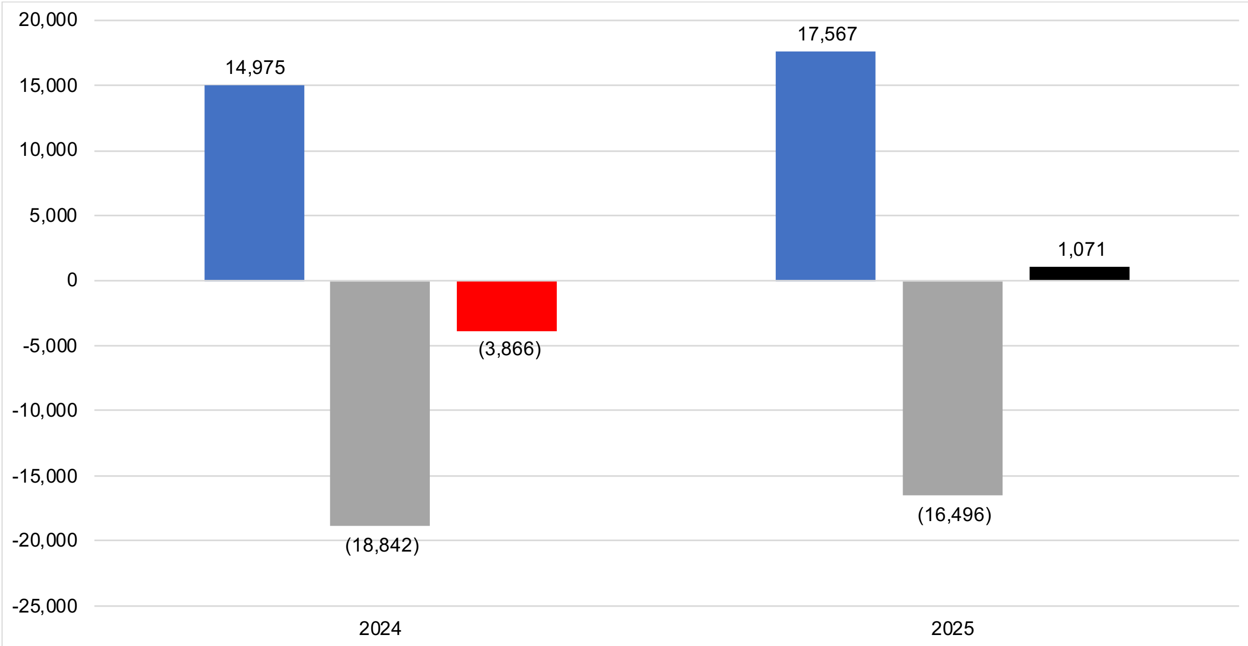
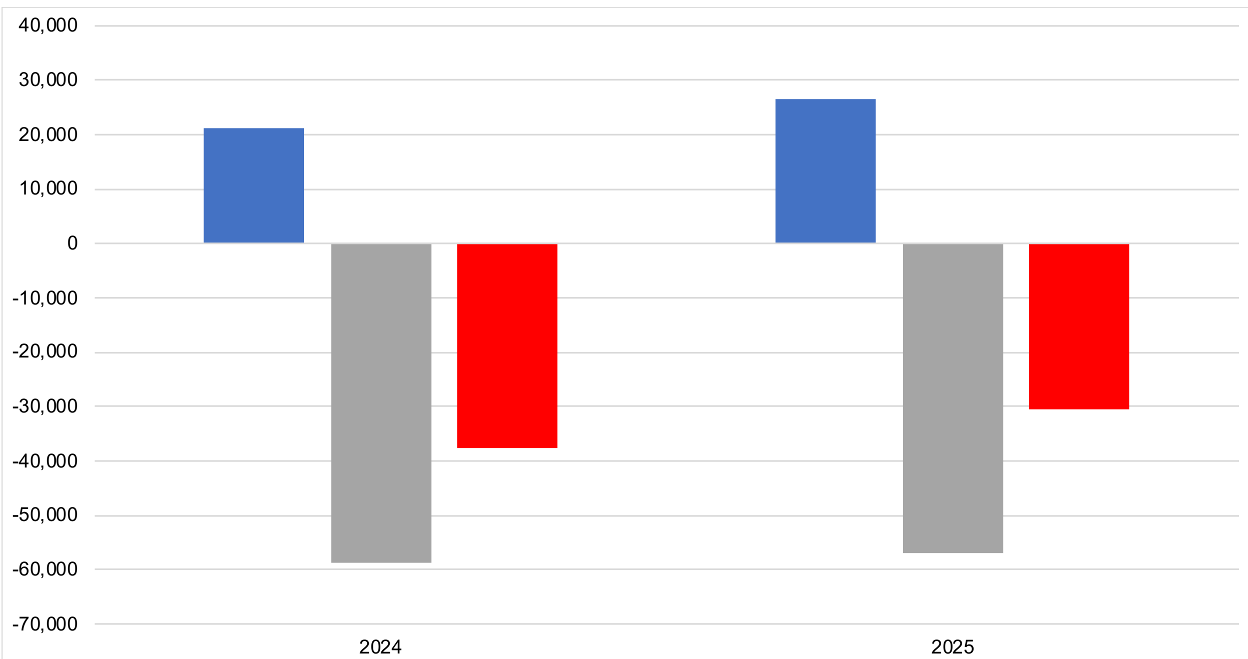


Photo: Namport

32. Trade Balance with EU in 2024 and 2025



33. Trade Balance with South Africa in 2024 and 2025



Namibia ran a significant trade surplus with Botswana because it exports most of its diamonds there and imports relatively few goods. Namibia's trade with China and the EU has been relatively balanced in both years with modest trade deficits in 2024 turning to modest trade surpluses in 2025. Namibia's trade balance with South Africa is highly negative because although South Africa ranked as the top export destination in both years, Namibia imported considerably more.

Trade figures may differ across sources due to methodological differences in reporting, including the treatment of transit trade, re-exports, partner attribution and data revisions. This report uses Namibia Statistics Agency data, while EU data show an EU trade surplus with Namibia in both 2024 and 2025.

6. Employment Generated by Exports to the EU

A full appreciation of the importance of exports to the EU to the Namibian economy requires an analysis of the employment generated by these exports. Unfortunately, the data does not exist to carry out any rigorous analysis. Instead, only very approximate estimates can be made and these are presented in the table below.

Table 4: Estimates of Employment Generated by Exports to the EU

Product Group	Total Employment in Product Group	% of Exports to EU	Employment Generated by Exports to EU
Fish and Crustaceans	8,391-19,440	53.6%	4,498-10,420
Uranium	2,744	15.6%	428
Livestock	12,166	83.4%	10,146
Meat Processing	1,000	83.4%	834
Fruit and Vegetables	35,572	54.3%	19,316
Charcoal	9,500	57.5%	5,463
Diamonds	2,429	3.4%	83
Base Metals	720	10.0%	72
Gold	1,125	0.0%	0
Total	**73,647-84,696**		**40,838-46,761**

Source: Author's Calculations

Employment generated by exports to the EU are calculated by multiplying total employment in each product group by the proportion of the product that is exported to the EU.

Total employment in Namibia's fishing sector is estimated at 8,391 by the Labour Force Report but a variety of other numbers are mentioned including 19,440 by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform while 53.6% of production was exported to the EU in 2025.

Total employment in the three mines that constitute Namibia's uranium mining sector (Husab, Langer Heinrich and Rossing Uranium) is provided by the Chamber of Mines and 15.6% of total output was exported to the EU (France) in 2025.

The livestock sector is assumed to employ a number of people from the 2023 Census proportional to its contribution to agricultural value added and the proportion of livestock directed at exports. The meat processing sector employs approximately 1,000 people at two export abattoirs (Meatco and Beefcor) and 83.4% of meat exports go to the EU. This takes no account of people employed elsewhere in the livestock sector such as farmers and farm workers.

The fruit and vegetable sector (table grapes, high value fruit) is assumed to employ a number of people from the 2023 Census proportional to its contribution to agricultural value added and 54.3% of these products are exported to the EU.

Charcoal is estimated to employ approximately 9,500 people by the Charcoal Association of Namibia (CAoN) on farms and in processing and 57.5% of the sector's output is exported to the EU.

Only 3.4% of the diamonds produced by Namdeb Holdings goes to the EU (Belgium). This estimate excludes employment at the Namibia Diamond Trading Company (NDTC) or NAMDIA.

Only 10% of the base metal concentrates produced by Rosh Pinah and other base metal mines goes to the EU.

These estimates suggest Namibia's exports to the EU may sustain approximately 40,000 direct jobs in Namibia or about half the jobs created by Namibia's main export sectors (excluding services). If a higher number (19,440) is used for employment in the fishing sector this estimate rises to 46,000 people. Without more data and more complex economic modelling, it is impossible to quantify the number of indirect jobs created as a result of export activity to the EU but it is likely to be significant. Clearly, many of the export products directed to the EU are much more labour intensive in production than the export of minerals such as uranium, gold, diamonds and base metals, which are mostly exported to other markets.

Leaders gather at the AU–EU Summit 2025 in Luanda, Angola, reaffirming the enduring partnership between Africa and Europe and a shared commitment to sustainable development, peace, prosperity and investment in a common future.

A high-level European Union (EU) delegation, led by Commissioner for International Partnerships H.E. Jozef Síkela, and accompanied by Mr. Barry Andrews, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Development, along with eight senior Members of the Committee and the Delegation to the Africa-EU Parliamentary Assembly visited several EU-supported projects that boost the sustainable development of Namibia with a specific focus on education and job creation.

7. Conclusions

Namibia is an open trading economy which exports and imports a wide range of goods to and from many countries. However, exports are highly concentrated on four main products – uranium, gold, fish and diamonds – and focussed on four main export markets – Botswana, China, the EU and South Africa. In the past two years, the EU has been the third most important export market in terms of overall value of exports. However, the basket of goods Namibia exports to the EU is more diversified and balanced than to other markets and includes fish, uranium, meat, high-value fruit, charcoal, crustaceans, diamonds, dimension stone, and base metals. Some of these products, such as blueberries and charcoal, are from relatively new industries. Together these exports may support approximately 40,000 direct jobs in Namibia and numerous indirect jobs. Namibia's trade with the EU is reasonably balanced with a trade deficit in 2024 and a trade surplus in 2025.

A Toast to Partnership: EU Ambassador H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins and Hon. Ericah Shafudah, Minister of Finance, raise a toast at the 2026 Europe Day celebrations, honouring the enduring partnership between the European Union and Namibia.

EU Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins meets Namibian President, H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Pioneering Green Industrialisation: HyIron's Oshivela plant in Arandis stands as Namibia's first industrial-scale green iron facility and Africa's first producer of zero-emission direct reduced iron (DRI) using renewable hydrogen. Supported by the European Union, the project is a milestone in Namibia's journey towards sustainable industrialisation and a global green energy future.