

**Namibia imports 82,000
tonnes of maize in 2023**

MAIN STORY



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Namibia has imported 81,769 tonnes of maize since April 2023, significantly exceeding its local production of 64,815 tonnes, according to official figures.

According to the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), the country's harvest from the 2023-2024 season is estimated to cover approximately 42% of Namibia's white maize grain demand.

Crucial Dates

- Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (Ahif).
25-27 June 2024
Mövenpick Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
Windhoek, Namibia from 03 – 05 September 2024

According to the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), the country's harvest from the 2023-2024 season is estimated to cover approximately 42% of Namibia's white maize grain demand.

"About 82,957 tonnes is expected to be harvested from 36,082 hectares planted during the 2023-2024 production season and out of the total, 75% (61,954 tonnes) is expected to be harvested from irrigated production, while 25% (21,003 tonnes) from rain-fed areas," NAB's Manager for Agronomy Market Development Loide Uahengo said.

On average, Uahengo said the annual national demand for white maize is approximately 180,000 tonnes.

"In 2022, 50% of the local demand came from local production. However, based on the latest forecast statistics, 44% of white maize consumed locally was from local production and 56% from imported maize. All the maize imported during 2023-2024 were imported from South Africa," she added.

In terms of wheat, she said from April 2023 to November 2023, the total demand for wheat grain stood at 133,778 tonnes of which 88.4% was imported and only 11.6% was local wheat.

"A total of 18,202 tonnes of wheat was expected to be harvested from 2,750 hectares in four production zones (South, Central, Karstland, and Kavango) during the 2023-2024 marketing season. The marketing season for wheat starts from 1 October to 31 January each year," said Uahengo.

Concerning mahangu, Uahengo said the harvest was heavily affected by persistent droughts. "Only a mere 1,190 tonnes were harvested and marketed in the formal market and 373 tonnes were imported from Angola," she said.

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Dundee processes 188,800 tonnes of complex concentrate in 2023

Dundee Precious Metals says it processed approximately 188,800 tonnes of complex concentrate in 2023, an 8% increase from 174,122

processed in 2022 at the Tsumeb Smelter. The company says the increase is despite the facility facing unexpected hurdles encountering unplanned downtime and

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extended Ausmelt furnace maintenance.

The challenges, notably repairs to the off-gas system, led to processing figures below the annual guidance range as the smelter had aimed at 200,000 to 220,000 tonnes of complex concentrate smelted.

“Despite the challenges faced in 2023, we remain committed to delivering strong results and maintaining our track record of sustainability performance,” said David Rae, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dundee Precious Metals.

Rae further highlighted the successful completion of maintenance activities in the off-gas system during the Ausmelt furnace shutdown contributed to Tsumeb’s improved operating performance.

This comes as the Tsumeb smelter processed 41,800 tonnes of complex concentrate during the fourth quarter of 2022.

“Our mining operations continue to deliver strong results, with Ada Tepe achieving record gold production and Chelopech meeting its annual guidance for gold and copper production,” added Rae.

The company’s sustainability efforts were also recognised, ranking in the 91st percentile among mining and metals companies in the 2023 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment for the third consecutive year.

“In December 2023, we announced the acquisition of Osino Resources, adding the advanced stage Twin Hills project in Namibia to our portfolio and declared a maiden Mineral Resource estimate at our Čoka Rakita project in Serbia,” Rae stated, emphasising the company’s growth pipeline supported by new high-quality gold discoveries.

Rae added that the strategic expansion further positions Dundee Precious Metals as an intermediate gold producer with a promising future.

Meanwhile, the company’s other sites, Ada Tepe produced a record 35,200 ounces of gold during the fourth quarter. The mine achieved a new record for annual gold production, reaching 134,200 ounces in 2023, in line with annual production guidance.

Rae said Chelopech also performed well, producing approximately 41,900 ounces of gold and 8.2 million pounds of copper during the fourth quarter, meeting expectations.

In 2023, Chelopech achieved its annual guidance for gold and copper production, producing approximately 161,900 ounces of gold and 30.5 million pounds of copper.

“In November 2023, DPM announced a mine life extension to 2032, an optimised life of mine plan, and updated Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve estimates for the Chelopech mine,” Rae said.

The updated plan adds approximately 128,000 ounces of recovered gold and 9 million pounds of recovered copper between 2024 and 2032, with increased gold and copper grades and improved recoveries.

This comes as previously announced in November 2023, Dundee will pay a quarterly dividend of US\$0.04 per share on 15 January 2024, to shareholders of record as at 17h00 Toronto local time on 31 December 2023, Rae mentioned.

During the fourth quarter, Dundee repurchased approximately 1,306,192 common shares at an average price of US\$6.21 (Cdn\$8.62) per share, totalling approximately US\$8.1 million.

In 2023, the company repurchased a total of 9,738,063 common shares at an average price of US\$6.74 (Cdn\$9.10) per share, amounting to approximately US\$65.6 million.

- *miningandenergy.com.na*

Govt proposes single importation point to curb soaring import prices

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has proposed the introduction of a single importation point for goods as a means to curb rising import prices.

Minister of Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo said the approach is set to potentially offer relief to sectors heavily impacted by elevated costs, such as transportation and agriculture.

He said a single importation point seeks to centralise the country's import needs, creating a unified channel for all incoming goods. The strategy is aimed at allowing the government to take advantage of bulk purchasing and potentially drive down importation costs.

"One way of doing that is to create perhaps a single importation point where we can aggregate all the import needs for the country and you can then take advantage of the economies of scale," he said.

The Minister also said by joining import activities through a single point, the government aims to streamline the distribution process. Rather than multiple importing companies managing their supply chains, a centralised approach could lead to more efficient and cost-effective operations.

"Instead of each importing company selling to their customers, the importation can be done by a single point and then that means that it might have an effect on the cost and probably lowering the cost," he said

Alweendo, however, emphasised the need for thorough consultations with all stakeholders before implementation can happen, adding that the government



***Minister of Mines and Energy
Tom Alweendo***

aims to ensure that the proposed single importation point is not only sustainable but also receives input from businesses, industry representatives, and the public.

"We believe that [this initiative] will help decrease some of the importation costs that we have encountered so far," Alweendo said.

Namibia imports food products; petroleum products and fuel, machinery and equipment and chemicals.

South Africa is Namibia's major import partner (66% of total imports), followed by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and China.

Year in Review 2023



OUTLOOK 2024

Windhoek accelerates multimillion-dollar road upgrades

The City of Windhoek says it is accelerating multimillion-dollar road upgrades by implementing a Pavement Management System (PMS) in a strategic move aimed at enhancing road infrastructure in the city.

City of Windhoek Communications Manager, Harold Akwenye, shed light on the allocated budget, road distribution, and the criteria for the upcoming year's upgrades.

"For the Reseal Contract, we are currently in the process of implementing a PMS for the City. This system will assist in prioritising streets for resurfacing. Specific roads earmarked for upgrades in the upcoming year will be determined through this system," highlighted Akwenye.

He said the allocated budget for the reseal contract stands at N\$38 million, targeting significant roads such as Hosea Kutako (Mandume to Eneas Peter Nanyemba), Independence Avenue (Ausspannplatz Circle to Etna Street), and Garten Street (Independence to Rev Michael Scott).

Akwenye noted the implementation of the PMS is considered a vital step in streamlining the resurfacing process and ensuring the optimal use of funds.

In addition to the reseal contract, N\$21 million has been allocated for upgrading roads to bitumen standards.

"The selected roads for this phase include



Walvis Bay, Bethanie, and Outapi Streets in Katutura. The project follows a structured approach, guided by a Council Resolution that defines various project phases," he said.

This comes as Phases 1 to 7 have been completed, with phase 8 scheduled to commence this year, pending the provision of funds by the Road Fund Administration.

As the PMS takes centre stage in decision-making, the City anticipates improved road infrastructure, contributing to enhanced connectivity and Windhoek's overall development.



THE

BRIEF

06:40

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MTC partners TASA on tourist connectivity

Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) has partnered with the Tour and Safari Association of Namibia (TASA) to explore strategic collaboration aimed at bringing innovative solutions to the travel and tourism sector.

Through the collaboration, MTC will offer connectivity packages to tourists through the Hosea Kutako International Airport, which includes the leisure package for visitors staying less than 30 days, while the premium package provides up to 30 days of connectivity.

The development, the parties said, comes in the wake of recognising the constant demand for innovation, thus the need to work together and harness their resources for an improved user experience and sustainable tourism growth.

MTC's Acting Chief Commercial Officer, Elton Katangolo, emphasised the importance of the tourism sector to Namibia's economy while expressing the telecommunication company's commitment to incubate and implement digital service transformation.

"These service offerings are specifically tailored to cost-effectively enhance tourists' experience with efficiency and flexibility and to exude an essential travel companion for

seamless communication on the journey. As you explore Namibia, we invite you to feel at home with MTC Leisure and MTC Premium. Whether you're exploring the vibrant cities, scenic landscapes, or cultural wonders of Namibia, this bundle ensures you stay connected, entertained, and informed throughout your journey," said Katangolo.

"The smart partnership is engraved in our make-up, and it excites me to essentially interrogate the opportunity to marry efforts between MTC and TASA, with the intent to design and offer digital and innovative solutions aimed at providing convenience for our consumers (tourists) who find themselves travelling to Namibia. We are, therefore, pleased with our engagement with TASA, and we are confident that together we will provide the desired value."

TASA representative, Mureal van Rooyen, expressed excitement saying the smart partnership will enhance the benefits of the tourism industry.

"Amongst others, we are also excited with our maiden engagement with MTC as we look at the dynamics and viable avenues of creating and improving value for our members," added van Rooyen.

2024 tech trends to lookout for in Namibia

By Kehad Snyderwel

It's become somewhat of a tradition at the beginning of each year to make predictions as to what the tech trends will be that year.

The global trends we will see in 2024 are the stuff of sci-fi movies, but is this the case for Namibia?

With ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence (AI) dominating the media and people's imagination, it would seem logical that that trend will continue. It certainly will; however, in Namibia's case, we cannot run before we can walk. Or we cannot surf before we can connect. While the rest of the world may be embracing AI, augmented reality, and quantum computing, in Namibia and across Africa, every citizen first needs to be able to access the Internet. Accessibility is vital.

The beauty of technology is that innovation, its application, and the leveraging of it can happen anywhere in the world. Our Honourable President Geingob, called 2024 the Year of Expectation. One of my expectations is that we will deliver Internet connectivity to our people, it is the path to real development.



A trend that we hope will continue to develop is to work with partners and the government to reduce the lack of funding, lack of skills, and sometimes the need for more desire from businesses and even the people to engage in IT development. If we address these issues, we can leapfrog and close the 'digital divide' with the rest of the world and truly embrace the tech trends



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1. Bidders are invited to submit bids for the following Goods:

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE: G/RFO/AGRI-18/2023-2024
PROJECT NAME: Supply and Delivery of ICT Equipment
CLOSING TIME & DATE: Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 11H00 AM
PAYABLE FEE: Free Download
TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES: Mr. J. Kazondovi Email: jkazondovi@agribank.com.na, Tel: +264 61 207 4302

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE: G/ONB/AGRI-04/2023-2024
PROJECT NAME: Provision, Implementation & Maintenance of an Access Control System & CCTV at Agribank Head Office & Branches
CLOSING TIME & DATE: Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 11H00 AM
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2. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding document as per the address given below.
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4. A complete set of Bidding Document in English may be purchased or downloaded as instructed above and in the bid document.
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that benefit other countries. Public private partnerships are key.

There's a lot of blue-sky thinking and almost 'science-fiction' ideas about where technology is taking us. We, however, must be realistic; we won't have robots serving our food, looking after our children, or taking our burger orders just yet in Namibia.

As a business and a country, we look at which developments, innovations and technological implementations are realistic. Each time, it comes back to the fundamentals. Before we can truly embrace innovation and the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions, the Metaverse or Artificial Intelligence, some fundamentals must be in place.

Cyber-security is imperative, and our networks, databases, online presence, and activities need to be secured. Cybercrime is a massive and global problem that results in identity theft, locking people, businesses, and organisations out of their IT systems, and it can bring an organisation or a country to its knees. Namibia is especially vulnerable as we believe it won't happen to us. As our 'renewable' energy and oil sector develops in Namibia, we need to be able to vouch for our networks and demonstrate and prove that we take cyber-security very seriously.

If Namibians believe our networks are safe and stable, they will innovative and develop new applications. We can explore and develop automation, digitalization and streamlining of records, databases, and processes within corporations, as well as in government and municipalities. Cloud storage is the next logical trend that should be embraced at every level so that organisations can access information anywhere in Namibia. This is the best way to improve service delivery in banking, retail, insurance, and healthcare and unlock education at all levels.

If Namibia gets Internet connectivity throughout this vast, beautiful country and brings down the costs of being online, we can make it accessible to all. This accessibility will create new businesses and create a tech-savvy generation. So, before we worry about the robots taking over, or ChatGPT and other AI-technology taking our jobs, we must embrace technology and understand it.

The possibilities and opportunities that are within arm's reach are endless. In 2024, the tech trend I want to see for Namibia is for it to improve its digital development and innovation and embrace and implement technology. We must stimulate, encourage, and invest in this development in 2024 and beyond, collaborating on this goal with government and partners at all levels.

****Kehad Snyderel is Managing Director of Green Enterprise Solutions***

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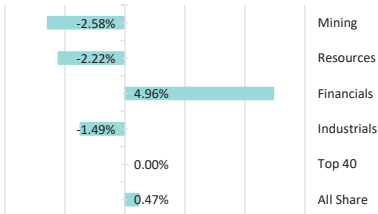
Commodities

Spot Gold	2033.90
Platinum	938.30
Palladium	987.08
Silver	23.06
Uranium	91.00
Brent Crude	77.08
Iron Ore	133.64
Copper	8351.74
Natural Gas	3.09
Lithium	14.35

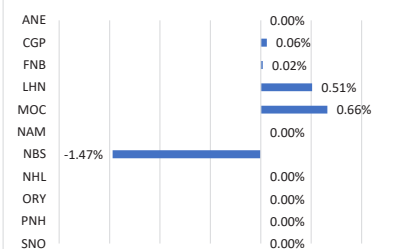
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.6100
EUR/ZAR	20.3500
GBP/ZAR	23.6600
CNY/ZAR	2.5900
EUR/USD	1.0940
GBP/USD	1.2716
USD/RUB	89.3500
CPI	5.73%
Repo Rate	7.75%
Prime Rate	11.50%

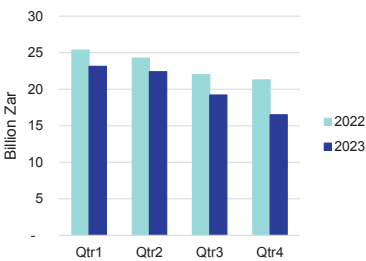
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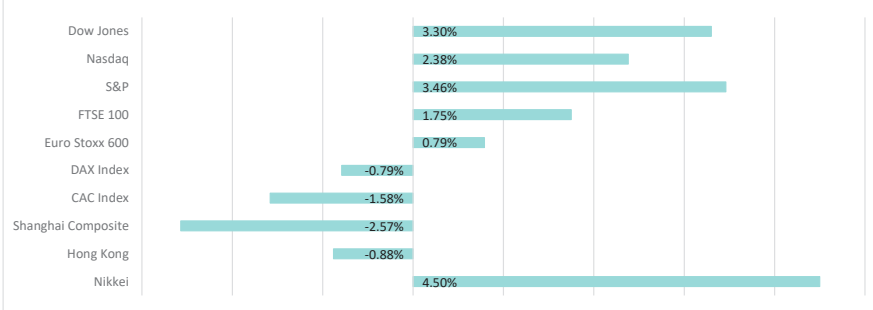
NSX Local Stocks: 1 Month performance %



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*Prices as at 15:16, 09-Jan-2024