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BR/EF

New Worth Knowing

Namibia exports N\$1.7 billion horticulture produce

...N\$118.1m onions and N\$117.8m tomatoes exported



MAIN STORY



Namibia exports N\$1.7 billion horticulture produce

...N\$118.1m onions and N\$117.8m tomatoes exported

amibia's horticultural produce exports increased 26% to N\$1.73 billion from April to September when compared to N\$1.37 billion sold in the 2022-2023 period, latest statistics reveal.

According to the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) statistics, the export tonnage increased from 73,140 in 2022-2023 to 111,748 in 2023-2024, representing a growth of 52%.

According to NAB spokesperson Auguste Fabian, onion and tomatoes topped the list of exports accounting for 30% each, generating revenue of N\$118.1 million and N\$117.76 million, respectively.

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
 - 14 February 2024
 - 17 April 2024
 - 19 June 2024
 - 14 August 2024
 - 23 October 2024
 - 4 December 2024
- 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

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Fresh and dried dates contributed 19% with a value of N\$72.84 million, followed by butternuts (7%) generating an income of N\$25.68 million.

Further contributing to the export basket was colour pepper (5%) with an export value of N\$19.87 million.

"The growth in trade value can be attributed not exclusively to increased consumption, but also an increase in prices driven by prevailing market dynamics," said Fabian.

In addition, Fabian said exports outweighed import value, with only products worth N\$278.13 million imported in 2023-2024 period, although an increase from N\$222.75 million was recorded in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Meanwhile, local consumption accounted for N\$202.25 million in 2023/2024, an upsurge from N\$163.88 million in 2022/2023.

"Potatoes and fruits take up the largest portion of our import basket, although we are still compiling the rest of the data," she said.

"Overall, the industry performance picked up as a result of enhanced local production. Thus in 2024, we anticipate a further increase in production, driven by ongoing projects such as the cultivation of blueberries in Divundu, Kavango East region, as well as Kombsberg in the South. This will further be increased by the



expansion of the soft citrus production."

In addition, Fabian said there is a projected increase in potato production due to interventions by NAB and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, aimed at facilitating farmers' access to quality seeds.





sino Gold Exploration and Mining (Osino) has proposed the construction of a Surface Water and Sand Storage Dam on the Khan River in a bid to secure water supply for its Twin Hills Gold Project.

The dam project aims to address water scarcity concerns in the Central Areas Network of Namibia where the Twin Hills Gold Project is located.

SLR Environmental Consulting (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd, appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), is overseeing the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed Surface Water and Sand Storage Dam.

Osino has submitted an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) application to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, signalling a pivotal step in the regulatory process.

The Twin Hills Gold Project, situated 25km northeast of Karibib within the Erongo Region, is anticipated to operate for a 13-year life-of-mine with a projected design processing capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum. According to the Draft Scoping Report to sustain operations, the estimated water demand stands at 1.1 million cubic meters per annum (m³/a).

While groundwater from the Karibib

Marble Aquifer currently serves as the primary water source, Osino is exploring alternative options to enhance water security.

"The proposed Surface Water and Sand Storage Dam on the Khan River presents a promising solution. With the potential to store 1.32 million cubic meters of water annually from runoff and flood transmission losses, the dam offers a vital reservoir for sustaining mining operations," said the report.

Moreover, the assessment highlights that the coupled system of surface and groundwater storage maximises supply potential, providing a higher total storage capacity on the Khan River.

"Hydrogeological modelling indicates that the proposed dam could store 785,953 cubic meters of surface water annually, supplementing the groundwater storage capacity. Additionally, the feasibility of Managed Aquifer Recharge to the marble aquifer adjacent to the Surface Water and Sand Storage Dam is under consideration," the DSR noted.

The report said that the approach aims to enhance the sustainable utilisation of local groundwater sources by injecting abstracted surface water into the aquifer.

Dundee Precious Metals Inc. is in the process of acquiring Osino Resources Corp.

Choppies January's cheapest supermarket

hoppies emerged as the supermarket with the most affordable basket of standardised groceries for the month of January.

This is according to The Brief's monthly grocery basket comparison conducted every month since May 2023. The survey aims to provide consumers with valuable insights into the price of a basket of 20 standardised grocery products across eight supermarkets.

Our grocery basket comprises:

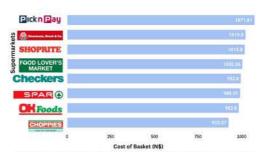
- · Loaf of bread
- 2-litre Nola Sunflower Oil
- 5kg Top Score maize meal
- 2.5kg Marathon sugar (white sugar)
- 1.5kg Real Good Chicken
- 1kg Beef stew
- · 2kg Mamas rice
- 3kg Pasta Polana Macaroni
- 1-litre Nammilk full cream milk
- 9 Twinsaver toilet paper (350 sheets)
- 700ml Wellington tomato sauce
- 1kg Sunlight Washing powder
- 750ml Sunlight dishwashing liquid
- 500g Rama Butter
- 18 Waldschmidt eggs (medium)
- 150g Protex bar soap
- 100ml Colgate toothpaste
- 1kg Onions
- 1kg Potatoes
- 1kg Tomatoes

Choppies maintains its commitment to offering a cost-effective basket, securing its position as the most affordable supermarket in Windhoek for the month of December 2023.

The advantage is evident in items like Beef Stew per kilogramme and the combined vegetables (Onions, Tomatoes, and Potatoes) per kilogramme.



Supermarket Comparison for January 2024



Grocery Basket Composition: Loaf of Bread, 2-litre Nola sunflower oil, 5kg Top score maize meal, 2.5kg Marathon sugar (white sugar), 1.5kg Real Good Chicken, 1kg Beef stew, 2kg Mamas rice, 3kg Pasta Polana Moacront, 1-litre Nammilk full cream milk; 9 Twinsaver tolet paper (350 sheets), 700ml Veilington tomato sauce, 2kg Sunlight Washing powder, 750ml Sunlight Dishwashing kquid, 500g Rama butter, 18 Waldschmidt eggs (medium), 150g Protex bis rosp, 100ml Toothpaste Colgate, 1kg Onions, 1kg Potatoes, 1kg Tomatoes.

In January 2024, Choppies retained its status as the cheapest supermarket, with a basket costing N\$923.07. Despite its affordability, there was a slight increase of 0.61%.

Notable contributors to this increase were the following items: Bread rising from N\$13.99 to N\$14.49, Tomato per kilogramme increasing from N\$29.99 to N\$34.95, and Onions per kilogramme increasing from N\$9.95 to N\$12.95.

On the other hand, Pick 'n Pay experienced a significant increase of 13.93%, resulting in a higher-priced basket at N\$1,071.81. This increase was notable in items like Cooking oil (Nola), which rose from N\$72.99 to N\$122.00, Beef Stew increasing from N\$84.99 to N\$102.99, and Macaroni Pasta rising from N\$78.99 to N\$89.99.

Other supermarkets such as Food Lover's Market, Shoprite, Woermann Brock, OK Foods, Spar, and Checkers had basket costs of N\$1,002.36, N\$1,015.8, N\$1,019.8, N\$982.8, N\$988.31, and N\$992.8, respectively.

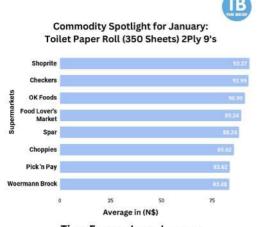
The supermarket landscape continues to demonstrate fluctuating prices month-on-month.

Note: We do not take specials or loyalty card discounts into consideration. When we find certain goods on special, for example, "Get N\$10.00 off when buying 18 (medium) eggs and pay N\$55.00", we will log the price as N\$65.00 to exclude the special.

January's 2024 alternatives

Food Lover's Market 2kg Nice Rice, 1.5kg chicken (an average was calculated because they do not stock 1.5kg of chicken), 9s toilet paper (Baby soft)

- Spar 2L oil (Spar brand), Nice Rice,
- · OK Foods: Nice Rice
- Pick 'n Pay: Nice Rice
- Choppies 2kg rice (Nice Rice), Store Brand Cooking Oil



Time Frame: June-January

Commodity Spotlight: Toilet Roll (Twinsaver) 350 Sheets

Each month, The Brief conducts a a high level of subsurvey of 20 standardised items in eight Market primarily supermarkets in Windhoek. The Brief will brand, while the onow spotlight a commodity from the basket Twin Saver brand.

of items to assess the price movement and average on the data collected over the months. The commodity to be chosen will be done randomly.

For January 2024, the Toilet Paper Roll (Twinsaver) 350 9s sheets item is chosen.

For the Toilet Paper Roll 350 sheets product, Woermann Brock and Pick 'n Pay emerged as the most cost-effective options, with average prices for the Twinsaver brand at N\$83.48 and N\$83.62, respectively.

The pricing trend at Woermann Brock for Toilet Paper Roll indicated an increase. Starting at N\$74.99 in June 2023, the price rose to N\$77.99 in July 2023 and experienced a significant hike in August 2023, reaching N\$90.99. There was a decrease to N\$76.99 in December 2023, followed by a slight increase in January 2024 to N\$86.99.

Shoprite positioned itself on the higher end of the price spectrum, with an average cost of N\$93.4 during the survey period. The initial price was relatively high at N\$98.99 in June 2023 and July 2023, gradually declining to N\$89.99 from August 2023 to December 2023, and then rising again to N\$98.99 in January 2024.

Choppies, Spar, and Food Lover's Market provided economical more alternatives, with prices of average N\$85.62, N\$88.24, and N\$89.37, respectively. In contrast, Checkers and OK Foods were positioned on the higher side of the price spectrum for Toilet Paper Roll, with prices at N\$92.99 and N\$90.99.

It's worth noting that the Toilet Paper Roll market in Windhoek demonstrates a high level of substitution. Food Lover's Market primarily offers the Baby Soft brand, while the other stores feature the Twin Sayer brand.



SASSCAL implements N\$60m in projects to tackle climate change in Namibia

he Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) is currently implementing nine projects in Namibia, valued at nearly N\$60 million in a bid to address climate change.

According to the SASSCAL Programme

Coordinator in Namibia, Panduleni Hamukwaya, the projects are specifically designed to empower communities, enhance food security, and address water challenges.

"We have about nine (projects), at the tune of almost N\$60 million that are



VACANCIES

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CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, 08 FEBRUARY 2024, 16H00 PM

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being implemented here in Namibia. To us, that is very significant, and they are looking at different areas," Hamukwaya said.

Emphasising the projects' community-focused approach, he added "these are specific projects that aim to allow our communities to adapt to the issue of climate change".

Among the highlighted projects is Enhanced Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management under Accelerated Climate Change (ELNAC), which aims to address human-wildlife conflict in the Zambezi region.

"When you're looking at those regions, that's where the challenges of human-wildlife conflicts are happening, impacting not only the crop production on those people but also mechanisms that are required to address that is being addressed by this project," Hamukwaya explained.

The FoSRecS project, according to Hamukwaya, is aimed at enhancing food security through the integration of climate-resilient crops in maize-based farming systems among small-scale farmers in Zambia and Namibia.

He underlined the project's significance by noting its engagement with small-scale farmers, stating: "It's focused and engaged with small-scale farmers on the ground as we speak."

Another noteworthy project, Sustain, is focused on food security and sustainable woodland use in drought-prone communal areas.

Hamukwaya specified the project's focus areas, stating "this one is looking at the food security but also looking at how we utilise the woodland for drought-prone communal areas, like in the Kunene areas and other areas that are prone to drought."

Addressing the impact of bush encroachment on livestock and crop production, the RIBS project is set to improve land utilisation through bush thinning.

Hamukwaya detailed the project's objectives, stating "we are trying to assess the impact of bush thinning. Bush encroachment is some areas of a very serious nature when it comes not only to livestock but also to crop production."

SASSCAL is also actively involved in water-related projects, with the WIRE project focusing on water storage in the Angola-Namibia Cuvelai system.

"This one is really looking at how best we can capitalise on the floods that are happening in the northern region and how we can install those water storages for not only addressing the challenges of water but also for crop production or horticulture," Hamukwaya explained.







2024









Bank of Namibia appoints new board members

The Bank of Namibia has appointed Meshack Tjirongo, Eliaser Nekwaya, and Peter Kruger as new non-executive members of the Bank's Board of Directors, with Ehrenfried Meroro re-appointed as a non-executive board member.

The appointments, announced on Tuesday, according to apex bank, are in line with Section 9 of the Bank of Namibia Act (2020) and will take effect from 1 February 2024.

The three replace Chris Baisako, Tuyakula Haipinge, and Charmaine van der Westhuizen on the central bank board.

Peter Kruger currently serves as the Manager of Information Systems and Technology at a Namibian Uranium Mine, bringing more than 26 years of expertise in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, IT security, operational leadership, financial management, and corporate governance.

Eliaser Nekwaya, a legal professional

and member of the Society of Advocates of Namibia, brings a wealth of experience in corporate governance and risk management.

Meshack Tjirongo, a former employee of the central bank and the International Monetary Fund, brings over 30 years of experience actively involved in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies, having provided counsel on economic and development policy matters across various countries in Africa, North America, and Europe.

"As the Bank steps into the conclusive year of its strategic plan, we are pleased to welcome the new Board members who will play a crucial role in providing the necessary oversight as we discharge our mandate. We have no doubt that the Board members will contribute significantly towards the execution of our current and future strategic endeavors," BoN Board Chairperson and Governor, Johannes !Gawaxab, said.

Windhoek Cash and Carry is January's Cheapest Wholesaler

In January 2024, Windhoek Cash and Carry stood out as the most budget-friendly option among the three wholesalers in the capital.

Basket composition:

- 5-litre Cooking Oil
- 10kg Top Score maize meal
- 10kg Marathon sugar (white sugar)
- 4 kg Chicken
- 10kg Tastic rice
- 5kg Pasta Polana Macaroni
- 10kg Baking Flour
- 1-litre 6's Nammilk full cream

In January 2024, Windhoek Cash and Carry demonstrated its commitment to cost-effectiveness, as the overall basket cost decreased from N\$1,281.55 to N\$1,270.52, reflecting a notable 0.86% reduction. This decrease was primarily attributed to the substantial price drop of the Pasta Polana Macaroni from N\$145.99 to N\$141.95.

Contrastingly, Metro experienced a higher overall basket cost, increasing from N\$1,346.92 to N\$1,312.83, but with a significant 2.53% decrease. This reduction was primarily influenced by the price adjustments of specific items, such as Maize meal Top Score, decreasing from N\$109.99 to N\$104.99, and Rice (Mamas Parboiled), and dropping from N\$212.99 to N\$182.99.

Wecke & Voigts observed a modest 0.72% increase in the basket cost, now priced at N\$1,300.3 in January 2024 from N\$1,291.00 in December 2023.

Commodity Spotlight: 10kg Marathon Sugar (White)

Concentrating on the highlighted commodity, the 10kg Marathon Sugar



(white), with an average price across the wholesalers costing N\$176.24

Metro leads with a cost effective price of the Marathon Sugar averaging at N\$171.24 over the 8-month survey period. The price trajectory for Marathon Sugar for Metro started at N\$165.99 in June 2023, increased to N\$184.99 in August 2023, decreased to N\$168.99 in subsequent months, and experienced a slight increase to N\$172.99 in January 2024.

Wecke & Voigts, on the other hand, had a higher average price of N\$184.75 for the Marathon Sugar (White) 10kg during the survey period. The price began at a high N\$190.4 and remained steady until September 2023. In October 2023, there was a significant drop to N\$178.4, and the price stabilised at N\$181.2 in January 2024.

Windhoek Cash and Carry maintained a competitive average of N\$172.74 for the Marathon Sugar (white) 10kg during the survey period.

NB: These comparisons do not consider special offers or discounts related to loyalty cards.



amibia has maintained its ranking of 59 and a score of 49 in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories around the globe by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

According to the report, the Seychelles remains the least corrupt country in Africa with a score of 71, while Denmark also maintained its position as the least corrupt in the world with a score of 90 out of 180.

On the other hand, the CPI also shows that corruption is thriving worldwide. The report states that more than two-thirds of countries have a score lower than 50 out of 100, indicating significant corruption issues.

In Africa, there have been mixed results. While some countries show significant improvement, others experienced stagnation, maintaining the region's poor performance with an unaltered regional score of 33 out of 100. Ninety percent of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa scored under 50.

"Despite improvement in some countries, Sub-Saharan Africa maintains the lowest average at 33, with the lowest-ranked country being Somalia with a ranking of 11 with no improvement. This can be attributed to the fact that democracy and the rule of law are under pressure," the report reads.

The global average remains low at just 43, and most countries haven't improved or have even gotten worse over the past ten years. Additionally, 23 countries hit their lowest corruption scores this year.

"The global trend of weakening justice systems is reducing accountability for public officials, allowing corruption to thrive," it reads.



MVA Fund receives N\$1.3m ambulance for Divundu emergency response

The Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund has bolstered its emergency . medical response fleet with a brandnew vehicle worth N\$1.3 million.

The vehicle will be stationed at the newly established emergency response base at Divundu which provides 24-hour

operations responding to emergency calls between the Kavango East and Zambezi regions.

"We are here to commission this beautiful ambulance, it's dedicated to Divundu. So the reason why we thought that we should put an ambulance up there is because of







the vast distance that is covered between Kavango East region and Zambezi region, specifically Rundu and Katima Mulilo," MVA Chief Executive Officer Rosalia Martins-Hausiku said.

She further explained that the Divundu base has been operational for the past 12 months and came about as a response to statistics that show that Zambezi has a high accident mortality rate, despite a low number of crashes, because of the long distance to be covered and lack of an ambulance to promptly transport accident victims to

nearby hospitals.

"The difference between the response vehicle and the ambulance is that the response vehicle allows the medics to get on the scene on time however they cannot transport patients, they rely on the Ministry of Health and Social Services to come with a vehicle to pick up the patients, now with this ambulance, it allows them to treat patients and transport them to the necessary facilities," she explained.

Martins-Hausiku also said the ambulance was in part sponsored by the Road Fund Administration (RFA) who made a N\$500,000 contribution towards the commissioning and the conversion of the vehicle.

Speaking at the handover, RFA CEO Ali Ipinge said the contribution will go a long way in helping the people specifically in that area of Divundu.

"So, we are excited to have partnered with MVA Fund in this regard and we look forward to ensuring that this asset, this ambulance that we are commissioning today, is put to good use," Ipinge said.







The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is looking for suitably qualified and experienced Namibian citizens to fill the following positions:

- Manager: Marketing and Corporate Communications
- Manager: Namibia Convention Bureau
- Senior Consultant: Investment Analysis
- Brand Namibia Coordinator

Interested candidates are invited to visit https://nipdb.com/vacancies/ for the requirements and guidelines of how to apply. All foreign qualifications must be evaluated by the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA).

The NIPDB is an equal opportunity employer and complies with the Affirmative Action Legislation. In line with the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No. 29 of 1998, suitably qualified persons with disabilities who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply.

Remuneration:

The NIPDB offers market related remuneration packages commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The NIPDB reserves the right to use additional/relevant inforshortlisting applicants who do not receive any response within three weeks after the closing date should accept that their applications were not considered favourable. Applicants must be Namibian citizens. The NIPDB regrets it cannot return

Closing Date: 08 February 2024 @ 16:00

Enquiries: recruitment@nipdb.com

Investment House, C/O Garten & Dr. A. B. May Streets







ABOUT NIPDE

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board ["NIPDB"] is a non-profit association incorporated under section 2 of the Companies Act, Act No. 28 of 2004 ("the Companies Act,"). The Board was established as an autonomous entity in the office of the Presidency and is declared a Public Interprise in accordance with section 2 of the Public Enterprise Covernance Act, Act No 1 of 20%. The NIPDB is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSM activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to

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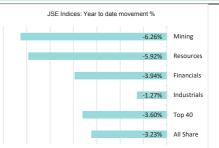
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*Prices as at 16:15, 30-Jan-2024

