

ECONOMY

GDP (2021) US\$12.3 billion	GDP per capita (2021) US\$4,826	Exports (2020) US\$6.2 billion	Imports (2020) US\$6.6 billion
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RATE

US\$1=N\$18.1956 (20 April 2023, Bank of Namibia)

Trade Agreements

- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
- Namibia-Zimbabwe Preferential Trade Agreement
- Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
- Southern African Customs Union (SACU) - European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Mozambique-United Kingdom (UK) Economic Partnership Agreement
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) - European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Investment Climate

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is the first point of contact for potential investors and provides comprehensive services from the initial consulting stage to the operational stage. The NIPDB also provides general information and advice on investment opportunities, incentives and procedures.

The task of the NIPDB is to help investors reduce red tape by liaising with Government departments and regulatory agencies, including obtaining work visas for foreign investors. The Government of Namibia, therefore, welcomes and encourages foreign investment to help develop the national economy for the benefit of the people.

Rankings

- 2nd in Africa, World Press Freedom Index - Reporters Without Borders (2022)
- 1st in Africa for the past five years, Quality and Connectivity of Road Infrastructure, Global Competitiveness Report - World Economic Forum (2019)
- 2nd in Africa, (8th Globally), global gap report (2022) - World Economic Forum (2021)
- 5th in Africa, Corruption Perception Index – Transparency International (2022)
- 8th in Africa, Good Governance – Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2021)
- Top 10 in Africa, Investment Attractiveness Index, Annual Survey of Mining Companies - Fraser Institute (2021)

Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies Ranking, 2021

Category	Africa	World
Policy Perception	2	29
Political Stability	1	20
Security Indices	1	30
Geographical Database	1	22

Policy Environment

Namibia's foreign investment policy is governed by the Foreign Investment Act (No. 27 of 1990 - FIA). The aim of the Act is to address and stimulate foreign investment in Namibia. The Namibia Investment Promotion Act (NIPA) is currently under review and will replace the FIA.

Top 3 Export Markets

- China
- South Africa
- Eurozone

Top 3 Exports

Precious metals
including diamonds & gold
Uranium
Fish

Top 3 Import Markets

- South Africa
- Zambia
- China

Top 3 Imports

Metals
Mineral fuels and products
Machinery & mechanical
appliances, Nuclear reactors

Diversification Strategy

Since 2016, Namibia has been hit by a series of negative events, including a commodity price downturn, an extended sub-continental drought and, like the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic. The combination of these negative trends has amplified the cyclical nature of Namibia's economy.

As part of a high-level intervention to reduce the impact of these events, the Government of Namibia engaged the Harvard Kennedy School's Growth Lab in 2019 with the aim of creating a roadmap to more sustainable economic development and growth. A joint team of representatives from the Bank of Namibia (the country's central bank), Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, and Harvard Growth Lab has been shepherding the process alongside other Namibian stakeholders.

The work Namibia has been doing with Harvard Growth Lab predominantly focuses on:

- Diagnosing structural deficiencies in the economy
- Assessing and understanding the country's economic complexity shortcomings
- Identifying particular strategies which could address the lack of economic depth

One of the major objectives that emerged from this research and analysis was the development of the Country Economic Diversification Strategy to address core issues impacting Namibia's economy. The strategy is expected to:

- Reduce exposure to commodity price fluctuations and cycles
- Develop new sectors and products in the economy
- Focus on services and the economic value they create
- Increase economic complexity by facilitating the conversion of primary products from the commodities sector into secondary products
- Create new sectors and industries that will support the country's energy transition ambitions, making Namibia a continental leader in the Green Economy

Economic diversification efforts will be based on several sectors and prioritisation that leverages existing productive capabilities, and that may enable transitions towards more sophisticated economic activities.

DIVERSIFICATION SECTORS

RENEWABLE ENERGY	FOOD INDUSTRY	CHEMICALS & BASIC MATERIAL	TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS	SERVICES (DIGITAL & GLOBAL BUSINESS)
TOURISM	MACHINERY & ELECTRONICS	FINTECH	EXPLORATION (MINING, OIL & GAS)	METALS, MINNG & ADJACENT INDUSTRIES