1. Namibian Economy

- The Namibian economy is heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals such as diamonds, copper, uranium, lead and zinc for export.
- Mining accounts for 8% of GDP, but provides more than 50% of foreign exchange earnings.
- Namibia is the world's fourth-largest producer of uranium.
- It is also a small producer of gold
- The mining sector employs only about 3% of the population. Namibia normally imports about 50% of its cereal requirements; in drought years food shortages are a major problem in rural areas.
- A high per capita GDP, relative to the region, hides one of the world's most unequal income distributions, as shown by Namibia's 70.7 GINI coefficients.
- The Namibian economy is closely linked to South Africa with the Namibian dollar pegged one-to-one to the South African rand.
- Until 2010, Namibia drew 40% of its budget revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).
- Increased payments from SACU put Namibia's budget into surplus in 2007 for the first time since independence.
- SACU allotments to Namibia increased in 2009, but dropped in 2010 and 2011 because of the global recession, reducing Namibia's overall SACU income.
- Increased fish production and mining of zinc, copper, and uranium spurred growth in 2003-08, but growth in recent years was undercut by poor fish catches, a dramatic decline in demand for diamonds, higher costs of producing metals, and the global recession.
2. Sectors of the Economy

a) Primary Sector
- Mining
- Agriculture
- Fishing

b) Secondary Sector
- Manufacturing,
- Construction,
- Electricity and water

c) Tertiary Sector
- Wholesale
- Retail trade
- Hotels and restaurants
- Transport and communication
- Real estate and business services

3. Namibia’s Trade Profile
- In 2008 mining accounted for 35% of total exports revenue, agriculture and food processing accounted for 24% and manufacturing 39%.
- Mining employ only about 2% of the workforce.
- Agriculture has a smaller contribution to external trade but employs around 30% of the workforce and is the source of income for the majority of our population
The relevance of trade policy for economic growth and development is recognized in the strategic planning of the Government - thus NDP4 (2012-2017) sees Namibia’s further trade integration in regional and international markets as central factor for economic development and poverty alleviation.

Namibia’s Industrial Policy (2011) addresses the need to facilitate Namibia’s participation in international and intra-regional trade as crucial to meet the country’s policy objectives as outlined in the Vision 2030.

4. Namibia’s membership

- Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) until 2004
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Bank