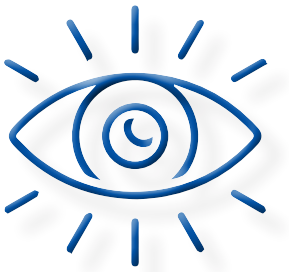
Namibia Statistics Agency

UNDP

# INFORMAL CROSS BORDER TRADE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023





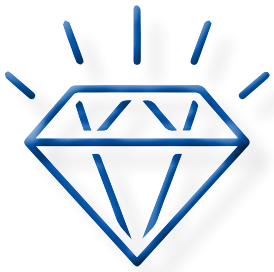
# Vision Statement

*"To be a high performing and sustainable institution in quality statistics and spatial data delivery for research, planning, and decision-making."*



# Mission Statement

*"Leveraging on partnerships and innovative technologies, to produce and disseminate relevant, quality, timely statistics and spatial data that are fit-for-purpose."*



# Core Values

*Integrity*
*Excellent Performance*
*Professionalism*
*Accountability*
*Partnerships*
*Customer-focused*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


LIST OF TABLES 5
LIST OF FIGURES 5
LIST OF CHARTS 5
Definitions 6
Preface 7
**SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION** 8
1.1 Background 8
1.2 Objective of the survey 8
1.3 Overview of Informal Cross Border Trade 8
**SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY** 10
2.1 Introduction 10
2.2 Survey coverage 10
2.3 Trade and valuation 10
2.4 Selection of Survey period 11
2.5 Organization of the survey 11
2.6 Data collection technique 11
2.7 Data collection instruments 11
2.8 Estimation methods 11
2.9 Data processing and analysis 11
2.10 Limitation of the survey 11
**SECTION 3: SURVEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS** 13
3.1 Overview of Informal Trade 13
3.2 Number of traders 13
3.3 Trade composition by sex 14
3.4 Trade composition by sex at border posts 15
3.5 Exports by border posts 15
3.6 Imports by border posts 16
**SECTION 4: DIRECTION OF INFORMAL TRADE** 17
4.1 Trade by country 17
**SECTION 5: TRADE BY COMMODITY** 18
5.1 Exports by Product 18
5.2 Imports by product 18
**SECTION 6: COMPOSITION OF COMMODITIES TRADED PER BORDER POST** 20
6.1 Trade by border posts 20
6.2 Exports Breakdown 22
6.3 Imports Breakdown 25
**SECTION 7: TRADE BY AGE GROUP** 29
**SECTION 8: REASON FOR TRADE** 30
**SECTION 9: INFORMAL TRADE vs FORMAL TRADE** 31
**Conclusion** 34

# LIST OF TABLES


**Table 1:** Border Posts surveyed in November, 2023 10
**Table 2:** Informal trade by border post 13
**Table 3**: Number of traders 13
**Table 4:** Trade by sex at border posts 15
**Table 5:** Trade by age group, Percentage share 29
**Table 6:** Informal vs Formal Exports at Oshikango, November 2023 40
**Table 7:** Informal vs Formal Imports at Oshikango, November 2023 41
**Table 8:** Informal vs Formal Exports at Katima Mulilo, November 2023 41
**Table 9:** Informal vs Formal Imports at Katima Mulilo, November 2023 32
**Table 10:** Informal vs Formal Exports at Omahenene, November 2023 32
**Table 11:** Informal vs Formal Imports at Omahenene, November 2023 32
**Table 12:** Informal vs Formal Exports at Sarasungu, November 2023 32
**Table 13**: Informal vs Formal Imports at Sarasungu, November 2023 33


# LIST OF FIGURES


**Figure 1:** Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Oshikango Border Post (N$ '000') 26
**Figure 2:** Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Katima Mulilo Border Post (N$ '000') 27
**Figure 3:** Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Omahenene Border Post (N$ '000') 27
**Figure 4:** Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Sarasungu Border Post (N$ '000') 28


# LIST OF CHARTS


**Chart 1:** Percentage share of exports by sex 14
**Chart 2:** Percentage share of imports by sex 14
**Chart 3:** Exports by border post 2014-2023 (N$ '000') 15
**Chart 4:** Imports by border post 2014-2023 (N$ '000') 16
**Chart 5:** Trade by country, Percentage share 17
**Chart 6:** Top five exported products, Percentage share 18
**Chart 7:** Top five imported products, Percentage share 19
**Chart 8:** Exports via Oshikango Border Post, Percentage share 22
**Chart 9:** Exports via the Katima Mulilo Border Post, Percentage share 23
**Chart 10:** Exports via Omahenene Border Post, Percentage share 24
**Chart 11:** Exports via Sarasungu Border Post, Percentage share 25
**Chart 12:** Imports via Oshikango Border Post, Percentage share 26
**Chart 13:** Imports via Katima Mulilo Border Post, Percentage share 26
**Chart 14:** Imports via Omahenene Border Post, Percentage share 27
**Chart 15:** Imports via Sarasungu Border Post, Percentage share 28
**Chart 16:** Reasons for trade, Percentage share 30

# DEFINITIONS

**External trade:** Is the exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders or territories, which could involve the activities of the government and individuals.

**Informal Cross Border Trade:** Refers to trade transactions between residents and non-residents across the economic boundaries of two or more countries that are not recorded by Customs Authorities.

**Other Products:** This is a category of goods that is not classified under any category specified in the report.

**Trade Balance:** This is the difference in value between exported goods and imported goods.

# PREFACE



The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) conducted the first Informal Cross Border Trade Surveys (ICBTS) in 2014. Thus, the 2023 ICBTS is the fifth undertaking since the inception and the latest after the previous survey was undertaken in September 2019. The ICBTS is an economic survey covering merchandise trade transactions between residents and non-residents across the economic boundaries of two or more countries that are not recorded by the Customs Authorities as their values are below the threshold required by Customs. However, when aggregated, these small transactions become significant due to their frequencies.

In November 2023, total trade (exports plus imports) amounted to N$10.3 million down by 46.8 percent from the level of N$19.4 million recorded in September 2019. Exports made up the largest share of total trade at 88.5 percent (N$9.1 million) compared to imports which accounted for a relatively low share of 11.5 percent (N$1.2 million), subsequently Namibia recorded a favourable informal trade balance amounting to N$7.9 million. Among the four border posts which were surveyed, the Oshikango Border Post had the highest share (46.7%) in total trade followed by Katima Mulilo with a share of 28.1 percent.

With regards to the informal exports, the largest share of exports was through the Oshikango Border Post (48.4%) followed by Katima Mulilo which accounted for 31.0 percent. On the other hand, most of the imports was recorded to have passed through Oshikango border post (33.6%) while 31.2 percent and 29.6 percent passed through Omahenene and Sarasungu, respectively.

We are very grateful to the stakeholders who contributed in various ways towards the execution of this survey such as the Namibia Revenue Agency, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigrations Safety and Security and the Public at large. We also thank the traders for their cooperation in providing the data.

A sincere appreciation to the donor of this survey, the United Nations Development Programme in Namibia. Your support is invaluable in helping us gather essential data and insights. We deeply appreciate your commitment to our cause and the country at large.

**Alex Shimuafeni**
**Statistician-General and CEO**

# SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This section provides a brief background of the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey (ICBTS) and outlines the objectives of the survey.

## 1.1 Background

The United Nations Statistics Division through the International Merchandize Trade Statistics Compilers Manual (IMTS-2010, Revision 1) recommends compiling institutions of IMTS in all member states to collect and use data from non-customs sources to supplement customs-based data to ensure full coverage of International Merchandize Trade Statistics. Consequently, the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in conjunction with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) and the Ministry of Finance (Customs and Excise Department) now Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA) implemented this initiative of collecting such statistical data. This was achieved through the means of the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey which was launched in 2014. Since then, four (2014, 2015, 2016 and 2019) ICBT Surveys have been successfully conducted. The findings of the 2014 and 2015 surveys were published in May 2015 and May 2016 respectively while for 2016 and 2019 were published in March 2017 and March 2020 respectively through reports titled "Informal Cross Border Trade Survey".

Subsequent to the implementation of the monitoring system for capturing Informal Cross Border Trade activities in 2014, as per the UN recommendations, the NSA conducted the fifth ICBTS in November 2023, funded by the UNDP.

## 1.2 Objective of the survey

The broad objective of the ICBTS is to establish the magnitude of unrecorded/informal trade flows between Namibia and her neighbouring countries. Within this broad objective, the specific objectives of the survey are to:

- Determine the nature and composition of commodities transacted under informal trade.
- Establish the direction of informal cross border trade by country of origin/destination.
- Provide a comparative analysis of recorded and unrecorded trade including net trade balances.

## 1.3 Overview of Informal Cross Border Trade

As there is no agreed-upon definition, the term "Informal Cross-Border Trade" (ICBT) in this context refers to exports and imports of legitimately produced goods and services (i.e., legal goods and services, thus excluding trade in unlawful/illegal goods) that directly or indirectly escape the regulatory framework for taxation and other government procedures. As a result, such trade often goes unrecorded in official national statistics of trading partners, including Namibia.

Simply put, ICBT can be defined as trade transactions between residents and non-residents across the economic boundaries of two or more countries that are not recorded by customs authorities. Some informal cross border traders engage in ICBT in order to evade charges, duties, and other transaction costs. ICBT can be practiced by both formal and informal traders and companies, and in most cases, the majority of traders involved in ICBT are women.

The aim of the survey is to supplement merchandise trade statistics data from customs, thereby enhancing the compilation of these statistics.

ICBT plays a significant role in preventing widespread food insecurity in neighbouring countries and supports the informal sector within a country, as its effects spill over between trading countries. Additionally, informal cross-border trade activities have positive macroeconomic and social effects, such as improving food security and creating income, particularly for rural populations who might otherwise suffer from social exclusion.

[1] Comparisons made in this report are between the border posts considered in November 2023 versus the same border posts in the preceding ICBTS.

According to African Development Bank (2012), ICBT in Africa is estimated to be a source of income for about 43 percent of Africa's population highlighting its significant contribution. But due to the lack of regular statistical information on informal trade activities, its contribution to addressing supply/demand imbalances has not been adequately quantified in many countries, including Namibia.

# SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Introduction

This section covers the criteria for selecting border posts for the survey, the trade and valuation system used, the timing of the survey, the organization of the survey, data collection techniques and instruments, estimation methods, data analysis, and data limitations.

## 2.2 Survey coverage

The November 2023 ICBTS covered four border posts from 08h00 to 18h00. The selection of the sites for coverage was based on the significance of informal trade flow activities through these border posts, considering previous ICBT surveys conducted. The border posts covered by the survey and their respective neighbouring countries are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Border Posts surveyed in November, 2023**

| Neighbouring country | Border Post | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Katima Mulilo | Omahenene | Oshikango | Sarasungu |
| Angola | | | | |
| Zambia | | | | |

## 2.3 Trade and valuation

The collection of ICBT data adopted the general trade system of compiling International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). The general trade system requires that all goods leaving or entering the country be recorded as they crossed the customs frontiers. Thus, during data collection, the following considerations were made for recording:

- All merchandise entering or leaving the country carried on foot, bicycles, push carts, motorcycles, vehicles, etc., both in small and large quantities, that was not recorded by customs authorities.
- Under-declared merchandise of traders on formal customs declaration documents.

On the other hand, the following were excluded from informal trade recording:

- Merchandise properly declared (100%) and verified by customs on declaration documents.
- Goods smuggled into or out of the country.
- Goods traded outside the working hours of enumerators, particularly at border posts operating 24 hours.
- Transit goods leaving or entering the country at any border post being monitored.

The valuation of informal exports was based on the Free on Board (FOB) valuation basis, while informal imports were valued on a Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) valuation basis. This implied that the value of imports included costs related to freight and insurance, if any. The wholesale or retail prices obtained from traders' invoices/receipts and price tags on the merchandise were considered for recording. In cases where such information was unavailable, enumerators were encouraged to probe the trader for such information.

## 2.4 Selection of Survey period

November was selected as the suitable month for data collection, considering seasonality changes such as weather conditions that could disrupt activities and affect survey results during the rainy season. The effect of the festive season, which increased cross-border trade activities, was also considered. Additionally, the timing of the previous survey was taken into account to ensure meaningful comparison. Data was collected daily throughout November 2023.

[2] Calai Border Post, used in previous surveys was renamed to Sarasungu Border Post.

### 2.5 Organization of the survey

Enumerators reported for duty at their respective stations from 08:00 to 18:00, including weekends, to ensure comprehensive data coverage. At Oshikango, one supervisor led a team of six enumerators due to significant informal trade movements at that border post. At Katima Mulilo, one supervisor led a team of two enumerators.

At Omahenene and Sarasungu, one supervisor led one enumerator at each border, respectively. The team consisted of trained individuals with adequate knowledge of the local language at each border station. The NSA staff supervised the field activities daily during the first and last three days of the survey period to ensure quality control and compliance with field practices. Training was provided to both enumerators and supervisors, focusing on generating quality and accurate data and the necessary skills for effectively approaching traders to capture all relevant information accurately.

### 2.6 Data collection technique

The recording of ICBT activities was based on the Border Observation Technique, which included measurement and interviews when necessary. This technique was considered the most cost-effective and efficient way to gather ICBT data under border conditions, considering the characteristics and habits of informal trade practitioners at each border post. Enumerators were strategically positioned at Katima Mulilo, Omahenene, Oshikango and Sarasungu border posts to identify and record all merchandise exiting or entering the country through these points. They were also able to weigh goods to determine the quantity or volume when necessary. Enumerators conducted interviews with traders, individually or in groups, and with other relevant personnel such as drivers and conductors, to verify and clarify information about the goods being traded.

### 2.7 Data collection instruments

The Data Monitoring Sheet (DMS) in the form of a paper questionnaire was the main instrument used during the survey. It recorded every transaction of physical commodities traded through the point of exit or entry during the observation period in November 2023, particularly those not captured or declared by Customs authorities. Enumerators were also equipped with a list of traded commodity categories, units of measurement, pens, pencils, and shorthand notebooks. Additionally, a data capturing tool designed by the NSA's Data Processing Centre (DPC) was used for data entry.

### 2.8 Estimation methods

No estimation methodology was utilized in the survey due to the following reasons:

- The sample size was too small, making November alone insufficient for estimating a whole year.
- The assumptions of continental ICBT estimation models (such as up-rating, linear interpolation, and extrapolation) were not met. Thus, only the data collected in November 2023 was analysed and reported.

### 2.9 Data processing and analysis

Paper questionnaires were used to collect data daily from the first to the last day of November 2023. At the end of the survey period, the questionnaires were collected from the border posts and sent to the NSA's Data Processing Centre (DPC) for data capturing and processing. The data was captured and then transformed by the DP team from the data entry tool format into SPSS and Excel formats and submitted to the subject matter experts for analysis. Data analysis was guided by a tabulation plan developed by a technical team and approved by the Executive, Economic Statistics.

### 2.10 Limitation of the survey

The limitations of the survey were as follows:

- Some border posts were excluded due to limited resources.

- Informal trade occurring at night and beyond the monitoring hours (8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.) was not covered.
- Estimating the quantities of some traded items was difficult, especially when assorted goods were carried in one package.
- Estimation problems arose when items were transported in packages that were not visible.
- Receipts for traded items were often unavailable.

# SECTION 3: SURVEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

This section presents the survey findings and analysis of the ICBT conducted in November 2023. The most significant indicators derived from the data collected include the levels of exports and imports, the balance of trade, direction of informal trade flows. Additionally, trade by border post, commodity category and value of major exported and imported commodities, respondents' age were analysed. Finally, the aspect of sex was also included in the November 2023 survey as a variable to measure informal trade activities by male and female as well reason for trade.

### 3.1 Overview of Informal Trade

The combined value of informal trade (imports plus exports) recorded at all border posts in November 2023 amounted to N$10.3 million a decrease of 46.8 percent when compared to N$19.4 million recorded in September 2019. Exports predominantly made up the overall informal trade as it accounted for 88.5 percent compared to imports with a share of 11.5 percent. The Oshikango Border Post continued to be the busiest border with a share of 46.7 percent of total trade, followed by Katima Mulilo Border Post with a share of 28.1percent. In third and fourth positions was Omahenene and Sarasungu Border Posts with shares of 17.8 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively (Table 2).

Namibia's Informal trade balance amounted to a trade surplus of N$7.9 million. No trade deficits were recorded across the four (4) border posts, showcasing the dependency the two countries have on Namibia. The Oshikango Border Post contributed immensely to the positive trade balance with a trade surplus of N$4.0 million, followed by Katima Mulilo Border Post with a surplus of N$2.8 million. Omahenene had a surplus of N$1.1 million, while exports valued at N$407 000 and imports of N$349 000 were traded at Sarasungu Border Post, yielding a trade surplus of N$58 000.

**Table 2: Informal trade by border post[3]**

| Border Post | Export | | Import | | Overall Trade | | Trade Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Value (N$ '000' | % Share | Value (N$ '000' | % Share | Value (N$ '000' | % Share | Value (N$ '000' |
| Oshikango | 4,413 | 48.4 | 397 | 33.6 | 4,810 | 46.7 | 4,017 |
| Katima Mulilo | 2,822 | 31.0 | 66 | 5.6 | 2,888 | 28.1 | 2,756 |
| Omahenene | 1,468 | 16.1 | 368 | 31.2 | 1,836 | 17.8 | 1,101 |
| Sarasungu | 407 | 4.5 | 349 | 29.6 | 756 | 7.3 | 58 |
| **Total** | **9,111** | **100** | **1,179** | **100** | **10,290** | **100** | **7,932** |

In November 2023, the highest value for exports (N$4.4 million) and imports (N$397 000) were recorded at the Oshikango Border Post. Katima Mulilo Border Post came in second position with exports valued at N$2.8 million, followed by Omahenene (N$1.5 million) and Sarasungu (N$407 000). On the demand side, the Omahenene Border Post came in second position with a share of 31.2 percent of total imports, with Sarasungu following in third position with a share of 29.6 percent. Lastly, the Katima Mulilo Border Post accounted for 5.6 percent of the total imports.

### 3.2 Number of traders

The number of traders interviewed during the course of this survey were 25 765. Backed up by its significance in trade, exports had the largest number of traders with a share of 82.7 percent translating into 21 302 traders. On imports, 4 463 traders were involved, representing a share of 17.3 percent of the total traders.

**Table 3: Number of traders**

| Sex | Sarasungu | | Oshikango | | Omahenene | | Katima Mulilo | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Export | Import | Export | Import | Export | Import | Export | Import |
| Female | 1,070 | 1,694 | 7,096 | 1,090 | 982 | 431 | 1,183 | 276 |
| Male | 407 | 235 | 6,805 | 220 | 1,945 | 368 | 1,814 | 149 |
| **Grand Total** | **1,477** | **1,929** | **13,901** | **1,310** | **2,927** | **799** | **2,997** | **425** |

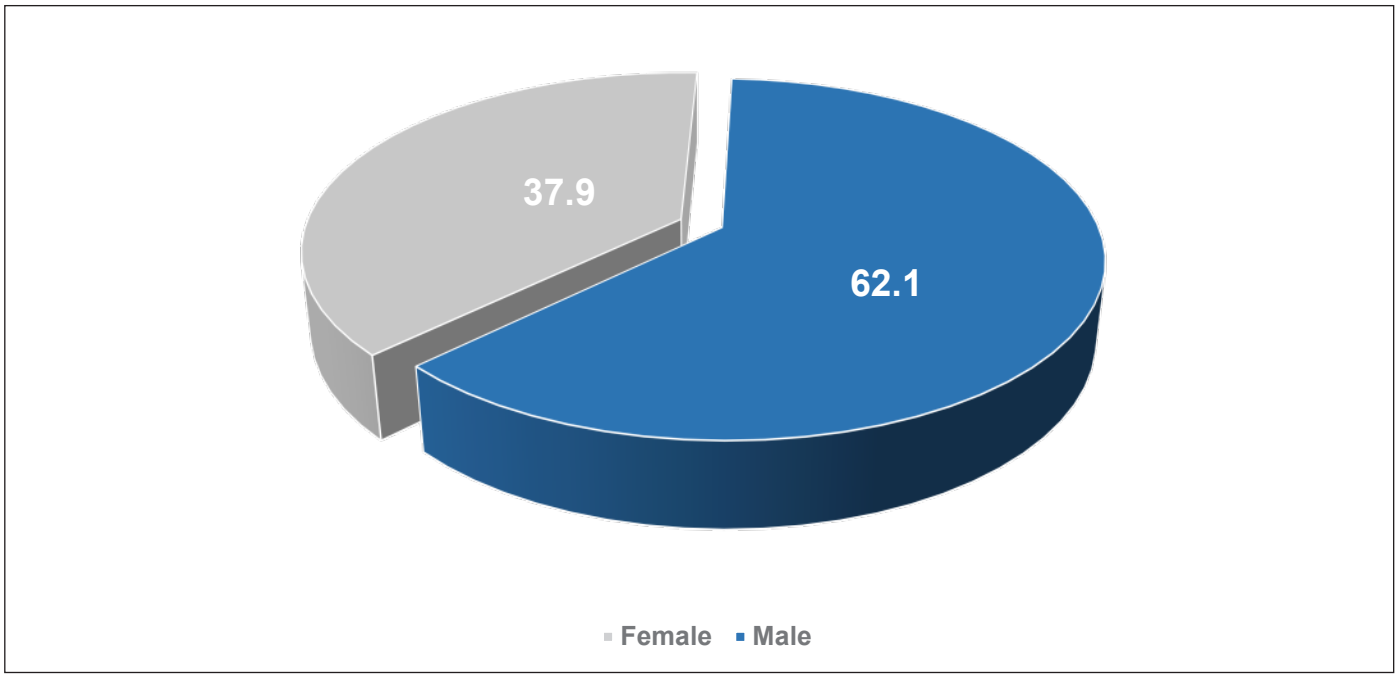
[3] Noordoewer and Ariamsvlei Border Posts were not part of the November 2023 ICBTS.

When examining the distribution of exports by sex, the figures show a near-equal representation. Males accounted for 51.5 percent of the total export traders, while females held a slightly smaller but still significant share of 48.5 percent. This balance indicates that both sex were consistently matched in the realm of exports. However, the situation differs considerably when it comes to imports. Female traders had a substantial dominance in the flow, with their share amounting to 78.2 percent of total import traders. In contrast, male traders accounted for a much smaller portion, with only 21.8 percent of the import traders. This significant disparity highlights a clear sex imbalance in imports trading, where females are notably more active.

### 3.3 Trade composition by sex

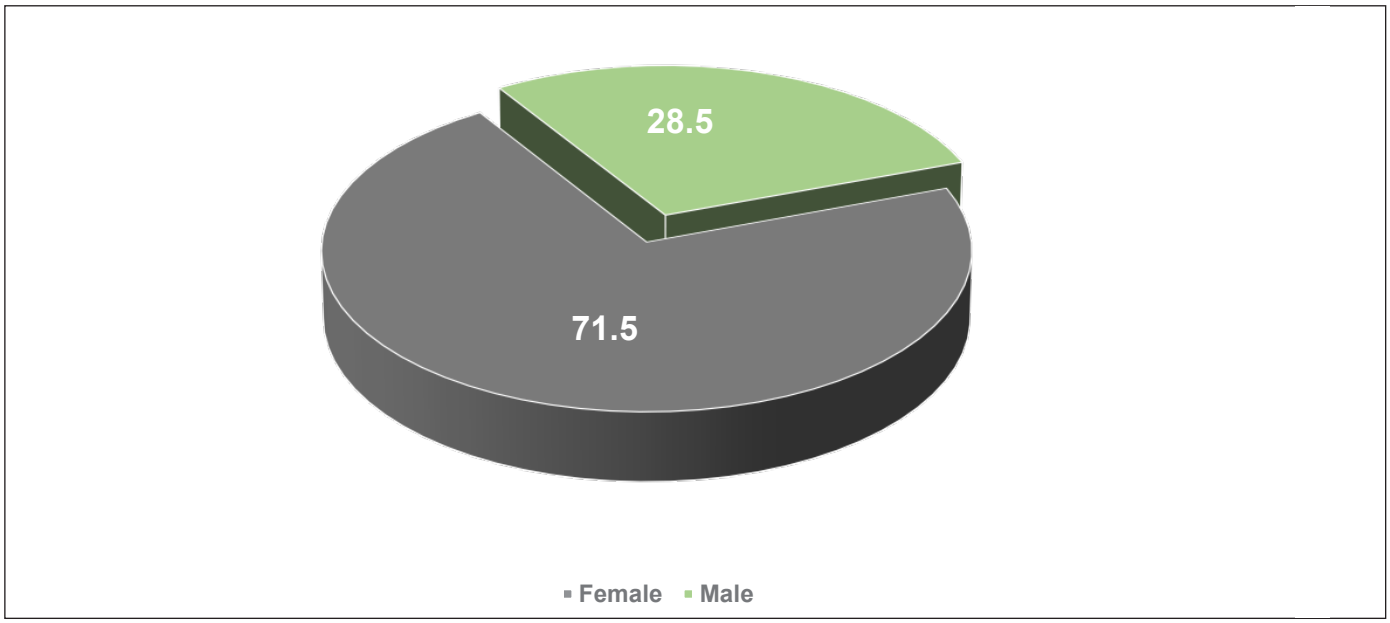
Overall informal trade total (exports plus imports) was dominated by male traders. Male traders accounted for N$6.0 million of total trade while females traded goods worth N$4.3 million. A closer look into the flow of goods shows that the value of goods traded by males accounted for 62.1 percent while that of females accounted for37.9 percent of the total informal exports during the period under review.

**Chart 1: Percentage share of exports by sex**




However, on the demand side females had a bigger share of 71.5 percent, with males taking the remaining share of 28.5 percent, Chart 2.

**Chart 2: Percentage share of imports by sex**



### 3.4 Trade composition by sex at border posts

A further breakdown of trade by sex at border post as shown in table 4 indicates that the value of goods traded by males at Katima Mulilo accounted for the highest share of total exports of 24.7 percent, both males and females at Oshikango Border Post shared an equal contribution of 24.2 percent of total exports, followed by the contribution of males at Omahenene Border Post with a share of 11.7 percent. On the import side, female traders at Oshikango Border Post had the largest contribution to total imports with a share of 27.9 percent followed by female traders at Sarasungu Border Post (24.1%). The flow was mainly dominated by female traders with the third position taken up by female traders at Omahenene Border Post (16.5%).

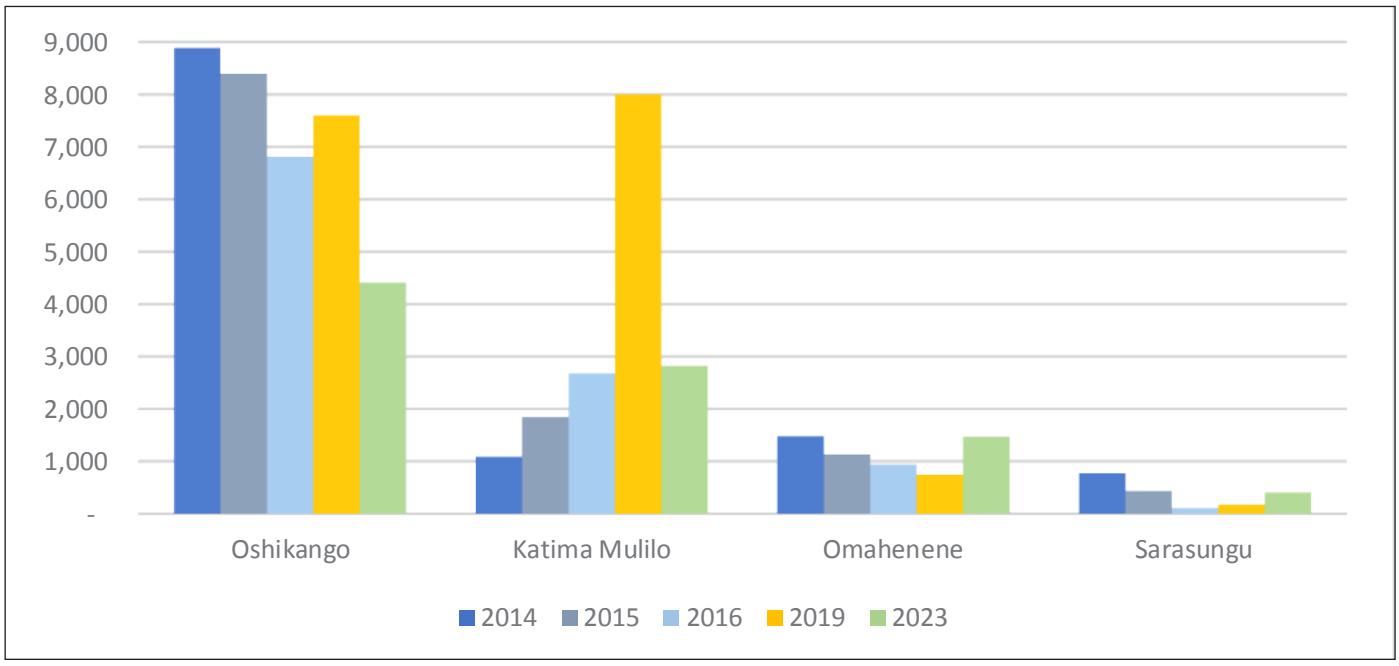
**Table 4: Trade by sex at border posts**

| Gender | Border Post | Export | | Import | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Value (N$ '000' | % Share | Value (N$ '000' | % Share |
| Female | Sarasungu | 266 | 2.9 | 285 | 24.1 |
| | Oshikango | 2,208 | 24.2 | 329 | 27.9 |
| | Omahenene | 401 | 4.4 | 195 | 16.5 |
| | Katima Mulilo | 575 | 6.3 | 35 | 3.0 |
| Male | Sarasungu | 142 | 1.6 | 64 | 5.4 |
| | Oshikango | 2,206 | 24.2 | 68 | 5.7 |
| | Omahenene | 1,067 | 11.7 | 173 | 14.7 |
| | Katima Mulilo | 2,247 | 24.7 | 31 | 2.6 |
| **Total** | | **9,111** | **100** | **1,179** | **100** |

### 3.5 Exports by border posts

In November 2023, the Oshikango and Katima Mulilo Border Posts remained the primary exit points, recording the highest export values. These two border posts collectively accounted for 79.4 percent of total exports. The Oshikango Border Post surpassed Katima Mulilo as the leading exit point, despite a 41.9 percent decrease in exports from N$7.6 million in September 2019. Katima Mulilo Border Post ranked second with exports valued at N$2.8 million, reflecting a 64.7 percent decrease from the results of September 2019. However, when compared to November 2014, exports through Katima Mulilo increased by N$1.7 million, marking a significant rise of 159.4 percent, Chart 3.

**Chart 3: Exports by border post 2014 -2023 (N$ '000')**




Omahenene' s exports have picked up quite convincingly with a 96.7 percent increase when compared to September 2019 and a slight decrease of 0.7 percent from November 2014. The same is notable at Sarasungu

Border Post with exports increasing by N$230 000 from N$177 000 recorded in September 2019. However, when compared to November 2014 exports decreased by 47.5 percent from N$776 000.

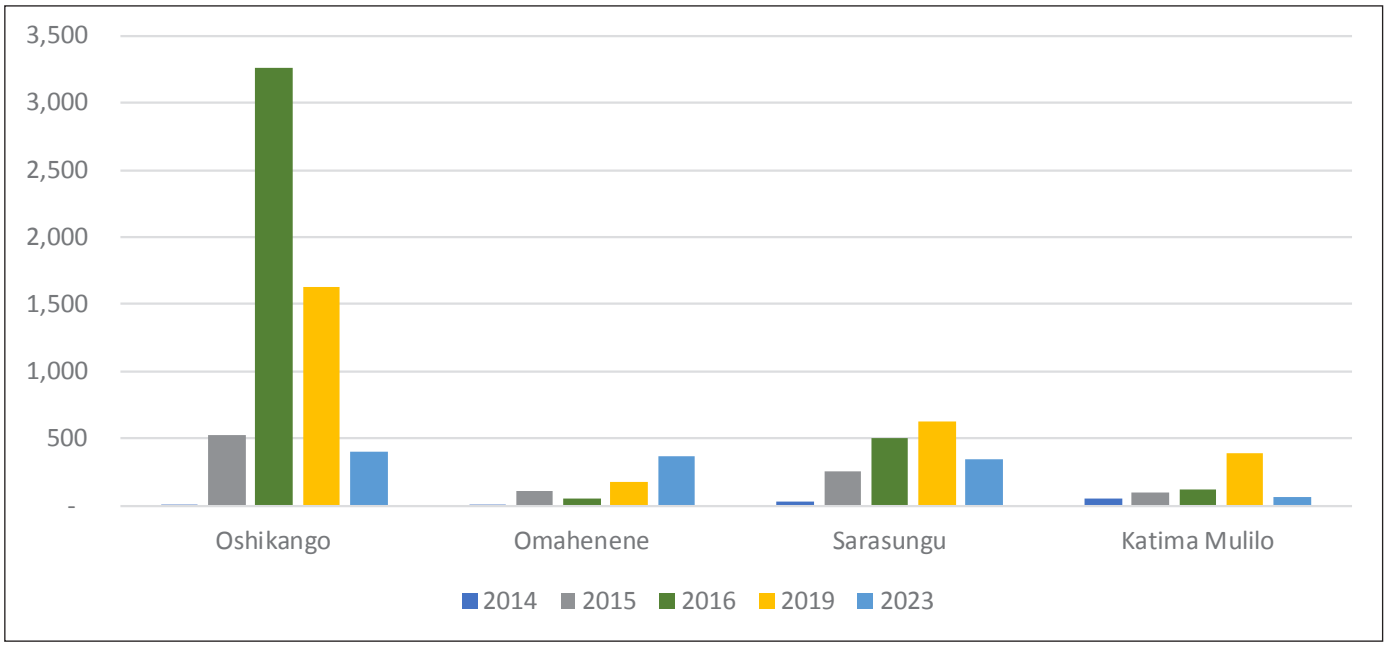
### 3.6 Imports by border posts

The Oshikango Border Post remained the leading entry point for imports in November 2023, despite a 75.6 percent decline in imports compared to September 2019 levels. In November 2023, Oshikango accounted for 33.6 percent of total imports.

The Omahenene Border Post ranked second, with a 31.2 percent share of total imports. Imports through this border post increased by N$191 000 from N$177 000 recorded in September 2019, and by N$359 000 from N$8 000 recorded in November 2014.

The Sarasungu Border Post was third, contributing 29.6 percent to total imports. Imports through Sarasungu decreased by N$281 000 compared to September 2019 but increased by N$318 000 from their 2014 value.

**Chart 4: Imports by border post 2014 -2023 (N$ '000')**



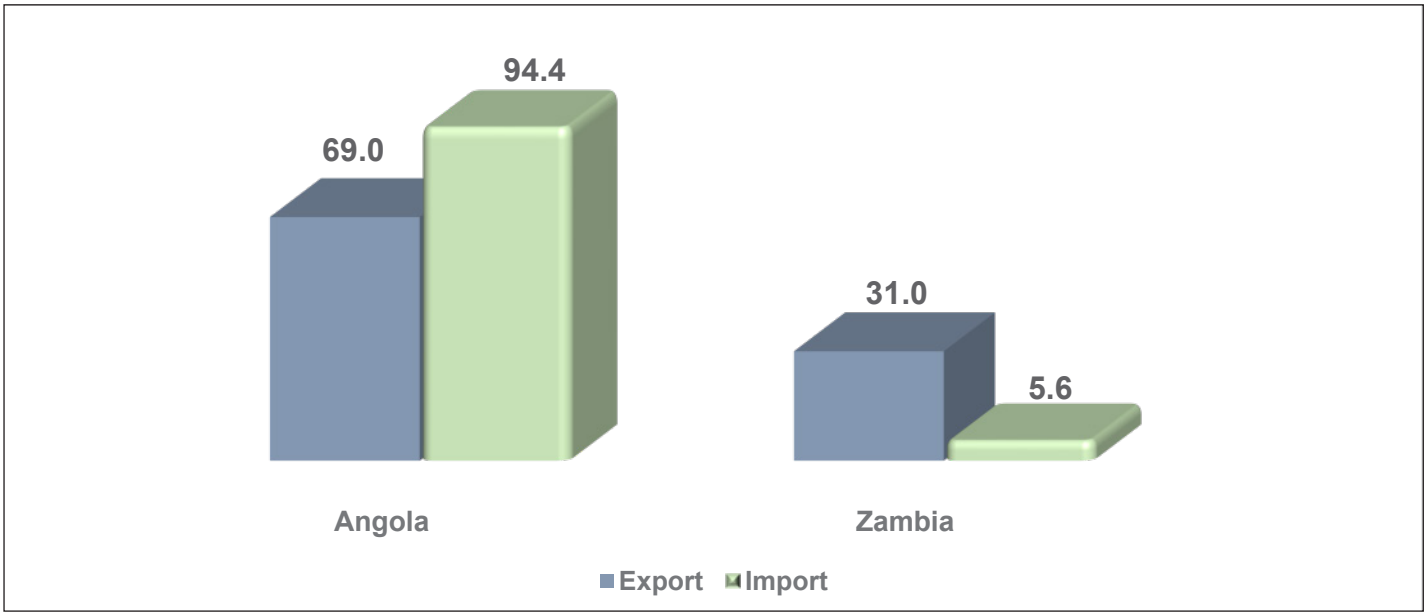

Lastly, the Katima Mulilo Border Post ranked fourth, with imports through the border post falling drastically by 83.3 percent compared to the September 2019 value. However, when compared to November 2014, imports increased by 39.2 percent from N$47 000.

# SECTION 4: DIRECTION OF INFORMAL TRADE

### 4.1 Trade by country

During November 2023 ICBTS, four border posts were surveyed. Three of these (Oshikango, Omahenene, and Sarasungu) border Namibia and Angola, while the fourth, Katima Mulilo, borders Namibia and Zambia. Consequently, only Angola and Zambia were recorded as trading partners with Namibia.

**Chart 5: Trade by country, Percentage share**




During the period under review, Angola emerged as the largest market for both exports and imports. It accounted for a substantial 69.0 percent of Namibia's total exports and 94.4 percent of its total imports during the review period. This significant trade relationship highlights Angola's dominant role in Namibia's informal cross-border trade.

In addition to Angola, Zambia also played a notable role in Namibia's trade dynamics. Zambia received 31.0 percent of Namibia's total exports, indicating its considerable share in Namibia's export market. Conversely, Zambia contributed 5.6 percent of Namibia's total imports, reflecting its presence in Namibia's import activities. This distribution underscores the varying levels of trade engagement with these neighbouring countries.

# SECTION 5: TRADE BY COMMODITY

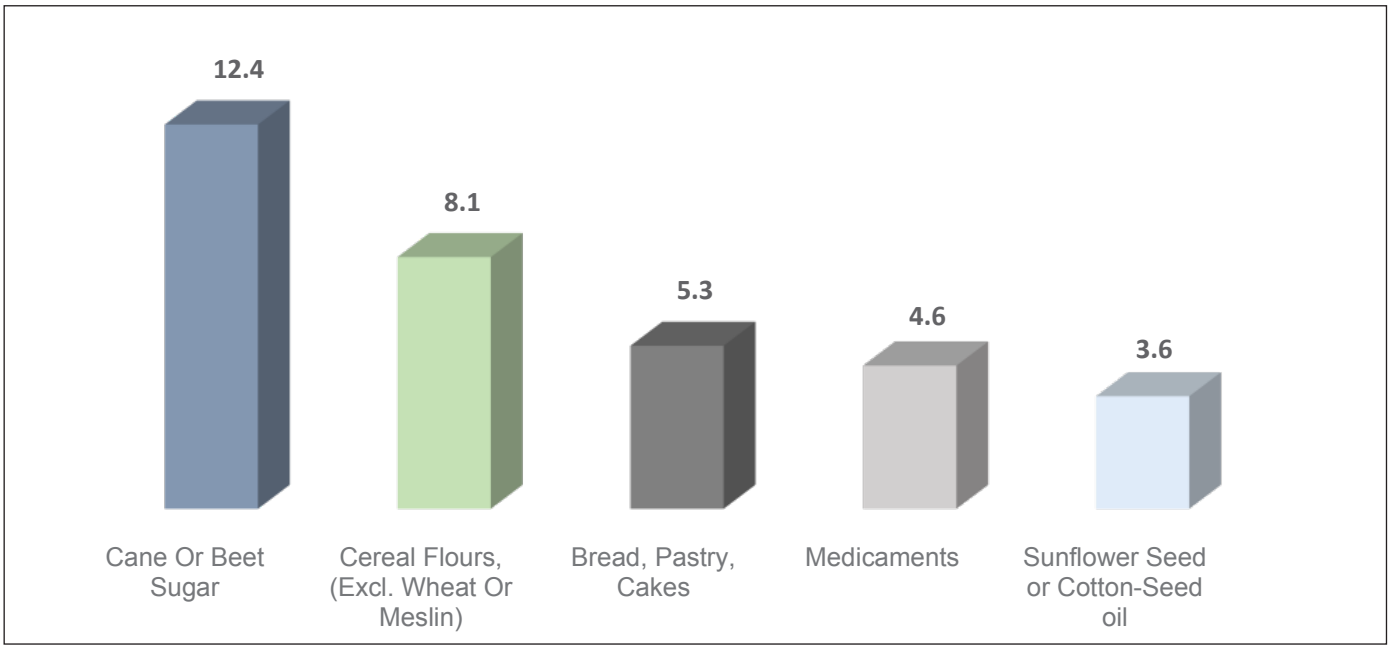
## 5.1 Exports by Product

In November 2023, the total value of exports reached N$9.1 million. Among these exports, the top five products accounted for 34.1 percent of the total export value.

'Cane or Beet Sugar' emerged as the leading exported product, carrying a significant share of 12.4 percent. This indicates its major role in Namibia's export economy. Cereal flours followed in second position, contributing 8.1 percent to the total export value, highlighting its importance as a staple export item.

In the third and fourth positions was 'Bread, pastry and cakes' (5.3%) and Medicaments (4.6%), underscoring their relevance in the export portfolio. Lastly, Cooking oil held the fifth position with a share of 3.6 percent, rounding out the top five export products.

**Chart 6: Top five exported products, Percentage share**




These top five products together underscore a diverse export portfolio, with key contributions from agricultural and medicinal products.

## 5.2 Imports by product

In November 2023, the total value of imports amounted to N$1.2 million. The breakdown of these imports highlighted several key commodities.

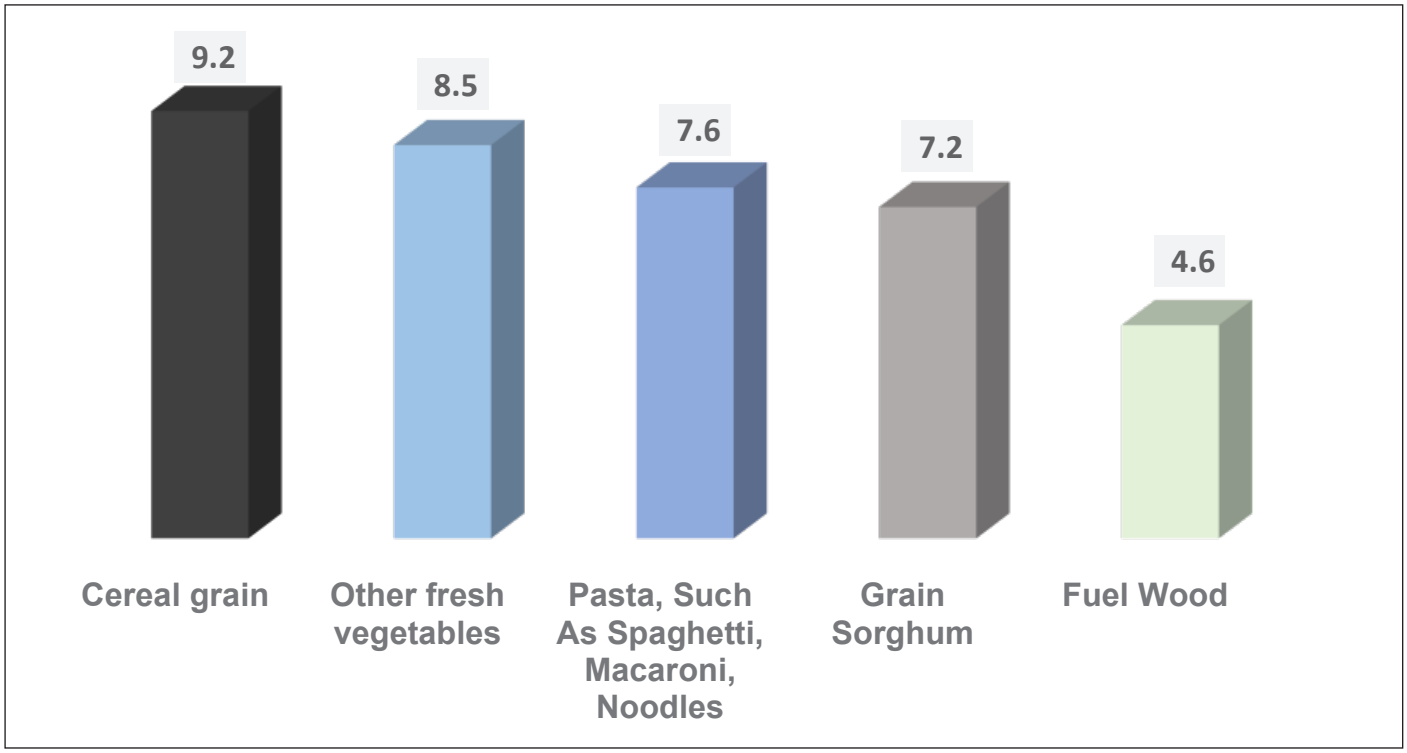
Cereal grains topped the list of imported goods, with a value of N$108 989, accounting for 9.2 percent of the total import value. This indicates a significant demand for Cereal grains within the period under review. Other fresh or chilled vegetables were the second most imported category, making up 8.5 percent of the total import value. This reflects a notable portion of imports dedicated to fresh produce.

Pasta ranked third among imported commodities, representing 7.6 percent of the total import value. The significant share of Pasta suggests its importance in the country's food import needs. Sorghum grain was valued at N$84 509, constituting 7.2 percent of the total import bill. This indicates a considerable need for Sorghum, a staple grain.

Fuel wood was the fifth most imported commodity, valued at N$54 385, which accounted for 4.6 percent of total imports. The presence of fuel wood in the import list underscores its role in meeting the country's energy or heating needs.

The top five imported products accounted for 37.1 percent of all goods imported.

**Chart 7: Top five imported products, Percentage share**




Overall, these figures illustrate the diverse nature of imports, with a focus on essential foodstuff and energy resources.

# **SECTION 6:** COMPOSITION OF COMMODITIES TRADED PER BORDER POST

## 6.1 Trade by border posts

This sub-section visually presents the top three commodities traded per border post during November 2023 for both flows.

**Figure 1: Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Oshikango Border Post (N$ '000')**

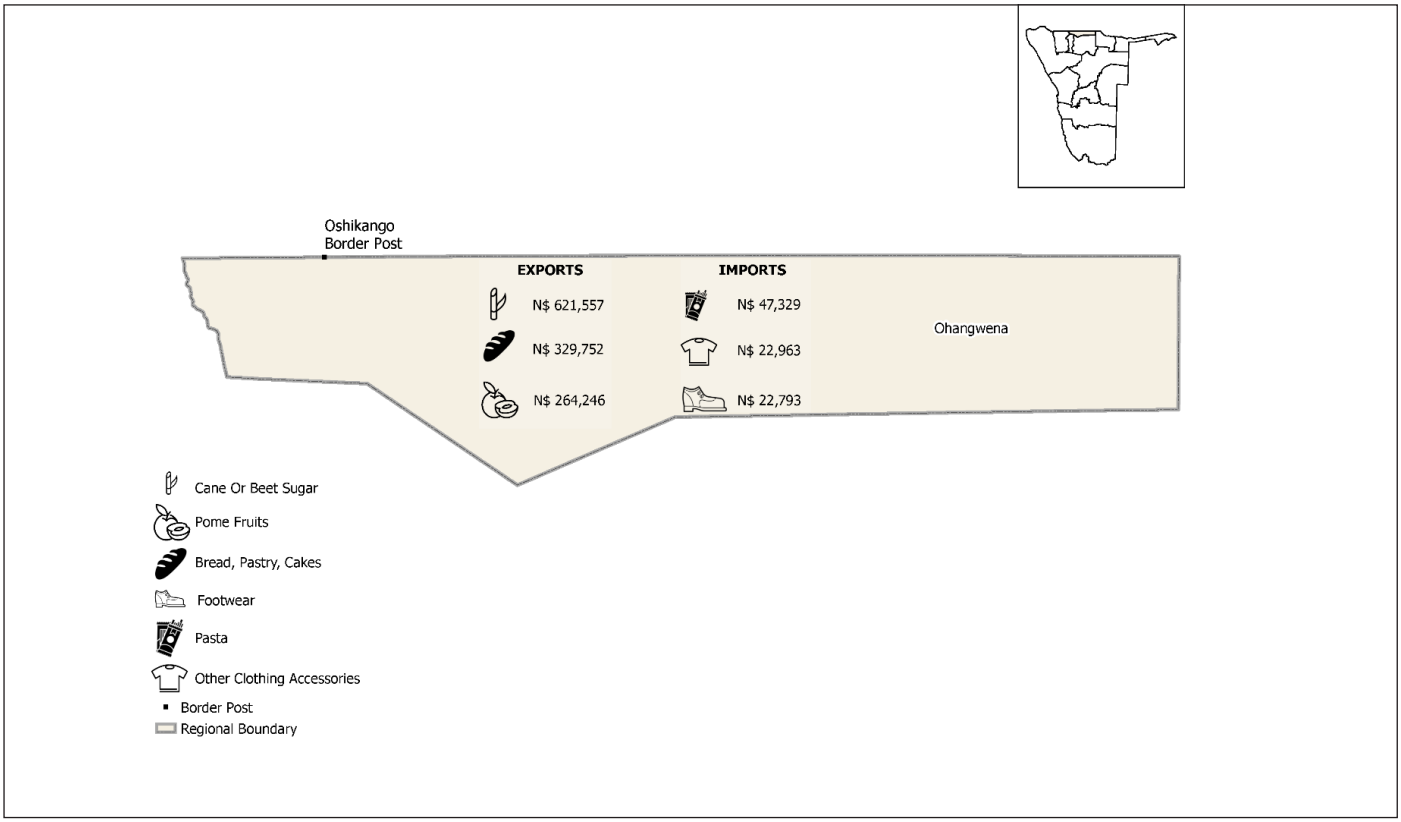



**Figure 2: Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Katima Mulilo Border Post (N$ '000')**

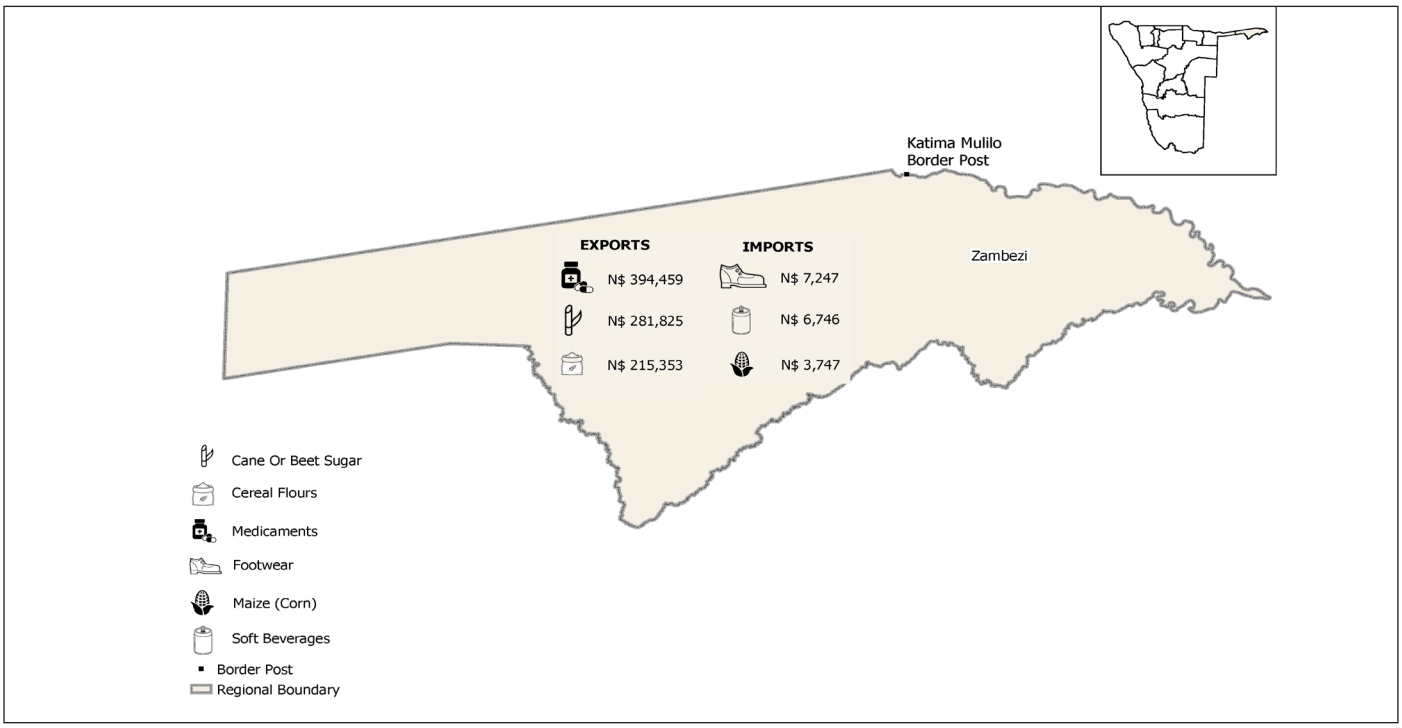


**Figure 3: Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Omahenene Border Post (N$ '000')**

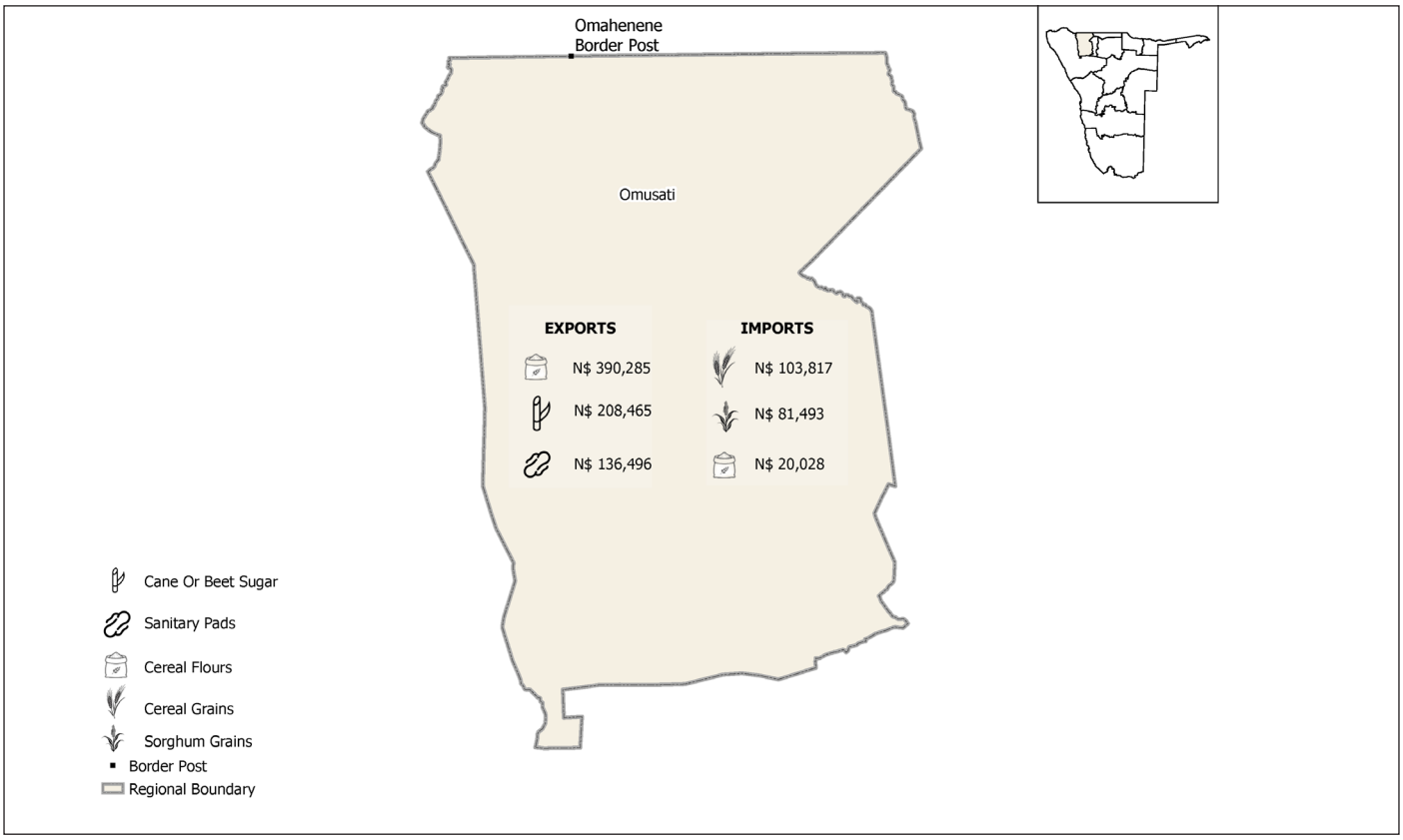
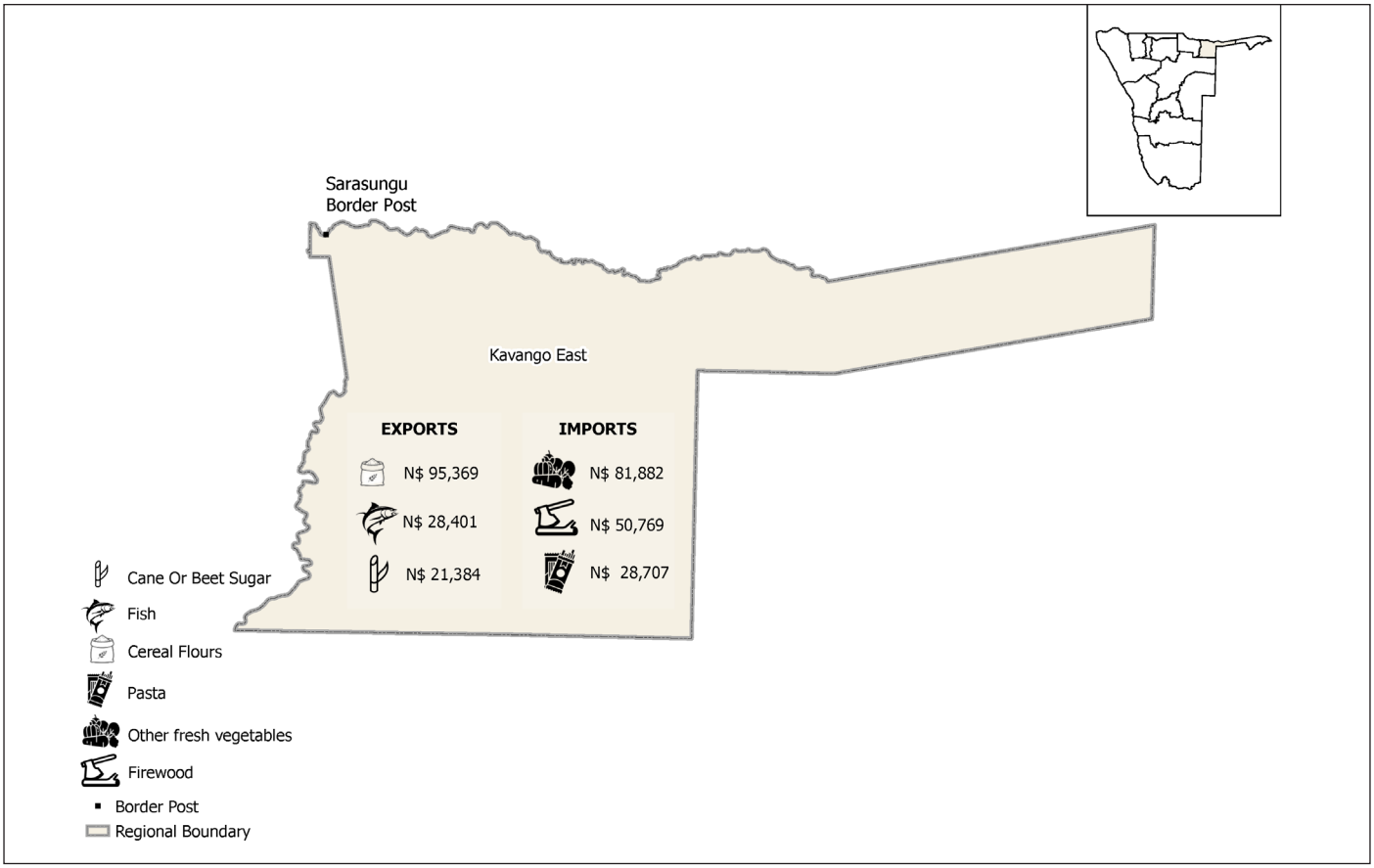



**Figure 4: Top 3 Exports and Imports by products via Sarasungu Border Post (N$ '000')**



## 6.2 Exports Breakdown

### 6.2.1 Exports via Oshikango Border Post

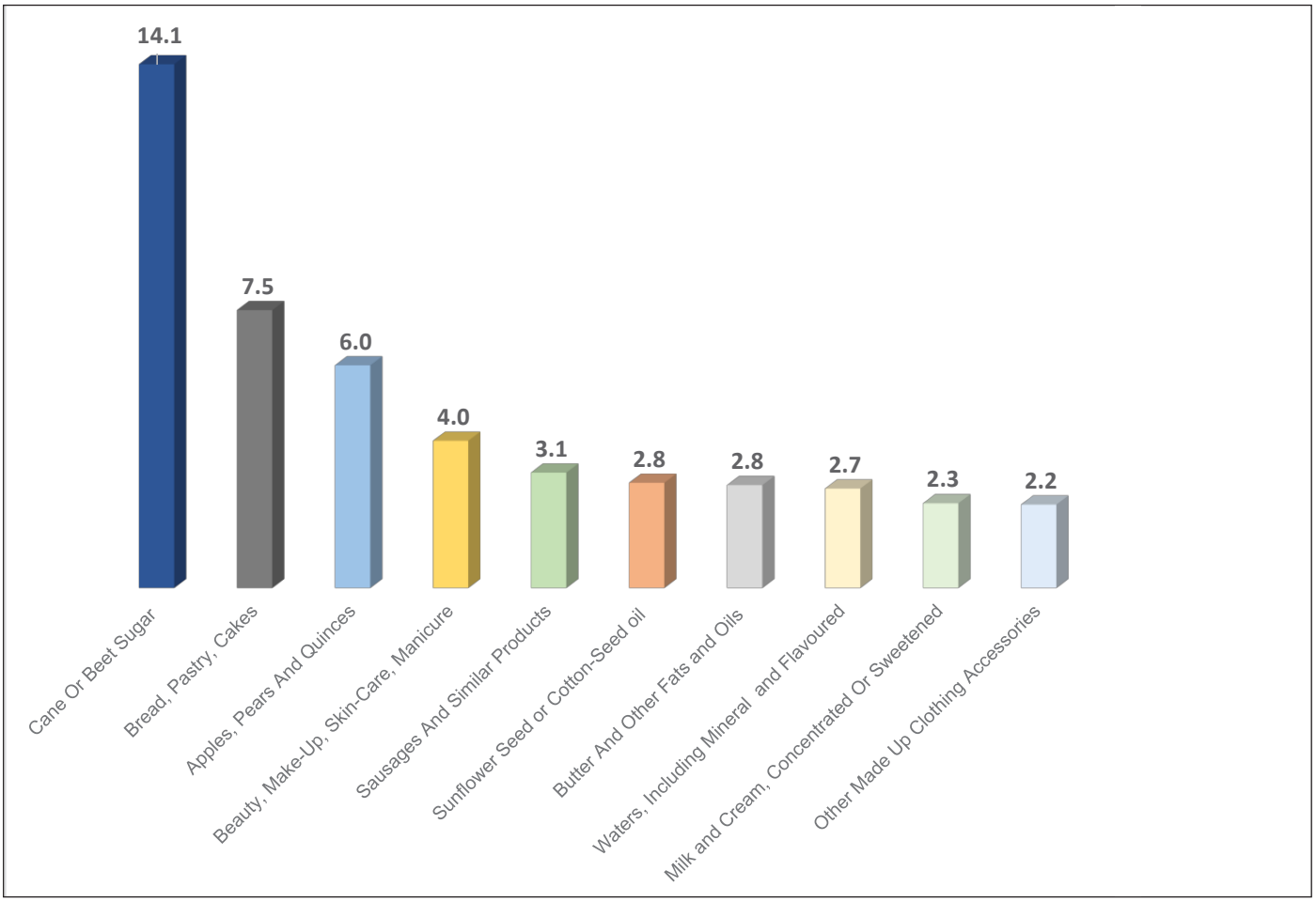
In the period under review, total exports amounted to N$9.1 million. The Oshikango Border Post emerged as the most significant export point, recording a total export value of N$4.4 million, which represented 48.4 percent of the total export value for the period.

Key commodities exported through the Oshikango Border Post included 'Cane or Beet sugar', the top exported product, accounting for 14.1 percent of the total exports from Oshikango, valued at N$621 557. This commodity was a major contributor to the high export figures at this border post. 'Bread, pastry and cakes' was the second highest exported item, with a total value of N$329 752. This reflects its significant role in the export mix.

Pome fruits represented 6.0 percent of the exports, highlighting their importance as a fresh fruit commodity in trade. Skin-care products accounted for 4.0 percent of the total exports, indicating a notable demand for these goods. Meat preparations (Sausages and similar products) made up 3.1 percent of the exported goods, showing their relevance in the export profile.

Overall, the variety of commodities exported through the Oshikango Border Post underscores its critical role in the country's export economy, with a diverse range of products contributing to its high export value.

**Chart 8: Exports via Oshikango Border Post, Percentage share**




### 6.2.2 Exports via Katima Mulilo Border Post

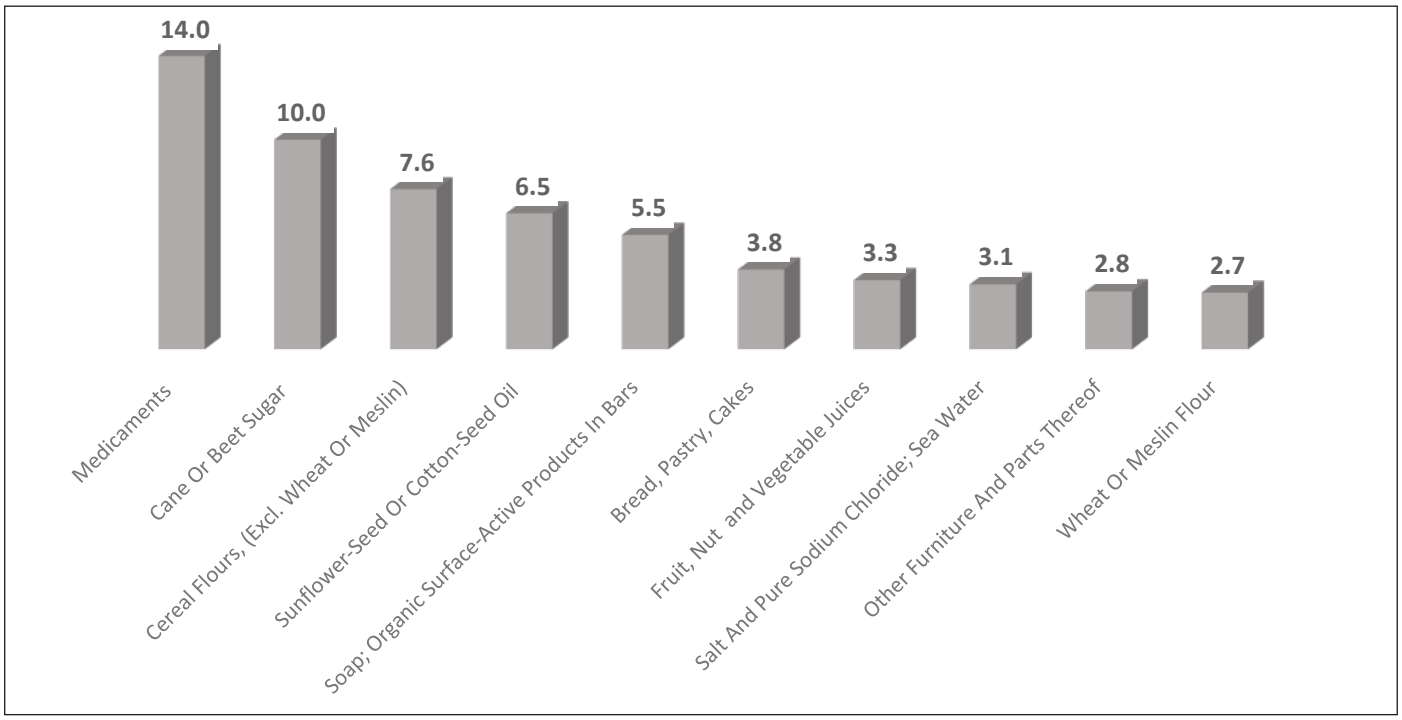
The Katima Mulilo Border Post, situated on the border between Namibia and Zambia, recorded the second highest export value during the period under review. This border post accounted for 31.0 percent of the total exports, with exports valued at N$2.8 million

Key commodities exported through the Katima Mulilo Border Post are Medicaments, which were the largest exported commodity at this border post, accounting for 14.0 percent of the total exports, translating to a value of N$394 459. This indicates a significant demand for medicinal products in the export market. 'Cane or Beet sugar' followed as the second largest exported item, with a value of N$281 825. This commodity held a notable share of the total exports, reflecting its importance in the export basket. Cereal flours ranked third among the exported goods, representing 7.6 percent of the total exports. This staple product is a key part of the export trade.

Cooking oil constituted 6.5 percent of the exports. Soap made up 5.5 percent of the total exports, underscoring the demand for personal care products.

Overall, the Katima Mulilo Border Post played a crucial role with a diverse range of commodities contributing significantly to its export value. The variety of products highlights the border post's importance as a key trade hub in the region.

**Chart 9: Exports via the Katima Mulilo Border Post, Percentage share**



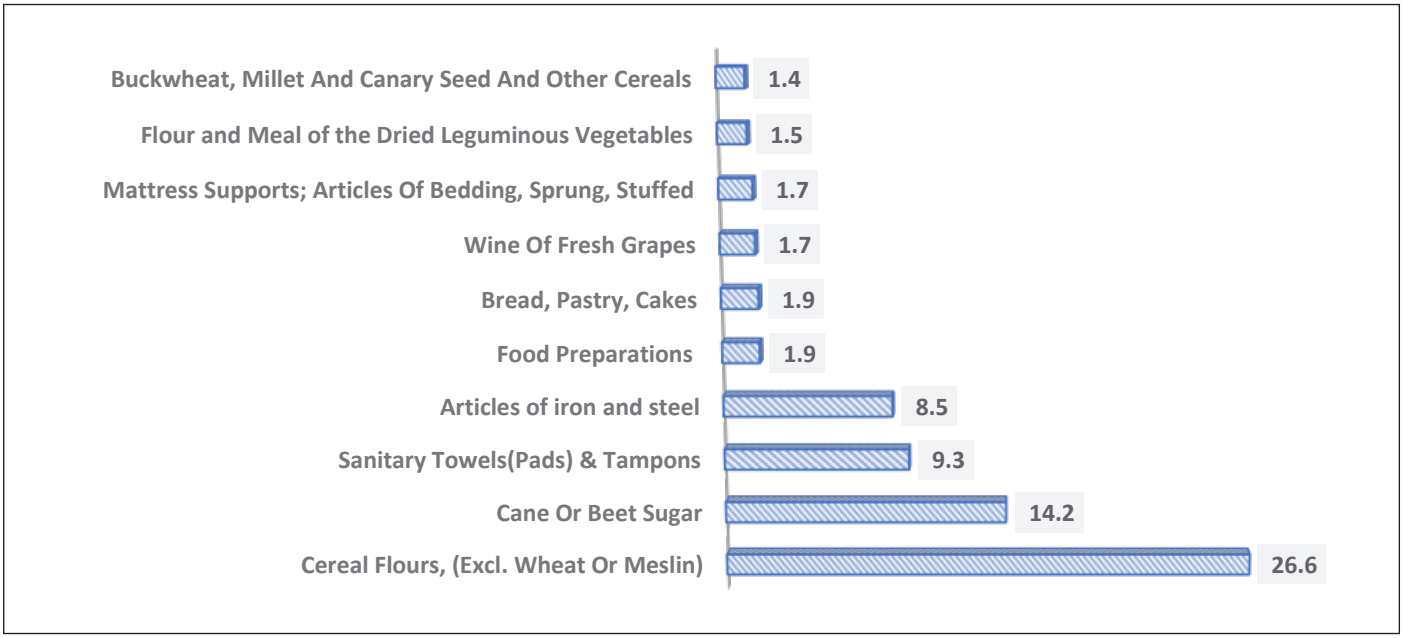

### 6.2.3 Exports via Omahenene Border Post

The Omahenene Border Post secured the third position for export values during the period under review, with total exports amounting to N$1.5 million. This represented 16.1 percent of the total export for the period.

Key exported commodities through the Omahenene Border Post included: Cereal flours which was the largest export item, valued at N$390 285. This commodity accounted for a significant portion of the total exports, highlighting its major role in the export profile of the border post. 'Cane or Beet sugar' followed, representing 14.2 percent of the total exports. This product was valued at N$208 465, cementing its importance in the export trade. Sanitary towels were the third-largest export, valued at N$136 496. This indicates a notable demand for hygiene products within the export market.

Articles of iron and steel were also a significant export, making up 8.5 percent of the total exports. This reflects the border post's contribution to the trade in industrial and construction materials. Food preparations made up 1.9 percent of the total exports, amounting to a value of N$27 506 among the various goods exported.

**Chart 10: Exports via Omahenene Border Post, Percentage share**



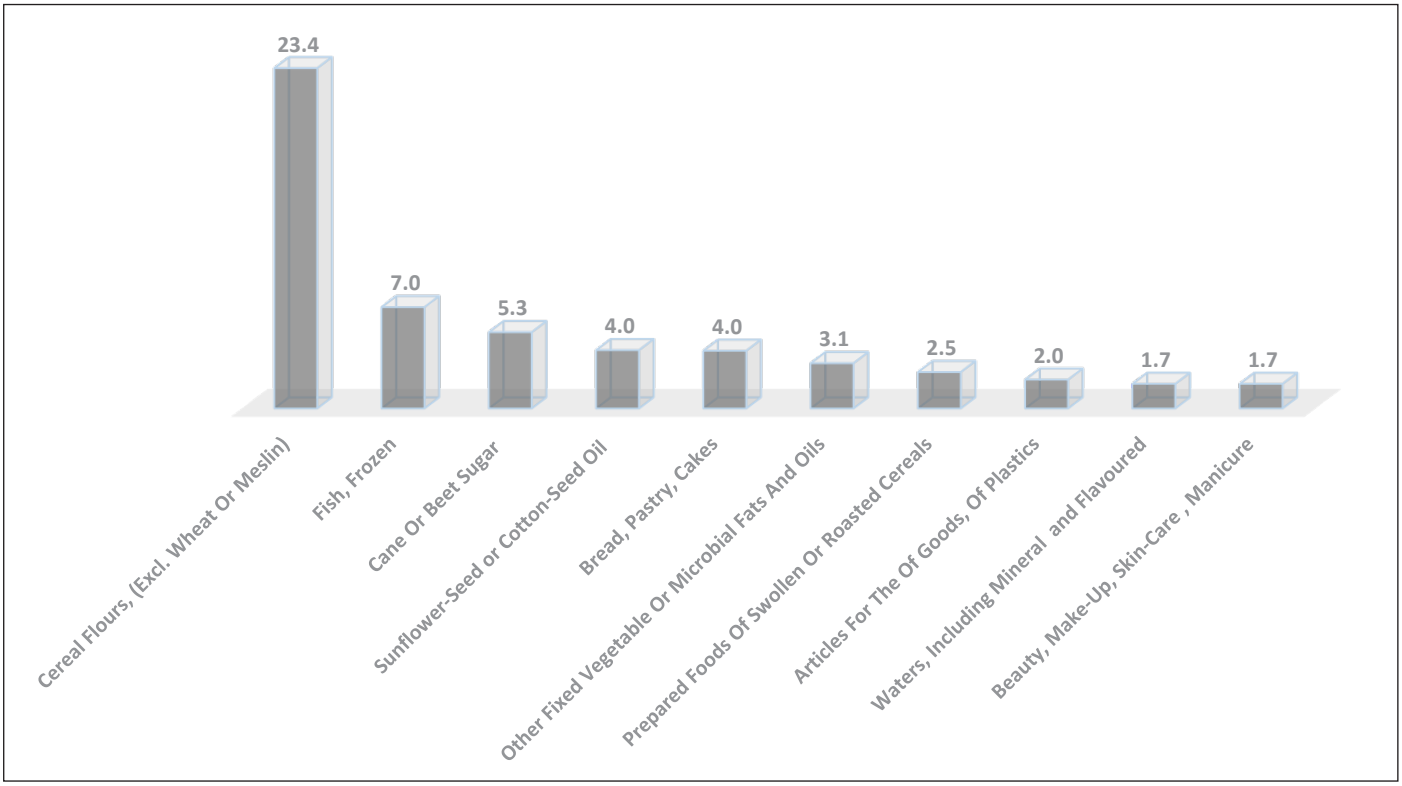

The top ten commodities exported via Omahenene Border Post accounted for a significant portion, representing 68.6 percent of the total export value. The diverse range of commodities exported through the Omahenene Border Post illustrates its important role in regional trade, serving various market needs with a balanced mix of agricultural, industrial, and consumer goods.

### 6.2.4 Exports via Sarasungu Border Post

Exports through the Sarasungu Border Post totalled N$407 209, making it the lowest in terms of export value among the surveyed border posts. The most significant commodity exported via Sarasungu was Cereal flours, which represented 23.4 percent of the total exports. Following Cereal flours, Frozen fish accounted for 7.0 percent, while 'Cane or Beet Sugar' was the third highest export, contributing 5.3 percent. Cooking oil and 'Bread, pastry and cakes' each made up 4.0 percent of the exports.

Together, the top ten exported commodities from Sarasungu Border Post constituted 54.6 percent of the total export value through this border post.

**Chart 11: Exports via Sarasungu Border Post, Percentage share**

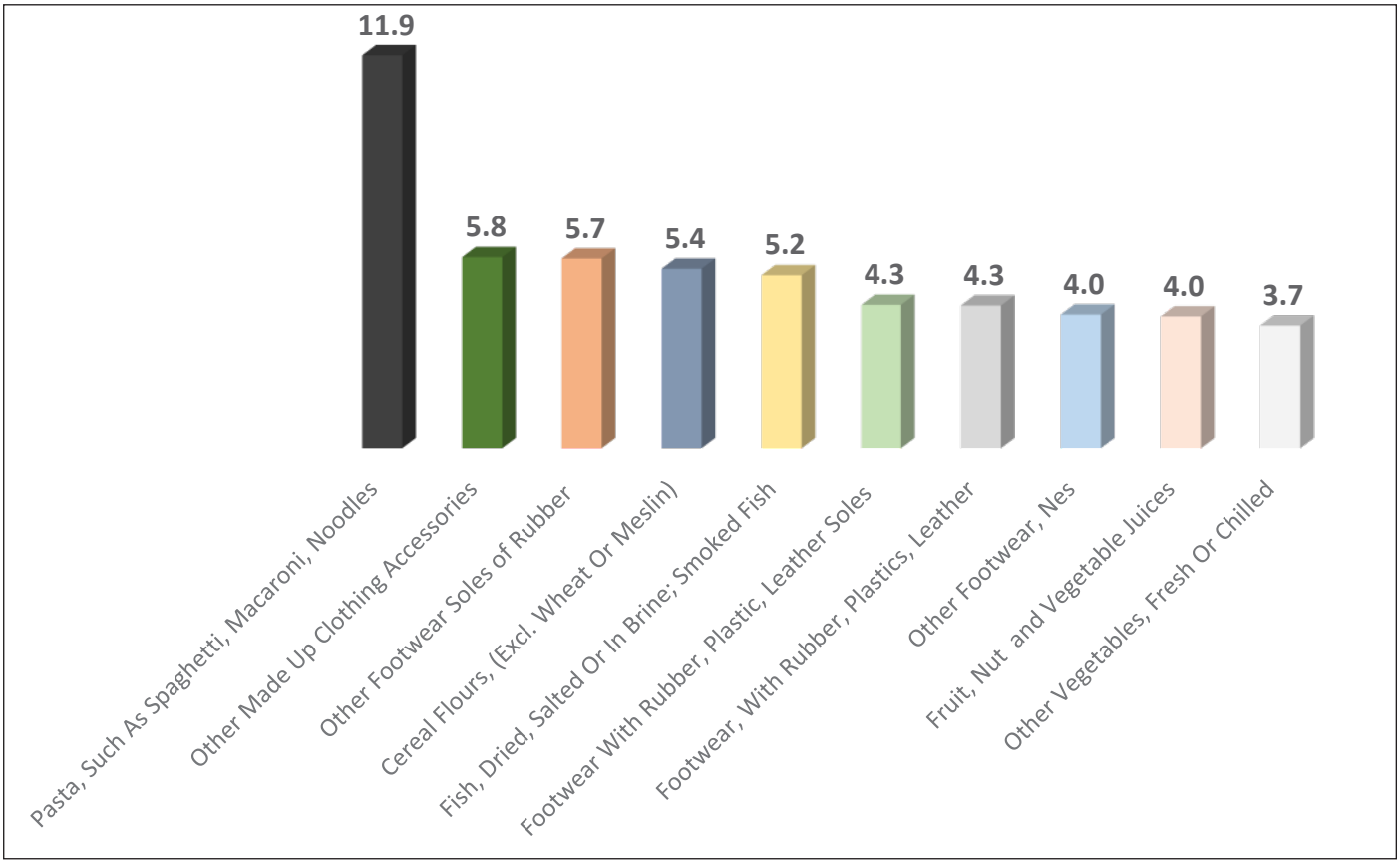



## 6.3 Imports Breakdown

### 6.3.1 Imports via Oshikango Border Post

The most imported commodities through Oshikango border post were Pasta, 'Other made-up clothing accessories', 'Other footwear', Cereal flours and Dried fish whose combined value was estimated at N$135 430 representing a share of 34.1 percent of the total import bill. Pasta accounted for 11.9 percent share of the total import bill via Oshikango, making it the most imported commodity by value through that border post. 'Other made-up clothing accessories' ranked second with 5.8 percent, followed by 'Other footwear' with 5.7 percent, Cereal flours with a share of 5.4 percent and Dried fish with 5.2 percent share of total imports.

**Chart 12: Imports via Oshikango Border Post, Percentage share**

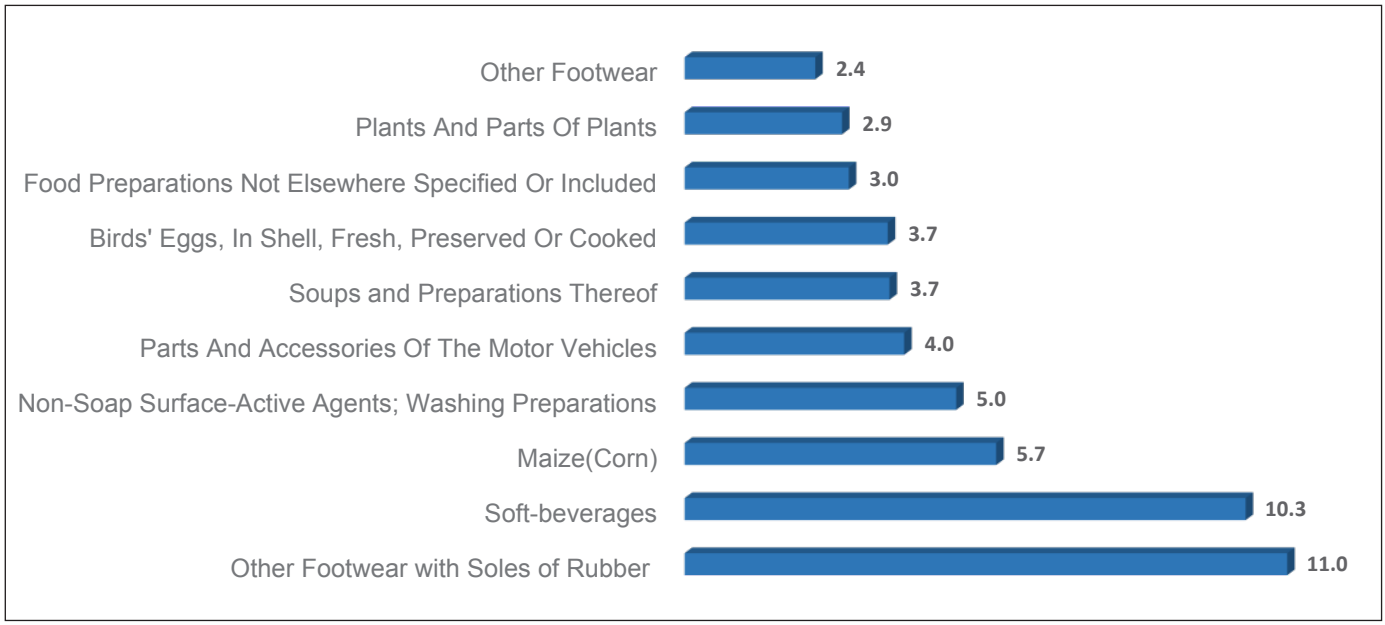



Overall, informal imports through Oshikango declined by 75.6 percent to register N$ 396,628 compared to N$1,627 000 recorded in 2019.

### 6.3.2 Imports via Katima Mulilo Border Post

'Other Footwear with soles of rubber', Soft beverages, Maize (corn), Non-soap surface-active agents, and 'Motor vehicle parts and accessories' dominated the list of commodities imported through the Katima Mulilo Border Post during November 2023. Other footwear accounted for 11.0 percent of the total imports, followed by Soft beverages with 10.3 percent and Maize (corn) with 5.7 percent (Chart 14).

**Chart 13: Imports via Katima Mulilo Border Post, Percentage share**

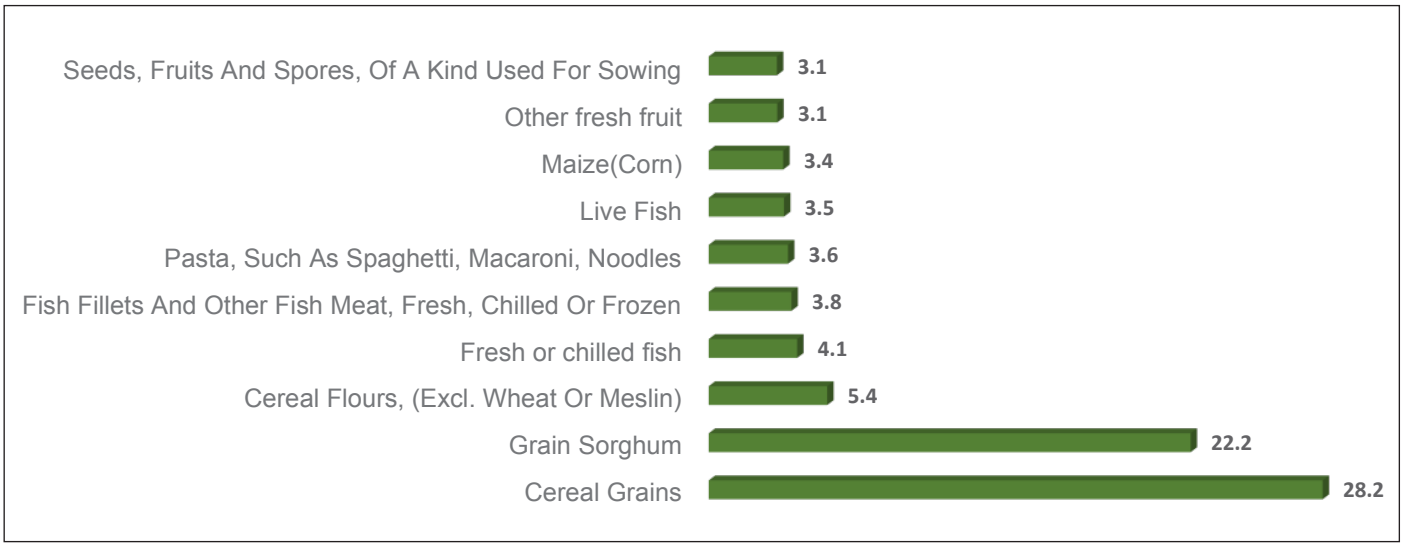


Additionally, informal imports of Non-soap surface-active agents and 'Motor vehicle parts and accessories' made-up 5.0 percent and 4.0 percent of the total informal import bill through the Katima Mulilo Border Post, respectively.

### 6.3.3 Imports via Omahenene Border Post

In November 2023, Cereal grains, Grain sorghum, Cereal flours, 'Fresh or chilled fish' and 'Fish fillets and Other fish meat' emerged as major imported commodities via Omahenene border post, jointly accounting for N$234 260, representing a share of 63.7 percent of the total import bill through that border post (Chart 14). Cereal grains accounted for the largest share of 28.2 percent to the total informal import bill, followed by Grain sorghum with a 22.2 percent share and Cereal flours with 5.4 percent of total informal imports. 'Fresh or chilled fish and 'Fish fillets and other fish meat' ranked fourth and fifth accounting for 4.1 percent and 3.8 percent share, respectively.

**Chart 14: Imports via Omahenene Border Post, Percentage share**

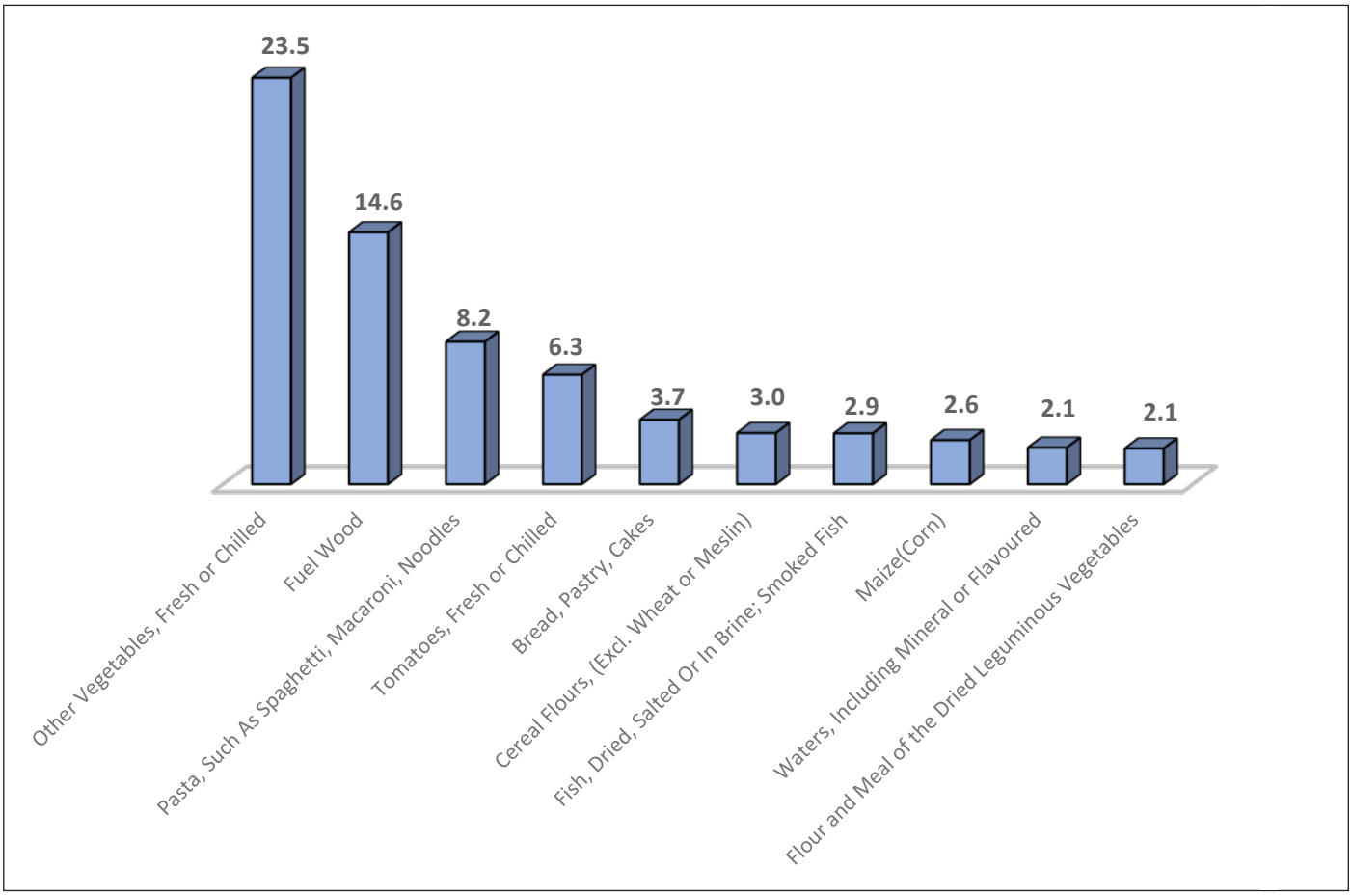



Overall, the value of informal imports through Omahenene border post increased by 107.8 percent to register N$367 732 in November 2023 when compared to N$177 000 recorded in September 2019.

### 6.3.4 Imports via Sarasungu Border Post

Other fresh vegetables, Fuel wood, Pasta, 'Fresh or chilled tomatoes' and 'Bread, pastry and cakes' emerged as the leading imported commodities through Sarasungu Border Post during the period under study with an estimated combined value of N$196 429 representing a share of 56.3 percent of the total imports. Other fresh vegetables accounted for 23.5 percent of the total informal imports via Sarasungu, making it the largest imported category through that border post by value, followed by Fuel wood with 14.6 percent while Pasta accounted for 8.2 percent. Furthermore, 'Fresh or chilled tomatoes' and 'Bread, pastry and cakes' also ranked among the top five imported commodities through Sarasungu Border Post, accounting for a share of 6.3 percent and 3.7 percent respectively (Chart 15).

**Chart 15: Imports via Sarasungu Border Post, Percentage share**




Overall informal imports through Sarasungu Border Post declined by 44.6 percent to account for N$348 815 in November 2023 compared to N$630 000 recorded in September 2019.

# SECTION 7: TRADE BY AGE GROUP

This section provides a detailed analysis of trade activities based on age groups. The findings cover both export and import activities, highlighting the percentage distribution across different demographics.

The analysis reveals distinct patterns in trade activities between males and females across various age groups. The percentages represent the proportion of total exports and imports attributed to each group.

The age group 27-36 was the most active among females in both exports and imports. They accounted for a substantial share of 16.8 percent in exports and a leading 23.1 percent in imports. This indicates that women in this age group are the primary drivers of trade among females, engaging heavily in both exporting goods and importing products.

Females aged 17-26 are significantly active in both exports (8.7%) and imports (10.8%). This age group contributes remarkably to trade activities, with a strong presence, particularly in imports. Their involvement highlights their critical role in the overall trade dynamics. Females aged 37-46 have a moderate share in exports but a high share in imports. Even though, their export activity is significant, their role in importing activities is even more pronounced.

**Table 5: Trade by age group, Percentage share**

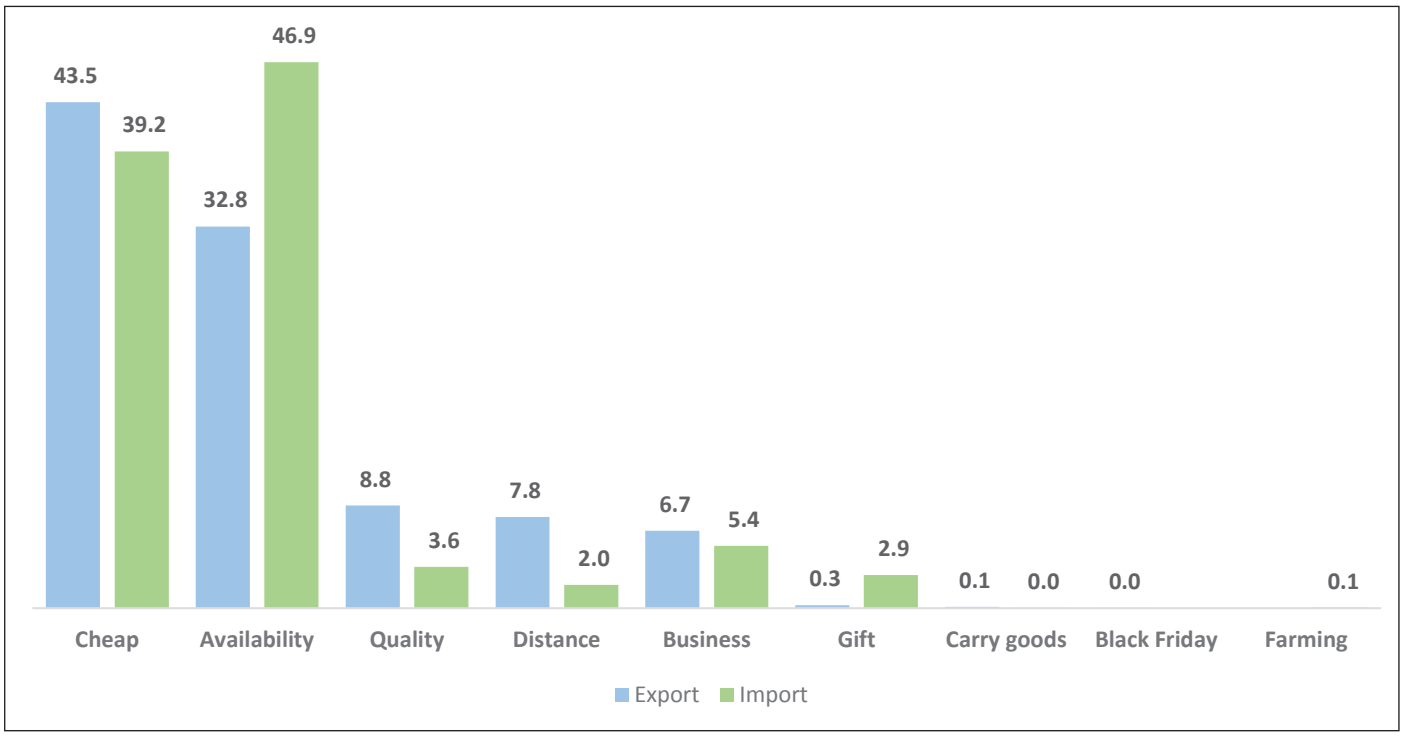
| Sex | Age | Export (% Share) | Import (% Share) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Female | 6 - 16 | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| | 17 - 26 | 8.7 | 10.8 |
| | 27 - 36 | 16.8 | 23.1 |
| | 37 - 46 | 7.3 | 19.5 |
| | 47 - 56 | 2.8 | 11.7 |
| | 57 - 66 | 1.3 | 3.8 |
| | 67 - 76 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| | 77 - 86 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| | 87+ | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Male | 6 - 16 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| | 17 - 26 | 10.4 | 3.3 |
| | 27 - 36 | 18.5 | 8.0 |
| | 37 - 46 | 13.0 | 5.8 |
| | 47 - 56 | 12.8 | 5.6 |
| | 57 - 66 | 2.1 | 4.2 |
| | 67 - 76 | 3.9 | 0.8 |
| | 77 - 86 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| | 87+ | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grand Total | | 100 | 100 |

Males aged 27-36 lead in export activities (18.5%) and have a significant presence in imports (8.0%), making them the most active age group in trade among males. Males aged 37-46 had a strong focus on exports (13.0%), with moderate involvement in imports (5.8%), highlighting their substantial but balanced contribution to trade. Young males aged 17-26 were key contributors to exports (10.4%), with less emphasis on imports (3.3%).

# **SECTION 8:** REASON FOR TRADE

During the November 2023 ICBTS enumerators had the task of extracting reasons as to why trade in goods occurred over the border being monitored, Chart 16.

**Chart 16: Reasons for trade, Percentage share**




Cheap and Availability were the top reasons for both exports and imports. Availability was a slightly more significant factor for imports (46.9%) than for exports (32.8%).

- Quality is more critical for exports (8.8 %) than for imports (3.6 %).
- Distance played a more significant role in exports (7.8%) compared to imports (2.0%).
- Business reasons were similar for both exports (6.7%) and imports (5.4%).
- Gifts were a minor but notable reason for imports (2.9%) compared to exports (0.3%).
- Farm-related imports were also minimal at 0.1 percent, with no corresponding export data.

Enumerators recorded every reason provided by a trader hence a noteworthy value on carrying articles.

Overall, cost-effectiveness and availability were the primary drivers of trade, with quality and distance also playing notable roles, particularly in exports.

# SECTION 9: INFORMAL TRADE vs FORMAL TRADE

This section highlights the comparisons between the informal and formal trade activities that took place during November 2023 at the four border posts, where the November 2023 informal cross border trade survey was conducted. The section also looks at the top three commodities which were traded via the four border posts during the period under review and their contributions to the total trade flow.

## 9.1 Oshikango Border Post

As highlighted in section 6, 'Cane or Beet sugar' came first, contributing 14.1 percent to the total informal exports recorded at Oshikango, followed by 'Bread, pastry and cakes' (7.5%) and Pome fruits (6.0%) in the second and third positions, respectively. However, when the same commodities are compared to the formal trade, only 'Cane or Beet sugar' and Pome fruits were traded during the period under review contributing 9.9 percent and 3.8 percent to the total formal export from Oshikango Border Post, respectively. The top three commodities exported under the informal sector through the border post during the survey period totalled N$1.2 million compared to N$603,000 reported officially, resulting in a discrepancy of N$612 000, highlighting the prevalence of informal exports in these goods.

**Table 6: Informal vs Formal Exports at Oshikango, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 622 | 14.1 | 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 435 | 9.9 |
| 1905:Bread, Pastry, Cakes, Etc; Communion Wafers, Rice Paper, Etc | 330 | 7.5 | 0808:Apples, Pears And Quinces, Fresh | 169 | 3.8 |
| 0808:Apples, Pears And Quinces, Fresh | 264 | 6.0 | 1905:Bread, Pastry, Cakes, Etc; Communion Wafers, Rice Paper, Etc | - | - |
| **Total (Oshikango)** | **4 413** | **27.5** | **Total (Oshikango)** | **43 783** | **13.8** |

On the demand side, Pasta (11.9%), 'Other made-up clothing accessories' (5.8%) and 'Other Footwear with Soles of Rubber' (5.7%) were the top three imported commodities via Oshikango Border Post during the November 2023 ICBTS. When compared to formal trade, the same commodities contributed a total of 0.3 percent to the total imports recorded at the border post under study, during November 2023 (Table 7).

**Table 7: Informal vs Formal Imports at Oshikango, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000'). | %Share. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1902:Pasta, Such As Spaghetti, Macaroni, Noodles, Lasagne, Etc; Couscous | 47 | 11.9 | 6402:Other Footwear With Outer Soles And Uppers Of Rubber Or Plastics | 20 | 0.2 |
| 6217:Other Made Up Clothing Accessories; Parts Of Garments | 23 | 5.8 | 1902:Pasta, Such As Spaghetti, Macaroni, Noodles, Lasagne, Etc; Couscous | 4 | 0.0 |
| 6402:Other Footwear With Outer Soles And Uppers Of Rubber Or Plastics | 23 | 5.7 | 6217:Other Made Up Clothing Accessories; Parts Of Garments | - | - |
| **Total (Oshikango)** | **397** | **23.5** | **Total (Oshikango)** | **95 247** | **0.3** |

## 9.2 Katima Mulilo Border Post

Medicaments (14.0%), 'Cane or Beet sugar' (10.0%) and Cereal flours (7.6%) were the top three informally exported commodities via Katima Mulilo Border Post during November 2023. However, none of these products were formally exported during the same month, 2023.

**Table 8: Informal vs Formal Exports at Katima Mulilo, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3004:Medicaments Of Mixed Or Unmixed Products, For Retail Sale | 394 | 14.0 | 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | - | - |
| 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 282 | 10.0 | 3004:Medicaments Of Mixed Or Unmixed Products, For Retail Sale | - | - |
| 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | 215 | 7.6 | 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | - | - |
| **Total (Katima Mulilo)** | **2,822** | **31.6** | **Total (Katima Mulilo)** | **835,791** | **-** |

On the import side, 'Other Footwear with Soles of Rubber' (11.0%), Soft beverages (10.3%) and Maize (5.7%) contributed a total of 27.0 percent to the total informal imports recorded at Katima Mulilo Border Post while under formal trade, only Maize (N$ 5 371) was imported during the period under study.

**Table9: Informal vs Formal Imports at Katima Mulilo, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6402:Other Footwear With Outer Soles And Uppers Of Rubber Or Plastics | 7 | 11.0 | 1005:Maize(Corn) | 5 | 0.0 |
| 2202:Soft-beverages | 7 | 10.3 | 6402:Other Footwear With Outer Soles And Uppers Of Rubber Or Plastics | - | - |
| 1005:Maize(Corn) | 4 | 5.7 | 2202:Soft-beverages | - | - |
| **Total (Katima Mulilo)** | **66** | **27.0** | **Total (Katima Mulilo)** | **563,035** | **0.0** |

## 9.3 Omahenene Border Post

The analysis of informal trade at Omahenene revealed Cereal flours (26.6%), 'Cane or Beet sugar' (14.2%) as well as Sanitary pads (9.3%) occupying the top three positions, respectively. In contrast to formal trade, only 'Cane or Beet sugar' (5.0%) was exported via Omahenene border post during November 2023 (Table 10).

**Table10: Informal vs Formal Exports at Omahenene, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | 390 | 26.6 | 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 1,430 | 5.0 |
| 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 208 | 14.2 | 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | - | - |
| 9619:Sanitary Towels(Pads) & Tampons, Napkins & Napkin Liners For Babies | 136 | 9.3 | 9619:Sanitary Towels(Pads) & Tampons, Napkins & Napkin Liners For Babies | - | - |
| **Total (Omahenene)** | **1,468** | **50.1** | **Total (Omahenene)** | **28,870** | **5.0** |

Import through Omahenene Border Posts during the period under study was only noted under informal trade whereby Cereal grains (28.2%), Grain sorghum (22.2%) and Cereal flours (5.4%) were the top three imports. No formal trade was recorded at this border posts during November 2023.

**Table11: Informal vs Formal Imports at Omahenene, November 2023**

| | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1008:Cereal Grains | 104 | 28.2 | 1008:Cereal Grains | - | - |
| 1007:Grain Sorghum | 81 | 22.2 | 1007:Grain Sorghum | - | - |
| 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | 20 | 5.4 | 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | - | - |
| **Total (Omahenene)** | **368** | **55.8** | **Total (Omahenene)** | **-** | **-** |

## 9.4 Sarasungu Border Post

At Sarasungu, Cereal flours occupied the first position accounting for 23.4 percent of the informal exports followed by Fish (7.0%) and 'Cane or Beet sugar' (5.3%) in the second and third positions, respectively. Whereas under formal trade, only Cereal flours (6.1%) and 'Cane or Beet sugar' (5.4%) were exported via Sarasungu Border Post during November 2023.

**Table12: Informal vs Formal Exports at Sarasungu, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | 95 | 23.4 | 1102:Cereal Flours, (Excl. Wheat Or Meslin) | 41 | 6.1 |
| 0303:Fish, Frozen, (Excl. Those Of 03.04) | 28 | 7.0 | 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid | 36 | 5.4 |
| 1701:Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form | 21 | 5.3 | 0303:Fish, Frozen, (Excl. Those Of 03.04) | - | - |
| **Total (Sarasungu)** | **407** | **35.6** | **Total (Sarasungu)** | **674** | **11.5** |

Finaly, imports at Sarasungu during the period under review recorded 'Other fresh vegetables' (23.5%) as the top commodity imported. At second position was Fuel wood accounting for 14.6 percent and lastly, Pasta took the third position with a percentage share of 8.2 percent. At Sarasungu Border Post, none of the top three goods traded informally were formally traded during November 2023.

**Table13: Informal vs Formal Imports at Sarasungu, November 2023**

| Informal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share | Formal Trade | Value(N$ '000') | %Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0709:Other Vegetables, Fresh Or Chilled | 82 | 23.5 | 0709:Other Vegetables, Fresh Or Chilled | - | - |
| 4401:Fuel Wood, In Logs..., Etc; Wood Chips Or Particles; Sawdust | 51 | 14.6 | 4401:Fuel Wood, In Logs..., Etc; Wood Chips Or Particles; Sawdust | - | - |
| 1902:Pasta, Such As Spaghetti, Macaroni, Noodles, Lasagne, Etc; Couscous | 29 | 8.2 | 1902:Pasta, Such As Spaghetti, Macaroni, Noodles, Lasagne | - | - |
| **Total (Sarasungu)** | **349** | **46.3** | **Total (Sarasungu)** | **319** | - |

Overall, when examining the top three commodities traded across the four border posts, a noticeable trend emerges in the value of goods traded informally versus formally. Informal trade in these commodities exhibits substantial amounts, often surpassing those recorded in formal trade. The data presented underscores the prominence of informal trade in these commodities, suggesting that formal trade may not fully capture the extent of economic activity at these border posts.

# CONCLUSION

The objective of the survey was to determine the extent of unrecorded/informal trade flows between Namibia and its neighbouring countries. The study concentrated on border posts identified as significant from a previous survey conducted in September 2019. These border posts, covering only Angola and Zambia, revealed a substantial volume of informal cross-border trade between the two countries.

In November 2023, the total value of informal trade across all border posts was N$10.3 million, marking a 46.8 percent decrease from N$19.4 million in September 2019. Exports accounted for 88.5 percent of total trade, while imports made up 11.5 percent. The Oshikango Border Post was the busiest, handling 46.7 percent of the trade, followed by Katima Mulilo (28.1%), Sarasungu (17.8%), and Omahenene (7.3%). Namibia reported a trade surplus of N$7.9 million with no trade deficits ever since the inception of the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey.

Male traders led informal trade, contributing N$6.0 million compared to N$4.3 million by females. Males were responsible for 62.1 percent of informal exports, while females-controlled 71.5 percent of the demand share. Trade data revealed a nuanced picture of sex participation. In exports, the sex balance is relatively even, with males and females nearly matching each other's contributions. However, the import sector shows a pronounced sex disparity, with females overwhelmingly dominating the market. This suggests that while both sex are actively involved in trade, female traders hold a more significant position in imports compared to exports.

The Oshikango Border Post recorded the highest export and import values, despite a 41.9 percent decline in exports from 2019. Katima Mulilo was second in exports with a 64.7 percent decrease from 2019 but a 159.4 percent increase from 2014. Both Omahenene and Sarasungu showed increased exports compared to September 2019, with notable growth at Sarasungu.

Regarding imports, Oshikango remained the leading entry point despite a 75.6 percent decrease in imports from September 2019. Omahenene ranked second with a notable increase in imports from previous years. Sarasungu contributed 29.6 percent to total imports, showing some fluctuation compared to past years. Katima Mulilo experienced a significant decline of 83.3 percent in imports when compared to September 2019.

Exports wise, Oshikango recorded the highest value of N$4.4 million followed by Katima Mulilo in second position with N$2.8 million. Omahenene accounted for N$1.5 million in trade while Sarasungu had the lowest export value at N$407 209.

Angola was the primary market, accounting for 69.0 percent of exports and 94.4 percent of imports. Zambia received 31.0 percent of total exports and provided 5.6 percent of imports.

Trade by Commodity revealed that exports totalled N$9.1 million, with 'Cane or Beet Sugar' as the leading export, followed by Cereal flours and 'Bread, pastry and cakes', Medicaments and Cooking oil. Imports amounted to N$1.2 million, with Cereal grains as the top import, followed by Fresh or chilled vegetables, Pasta, Sorghum grain, and Fuel wood.

The findings from trade by age analysis provide valuable insights into the trade patterns across the different age groups and sex. Females aged 27-36 and males in the same age group were the most active in both exports and imports. Cheap and Availability were the top reasons for trade for both exports and imports.

The analysis on informal versus formal trade indicates that Informal trade in the top three commodities traded at the four border posts exhibits substantial amounts, often surpassing those recorded in formal trade during the period under review.

The survey delivered a thorough analysis of informal trade dynamics, offering significant insights into sex distribution among traders and the impact of border posts on trade flows.

# INFORMAL CROSS BORDER TRADE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023