



# EU-Namibia Trade in Five Charts

by

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# Putting My Cards on the Table



- Independent Freelance Economist (not beholden to particular government or commercial interests!)
- Following Namibian Economic Developments for over 30 years (founder of IPPR, Insight Namibia, IPPR QER and Guide to the Namibian Economy) trying to promote discussion of the economy based on data, facts and evidence
- Associate of IPPR and IJG
- Delighted when EU asked me to do this work on trade without strings

# Namibia-EU Trade in Five Charts

1. The European Union
2. The SITC and data
3. Namibia's Exports (Goods)
4. Namibia-EU Trade and Employment Creation (Goods)
5. Namibia's Trade balance (Goods)
6. Conclusion

# 1. The European Union (EU)

1. Now 27 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden
2. Norway and Switzerland are not members and the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020
3. Trades as a single bloc – Single Market (Non-Tariff Barriers or NTBs) + Customs Union (common external tariff)
4. European Commission in Brussels responsible for trade policy with the rest of the world
5. How do Namibia's trade patterns look when EU is treated as a single trading partner?

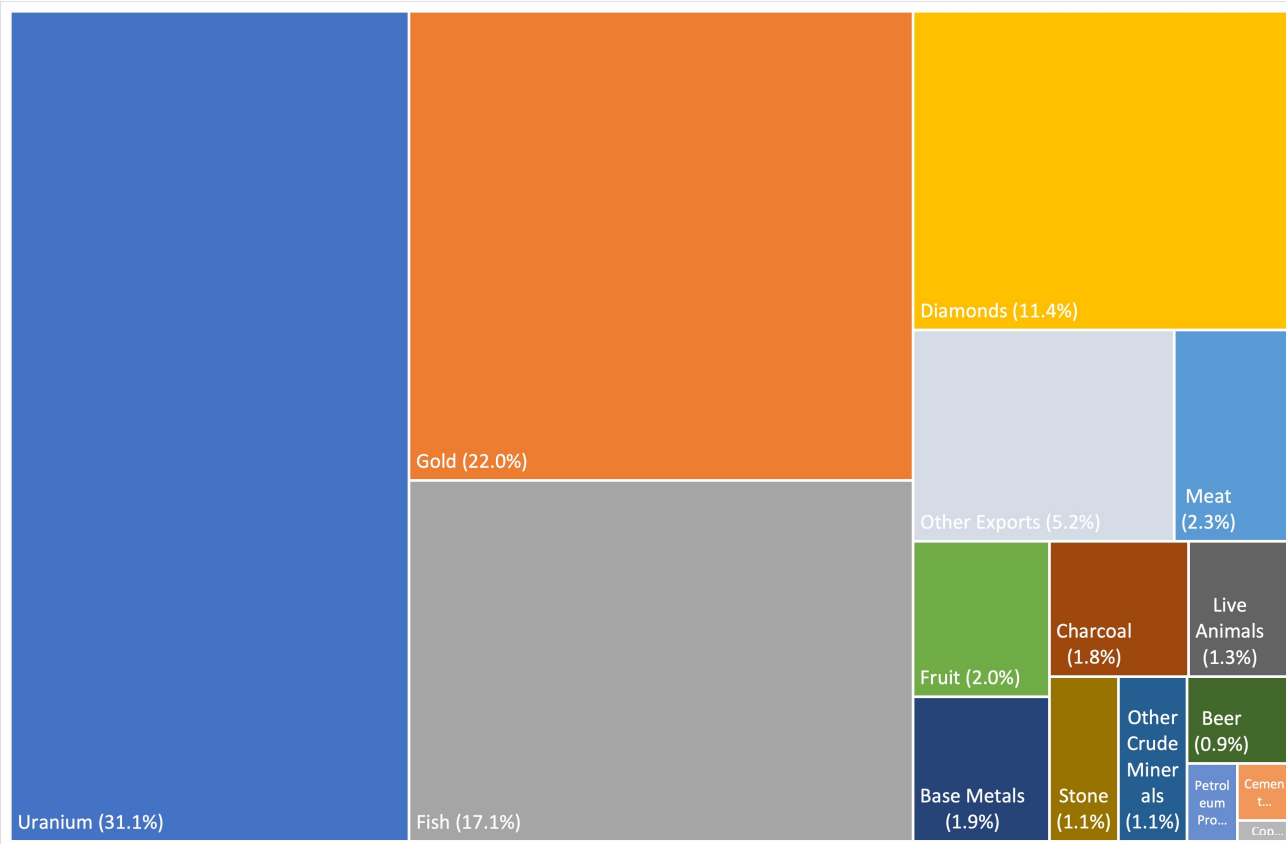
## 2. The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) data

- The last Namibia-EU Trade Study covered 2004-2023 in USD and HS Codes
- This study uses SITC classification and coding of all traded products (UN)
- Ten main commodity groups (from food and live animals to specialised manufactured items)
- Used by over 200 countries and territories including Namibia
- Trade data provided by Namibia Statistics Agency
- Exports and imports to and from 220+ countries and territories in NAD for 2024 and 2025 (25,000 row spreadsheet)
- Exports to first destination
- Excludes re-exports
- Excludes electricity and services (eg tourism)
- This presentation focuses on 2025

# 2. The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Code	Label
TOTAL	TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS
0	Food and live animals
00	Live animals other than animals of division 03
001	Live animals other than animals of division 03
01	Meat and meat preparations
011	Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen
012	Other meat and edible meat offal
016	Meat, edible meat offal, salted, dried; flours, meals
017	Meat, edible meat offal, prepared, preserved, n.e.s.
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs
022	Milk, cream and milk products (excluding butter, cheese)
023	Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk
024	Cheese and curd
025	Birds' eggs, and eggs' yolks; egg albumin
03	Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof
034	Fish, fresh (live or dead), chilled or frozen
035	Fish, dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish
036	Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates
037	Fish, aqua. invertebrates, prepared, preserved, n.e.s.
04	Cereals and cereal preparations
041	Wheat (including spelt) and meslin, unmilled
042	Rice
043	Barley, unmilled
044	Maize (not including sweet corn), unmilled
045	Cereals, unmilled (excluding wheat, rice, barley, maize)
046	Meal and flour of wheat and flour of meslin
047	Other cereal meals and flour
048	Cereal preparations, flour of fruits or vegetables
05	Vegetables and fruits
054	Vegetables

### 3. Exports – Chart 1



In 2025, uranium, gold, fish, and diamonds accounted for over 80% of all exports by value out of total exports worth N\$90.4 billion.

**Conclusion: Namibia's exports are highly concentrated on four main product groups: uranium, gold, fish, and diamonds.**

### 3. Exports: Diamonds, Uranium and Gold

- Diamonds: Namdeb Holdings (Namdeb and Demarive) sells to NAMDIA and DTC Botswana
- Uranium: Husab uranium mine from 2016 (largest single Chinese investment in Africa with 10% owned by GRN) + Rossing + Langer Heinrich (China)
- Gold: Navachab from 1989 then Otjikoto from 2015 both selling to Rand Gold Refinery in Germiston (South Africa)

**Conclusion: The destination of diamonds, uranium and gold greatly determines the pattern of Namibia's exports.**

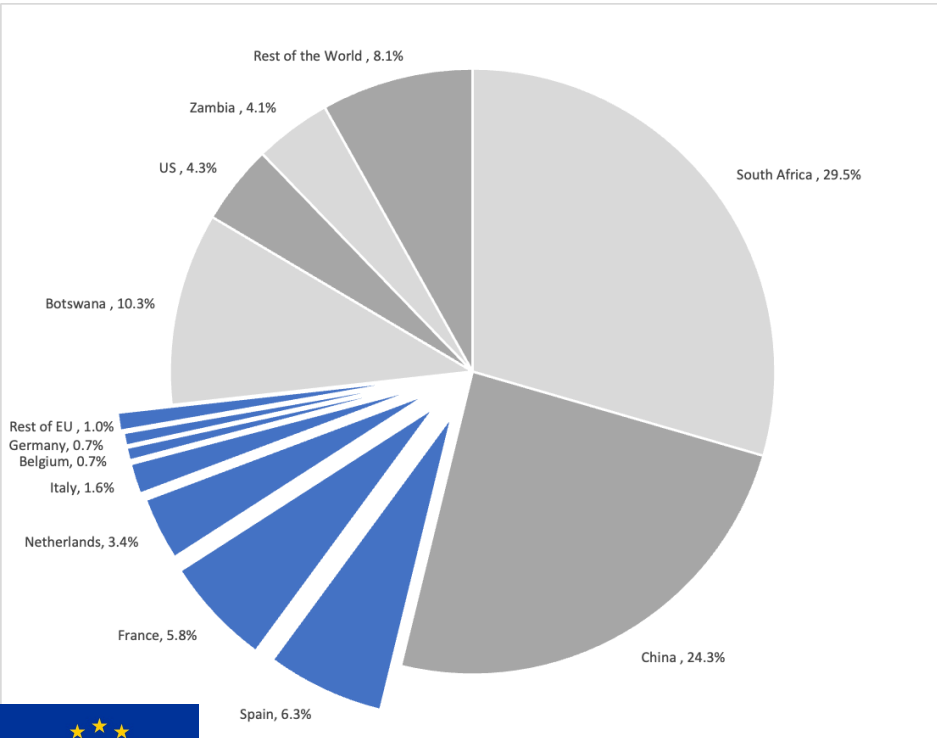
# 3. Exports

2024			2025		
Country	N\$	% of Total Exports	Country	N\$	% of Total Exports
South Africa	21.116 bn	26.6%	South Africa	26.653 bn	29.5%
China	17.380 bn	21.9%	China	21.990 bn	24.3%
EU27	14.975 bn	18.9%	EU27	17.567 bn	19.4%
Botswana	11.429 bn	14.4%	Botswana	9.293 bn	10.3%
Spain	5.534 bn	7.0%	Spain	5.678 bn	6.3%
France	3.426 bn	4.3%	France	5.261 bn	5.8%
Zambia	2.956 bn	3.7%	US	3.845 bn	4.3%
Netherlands	2.530 bn	3.2%	Zambia	3.710 bn	4.1%
US	2.406 bn	3.0%	Netherlands	3.051 bn	3.4%
UAE	2.028 bn	2.6%	UAE	1.552 bn	1.7%
Italy	1.211 bn	1.5%	Italy	1.474 bn	1.6%
DRC	1.155 bn	1.5%	UK	0.751 bn	0.8%
Canada	1.077 bn	1.4%	DRC	0.709 bn	0.8%
Mozambique	0.773 bn	1.0%	Mozambique	0.648 bn	0.7%
UK	0.745 bn	0.9%	Belgium	0.618 bn	0.7%
Belgium	0.717 bn	0.9%	Germany	0.617 bn	0.7%
Germany	0.624 bn	0.8%	Thailand	0.500 bn	0.6%
Thailand	0.527 bn	0.7%	Norway	0.429 bn	0.5%
India	0.342 bn	0.4%	India	0.389 bn	0.4%
Poland	0.297 bn	0.4%	Zimbabwe	0.331 bn	0.4%
Other Countries	3.127 bn	3.9%	Other Countries	2.905 bn	3.2%
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>79.403 bn</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>90.403 bn</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
SADC	5.459 bn	6.9%	SADC	5.629 bn	6.2%
AfCFTA	0.633 bn	0.8%	AfCFTA	0.54 bn	0.6%

**Conclusion: Namibia's top four export markets (Botswana, China, the EU and South Africa) account for over 80% of Namibia's exports. The EU is one of Namibia's most important export markets. It was the third most important export market by value in 2024 and 2025.**



### 3. Exports: Chart 2



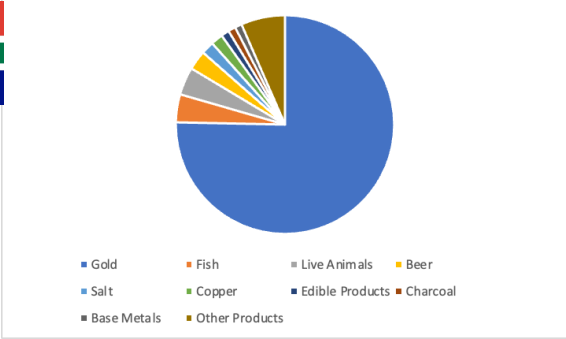
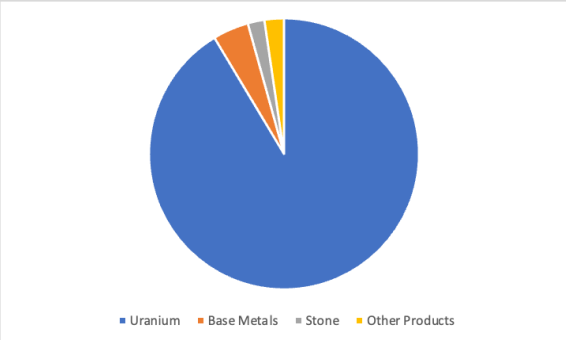
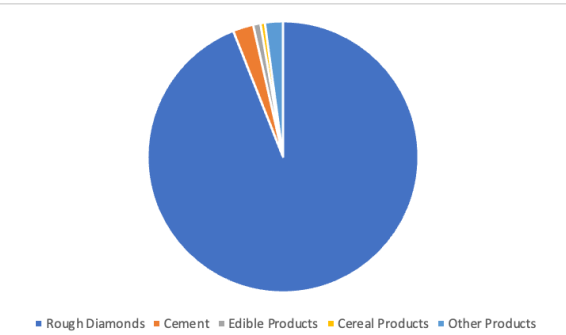
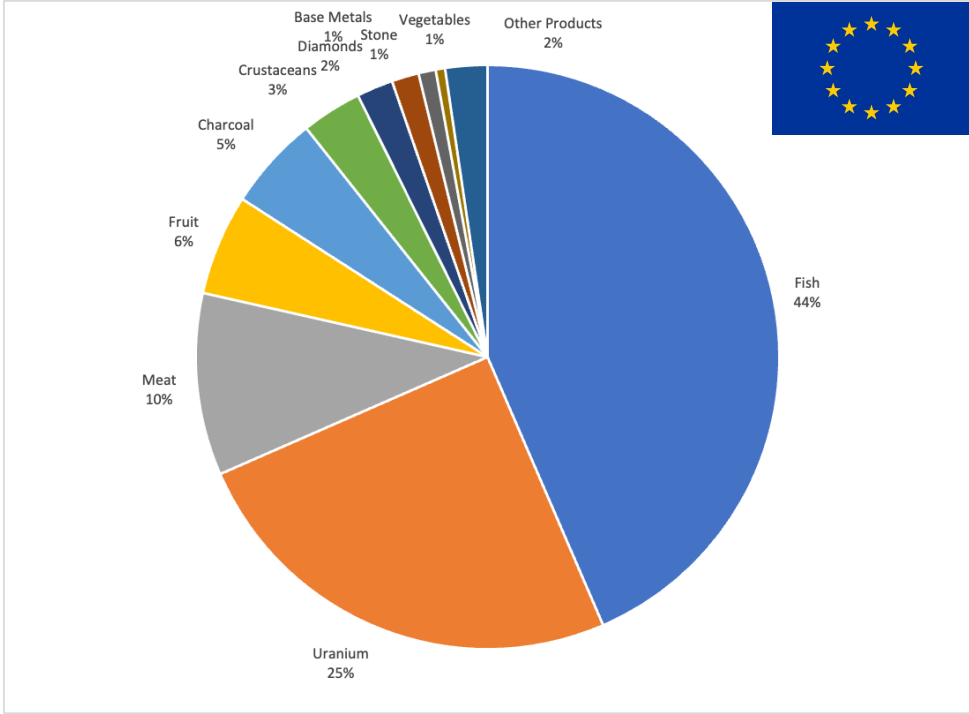
**Conclusion: Increases in uranium and gold prices (and declines in diamond prices) have affected trade patterns since the last study in 2023.**

**In 2025 the EU was the third most important export market by value taking 19.4% of Namibia's exports.**

**Within the EU, although Namibia trades with all 27 member states, six countries – Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Germany – accounted for 95% of total exports to the EU.**

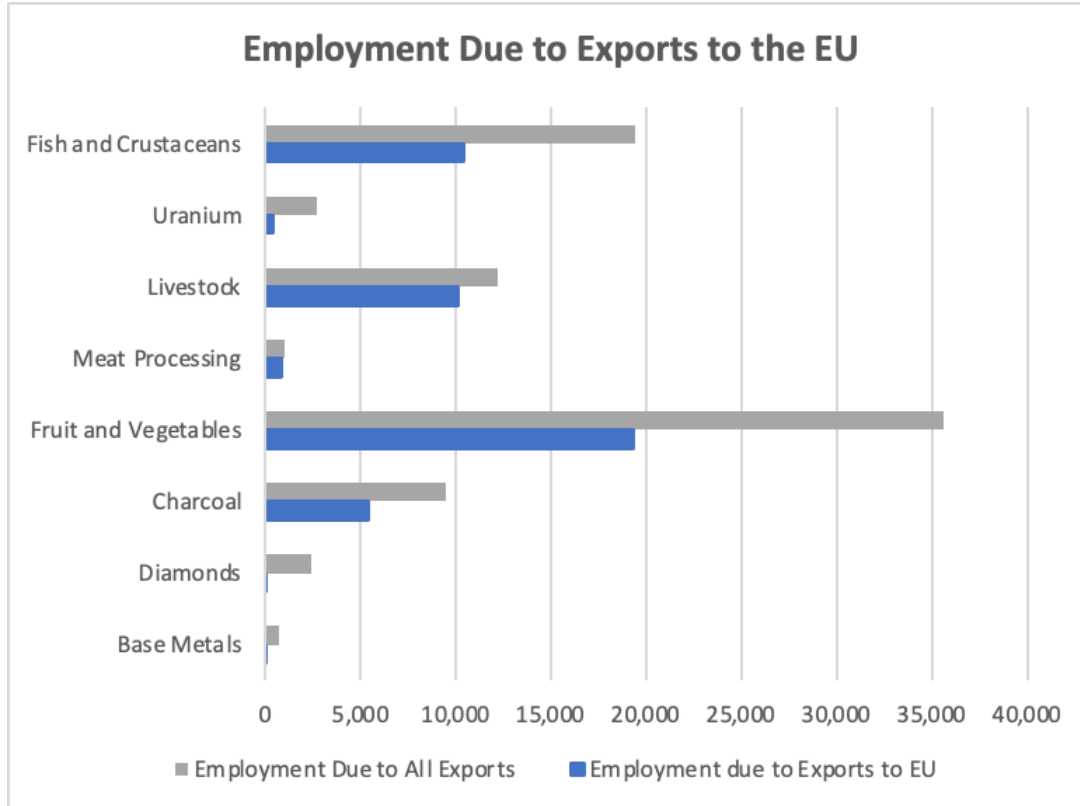


# 3. Exports to EU: Chart 3



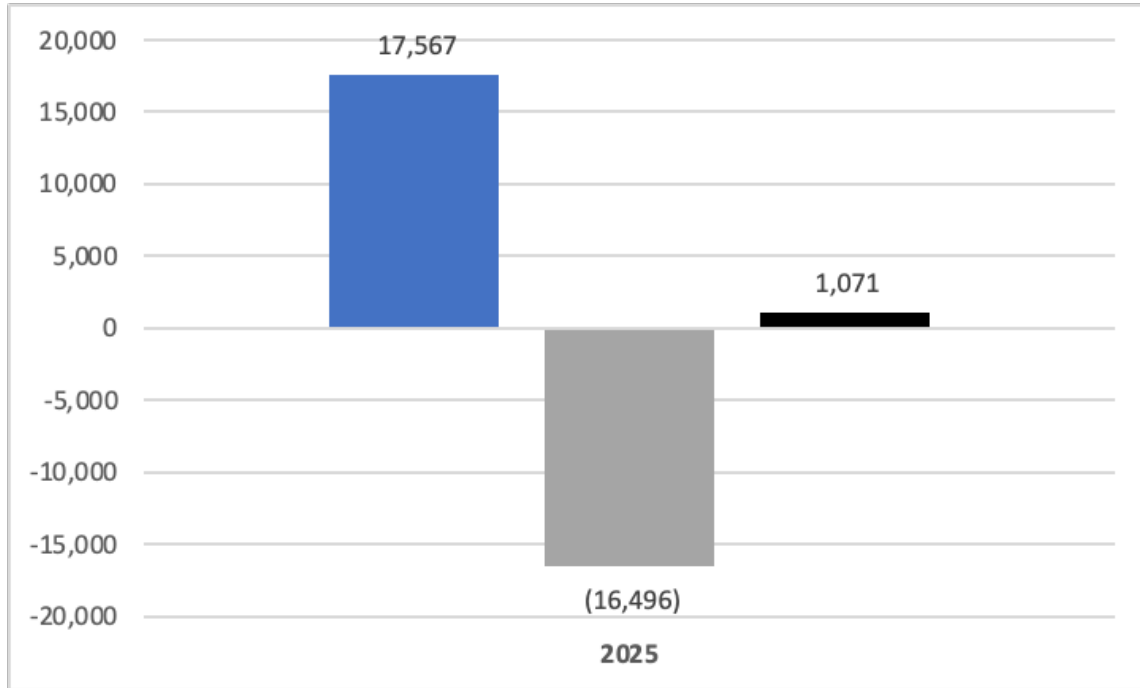
**Conclusion: Namibia exports a more diversified basket of goods to the EU than to its other main trading partners including fish and crustaceans, uranium, meat, fruit, charcoal, diamonds and base metals.**

## 4. Jobs Created by Exports to the EU: Chart 4



**Conclusion: Over 40,000 jobs are generated by exports to the EU especially in fishing, meat, fruit and charcoal.**

## 5. Trade Balance: Chart 5



**Conclusion: Namibia had a trade surplus with the EU in 2025.**

## **6. Conclusions**

- 1. EU is one of Namibia's top export markets**
- 2. EU is a more diversified export market than other major markets**
- 3. Exports to the EU are in relatively labour-intensive products**
- 4. Exports to the EU generate over 40,000 jobs for Namibians**
- 5. Trade with the EU is fairly balanced with a small surplus in 2025**