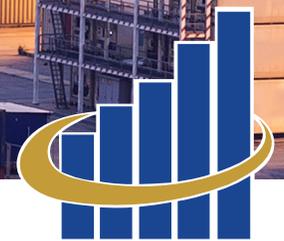


Informal Cross Border Trade

www.nsa.org.na

NOVEMBER 2014



Namibia Statistics
Agency

Our Mission

In a coordinated manner produce and disseminate relevant, quality and timely statistics that are fit-for-purpose in accordance with international standards and best practice.

Our Vision

To be a high performance institution in statistics delivery

Our Shared Values

Excellent Performance

Integrity

Service focus

Transparency

Accuracy

Partnership

Contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Background	7
3. Methodology	8
4. Key developments	9
4.1. Formal and Informal Trade by Border Post	9
4.2. Informal Trade by border posts	9
4.3. Informal Trade by country	10
4.4. Top informal exported commodities at border posts	11
4.4.1. Top informal exports via Oshikango border post	11
4.4.2. Top informal exports via Omahenene border post	12
4.4.3. Top informal exports via Wenela border post	13
4.4.4. Top informal exports via Calai border post	14
4.4.5. Top informal exports via Ariamsvlei border post	15
4.4.6. Top informal exports via Noordoewer border post	16
4.5. Top informal imports commodities at border posts	17
4.5.1. Top informal imports via Oshikango border post	17
4.5.2. Top informal imports via the Omahenene border post	17
4.5.3. Top informal imports via Wenela border post	18
4.5.4. Top informal imports via Calai border post	19
4.5.5. Top informal imports via Ariamsvlei	20
4.5.6. Top informal imports via Noordoewer border post	21
5. Recommendations	22
6. Conclusions	23

List of Tables

Table 1: Formal and Informal Trade.....	9
Table 2: Informal trade by country	10
Table 3: Top 20 informal exported products via Oshikango border post.....	11
Table 4: Top 20 informal exported products via Omahenene border post.....	12
Table 5: Top 15 informal exported products via Wenela border post	13
Table 6: Top 15 informal exported products via Calai border post.....	14
Table 7: Top 10 informal exported products via Ariamsvlei border post.....	15
Table 8: Top 10 informal exported products via Noordoewer border post	15
Table 9: Top 7 informal imported products via Oshikango border post	16
Table 10: Top 9 informal imported products via Omahenene border post	17
Table 11: Top 15 informal imported products via Wenela border post.....	17
Table 12: Top 10 Imported products via Calai border post.....	18
Table 13: Top 10 informal imported products via Ariamsvlei border post	19
Table 14: Top 10 informal imported products via Noordoewer border post.....	19

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Namibia Statistics Agency is to produce and disseminate relevant, quality and timely statistics. This includes statistics relating to imports and exports of tangible goods. This report presents a summary of the findings of the informal cross border trade survey in terms of goods imported and exported via the six border posts during the month November 2014.

Informal cross border trade in general plays a significant role in avoiding widespread food insecurity in neighbouring countries. However, due to the unavailability of information relating to informal trade, its contribution towards redressing supply/demand imbalances has not been adequately quantified in many countries, Namibia included. In the absence of this crucial data, decision making by the government, aid agencies and traders about the appropriate levels of commercial imports and exports of food aid becomes difficult. Informal cross-border trade is an important component of a country's informal sector as it has spill-over effects on trading countries, in particular the border towns.

2. Background

In most countries, Customs administrative documents are the primary source for trade data, however, the UN recommends all member states to supplement Customs data to ensure full coverage of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). Supplementary data can be obtained from various sources e.g. enterprise surveys, aircrafts and shipping registers, foreign shipping manifests, informal cross border trade etc. In an effort to execute the UN's recommendation, the NSA began by undertaking the Informal Cross Border Trade Survey as a first step.

The objectives of this survey is to collect trade data below Customs thresh hold, to compare this data to the data collected through formal trade activities and to use it as supplement to Customs (official) based data, to measure the volume of trade flow between Namibia and her neighbouring countries (in this case Angola, South Africa and Zambia), to evaluate Namibia's dependence on her neighbouring countries for commodities or vice versa. In addition, the study also aim to analyses the types of commodities informally traded amongst the aforementioned countries.

In Africa, about 41 percent of GDP is from informal trade. This is an indication of its significance and relevance. Studies conducted in Africa reveal this exercise has been done in seven Southern African States at 29 border posts, in ten Eastern African States at 21 border posts, in four Western African States at 40 border posts among others.

3. Methodology

The survey was conducted from six border posts namely Oshikango, Omahenene, Calai, Wenela, Ariamsvlei and Noordoewer. These border posts were selected based on a pilot survey which was done in April 2014. The pilot survey revealed that there was sufficient flow of informal trade which warrants further investigations.

Physical questionnaires were used as a primary tool for collecting data. The questionnaire was designed in a way that allows to capture information pertaining to the transactional date, direction of trade flow, name of commodity, country of origin and destination, commodity value (N\$) and weight (kg). The aforementioned information was collected by enumerators from traders with the assistance of Customs officials. Enumerators were positioned on strategic points to ensure that information from all traders is captured.

The questionnaire was based on a Microsoft excel template which was used for data entry and verification.

4. Key Developments

4.1. Formal and Informal Trade by Border Post

During the period under review, formal exports via surveyed border posts accounted for the largest share of total goods exported via all border posts when compared to informal trade. Similarly, formal imports accounted for the largest share of total imports via all border posts except for Calai, when compared to informal imports through the same offices. On the other hand informal exports and imports accounts for 100 percent of total exports via Calai, this is because Calai is not a formalized border post, and thus trade activities at Calai are not adequately captured and reported. Furthermore, informal exports via Omahenene accounted for 8.8 percent when compared to 91.2 percent of formal exports via the same border post. In addition, 70.8 percent of total imports at Omahenene border post were informal as compared to 29.2 percent of formal imports as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Formal and Informal Trade

Border post	Exports					Imports				
	Total (N\$)	Formal (N\$)	% Formal	Informal (N\$)	% Informal	Total (N\$)	Formal (N\$)	% Formal	Informal (N\$)	% Informal
Ariamsvlei	312,382,654	312,363,599	100.0	19,055.0	0.0	1,711,982,210	1,711,932,645	100.0	49,565	0.0
Noordoewer	169,126,549	169,118,867	100.0	7,682.0	0.0	829,686,982	829,609,862	100.0	77,120	0.0
Omahenene	16,751,808	15,273,698	91.2	1,478,110.0	8.8	11,810	3,450	29.2	8,360	70.8
Oshikango	283,826,645	274,936,996	96.9	8,889,649.0	3.1	188,410	184,217	97.8	4,193	2.2
Wenela	76,559,386	75,471,494	98.6	1,087,892.0	1.4	7,085,569	7,038,319	99.3	47,250	0.7
Calai	775,750	--	--	775,750.0	100.0	31,157	--	--	31,157	100.0

4.2. Informal Trade by Border Posts

Namibia's exports through the six surveyed border posts amounted to N\$12.258 million while expenditure on imports through the same offices was relatively lower at N\$217.645 thousand in November 2014. Oshikango accounted for most of the export shares with 72.5 percent with Omahenene 12.1 percent, Wenela 8.9 percent and Calai 6.5 percent. With respect to informal imports, Noordoewer, Ariamsvlei and Wenela border posts has the highest shares of the informal imports with 35.3, 22.8 and 21.8 percent of total imports respectively. Figure 1 show that imports were mainly observed in the southern borders while exports were more observed in the northern borders of the country. This observation correlates with trade flow as indicated by data collected by Customs.

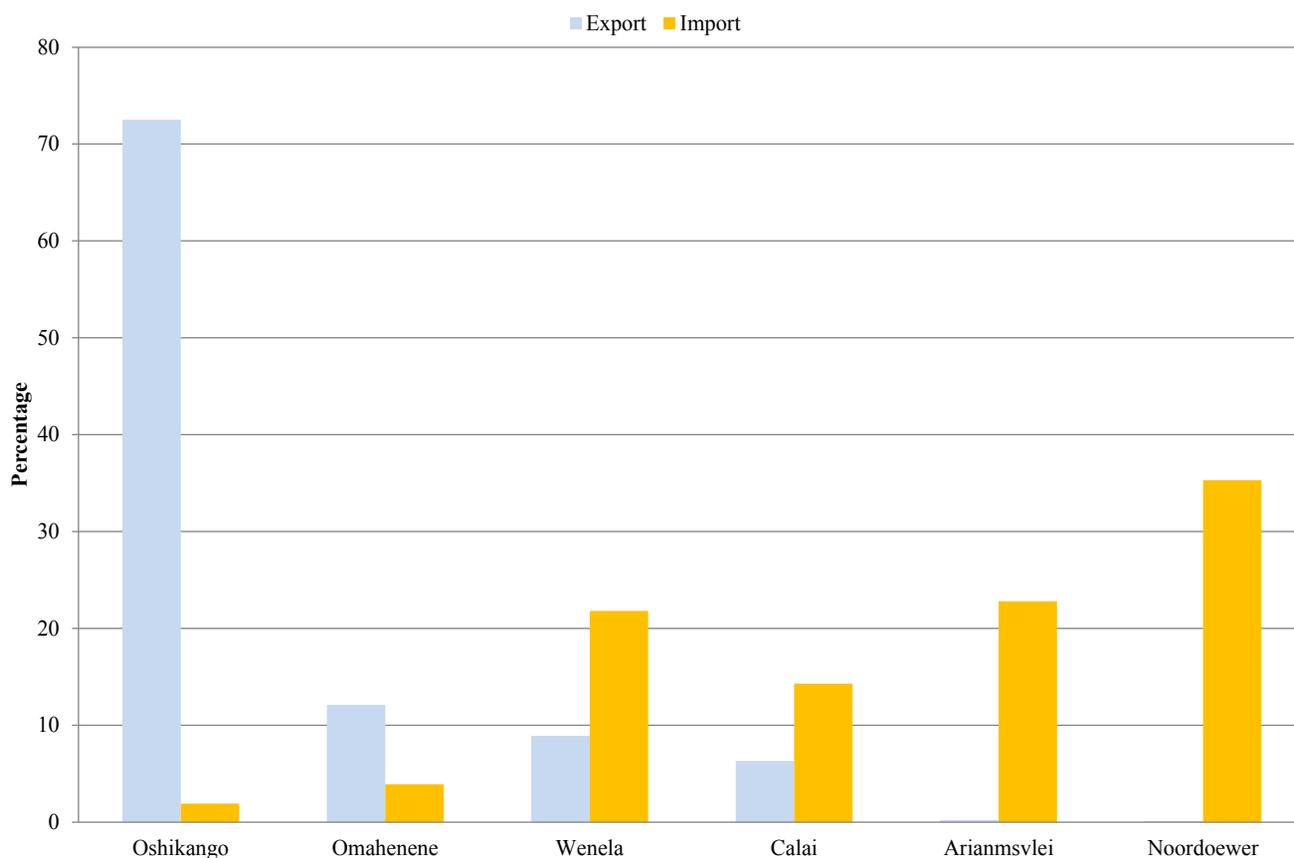


Figure 1: Informal Trade by Border Posts

4.3. Informal Trade by Country

During the period under review, 90.9 percent of the N\$12.258 million goods exported were destined for Angola via Oshikango, Omahenene and Calai border posts, whilst 8.9 percent were destined for Zambia via Wenela border post and a mere 0.2 percent was destined for South Africa through Ariansvlei and Noordoewer border posts (Table 2).

On other hand, 58.2 percent of imports were sourced from South Africa through Ariansvlei and Noordoewer border posts, followed by 21.7 percent from Zambia through Wenela and 20.1 percent from Angola via Oshikango, Omahenene and Calai border posts.

The trend of trade shown in table 1 indicates that Namibia export more goods to Angola and Zambia, while imports more goods from South Africa, a trend also supported by formal trade.

Table 2: Informal Trade by Country

Country	EX (N\$)	% Share	IM (N\$)	% Share
Angola	1 1,143,509	90.9	43,710	20.1
Zambia	1,087,892	8.9	47,250	21.7
South Africa	26,737	0.2	126,685	58.2
Total	1 2,258,138	100.0	217,645	100.0

4.4. Top Informal Exported Commodities At Border Posts

4.4.1. Top Informal Exports Via Oshikango Border Post

Table 3 presents the top 20 exported products via Oshikango border post. The results indicate that a total value of exported goods via Oshikango border post amounted to N\$8.889 million in November 2014. All informal exports through Oshikango were destined for the Angolan market. Most goods exported via that border posts were fish and processed fish which accounted for a share of 16.2 percent of total informal exports through that border post; fruits and vegetables 9.7 percent and fishing lines and nets 7.6 percent. Building materials accounted for 7.1 percent, mattresses and beddings 6.1 percent; bread and biscuits 6.1 percent while electronic and electrical appliances accounted for a share of 5.3 percent of total informal exports via Oshikango border post. The category other accounted for a share of 7.8 percent of total exports, this category consist of all other commodities not listed in table 3.

Table 3: Top 20 Informal Exported Products Via Oshikango Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% share
Fish and processed fish	1,441,592	16.2
Fruits and vegetables	864,732	9.7
Fishing line and nets	671,376	7.6
Building materials	634,309	7.1
Mattress and Beddings	539,951	6.1
Bread and biscuits	479,451	5.4
Electronics and electrical appliances	475,080	5.3
Processed foods and spices	436,688	4.9
Clothes and footwear	434,703	4.9
Non alcoholic beverages	347,330	3.9
Eggs	311,017	3.5
Sugar and sugar confectionery	255,722	2.9
Toiletries and detergents	217,660	2.4
Maize meal and backing flour	197,767	2.2
Farm equipments	178,078	2.0
Alcoholic Beverages	161,535	1.8
Luggage and handbags	156,936	1.8
Car parts and bicycles	138,950	1.6
Kitchen ware	127,974	1.4
Meat and meat products	126,186	1.4
Other	692,612	7.8
Total	8,889,649	100.0

4.4.2. Top Informal Exports Via Omahenene Border Post

In the month of review, goods worth N\$1.478 million were informally exported via Omahenene border post. The top informal exports via this border post were maize meal which accounted for the largest share of 13.2 percent; sugar and sugar cane 10 percent; clothes and foot wear 8.1 percent. On the other hand, building materials, toiletries and detergents; fish and processed fish also contributed a significant amount to informal exports via Omahenene. The individual contributions made by the above mentioned commodities were 7.0, 6.9, and 4.9 percent respectively. Informal exports of the category Other accounted for 7.0 percent of total goods exported via that border post. Goods such as ploughs; tables and chairs; and eggs accounted for the least share of total exports. All goods exported through Omahenene were destined for Angola.

Table 4: Top 20 Informal Exported Products Via Omahenene Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Maize meal and rice	194,464	13.2
Sugar and sugar canes	147,222	10.0
Clothes and footwear	119,545	8.1
Building materials	103,546	7.0
Toiletries and detergents	101,886	6.9
Fish and processed fish	72,857	4.9
Electronic and electric appliances	71,517	4.8
Meat and processed foods	70,397	4.8
Vegetables and fruits	65,938	4.5
Alcoholic beverages	61,474	4.2
Non alcoholic beverages	59,538	4.0
Cooking oil	53,065	3.6
Bread and biscuits	49,886	3.4
Car parts and bicycles	48,845	3.3
Kitchen ware	38,770	2.6
Beds and mattresses	35,641	2.4
Pharmaceuticals	32,674	2.2
Plough	27,357	1.9
Tables and chairs	10,824	0.7
Eggs	8,774	0.6
Other	103,891	7.0
Total	1,478,110	100.0

4.4.3. Top Informal Exports Via Wenela Border Post

Wenela border post recorded informal exports of goods worth N\$1.086 million (table 5). All informal exports of goods via Wenela border post were destined for the Zambian market. The major exported commodity during the month of November was fuel (petrol and diesel), which accounted for the largest share of 21.3 percent of total informal exports. The second major commodity exported was non-alcoholic beverages which accounted for a share of 14.2 percent, cooking oil at 9.2 percent, while alcoholic beverage accounted for a share of 8.5 percent of total informal exports through Wenela border post. Electronics and electrical appliances; toiletries and detergents; sugar and sugar confectionery were among the top exported commodities through this border post. On the other hand, rice and pasta; kitchen ware; fruits and vegetables accounted for the least share of total informal exports. The category Other commodities accounted for a share of 3.4 percent of total informal exports via Wenela.

Table 5: Top 15 Informal Exported Products Via Wenela Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Fuels (petrol and diesel)	231,706	21.3
Non alcoholic beverages	154,127	14.2
Cooking oil	99,871	9.2
Alcoholic beverages	91,949	8.5
Electronic and electric appliances	78,802	7.3
Toiletries and detergents	72,876	6.7
Sugar and sugar confectionery	64,243	5.9
Bread and biscuits	54,393	5.0
Beds and mattresses	47,236	4.3
Meat and processed food	47,569	4.4
Building materials	40,319	3.7
Clothes and foot ware	20,922	1.9
Rice and pasta	17,684	1.6
Kitchen ware	17,302	1.6
Fruits and vegetables	9,855	0.9
Other	37,157	3.4
Total	1,086,011	100.0

4.4.4. Top Informal Exports Via Calai Border Post

The total informal exports through Calai border post which are destined for the Angolan market amounted to N\$775.750 (table 6). Building materials; fish and other meats; toiletries and detergents; clothes and footwear dominated Namibia's informal exports in value terms through Calai during the month under review. The aforementioned commodities accounted for 13.1, 9.8, 9.2, and 8.8 percent respectively.

On the other hand, kitchen ware; sugar and sugar confectioneries; bread and biscuits; beds and mattresses accounted for the least share of total informal exports through Calai. The above mentioned commodities accounted for a combined share of 13.0 percent of total exports.

Table 6: Top 15 Informal Exported Products Via Calai Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Building materials	101,517	13.1
Fish and other meat	76,212	9.8
Toiletries and detergents	71,185	9.2
Clothes and foot wear	70,617	9.1
Processed foods	68,636	8.8
Electronic and electric appliances	54,333	7.0
Alcoholic and Non alcoholic beverages	51,432	6.6
Maize meal and rice	44,761	5.8
Fuel (gas and petrol)	42,817	5.5
Car parts and bicycles	34,551	4.5
Fruits and vegetables	30,273	3.9
Beds and mattresses	26,394	3.4
Bread and biscuits	26,350	3.4
Sugar and sugar confectionery	24,293	3.1
Kitchen ware	24,291	3.1
Other	28,088	3.6
Total	775,750	100.0

4.4.5. Top Informal Exports Via Ariamsvlei Border Post

The informal exports of goods via Ariamsvlei border post amounted to N\$25.054 thousand where clothes and foot wear accounted for the largest share of 29.3 percent of total export (table 7). In addition, groceries (unspecified) accounted for 22.1 percent; non-alcoholic beverages 11.5 percent; meat 10.9 percent; and processed food 8.2 percent dominated the list of commodities exported via Ariamsvlei border post. On the other hand, alcoholic beverages; sugar and sugar confectionery; fruits and vegetables accounted for the least share of goods exported via this border post.

All exports via this border post were destined for South Africa. The percentage contributions of the top 10 commodities are further presented in table 7 below.

Table 7: Top 10 Informal Exported Products Via Ariamsvlei Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Clothes and foot ware	7,350	29.3
Groceries (not specified)	5,530	22.1
Non alcoholic beverages	2,892	11.5
Meat	2,726	10.9
Processed food	2,042	8.2
Fish	1,316	5.3
Karakul mat	1,260	5.0
Alcoholic beverages	751	3.0
Sugar confectionery	473	1.9
Fruits and vegetables	334	1.3
Other	380	1.5
Total	25,054	100.0

4.4.6. Top Informal Exports Via Noordoewer Border Post

Table 8 presents the top 10 exported products via Noordoewer border post. The results indicate that Noordoewer border post accounted for the least export of goods when compared to the other border posts surveyed in November 2014. Non-alcoholic beverages topped the list of exported commodities through Noordoewer during the period under review with about 34 percent share, followed by clothes and foot wear 25.2 percent; alcoholic beverages 15.1 percent; processed food 8.8 percent; and tobacco 8.6 percent, respectively. Fruits and vegetables; sugar confectionery; bread and biscuits; coffee; and magazines were the least traded commodities in terms of value.

All exported commodities via this border post were destined for the South African market.

Table 8: Top 10 Informal Exported Products Via Noordoewer Border Post

Descriptions	Value (N\$)	% Share
Non alcoholic beverages	2,868	34.2
Clothes and foot ware	2,115	25.2
Alcoholic beverages	1,272	15.1
Processed food	742	8.8
Tobacco	725	8.6
Fruits and vegetables	200	2.4
Sugar confectionery	134	1.6
Bread and biscuits	119	1.4
Coffee	115	1.4
Magazine	48	0.6
Other	59	0.7
Total	8,397	100.0

4.5. Top Informal Imports Commodities At Border Posts

4.5.1. Top Informal Imports Via Oshikango Border Post

Unlike exports, the import value of goods recorded at Oshikango border post was relatively insignificant. The informal value of import through this border post was N\$4 193 as indicated in table 9. The dominant commodities imported via this office were non-alcoholic beverages which accounted for a share of 24.9 percent; fish 21.5 percent; solar panels 19.1 percent; milk 15.7 percent and fruits 3.7 percent of total informal imports. Eggs, baby diapers, and meat accounted for the least shares at 2.5, 1.4 and 1.0 percent respectively.

Table 9: Top 7 Informal Imported Products Via Oshikango Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Non alcoholic beverages	1,045	24.9
Fish	900	21.5
Solar panel	800	19.1
Milk	660	15.7
Alcoholic beverages	238	5.7
Fruits	155	3.7
Vegetables	165	3.9
Eggs	105	2.5
Diapers	60	1.4
Meat	40	1.0
Other	25	0.6
Total	4,193	100.0

4.5.2. Top Informal Imports Via the Omahenene Border Post

Total imports via Omahenene border post were relatively low but higher than the value of imported goods via Oshikango border post. During the period under review, imports through Omahenene border post amounted to N\$8 360, of which vegetables accounted for the largest share of 26.6 percent; fruits accounted for a share of about 25.2 percent; clothes 11.8 percent while fish accounted for 8.9 percent of total imports as shown in table 10 below. In addition, foot wear; sugar cane and sugar confectionery and mattresses also contributed a significant share to total imports through Omahenene. Chicken, maize meal and blankets contributed the least combined share of 5.8 percent to total imports through Omahenene. The category Other commodities accounted for 1.9 percent share of total imports via this office.

Table 10: Top 9 Informal Imported Products Via Omahenene Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Vegetables	2,220	26.6
Fruits	2,105	25.2
Clothes	988	11.8
Fish	742	8.9
Foot wear	685	8.2
Sugar cane and sugar confectionery	577	6.9
Mattress	400	4.8
Chicken	280	3.3
Maize meal	138	1.7
Blankets	70	0.8
Other	155	1.9
Total	8,360	100.0

4.5.3. Top Informal Imports Via Wenela Border Post

Overall Namibia imports through Wenela border post amounted to N\$47 255 during the survey month. Fruits and vegetables accounted for a largest share of 29.5 percent of total imports (table 11). Furthermore, clothes and foot wear accounted for 12.3 percent; Charcoal 7.3 percent; and traditional mats 6.9 percent. The aforementioned commodities were among the top contributors to the total imports through this border post. On the other hand, fishing nets, empty bottles, kitchen ware, and hair extensions contributed the least share to total imports through Wenela.

Table 11: Top 15 Informal Imported Products Via Wenela Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Fruits and vegetables	13,938	29.5
Clothes and foot ware	5,810	12.3
Charcoal	3,461	7.3
Traditional mats	3,240	6.9
Electronic and electrical appliances	3,235	6.8
Maize meal and maize seeds	2,972	6.3
Garden hoe and curions	2,830	6.0
Non alcoholic beverages	2,658	5.6
Car and bicycle parts	1,825	3.9
Processed food	1,504	3.2
Fish (dry)	1,406	3.0
Fishing nets	820	1.7
Empty bottles	797	1.7
Kitchen ware	790	1.7
Hair extensions	780	1.7
Other	1,189	2.5
Total	47,255	100.0

4.5.4. Top Informal Imports Via Calai Border Post

Table 12 presents the top 10 informal imported products via Calai border post. The results indicate that the top three imported commodities via Calai border post accounted for a combined share of 82.5 percent of the total imports. Vegetables and fruits accounted for a staggering 67.1 percent of the total N\$31 058 informal imports via this border post, while the contribution of building materials which comes second on the import list stood at 8.8 percent. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; and maize meal were also ranked among the top five contributors with 3.7 and 3.0 percent respectively. Informal imports via Calai border post were significantly higher when compared to informal imports through big border posts such as Oshikango and Omahenene.

Table 12: Top 10 Imported Products Via Calai Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Fruits and vegetables	2 0,836	6 7.1
Building materials	2 ,722	8.8
Meat and processed food	2 ,048	6.6
Alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages	1 ,141	3.7
Maize meal	9 23	3.0
Bed and mattresses	8 75	2.8
Cooking Gas	7 10	2.3
Fish	5 35	1.7
Cooking oil	3 71	1.2
Bread	2 03	0.7
Other	6 94	2.2
Total	3 1,058	100.0

4.5.5. Top Informal Imports Via Ariamsvlei

The value of informal imported goods via Ariamsvlei border post was significantly higher when compared to the value of informal goods exported through the same border post. The total import flow of goods via Ariamsvlei during the month of November 2014 amounted to N\$46.142 thousand. Unspecified groceries, processed food; fruits and vegetables were the top three most imported commodities via Ariamsvlei. The aforementioned commodities accounted for 26.3, 20.9, and 13.1 percent of total imports through Ariamsvlei, respectively. The non-alcoholic beverages, clothes and foot wear and building materials also contributed a fair share to total imports via this border post.

On the other hand, sugar confectionery was the least contributor with 1.8 percentage share of total import through Ariamsvlei, while the category Other contribution stood at 3.8 percent.

Table 13: Top 10 Informal Imported Products Via Ariamsvlei Border Post

Products	Value (N\$)	% Share
Groceries (unspecified)	12,120	26.3
Processed food	9,636	20.9
Fruits and vegetables	6,039	13.1
Non alcoholic beverages	4,352	9.4
Clothes and foot ware	3,902	8.5
Building materials	2,326	5.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	2,029	4.4
Chicken and other meats	1,688	3.7
Toiletries and detergents	1,480	3.2
Sugar confectionery	817	1.8
Other	1,753	3.8
Total	46,142	100.0

4.5.6. Top Informal Imports Via Noordoewer Border Post

Goods imported through Noordoewer border post were significantly higher by value when compared to the value of exported goods via the same border post. The total informal import through Noordoewer border post as presented in table 14 amounted to N\$77.459 during the survey month, with processed food accounting for the largest share of 28.2 percent of the total informal imports. Furthermore, fruits and vegetables accounted for 14.3 percent; clothes and foot wear 14.0; non-alcoholic beverages 10.9 percent of total imports via Noordoewer.

Sugar and sugar confectionery; pasta and rice; and bread and biscuits were the least goods imported through Noordoewer.

Table 14: Top 10 Informal Imported Products Via Noordoewer Border Post

Product	Value (N\$)	% Share
Processed food	21,864	28.2
Fruits and vegetables	11,095	14.3
Clothes and foot ware	10,857	14.0
Non alcoholic beverages	8,446	10.9
Alcoholic beverages	7,966	10.3
Chicken and other meat	5,661	7.3
Dairy products	2,985	3.9
Toiletries and detergents	2,065	2.7
Sugar and sugar confectionery	1,689	2.2
Pasta and rice	1,488	1.9
Bread and biscuits	1,290	1.7
Other	2,053	2.7
Total	77,459	100.0

5. Recommendations

The survey must be conducted on an annual basis to ensure consistency in supplementing customs based data;

Enumerators for Oshikango, Omahenene Calai and Wenela border posts must be increased due to high informal trade movements at these border posts;

Katwitwi, Ngoma, Kasamane and Trans Kalahari should be included in the next survey in order to determine their informal trade significance;

The survey must consider using CAPI as a means of data collection in order to improve data collection in terms of quality as well as to reduce the burden of data entry;

Calai should be considered for formalization due to a lot of imports (N\$31.058 thousand) and exports (N\$775.750 thousand) recorded at this border during the survey period.

6. Conclusions

The study has shown to a greater extent that there is a high volume of informal cross border trade between Namibia and neighbouring countries through surveyed border posts. The trade balance between Namibia, Angola and Zambia, as per official custom data is understated as the results from the survey has shown that there is a high volume of informal cross border trade, in particular Namibia exports to Angola and to Zambia that are not captured by Customs and therefore not forming part of official statistics. Furthermore, most of Angolan and Zambian traders located near the Namibian borders are buying nearly all their goods from Namibia, so more undeclared Namibian products are exported to Angola and Zambia. Informal trade between Namibia and Zambia is only taking place at Wenela border post. On the other hand, informal trade between Namibia and Angola occurs through Oshikango, Omahenene and Calai, while informal trade between Namibia and RSA is prevalent at the two southern borders namely Ariamsvlei and Noordoewer.

Namibia Statistics Agency

P. O. Box 2133, Windhoek,
FGI House, Post Street Mall
Tel: +264 61 431 3200
Fax: +264 61 431 3253 | +264 61 431 3240
www.nsa.org.na

