



Namibia



Background Various ethnic groups occupied southwestern Africa prior to Germany establishing a colony over most of the territory in 1884. South Africa occupied the colony, then known as German South West Africa, in 1915 during World War I and administered it as a mandate until after World War II, when it annexed the territory. In 1966, the Marxist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrilla group launched a war of independence for the area that became Namibia, but it was not until 1988 that South Africa agreed to end its administration in accordance with a UN peace plan for the entire region. Namibia gained independence in 1990, and SWAPO has governed it since, although the party has dropped much of its Marxist ideology. President Hage GEINGOB was elected in 2014 in a landslide victory, replacing Hifikepunye POHAMBA, who stepped down after serving two terms. SWAPO retained its parliamentary super majority in the 2014 elections. In 2019 elections, GEINGOB was reelected but by a substantially reduced majority, and SWAPO narrowly lost its super majority in parliament.

Capital name: Windhoek

Government type presidential republic

Area total : 824,292 sq km

land: 823,290 sq km

water: 1,002 sq km

Climate desert; hot, dry; rainfall sparse and erratic

Natural resources diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, silver, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, tungsten, zinc, salt, hydropower, fish

Population total: 2,803,660 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 1.72% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Ovambo 50%, Kavangos 9%, Herero 7%, Damara 7%, mixed European and African ancestry 6.5%, European 6%, Nama 5%, Capriviyan 4%, San 3%, Baster 2%, Tswana 0.5%

Religions Christian 97.5%, other 0.6% (includes Muslim, Baha'i, Jewish, Buddhist), unaffiliated 1.9% (2020 est.)

Languages Oshiwambo languages 49.7%, Nama/Damara 11%, Kavango languages 10.4%, Afrikaans 9.4%, Herero languages 9.2%, Zambezi languages 4.9%, English (official) 2.3%, other African languages 1.5%, other European languages 0.7%, other 1% (2016 est.)

Executive branch chief of state: President Netumbo Nandi-NDAITWAH (since 21 March 2025)

head of government: President Netumbo Nandi-NDAITWAH (since 21 March 2025)

Legislative branch legislature name: Parliament

Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Wilbard HELLAO (since 16 December 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador John GIORDANO (since 29 October 2025)
Economic overview	upper middle-income, export-driven Sub-Saharan economy; natural resource rich; Walvis Bay port expansion for trade; high potential for renewable power generation and energy independence; major nature-based tourist locale; natural resource rich; shortage of skilled labor
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$31.154 billion (2024 est.) \$30.039 billion (2023 est.) \$28.761 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$10,300 (2024 est.) \$10,100 (2023 est.) \$10,000 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$5.887 billion (2024 est.) \$5.729 billion (2023 est.) \$5.361 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	South Africa 27%, China 12%, Botswana 8%, Belgium 7%, France 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	gold, diamonds, radioactive chemicals, fish, refined petroleum (2023)
Imports	\$9.199 billion (2024 est.) \$8.443 billion (2023 est.) \$7.43 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	South Africa 36%, China 9%, India 7%, UAE 4%, USA 3% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, copper ore, ships, electricity, trucks (2023)

Population Pyramid

