

# INNOVATION DATA: NAMIBIA & SOUTH AFRICA AT A GLANCE

## A COMPARISON OF INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

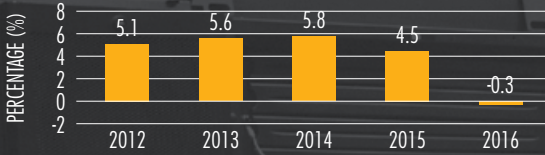
South Africa and Namibia are two of Africa's eight upper-middle income economies. Linking the two neighbouring states is also a shared colonial history of racial segregation and levels of inequality amongst the highest in the world. In recent years both economies have experienced decelerating economic growth.

This Fact Sheet presents innovation activities by South African and Namibian firms as well as factors that hinder these countries' paths to innovation growth. With innovation identified as a driver for long-term economic growth worldwide, policy makers must focus on the high innovation costs and lack of funds that act as a barrier to growing innovation.



# NAMIBIA (2012 – 2014)

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH



## INNOVATION-ACTIVE FIRMS



## INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES



## FIRMS WITH ABANDONED/ONGOING INNOVATION ACTIVITIES



## ENTERPRISES WITHOUT INNOVATION ACTIVITY



## TOP 5 INNOVATION ACTIVITIES OF INNOVATION-ACTIVE FIRMS



## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON PRODUCT OUTCOMES



Improved quality of goods or services  
**50%**



Increased range of goods or services  
**38.9%**



Entered new markets  
**27.8%**

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON PROCESS OUTCOMES



Improved flexibility of production or service provision  
**47.2%**



Increased capacity of production or service provision  
**47.2%**



Reduced production costs per unit of labour, materials, energy  
**47.2%**

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON OTHER OUTCOMES



Improved working conditions on health and safety  
**44.4%**



Met governmental regulatory requirements  
**41.7%**



Reduced environmental impacts  
**41.7%**

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT BARRIERS TO INNOVATION FOR FIRMS WITHOUT INNOVATION ACTIVITY



Lack of funds within firm  
**36%**



Lack of finance from sources outside firm  
**32%**



Innovation costs too high  
**20%**



Market dominated by established firms  
**16%**



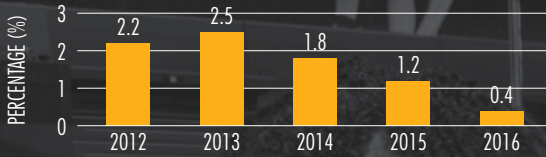
Uncertain demand for innovative goods or services  
**16%**





# SOUTH AFRICA (2014 – 2016)

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH



## INNOVATION-ACTIVE FIRMS



69.9%

## INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES



67.1%

## FIRMS WITH ABANDONED/ONGOING INNOVATION ACTIVITIES 2.8%



## ENTERPRISES WITHOUT INNOVATION ACTIVITY 30.1%



## TOP 5 INNOVATION ACTIVITIES OF INNOVATION-ACTIVE FIRMS



Training  
59.3%



Acquisition of computer software  
58.4%



Acquisition of computer hardware  
57.2%



Intramural (in-house) R&D  
42.7%



Market introduction of innovations  
38.9%

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON PRODUCT OUTCOMES



Improved quality of goods or services  
38.8%



Increased range of goods & services  
30.6%



Entered new markets  
24.9%

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON PROCESS OUTCOMES



Improved flexibility of production or service provision  
30.6%



Increased capacity of production or service provision  
27.4%



Reduced materials and energy per unit output  
17.7%



Reduced labour costs per unit output  
16.4%



Reduced lead times  
2.4%

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF INNOVATION ON OTHER OUTCOMES



Met governmental regulatory requirements  
30.5%



Improved health & safety  
27%



Reduced environmental impacts  
23.3%

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT BARRIERS TO INNOVATION FOR FIRMS WITHOUT INNOVATION ACTIVITY



Lack of finance from sources outside firm  
25%



Lack of funds within firm  
17%



Innovation costs too high  
14.4%



Market dominated by established firms  
13.2%



Uncertain demand for innovative goods or services  
8.9%

## BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The data for this Fact Sheet is drawn from the 2014-2016 Business Innovation Survey conducted by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council and the 2012-2014 Namibian Innovation Survey, compiled by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Namibia Statistics Agency, (NSA) in collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM). For international comparability of the data, the OECD's Oslo Manual (2005) was used for both surveys. GDP data was sourced from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

## ABOUT NCRST

NCRST is an agency of the Namibian government, with a mission to establish and strengthen a national system that promotes, develops and informs Research, Science, Technology and Innovation through effective coordination to realise a knowledge-based society.

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## ABOUT CeSTII

CeSTII is a statistical and policy research unit of the Human Sciences Research Council, which performs national studies on R&D and innovation on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation.

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This Fact Sheet is No. 31 in the CeSTII Fact Sheet series. It was produced by CeSTII's Pilela Majokweni in May 2021, with data validation provided by NCRST. To access all previous CeSTII Fact Sheets and other research products, go to <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/latest-results>

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