# Namibia Tourism Update

February 2024

-	0.0005	4.85%
	0.1003	13.04%
	0,0001	50,00%
	0,0003	14.29%
		12.50%

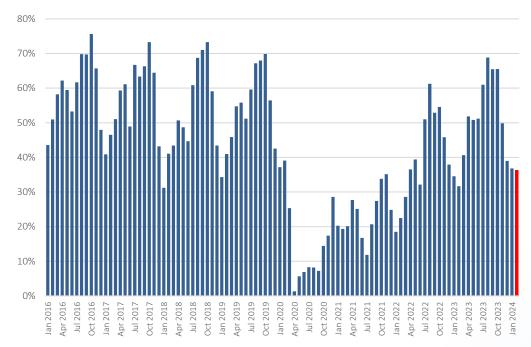
# **Overview**

Category	Feb-24	m/m move	Jan-24	Feb-23	2023	2022
National Occupancy Rate (%)	36.4%	$\downarrow$	36.8%	31.7%	51.7%	40.1%
Central Occupancy (%)	53.5%	$\uparrow$	47.1%	42.6%	58.4%	46.5%
Coastal Occupancy (%)	40.6%	$\downarrow$	55.4%	34.1%	54.5%	43.0%
Northern Occupancy (%)	31.0%	$\uparrow$	29.8%	27.0%	49.6%	37.5%
Southern Occupancy (%)	32.0%	$\downarrow$	33.8%	30.5%	48.2%	37.2%

Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia, IJG Securities

According to the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN), the national room occupancy rate stood at 36.4% in February, 0.4 percentage points lower than the 36.8% reported in January 2024. February 2024's occupancy rate was however 4.7 percentage points higher than in February 2023. This is the lowest room occupancy rate since March 2023 but the highest rate for the month of February since 2020.

National Room Occupancy Rates (%)



Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia, IJG Securities

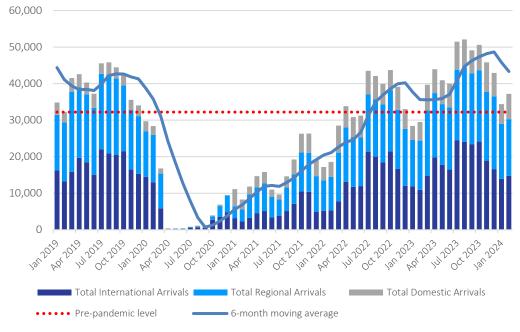
### Passenger Arrivals

37,207 passengers arrived in Namibia in February, an 8.1% m/m and 26.1% y/y increase. Using February 2019 as a pre-pandemic benchmark, the number of arrivals surpassed the pre-pandemic level by 15.5%, driven by international arrivals ( $\uparrow$  11.4%) and domestic arrivals ( $\uparrow$  141.6%), while regional arrivals had the opposite effect ( $\downarrow$  3.5%).

However, passenger arrivals in February are trending below the 6-month moving average, indicating a deviation from the most recent months. We expect this average to be surpassed in Q2 when the peak season commences.



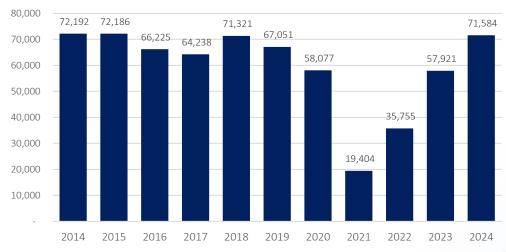
#### **Passenger Arrivals**



Source: Namibia Airports Company, IJG Securities

Year-to-date, passenger arrivals have risen to its highest point since 2016. This increase indicates a strong beginning for travel both within Namibia and to the country, promoting hope for a prosperous tourism peak season that typically starts in May.

#### YTD Passenger Arrivals



Source: Namibia Airports Company, IJG Securities

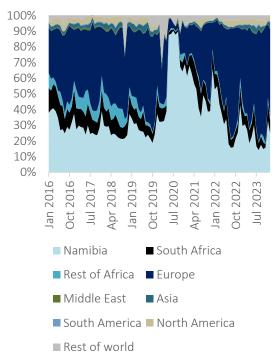
## Countries of Origin

The HAN reports that tourists from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland made up 40.9% of occupants, followed by Namibians who made up 23.1% of the total tourist pool in February, South Africa at 5.75% and France at 3.9%. Tourists from Germany, Switzerland and Austria ( $\uparrow$  5.8 pp), France ( $\uparrow$  0.7 pp), United Kingdom and Ireland ( $\uparrow$  1.3 pp) and Scandinavia ( $\uparrow$  1.0 pp) made up a larger portion of Namibia's tourist pool than in January.

As per the HAN, the high-end tourism segment has particularly garnered increased popularity, further enhancing overall industry performance. The highest occupancy rate was recorded by hotels (57.2%), followed by tented lodges (39.5%), tented camps (38.6%), and guest farms (34.5%).

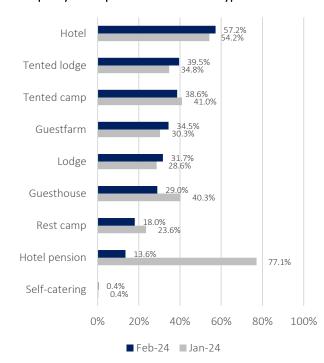


#### Pool of Tourists per Country of Origin



Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia, IJG Securities

#### Occupancy Rates per Accommodation Type

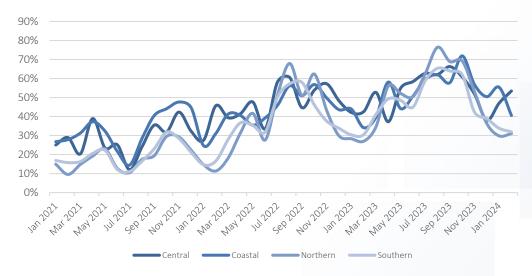


Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia, IJG Securities

## Regional Split

Occupancy rates have shown varying trends across different regions. The central region logged a room occupancy rate of 53.6%, which is 6.4 percentage points higher than in January. Conversely, the coastal region recorded a rate of 40.6 %, a decrease of 14.8 percentage points from January. The southern region registered 32.0%, a decrease of 1.9 percentage points compared to the previous month, while the northern region boasted the highest rate at 31.0%, reflecting a rise of 1.2 percentage points from December.

Room Occupancy Rates per Region (%)



Source: Hospitality Association of Namibia, IJG Securities





# **Outlook**

Looking ahead, we remain positive on the tourism sector in Namibia. The sector bounced back better than expected in 2023, and this year's start has been promising. However, there are a few things that could pose a risk to this positive outlook being low rainfall, safety worries, and limited access to Namibia.

Namibia has experienced a decline in rainfall levels over recent years. This decrease has adverse effects on wildlife and environmental tourism, as the landscapes lose their vibrancy. Additionally, there has been an increase in incidents of tourists being robbed, negatively impacting Namibia's reputation as a safe and welcoming destination for travellers.

Despite these challenges, representatives from Namibia who attended the ITB in Berlin— the world's biggest tourism trade fair— reassured us that Namibia is still a top destination. The restricted access to Namibia is however worrisome. Our research shows there are only about 6 international flights directly into Namibia, from places like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Frankfurt, Addis Ababa, Luanda, and Victoria Falls.

During our discussions with industry stakeholders, it became evident that tourists prioritise exceptional service from the outset of their journey until their arrival in Namibia. They seek shorter, more convenient travel routes. Presently, Frankfurt stands as the sole direct flight destination to Namibia from outside of Africa, with European travellers comprising a significant portion of the country's tourism demographic. Collaborating with additional airlines to establish direct flights from various countries could broaden Namibia's visitor base and enhance accessibility to Namibia, thereby enriching the country's tourism sector.







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