Volume 2: 2017



First Capital House Building Cost Index February 2017



Summary

- First Capital (FC) House Building Cost Index increased from 101.0 in February 2016 to 107.3 in February 2017 indicating that the cost of building materials increased by 6.3 percent in February 2017 compared to the price 12 months ago.
- There are no major differences in the cost of building materials by town. However, slight differences are noted with Swakopmund and Ondangwa offering cheapest building materials.
- The combined weight of cement and bricks on the total bill of quantities for a standard 3 bedroom house is now one percent down to 30 percent from 31 percent weight recorded a year ago, indicating that the price of cement and bricks was more stable than other building materials.
- Serviced land price remains cheaper in Keetmanshoop while in Windhoek, the same area of serviced land sells at a price 7 times higher than it could cost you in Keetmanshoop.
- Given that building up a house constitutes 3 inputs (Materials, Labour and land), using February 2017 prices, total cost of building a house have the following proportion on input factors (Materials: 67%; Labour 27%; Land 6%).
- In a normal situation where the project time is met with no defects on construction, a budget of N\$336 475 could be sufficient to construct a standard 3 bedroom house in Keetmanshoop while in Windhoek because of high land price it could be higher but not more than N\$420 000.
- Building materials inflation have always hovered lower than that of property selling prices, hence no evidence is found that they are major contributor for high market house prices.
- A combination of weak domestic economic activities and government spending cuts on development budget
 which will certainly reduce construction activities will make way for stable building material prices in the near
 future. The strong local currency will also likely keep prices of most imported building materials stable.

Our contribution to information

Welcome to the February 2017 First Capital House Building Cost Index, tracks and summarises prevailing retail prices of building materials over time. The report also provides possible explanations of observed trends and an outlook of the potential direction of prices in near future. The main factors of production for constructing a new house are land, building materials and labour but how much a building will cost to construct usually depends on many factors like the type and size of building, its location, specification and price of materials, wall to floor ratio, floor to ceiling heights, site topography, types of joinery and fittings, and quality of electrical and mechanical installations. First Capital House Building Cost Index aims to give you accurate information that will enable you to formulate a house building construction budget that is realistic and to help give you a framework for better estimating your new home construction cost. A housing construction budget based on accurate information will enable you avoid disappointment with unbudgeted expenses later in the construction process.

Our Methodology

The First Capital House Building Cost Index uses a list of materials which are needed to build a standard 3 bedroom house. The building material prices collected covers a list of construction raw materials identified to satisfy the construction needs of a standard house. Prices are collected in six different towns of Namibia (Windhoek, Keetmanshoop, Swakopmund, Ondangwa, Rundu and Katima Mulilo) from different building material suppliers depending of the town's suppliers. Construction materials covered include supper bricks (by quality), sand (for coarse, medium, and fine variants), cement (by types), crushed stones, and various other raw materials, including irons, steel sheets (by dimension), and plumbing materials.

The prices of building materials from all building materials suppliers in a given area are averaged to give an average price of each material by area (e.g. the price of cement in Windhoek reflects the average of all prices of cement from all the building materials supermarkets in Windhoek). These item specific prices are then used to derive an index figure which, if compared with an index of the previous period, will give you the average price increase/decrease (Inflation) for the current period (e.g. An Index of 107.3 in February 2017 and 101.0 of February 2016 gives a difference of 6.3 percentage points which means that the total cost of materials quoted to build a 3 bedroom standard house have increased by 6.3 percent. To derive an index during a specific period, we follow the following formula:

Cost Index (February 2017) = $\frac{\text{Cost of building materials in February 2017}}{\text{Cost of building materials in December 2015}} \times 100$.

1. First Capital House Building Cost Index

First Capital House Building Cost Index for February 2017 increased to 107.3 from 101.0 recorded in February 2016 indicating an increase of 6.3 percent increase in the general price of the cost to build a standard 3 bed room house in Namibia (See figure 1). The 6.3 percent price increase in February 2017(y/y) is slightly lower than the 6.6 percent inflation recorded in January 2017. On a monthly basis, the price index increased by 0.5 units from the 106.8 in January 2017 to 107.3 in February 2017.

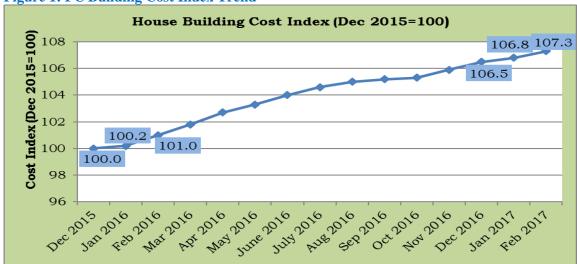


Figure 1: FC Building Cost Index Trend

Source: First Capital Research

When the Index is higher than 100 the prices are moving up, when the its less than a 100 prices are moving down

2. What it takes to set up a house

To build a house requires land, materials and labour. The costs of land, materials or labour have direct influence on one's budget to build a dream house. Due to deferring choices of materials, our focus of materials used to build a house is based on the standard materials that have according to our research and experience been commonly used in construction of standard houses. The following sub-sections outlines the specification, quantity and cost of materials needed to build a standard 3 bedroom house measuring 76 m².

2.1. Materials

Prices of building materials differ from supplier to supplier in different towns. The differences in prices are also notable by various specifications of materials based on quality and features of such materials. However, in this report a list of materials is used as a standard to build a standard 3 bedroom house of the size, 76m². Table 1 below provides the standard specifications of materials, quantity needed on a standard 3 bedroom house, as well as the weight of different building materials on the total cost of all materials. Under this scenario, a standard 3 bedroom house requires nearly 15 thousand bricks and 264 bags of cement (50 kgs) among other materials. As of February 2017 prices, the cost of bricks and cement account for 18 and 12 percent

respectively of the total cost of all building materials required. Using the February 2017 average prices of materials by all building suppliers, a total cost of N\$232 000 was found to be the average cost of materials needed to satisfy a budget of a standard 3 bedroom house of the size 76m².

Table 1: Materials budget on a standard 3 bedroom house

			Bill of Quantity,	Proportion of total materials
NO	ITEM	QTY	N\$	cost(%)
1	Bricks	14,239	42,576	18%
2	Cement (50kg) Bags	264	29,021	12%
3	Sand (cubic mtr)	54	17,140	7%
4	IBR sheeting	28	15,450	7%
5	Tiles (boxes)	91	10,555	5%
6	Timber	81	9,950	4%
7	Paint (20Lt)	9	9,220	4%
8	Steel window frames	8	6,650	3%
9	Crushed stones[cubic mtr]	16	6,200	3%
10	Hand basins	3	4,250	2%
11	Door Frames	7	4,105	2%
12	Rain water goods	8	3,750	2%
13	Gyser 100L	1	3,575	2%
14	Rhinoboard ceiling 1200x4500mm	15	3,199	1%
15	Ceiling light	7	2,822	1%
16	Shower door	1	2,680	1%
17	Bath tub	1	2,652	1%
18	Sink	1	2,650	1%
19	Toilet pot, etc.	2	2,520	1%
20	Doors	7	2,420	1%
Other	r materials		14,250	6%
Fenci	ng		15,150	6%
Conti	ngencies [nails, screws, etc.]		21,200	9%
	materials		231,985	100%

Source: First Capital Research

The materials listed above are utilized at various stages of building a house. The stages follow the order of the process to construct a house. Table 2 below summarizes these stages with a list of items needed in each stage as well as the cost implication at every stage. Construction process follows this order of stages: Foundation, Floor, Masonry, Roofing, Plumbing, Tiling, Electrification and Painting. Once all these process are completed, a house building is also complete before a fence is enacted to demarcate the area or yard of the residence plot. The masonry stage which follows flooring after foundation stage accounts for the highest cost of materials among all stages needed to complete this stage. A cost of N\$62 164(27 percent of total materials cost) is necessary to complete the masonry stage. The roofing stage is second most costly stage followed by the foundation stage which accounts for 19.8 and 11.2 percent respective of the total cost of materials needed.

Table 2: Materials cost at each stage of construction

Table 2. Haterials cost at each s			Proportion of material
Stages of building a house	What you need per stage of building	Total Cost(N\$)	cost per stage
Foundation	Super bricks, Crushed stones, Sand	25,920.50	11.2%
	Cement, Ant Poison		
Floor	Crushed stones, Sand, Cement	11,760.00	5.1%
Masonry (External walls,	Super bricks, Concrete, Sand , cement	62,164.42	26.8%
Internal walls, & clading)	Brick force roll, cladding sand		
Roofing	Timber, IBR Sheeting, Door frams, Doors,	45,950.50	19.8%
	Ceilling, Window frams, Down pipes		
Plumbing	Gyser, Sink, Bath tub, Toilet pot set,	20,750.05	8.9%
	Hand basin, PVC pipe, Galvanised pipes		
Tilling	Wall tiles, Floor tiles, Tile addesive glue	12,200.05	5.3%
Electricals	PVC pipes, Wirings, Looping boxes for plugs	7,189.50	3.1%
	Light switches, Ceiling lights, Conduit pipes,		
	Distributor box		
Painting(Exterior & Interior)	Primer(Under coat), Color coat, Fascial paint	9,700.24	4.2%
Fencing	Fence	15,150.00	6.5%
Other contigency materials	Nails, Screws etc.	21,200.00	9.1%
Total cost for materials		231,985.26	100.0%

Source: First Capital Research

2.1.1. Regional Cost of Building Materials

Figure 2 below shows a comparison of costs of building materials in the six towns used in the report as sample. As expected the cost of Building materials are higher in Katima Mulilo and Rundu due mainly to transport costs. These two towns are followed by Windhoek with a cost of N\$232 000 on account of high demand and concentration of high construction activities. According to our findings, Swakopmund is cheapest with a cost of N\$230 400 for building materials needed to set up a 3 b/roomed house.

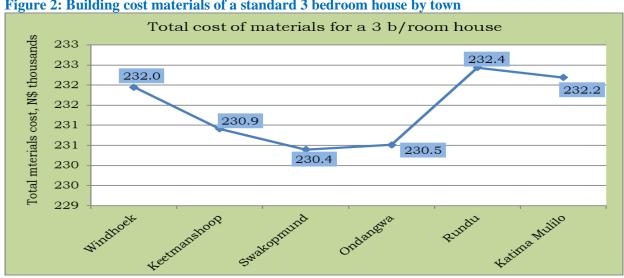


Figure 2: Building cost materials of a standard 3 bedroom house by town

Source: First Capital Research

2.2. Land cost in different towns

Land in Namibia is offered either by the local authority or by private developers depending how the process of servicing or developing the land was done. In case the land is sold by the local authority, the price per square metre of land remains given and gazetted by the line ministry in this case the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. However, prices by private developers differ substantially and are determined by the seller taking into consideration the cost of developing the land. In this report land price is considered to be the prices sold by local authorities. Our standard area of land for comparison in all towns is 375m² which was derived by multiplying the price per square metre and the 375m² area. Figure 3 below presents the average price of serviced ervens at the price sold by local authorities. The price of every town reflects the average price of all locations in such a town.



Source: First Capital Research

Despite that building material for a standard house costs lowest in Swakopmund, the average price of buying land from the local authority in that area is ranked second highest after Windhoek. As such, this makes the cost of setting up a house expensive as land prices pushes the total price to construct high. Land remains cheaper in Keetmanshoop followed by Katima Mulilo. An Average price of land for a yard of 375 m² area will cost you N\$13 200 in Keetmanshoop while in Windhoek will cost N\$94 500. Both Rundu, Ondangwa, Katima Mulilo and Keetmanshoop sells 375m^2 at no more than N\$18 400 which is 5 times more less than the price of land in Windhoek.

2.3. Labour Cost

Labour cost is traditionally charged based on the rate per time taken to complete a task. In this report we however recognise that and supplement that framework with an international standard of benchmarking the total cost of labour on a given construction project. According to lessons on international benchmark cost of labour, the total cost of labour should not exceed 30 percent of the total cost of materials. To be conservative, we adjusted our benchmark of the total labour cost of constructing a house to be 40 percent of the total materials cost on a project of constructing a house. In the presented scenario where average materials cost to construct a 3 bedroom house is N\$231 985, the labour cost must never exceed N\$92 800.

3. How much it will cost to construct a 3 b/room house?

Given differing prices of building materials in every town and the prices of land, the cost of constructing a house as well differs. Because of cheap land price in Keetmanshoop, building a standard 3beroom house in that town will cost N\$336 475 while in Windhoek the same size of house with similar specifications will cost N\$419 231. The high price to build in Windhoek is influenced mainly by land which remains expensive relative to the price in other towns.

Table 3: Total cost to build a standard 3 bedroom house by town

	TOTAL COST (N\$)					
ITEM	Windhoek	Swakopmund	Keetmanshoop	Ondangwa	Rundu	Katima Mulilo
Total cost of Materials	231,951	230,400	230,911	230,514	232,437	232,188
Labour cost (40 % of total materials)	92,780	92,160	92,364	92,206	92,975	92,875
Construction cost (Material cost+Labour cost)	324,731	322,560	323,275	322,720	325,412	325,063
Land Price (Average price at Local Authority) 375 m ²	94,500	64,500	13,200	16,875	18,350	13,500
Total cost to build a standard 3 bedroom house	419,231	387,060	336,475	339,595	343,762	338,563

Source: First Capital Research

Though average cost of building materials are cheap in Windhoek and Swakopmund combined, the cost of building a house is N\$60 000 more than the cost of building the same house in other parts of the country due to land price differentials that favours other towns while in Windhoek and Swakopmund it remains expensive. On average a house in Windhoek and Swakpmund combined, will cost N\$403 306 with 20 percent of that cost being paid for land while materials weigh 57 percent. In other towns other than Windhoek and Swakopmund, building a house will average to a total cost of N\$340 515 with materials accounting for 68 percent of the total cost while land taking only 5 percent of the total bill to construct a house.

Table 4: The weight of input costs on the total cost to construct a standard 3 bedroom house

			or Windhoek & pmund	Average cost for all towns excluding Windhoek & Swakpmund		
ITEM		Cost, N\$	Cost weight(%)	Cost, N\$	Cost weight(%)	
Total cost of Materials		231,290	57%	232,167	68%	
Labour cost (40 % of total materials)		92,516	23%	92,867	27%	
Land Price (Average price at Local Authority)	375 m ²	79,500	20%	15,481	5%	
Total cost to build a standard 3 bedroom house		403,306	100%	340,515	100%	

Source: First Capital Research

4. Building Materials Cost Index Analysis

Cement: The prices of cement increased by 5.9 percent in February 2017 compared to the same period last year. Cement is manufactured domestically and its price is subject to domestic factors that have an impact on cement production. Demand for cement over the years have been strong on account of major construction activities that forms part of the mass supply of housing, private investments into building infrastructures by the private and public sector. However, the recent tightening of the construction sector which is proxy of low demand for cement could be attributed to the observed lower inflation of cement. The continued budget cuts on development budget of government for 2017/18 could prolong the weaker building activities and keep prices stable as demand remains weak.

Sand: Annual figures show an increase of 6.5 percent in February 2017 compared to the price of sand in February 2016. The supply of sand has over the years been constrained due to few suppliers while demand remains strong especially in towns with frequent construction activities towns like Windhoek.

Super bricks: Price of super bricks increased by 5.8 percent in February 2017(y/y). The price of bricks is influenced by the price of cement and sand as major input materials that are used to produce bricks. The cost of water could also affect the price of bricks.

Electrical goods: The prices of electrical goods surged by 5.5 percent on an annual basis in February 2017. Given that Namibia imports most of electrical materials goods, the stable local currency could be attributed to lower inflation for electrical goods in Namibia. In near future, the continuing trend of the weak US dollar could benefit the construction sector as most of these imported goods will become cheaper for Namibians.

Table 5: First Capital (FC) Building Cost Indices by categories of materials **December 2015=100**

	1	Nov 2015	-Feb 201 <i>6</i>		Nov 2016-Feb 2017				
	Nov 2015	Dec 2015=100	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	
Cement	99.6	100	100.1	100.6	104.8	105.3	106	106.5	
Sand	99.3	100	100.3	100.9	105.1	106.7	107	107.4	
Supper Bricks	99.5	100	100.2	100.3	105.1	105.4	105.7	106.1	
Crushed stones	99.6	100	100.3	100.7	105.3	106.6	107.1	107.5	
Doors & Door Frame	99.6	100	100.1	100.7	104.8	105.9	106.6	107.5	
Windows & Window Frame	99.4	100	100.2	100.7	105.4	106.1	106.9	107.2	
Timbers	99.5	100	100.1	100.9	105	106.4	106.9	107.6	
Roofings	99.4	100	100.4	100.6	105.1	106.3	107.1	107.5	
Electrical goods	99.6	100	100.4	101.3	105.5	105.9	106.3	106.8	
Plumbing pipes	99.6	100	100.4	100.9	105.8	106.7	107	107.4	
Toilet goods	99.5	100	100.3	100.7	105.3	106.3	107.1	107.9	
FC Building Cost Index	99.5	100	100.2	101	105.3	106.5	106.8	107.3	

When the Index is higher than 100 the prices are moving up, when its less than a 100 prices are moving down Source: First Capital Research

5. Building Cost Comparison per Town

Table 8 below summarises the average prices of building materials in each town. Prices vary by town depending on the competitive advantages some towns has over other town in relation to the prices of some building materials which are locally produced in such towns. Materials like bricks, sand, crushed stones and timbers differ much because they are produced locally in other towns. The price of supper bricks is cheaper in Keetmanshoop at N\$2.90 per brick. On the other hand cement is cheaper in Ondangwa where a 50 kg bag of high strength costs N\$108.05 and semi strength costing N\$100.95. High prices of cement in Rundu and Katima Mulilo could be explained by the cost of transport, while in Windhoek due to demand it is not surprising that price is also high relative to other towns. Sand is cheapest in Rundu while Windhoek quotes high prices on Sand.

Table 6: Average Prices of Selected Towns for October 2016

Goods	Description	Windhoek	Keetmanshoop	Swakopmund	Ondangwa	Rundu	Katima Mulilo
Bricks	Super Brick	2.95	2.90	2.99	2.99	3.10	3.15
Cement	High Strength(50kg)	111.20	108.75	108.50	108.05	111.90	112.20
	Semi Strength(50kg)	105.99	101.10	100.95	102.60	106.99	108.15
Crushed stones	Crushed stones(cubic mtr)	389.05	428.95	422.90	424.95	429.00	405.50
Sand	Sand(cubic mtr)	303.05	274.20	273.99	275.05	275.00	275.95
Tiles	Floor tiles	122.90	254.50	252.00	254.95	258.20	273.00
	Wall tiles	98.00	122.90	121.99	128.00	127.00	148.50
	Tile addesive(Glue)	56.00	62.55	61.20	64.00	63.99	71.99
Rain water	Galvanized gutters	599.99	6005.80	6002.50	618.20	720.00	1042.20
goods	Down pipes	238.00	238.00	238.00	242.00	245.00	120.00
	Internal Hardboard door	302.00	132.50	132.30	133.40	152.00	220.50
Doors	Semi solid door	450.00	817.35	817.35	822.55	419.90	1145.00
	Door Frames 813mm [115mm]	494.95	494.95	494.95	5001.00	372.05	340.05
ma v	Door Frames 813mm [230mm]	759.95	759.95	759.95	768.95	760.95	720.50
Timber	Timber 76x50mm x 6m	17.99	17.99	18.20	17.80	17.50	17.50
Roofings	IBR Sheeting	551.50	559.40	560.00 356.60	559.99 356.70	872.22 147.05	351.00 275.90
Window frames	Galvanized roll top ridging Steel Window Frames(B/room)	356.00 1075.55	357.00 1076.00	1075.50	1080.50	1090.00	833.50
window frames	Steel Window Frames (B/100III)	1073.33	1070.00	1073.30	1080.30	1090.00	655.50
	(Kitchen/living room)	809.25	814.00	811.00	820.00	815.00	430.99
	Steel Window Frames(Toilet&						
	bathroom)	291.05	490.20	489.95	498.10	489.95	490.95
Sink	Sink	2503.00	2503.00	2503.00	2520.00	2530.00	1870.00
Electrical goods	Wiring(100mm)	2162.05	2168.20	2162.85	2165.20	2162.95	2670.55
	Distributor [DB] box	1210.00	1216.00	1209.99	1215.00	1224.20	1009.90
Paint	Primer [Under coat] [20 Lt]	6008.00	615.00	610.00	659.10	220.00	475.00
	Color coat [20 Ltr]	1893.90	1894.55	1893.99	670.10	890.95	1483.00
	Fascial paint [20 Lt]	998.20	1000.05	998.99	670.10	999.95	1001.99
Plumbing pipes	Galvanized copper pipes 15mm	288.00	171.00	1170.30	172.00	175.55	192.80
	PVC pipes 110mm	269.50	176.95	177.90	180.20	226.00	155.00
Toilet goods	Toilet pot	1262.20	1263.00	1263.00	1269.00	570.00	1001.50
_	Hand basin	420.58	456.10	456.00	456.63	310.10	299.20
Ant poison	Ant poison [5 Lt]	1590.20	1590.75	1590.25	1590.75	1591.05	1599.05

Source: First Capital Research

6. How do current prices compare with prices back then in 2010?

Building material prices have increased considerably between 2010 and 2017. The average cost of building materials increased by 32 percent between 2010 and 2016. Notable price increases were in building materials like supper bricks whose price surged by 48.7 percent with the 7 year period. Though the price of cement declined substantially during 2011 and 2012, overall cement prices increased by 25.6 percent between 2010 and 2016.

Table 7: Building Materials Price Comparison between 2010 and 2016

Goods	Description	2010	2016	Increase (%)
Bricks	Supper Brick	1.95	2.89	48.7%
Cement	High Strength(50kg)	86.50	110.00	28.3%
	Semi Strength(50kg)	83.77	105.00	25.3%
Crushed stones	Crushed stones(cubic mtr)	283.00	390.50	38.0%
Sand	Sand(cubic mtr)	199.00	286.05	43.7%
Tiles	Floor tiles	187.00	230.00	23%
	Wall tiles	92.30	119.50	29.5%
	Tile addesive(Glue)	45.05	58.80	30.5%
	Galvanized gutters	430.56	596.88	38.6%
Rain water goods	Down pipes	170.00	238.00	40%
	Internal Hardboard door	205.00	260.30	27%
Doors	Semi solid door	650.00	817.35	25.7%
	Door Frames 813mm [115mm]	371.99	494.95	33.1%
	Door Frames 813mm [230mm]	561.00	759.95	35.5%
Timber	Timber 76x50mm x 6m	15.20	17.05	12.2%
Roofings	IBR Sheeting	422.20	553.13	31%
	Galvanized roll top ridging	288.20	351.60	22%
	Steel Window Frames(B/room)	852.15	1071.58	25.8%
Window frames	Steel Window Frames (Kitchen/living room)	620.00	800.00	29.0%
	Steel Window Frames(Toilet& bathroom)	282.94	430.55	52.2%
Sink	Sink	1990.00	2503.00	25.8%
Electrical goods	Wiring(100mm)	1700.08	2158.85	27%
	Distributor [DB] box	870.00	1200.00	37.9%
Paint	Primer [Under coat] [20 Lt]	390.00	599.00	53.6%
	Color coat [20 Ltr]	1280.00	1880.56	46.9%
	Fascial paint [20 Lt]	607.90	996.60	63.9%
	Galvanized copper pipes 15mm	204.30	271.10	32.7%
Plumbing pipes	PVC pipes 110mm	175.50	220.25	25.5%
Toilet goods	Toilet pot	957.05	1249.00	30.5%
	Hand basin	510.00	706.15	38.5%
Ant poison	Ant poison [5 Lt]	993.50	1575.00	58.5%

Source: First Capital Research

7. How have the building cost increased in relation to market selling prices of houses and other economic variables?

Building material prices generally hiked by 32.5 percent over a 6 year period between 2010 and 2016. This translates to an average annual inflation of 5.4% in building materials. Across all towns, the price of land increased by 27 percent over the same 6 year period between 2010 and 2016. However, the market price of houses, increased by 97.7 percent over a similar 6 year period. This increase in the market selling price of houses is 3 times more than the increase in both materials and land costs. On an annual basis, market selling prices of houses increased by 16.3 percent. For a dollar increase in the price of the cost to construct a house, the selling price will increase by 3 more dollars.

Table 8: Annual and 6 year changes in Building Cost vs Market selling price of houses

Goods	Description	2010 Prices	2016 Prices	Average Annual change	Change(2010- 2016)
Cost of building	All Materials	172 477.01	228 481.44	5.4%	32.5%
materials	Cement	85.20	107.00	4.2%	25.6%
	Bricks(Supper bricks)	1.95	2.90	4.3%	48.7%
Cost of land (375m ²)	All towns(Average)	37 800	48 000	4.5%	27%
	Windhoek	72 600	94 500	5%	30.2%
	Swakopmund	50 100	64 500	4.8%	28.7%
	Keetmanshoop	11 000	13 200	3.3%	20%
	Ondangwa	13 150	16 875	4.7%	28.3%
	Rundu	14 500	18 350	4.4%	26.6%
	Katima Mulilo	10 600	13 500	4.3%	25.9%
Market selling price	All towns	430 000	850 000	16.3%	97.7%
	Windhoek	529 000	1 180 000	20.5%	123.1%
	Swakopmund	515 000	972 000	14.8%	88.7%
	Keetmanshoop	331 000	642 000	15.7%	94%
	Ondangwa	315 000	675 000	19.1%	114.3%
	Rundu	305 000	615 000	16.9%	101.6%
	Katima Mulilo	297 000	592 000	16.6%	99.3%

Source: First Capital Research

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