

Namibia Mining Report Q1 2016

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Abstracts

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BMI View: Namibia's mining sector will continue to be negatively affected by low mineral prices and subdued metals demand. The country's diamonds and uranium production contracted in 2015, as well as key base metals such as copper. While production levels will remain under pressure through the coming quarters, we expect the country to remain an important destination for mining investment over the long term.

Latest Developments & Structural Trends

The bulk of exploration and mining in Namibia focuses on diamonds, uranium and base metals including copper, lead and zinc. A number of major players, including Rio Tinto and De Beers, operate in Namibia's mineral resources sector. Namdeb is a joint venture between De Beers (50%) and the Namibian government (50%), and is the country's leading diamond producer.

In 2015, diamond production in Namibia will contract due to weak global demand and falling prices. Namdeb has reported a 15% y-o-y fall in its H115 production levels as output fell to 431,000 carats. The contraction is symptomatic of weaker global demand, with De Beers reporting a 26% y-o-y fall in sales volumes for the same period.

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