



# Niger



<b>Background</b>	<p>Nomadic peoples from the Saharan north and agriculturalists from the south settled present-day Niger. The Taureg kingdom of Takedda was one of the largest kingdoms in the north and played a prominent role in regional trade in the 14th century. In the south, the primary ethnic groups were the Songhai-Zarma in the west, the Hausa in the center, and the Kanuri in the east. When European colonizers arrived in the 19th century, the region was an assemblage of disparate local kingdoms.</p> <p>In the late 19th century, the British and French agreed to partition the middle regions of the Niger River, and France began its conquest of what would become the colony of Niger. France experienced determined local resistance -- particularly during the Tuareg uprising (1916-1917) -- but established a colonial administration in 1922.</p> <p>After achieving independence from France in 1960, Niger experienced single-party or military rule until 1991, when political pressure forced General Ali SAIBOU to allow multiparty elections. Political infighting and democratic backsliding led to coups in 1996 and 1999. In 1999, military officers restored democratic rule and held elections that brought Mamadou TANDJA to power. TANDJA was reelected in 2004 and spearheaded a 2009 constitutional amendment allowing him to extend his presidential term. In 2010, military officers led another coup that deposed TANDJA. ISSOUFOU Mahamadou was elected in 2011 and reelected in 2016. In 2021, BAZOUM Mohamed won the presidential election, marking Niger's first transition from one democratically elected president to another. Nonetheless, a military junta led by General Abdourahamane TIANI once again seized power in July 2023, detaining President BAZOUM and announcing the creation of a National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland (CNSP).</p>
<b>Capital</b>	name: Niamey
<b>Government type</b>	formerly, semi-presidential republic
<b>Area</b>	<p>total : 1.267 million sq km            land: 1,266,700 sq km            water: 300 sq km</p>
<b>Climate</b>	desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south
<b>Natural resources</b>	uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt, petroleum
<b>Population</b>	total: 26,342,784 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	3.66% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Hausa 53.1%, Zarma/Songhai 21.2%, Tuareg 11%, Fulani (Peuhl) 6.5%, Kanuri 5.9%, Gurma 0.8%, Arab 0.4%, Tubu 0.4%, other/unavailable 0.9% (2006 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Muslim 95.5%, ethnic religionist 4.1%, Christian 0.3%, agnostics and other 0.1% (2020 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Hausa, Zarma, French (official), Fufulde, Tamashek, Kanuri, Gurmancema, Tagdjal
<b>Executive branch</b>	<p>chief of state: President of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) General Abdourahame TIANI (since 28 July 2023)            head of government: CNSP Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine ZEINE (since 9 August 2023)</p>
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Advisory Council for the Refoundation (Conseil consultatif de la refondation)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Hassane IDI (since 3 August 2023)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Kathleen FITZGIBBON (since 2 December 2023)
<b>Economic overview</b>	low-income Sahel economy; major instability and humanitarian crises limit economic activity; COVID-19 eliminated recent antipoverty gains; economy rebounding since December 2020 Nigerian border reopening and new investments; uranium resource rich
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$47.921 billion (2024 est.) \$44.199 billion (2023 est.) \$43.474 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$1,800 (2024 est.) \$1,700 (2023 est.) \$1,700 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$1.223 billion (2023 est.) \$1.376 billion (2022 est.) \$1.487 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	UAE 31%, France 23%, China 18%, India 6%, Sweden 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	gold, oil seeds, uranium and thorium ore, radioactive chemicals, refined petroleum (2023)

**Imports** \$3.808 billion (2023 est.)  
\$4.194 billion (2022 est.)  
\$4.027 billion (2021 est.)

**Imports - partners** China 26%, France 15%, India 12%, Nigeria 7%, UAE 6% (2023)

**Imports - commodities** rice, aircraft parts, iron structures, refined petroleum, centrifuges (2023)

Population Pyramid

