



Niger



Background 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.

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.

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 Abdourahmane 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).

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world with minimal government services and insufficient funds to develop its resource base. It is ranked fourth to last in the world on the UN Development Program's Human Development Index of 2023/2024. The largely agrarian and subsistence-based economy is frequently disrupted by extended droughts common to the Sahel region of Africa. The Nigerien Government continues its attempts to diversify the economy through increased oil production and mining projects. In addition, Niger is facing increased security concerns on its borders from various external threats including insecurity in Libya, spillover from the conflict and terrorism in Mali, and violent extremism in northeastern Nigeria.

Capital	name: Niamey
Government type	formerly, semi-presidential republic
Area	total : 1.267 million sq km land: 1,266,700 sq km water: 300 sq km
Climate	desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south
Natural resources	uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt, petroleum
Population	total: 26,342,784 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	3.66% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	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.)
Religions	Muslim 95.5%, ethnic religionist 4.1%, Christian 0.3%, agnostics and other 0.1% (2020 est.)
Languages	Hausa, Zarma, French (official), Ffulde, Tamashek, Kanuri, Gurmancema, Tagdal
Executive branch	chief of state: President of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) General Abdourahmane TIANI (since 28 July 2023) head of government: CNSP Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine ZEINE (since 9 August 2023)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Advisory Council for the Refoundation (Conseil consultatif de la refondation)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Hassane IDI (since 3 August 2023)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Kathleen FITZGIBBON (since 2 December 2023)
Economic overview	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
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$47.921 billion (2024 est.) \$44.199 billion (2023 est.) \$43.474 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$1,800 (2024 est.) \$1,700 (2023 est.) \$1,700 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$1.223 billion (2023 est.) \$1.376 billion (2022 est.) \$1.487 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	UAE 31%, France 23%, China 18%, India 6%, Sweden 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	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

