

Explore All Countries Nigeria

Africa

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INTRODUCTION

Background

In ancient and pre-colonial times, the area of present-day Nigeria was occupied by a variety of ethnic groups with different languages and traditions. These included large Islamic kingdoms such as Borno, Kano, and the Sokoto Caliphate dominating the north, the Benin and Oyo Empires that controlled much of modern western Nigeria, and more decentralized political entities and city states in the south and southeast. In 1914, the British amalgamated their separately administered northern and southern territories into a Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

Nigeria achieved independence from Britain in 1960 and transitioned to a federal republic with three constituent states in 1963 under President Nnamdi AZIKIWE. This structure served to enflame regional and ethnic tension, contributing to a bloody coup led by predominately southeastern military officers in 1966 and a counter coup later that year masterminded by northern officers. In the aftermath of this tension, the governor of Nigeria's Eastern Region, centered on the southeast, declared the region independent as the Republic of Biafra. The ensuing civil war (1967-1970), resulted in more than a million deaths, many from starvation. While the war forged a stronger Nigerian state and national identity, it contributed to long-lasting mistrust of the southeast's predominantly Igbo population. Wartime military leader Yakubu GOWON ruled until a bloodless coup by frustrated junior officers in 1975. This generation of officers, including Olusegun OBASANJO, Ibrahim BABANGIDA, and Muhammadu BUHARI, who would all later serve as president, continue to exert significant influence in Nigeria to the present day.

Military rule predominated until the first durable transition to civilian government and adoption of a new constitution in 1999. The elections of 2007 marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history. National and state elections in 2011 and 2015 were generally regarded as credible. The 2015 election was also heralded for the fact that the then-umbrella opposition party, the All Progressives Congress, defeated the long-ruling (since 1999) People's Democratic Party and assumed the presidency, marking the first peaceful transfer of power from one party to another. Presidential and legislative elections in 2019 and 2023 were deemed broadly free and fair despite voting irregularities, intimidation, and violence. The government of Africa's most populous nation continues to face the daunting task of institutionalizing democracy and reforming a petroleum-based economy whose revenues have been squandered through decades of corruption and mismanagement. In addition, Nigeria faces increasing violence from Islamic terrorism, largely in the northeast, large scale criminal banditry, secessionist violence in the southeast, and competition over land and resources nationwide.

GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon

Geographic coordinates

10 00 N, 8 00 E

Map references

Africa

Area

total : 923,768 sq km

land: 910,768 sq km

water: 13,000 sq km

comparison ranking: total 33

Area - comparative

about six times the size of Georgia; slightly more than twice the size of California

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries

total: 4,477 km

border countries (4): Benin 809 km; Cameroon 1,975 km; Chad 85 km; Niger 1,608 km

Coastline

853 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate

varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north

Terrain

southern lowlands merge into central hills and plateaus; mountains in southeast, plains in north

Elevation

highest point: Chappal Waddi 2,419 m

lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

mean elevation: 380 m

Natural resources

natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land

Land use

agricultural land: 75.8% (2022 est.)

arable land: 40% (2022 est.)

permanent crops: 8.4% (2022 est.)

permanent pasture: 27.3% (2022 est.)

forest: 23.1% (2022 est.)

other: 1.1% (2022 est.)

Irrigated land

2,188 sq km (2017)

Major lakes (area sq km)

fresh water lake(s): Lake Chad (endorheic lake shared with Niger, Chad, and Cameroon) - 10,360-25,900 sq km

note - area varies by season and year to year

Major rivers (by length in km)

Niger river mouth (shared with Guinea [s], Mali, Benin, and Niger) - 4,200 km

note: [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Atlantic Ocean drainage: Niger (2,261,741 sq km)

Internal (*endorheic basin*) drainage: Lake Chad (2,497,738 sq km)

Major aquifers

Lake Chad Basin, Lullemeden-Irhazer Aquifer System

Population distribution

largest population of any African nation; significant population clusters are scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest as shown in this population distribution map

Natural hazards

periodic droughts; flooding

Geography - note

the Niger River enters the country in the northwest and flows southward through tropical rainforests and swamps to its delta in the Gulf of Guinea

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

Population

total: 236,747,130 (2024 est.)

male: 119,514,449

female: 117,232,681

comparison rankings: total 6; female 6; male 6

Nationality

noun: Nigerian(s)

adjective: Nigerian

Ethnic groups

Hausa 30%, Yoruba 15.5%, Igbo (Ibo) 15.2%, Fulani 6%, Tiv 2.4%, Kanuri/Berberi 2.4%, Ibibio 1.8%, Ijaw/Izon 1.8%, other 24.9% (2018 est.)

note: Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups

Languages

English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, over 500 additional indigenous languages

Religions

Muslim 53.5%, Roman Catholic 10.6%, other Christian 35.3%, other 0.6% (2018 est.)

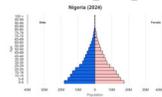
Age structure

0-14 years: 40.4% (male 48,856,606/female 46,770,810)

15-64 years: 56.2% (male 66,897,900/female 66,187,584)

65 years and over: 3.4% (2024 est.) (male 3,759,943/female 4,274,287)

2024 population pyramid:



Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio: 77.9 (2024 est.)

youth dependency ratio: 71.9 (2024 est.)

elderly dependency ratio: 6 (2024 est.)

potential support ratio: 16.6 (2024 est.)

Median age

total: 19.3 years (2024 est.)

male: 19.1 years

female: 19.6 years

comparison ranking: total 211

Population growth rate

2.52% (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 19

Birth rate

33.8 births/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 17

Death rate

8.4 deaths/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 75

Net migration rate

-0.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 110

Population distribution

largest population of any African nation; significant population clusters are scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest as shown in this population distribution map

Urbanization

urban population: 54.3% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 3.92% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

15.946 million Lagos, 4.348 million Kano, 3.875 million Ibadan, 3.840 million ABUJA (capital), 3.480 million Port Harcourt, 1.905 million Benin City (2023)

Sex ratio

at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 1.01 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.88 male(s)/female

total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2024 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth

20.4 years (2018 est.)

note: data represents median age at first birth among women 25-49

Maternal mortality ratio

1,047 deaths/100,000 live births (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: 3

Infant mortality rate

total: 53.7 deaths/1,000 live births (2024 est.)

male: 58.9 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 48.2 deaths/1,000 live births

comparison ranking: total 15

Life expectancy at birth

total population: 62.2 years (2024 est.)

male: 60.4 years

female: 64.2 years

comparison ranking: total population 216

Total fertility rate

4.52 children born/woman (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 14

Gross reproduction rate

2.19 (2024 est.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

16.6% (2018)

Drinking water source**improved:**

urban: 95.3% of population

rural: 68.8% of population

total: 82.6% of population

unimproved:

urban: 4.7% of population

rural: 31.2% of population

total: 17.4% of population (2020 est.)

Current health expenditure

4.1% of GDP (2021)

Physician density

0.38 physicians/1,000 population (2023)

Sanitation facility access**improved:**

urban: 81.6% of population

rural: 41.4% of population

total: 62.3% of population

unimproved:

urban: 18.4% of population

rural: 58.6% of population

total: 37.7% of population (2020 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

8.9% (2016)

comparison ranking: 145

Alcohol consumption per capita

total: 4.49 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

beer: 0.73 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

wine: 0.09 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

spirits: 0.4 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

other alcohols: 3.27 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: total 88

Tobacco use

total: 2.6% (2025 est.)

male: 4.8% (2025 est.)

female: 0.3% (2025 est.)

comparison ranking: total 168

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

18.4% (2019/20)

comparison ranking: 23

Currently married women (ages 15-49)

66.2% (2023 est.)

Child marriage

women married by age 15: 12.3% (2021)

women married by age 18: 30.3% (2021)

men married by age 18: 1.6% (2021)

note: due to prolonged insecurity concerns, some parts of states, including Borno state, were not sampled

Education expenditures

0.5% of GDP (2013)

comparison ranking: 196

Literacy

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 62%

male: 71.3%

female: 52.7% (2018)

ENVIRONMENT

Environment - current issues

urban air and water pollution; rapid deforestation; soil degradation; loss of arable land; water, air, and soil pollution from oil spills

Environment - international agreements

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Convention, Marine Dumping-London Protocol, Marine Life Conservation, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: Tropical Timber 2006

Climate

varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north

Land use

agricultural land: 75.8% (2022 est.)

arable land: 40% (2022 est.)

permanent crops: 8.4% (2022 est.)

permanent pasture: 27.3% (2022 est.)

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other: 1.1% (2022 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 54.3% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 3.92% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Food insecurity

widespread lack of access: *due to persistent civil conflict in the northern areas, floods, high food prices, and an economic slowdown* - about 25.3 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity during the June to August 2023 lean season; this would be a significant deterioration compared to last year, when 19.45 million people were estimated to be acutely food insecure; acute food insecurity is mostly driven by the deterioration of security conditions and conflicts in northern states, which have led to the displacement of about 3.17 million people as of March 2022 (the latest data available) and are constraining farmers' access to their lands; widespread flooding in 2022, affecting about 4.5 million people across the country, has further compounded conditions, particularly in areas already facing high levels of insecurity; high food prices and the expected slowdown in economic growth in 2023 are additional drivers of acute food insecurity (2023)

Air pollutants

particulate matter emissions: 55.64 micrograms per cubic meter (2019 est.)

carbon dioxide emissions: 120.37 megatons (2016 est.)

methane emissions: 143.99 megatons (2020 est.)

Waste and recycling

municipal solid waste generated annually: 27,614,830 tons (2009 est.)

Major lakes (area sq km)

fresh water lake(s): Lake Chad (endorheic lake shared with Niger, Chad, and Cameroon) - 10,360-25,900 sq km

note - area varies by season and year to year

Major rivers (by length in km)

Niger river mouth (shared with Guinea [s], Mali, Benin, and Niger) - 4,200 km

note: [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Atlantic Ocean drainage: Niger (2,261,741 sq km)

Internal (*endorheic basin*) drainage: Lake Chad (2,497,738 sq km)

Major aquifers

Lake Chad Basin, Lullemeden-Irhazer Aquifer System

Total water withdrawal

municipal: 5 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

industrial: 1.97 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

agricultural: 5.51 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

Total renewable water resources

286.2 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

GOVERNMENT**Country name**

conventional long form: Federal Republic of Nigeria

conventional short form: Nigeria

etymology: named for the Niger River that flows through the west of the country to the Atlantic Ocean; the name of the river probably comes from the local Tuareg name, *egereou n-igereouen* (big rivers)

Government type

federal presidential republic

Capital

name: Abuja

geographic coordinates: 9 05 N, 7 32 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

etymology: the newly built city of Abuja replaced Lagos as the capital city in 1991; Abuja takes its name from a nearby town, now renamed Suleja, that was named after Abu JA ("Abu the Red") in 1828

Administrative divisions

36 states and 1 territory*; Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Federal Capital Territory*, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara

Independence

1 October 1960 (from the UK)

National holiday

Independence Day (National Day), 1 October (1960)

Legal system

mixed system of English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law

Constitution

history: several previous; latest adopted 5 May 1999, effective 29 May 1999

amendment process: proposed by the National Assembly; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of both houses and approval by the Houses of Assembly of at least two thirds of the states; amendments to constitutional articles on the creation of a new state, fundamental constitutional rights, or constitution-amending procedures requires at least four-fifths majority vote by both houses of the National Assembly and approval by the Houses of Assembly in at least two thirds of the states; passage of amendments limited to the creation of a new state require at least two-thirds majority vote by the proposing National Assembly house and approval by the Houses of Assembly in two thirds of the states

International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCT jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Nigeria

dual citizenship recognized: yes

residency requirement for naturalization: 15 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state: President Bola Ahmed Adekunle TINUBU (since 29 May 2023)

head of government: President Bola Ahmed Adekunle TINUBU (since 29 May 2023)

cabinet: Federal Executive Council appointed by the president but constrained constitutionally to include at least one member from each of the 36 states

elections/appointments: president directly elected by qualified majority popular vote and at least 25% of the votes cast in 24 of Nigeria's 36 states; president elected for a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 25 February 2023 (next to be held on 27 February 2027)

election results:

2023: Bola Ahmed Adekunle TINUBU elected president; percent of vote - Bola Ahmed Adekunle TINUBU (APC) 36.6%, Atiku ABUBAKAR (PDP) 29.1%, Peter OBI (LP) 25.4%, Rabiu KWANKWASO (NNPP) 6.4%, other 2.5%

2019: Muhammadu BUHARI elected president; percent of vote - Muhammadu BUHARI (APC) 53%, Atiku ABUBAKAR (PDP) 39%, other 8%

note: the president is chief of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces

Legislative branch

legislature name: National Assembly

legislative structure: bicameral

Legislative branch - lower chamber

chamber name: House of Representatives

number of seats: 360 (all directly elected)

electoral system: plurality/majority

scope of elections: full renewal

term in office: 4 years

most recent election date: 2/25/2023

parties elected and seats per party: All Progressives Congress (APC) (180); People's Democratic Party (PDP) (116); Labour Party (LP) (35); New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) (19); Other (10)

percentage of women in chamber: 3.9%

expected date of next election: February 2027

Legislative branch - upper chamber

chamber name: Senate

number of seats: 109 (all directly elected)

electoral system: plurality/majority

scope of elections: full renewal

term in office: 4 years

most recent election date: 2/25/2023

parties elected and seats per party: All Progressives Congress (APC) (59); People's Democratic Party (PDP) (36); Labour Party (LP) (8); Other (6)

percentage of women in chamber: 2.8%

expected date of next election: February 2027

Judicial branch

highest court(s): Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 15 justices)

judge selection and term of office: judges appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, a 23-member independent body of federal and state judicial officials; judge appointments confirmed by the Senate; judges serve until age 70

subordinate courts: Court of Appeal; Federal High Court; High Court of the Federal Capital Territory; Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory; Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory; state court system similar in structure to federal system

Political parties

Accord Party or ACC
Africa Democratic Congress or ADC
All Progressives Congress or APC
All Progressives Grand Alliance or APGA
Labor Party or LP
New Nigeria People's Party or NNPP
Peoples Democratic Party or PDP
Young Progressive Party or YPP

International organization participation

ACP, AfDB, ATMIS, AU, C, CD, D-8, ECOWAS, EITI (compliant country), FAO, G-15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LCBC, MIGA, MINURSO, MNJTF, MONUSCO, NAM, OAS (observer), OIC, OPCW, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNITAR, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNOOSA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Samson Sunday ITEGBOJE (since 22 October 2024)

chancery: 3519 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 800-7201 (ext. 100)

FAX: [1] (202) 362-6541

email address and website:

info@nigeriaembassyusa.org

<https://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/>

consulate(s) general: Atlanta, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission: Ambassador Richard MILLS, Jr. (since 25 July 2024)

embassy: Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central District Area, Abuja

mailing address: 8320 Abuja Place, Washington DC 20521-8320

telephone: [234] (9) 461-4000

FAX: [234] (9) 461-4036

email address and website:

AbujaACS@state.gov

<https://ng.usembassy.gov/>

consulate(s) general: Lagos

Flag description

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and green; the color green stands for the country's forests and natural resources, and white for peace and unity

National symbol(s)

eagle; national colors: green, white

National anthem

name: "Nigeria, We Hail Thee"

lyrics/music: Lillie Jean WILLIAMS/Frances BERDA

note: May 2024 Parliament voted to revert back to the former national anthem used from 1960-1078

National heritage

total World Heritage Sites: 2 (both cultural)

selected World Heritage Site locales: Sukur Cultural Landscape; Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove

ECONOMY

Economic overview

largest African market economy; enormous but mostly lower middle income labor force; major oil exporter; key telecommunications and finance industries; susceptible to energy prices; regional leader in critical infrastructure; primarily agrarian employment

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.275 trillion (2023 est.)

\$1.239 trillion (2022 est.)

\$1.2 trillion (2021 est.)

note: data in 2021 dollars

comparison ranking: 27

Real GDP growth rate

2.86% (2023 est.)
3.25% (2022 est.)
3.65% (2021 est.)

note: annual GDP % growth based on constant local currency
comparison ranking: 114

Real GDP per capita

\$5,600 (2023 est.)
\$5,600 (2022 est.)
\$5,500 (2021 est.)

note: data in 2021 dollars
comparison ranking: 173

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$363.846 billion (2023 est.)

note: data in current dollars at official exchange rate

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

24.7% (2023 est.)
18.8% (2022 est.)
17% (2021 est.)

note: annual % change based on consumer prices
comparison ranking: 201

Credit ratings

Fitch rating: B (2020)

Moody's rating: B2 (2017)

Standard & Poors rating: B- (2020)

note: The year refers to the year in which the current credit rating was first obtained.

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

agriculture: 22.7% (2023 est.)

industry: 32.6% (2023 est.)

services: 42.8% (2023 est.)

note: figures may not total 100% due to non-allocated consumption not captured in sector-reported data

comparison rankings: services 184; industry 49; agriculture 28

GDP - composition, by end use

household consumption: 80% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 5.8% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 14.8% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 0.7% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 11.9% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -13.2% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

cassava, yams, maize, oil palm fruit, rice, taro, bananas, vegetables, sorghum, groundnuts (2023)

note: top ten agricultural products based on tonnage

Industries

crude oil, coal, tin, columbite; rubber products, wood; hides and skins, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel

Industrial production growth rate

0.72% (2023 est.)

note: annual % change in industrial value added based on constant local currency
comparison ranking: 137

Labor force

113.35 million (2024 est.)

note: number of people ages 15 or older who are employed or seeking work
comparison ranking: 5

Unemployment rate

3% (2024 est.)
3.1% (2023 est.)
3.8% (2022 est.)

note: % of labor force seeking employment
comparison ranking: 47

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)

total: 5.1% (2024 est.)

male: 3.7% (2024 est.)

female: 6.5% (2024 est.)

note: % of labor force ages 15-24 seeking employment
comparison ranking: total 172

Population below poverty line

40.1% (2018 est.)

note: % of population with income below national poverty line

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

35.1 (2018 est.)

note: index (0-100) of income distribution; higher values represent greater inequality
comparison ranking: 77

Average household expenditures

on food: 59.3% of household expenditures (2023 est.)

on alcohol and tobacco: 0.9% of household expenditures (2023 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%: 2.9% (2018 est.)

highest 10%: 26.7% (2018 est.)

note: % share of income accruing to lowest and highest 10% of population

Remittances

5.37% of GDP (2023 est.)

4.22% of GDP (2022 est.)

4.42% of GDP (2021 est.)

note: personal transfers and compensation between resident and non-resident individuals/
households/entities

Budget

revenues: \$37.298 billion (2019 est.)

expenditures: \$59.868 billion (2019 est.)

Public debt

21.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

comparison ranking: 181

Taxes and other revenues

3.4% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

comparison ranking: 201

Current account balance

\$6.023 billion (2023 est.)

\$1.019 billion (2022 est.)

-\$3.254 billion (2021 est.)

note: balance of payments - net trade and primary/secondary income in current dollars

comparison ranking: 33

Exports

\$60.261 billion (2023 est.)

\$69.091 billion (2022 est.)

\$50.856 billion (2021 est.)

note: balance of payments - exports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: 62

Exports - partners

USA 10%, Spain 9%, France 8%, Netherlands 7%, India 6% (2023)

note: top five export partners based on percentage share of exports

Exports - commodities

crude petroleum, natural gas, gold, fertilizers, cocoa beans (2023)

note: top five export commodities based on value in dollars

Imports

\$65.423 billion (2023 est.)

\$77.049 billion (2022 est.)

\$67.478 billion (2021 est.)

note: balance of payments - imports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: 59

Imports - partners

China 26%, Singapore 14%, Belgium 8%, India 6%, USA 4% (2023)

note: top five import partners based on percentage share of imports

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, tanks and armored vehicles, wheat, plastics, cars (2023)

note: top five import commodities based on value in dollars

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$38.612 billion (2024 est.)

\$32.035 billion (2023 est.)

\$35.564 billion (2022 est.)

note: holdings of gold (year-end prices)/foreign exchange/special drawing rights in current dollars

comparison ranking: 47

Debt - external

\$45.009 billion (2023 est.)

note: present value of external debt in current US dollars

comparison ranking: 17

Exchange rates

nairas (NGN) per US dollar -

Exchange rates:

1,478.965 (2024 est.)

645.194 (2023 est.)

425.979 (2022 est.)

401.152 (2021 est.)

358.811 (2020 est.)

ENERGY

Electricity access

electrification - total population: 60.5% (2022 est.)

electrification - urban areas: 89%

electrification - rural areas: 27%

Electricity

installed generating capacity: 4.094 million kW (2023 est.)

consumption: 34.135 billion kWh (2023 est.)

exports: 2.4 billion kWh (2023 est.)

transmission/distribution losses: 5.974 billion kWh (2023 est.)

comparison rankings: exports 53; transmission/distribution losses 168; consumption 66; installed generating capacity 98

Electricity generation sources

fossil fuels: 77.1% of total installed capacity (2023 est.)

solar: 0.2% of total installed capacity (2023 est.)

hydroelectricity: 22.5% of total installed capacity (2023 est.)

biomass and waste: 0.1% of total installed capacity (2023 est.)

Coal

production: 1.322 million metric tons (2023 est.)

consumption: 1.326 million metric tons (2023 est.)

exports: 17 metric tons (2023 est.)

imports: 600 metric tons (2023 est.)

proven reserves: 2.144 billion metric tons (2023 est.)

Petroleum

total petroleum production: 1.514 million bbl/day (2023 est.)

refined petroleum consumption: 527,000 bbl/day (2023 est.)

crude oil estimated reserves: 36.89 billion barrels (2021 est.)

Natural gas

production: 38.248 billion cubic meters (2023 est.)

consumption: 19.885 billion cubic meters (2023 est.)

exports: 16.324 billion cubic meters (2023 est.)

proven reserves: 5.761 trillion cubic meters (2021 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

114.397 million metric tonnes of CO₂ (2023 est.)

from coal and metallurgical coke: 2.962 million metric tonnes of CO₂ (2023 est.)

from petroleum and other liquids: 72.425 million metric tonnes of CO₂ (2023 est.)

from consumed natural gas: 39.01 million metric tonnes of CO₂ (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: total emissions 38

Energy consumption per capita

7.993 million Btu/person (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: 160

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions: 112,000 (2023 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: (2023 est.) less than 1

comparison ranking: total subscriptions 134

Telephones - mobile cellular

total subscriptions: 224 million (2023 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 102 (2022 est.)

comparison ranking: total subscriptions 6

Broadcast media

nearly 70 federal government-controlled national and regional TV stations; all 36 states operate TV stations; several private TV stations; cable and satellite TV subscription services are available; network of federal government-controlled national, regional, and state radio stations; roughly 40 state government-owned radio stations; about 20 private radio stations; transmissions of international broadcasters are available; transition to digital completed in three states in 2018 (2019)

Internet country code

.ng

Internet users

percent of population: 39% (2023 est.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

total: 117,000 (2023 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: (2023 est.) less than 1

comparison ranking: total 129

TRANSPORTATION

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

5N

Airports

50 (2025)

comparison ranking: 88

Heliports

15 (2025)

comparison ranking: 59

Railways

total: 3,798 km (2014)

standard gauge: 293 km (2014) 1.435-m gauge

narrow gauge: 3,505 km (2014) 1.067-m gauge

note: as of the end of 2018, there were only six operational locomotives in Nigeria primarily used for passenger service; the majority of the rail lines are in a severe state of disrepair and need to be replaced

Merchant marine

total: 928 (2023)

by type: general cargo 23, oil tanker 128, other 777

comparison ranking: total 25

Ports

total ports: 28 (2024)

large: 2

medium: 1

small: 1

very small: 24

ports with oil terminals: 23

key ports: Antan Oil Terminal, Bonny, Lagos, Pennington Oil Terminal

MILITARY AND SECURITY

Military and security forces

Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN): Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy (includes Coast Guard), Nigerian Air Force

Ministry of Interior: Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC); Ministry of Police Affairs: Nigeria Police Force (NPF) (2025)

note 1: the NSCDC is a paramilitary agency commissioned to assist the military in the management of threats to internal security, including attacks and natural disasters

note 2: some states have created local security forces akin to neighborhood watches in response to increased violence, insecurity, and criminality that have exceeded the response capacity of federal government security forces, but official security forces remained the constitutional prerogative of the federal government; in 2023, the federal government began deploying thousands of "agro rangers" across 19 states and the Federal Capital Territory to help safeguard farmland and mediate conflicts, especially in areas hit by farmer-herder clashes

Military expenditures

0.7% of GDP (2023 est.)

0.6% of GDP (2022 est.)

0.7% of GDP (2021 est.)

0.6% of GDP (2020 est.)

0.5% of GDP (2019 est.)

Military and security service personnel strengths

information varies; estimated 150,000 active Armed Forces (2025)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the military's inventory consists of a wide variety of imported weapons systems of Chinese, European, Middle Eastern, Russian (including Soviet-era), and US origin; the military is undergoing a modernization program, and in recent years has received equipment from a range of suppliers, including Brazil, China, France, Italy, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, and the US; Nigeria is also developing a defense-industry capacity, including small arms, armored personnel vehicles, and small-scale naval production (2025)

Military service age and obligation

18-26 years of age for voluntary military service for men and women; no conscription (2023)

Military deployments

190 Sudan/South Sudan (UNISFA) (2024)

note: Nigeria has committed an Army combat brigade (approximately 3,000 troops) to the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), a regional counter-terrorism force comprised of troops from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger; MNJTF conducts operations against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups operating in the general area of the Lake Chad Basin and along Nigeria's northeast border; national MNJTF troop contingents are deployed within their own country territories, although cross-border operations are conducted periodically

Military - note

the Nigerian military's primary concerns are internal and maritime security, and it faces a number of challenges; the Army is deployed in all 36 of the country's states; in the northeast, it is conducting counterinsurgency/counterterrorist operations against the Boko Haram (BH) and Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham in West Africa (ISIS-WA) terrorist groups, where it has deployed as many as 70,000 troops at times and jihadist-related violence has killed an estimated 35-40,000 people, mostly civilians, since 2009; in the northwest, it faces threats from criminal gangs--locally referred to as bandits--and violence associated with long-standing farmer-herder conflicts, as well as BH and ISIS-WA terrorists; bandits in northwestern Nigeria are estimated to number as many as 30,000 and violence there has killed approximately 14,000 people since the mid-2010s; the military also continues to protect the oil industry in the Niger Delta region against militants and criminal activity; since 2021, additional troops and security forces have been deployed to eastern Nigeria to quell renewed agitation for a state of Biafra (Biafra seceded from Nigeria in the late 1960s, sparking a civil war that caused more than 1 million deaths)

the Navy is focused on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea; since 2016, it has developed a maritime strategy, boosted naval training and its naval presence in the Gulf, increased participation in regional maritime security efforts, and acquired a number of new naval platforms, including offshore and coastal patrol craft, fast attack boats, and air assets

the Nigerian military traces its origins to the Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force (WAFF), a multi-regiment force formed by the British colonial office in 1900 to garrison Great Britain's West African colonies; the WAFF (the honorary title "Royal" was added later) served in both World Wars; in 1956, the Nigeria Regiment of the Royal WAFF was renamed the Nigerian Military Forces (NMF) and in 1958, the colonial government of Nigeria took over control of the NMF from the British War Office; the Nigerian Armed Forces were established following independence in 1960 (2024)

SPACE

Space agency/agencies

National Space Research and Development Agency (NARSDA; established 1999); NARSDA originated from the National Centre for Remote Sensing and National Committee on Space Applications (both established in 1987), and the Directorate of Science (established 1993); Defense Space Administration (DSA; established 2014) (2024)

Space program overview

has a formal national space program, which is one of the largest in Africa; focused on acquiring satellites for agricultural, environmental, meteorology, mining and disaster monitoring, socio-economic development, and security purposes; designs, builds (mostly with foreign assistance), and operates satellites; processes overhead imagery data for analysis and sharing; developing additional capabilities in satellite and satellite payload production, including remote sensing (RS) technologies; has a sounding rocket program for researching rockets and rocket propulsion systems with goal of launching domestically produced satellites into space from a Nigerian spaceport by 2030; has relations and/or cooperation agreements with a variety of foreign space agencies and industries, including those of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, the UK, the US, and Vietnam; has a government-owned satellite company and a small commercial aerospace sector (2024)

note: further details about the key activities, programs, and milestones of the country's space program, as well as government spending estimates on the space sector, appear in the Space Programs reference guide

TERRORISM

Terrorist group(s)

Terrorist group(s): Boko Haram; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham – West Africa; Jama'atu Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis-Sudan (Ansaru)

note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics,

targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in the Terrorism reference guide

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Refugees and internally displaced persons

refugees (country of origin): 89,045 (Cameroon) (2023)

IDPs: 3.09 million (northeast Nigeria; Boko Haram attacks and counterinsurgency efforts in northern Nigeria; communal violence between Christians and Muslims in the middle belt region, political violence; flooding; forced evictions; cattle rustling; competition for resources) (2024)

Illicit drugs

Nigeria is a major hub for transnational drug trafficking networks entrenched throughout the world and supplying cocaine to Asia and Europe, heroin to Europe and North America, and methamphetamine to South Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; also exporting massive quantities of opioids such as tramadol and captagon along with crack cocaine; a major source of precursor or essential chemicals used in the production of illicit narcotics