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Chapter 1

176

1.1 176.guide

Texified version of data for Niger.

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Niger

1.2 176.guide/Niger

Niger

Geography (Niger)
 People (Niger)
 Government (Niger)
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 Economy (Niger)
 Economy (Niger 2. usage)
 Communications (Niger)
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1.3 176.guide/Geography (Niger)

Geography (Niger)

=====

Location:

Western Africa, between Algeria and Nigeria

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1.267 million km²

land area:

1,266,700 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than twice the size of Texas

Land boundaries:

total 5,697 km, Algeria 956 km, Benin 266 km, Burkina 628 km, Chad 1,175 km ↔

Libya 354 km, Mali 821 km, Nigeria 1,497 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes: Libya claims about 19,400 km² in northern Niger; ↔
 demarcation of

international boundaries in Lake Chad, the lack of which has led to border incidents in the past, is completed and awaiting ratification by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria; Burkina and Mali are proceeding with boundary demarcation, including the tripoint with Niger

Climate:

desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south

Terrain:

predominately desert plains and sand dunes; flat to rolling plains in south ↔

hills in north

Natural resources:

uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

0%
 meadows and pastures:
 7%
 forest and woodland:
 2%
 other:
 88%
 Irrigated land:
 320 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 recurrent drought and desertification severely affecting marginal
 agricultural activities; overgrazing; soil erosion
 Note:
 landlocked

1.4 176.guide/People (Niger)

People (Niger)

=====

Population:
 8,337,352 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.49% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 57.35 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 22.44 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 112.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 44.15 years
 male:
 42.6 years
 female:
 45.75 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 7.35 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Nigerien(s)
 adjective:
 Nigerien
 Ethnic divisions:
 Hausa 56%, Djerma 22%, Fula 8.5%, Tuareg 8%, Beri Beri (Kanouri) 4.3%, Arab ←
 Toubou, and Gourmantche 1.2%, about 4,000 French expatriates
 Religions:
 Muslim 80%, remainder indigenous beliefs and Christians
 Languages:

French (official), Hausa, Djerma
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 28%
 male:
 40%
 female:
 17%
 Labor force:
 2.5 million wage earners (1982)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 90%, industry and commerce 6%, government 4%
 note:
 51% of population of working age (1985)

1.5 176.guide/Government (Niger)

Government (Niger)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Niger
 conventional short form:
 Niger
 local long form:
 Republique du Niger
 local short form:
 Niger
 Digraph:
 NG
 Type:
 transition government as of November 1991, appointed by national reform
 conference; scheduled to turn over power to democratically elected
 government in March 1993
 Capital:
 Niamey
 Administrative divisions:
 7 departments (departements, singular - departement); Agadez, Diffa, Dosso,
 Maradi, Niamey, Tahoua, Zinder
 Independence:
 3 August 1960 (from France)
 Constitution:
 December 1989 constitution revised November 1991 by National Democratic
 Reform Conference
 Legal system:
 based on French civil law system and customary law; has not accepted
 compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Republic Day, 18 December (1958)
 Political parties and leaders:

National Movement of the Development Society (MNSD-NASSARA), Tandja MAMADOU ←
 ;
 Niger Progressive Party - African Democratic Rally (PPN-RDA), Harou KOUKA;
 Union of Popular Forces for Democracy and Progress (UDFP-SAWABA), Djibo
 BAKARY; Niger Democratic Union (UDN-SAWABA), Mamoudou PASCAL; Union of
 Patriots, Democrats, and Progressives (UPDP), Andre SALIFOU; other parties
 forming

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal

Elections:
 President:
 President Ali SAIBOU has been in office since December 1989, but the
 presidency is now a largely ceremonial position

National Assembly:
 last held 10 December 1989 (next to be held NA); results - MNSD was the ←
 only
 party; seats - (150 total) MNSD 150 (indirectly elected); note - Niger held
 a national conference from July to November 1991 to decide upon a
 transitional government and an agenda for multiparty elections

Executive branch:
 president (ceremonial), prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly

Judicial branch:
 State Court (Cour d'Etat), Court of Appeal (Cour d'Apel)

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Brig. Gen. Ali SAIBOU (since 14 November 1987); ceremonial post
 since national conference (1991)

1.6 176.guide/Government (Niger 2. usage)

Government (Niger 2. usage)

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Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Amadou CHEIFFOU (since NA November 1991)

Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, AfDB, CCC, CEAO, ECA, ECOWAS, Entente, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IAEA ←
 ,
 IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU,
 LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WADB, WCL, WHO, WIPO,
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Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of orange (top), white, and green with a small orange disk (representing the sun) centered in the white band; similar to the flag of India, which has a blue spoked wheel centered in the white band

1.7 176.guide/Economy (Niger)

Economy (Niger)

=====

Overview:

About 90% of the population is engaged in farming and stock raising, activities that generate almost half the national income. The economy also depends heavily on exploitation of large uranium deposits. Uranium production grew rapidly in the mid-1970s, but tapered off in the early 1980 ←
s

when world prices declined. France is a major customer, while Germany, Japan, and Spain also make regular purchases. The depressed demand for uranium has contributed to an overall sluggishness in the economy, a severe trade imbalance, and a mounting external debt.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2.3 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

1.9% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$290 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.3% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$193 million; expenditures \$355 million, including capital expenditures of \$106 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$294 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

uranium ore 60%, livestock products 20%, cowpeas, onions

partners:

France 77%, Nigeria 8%, Cote d'Ivoire, Italy

Imports:

\$346 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

primary materials, machinery, vehicles and parts, electronic equipment, cereals, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, chemical products, foodstuffs

partners:

Germany 26%, Cote d'Ivoire 11%, France 5%, Italy 4%, Nigeria 2%

External debt:

\$1.2 billion (December 1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate -2.7% (1991 est.); accounts for 13% of GDP

Electricity: 105,000 kW capacity; 230 million kWh produced, 30 kWh per ←
capita (1991)

Industries:

cement, brick, textiles, food processing, chemicals, slaughterhouses, and a few other small light industries; uranium mining began in 1971

Agriculture:

accounts for roughly 40% of GDP and 90% of labor force; cash crops - cowpeas, cotton, peanuts; food crops - millet, sorghum, cassava, rice; livestock - cattle, sheep, goats; self-sufficient in food except in drought years

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$380 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$3,165 million; ←
OPEC

bilateral aid (1979-89), \$504 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$61 million

Currency:

1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

1.8 176.guide/Economy (Niger 2. usage)

Economy (Niger 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (CFAF) per US\$1 - 274.06 (January 1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 October - 30 September

1.9 176.guide/Communications (Niger)

Communications (Niger)

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Highways:

39,970 km total; 3,170 km bituminous, 10,330 km gravel and laterite, 3,470 km earthen, 23,000 km tracks

Inland waterways:

Niger River is navigable 300 km from Niamey to Gaya on the Benin frontier from mid-December through March

Airports:

total:

28
usable:
26
with permanent-surface runways:
9
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
2
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
13
Telecommunications:
small system of wire, radiocommunications, and radio relay links
concentrated in southwestern area; 14,260 telephones; broadcast stations -
15 AM, 5 FM, 18 TV; satellite earth stations - 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 1
Indian Ocean INTELSAT, and 3 domestic, with 1 planned

1.10 176.guide/Defense Forces (Niger)

Defense Forces (Niger)

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Branches:

Army, Air Force, Gendarmerie, National Police, Republican Guard

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,784,966; fit for military service 961,593; reach military
age (18) annually 87,222 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$27 million, 1.3% of GDP (1989)