

Nigeria

Geography

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Benin and Cameroon

Area:

total area: 923,770 sq km

land area: 910,770 sq km

Land boundaries: total 4,047 km, Benin 773 km, Cameroon 1,690 km, Chad 87 km, Niger 1,497 km

Coastline: 853 km

Maritime claims:

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

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 30 nm

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

Natural resources: petroleum, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, lead, zinc, natural gas

Land use:

arable land: 31%

permanent crops: 3%

meadows and pastures: 23%

forest and woodland: 15%

other: 28%

Irrigated land: 8,650 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: soil degradation; rapid deforestation; desertification; recent droughts in north severely affecting marginal agricultural activities

natural hazards: periodic droughts

People

Population: 101,232,251 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 45% (female 22,643,026; male 22,850,322)

15-64 years: 52% (female 25,842,286; male 26,978,906)

65 years and over: 3% (female 1,438,392; male 1,479,319) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.16% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 43.26 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 12.01 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.35 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 72.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 55.98 years

male: 54.69 years

female: 57.3 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.31 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Nigerian(s)

adjective: Nigerian

Ethnic divisions:

north: Hausa and Fulani

southwest: Yoruba

southeast: Ibos non-Africans 27,000

note: Hausa and Fulani, Yoruba, and Ibos together make up 65% of population

Religions: Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%

Languages: English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani

Literacy:

total population: 51%

male: 62%

female: 40%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Federal Republic of Nigeria

conventional short form: Nigeria

Capital: Abuja

Independence: 1 October 1960 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 1 October (1960)

Constitution: 1979 constitution still in force; plan for 1989 constitution to take effect in 1993 was not implemented

Suffrage: 21 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and green

Economy

Industries: crude oil and mining - coal, tin, columbite; primary processing industries - palm oil, peanut, cotton, rubber, wood, hides and skins; manufacturing industries - textiles, cement, building materials, food products, footwear, chemical, printing, ceramics, steel

Agriculture: accounts for 35% of GDP and half of labor force; cash crops - cocoa, peanuts, palm oil, rubber; food crops - corn, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava, yams; livestock - cattle, sheep, goats, pigs; fishing and forestry resources extensively exploited

Illicit drugs: passenger and cargo air hub for West Africa; facilitates movement of heroin en route from Southeast and Southwest Asia to Western Europe and North America; increasingly a transit route for cocaine from South America intended for West European, East Asian, and North American markets

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 3,567 km

Highways:
total: 107,990 km

Inland waterways: 8,575 km consisting of Niger and Benue Rivers
and smaller rivers and creeks

Pipelines: crude oil 2,042 km; petroleum products 3,000 km; natural
gas 500 km

Ports: Calabar, Lagos, Onne, Port Harcourt, Sapele, Warri

Airports:
total: 80

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, paramilitary Police Force