

Introduction

Niger is a landlocked country in Western Africa. Neighboring countries include Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, and Nigeria. The northern four-fifths of the country is desert, and the southern one-fifth is savanna. The government system is a semi-presidential republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Many of the citizens rely on subsistence farming, but Niger has a largely free-market system in which the prices are set by the market. Niger is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).



Location: Western Africa

Capital City: Niamey (+1 GMT)

Chief of State: President Issoufou Mahamadou

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Brigi Rafini

Currency: Communauté Financière Africaine franc (XOF)

Major Languages: <p>French (official), Hausa, Djerma</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Muslim 99.3%, Christian 0.3%, Animist 0.2%, none 0.1%</p>

Calling Code: 227

Voltage: 220

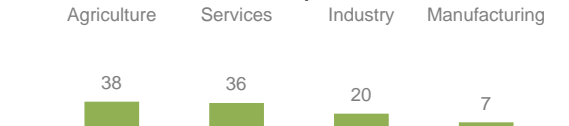
Key Websites

Main Government Page: presidence.ne

Key Economic Facts

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Income Level (by per capita GNI): | Low Income |
| Level of Development: | Developing |
| GDP, PPP (current international \$): | \$29.81 billion (2019) |
| GDP growth (annual %): | 5.90% (2019) |
| GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$): | \$1,278.70 (2019) |
| External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$): | \$3,607,743,249.70 (2019) |
| Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP): | 7.07% (2019) |
| Current account balance (BoP, current US\$): | -\$1.63 billion (2018) |
| Inflation, consumer prices (annual %): | -2.49% (2019) |
| Labor force, total: | 8,750,331 (2020) |
| Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): | 0.49% (2020) |
| Imports of goods and services (current US\$): | \$3.46 billion (2019) |
| Exports of goods and services (current US\$): | \$1.42 billion (2019) |

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

| Index | Rank |
|---|-----------|
| Corruption Perceptions Index | 120 / 180 |
| Index of Economic Freedom | 150 / 179 |
| International Logistics Performance Index (LPI) | 157 / 160 |
| Inward FDI Potential Index | 131 / 139 |
| KOF Index of Globalization | 124 / 185 |
| Open Budget Index | 110 / 115 |

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: D - A high-risk political and economic situation and an often very difficult business environment can have a very significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is very high.

Business Climate rating: C - The business environment is difficult. Corporate financial information is often unavailable and when available often unreliable. Debt collection is unpredictable. The institutional framework has many troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run major risks in the difficult environments rated C.

Strengths

- Sixth largest uranium producer in the world in 2019
- Net exporter of petroleum products and gold
- Investment effort in agriculture and infrastructure
- Member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Financial support from multilateral lenders

Weaknesses

- Economy vulnerable to climate shocks and fluctuations in commodity prices
- Economy still largely dependent on subsistence agriculture
- Rapid population growth, high poverty (world's lowest HDI), chronic food crisis situation
- Deficient tax and duty collection system
- Endemic corruption and the size of the informal sector; very poor business environment (132nd in the Doing Business 2020 report)
- Porous borders favoring illegal immigration and trafficking (gold, oil etc.)
- Deteriorating security situation and terrorist attacks

U.S. Embassy

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