

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 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 Mahamadou Issoufou

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 80%, other (includes indigenous beliefs and Christian) 20%</p>

Calling Code: 227

Voltage: 220

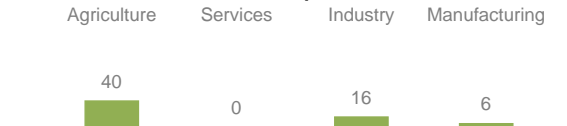
Key Websites

Main Government Page: presidence.ne

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$21.83 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	4.89% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$1,016.61 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$3,233,062,000.00 (2016)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	5.71% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$1.18 billion (2016)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	0.17% (2016)
Labor force, total:	8,438,963 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	0.35% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.68 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$1.35 billion (2017)

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	112 / 178
Index of Economic Freedom	160 / 180
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: C - A very uncertain political and economic outlook and a business environment with many troublesome weaknesses can have a significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is 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

- World's fourth largest producer of uranium
- Net exporter of oil products and gold
- Drive to invest in agriculture and infrastructure
- Member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union
- Financial support from multilateral lenders

Weaknesses

- Economy vulnerable to weather events and to fluctuations in commodity prices
- Economy still largely dependent on subsistence agriculture
- Inadequate system for collecting tax and customs duties
- Porous borders, favoring illegal immigration and trafficking
- Rapid population growth and high rate of poverty
- Deteriorating security situation and terrorist threats

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Niger
 BP 11201
 Niamey, Niger
 Phone: (227) 20-72-26-61
<https://ne.usembassy.gov>