

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



Throughout the 19th century, there was an increase in British influence and control over Nigeria. A series of constitutions after World War II granted Nigeria greater autonomy, though independence was not granted until 1960. In 1999, a new constitution was adopted and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since independence. The 2015 election is considered the most well run election in Nigeria, with the umbrella opposition party, the All Progressives Congress, defeating the long-ruling People's Democratic Party that had governed since 1999.

The euphoria and optimism that followed the relatively peaceful 2015 elections that brought in the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari gradually gave way to concern in 2016. Many of the grave human rights challenges he promised to address in his inauguration speech remain largely unaddressed and unresolved. Changes in military leadership and improved regional coordination resulted in a consistent push back against the insurgent group, Boko Haram, forcing it to cede most of the territory it controlled in the northeast. The group however continues to commit crimes against civilians, including abductions and forced recruitment. Although Nigeria continues to experience longstanding ethnic and religious tensions, the country continues to work to institutionalize democracy and reform its petroleum-based economy.

Geography

Official name: Federal Republic of Nigeria

Conventional Short Form: Nigeria

Region: Africa

Area: 923,768 sq km

Bordering Countries: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger

Physical Features: Nigeria has southern lowlands that merge into central hills and plateaus; mountains in the southeast, and plains in north.

Climate: The climate of Nigeria is varied. It is equatorial in the south, tropical in the center, and arid in the north.

Natural Hazards: Droughts, flooding

People and Society

Population: 186,053,386 (8th in the world.)

Ethnic Groups: Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups. The most populous and politically influential are – Hausa and Fulani (29%), Yoruba (21%), Igbo/Ibo (18%), Ijaw (10%), Kanuri (4%), Ibibio (3.5%), Tiv (2.5%)

Official Language: English

Other Languages Spoken: Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, and 500+ additional indigenous languages.

Religions: Muslim (50%), Christian (40%), Indigenous beliefs (10%)

Capital City: Abuja

Other Major Cities: Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Benin City

Median Age (*half the people are younger than this age and half are older*)

Male: 18.2 years

Female: 18.4 years

Total population: 18.3 years (2016 est.)

Literacy Rate (*percentage of the population 15 and older who can read and write*)

Male: 69.2%

Female: 49.7%

Total population: 59.6% (2015 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth (*average number of years to be lived by those born in the same year*)

Male: 52.4 years

Female: 54.5 years

Total population: 53.4 years (2016 est.)

Government

Country Founded: October 1, 1960 (independence from the UK)

Type of Government: Federal Presidential Republic

Country leaders

Chief of State/President: Major General (retired) Muhammadu Buhari

*Note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

Vice President: Oluyemi "Yemi" Osinbajo

Allies: India, Ghana

Enemies: North Korea, Russia, Iran, China, and Countries in which ISIS operates

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

IDPs: 1.955 million

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. (2016)

Economy

Nigeria is one of Sub Saharan Africa's largest economies and relies heavily on oil as its main source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. Following the 2008-9 global financial crises, the banking sector was effectively recapitalized and regulation enhanced. Since then, Nigeria's economic growth has been driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunications, and services.

Currency: Nigerian Naira

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$1.089 trillion USD (2016 est.)

Natural Resources: Natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land

Unemployment Rate: 13.9% (2016 est.)

Population Below Poverty Line: 70% (2010 est.)

Major Exports and Imports

Exports: petroleum and petroleum products, cocoa, rubber

Imports: machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals

Biggest Trading Partners

Exports: India, Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, South Africa, France, Japan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana

Imports: China, United States, Netherlands, India

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>

