

Nigeria

Type of Government: Federal Republic.

Head of Gov: President Goodluck Jonathan

Capital City: Abuja

Ideology: Conservative

Region: Africa (same region as Chad and Rwanda)

Neighbours: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.



DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 174 million (8th largest in the world, largest in Africa). High population growth, very high infant mortality rate and very high death rate.
- **Religion:** Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%.
- **Age:** Median age of 18, life expectancy of 52 (extremely low: 211th in the world).
- **Ethnicities:** Nigeria is comprised of more than 250 ethnic groups with the Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%. These groups are the most populous and politically influential.
- **National Language:** English, with over 500 indigenous languages.

ECONOMY

- Relatively high GDP of US\$444.3 billion (31st worldwide, but 2nd largest in Africa).
- World Bank Classification: Middle-Income Economy; considered an “emerging market,”
- Poverty Rate: 70% below line, but unemployment at 23.9% (comparatively high)
- GDP growth was 6.6% (2012 est. – quite high)
- Inflation rate: 12.2% (one of the highest in the world: ranked 207th in the world).

Major Industries

- Services 60%
- Manufacturing (light industrial and food and textile processing) 20%
- Agriculture 9% of GDP
- Mining 4% of GDP and expanding rapidly.

Exports

- **Major Trading Partners:** China, US, India, Netherlands, Spain, and Brazil.
- Petroleum constitutes 95% of total exports

Imports

- In 2012 the total value of imports was US\$53.36
- Principal imports include machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals

Natural Resources

- Nigeria has the 10th largest proven oil reserves
- Large amounts of oil, gas, copper, gold, tin, lead, silver, zinc and uranium – inefficient state mining authority means lots more to exploit.



MILITARY

Size: 100,000 active troops.

Army: 363 Light and Medium Tanks, 1400 armoured vehicles, and 680 artillery units. Various juntas have seized control of the country, as recently as 1999.

Air Force: 10,000 service people and around 300 aircraft.

Navy: Argentina possesses 76 naval vessels, as well as 11 aircraft.

POLITICS

Domestic politics

- Election fraud is widespread across most elections
- Militant jihadist group Boko Haram conducts killings, bombings, kidnappings and other violent acts throughout Nigeria
- Nigeria is ranked 144 of 177 on the Corruption Perception Index, and is pervasive in all levels of society with political figures, police, and security forces regularly acting with impunity.
- Nigeria's House of Representatives passed a Same Sex Marriage bill which prohibits gay marriage and will sentence to persons in same-sex relationships to large prison sentences
- Children's rights are regularly disregarded, with child marriage, sexual exploitation, abuse, and labour all prevalent.
- Female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and gender based discrimination are routine.
- The twelve northern states have adopted some form of Shari'a Law into their criminal statutes
- Nigeria is home to substantial networks of organised crime, including drug trafficking, scams and cons, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and political violence

Foreign Policy Concerns

- Nigeria is a member of both the Commonwealth of Nations and the African Union
- Nigerian foreign politics heavily emphasises African unity, and they played a leading role fighting against South African apartheid
- Peacekeepers from Nigeria have been deployed in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and presently in Darfur.

More Information

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria>

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

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13949550>

Latest news from the New York Times (<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/nigeria/>),

The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/topics/nigeria>)

The Guardian (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/nigeria>), and

Al-Jazeera (<http://www.aljazeera.com/category/country/nigeria>),