

IOA | 2019 | ACBR

AFRICA COUNTRY BENCHMARK REPORT



Niger Profile



Camels are a principal means of transport in the wide, desert expanse of landlocked Niger where roads are often absent. In 2019 the country faced a humanitarian crisis, as drought threatened water supplies and agriculture.



Image courtesy of Julien Harneis



NIGER

#34

NIGER

OVERVIEW ANALYSIS

Located in the Sahara Desert, Niger is one of the world's hottest countries. Of Niger's land, four-fifths is desert, but the southern fifth is savannah where livestock are raised, and some agriculture is undertaken. Food insecurity is a perpetual problem. Harsh environmental conditions are exacerbated by climate change, including increased droughts and desertification. The country's culture is rich and old, but few tourists visit the hot climate. Of the countries that surround landlocked Niger, five of the seven are in conflict. Refugees from Malian and Nigerian conflicts are a burden for the poor host country. Despite the myriad of challenges faced by this poor country, Niger climbed two positions in ACBR 2019 to a ranking of 34th place.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Niger has some of the world's largest uranium deposits
- Foreign donor assistance is strong, aiding the impoverished country's development
- An established livestock sector, including tanning, exists in the south

KEY CONCERNS

- Desertification and droughts threaten agricultural production
- An uneducated and unhealthy population requires significantly more social services
- Terrorist activity spills across borders from neighbouring countries

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PREDOMINANT RELIGION



Islam

PREDOMINANT LANGUAGE



French

POPULATION WITHOUT ELECTRICITY



83.8%
(#48) ▼²

LITERACY RATE



19.1%
(#54) ▼²

PRIMARY ELECTRICITY SOURCE



Oil

IMPORT/EXPORT



Transportation/
Radioactive
Materials

EXTERNAL DEBT



US\$ 3,090
billion
(#28) ▲²

ACTIVE CONFLICT



Yes

LAND SIZE



1,267,000 km²
(#6)

INTERNET PENETRATION



4.3%
(#50) ▲²

41.5%



AGRICULTURE

18.1%



INDUSTRY

40.4%



SERVICES

49%



0-14

19.1%



15-24

26%



22-54

5.9%



55+



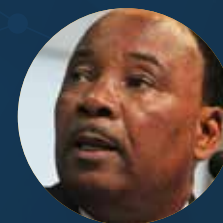
Term:
07/04/2011 - Present
5 years (2 term limit)



Political Party:
PNDS-Tarayya



Recent Electoral Information:
20/03/2016
4 105 499 Votes
92%
Voter turnout: 66.27%



President
Mahamadou
Issoufou

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GDP BY SECTOR

POPULATION AGE BREAKDOWN

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

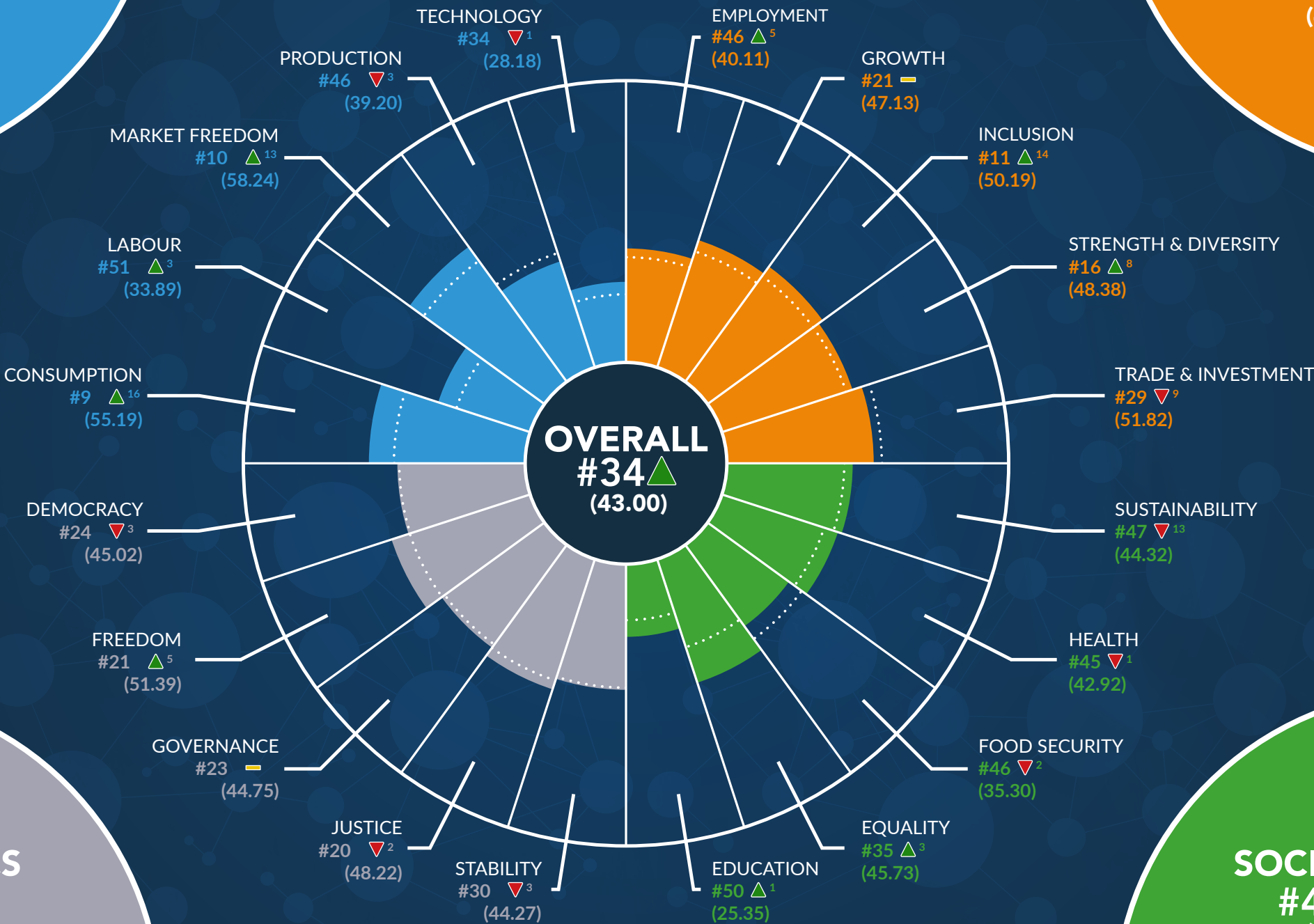
BUSINESS

#25
(42.94)

NIGER PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

ECONOMICS

#25
(45.42)



POLITICS

#24
(46.73)

SOCIETY

#49
(36.93)

NIGER BUSINESS ANALYSIS



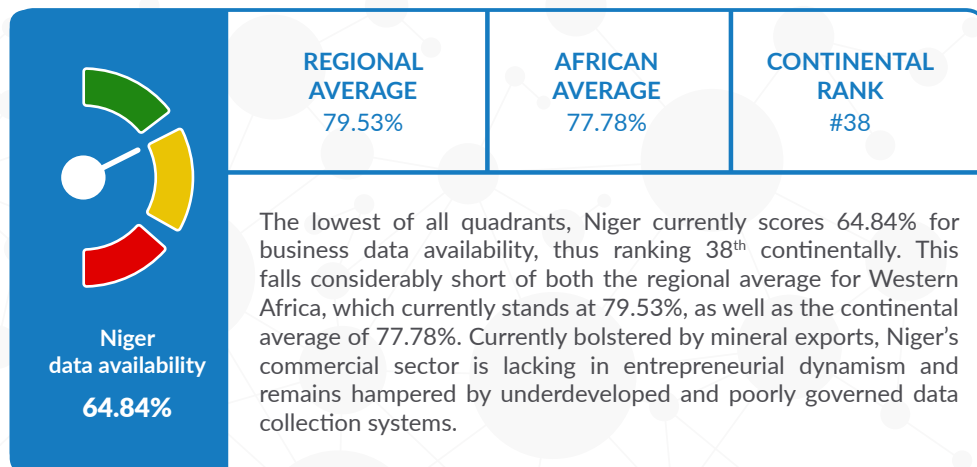
BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Located in a troubled portion of West Africa, Niger is one of the world's poorest countries and struggles to finance the development of their natural resources. Consequently, the population is beholden to subsistence farming, which has become problematic due to perpetual droughts. Agriculture contributes nearly 42% to GDP and provides work to 80% of Nigeriens. However, in monetary terms, the value of agricultural production is low. This is reflected in the number of Nigeriens living in poverty, estimated to be about 45% of the population.

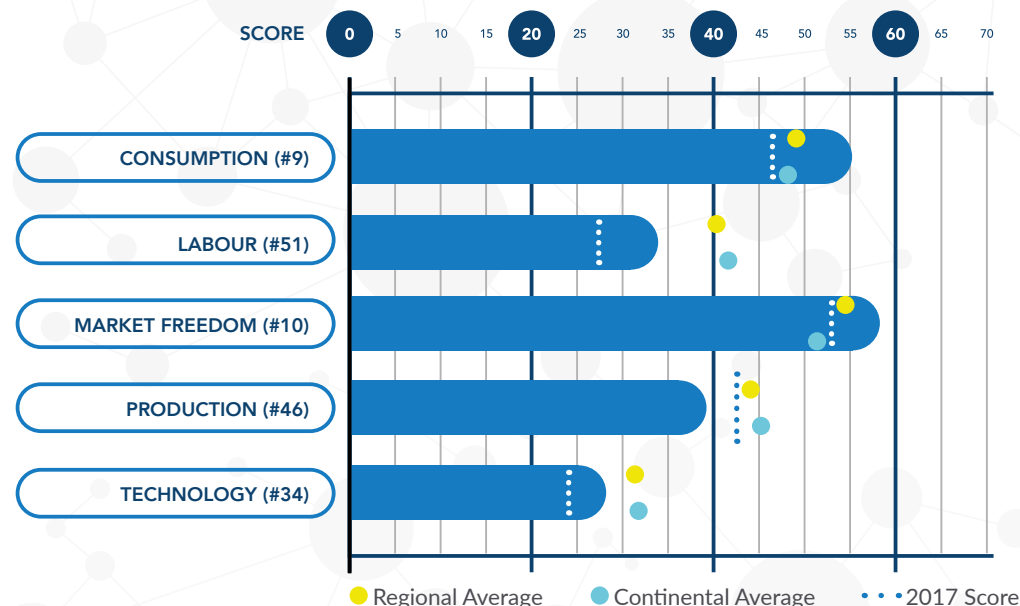
Healthy industrial growth of 7% in 2017 is attributed to mining activity. The opening of Niger's first railway – the initial 574 km of the line was opened in 2016 – was

intended to boost the transport of ore while also giving Nigerien exports access to the Gulf of Guinea by connecting to Benin's rail line to the port city of Cotonou. Because car ownership is restricted by the poverty of a majority of the population, much transportation is still accomplished by camel caravans, particularly across the desert expanses that constitute 80% of Niger's landmass. Only about one-fifth of the country's 19,675 km of roads is paved. Due to industrial and transportation advances during the year under review, Niger enjoyed one of the largest upsurges in rank of any country in ACBR 2019 in the Business quadrant. The country catapulted 15 placements upwards from the very low position of 40th in the previous period of review to a mid-range 25th place.

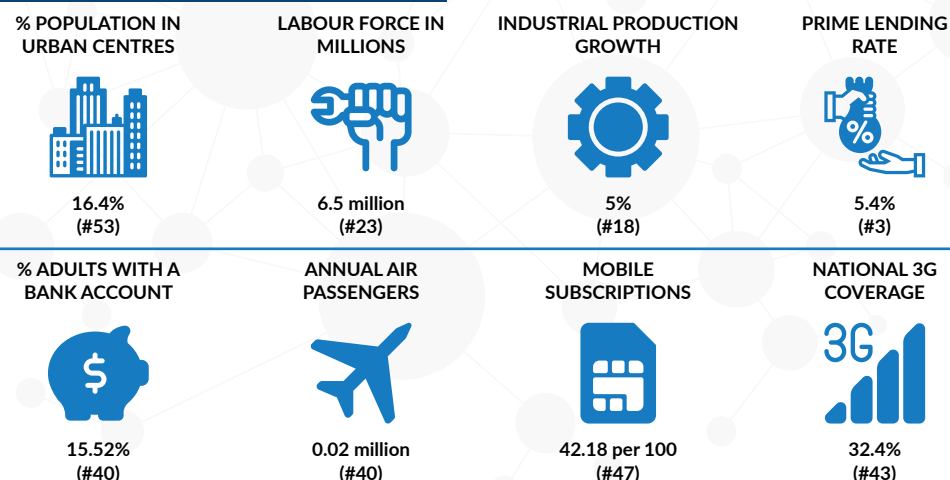
BUSINESS DATA COMMENTARY



BUSINESS SCORES & RANKINGS



BUSINESS STATISTICS



NIGER ECONOMIC ANALYSIS



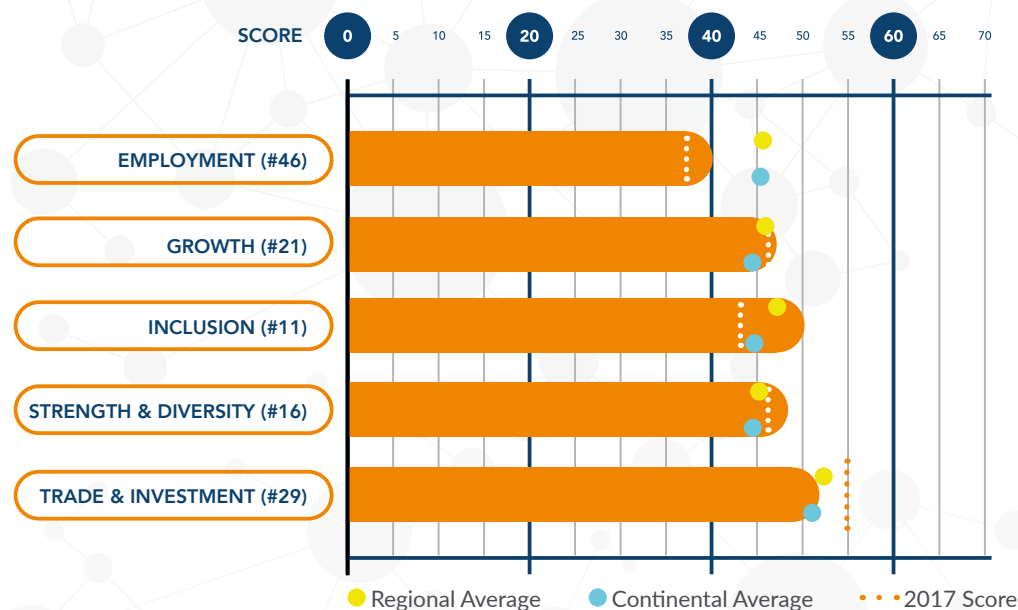
ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Niger's economy has grown continuously since 2005, which is when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gifted the country a 100% debt relief by cancelling US\$ 86 million in debts. This, along with continuing foreign donor aid that provides revenue to meet half of the government budget, frees up financial resources for initiatives to reduce poverty. Poverty reduction is a main concern for the IMF and donor nations, who were facilitators of Niger's new energy sector and railway line. Additional gold and uranium production will help the economy to become self-sustaining. Economic stimulus is required to increase GDP growth, which was a sluggish 1.8% in 2018 after a lacklustre 1.5% growth in 2017. Widespread poverty has limited the country's retail sector.

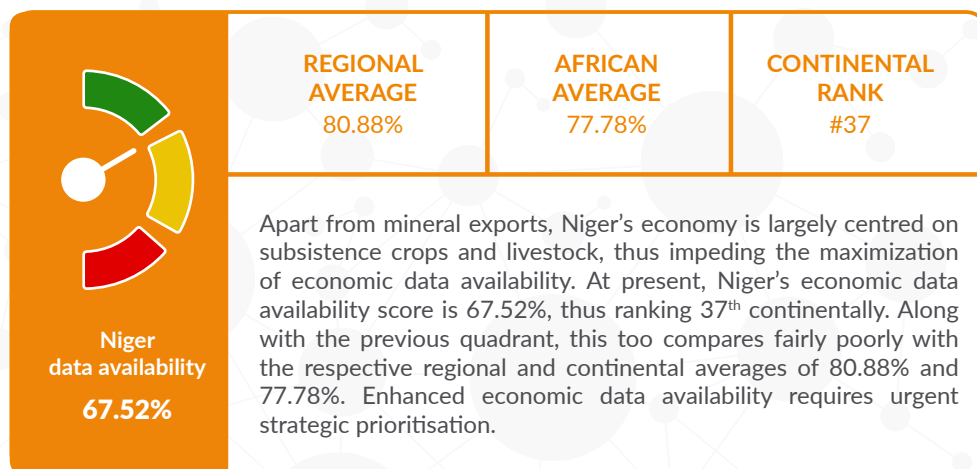
In 2019, production began at Savannah Petroleum's Amdigh oilfield. The 15% of Nigerien land that is suitable for crop growing follows the Niger River on the country's southern border with Nigeria.

Government revenues in 2017 of US\$ 1.8 billion were insufficient to cover the spending of US\$ 2.2 billion. However, due to higher commodity prices and electricity sales to neighbouring countries, Nigerian exports of US\$ 4.1 billion in 2017 were significantly higher than imports purchased at US\$ 1.8 billion. Advances in the energy and transportation sectors and government's better financial position prompted Niger's two position rise in the Economics quadrant to 25th place.

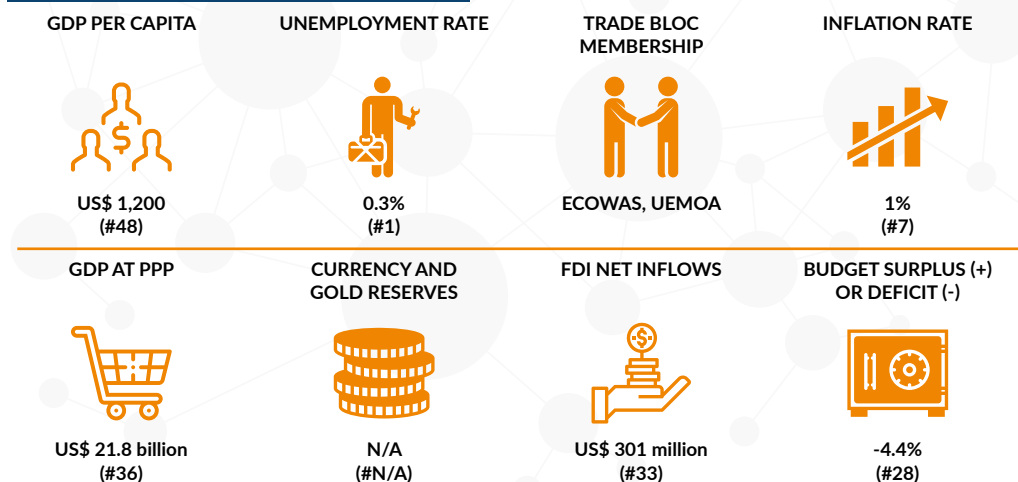
ECONOMIC SCORES & RANKINGS



ECONOMIC DATA COMMENTARY



ECONOMIC STATISTICS



NIGER POLITICAL ANALYSIS

#24

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

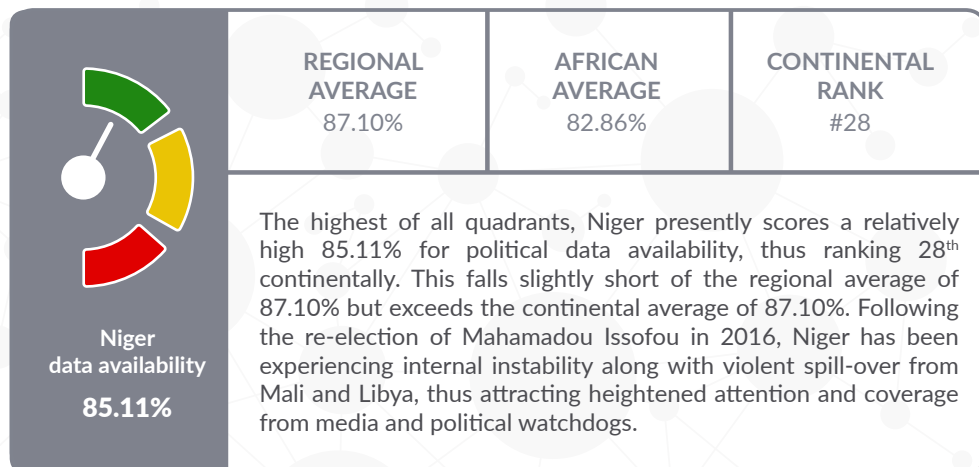
In 2011 Niger was liberated from military and single-party rule by holding a multi-party election. Mahamadou Issoufou was elected president, and was re-elected in 2016. He is the first president of the country's 7th republic, established with the 2010 constitution. The governmental and legal systems are based on the French model but contain elements of Islamic law and local customary law as well.

The decades of coups d'état and counter-coups ensured that national development was effectively stalled, despite the good will of international donors. Since 2011, development has returned. A country that is 80% Muslim seeks links with the Islamic world, but Niger also enjoys strong ties with the West. While maintaining a

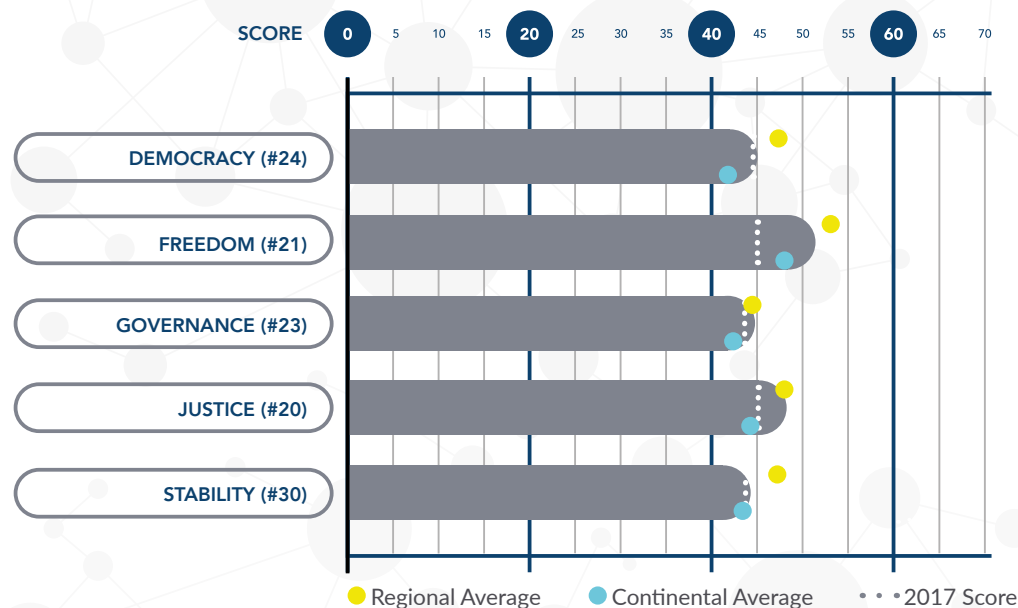
base in Niamey to launch military drones in support of France's anti-insurgency campaigns in the Sahel, the US announced in 2016 a new US\$ 100 million military airbase in Agade in Niger's central area. The new base will expand the American military's drone capacity to strike in Africa's heartland.

For the West, Niger is second only to Djibouti as Africa's most important country for counter-insurgency and anti-terror operations. The country has a strategic central location in Western Africa, with close proximity to the surrounding terror hotspots of Libya, Mali and Nigeria. While political life was stable in the country, Niger's position in the Politics quadrant dropped by one place relative to other nations to 24th.

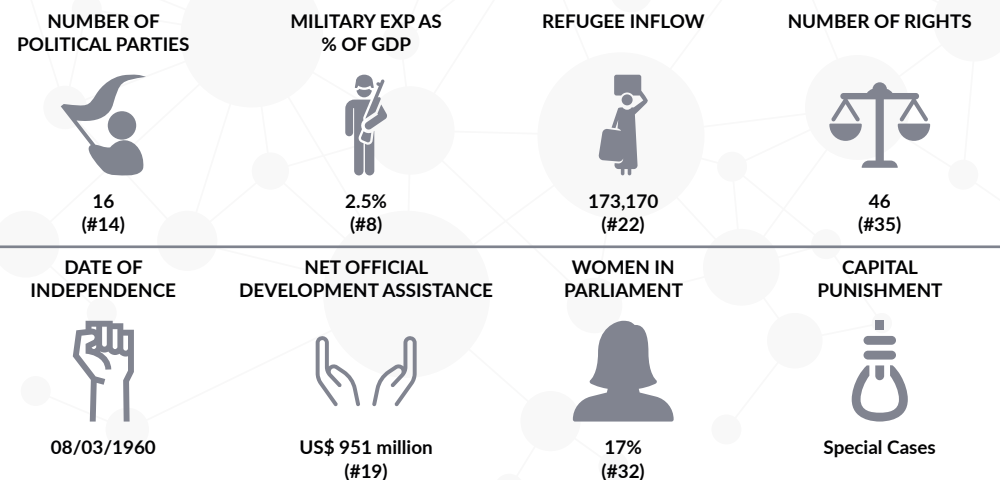
POLITICAL DATA COMMENTARY



POLITICAL SCORES & RANKINGS



POLITICAL STATISTICS



NIGER SOCIETAL ANALYSIS

#49

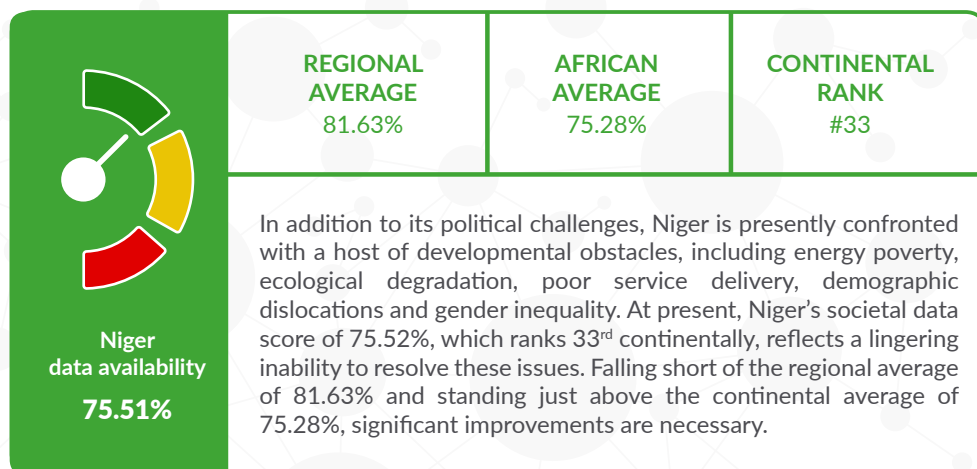
SOCIETAL OVERVIEW

With the world's highest fertility rate of 6.35 children per woman, Nigeriens' gravest social threat is overpopulation. The population growth of 3.16% is twice that of GDP growth. With poverty reducing life spans and accounting for the world's 5th-highest infant mortality rate, Nigeriens seek large families to sustain labour-intensive subsistence farming activities.

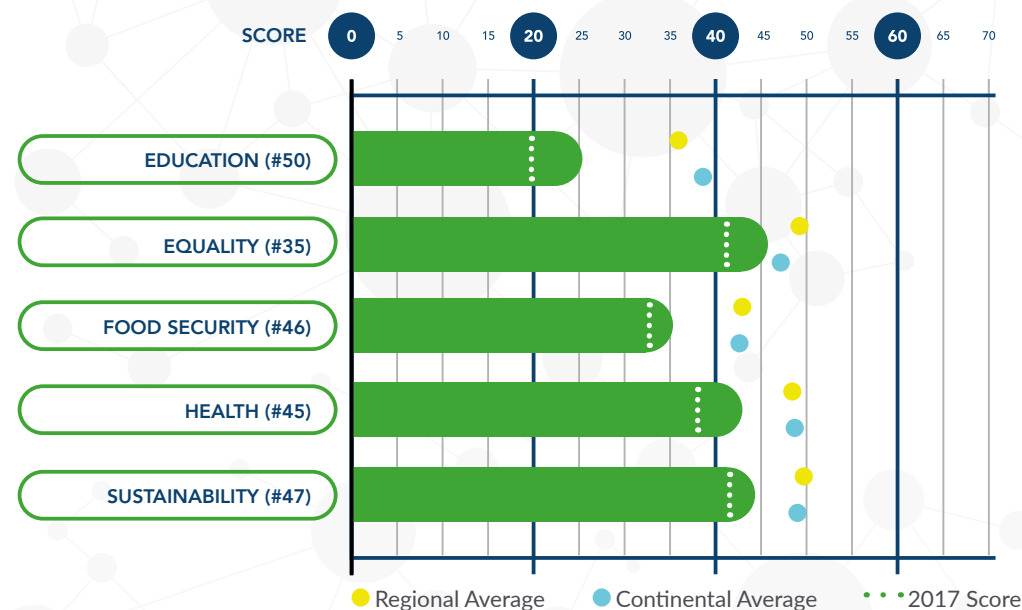
Because agriculture is limited to a relatively small band of land to the far south of the country, the environmental strain on available land and water resources grows yearly. A pervasive lack of good healthcare combined with harsh environmental conditions also contributes to a low life expectancy of 56 years.

About 38% of urban residents have access to modern plumbing, while only 5% of rural residents have this. Among children under the age of five, 32% are underweight, the 6th-highest rate in the world. Many children face a future of enslavement. Slavery is illegal, but government is slow on eradication efforts. Because they engage in child labour, 43% of children never see a classroom. Education levels are low, evidenced by the 19% of the population who are literate, 27% of men and 11% of women. Niger's poverty and lack of development is slowly changing, but for now the country continues to hold a low ranking among the bottom 10 countries in the Society quadrant, dropping two positions in this survey to 49th place.

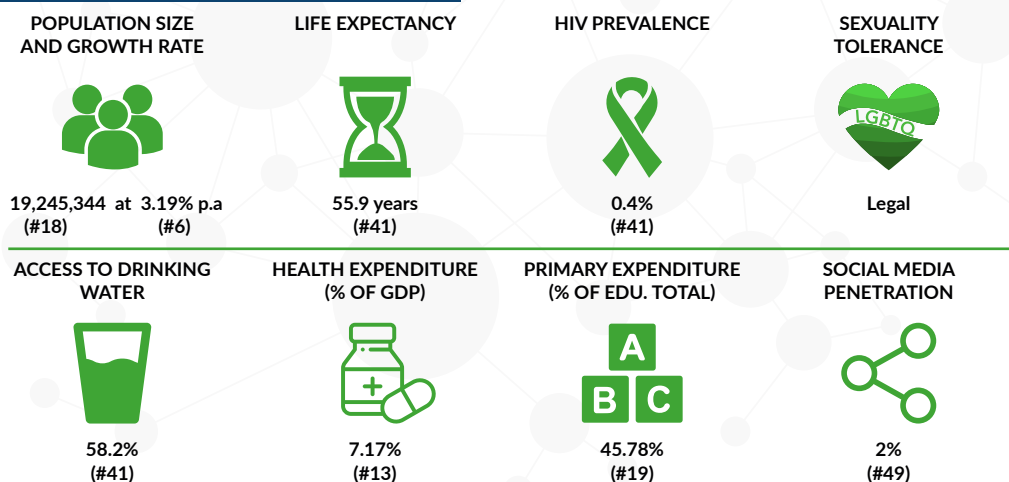
SOCIETAL DATA COMMENTARY



SOCIETAL SCORES & RANKINGS



SOCIETAL STATISTICS



CONTACT

IN ON AFRICA

PHONE: + (27) 11 027 4027

EMAIL: info@inonafrica.com

WEB: www.inonafrica.com

ADDRESS: 146 Beyers Naude Drive, Franklin Roosevelt Park, Johannesburg, 2195



@inonafrica



In On Africa



In On Africa

This IOA publication is released to the public with the understanding that it is not intended to provide implicit legal, accounting, investment or other professional advice. The information, research and opinions provided are collated and formulated by In On Africa (IOA) from its associates' understanding and knowledge of issues dealt with, as well as from a variety of open sources. Whilst IOA believes that the information and opinions contained herein are reliable, it does not make any warranties, express or implied, and assumes no liability for reliance on or use of the information or opinions contained herein. Furthermore, IOA indemnifies itself from unforeseen errors due to certain sources being gathered from third parties.

© IN ON AFRICA (PTY) LTD 2019