INTRODUCTION
Niger became independent from France in 1960. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with insufficient funds to develop its resource base. The largely agrarian and subsistence-based economy is frequently disrupted by extended droughts common to the Sahel region of Africa.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Mohamed BAZOUM
Head of Government
Prime Minister Ouhoumoudou MAHAMADOU
Government Type
semi-presidential republic
Capital
Niamey
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Assemblee Nationale (171 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 1,267,000 sq km
Land: 1,266,700 sq km
Water: 300 sq km
Climate
desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south
Natural Resources
uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt, petroleum

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
low-income Sahel economy; major instability and humanitarian crises limit economic activity; COVID-19 eliminated recent antipoverty gains; economy rebounding since December 2020 Nigerien border reopening and new investments; uranium resource rich
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $28.97 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $1,200 (2020 est.)
Industries - uranium mining, petroleum, cement, brick, soap, textiles, food processing, chemicals, slaughterhouses
Agricultural products - millet, cow peas, sorghum, onions, milk, groundnuts, cassava, cabbages, goat milk, fruit
Exports $1.525 billion (2018 est.)
gold, sesame seeds, uranium, natural gas, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: UAE 54%, China 25%, France 7%, Pakistan 5% (2019)
Imports $2.999 billion (2018 est.)
rice, packaged medicines, palm oil, cars, cement (2019)
partners: China 19%, France 9%, UAE 7%, Cote d'Ivoire 6%, India 6%, Nigeria 5%, Togo 5%, Turkey 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
23.6 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
3.65% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Hausa 53.1%, Zarma/Songhai 21.2%, Tuareg 11%, Fulani (Peuhl) 6.5%, Kanuri 5.5%, Gurma 0.8%, Arab 0.4%, Tubu 0.4%, other/unavailable 0.9% (2006 est.)
Language
French (official), Hausa, Djerma
Religion
Muslim 99.3%, Christian 0.3%, animist 0.2%, none 0.1% (2012 est.)
as of October 2021