



The information reflected in this paper has been gathered by [Jaume Portell](#), a reporter specialised in economics and international relationships, in an activity cofunded at a 85% by FEDER funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) (1/MAC/1.3/0088) project, within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

Niger

Macroeconomic framework:

In 2023 Niger's economy grew at a slower pace, near 2.5%, due to the sanctions the country had to face after the coup d'état in July 2023. According to the African economic Outlook published in 2024, sanctions of the ECOWAS together with the halt of a part of the foreign funding translated into a descent of the funding and the imports. "The budgetary deficit then ameliorated" until reaching the 5% of the GDP, points out this same report. The economical growth in 2024 and 2025 will increase considerably until reaching even double digits (10.4%) thanks to the exports of petroleum, even if the institution considers that this growth will be lower than in 2025 (7.4%). Niger's GDP added up to 16 820 million dollars in 2023.

Debt and currency:

Niger had a debt stock of 5613 million dollars in 2023. Annual payments of the debt service have increased since 2012. Then, it barely represented 40 million dollars per year. This year, the amount to be paid will be of 438 million dollars, ten times more than before. The vast majority of Niger's debt is in the hands of multilateral creditors (84%), with a special notability of the World Bank and the West African Development Bank. The 13% is depends upon bilateral creditors, leaded by France (4%) and China, among others. The remaining debt is in the hands of private creditors, among which we can find the German Deutsche Bank and China National Petroleum Corporation.

Niger is one of the fourteen African countries that makes use of the CFA franc. This currency has a fixed parity with the euro (655 CFA francs= 1 euro).

Imports and exports:

Exports in 2023, according to the MIT Complexity Index, totalled 1720 million dollars, headed by gold, sesame seeds and uranium. This last product has

traditionally been exploited by the french company Orano, owned in a 90% by the French state, which is very dependent upon electrical power coming from nuclear origins. The entry of Niger's actual government, after a coup d'état in the summer of 2023, has translated into the withdrawal of exploitation licenses for the French company Orano in various mines of uranium. The main destinations for Nigerian exports in 2023 were the United Arab Emirates, France, China and India.

The imports in 2023 amounted to 3000 million dollars, headed by cereals like rice (10% of the total), followed by iron structures and gasoline. The main commercial partner in what comes to Niger's imports was China (26%), followed by France, India, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.

Niger has a negative commercial balance. However, in may 2024 it added another product to its export basket: petroleum. Exports began thanks to an oil pipeline that, after the initial cost of 4600 million dollars, will enable the country to quintuplicate its oil output until reaching the 110 000 barrels per day. This oil pipeline Niger-Benin has been built with Chinese capital, same country that started buying raw petroleum from Niger that same year.

Electrical Power:

In 2022, Niger generated 0.8 TWh of electrical power, more than a 97% comes from coal, gas and other fossil fuels. This number triplicates the electricity that was consumed in 2012.

Defence:

Niger spent 308 million dollars in defence materials in 2023, according to the SIPRI, a Sweden institute specialised in the trade of this kind of products. This number represents more than a 10% of the government expense, a number that has been on the rise during the last decade. Meanwhile, the Nigerian government attempted to contain the advancement of armed groups within its territory.

Demography:

Unlike other African countries in the continent, the percentage of population living in rural areas has barely changed since 1990 in Niger, according to the World Bank's data. Then, an 85% of the Nigerian population lived in rural areas; in 2023, this number had hardly moved and it was within 83%. Population has grown from 8.26 millions in 1990 to 26.16 millions in 2023; during this period of time, life expectancy has increased from 42 years old to 62 years old.

Half of the population is less than 15 years old.

Technological innovation:

The access to Internet has made a leap in Niger since 2010: from a 1% of the population to a 17% of the population nowadays. A loan coming from China in 2014, with the value of 101.5 million dollars, served to ameliorate the access to optic fibre in this Sahelian country. Besides the advancements, it is still among the countries of the African continent with the less population able to access the Internet.