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Nigeria at 60

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Citation

Dietz A.J., E. D. W. L. , A. A. , V. F. (2020). Nigeria at 60. *Ascl Infosheet*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/137308>

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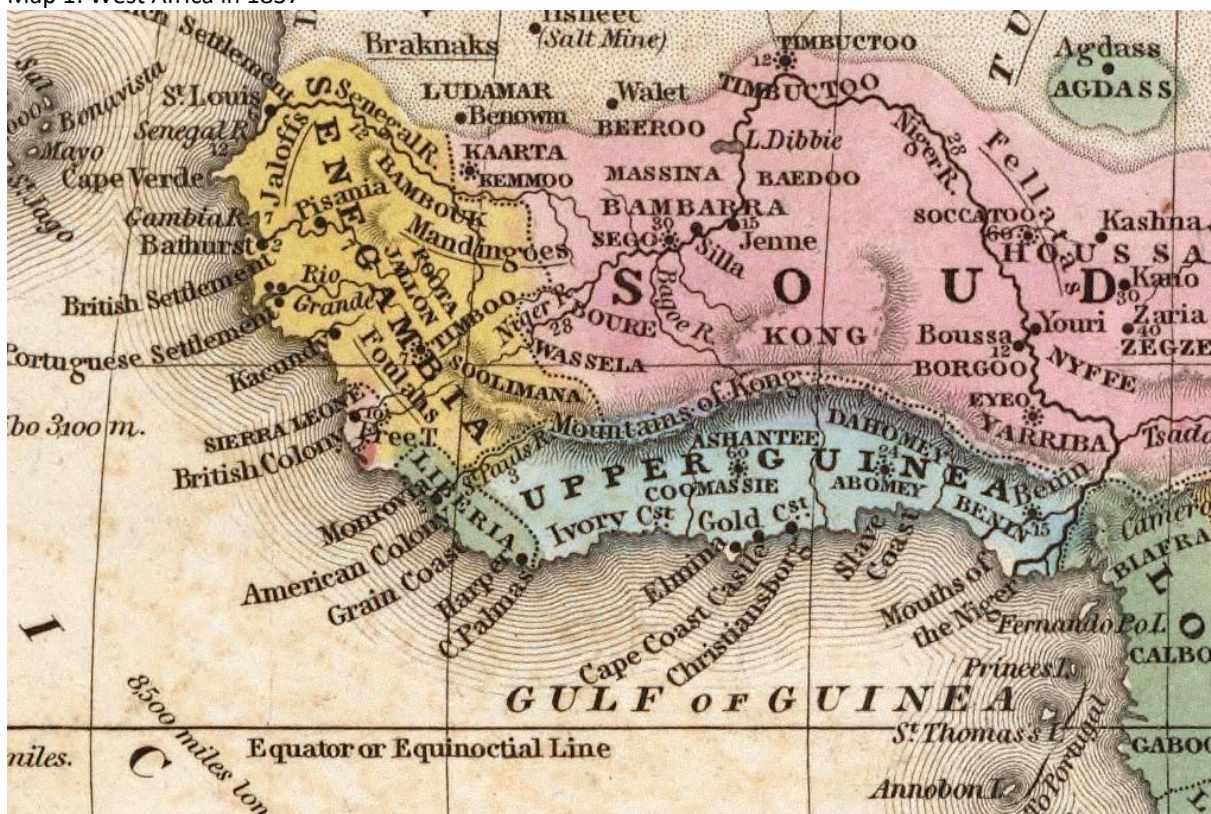
Nigeria at 60

Political history

1960 was the 'Year of Africa': many former colonies in Africa became politically independent. Of the seventeen colonies gaining independence in that year, Nigeria was

the sixteenth one: on October 1. British influence existed since the early 19th century, particularly after the abolition of the slave trade by Great Britain in 1807.

Map 1: West Africa in 1837

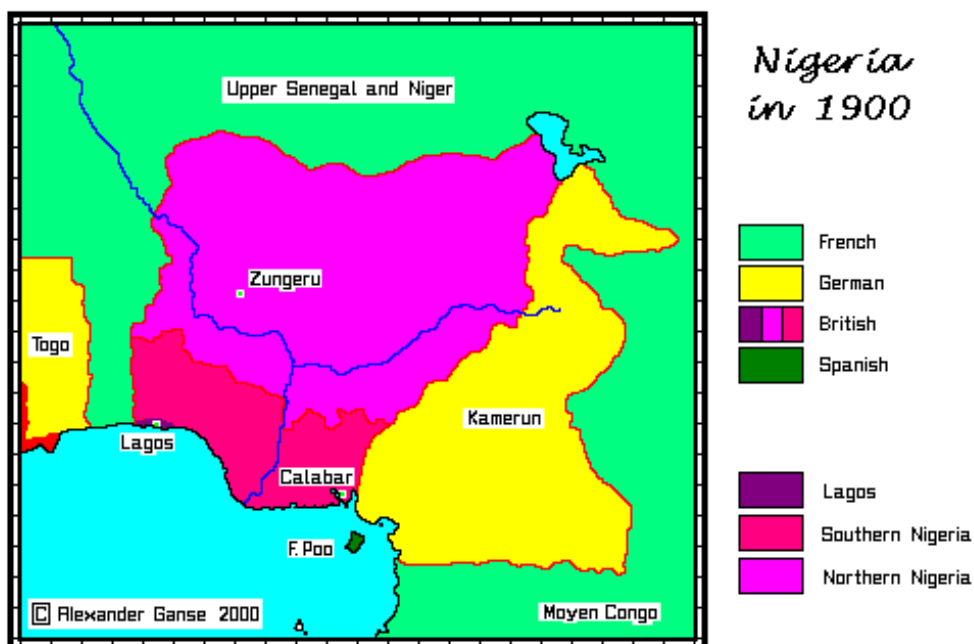


Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/West_Africa_1839_Mitchell_map_-_Kong.jpg

In 1861 the informal influence in and around Lagos was formalised by making it a British crown colony. In 1884 the British declared the Niger Delta another Protectorate, first called Oil Rivers, and from 1893 onwards Niger Coast. In 1886 the British Royal Niger Company received a trading monopoly in the other parts of what later would become

Nigeria. Great Britain took over the Company's southern areas in 1900, the Lagos Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, which were merged in 1906 to form the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

Map 2: Nigeria in 1900

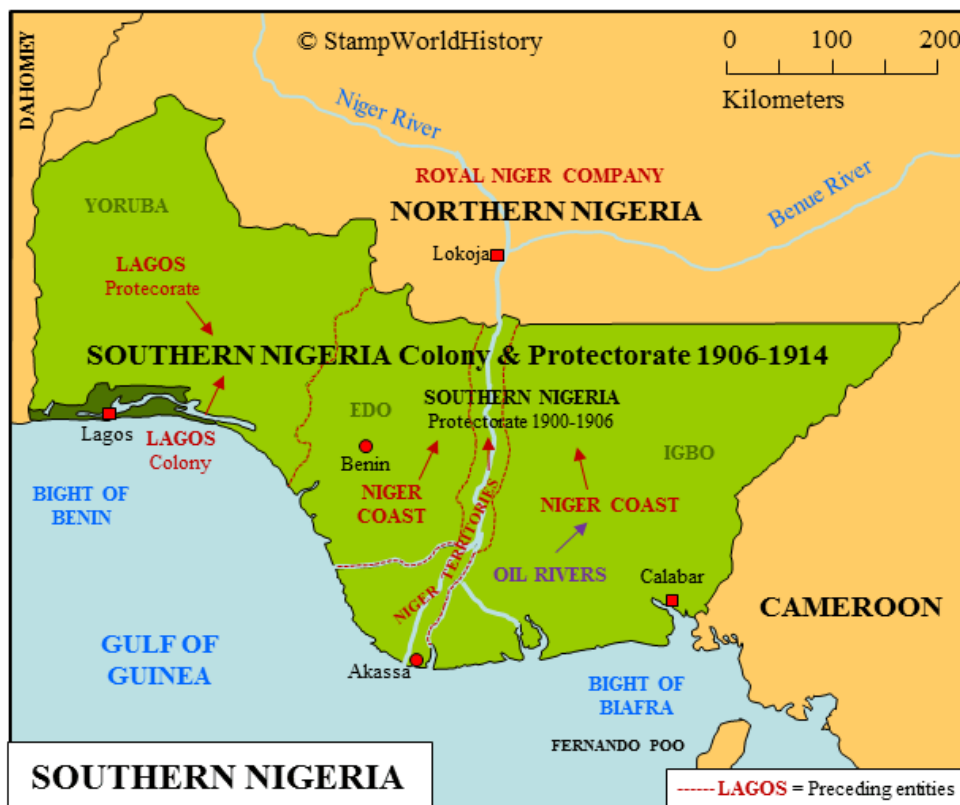


Source: <https://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/westafrica/nigeria1900.gif>

In 1902-1903 British influence moved north into the Islamic Sokoto Caliphate and the Bornu Empire, forming

the Northern Nigeria Protectorate.

Map 3: Southern Nigeria 1906-1914



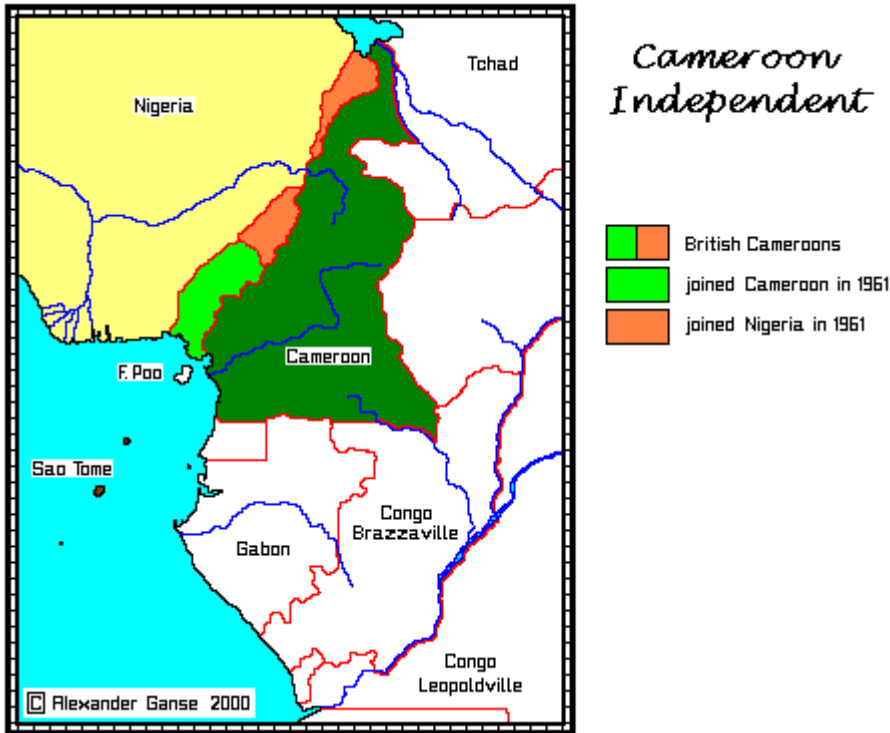
Source:

<https://i0.wp.com/www.globalblackhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Southern-Nigeria-e1441194820587.png?fit=612%2C516&ssl=1>

In 1914 the Southern and Northern Nigeria Protectorates were amalgamated to form Nigeria as a single British colony. In 1960 this area became the independent Federation of Nigeria, but with the British Queen as Head of State. In 1961 the area of the Northern Cameroons

joined after a Plebiscite (Cameroon had been co-managed by France and Great Britain - the western parts - after the defeat of Germany in the First World War, which had ruled Kamerun since 1884).

Map 4: The Plebiscite in Cameroon



Source: <https://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/centrafrica/kamerun1960.gif>

In 1963 Nigeria declared itself a Federal Republic. Soon there was major turmoil, resulting in an attempt by Eastern Nigerians to become independent as the Republic

of Biafra (a war that lasted from 1967 until 1970, ending with the defeat of Biafra).

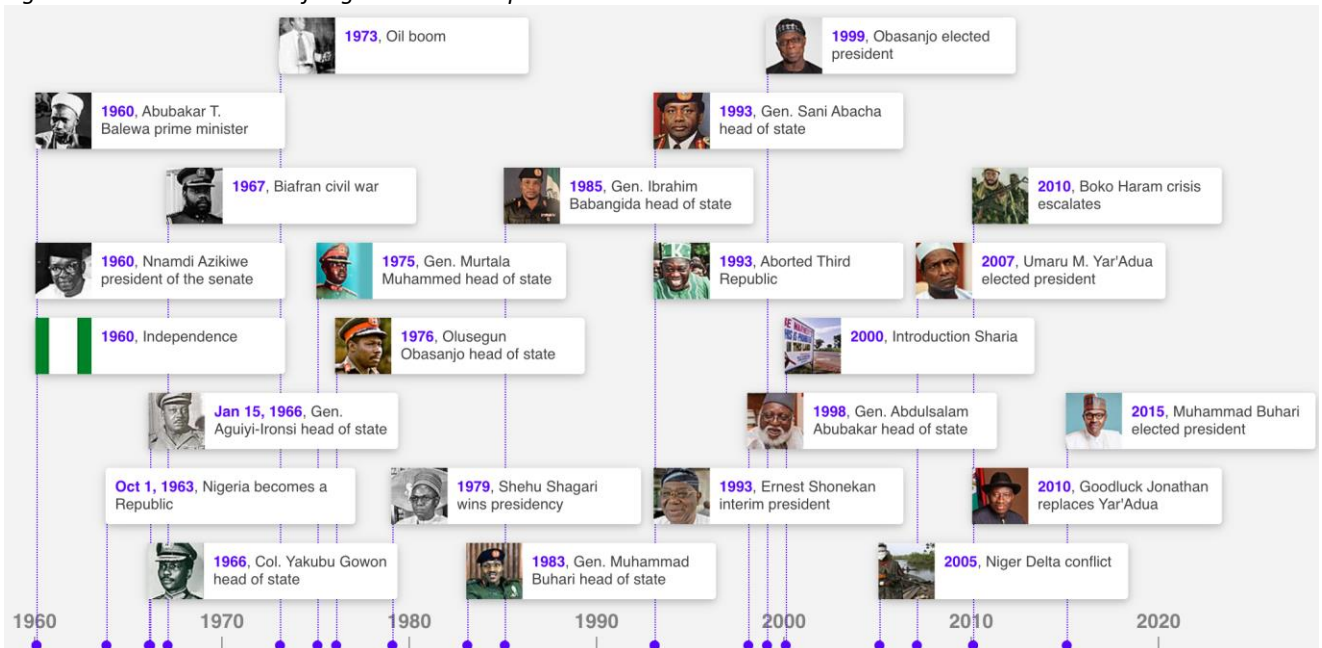
See Figure 1 for a post-independence political timeline.

Map 5: Biafra in 1967



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ef/Biafra_independent_state_map-en.svg

Figure 1: Political timeline of Nigeria since independence



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

First Republic

Nigerian post-colonial politics have been complex and tumultuous, and plagued by deep challenges of regional and ethnic diversity, military rule, and corruption and governance problems resulting from large oil rents. Upon independence in 1960, the country was divided into a Northern, Western, and Eastern region. Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa and the president of the Senate, Nnamdi Azikiwe, represented the Northern and Eastern regions, respectively. The country formally became a federal republic in 1963, when this tri-partite structure of the polity became further formalised and the 'First Republic' was born. Conflict, however, was endemic, and the military took over government in January 1966 by way of the (Eastern) General Aguiyi-Ironsi. His attempt to install a unitary government failed, and increased tensions; in 1966, these tensions resulted in a counter coup by Northern officers led by Colonel Yakubu Gowon.

Biafra

Less than a year later, large parts of the Eastern region attempted secession as the independent Republic of Biafra. This move resulted in a civil war in which hundreds of thousands of Nigerians died from violence and starvation. The Biafran army surrendered in early 1970, after which Gowon led a reintegration effort under the slogan 'no victor, no vanquished'. And while regional and ethnic tensions remained, administrative reforms as well as increased government spending (financed by the then recent oil boom and the dramatic rise of government income), allowed the Nigerian federation to retain its integrity. Gowon promised a return to civilian rule, but in 1974 reneged on this promise. As a result, he was ousted in 1975 while at an OAU summit. Gowon was briefly succeeded by General Murtala Muhammad and, after Murtala Muhammad's assassination in 1976, by General Olusegun Obasanjo.

Second Republic

By 1979, Obasanjo introduced a new constitution as well as democratic elections, in which Shehu Shagari, a northern candidate, defeated the leader of the old Western region, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. A brief period of democratic rule followed (the 'Second Republic'), yet public unrest and economic problems prompted the military to intervene again shortly after Shagari's re-election in 1983. General Muhammad Buhari took power in this coup, and established a reputation for trying to impose strictness and discipline on Nigeria; but his rule would also be short, as General Ibrahim Babangida overthrew Buhari in 1985. Babangida (or 'IBB') promised a return to democratic governance but failed to deliver, while also further entrenching the deep corruption that had permeated Nigerian politics since the dramatic oil boom in the early 1970s.

The abortive Third Republic

Elections finally came in 1993, leading Nigeria into the 'Third Republic' – but it would be short-lived, as Babangida refused to accept the electoral results and denied the popular M.K.O. Abiola the presidency. In the turmoil following this event, Babangida left office and installed businessman Ernest Shonekan as interim president; but after three months in office, Shonekan was ousted by General Sani Abacha. In years that followed, Abacha came to lead what would arguably become Nigeria's most repressive political regime since independence. Abacha died in 1998, allowing his successor General Abdulsalam Abubakar to reverse some of the injustices committed and commence the transition to civilian government. The 'Fourth Republic' would start with the 1999 elections, in which Olusegun Obasanjo, former military head of state, won the presidency. He quickly promulgated a new democratic constitution and governed Nigeria for two successive terms, until 2007.

Democracy in the Fourth Republic

The Obasanjo years witnessed optimism over the return of democracy, but also the rise of several sources of conflict and violence – not least the introduction of sharia in the 12 northern States and contestation over the impacts of oil production in the Niger Delta. Obasanjo faced the escalation of a long-running international challenge to Nigeria's territory in the Bakassi peninsula, which started in 1994, and Obasanjo was forced to relinquish to neighbouring Cameroon in 2006. He campaigned, unsuccessfully, for a third term in office; but his attempts for constitutional reform failed, and in the 2007 elections, Umaru Yar'Adua became Nigeria's next democratic president. Yar'Adua, however, was not in good health; and after years of rumour and speculation, Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan took over the presidency in 2010. He won the next elections in 2011 and would remain in office until the 2015 elections.

Boko Haram

Under Jonathan, the notorious Islamic movement that would be referred to as Boko Haram became increasingly dangerous. In the early 2000s, this organisation grew out of a Muslim youth movement in north-eastern Nigeria, which radicalised towards violence in conflict with the Nigerian security services. By 2009, its original leader Muhammad Yusuf had been killed by the police, and by 2010 his successor Abubakar Shekau led the movement to organise bomb attacks and other terrorist activities. By 2013/2014, Boko Haram had claimed a part of northern Nigeria as its 'Caliphate'; and it would take the Nigerian security forces until just before the 2015 elections to take back most of the territory the movement had conquered. Yet even after this, Boko Haram has continued to commit acts of violence throughout northern Nigeria.

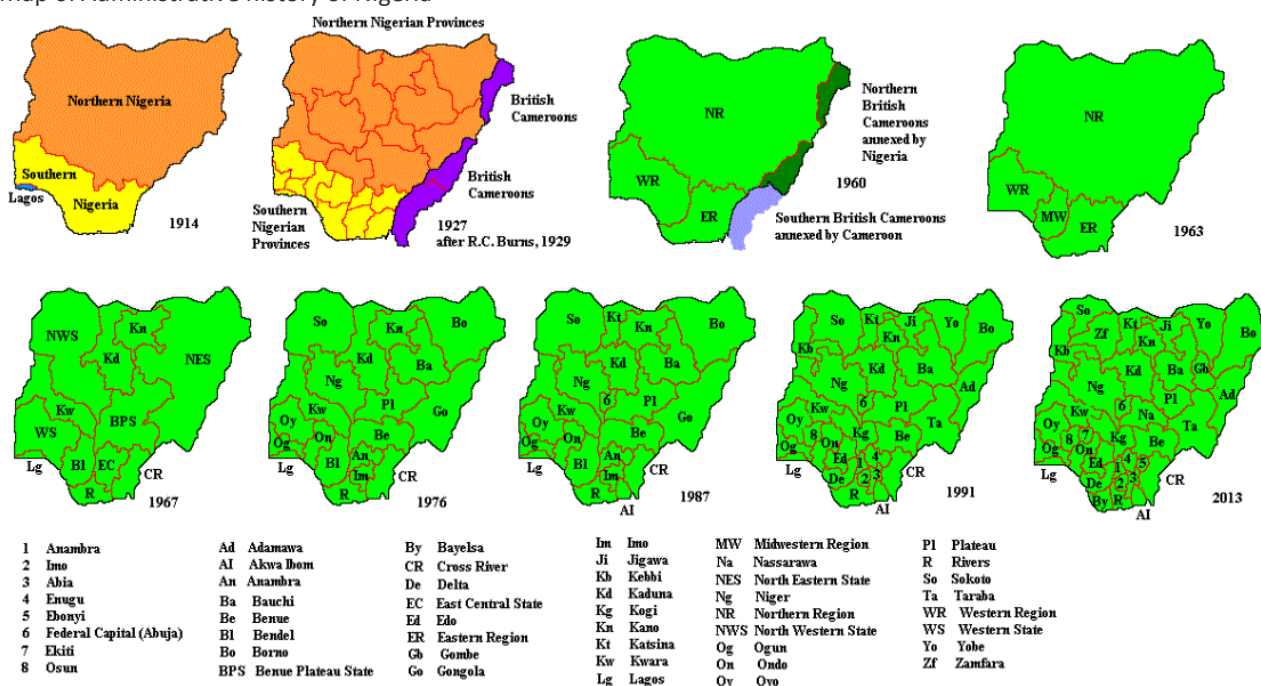
Muhammad Buhari

The 2015 elections witnessed the first defeat of an incumbent president as well as the first peaceful transition of power away from the dominant People’s Democratic Party (PDP), towards Muhammad Buhari (former military head of state) of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Buhari won again in 2019, but his government has been criticised for doing too little to improve the livelihoods of the millions of poor Nigerians. Buhari’s rule has also been challenged by continued violence by Boko Haram, and the escalation of so-called ‘farmer-herder’ conflicts

throughout Nigeria, and particularly in and around the Middle Belt region. Furthermore, Buhari was absent from government for several months due to health problems.

Much like Nigeria’s political history, its administrative history has also been very volatile, as can be seen in the map below with the history of administrative arrangements. Overall, the trend has been towards fragmentation into ever-smaller States and Local Government Areas. Moreover, in 1991 a new city was built as the country’s capital, Abuja (it was Lagos before).

Map 6: Administrative history of Nigeria



Source: <http://www.nigeria-consulate-frankfurt.de/English/Nigeria/History/history.html>

A note about religion in Nigeria

There is much public debate about the relative sizes of Nigeria’s main religious groups, and precise and comprehensive statistics are not available. But on the basis of the data that do exist, the country is almost evenly split between Muslims and Christians, only a very small fraction of the population is regarded as still exclusively practising ‘traditional’ religion, and hardly anyone confesses openly to being an atheist.

Conflict, state fragility, and travel risks

For African standards Nigeria is very high on the ‘security risk’ indices. Before the COVID-19 crisis, in December 2019, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs had put a quarter of the country in the ‘red’ zone (= very high risks, ‘don’t travel’: the Northeast, the Southeast and parts of the Niger delta), and another quarter part in the ‘orange’ zone (= high risks, ‘only travel if really necessary’: the Northwest, the Centre and the other parts of the Niger delta area). [Currently, September 2020, all ‘danger

zoning’ has been disturbed by the global COVID-19 crisis]. Nigeria was destabilised by the activities of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria, by the troubles in Southwest Cameroon, and by rebels in the Niger delta.

The State Fragility Index of the Fund for Peace puts Nigeria in the ‘alert range’, with 96.2 points (most negative score would be 120.0 points; for Africa, ‘alert’ is a relatively bad category; <https://fundforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/9511904-fragilestatesindex.pdf>).

The index consists of twelve variables, and Nigeria has relatively good scores for ‘external interventions’, and ‘human flight and braindrain’, but these scores are still 5.9 and 6.9 respectively, out of ten. Ten is the worst possible score, which means that also for the relatively good scores Nigeria is in the ‘warning’ range. Nigeria has very problematic scores for ‘factionalised elites’ (9.9 out of 10), ‘group grievances’ (9.4), ‘demographic pressure’ (9.2), and ‘security apparatus’ (9.0).



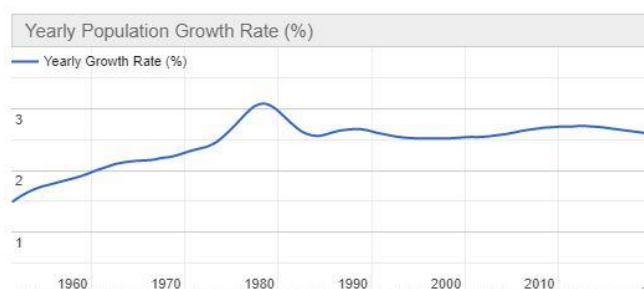
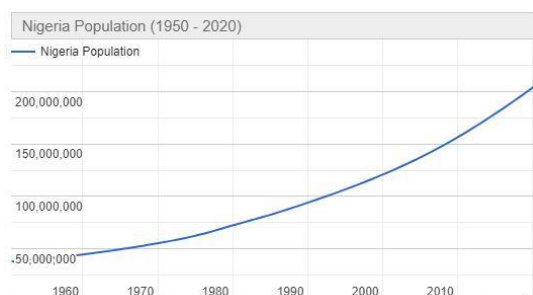
Source of the map:
<https://geology.com/world/nigeria-satellite-image.shtml>

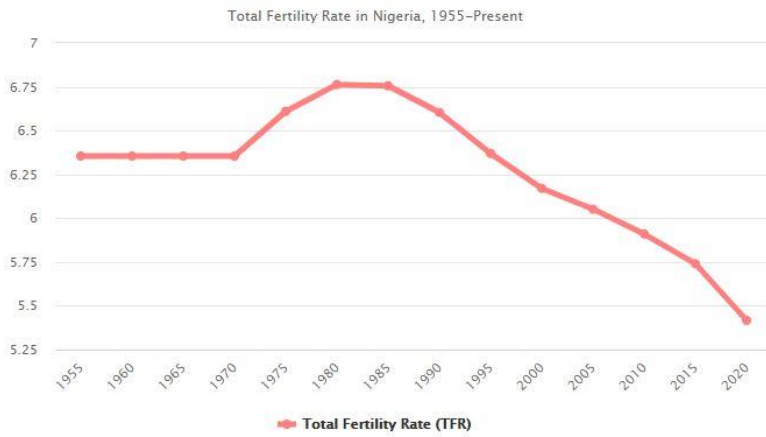
Demography

Nigeria was and is the most populous country in Africa, with 15% of Africa’s total population. Nigeria’s population increased more than fourfold between 1960 and 2020, from 45.1 million in 1960 to 206.2 million in 2020, mostly through high fertility rates and longer life expectancy for both males and females (also because of rapidly improving child and infant mortality figures). Population growth figures were always higher than 2% per year since 1960, and more than 2.5% since 1974 (in 1977-1980 even more than 3%). Currently, the average growth rate is around 2.6% per year. Nigeria passed the 50 million threshold in 1965, the 100 million threshold in 1992, and the 200

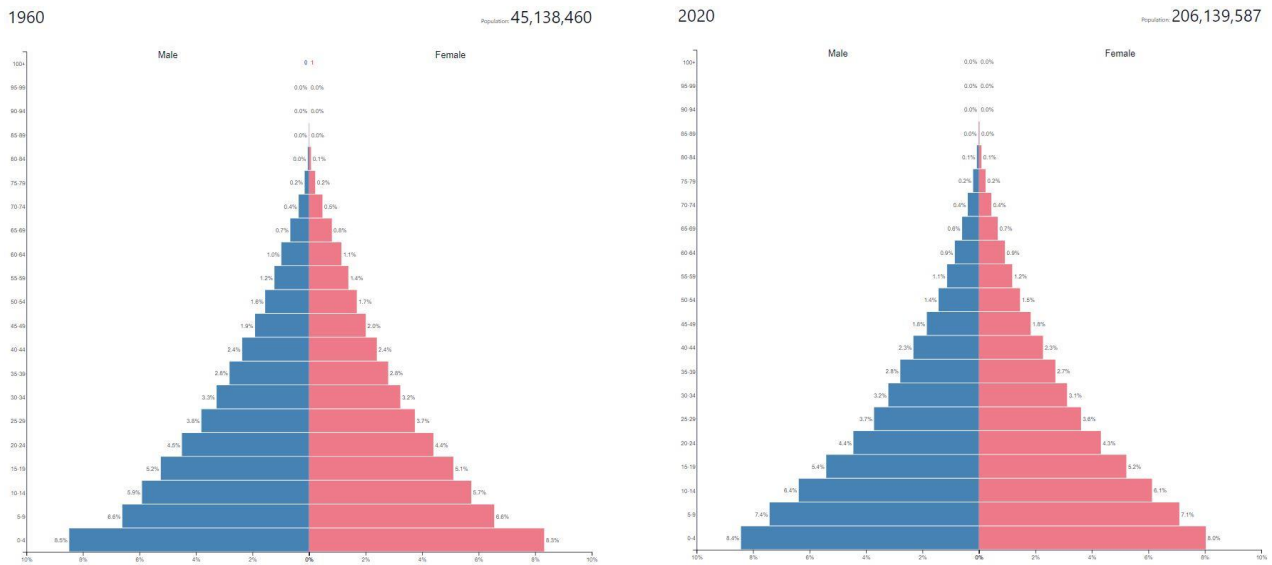
million threshold in 2019, so a doubling of its population every 27 years so far.

Total fertility was around 6.4 live-born children per woman in 1960; it first increased to 7.8 in the 1980s, and then started to diminish slowly, with currently 5.4 births per average woman in Nigeria during her lifetime. Again: one of the highest in the world. As a result of these demographic developments Nigeria has a very skewed population pyramid, with many more young people than adults and elderly people. The median age changed from 19.1 years old in 1960 to only 17.4 years old in 1990, and is currently 18.1 years old. Urbanisation is high, and passed the 50% threshold in 2018.





Source: Worldometers



Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/nigeria/2020/>

Demographic statistics, Nigeria as a whole, 1960 and 2020

	1960	2020
Population	45.1 million	206.2 million
Fertility rate	6.4	5.4
Life expectancy (males)	36.8	54.8
Idem (females)	39.6	56.8
Median age	19.1 years	18.1 years
Infant mortality (< 1 yr)	173/1000	55/1000
Under-5 mortality	288/1000	90/1000
Urbanisation rate	15%	52%
Urban population	7 million	107 million
Rural population	38 million	99 million

Source: Worldometers

Human Development Index, Nigeria as a whole, 1990 and 2018

Human Development Index data exist since 1990, with annual UNDP updates. However, for Nigeria the data only started in 2003. In 2003, Nigeria's Human Development Index started at a level of 0.452, in the middle range for African standards. The HDI consists of a health index, an income index and an education index, while UNDP also provides data about life expectancy, and some other indicators. For Nigeria, the various components of the HDI mostly show stagnation (or even deterioration) in the

period between 2003 and 2010, and gradual improvement afterwards. Between 2003 and 2018, the HDI increased to a level of 0.534, which can be attributed to improvements in all components: health, education and standard of living (but the last one only slightly), and can also be seen in the data for life expectancy. However, the most significant growth took place in GNI/capita, and in the health index. Due to problems in Northeastern Nigeria, the education index as a whole improved less than in many other countries in Africa during this period (see the section about regional inequality).

Nigeria: Human Development Index, its composition, and other indicators; data for 2003 and 2018

	2003	2018	2018/2003
Health Index	0.419	0.528	1.26
Income Index *	0.537	0.593	1.10
GNI/capita **	3499	5086	1.45
Education Index	0.411	0.486	1.18
Mean years of schooling	5.3	6.5	1.23
Expected years of schooling	8.5	9.8	1.15
Life Expectancy	47.2	54.3	1.15
Total HDI index	0.452	0.534	1.18

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0;

* = for 2018 called 'standard of living component'. ** GNI/capita in US \$ of 2011, PPP).

Trade statistics, Nigeria: exports and imports, 2018

In 2018 Nigeria exported products for a total value of 59.5 billion \$, and imported for a total value of 48.7 billion \$ (mostly from China, the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, and India, in that order), resulting in a positive

trade balance. Leading import products were refined petroleum, ships, wheat, cars and medicaments, in that order.

The most important export products and most important export destinations in 2018 were:

Main export products (value in \$ billion)		Main export destinations (value in \$ billion)	
Crude Petroleum	44.8	India	10.0
Petroleum Gas	8.6	Spain	6.1
Refined Petroleum	0.9	USA	5.7
Cocoa Beans	0.6	The Netherlands	4.8
Gold	0.6	South Africa	3.9

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/nga>

Gross National Product, Imports and Exports, average for 2016-2019

55b\$	356b\$			50b\$
Import	Gross	Domestic	Product (406b\$)	Export
	Home	Use		

Source : <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NGA/nigeria/gdp-gross-domestic-product>;

<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NGA/nigeria/exports>; and <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NGA/nigeria/imports>

Although the volumes and value of both imports and exports are enormous for African standards, the Nigerian economy has developed a strong 'internal momentum', as can be seen in the table with regard to 'home use' of Nigeria's GDP: a lot of Nigeria's production and services

are used in Nigeria itself. Nigerian entrepreneurs have taken interesting and successful initiatives to produce more for the internal market, and a prime example is Nigeria's top entrepreneur Dangote¹.

¹ See: Dangote Cement : an African success story?, by A. Akinyoade and C.U. Uche (both researchers at the African Studies Centre Leiden) ASCL Working Paper 131,

<https://www.ascleiden.nl/publications/dangote-cement-african-success-story>

Protected areas and Forests

Nigeria currently has 12 national parks, two wildlife sanctuaries, five strict nature reserves, 35 fauna reserves. Internationally eleven Ramsar sites, and one UNESCO-MAB biosphere reserve have been recognised. According to Protectedplanet, currently 12.7 million hectares are protected areas (14 % of Nigeria's total area)². Nigeria has almost a thousand forest reserves, and there are 9 million hectares of forests, 10% of its total land area. However, between 1990 and 2010 Nigeria has lost 48% of its forest cover, a total of 8.2 million ha³. Other areas are mainly 'other wooded land', and areas for agriculture, livestock, hunting and gathering. Desert encroachment, measured

at 0.6 km per year, affects a significant section of the northern States; however, the UNCCD states the Nigeria Great Green Wall Initiative has helped in the reclamation of 5 million hectares or 19% of affected areas (UNCCD - <https://www.unccd.int/actions/great-green-wall-initiative>).

Agricultural Nigeria

Crop Area (in 1000 hectares), and total production (in 1000 tonnes), 1961 and 2018, in the order of the crop areas in 2018:

	1961		2018		2018/1961	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Cassava	780	7384	6853	59475	8.8	8.1
Sorghum	4658	3958	6125	6862	1.3	1.7
Yams	450	3500	5990	47533	13.3	13.6
Maize	1513	1384	5062	10956	3.3	7.9
Rice paddy	149	133	3346	6809	22.5	51.2
Other vegetables	558	2268	3277	16099	5.9	7.1
Oilpalm	2700	6750	3016	7850	1.1	1.2
Groundnuts	1488	1565	2912	2887	2.0	1.8
Cow peas	1216	431	2853	2607	2.3	6.0
Millet	4360	2644	2796	2241	0.6	0.8
Sweet Potatoes	13	149	1712	4030	131.7	27.0
Fruits	560	2712	1554	10316	2.8	3.8
Cocoa	700	197	1182	333	1.7	1.7
Melonseed	307	99	796	585	2.6	5.9
Soybeans	163	57	781	758	4.8	13.3
Taro/Cocoyam	181	1147	716	3303	4.0	2.9
Sesame seed	200	56	539	573	2.7	10.2
Plantains	200	798	502	3094	2.5	3.9
Kariténuts	25	27	429	263	17.2	9.7
Potatoes	2	18	371	1363	185.5	75.7
Rubber	130	58	362	145	2.8	2.5
Seed cotton	300	155	316	271	1.1	1.7
Kolanuts	155	139	259	139	1.7	1.0
Fonio	70	33	170	83	2.4	2.5
Wheat	9	16	83	65	9.2	4.1
Coconuts	28	76	38	285	1.4	3.8
Other	25	16	15	16	0.6	1.0
Total (area)	17016		52055		3.1	

2018/1961: **red** = 2018 is below 1961; **green**: 2018 is more than 4.3 times the 1961 figures (that is: more than population increase in Nigeria from 46.1 million to 195.9 million between 1961 and 2018); black: in-between. Source: Faostat data.

Nigeria's land area is 92 million hectares, and its crop area increased from 18% to 57% of its land area between 1961 and 2018, which is very high for African standards. Both area and production levels increased more than population growth for rice, sweet potatoes, potatoes,

cassava, yams, vegetables, soybeans and kariténuts (and the first three in extreme ways). In addition, production volumes increased more than population for maize, cow peas, melonseed, and sesame seed. As a result, despite the relatively high population growth figures, the Nigerian

² <https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/NGA>; slightly different data in <http://www.parks.it/world/NG/index.html>

³ <https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Nigeria.htm>

population could be fed better in 2018 than in 1961. However, the traditional crops sorghum and particularly millet did not do so well relatively. The most important export crops in 1961 (oil palm, groundnuts and cocoa), all showed expanding areas and production levels, but below population growth levels.

Livestock numbers as a whole expanded more rapidly than Nigeria's population between 1961 and 2018, and particularly goats, camels, sheep and pigs. Per capita the livestock units were and are very low, though: in 1961 0.13 LU/cap, and in 2018 0.16 LU/cap.

Livestock numbers (x million)

	1961	2018	2018/1961
Asses	1.4	1.3	1.0
Camels	0.0	0.3	20.2
Cattle	6.0	21.4	3.6
Chicken	37.4	139.4	3.7
Goats	0.6	79.4	125.6
Horses	0.3	0.1	0.3
Pigs	0.6	7.5	11.7
Sheep	1.0	43.0	42.2
Livestock units	6.0	30.7	5.1

Source: Faostat data; 1 livestock unit = based on 1.0 camels, 0.7 cattle/horses/asses; 0.1 goats/sheep/pigs; 0.01 chicken.

International and Internal Migration

Nigeria is an important area of origin, destination, and transit of migrants in Africa. The Nigerian Government formally adopted a National Policy on Migration (NPM) and its Implementation Plan in May 2015, which provides "an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration, and proper collection and dissemination of migration data." It is a country of high migration turnover. In 2015, 1,094,000 people who were born in Nigeria lived outside the country (0.6% of Nigeria's 2015 mid-year population), of which 375,000 million elsewhere in Africa, and 721,000 outside Africa.

The top three destination countries for Nigerian migrants are Cameroon, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom. For instance, the Nigerian-American population in the USA grew more than 10-fold from 25,000 in 1980 to 376,000 in 2016. The preference for the USA and the UK stems from a variety of reasons, including English language, business opportunities, academic pursuits, and social networks. In 2017 Nigeria had around 1.2 million immigrants, mainly from Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo and Niger.

Internally, a large number of Nigeria's population is also on the move. The Internal Migration Survey conducted by the National Population Commission in 2010 showed that 23% of the sampled population of Nigerians are migrants, having changed residence within 10 years, and 2% are return migrants. In mid-2017, when the number of refugees worldwide reached 18.5 million (about 7 percent of international migrants), total forced displacement in Nigeria stood at 1,782,490 persons, making Nigeria the most affected country by forced displacements in West Africa.

Demographically, Nigerian migrants are more likely to be male, irrespective of the age group under consideration. About slightly more than half (54%) of all international migrants arriving in the country, are in the working age band 20-49 years. Economically, Nigeria ranks fifth among the world's top remittances receiving countries (in absolute US\$ terms). The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) stated that the inflow of remittances to Nigeria increased dramatically from \$2.3 billion in 2004 to \$22 billion in 2018. Educationally, the UK continues to be the number one spot of destination for Nigerian students seeking tertiary education; followed by the USA, Malaysia, Ghana, and the Republic of Benin. Nigerians remit over \$1 billion for meeting tuition fees and student upkeep annually.

Perception of immigrants in the country is generally positive. There is no notable negative public display or systematically orchestrated public hostility to immigrants⁴ (Akinyoade, 2019).

Urban Nigeria

Nigeria's urban population increased from 7 million people in 1960 (only 15% of its national population at Independence) to 107 million in 2020 (52%). Growth has been rapid for all cities. Between 1960 and 2020 the population increase was at least tenfold in the two major cities Lagos and Kano. According to Worldometers there are seven multi-million cities in Nigeria in 2020, while there were none at Independence. According to Macrotrends there are currently eleven metropolitan areas with more than one million inhabitants, and according to their assessment Lagos currently is the biggest agglomeration of Africa.

⁴ See: Akinyinka Akinyoade, 2019, [Nigeria: education, labour market, migration, Annex A to "Dutch labour market shortages and potential labour supply from Africa](#)

[and the Middle East"](#) (SEO Report No. 2019-24). Amsterdam, 09 April 2019.

Major urban areas in Nigeria

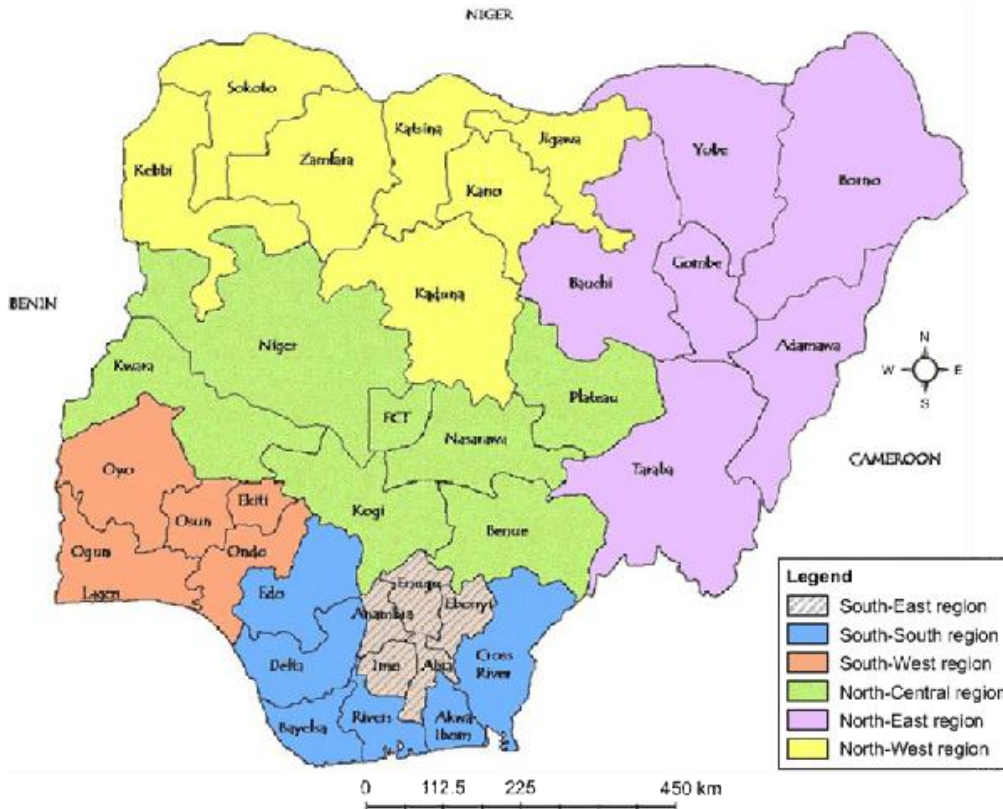
Cities	State	Population numbers in thousands		
		Macrotrends: 1960	Worldometers, city, as given in 2020	Macrotrends Metropolitan area, 2020
Lagos	Lagos	762	9,000	14,368
Kano	Kano	229	3,626	3,999
Ibadan	Oyo	570	3,565	3,464
Kaduna	Kaduna	99	1,582	1,113
Port Harcourt	Rivers	135	1,148	3,020
Benin City	Edo	83	1,125	1,727
Maiduguri	Borno	88	1,112	786
Zaria	Kaduna	117	975	726
Aba	Abia	102	898	1,081
Jos	Plateau	69	817	895
Ilorin	Kwara	179	814	950
Oyo	Oyo	86	736	428
Enugu	Enugu	93	689	773
Abeokuta	Ogun	146	593	533
Abuja	FCT	23	590	3,278
Sokoto	Sokoto	68	564	641
Onitsha	Anambra	129	561	1,415
Warri	Delta	33	563	856
Ebute Ikorodu	Lagos	(Lagos)	536	(Lagos)
Okene	Kogi	36	479	465
Calabar	Cross River	63	462	579
Uyo	Akwa Ibom	13	437	1,136
Katsina	Katsina	65	432	470
Ado-Ekiti	Ekiti	49	424	480
Akure	Ondo	59	421	666
Bauchi	Bauchi	34	316	598
Ikeja	Lagos	(Lagos)	313	(Lagos)
Makurdi	Benue	48	293	407
Minna	Minna	51	292	448
Efon-Alaaye	Ekiti	-	279	-
Nnewi	Anambra	9	-	1,051
Owerri	Imo	25	-	873
Ikorodu	Lagos	49	-	938
Umuahia	Abia	24	-	774
Oshogbo	Osun	178	-	714
Lokoja	Kogi	17	-	692
Abakaliki	Ebonyi	28	-	572
Ogbomosho	Oyo	130	-	551
Gombe	Gombe	41	-	509

Source for 2020: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/>; also: <https://www.macrotrends.net/cities/22007/lagos/population> (and from there all others). State information: wikipedia.

Regional Inequality

Nigeria has six macro Regions: South West, South South, South East, North East, North Central, and North West. However, data for regional inequality exist for a more

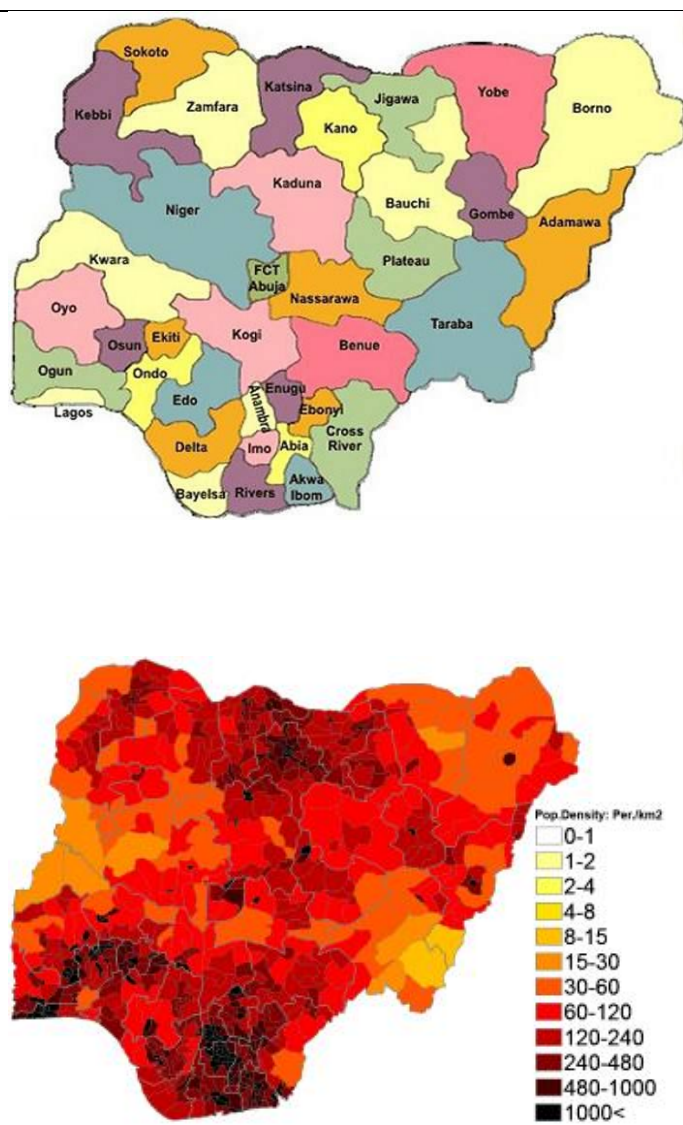
detailed level: the States, that together form the Federation of Nigeria.



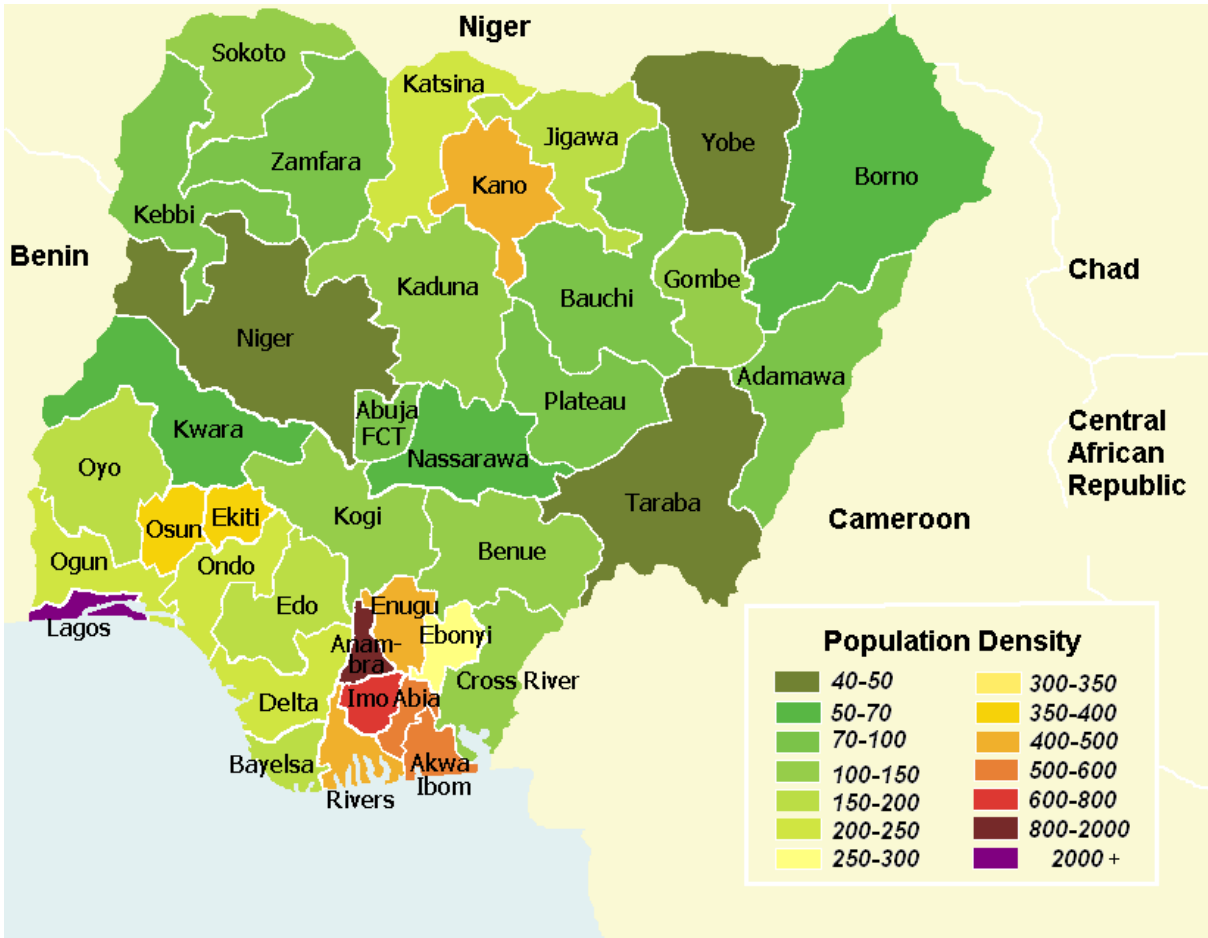
<https://qph.fs.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-e0e7c23650183b846d57b7d12e8b3647>

Nigeria has 37 States, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) around Abuja. Population developments in the various regions have been very volatile (and there is uncertainty about the reliability of these population data). If we use the data given in Globaldatalab, some regions experienced population growth between 2003 and 2018 that was much higher than the federal average of 50%: Abuja 400%, Ebonyi in the South East 380%, and Kwara in Centre West 300%. At the other extreme we find regions

with diminishing populations: Bauchi in the troubled North East -10%, Cross River in the South East -20% and Kogi, south of Abuja, even -50%. As can be seen in the maps about population densities in Nigeria, the differences are huge as well, with extremely high densities in Lagos, in some areas in the South East, in Osun and Ekiti in the South West, and in Kano in North West Region. Relatively low densities can be found in Niger State in Centre West, and Taraba and Yobe in the North East.

Map	Region	Population x million		'18/'03
		2003	2018	
	1=Abia	1.1	2.8	2.4
	2=AbujaFCT	0.3	1.4	4.0
	3=Adamawa	2.4	4.3	1.8
	4=Akwabom	6.9	4.1	0.6
	5=Anambra	3.6	6.1	1.7
	6=Bauchi	8.1	7.5	0.9
	7=Bayelsa	0.7	1.6	2.3
	8=Benue	4.8	5.5	1.1
	9=Borno	5.9	7.0	1.2
	10=CrossRiver	3.0	2.5	0.8
	11=Delta	4.0	4.4	1.1
	12=Ebonyi	1.2	4.4	3.8
	13=Edo	2.1	2.8	1.3
	14=Ekuti	1.4	2.2	1.6
	15=Enugu	2.1	3.6	1.7
	16=Gombe	2.7	3.8	1.4
	17=Imo	2.6	4.4	1.7
	18=Jigawa	2.9	7.2	2.5
	19=Kaduna	6.1	11.1	1.8
	20=Kano	8.7	13.8	1.6
	21=Katsina	6.2	11.8	1.9
	22=Kebbi	3.8	5.5	1.4
	23=Kogi	4.9	2.7	0.5
	24=Kwara	1.1	3.4	3.0
	25=Lagos	5.1	11.7	2.3
	26=Nassarawa	1.8	3.0	1.6
	27=Niger	4.7	6.6	1.4
	28=Ogun	2.6	4.1	1.6
	29=Ondo	1.8	3.1	1.7
	30=Osun	1.4	4.2	2.9
	31=Oyo	3.5	6.4	1.8
	32=Plateau	2.9	4.1	1.4
	33=Rivers	6.3	6.1	1.0
	34=Sokoto	3.5	4.9	1.4
	35=Taraba	3.3	4.1	1.3
	36=Yobe	3.1	7.2	2.3
	37=Zamfara	5.3	6.6	1.3
Nigeria Total		132	196	1.5

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0, map: <https://www.nigeriagallery.com/Nigeria/Images/36-States-of-Nigeria.jpg>. Map with population density: [https://popdensitymap.ucoz.ru/152.population density-administrative boundaries-m.png](https://popdensitymap.ucoz.ru/152.population%20density-administrative%20boundaries-m.png). The comparison between 2003 and 2018 was based on more detailed figures.



Map: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0a/Population_density_map_of_Nigerian_states_-_English.png (based on population census 2006).

If we look at the regional data for human development, which for Nigeria only exist since 2003, we see that across the board improvements have taken place between 2003 and 2018, but with extreme regional variation. In 2003 the best conditions existed in Imo, in South East Nigeria, in and around the city of Owerri, for all variables: for SHDI as a whole a figure of 0.678; for education 0.682, for life expectancy: 64.0 years, and for income per capita: 8,337\$/cap. In 2018 Imo had mostly lost that prominent position. The best position for SHDI as a whole had shifted to Lagos (but the figure of 0.673 was slightly lower than for Imo in 2003; in Imo the SHDI level had fallen to 0.643). For education the best position had been taken over by Lagos as well (0.702), with Imo slightly lower than where it was in 2003. Also for income per capita Lagos had taken over the best position (to 9,091 \$/cap.), and also here Imo had experienced some deterioration. For life expectancy the best position was taken over by Ogun State (65.4 years), and Imo had experienced the biggest downfall of the

country (life expectancy had dropped there from 64.0 years to 58.3, nine percent less).

The worst region in 2003 was Sokoto in the North West for SHDI as a whole (0.242), and that was still the situation in 2018 (although the low level had improved to 0.339). The worst score for Sokoto was very much based on its extremely low score for education (0.084 in 2003, up to 0.168 in 2018; in both years this was close to the worst situation measured anywhere in Africa). For income per capita Sokoto had the worst position in 2003 as well (1,597\$/capita), but in 2018 that worst position had been taken over by Yobe in the Northeast (with 2,442\$/cap.). The worst life expectancy figures were shared by five states in 2003: Bauchi, Borno, Gombe (all three in the North East), and Sokoto, and Kano in the North West Region (all: 46.2 years). In 2018 the worst position had shifted to Kebbi in the North West (with 48.3 years).

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Region	Subregional HDI			Life expectancy			Education index			K\$/capita		
	2003	2018	18/03	2003	2018	18/03	2003	2018	18/03	2003	2018	18/03
1	555	640	1.15	55.0	58.4	1.06	575	657	1.14	3.9	8.7	2.22
2	486	640	1.32	48.5	59.7	1.23	410	634	1.55	6.8	8.8	1.29
3	429	482	1.12	47.4	56.6	1.19	390	358	0.91	2.4	4.0	1.66
4	517	604	1.17	50.1	57.1	1.14	564	613	1.09	3.3	6.5	1.97
5	585	656	1.12	56.4	61.7	1.09	587	653	1.11	5.7	8.6	1.53
6	308	426	1.38	46.2	52.9	1.15	158	294	1.86	2.1	3.1	1.49
7	454	642	1.41	47.9	65.3	1.36	496	650	1.31	1.8	4.8	2.62
8	477	598	1.25	50.0	61.6	1.23	474	578	1.22	2.7	4.6	1.70
9	412	509	1.24	46.2	58.5	1.27	318	389	1.22	3.7	4.5	1.20
10	523	609	1.16	52.8	59.2	1.12	544	646	1.19	3.1	4.7	1.49
11	526	655	1.25	49.6	62.3	1.26	575	667	1.16	3.9	7.2	1.83
12	422	567	1.34	46.4	57.9	1.25	423	569	1.35	1.8	3.8	2.06
13	494	622	1.26	47.7	60.2	1.26	513	616	1.20	3.9	6.6	1.69
14	515	611	1.19	49.3	57.5	1.17	556	664	1.19	3.7	5.1	1.39
15	560	634	1.13	54.2	61.3	1.13	574	649	1.13	4.7	6.0	1.29
16	399	410	1.03	46.2	50.3	1.09	326	275	0.84	2.5	3.5	1.43
17	678	643	0.95	64.0	58.3	0.91	682	675	0.99	8.7	8.3	0.96
18	259	414	1.60	46.7	49.2	1.05	100	313	3.13	1.7	2.8	1.70
19	452	514	1.14	47.7	50.4	1.06	374	485	1.30	4.7	5.3	1.13
20	401	483	1.20	46.2	51.7	1.12	282	412	1.46	4.3	4.1	0.97
21	394	454	1.15	46.3	50.3	1.09	282	370	1.31	3.5	3.6	1.05
22	320	339	1.06	46.5	48.3	1.04	171	173	1.01	2.3	3.1	1.35
23	524	558	1.06	52.1	52.9	1.02	522	586	1.12	4.0	4.8	1.20
24	582	567	0.97	60.7	59.8	0.99	543	493	0.91	4.6	5.4	1.17
25	609	673	1.11	54.5	61.5	1.13	649	702	1.08	7.6	9.1	1.19
26	436	574	1.32	47.3	55.1	1.16	384	569	1.48	3.0	5.9	1.97
27	431	482	1.12	48.3	57.2	1.18	363	336	0.93	2.9	4.7	1.65
28	509	662	1.30	51.9	65.4	1.26	486	637	1.31	3.9	7.4	1.93
29	519	606	1.17	54.3	59.2	1.09	525	612	1.17	2.9	5.4	1.88
30	491	609	1.24	48.4	60.2	1.24	493	617	1.25	3.8	5.0	1.32
31	561	626	1.12	60.1	61.0	1.01	527	624	1.18	3.7	6.2	1.68
32	496	562	1.13	49.6	56.4	1.14	501	557	1.11	3.4	4.3	1.26
33	535	642	1.20	47.7	59.2	1.24	606	669	1.10	5.0	7.7	1.54
34	242	339	1.40	46.2	49.9	1.08	84	168	2.00	1.6	2.8	1.78
35	354	501	1.42	46.4	54.3	1.17	232	453	1.95	2.3	3.2	1.42
36	404	365	0.90	46.3	52.5	1.13	290	201	0.69	4.1	2.4	0.59
37	361	415	1.15	46.8	54.2	1.16	231	263	1.14	2.7	3.1	1.16
Nigeria	452	534	1.18	47.2	54.3	1.15	411	486	1.18	3.5	5.1	1.45
Ineq	2.8	2.0		1.4	1.4		8.1	4.2		5.4	3.8	

HDI and education figures X 1000; life expectancy: years; k\$/capita: 1000 US \$ (2011), PPP (comparisons between the years on the basis of more detailed figures).

If we compare 2018 with 2003, all variables show some improvement but with extreme variation. The fastest improvements had happened for SHDI in Taraba (North East Region; up with 42%), for education in Jigawa (North West Region: from a very low 0.100 to much better 0.313, although still low compared to the south of the country), and for both income per capita and for life expectancy in Bayelsa, in South South Region: life expectancy had gone up with 36% and income levels had increased 2.6 times. The other side of the coin is deterioration of conditions in Yobe in the North East for SHDI as a whole (-10%), mainly based on extreme deterioration of education scores (from

0.290 in 2003 to 0.201 in 2018; - 31%, and on even more extreme deterioration of income levels: from 4,140\$/capita in 2003 to 2.442\$/capita in 2018, -41%. Only for life expectancy Yobe did not show the worst deterioration (in fact the situation had improved there). As we have seen before, life expectancy scores deteriorated most in Imo, the area with the best conditions in 2003.

Regional inequality was very high for African (and world) standards in 2003, and improved somewhat towards 2018, particularly for education. However, Nigeria is not only a country with rather extreme regional inequality, also income (and undoubtedly also wealth)

inequality was and is extreme. If we look at the measure for income inequality, the Gini coefficient, it jumped up and down: income inequality was 39% in 1985, 45% in 1992, 52% in 1996 (very high for African standards at the time), 40% in 2003, and 43% in 2009; there are no more recent figures

(<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=NE.-NG>).



Further Reading

Country Portal: <http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl/nigeria>
Selected publications: <https://www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-2020-further-reading#Nigeria>

<https://www.ascleiden.nl/africa2020>

Africa 2020 Country Information for Nigeria: Ton Dietz, David Ehrhardt, Akinyinka Akinyoade and Fenneken Veldkamp
Country Portal: Harro Westra

Selected publications: Germa Seuren
African Studies Centre Leiden, September 2020