

## Niger

<b>Country name</b>	Niger <sup>1</sup>
<b>State title</b>	Republic of Niger
<b>Official language</b>	French (fra) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Country name in official language</b>	(le) Niger
<b>State title in official language</b>	République du Niger
<b>Script</b>	French is written in Roman script
<b>Romanization System</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)</b>	NE/NER
<b>Capital(s)</b>	Niamey

### Introduction

Niger is a landlocked country in the Sahel region of West Africa. It is named after the river Niger, which flows through the western part of the country. Niger acquired full independence from France in 1960.

### Geographical names policy

Geographical names are for the most part found in a French style and should be taken as found on official Niger-produced sources, where possible. Maps produced by France's Institut Géographique National (IGN) may be used in the absence of Niger-produced sources. All diacritical marks (see page 2 for details), apostrophes and hyphens should be retained.

The difficulties of representing the many different African languages which have influenced the geographical names of the country have inhibited a consistent approach to spellings on many sources.

### Languages

Following independence from France in 1960, French has continued to be the official language of Niger. It is the language of education and government and functions as a lingua franca in a multi-ethnic country.

Niger has 10 recognised national languages, as set down in 'Law No. 2001-037 of 31 December 2001 laying down the terms and conditions for the promotion and development of national languages'<sup>3</sup>. The provisions of the law mean that national languages are authorised for institutional use and are to be protected and promoted. The national languages<sup>4</sup> are: Arabic (ara), Buduma

<sup>1</sup> The country name is sometimes given as 'the Niger' and the state title as 'Republic of the Niger'. However, PCGN would not recommend the inclusion of the definite article for British English usage.

<sup>2</sup> Language codes given in this Factfile are ISO-369 codes

<sup>3</sup> 'Loi n° 2001-037 du 31 décembre 2001 fixant les modalités de promotion et de développement des langues nationales': <http://www.axl.cefan.ulaval.ca/afrique/niger-loi-2001-037-LNG.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gouv.ne/index.php/le-niger/presentation>

(bdm), Fulah (ful)<sup>5</sup>, Gourmanchéma (gux)<sup>6</sup>, Hausa (hau), Kanuri (kau), Zarma (dje)<sup>7</sup>, Tamahaq (thv)<sup>8</sup>, Tasawaq (twq) and Tedaga (tuq)<sup>9</sup>. Hausa is the most widely spoken of the national languages, being spoken by 14,500,000 people in Niger.<sup>10</sup>

## Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings<sup>11</sup>):

**French** contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script<sup>12</sup>:

À	00C0	à	00E0	Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7	È	00C8	è	00E8
É	00C9	é	00E9	Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ë	00CB	ë	00EB	Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ï	00CF	ï	00EF	Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Œ	0152	œ	0153	Ù	00D9	ù	00F9
Û	00DB	û	00FB	Ü	00DC	ü	00FC
ÿ *	0178	ÿ *	00FF				

\* rarely encountered

<sup>5</sup> Also known as Fulani, Fula, Fulfulde, Pulaar, Pular or Peul.

<sup>6</sup> Also known as Gourmanché, Goulmacema, Gourma, Gourmantche, Gulimancema, Gulmancema or Gurma.

<sup>7</sup> Also known as Djerma, Dyabarma, Dyarma, Dyerma, Adzerma, Zabarma, Zarbarma, Zarma, Zarmaci or Zerma, it is one of the Songhay languages, and so sometimes called Sonay-zarma or Zarma-sonrhaï.

<sup>8</sup> Also known as Tamasheq, Tamacheq, Tamajaq or Touareg

<sup>9</sup> Also known as Tebu, Toubou or Tubu

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/hau>

<sup>11</sup> See [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)

<sup>12</sup> Characters can be manually input into Microsoft word documents by typing in these character codes and then holding down the ALT key and pressing /x/. The code will change to the required character. The letter can be copied and pasted into other programmes if required. Alternatively, the 'Insert – Symbol' command can be used; the code can be entered into the 'Character code' box which will show the corresponding letter.

A GeoNames Soft-Copy Keyboard can be downloaded from the NGA website and used to enter the required letter-diacritic combinations for a particular region: [http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/gns\\_services.html](http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/gns_services.html).

## Administrative structure

At first-order administrative level (ADM1), Niger is divided into 7 regions (French: région) and one urban community (French: communauté urbaine) (the capital, Niamey). The regions are further subdivided into departments (French: département), at second-order (ADM2) level. Details of the ADM1s of Niger are listed below.

<b>1. Agadez (19° 45' 00" N, 010° 15' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région d'Agadez
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-1
Centre	Agadez (16° 58' 24" N, 007° 59' 28" E)
Variant Name(s)	Agadès
Subdivided into 6 départements	

<b>2. Diffa (16° 00' 00" N, 013° 30' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Diffa
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-2
Centre	Diffa (13° 18' 55" N, 012° 36' 41" E)
Variant Name(s)	Difa
Subdivided into 6 départements	

<b>3. Dosso (13° 30' 00" N, 003° 30' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Dosso
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-3
Centre	Dosso (13° 02' 56" N, 003° 11' 37" E)
Subdivided into 8 départements	

<b>4. Maradi (14° 15' 00" N, 007° 15' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Maradi
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-4
Centre	Maradi (13° 30' 00" N, 007° 06' 06" E)
Subdivided into 9 départements	

<b>5. Niamey (13° 31' 17" N, 002° 06' 19" E)</b>	
Long form name	Communauté Urbaine de Niamey <sup>13</sup>
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-8
Centre	Niamey (13° 31' 00" N, 002° 07' 00" E)
Variant Name(s)	Région de Niamey; CUN; Urban Community of Niamey; Urban Commune of Niamey; Ville de Niamey; Niamey Capital District
Subdivided into 5 arrondissements	

<b>6. Tahoua (16° 00' 00" N, 005° 30' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Tahoua
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-5
Centre	Tahoua (14° 53' 20" N, 005° 16' 09" E)
Subdivided into 13 départements	

<sup>13</sup> As a first-order administrative division (ADM1), Niamey is variously seen described as a region (French: région) or urban community (French: communauté urbaine). It is a communauté urbaine, which has the same first-order status as the regions.

<b>7. Tillabéri (14° 20' 00" N, 002° 05' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Tillabéri
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-6
Centre	Tillabéri (14° 12' 26" N, 001° 27' 15" E)
Variant Name(s)	Tillabéry; Tillabery
Subdivided into 13 départements	

<b>8. Zinder (15° 00' 00" N, 010° 30' 00" E)</b>	
Long form name	Région de Zinder
ISO 3166-2 code	NE-7
Centre	Zinder (13° 48' 18" N, 008° 59' 18" E)
Variant Name(s)	Sinder
Subdivided into 11 départements	

**Useful references**

- Administrative divisions: <http://www.statoids.com>; <http://www.decentralisation-niger.org/index.php/regions/subdivisions>
- BBC Country Profile: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13943662>
- CIA World Factbook – Niger: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html>
- FCO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/niger>
- Government of Niger: <http://www.gouv.ne/>
- International Organisation for Standards (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/>
- Languages: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com); [www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com)
- Languages of Niger: <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/NE/languages>
- Niger Institut Nationale de la Statistique: [www.stat-niger.org](http://www.stat-niger.org)
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server (GNS): <http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>
- Ville de Niamey: <http://www.villedeniamey.com/>

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