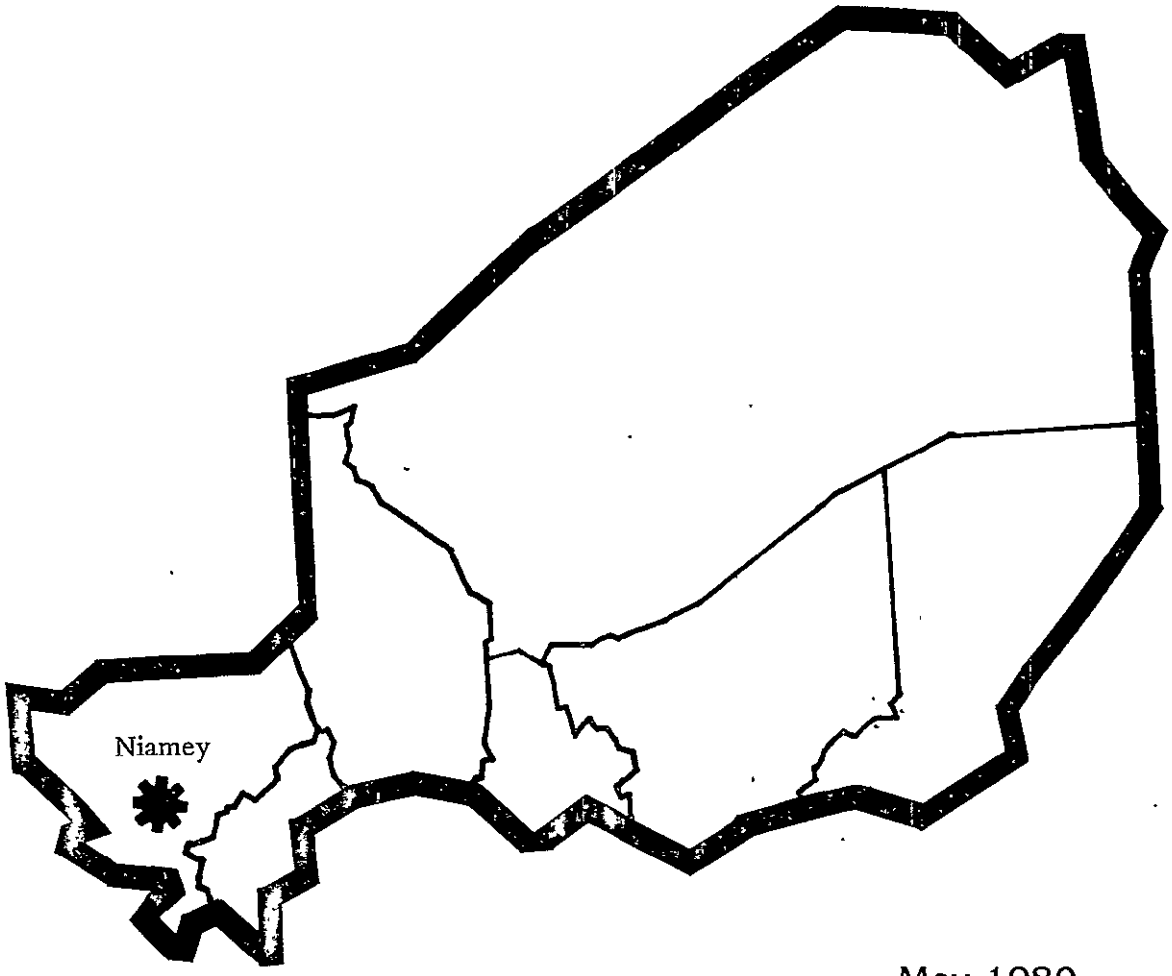
PN-AAK-320

Niger

A Country Profile



May 1980

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523

Base 504113 11-79 (544513)

OFDA COUNTRY PROFILES: MAY 1980

AFRICA

Cape Verde
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Djibouti
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Mali
Mauritania
Niger*
Sahel Transportation Survey
Senegal
Somalia
Upper Volta
Zaire

ASIA

Bangladesh
Burma
India
Indonesia
Malaysia
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines

CARIBBEAN

CARICOM Regional Profile
Dominican Republic
Haiti

LATIN AMERICA

Bolivia
Chile
Ecuador
El Salvador*
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Peru

NEAR EAST

Turkey

SOUTH PACIFIC

Fiji
Tonga
Western Samoa

INDIAN OCEAN

Island Countries of the Indian Ocean *

* In preparation

NIGER: A COUNTRY PROFILE

prepared for

The Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Bureau for Private and Development Cooperation
Agency for International Development
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20523

by

Evaluation Technologies, Inc.
Arlington, Virginia
under contract AID/SOD/PDC-C-0283

The profile on Niger is one in a series designed to provide base line country data in support of the planning, analysis and relief operations of the Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Content, scope and sources have evolved over the course of the last three years, and no doubt will continue to do so. The relatively narrow focus is intentional. To avoid redundancy, some topics one might expect to find in a "country profile" are not covered here.

If the information provided can also be useful to others in the disaster assistance and development communities, so much the better. Every effort is made to obtain current, reliable data; unfortunately it is not possible to issue updates as fast as changes would warrant. A cautionary note, therefore, to the reader: statistics are indicators at best, and if names and numbers matter, the bibliography will point to a current source.

We invite your comments and corrections. Address these and other queries to OFDA, AID, as given above.

May 1978

TO:

COUNTRY PROFILE USER Dear _____

Please use this form to note any changes, additions, corrections or suggestions you think would update and improve this country profile. Since our aim is to make these profiles as relevant as possible, your critique is essential and very much wanted. Return comments to Lucy Drobot, OFDA Country Profiles, Room 1262A.

NAME/OFFICE:_____ PHONE:_____ Date:_____

TOPIC	COMMENTS

CONTENTS

List of profiles..... i
Preface..... ii

1. General Information..... 1-4
   1.1 Geographic codes..... 1
   1.2 Country names..... 1
   1.3 Calendar and holidays..... 1
   1.4 Currency..... 1
   1.5 Time zones..... 2
   1.6 US mission and staff..... 2
   1.7 Sister cities..... 2
   1.8 Host mission and staff in US..... 2
   1.9 Treaties and agreements..... 3
   1.10 International organization memberships..... 3
   1.11 Travel and visa information..... 3
   1.12 Ethnic and sociocultural groups..... 3
   1.13 Languages..... 4
   1.14 Religions..... 4
   1.15 Education and literacy..... 4

2. Government..... 5-6
   2.1 National government..... 5
   2.2 Regional organization..... 5
   2.3 Major goverment figures..... 6

3. Disaster Preparedness..... 7-11
   3.1 Host disaster plan..... 7
   3.2 Food stocks and storage capacity..... 7
   3.3 Assessment of host resources..... 8
   3.4 Host contacts..... 8
   3.5 US and international contacts..... 8
   3.6 International agencies..... 9
   3.7 US voluntary agencies..... 9
   3.8 Disaster types and history..... 10

4. Population..... 12-14
   4.1 National demographic characteristics..... 12
   4.2 Regional distribution..... 12
   4.3 Urban areas..... 14

5. Health, Nutrition and Housing....15-21
5.1 Overall health status.... 15
5.2 Vital statistics.... 16
5.3 Health services and facilities.... 16
5.4 Medical supplies and cold storage.... 18
5.5 Health personnel.... 18
5.6 Nutrition.... 19
5.7 Diet.... 20
5.8 Housing.... 20

6. Economy....22-26
6.1 Overview of economy.... 22
6.2 Mining.... 23
6.3 GNP.... 23
6.4 Balance of payments.... 24
6.5 Foreign aid.... 25
6.6 Imports.... 25
6.7 Exports.... 26

7. Agriculture....27-30
7.1 Overview of agriculture.... 27
7.2 Crops production.... 28
7.3 Crop dates.... 28
7.4 Agricultural imports.... 29
7.5 Agricultural exports.... 30
7.6 Current status (1980).... 30

8. Physical Geography....31-33
8.1 Climate zones.... 31
8.2 Precipitation.... 31
8.3 Temperatures.... 31
8.4 Landforms.... 32
8.5 Land use.... 33
8.6 Waterways.... 33

9. Transportation and Logistics....34-48
9.1 Road network.... 34
9.2 Vehicles.... 36
9.3 Railroads.... 37
9.4 Ports.... 37
9.5 Airports.... 44
9.6 Personal entry requirements.... 46
9.7 Aircraft entry requirements.... 46
9.8 Airlines 47
9.9 Air distances.... 47

10. Power and Communications.....49-50
10.1 Electric power..... 49
10.2 Fuel..... 49
10.3 Telecommunications..... 49
10.4 Radio network..... 49
10.5 Television..... 50

Bibliography.....51-53

1. General Information

1.1 Geographic Codes

AID	683
State region	AF

1.2 Country Names

Official	Republic of Niger
Local	Republic du Niger
Short	Niger

1.3 Calendar and Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday	*
Easter Monday	*
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	August 3
Republic Day	December 18
Christmas Day	December 25

* variable date

The Muslim holidays of Id-al-Fitr, Id-al-Adha, Mouloud, and Ramadan are also observed.

Fiscal year: 1 October - 30 September

1.4 Currency (April 1980)

215 CFA Francs = 1 US $

1.5 Time Zones

EST + 6; GMT + 1

1.6 US Mission and Staff (January 1980)

Embassy of the United States
(no street address)
B.P. 11201, Niamey
Tel: 72-26-61 thru 4, 72-26-70

Ambassador	James Bishop
Deputy Chief of Mission	Dennis W. Keogh
Economic/Commercial Section	David Thatcher
Administrative Section	Edward B. Pohl
Agency for International Development	Jay P. Johnson
Public Affairs Officer	Rosemary F. Crockett

1.7 Sister Cities

None

1.8 Host Mission and Staff in US (February 1980)

Embassy of the Republic of Niger
2204 R St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
Tel: 483-4224 to 4227

Ambassador	Andre Wright
Counselor	Boukary Dodo
First Secretary	Doka Tahirou Barke
Attache	Seydou Boubacar Doro
Financial Attache	Moussa Diolombi

1.9 Treaties and Agreements

Defense
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Investment Guaranties
Peace Corps

1.10 International Organization Memberships

AFDB, APC, CEAO, EAMA, ECA, ECOWAS, Entente, FAO, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, ILO, IMF, IPU, ITU, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Niger River Commission, NAM, OAU, OCAM, U.N., UNESCO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO.

1.11 Travel and Visa Information

Passport and visa required. Obtain visa before arrival. Transit/tourist visa up to 1 week, no charge; 1 week to 3 months, $6.25, 2 photos. Tourist visa requires a letter from travel agent regarding round trip ticket or a bank guarantee of deposit. Alien card for prolonged stay, $1.25, yearly renewal, $6.25. Prior arrangements required for stays over 3 months. Check Embassy for specific requirements.

Smallpox vaccination required. Yellow fever immunization required except for individuals arriving from non-infected areas and staying no more than 2 weeks. Cholera immunization and malaria suppressants recommended.

1.12 Ethnic and Sociocultural Groups

The major ethnic groups are the Hausa, Djerma, Songhai, Tuareg, and Fulani (Peuhl). Many of these people do not consider Niger their only home because drought often forces them to seek subsistence elsewhere. A national consciousness is almost totally lacking, because of population dispersion and nomadism, coupled with racial and tribal differences.

The main Negroid groups, the Hausa, Djerma, and Songhai, are concentrated primarily in the extreme south where they produce most of the food crops and all of the cash crops. The Fulani are semi-nomadic cattle raisers living among the Hausa when not traveling with their herds.

Caucasian elements include the Tuareg and smaller numbers of Toubous and Tamacheks; fiercely independent horsemen and camel nomads, partly living off tribute. They resist settled agricultural life and regulation by the state.

1.13 Languages

Most of the indigenous languages belong to the Sudanic group and are unwritten. Exceptions are the Semitic speech of the Arabs, the Berber tongue of the Tuareg, and Hausa, the language of trade, all of which are Afroasiatic and are written. French is the official language and main unifying language.

1.14 Religions

Muslim 85%; animist 14.5%; Christian 0.5%. The most influential Muslim groups are the Tijaniyya, the Senoussi, and the Hamallists.

1.15 Education and Literacy

Education is free; however, barely 13% of children of primary school age actually attend school and the total number of secondary school children is only 16,000. Literacy rate: approximately 8%.

2. Government

2.1 National Government

Beneath the surface of modern party politics, political life is dominated by the authority of traditional Muslim chiefs and the interplay of ethnic rivalries. From independence in 1960 to 1974 Niger was ruled by Hamani Diori under a presidential constitution that provided for a chief executive who was both head of state and head of the government, elected for a 5-year term on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Legislative authority was exercised by a unicameral national assembly of 50 members elected for 5-year terms.

Charges of corruption and general mismanagement by the Diori regime brought the military into the political arena when Colonel Seyni Kountche and a group of officers organized a coup in April 1974. Political parties were banned, the constitution suspended, and the National Assembly and Supreme Court were dissolved. Direction of the executive has been taken over by the Supreme Military Council and is aided by the National Development Council, created in July 1974 to advise the government on the needs of the country. The military government initially concentrated its administrative efforts on improving the efficiency of drought relief and on renegotiating the uranium mining agreements with France. Following abortive coups in 1975 and 1976, the government has now reached a state of relative political stability. Although Col. Kountche rejects a rapid return to civilian and constitutional rule, civilians form a majority in the latest cabinet.

2.2 Regional Organization

For the purposes of local administration, the country is divided into 7 departments (Niamey, Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa, and Agadez), which are subdivided into 32 arrondissements and some 150 communes. Niamey Department has 6 arrondissements; Dosso 5; Tahoua 7; Maradi 4; Zinder 5; Diffa 3; and Agadez 2. Each department is headed by a prefect assisted by a Regional Advisory Commission. Prefects, appointed by the Council of Ministers function as supervisors over the execution of the laws of the executive branch. Each arrondissement is headed by a sub-perfect, also appointed by the Council of Ministers and assisted by an Advisory Commission and a Council. Sub-prefects are charged with the administration of all sectors of government activity at the arrondissement level. Communes are governed by mayors, assisted by Municipal Councils, and Municipal Advisory Commissions.

2.3 Major Government Figures (April 1980)

President, Supreme Military Council.....Kountche, Seyni, Col.
Chief of State.....Kountche, Seyni, Col.
Min. of Civil Service & Labor.....Issoufou, Mayaki
Min. of Defense.....Kountche, Seyni, Col.
Min of Economic Affairs, Commerce,
& Industry.....Magana, Mai
Min. of Finance.....Tondi, Moussa, Col.
Min. of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation.....Diallo, Daouda
Min. of Higher Education & Research.....Sidikou, Garba
Min. of Information.....Hallilou, Mahamadou
Min. of Interior.....Mamadou, Tandja, Capt.
Min. of Justice, Keeper of the Seal.....Harouna, Alou
Min. of Mines & Hydrology.....Harouna, Mounkeila
Min. of Natl. Education.....Sala, Moussa, Maj.
Min. of Plan.....Mahamane, Annou
Min. of Posts & Telecommunications.....Diallo, Sory Mamadou,
Lt. Col.
Min. of Public Health & Social Affairs.....Tounkara, Yahaya
Min. of Public Works, Transportation,
& Urbanism.....Bako, Moussa
Min. of Rural Development.....Mahamane, Brah
Min. of Youth, Sports & Culture.....Djermakoye, Moumouni
Adamou, Maj.
Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs.....Algabit, Hamid
Sec. of State for Interior.....Moussa, Abdou Mallam

3. Disaster Preparedness

3.1 Host Disaster Plan

Niger has no national disaster plan; however, there are designated government agencies responsible for food relief efforts during times of drought. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is responsible for monitoring environmental conditions and calculating the amount of outside relief required. MRD then negotiates with international donors as to the type and amount of aid available. The final decision is taken in the President's office and by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Distribution of food aid is in the hands of the Office des Produits Vivriers du Niger (OPVN) and the National Constabulary. OPVN is responsible for food sales, while free distribution is handled by the National Constabulary; both are co-ordinated by Niger Armed Forces GHQ.

Each department has a primary center, usually the department capital, which is the focal point for regional food distribution. Equipped with substantial storage capacity, the centers distribute produce to smaller centers at their request. Each center is in touch with Niamey and centralizes the departments' information on current needs. The OPVN has organized relay storage points in highly populated areas.

3.2 Food Stocks and Storage Capacity

The distinction between reserve and buffer stocks is vague. So far no real reserve stock has been built up (storage for three year supply without significant loss, with a turnover each year of about one-third of the stock). It was only in 1977 that GON began to consider building a reserve stock. Information on storage and stocks in rural areas is virtually non-existent, although it is believed that farmers try to keep a year's reserve supply for family consumption.

Storage capacity in 1977 consisted of 28 1,500-ton stores, 12 1,000-ton stores and 31-500 ton stores. Total capacity: 69,500 tons. Storage facilities in the north are constructed of banco, a sun-baked mud brick, with floors generally raised a few inches above ground to decrease water seepage. In the south, granaries are constructed of straw and palm fiber.

3.3 Assessment of Host Resources

Difficult transport of grains into Niger, due to limited facilities and poor routes, is a major obstacle in relief efforts. Food flows through Cotonou, Benin, and Nigerian ports for transshipment by rail and truck (extensive use of private trucking) into Niger. Once inside the country, the lack of vehicles and the poor condition of roads further hinders food distribution. Four-wheel drive vehicles are considered necessary to reach remote areas during the rainy season.

The GON food relief structure has been plagued by poor management of stocks. Stock records of OPVN are centralized in Niamey; however, officials have no means of checking inventories or perceiving obvious errors. The National Constabulary is unable to centralize information received from its detachments. Plagued by conflicts of responsibility and inadequate storage facilities, OPVN has often been unable to manage mass distribution of food.

3.4 Host Contacts

Commander Ali Seyban, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces
Mr. Brah Mahamane, Sec. of State for Rural Development
Mr. Cisse Amadou, Sec. Gen., Ministry of Rural Development
Mr. Bawa Oussmane, Chief of the Extension Service
Mr. Amadou Anabo, Director-General of OPVN

See also section 2.3, Major Government Figures.

3.5. US and International Contacts

Jay P. Johnson, USAID
Mr. H. Kraja, World Food Program Advisor in Niamey
Mr. R. Van den Ameele, FAO/OSRO
Mr. M. Challons, UNDP Representative
Mr. A. Djemba, UNDP Deputy Representative
Mr. B. Massue, Head of the French Aid and Cooperation Mission
Mr. M. Herssens, Head of the Buffer Stock Project
Mr. G. Steigmann, UNDP Transport Consultant

See also section 1.6, US Mission and Staff.

3.6 International Agencies

Major international agencies active in Niger: UNDP, UNESCO, FED European Development Fund), USAID.

3.7 US Voluntary Agencies

Agency	Intl/Local Personnel	Programs
AFL-CIO	consultant/	CHP; Ed; Ind Dev; Med & PH
African-American Institute	n.a.	Ed
Africare	10/	Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
CARE	1/	CHP; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag
Catholic Relief Services	6/22	CHP; Ec & Dev. Pl; Food Prod & Ag
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	2/	Ed; Food Prod & Ag;
Church World Service	4/5	CD; Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag
Lutheran World Relief	2/	CD; CHP; Coops & Loans; Ed; Food Prod & Ag Med & PH
MAP International	n.a.	Equip & Mat Aid; Med & PH
Society of Mary	n.a.	Equip & Mat Aid
Oxfam - America	1/	Coops & Loans; Food Prod & Ag
Southern Baptist Convention	2/	Ed; Pub & Bus. Admin
Sudan Interior Mission, Inc.	87/	Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH; SW

Agency	Intl/Local Personnel	Programs
United Church Board for World Missions	n.a.	Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag.
United Methodist Committee on Relief	n.a.	Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag
World Neighbors	/4	Ed; Food Prod & Ag
World Rehabilitation Fund	n.a.	Med & PH

Key

Comm	Communications
CD	Community Development
CHP	Construction, Housing, Planning
Coop	Cooperatives, Credit Unions, Loans
Ec & Dev Pl	Economic and Development Planning
Ed	Education
Equip & Mat Aid	Equipment and Material Aid
Food Prod & Ag	Food Production and Agriculture
Ind Dev	Industrial Development
Med & PH	Medicine and Public Health
Nutr	Nutrition
Pop & Fam Serv	Population and Family Services
Pub & Bus Adm	Public and Business Administration
SW	Social Welfare
Women	Women
Youth	Youth

3.8 Disaster Types and History

Droughts, epidemics, floods, fires

Niger has been periodically stricken by droughts and famines affecting diverse regions of the country. Until the 1968-74 Sahelian drought, the 1913-14 Kakalaba famine had been the most severe in living memory. The recent drought began in 1968 with progressively less rainfall every succeeding year. In 1972 a major southward migration of ethnic groups and cattle occurred. Rainfall in Agadez in 1970 was 40 mm; in 1972, 72 mm; contrasted with the 30-year average of 164 mm. per year.

Fourty-four food and seed distribution centers were established in Air to assist local populations. Each center was headed by a committee of government and local officials responsible for the equitable distribution of ration cards. However, much of the grain intended for the population was not delivered due to embezzlement by government officials. The Tuareg of Air, the hardest hit ethnic group, lost 95% of their cattle and were forced to give up their nomadic life and congregate around boreholes southeast of Agadez, where aid was also given. Due to the migration of refugees, the population of Agedez, normally 20,000, jumped to 105,000 in 1972.

Summary Disaster History

Disaster	Location	Date	No. Victims	No. Killed	DMG ($000)
Drought	Nationwide	03/00/66	0	0	0
	E. Mid-East Reg.	01/00/67	124,500	0	0
	North	01/00/69	0	0	5,000
	Nationwide	71	600,000	0	200
	Nationwide	72	1,600,000	0	94,000
	Nationwide	73	0	0	0
Flood	Central Region	08/00/74	16,000	0	1,000
Meningitis	Nationwide	03/11/70	2,677	319	0
Yellow Fever	S & W Border	10/00/69	5	2	0

4. Population

4.1 National Demographic Characteristics

Niger's birth (52/1000), death (22/1000), and fertility (7.1) rates are among the highest in the world. Estimated mid-1977 population: 4.9 million. Annual growth rate: 2.76%. Average population density: 4.0/sq. km. Urban population: 10.0%; the annual urban growth rate is 6.8% (1970-75). The median age is 17.2 years, creating a high dependency ratio of 918.9 per 1000 population. See also Vital Statistics, section 5.2.

Population by Age, 1975

0-4	19.2%	Under 20	55.8%
5-14	26.3%	Under 15	46.0%
5-64	52.1%	Women 15-49	45.2%
65 and over	2.3%		

Source: John Crow, Natural Resource Planning in Niger, 1977.

4.2 Regional Distribution

Population by Department, Arrondissement, and Density, 1973

Department/Arrondissement	Population ('000)	Area (sq.km)	Density (per sq. km)
Agadez	70.7	634,209	0.11
Agadez	49.5	145,635	0.34
Arlit	13.0	207,639	0.06
Bilma	8.2	280,935	0.03
Diffa	154.2	140,216	1.1
Diffa	51.1	6,979	7.3
Maine-Soroa	75.9	15,111	5.0
N'Guigmi	27.2	118,126	0.2

Department/Arrondissement	Population ('000)	Area (sq.km)	Density (per sq.km)
Dosso	612.7	31,002	19.8
Boboye	94.9	4,423	21.5
Dogondoutchi	223.3	11,044	20.2
Dosso	139.7	7,800	17.9
Gaya	101.9	4,044	25.2
Loga	52.9	3,691	14.3
Maradi	749.1	38,581	19.4
Dakoro	119.7	16,213	7.4
Maradi	261.6	8,045	32.5
Mayahi	125.7	6,424	19.6
Tessaoua	242.1	7,899	30.6
Niamey	995.2	90,293	11.0
Filingue	186.6	24,346	7.7
Niamey (incl.city)	271.4	8,299	32.7
Ouallam	139.1	20,497	6.8
Tera	190.4	12,444	15.3
Tillabery	147.0	7,975	18.4
Say	60.7	16,732	3.6
Tahoua	885.4	106,677	8.0
Birni-N'Konni	164.3	4,661	35.2
Bouza	111.1	3,589	31.0
Illela	100.4	6,719	14.9
Keita	120.8	4,503	24.9
Madaoua	127.8	8,805	28.4
Tahoua	155.0	73,540	17.6
Tehin-Tabaradene	76.0		1.0
Zinder	866.6	145,430	6.0
Goure	103.5	88,930	1.2
Magaria	261.8	8,021	32.6
Matameye	89.7	2,109	42.5
Mirria (incl. Zinder)	284.1	12,423	22.9
Tanout	127.5	33,947	3.8
Total	4,303.9	1,186,408	3.6

Source: World Bank, Urban Growth and Economic Development in the Sahel, 1979.

Estimated population by department in 1977, excluding transients:

Agadez	95,000
Diffa	150,000
Dosso	640,000
Maradi	842,000
Niamey	1,065,000
Tahoua	1,015,000
Zinder	1,034,000

Source: John Crow, Natural Resource Planning in Niger, 1977.

4.3 Urban Areas

Niamey, one of Africa's newest capitals, has an estimated population of 160,000 (1976); 28.4% of total urban population. Maradi and Zinder are tied for second place; estimates vary yearly but revolve around 42,000 for Maradi and 40,000 for Zinder. Tahoua has about 30,000 people, and in the north, the ancient city of Agadez has an estimated 15,000.

5. Health, Nutrition, and Housing

5.1 Overall Health Status

Principal diseases: malaria; bilharzia vesical; cerebrospinal meningitis; measles; TB; trachoma; leprosy; intestinal infections caused by salmonellae and shigellas; amoebiasis; and onchocerciasis (in East, and along Niger River). Main causes of infant mortality are digestive infections, malaria, nutritional inadequacies, respiratory infections, and measles.

Incidence of malaria varies seasonally with maximum transmission from August to December. Diffused foci of schistosomiasis haematobium exist throughout the country. Annual outbreaks of meningitis during the dry season (November to June); recent outbreaks of cholera; and continued transmission of poliomyelitis have been reported (League of Red Cross Societies). Control programs vary in effectiveness. Programs exist for leprosy, TB (through mobile teams), and onchocerciasis (internationally supported). An immunization program for measles exists but coverage is unreliable.

Reported Diseases, 1976

Disease	Incidence Reported	Disease Related Mortality
Malaria	1,475,407	317
Measles	39,499	229
Chicken-pox	15,000	0
Whooping cough	5,433	12
Flu	4,583	39
Jaundice	1,919	55
Pneumonia	1,878	50
Meningitis	1,723	145
Tuberculosis	1,174	88
Acute poliomyelitis	243	13
Tetanus	190	56
Diphtheria	41	6

Source: US Mission, Niger Health Sector Assessment, 1977.

5.2 Vital Statistics (1977)

Birth rate/1000 population	52
Death rate/1000 population	22
Infant mortality/1000 live births	314 (1975)
Life expectancy at birth	42 years

Source: World Bank, World Development Report, 1979.

5.3 Health Services and Facilities

Medical facilities are distributed unevenly throughout the country, as are health personnel. About 80% of health resources are concentrated in southern urban areas where only 10% of the population lives. The Direction Departemental de la Sante (DDS) centralizes, coordinates, and supervises medical activities. It has charge of 38 medical centers, including maternity services, 163 rural dispensaries, and 7 village health teams (serving about 1,300 villages or 15% of total). The DDS also supervises specialized services including Centers for Nutritional Recuperation, Centers for Maternal and Infant Protection (PMI), and the Endemic Diseases Center. Nutritional Recuperation centers and PMI's are found at the level of Arrondissement Medical Center. Typically the centers have a registered nurse, 2-3 certified nurses, and auxiliary personnel. Each center has about 18-20 hospital beds, mostly occupied by women and children suffering from malnutrition, anemia, malaria, and parasitic diseases. All centers have a maternity ward of 10-12 beds headed by a state midwife who also provides PMI services.

At the village level are rural dispensaries staffed by a certified nurse. The dispensaries usually serve a cluster of villages with an average of 10,000 people. The certified nurse is responsible for curative and preventive services (except immunizations), supervision of village health teams, and health and nutrition education. If PMI services are not available in the area, the certified nurse is also responsible for pre- and post natal care.

Voluntary village health teams (VHT) work at the village level and consist of a president who supervises and coordinates the activities of the "secouristes" and "matrones" (village health workers). Duties include: education in areas of personal hygiene; sanitation and water management; endemic disease monitoring; and first aid activites.

Summary of Preventive and Curative Health Services, 1976

Village Health Workers

1012 villages with sanitary activities
1206 village matrones
1466 village secouristes

163 Rural Dispensaries

PMI (maternal-child health) Services

16 autonomous PMI centers
95 integrated PMI centers
24 mobile PMI centers

38 Arrondissement Medical Centers

781 hospital beds
421 maternity beds

5 Departmental Hospitals

Dosso	-	120 hospital beds
Tahoua	-	193 hospital beds
Maradi	-	207 hospital beds
Agadez	-	76 hospital beds
Diffa	-	33 hospital beds

2 National Hospitals

Niamey	-	794 hospital beds	tel: 25-21, 22, 23
Zinder	-	681 hospital beds	tel: 20-15

Other Hospitals

3 Tuberculosis Centers	-	161 beds
1 Army Hospital	-	72 beds
1 Private Hospital-Galmi	-	200 beds
2 Cliniques - Niamey	-	30 beds
1 Dispensary - Cuechemo	-	20 beds

7 Health and Mobile Medicine Teams

Source: US Mission, Niger Health Sector Assessment, 1977.

5.4 Medical Supplies and Cold Storage

Lists of standard medicines for hospitals, medical centers, and rural dispensaries available from the Ministry of Health. Medicine, for the most part, is imported from France through the Office National des Produits Pharmaceutiques et Chimiques (ONPPC), Niamey. Labelling: French only.

Several facilities for cold storage exist in Niamey; these require careful selection after contact with local representatives. Facilities for transport and storage outside Niamey are limited or non-existent.

5.5 Health Personnel

Availability of Trained Nigerien Health Personnel, August 1976

Category	Dept Niamey	Dept Dosso	Dept Tahoua	Dept Zinder	Dept Maradi	Dept Agadez	Dept Diffa	Total
Physician	9	-	1	3	-	1	1	15
Dentist	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
Pharmacists	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
License in nurs. care	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hlth assis. techn.	17	2	2	5	2	2	1	31
State nurse	104	30	14	30	31	10	14	298*
Chief nurse	14	3	-	4	-	-	-	21
Cert. nurse	174	48	57	65	35	23	25	552*
State midwives	30	3	3	9	4	2	1	61
Chief midwives	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Soc. assis.	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Soc. assis. techn.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Soc. assis. helpers	16	-	2	3	2	2	2	27
Extension supervisor	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
Extension auxiliary	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3

Category	Dept Niamey	Dept Dosso	Dept Tahoua	Dept Zinder	Dept Maradi	Dept Agadez	Dept Diffa	Total
Sanitation techn.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Electrical techn.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Health nurse	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6

* New totals but breakdown by Area not available.

Source: US Mission, Niger Health Sector Assessment, 1977.

As of 1976 there was 1 physician for every 42,970 inhabitants and one nursing person for every 8,220 inhabitants. Outside of the government medical structure numerous indigenous practitioners and lay midwives often provide the only health care at the village level.

5.6 Nutrition

The principal source of calories for all ethnic groups is cereals, although milk and milk products provide almost 40% of calorie intake for the nomadic Tuareg. Leaves, beans, and fruits play a negligible part in the diet. Vitamin C is obtained largely from milk. The Tuareg consume considerable amounts of camel milk and the milk from their Azawak cattle is superior to that obtained from the Bororo cattle of the Fulani.

After the drought in the early 1970's, cereals were commonly substituted for milk products due to reduction of herds and a decline in milk production of the surviving cows. Herders introduced millet and sorghum into their diets in great quantities with sorghum often substituted for the preferred millet. The drought also led to the disappearance of most wild grains and wild game. In the years following the drought, consumption of meat dropped from about 14 kg of meat/person/year, to less than 8 kg. A comparable reduction was reported in the consumption of milk, dropping from 61 liters/person/ year to 40 liters.

Lower dietary quality reduced or suppressed womens' lactation, resulting in more frequent malnutrition and lowered resistance to disease among young children. Adults lacked strength to perform physical tasks and also suffered from digestive problems, constipation, abdominal pain, and lack of appetite.

5.7 Diet

Tuareg - A large part of the Tuareg diet consists of millet with milk, tea, and sugar. They prepare a gruel (boule) at midday and a dough (pate) in the evening which is eaten with fresh or curdled milk and butter. Green tea is consumed 3 times a day. Meat is eaten once a week when available.

Fulani - Milk, milk products, and cereals predominate in the Fulani diet. Meat is reserved for festivities or is eaten when an animal dies. The Fulani prepare a congealed porridge for the evening meal, which is eaten with curdled or fresh milk. Leftovers are served in the morning. This diet is supplemented by gathered leaves and berries, and by condiments such as kola nuts, sugar, and tea.

Hausa - The staple food is millet eaten as a gruel (boule) with milk in the morning. At midday there is a snack of gruel and in the evening a heavy porridge (tuwo) is eaten with a spicy sauce. Many types of gathered leaves may be added to the sauce used with the porridge. In southern areas, fruit is eaten where available. When the Fulani with their cattle are nearby, the Hausa will acquire milk. Bean cakes, kola nuts, and sugar are also consumed.

Taboos - Among some groups in all parts of the country, eggs are either forbidden or considered unappetizing. Fish is also regarded as unappetizing by some groups. Rice was once regarded an improper food for ordinary persons; however, has recently become more acceptable to the average Nigerien.

5.8 Housing

Nomadic: Tuareg nomads live in tents made of animal skins. The Fulani live in small collapsible huts made of straw mats.

Rural: Villagers in the east live in round straw huts with thatched roofs. In the central regions, villagers construct houses of "banco", a mixture of mud and straw that dries into a hard, cement-like consistency. Small wooden beams support roofs of thatch, or in some cases, a lightweight metal such as tin or galvanized iron. Mud bricks used to build banco structures are formed in wooden moulds and then sun-baked. They are cemented together using the same material from which the bricks are composed. Banco structures have a life span of 10 or more years except that minor repairs become necessary after one or two seasons of heavy rains.

Most villages are an assemblage of family compounds. In rural villages the compound entrance is usally a mat corridor which leads to a courtyard. Beyond this courtyard is a more secluded one, the women's quarters (cikin gida), where each wife has a hut of her own. The entire compound is enclosed by a rectangular wall made of either banco or matting.

Urban: Housing and many business structures in urban areas are constructed of the same banco material used in rural villages. Clay-tile bricks or cement blocks are generally too expensive for most of the urban population. Houses are simple with little furniture except small wooden stools, a bed, a pallet of mats, and cooking equipment. Houses in both urban and rural areas have thick walls to protect against the sun.

6.1 Overview of Economy

Until recently, traditional agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerien economy, even though most of the country is too dry for cultivation. Consumption as a proportion of GDP was often in excess of domestic production and most investment was financed by foreign lenders. Starting in 1973 this trend was reversed due to rapid growth in uranium revenues: in 1978, uranium mining accounted for 13% of GDP, about 75% of total export earnings, and about 30% of government revenue. As a result, gross domestic savings represented 9% of GDP for the period 1975-78, while the country's resource gap decreased from 14% to less than 7% of GDP. However, despite these encouraging trends, Niger, with a per capita GDP of about US $250 in 1978, remains one of the least developed countries.

Niger's recent economic development has been characterized by dualistic growth: the booming mining industry and related activities such as transport and construction, and modest growth in traditional sectors, agriculture and agro-industry in particular. Real GDP grew at 3% per year during 1972-78, although for the years 1972-75 negative growth was recorded, mainly due to severe drought-induced setbacks in agriculture and livestock, compounded by the resulting recession in agro-industries. In 1976, the economy recovered and achieved an annual growth rate of 9% for 1976-78. In contrast to an average 8% inflation rate for the 1972-75 period, inflation rose to over 20% in 1976 and 1977. After a normal harvest in 1977/78 it fell to 12%; however, moderate inflation is likely to continue due to the supply constraint in basic commodities (especially food), rising prices for imported goods, and rapid monetary expansion.

Niger has a small industrial sector based on extraction plants, cotton ginneries, rice and flour mills, an abattoir, and tanneries, all of which process agricultural products. Import substitution has been stimulated by the high cost of transport. A 1,600 ton textile mill and a 35,000 ton cement works are in operation, and there are light industries serving the limited local market (soap, beer, soft drinks, plastic products, metal goods, farm equipment, canned tomatoes, bricks, radio sets).

6.2 Mining

The exploitation of uranium starting in 1971 and the subsequent quintupling of the price has changed the country's long-term development prospects dramatically. With commercially viable reserves estimated at over 100,000 tons, Niger should be black Africa's top uranium producer and the world's second or third largest exporter in the 1980's. Expanding production makes it vital that transport links be improved to facilitate export. During the rainy season trucks are often unable to make the 650 km journey from Arlit to Niamey. To avoid excessive dependence on uranium, the state mining company, ONAREX, is trying to exploit other mineral resources including coal, phosphates, iron ore, cassiterite, copper, nickel, molybdenum, gypsum, and marble.

6.3 GNP

Gross National Product, 1978

	US $ million	%
GNP at market prices	1,282	100.0
Gross domestic investment	525	25.4
Gross domestic savings	154	12.0
Current account balance	-84	-6.6
Export of goods, NFS	288	22.5
Import of goods, NFS	370	28.9

GDP by Sector, 1978
(value added, factor costs)

	US $ million	%
Agriculture	545	42.5
Mining (1)	155	12.1
Industry	77	6.0
Services (2)	505	39.4
Total	1,282	100.0

(1) Mostly uranium mining.
(2) Including Government and duties and taxes on imports.

Source: World Bank, Dosso Agricultural Development Project, 1979.

6.4 Balance of Payments

In spite of the rapid increase in export earnings from uranium, Niger's balance of payments continues to be characterized by a deficit. Imports required for operating the economy as well as for new capital formation still exceed foreign exchange earnings. Until 1977, this trade deficit was compensated by the inflow of foreign, private, and public capital so that the overall balance of payments showed a surplus. However, estimates for 1978 indicate an overall deficit of US $17 million due to the importation of foodgrains worth US $15 million, and an increase in imports of capital goods needed to implement development projects.

Balance of Payments

	1975	1978
Exports of goods, NFS	167.8	288.2
Imports of goods, NFS	226.5	369.6
Resource gap (deficit = -)	-58.7	-81.4
Interest payments (net)	-10.7	-15.0
Workers' remittances	-18.7	-25.0
Other factor payments (net)	3.0	n.a.
Net transfers	77.1	36.3
Balance on current accounts	-8.0	-85.2
Direct foreign investment (net)	15.8	38.4
Net MLT borrowings	17.0	30.0
Disbursements	(18.8)	n.a.
Repayment	(1.8)	n.a.
Other items (1)	-19.8	n.a.
Change in reserves (end year)	5.0	-16.8
Foreign reserves (end year)	51.4	87.6

(1) Including omissions and errors

Source: World Bank, Dosso Agricultural Development Project, 1979.

6.5 Foreign Aid

Between 1971 and 1977 total recorded net flow of resources from foreign countries and multilateral agencies averaged about US $80 million annually, of which 95% was on concessionary terms. The European Development Fund (FED), France, Germany, and Canada are largest donors, although Arab oil-producing countries have expanded their lending programs to Niger. At the end of 1978, external public debt outstanding was US $394 million, including an undisbursed amount of US $200 million.

6.6 Imports

Main imports: machinery and transport equipment; petroleum products; electrical equipment; iron and steel; textiles; foodstuffs; and construction materials. Major suppliers are France, Japan, Ivory Coast, and West Germany. Although GON has sought to curb the growth of imports, price increases have caused total value of imports to rise.

Imports
(million francs CFA)

	1974	1975	1976
Road vehicles	2,812	2,397	5,394
Petroleum products	3,139	2,750	3,525
Non-electric machinery	2,224	2,080	3,142
Iron and steel, cast iron	1,292	1,150	2,093
Textile yarn and fabrics	1,380	1,188	1,951
Electrical machinery, etc.	1,175	1,065	1,295
Paper, paperboard, printed matter	312	338	827
Sugar and confectionery	1,367	642	739
Rubber and rubber products	467	454	496
Tobacco	242	374	470
Pharmaceutical products	407	277	432
Groundnuts	462	2,066	7
Total (incl. others)	23,144	21,889	30,383

Source: Europa, Africa South of the Sahara, 1979.

6.7 Exports

Fluctuations in export earnings traditionally reflected the performance of groundnuts, which normally accounted for more than half the total, but in 1974 exports of groundnuts were suspended and were almost nil in 1975. As of 1978, the recovery of groundnut production is uncertain. The other major export item - livestock - showed a steady increase until 1973 when drought decimated the herds. Export earnings continued to expand despite the downturn of uranium production. In 1973 uranium became the major export and by 1978 it accounted for 75% of all export earnings. France, Nigeria, and West Germany are major buyers of Nigerien exports.

Exports
(million francs CFA)

	1974	1975	1976
Uranium concentrates	6,322	11,882	20,476
Live animals	2,093	3,653	4,798
Vegetables	152	575	2,785
Groundnut oil	1,143	699	919
Groundnut, shelled	-	2	697
Groundnut cake	185	185	369
Hides and skins	607	177	477
Raw cotton	16	14	384
Meat and offals	124	283	210
Cotton yarn and fabrics	218	32	158
Artificial and synthetic fabrics	456	250	n.a.
Total (incl. others)	12,621	19,556	31,979

Source: Europa, Africa South of the Sahara, 1979.

7. Agriculture

7.1 Overview of Agriculture

Since 1970 agriculture's share of GDP has dropped from 60% to 45%, and its share of exports from 80% to 30%. This change reflects not only the rapid rise in uranium production but also the slow development of the rural sector. Recent crop production has been poor, particularly groundnut production which declined due to previous low producer prices, disease, drought, and seed stock problems (stock dropped from 250,000 tons shelled to 100,000 tons). Although farmers have switched to grains and cowpeas, by 1978 crops accounted for less than 30% of GDP and 10% of exports.

Agriculture employs about 70% of the population; most practice hoe culture, although some use plows drawn by oxen. Most of the population have rights to land in their natal villages but there is considerable selling of land in areas where crops are grown. Partly because of land sales, but also because poor farmers frequently sell their crops to larger farmers or traders immediately after harvest when prices are low, there are substantial inequalities of wealth and a growing landless class. Many of the landless become migrant laborers, working for other farmers in Niger or for employers in Nigeria, Benin, Toga, Ghana, or the Ivory Coast.

Prior to 1973, Niger was self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs in normal years; however, over the drought years 1973-75 cereal imports averaged about 120,000 tons/year, equivalent to about 50% normal marked production. Due to this experience GON has focused much attention on rural development. Indications are that, with rainfed farming projects, Niger can continue to be close to self-sufficiency in cereals, although production will be vulnerable to variations in the weather.

Livestock production was also disrupted by the 1973 drought. According to GON estimates the national herd dropped from 4.2 million cattle to 2.2 million and smaller stock from 9 to 7 million. Although herd reconstitution has begun, pre-drought cattle numbers will not be reached for another five years. Reduced herd size has largely been offset by increases in prices of livestock products; livestock now accounts for 15% of GDP and 20% of exports.

7.2 Crop Production

Principal Crops
(000 metric tons)

	1975	1976	1977
Maize	5	5	6
Millet	581	1,195	1,000
Sorghum	254	308	280
Rice	.29	29	30
Sugarcane	135	107	90
Sweet potatoes & yams	17	55	50
Cassava (manioc)	176	197	200
Onions	71	79	43
Other vegetables	29	28	30
Pulses	231	250	256
Dates	5	6	6
Other fruit	17	16	17
Groundnuts (in shell)	42	79	60
Cotton seed	7	4	6
Cotton lint	4	3	4

Source: Europa, Africa South of the Sahara, 1979.

7.3 Crop Dates

Commodity	Planting Season	Harvesting Season
Beverages		
Cocoa (two crops).....	-- -- --	June, Sep-Dec
Coffee (Ivory Coast)..	-- -- --	November - July
Cereals and grains		
Corn		
Late crop.....	September.....	December - January
Early crop.....	March.....	August - September
Millet.....	April.....	July - September
Rice.....	May - August.....	October - November
Sorghum.....	-- -- --	November - December
Fibers		
Cotton.....	May - July.....	November - March
Sisal.....	Throughout year...	Throughout year

Fruits		
Bananas and plantains	-- -- --	-- -- --
Citrus	-- -- --	November - April
Oilseeds		
Palm oil and palm kernels.....	-- -- --	Throughout year
Peanuts.....	May - July	October - November
Shea-nuts.....	-- -- --	January - March
Miscellaneous crops		
Kola nuts.....	May - June.....	August - December
Vegetables		
Bambarra groundnuts....	April - June.....	October - December
Cassava (manioc).....	June - October...	Harvested as needed (1)
Cocoyams.....	May - June.....	December - January
Sweetpotatoes.....	June - September.	October - February
Yams:		
Early.....	November.....	July - September
Late and main crop.....	February - April.	October - January

(1) Harvested from 12 to 18 months after planting.

7.4 Agricultural Imports

Import of foodstuffs is highly dependent on climatic conditions in Niger. In normal to good years the country is just about self-sufficient; however during drought years there is heavy reliance on food imports, primarily in the form of foreign food aid. See also section 6.5, Foreign Aid.

Food Aid, 1970 - 75
(billion CFA)

Food Aid	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
	0.85	0.28	1.03	5.60	7.00	0.70

Source: World Bank, Economic Memorandum Niger, 1976.

7.5 Agricultural Exports

Agricultural exports which once (1960's) comprised over 70% of total export earnings, now account for only 10% (1978). This drop is due largely to the decimating effects of drought in 1972-74. Groundnut exports were halted in 1974, amounted to 30,000 tons in 1975 and then stopped again in 1976. Livestock exports are making a slow recovery (presently 17% of exports) but have yet to reach pre-drought levels. See also General Exports, section 6.7.

7.6 Current Status (1980)

Staple food crops in 1977/78 were almost normal at 1.3 million tons. At the same time GON requested international food aid to help replenish reserve stocks. The cereal crop for 1978/79 has been harvested and reached normal levels.

8. Physical Geography

8.1 Climatic Zones

Niger has three distinct climatic regions: 1) the highly cultivated south and the fertile Niger River region with a mean altitude of 300 - 350 m. above sea level and a Sahelian climate with one rainy season between June and October (preceded in June by violent tornadoes); 2) the arid center of the country, suitable for pastoral activities, with a sharply lower rainfall. This region is divided into the South Sahel belt that receives between 350 and 750 mm. of rainfall, permitting 3 to 4 months of agriculture, and the North Sahel belt with a maximum of 350 mm. rainfall, where agriculture is only possible at oases. Finally, 3) the desert areas in the far north where little or no rain falls. From November to January a dry, cooling but dusty harmattan blows from the east.

8.2 Precipitation

Average Annual Precipitation in Inches

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Year
Agadez	0.0	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	0.2	0.3	1.9	3.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
Bilma	0.0	0.0	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Niamey	n.a.	n.a.	0.2	0.3	1.3	3.2	5.2	7.4	3.7	0.5	n.a.	0.0	21.6

Source: Dept. of Commerce, Climates of the World, 1972.

8.3 Temperatures

Niger is one of the hottest countries in the world. Niamey's temperature range is 47'F-114'F; Tillabery's annual average maximum is 106°F and in Air the range is from -23°F to 122°F in the shade.

Average Daily Temperature (Fahrenheit)

	January		April		July		October		Extreme	
	max.	min.	max.	min	min.	max.	min.	max.	min.	max.
Agadez	86	50	105	70	104	75	101	68	115	40
Bilma	81	45	101	63	108	75	101	62	116	29
Niamey	93	58	108	77	94	74	101	74	114	47

Source: Dept. of Commerce, Climates of the World, 1972.

8.4 Landforms

Located between 0° and 16° east longitude and between 12° and 24° north latitude, Niger is bounded by Libya and Algeria on the north, Mali on the west, Upper Volta on the southwest, Benin and Nigeria on the south, and Chad on the east. A short stretch (370 miles) of the Niger River crosses the country in the southwest, and Lake Chad touches it in the southwest, but essentially it is a border-land of the Sahara.

The northern part of the country is divided by the Air massif (2,000-3,000 ft), which is dissected by numerous ravines and punctuated by a north-south line of volcanic crests, as well as other isolated outcroppings. The northernmost of these includes Niger's highest elevation, the 6,562 ft. Mont Greboon. In the northeast a series of high plateaus form a bridge between Chad's Tibesti (until 1929 governed by Niger) and Algeria's Ahaggar massifs. These include the plateaus of Djado, Tchigai, and Mangueni. On each side of Air extend the Saharan sand lowlands. In the west is found the Talak desert, which includes in its northern segment the Temesna region where fossilized river valleys filled with shifting sand dunes flow south, and in the south the Azaoya region. In the east stretches the huge (400,000 sq km) Tenere Desert interrupted only by the remote Kaoar oases. Fossilized river-valleys (dallol) "flow" from the air southwards into the Niger River.

8.5 Land Use

Land Use ('000ha)

	1971	1976
Arable land	15,000	15,000
Permanent meadows & pastures	3,000	3,000
Forests & woodlands	12,450	11,350
Other land	96,220	97,320
Inland water	30	30
Total area	126,700	126,700

Source: Europa Yearbook, 1979.

8.6 Waterways

In the east Niger includes 1000 sq.km. of Lake Chad which in times of intense drought (as in 1970-75) greatly contracts (being essentially very shallow), allowing a dry crossing to Nigeria and even Chad. Part of the frontier in this area (for 150 kms.) is formed by the Komadougou Yobe River that flows from the west into the lake.

In the south the Niger River--ninth longest in the world, and Africa's third largest--flows for 370 miles through Niger from the rapids of Labezanga on the Malian frontier to Gaya on the Nigerian border. It receives several tributaries on its right side, notably the Goroul, Sirba, Tapoa, and Mekrou. Its left bank is joined by the dry fossilized valleys that once drained the northern regions. A small portion of the river forms the border between Niger and Benin. Lete, one of the river's half-submerged islands, was the source of the 1964 border dispute between Niger and Benin. The river offers Niger only limited navigation possibilities; only 200 kms. of it (essentially between Gaya/Malanville and Niamey) is navigable by shallow vessels.

9. Transportation and Logistics

9.1 Road Network

Road transport is the predominant mode. The road system extends for about 18,400 km, 11,000 km of which are unclassified tracks and feeder roads; 6,923 km are classified, 1,761 km are paved. Most of the network is in the southern 25% of the country in the form of a paved east-west trunk road. There is also a north-south road of about 650 km linking the uranium mining area of Arlit to the east-west road. The Airlit road is currently being upgraded to paved standards for most of its length. Most of the classified road system is in reasonable condition and is generally adequate for Niger's needs. Non-classified feeder roads and tracks are of a low standard. Many of these roads are difficult and costly to use because of lack of maintenance, the absence of good road construction materials, and easily eroded soils in many areas.

Road Network, 1971 - 1978 (km)

	1971	1974	1978
Classified Network	7,117	6,943	6,923
Paved	605	1,313	1,739
Gravel improved	2,930	2,550	2,091
Gravel unimproved	996	662	438
Feeder roads/tracks	2,586 (1)	2,418 (1)	2,655 (1)
Non-Classified Network	4,000	4,000	11,454
Paved	-	-	22
Gravel improved	-	-	49
Gravel unimproved	-	-	383
Feeder roads/tracks	-	-	11,000
Total	11,117	10,943	18,377

(1) Main located in northern Niger.

Source: World Bank, Feeder Roads Project, 1979.

Inventory of Major Roads in Niger as of March 1977

Origin/End	Sections	Paved 2 Lanes	Paved 1 Lane	Earth	MT*	NMT**	Total
Niamey (Rond-Point)	Niamey-Tillaberi	115				115	
Pont Kennedy to Mali Border	Tillaberi			123		123	
	Mali	115		123		238	
Niamey (Rond-Point Pont Kennedy) to Chad border	Niamey-PK 70	17	53				70
	PK 70-PK 138		68				68
	PK 138-Dosso	37					37
	PK 175-Bolbol	40					40
	Bolbol-K. Mairoua	40					40
	Mairoua-PK 300	45					45
	PK 300-Doutchi	43					43
	Doutchi-PK 488	145					145
	PK 488-Madoua	69					69
	Madaoua-Guidam Roumji	44	58				102
	G. Roumji-Maradi		38				38
	Maradi-Tchadaoua	36					36
	Tchadaoua-Aguie	39					39
	Aguie-Tessaoua	32					32
	Tessaooua-Garagoumsa	34					34
	Garagoumsa-Tirmini	4	52				56
	Tirmini-Myrriah	54					54
	Myrriah-Guidimouni	42					42
	Guidimouni-Guidiguir	49					49
	Guidiguir-Goure	21					21
	Goure-Chad	419		89+		35	543
	Total	1,209	269	89+		35	1,602

+ In kilometers
* MT = maintained track
**NMT = non-maintained track

Note - For more detailed information see OFDA Sahel Transportation Survey, 1979.

Typical Routes to Niger

Destination	Origin	Mode	Distance (km)
Niamey	Cotonou	Rail & Road	1056
	Apapa	Road	2086
		Rail & Road	2024
	Lome (1)	Road	1247
	Tema (1)	Road	1560
		Road-Lake-Road	1365
	Abidjan	Rail & Road	1693
Agadez	Port Harcourt	Rail & Road	1875
	Apapa	Road	1928
		Rail & Road	1866
	Cotonou	Rail & Road	2160
	Algiers	Road	2864

(1) There are also short stretches of railroad in Togo and Ghana which could be used, but regular use would not be a viable short-term alternative due to the managerial problems involved.

Source: Peter Cook, Sahel Transportation Analysis, 1974.

9.2 Vehicles

Recent estimates (1977) of the vehicle fleet gives a total of 13,470 vehicles (about 1 for every 370 inhabitants) of which nearly 80% are passenger cars and vehicles with a carrying capacity of less than 2 tons, and the remainder buses and trucks. Due to the inferior standard of most of the unclassified road network, traffic flow is very light. At most only 5% of these roads carry in excess of 10 vehicles per day. The majority of vehicles driven in rural areas are four-wheel drive.

Vehicle Fleet, 1977

Vehicle Type	Number	% Total
Passenger cars	7,124	53
Light commercial (§2 tons)	3,779	28
Trucks (†2 tons)	1,526	11
Articulated vehicles and truck/trailer combinations	671	5
Buses	373	3
Total	13,473	100

Source: World Bank, Feeder Roads Project, 1979.

9.3 Railroads

Niger does not have a railroad and is therefore heavily dependent on truck transport to railways of other countries.

9.4 Ports

Niger has no ports. All goods must be transported by rail and/ or truck to one of the major ports on the coast. See section 9.1 Road Network, Typical Routes to Niger.

Lagos, Nigeria

Coordinates:	Lat. 6°27'N; long. 3°24'E
Accommodation:	Bar draft 30 ft., LW entrance protected by moles. The port can accommodate up to 18 vessels alongside three buoys and four at anchorages. Fresh water available.
	Apapa Quay: 5,000 ft. length, will berth up to 10 main line vessels with maximum draft of 27 ft. Ample transit shed space with nine large sheds serving the quay berths and four large warehouses available for storage. Lighter berth additional to main berths, 370 ft. long with 10 ft. at LW. Served by transit shed.

Customs Quay: Three 500 ft. vessels can be berthed. Maximum drafts at berths, 19 ft. 6 in. and 22 ft. 6 in. Berths each served by transit shed. Quay is road served only. Small berth available for lighters.

Other quay berths: Wharf of bulk oil plants of Nigeria Ltd. will take vessels up to 500 ft. length with maximum draft of 25 ft.; Ijora coal wharf, total length of 400 ft. with maximum draft of 19 ft.

Lighters used for discharging and loading vessels at buoys and anchorages, lighterage capacity of 10,000 tons being available in port. At Apapa quay extensions to provide four additional deep-water berths, in addition to a container berth now being completed. Ancillary transit sheds and warehouses are available. Fisheries wharf, 375 ft. long, now completed. At Koko in midwestern Nigeria, a first-class, deep-water berth now available.

Developments: The six fore and aft mooring buoy berths at marina berths are being relaid and later dredged; three of them have already been relaid. Harbor approach channel to be deepened; berths to be extended into Badagry Creek.

Tanker terminals: One berth, operated by port authority; length 580 ft, draft 25 ft,; no night berthing; water and bunkers (subject to tidal restrictions) available.

Shiprepairs: Available.

Pilotage: Compulsory.

Traffic: 1972, 1,669 cargo ships of 5,339,478 NRT; 1,331 fishing vessels of 54,207 NRT.

Airport: Ikeja, 9 miles from port.

Local holidays: The port is always open except for Christmas Day.

Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Coordinates:	Lat. 4°46'N; long. 7°E. On river Bonny, 41 miles up Bonny estuary from Bonny. Terminus of railway and port from which coal from UDI is shipped.
Accommodation:	The maximum draft for entering post is now 25 ft. (18 ft. plus rise of tide). When completed, the port will be open to ships of maximum draft of 27 ft. Total quay length 3,500 ft., allowing for accommodation of up to seven vessels with 27 ft. of water alongside. There are two mooring buoys S of the main wharf for tankers discharging; maximum 800 ft. anchored off dockyard creek. Road and rail access to all berths. Each of the berths on the wharf extension is provided with a transit shed 350 ft. by 150 ft. The four main berths of the original quay are also served by a transit shed, two 300 ft. by 90 ft. and two 300 ft. by 70 ft. There is an additional warehouse 400 ft. by 150 ft. as well as smaller sheds and stores and an open stacking area of 100,000 sq. ft. served by a 10-ton crane. Water is available at all berths from hydrants. Oil storage: palm oil 5,500 tons.
Development:	The possibilities of providing a deeper entrance channel are being investigated. Depth alongside wharves has been increased to 27 ft. Rehabilitation of the old quay has been completed. An additional warehouse, 400 ft. by 150 ft. is under construction. The provision of additional berthage and produce storage is being considered.
Bunkers:	Available.
Shiprepairs:	Available from small craft.
Pilotage:	Compulsory from Bonny fairway buoy.
Airport:	Port Harcourt, 7 miles from port.
Local holidays:	Port always open except for Christmas Day.

Cotonou, Benin

Coordinates:	Lat. 6°21'N.; long. 2°27'E.
Approach:	Port subject to tornadoes and in time of bad weather ships should anchor 1.6 km. south of the lighthouse in 14 m. depth and good holding ground. It is forbidden to anchor within a radius of 700 m. of the circular red beam of light thrown from the West Jetty. Liners, steamers, and tankers only have priority of entry into the port if their places in the berth are reserved for them. All other vessels enter and berth according to order of arrival.
Accommodation:	A large and well sheltered port. Maximum depth at port, 10.36 m. Maximum draft allowed 9.75 m. Total length of quay 650 m. There are five jetties for handling palm oil in bulk, a loading area, sheds, etc. Firefighting equipment, and special equipment for dealing with dangerous cargoes. Ships with dangerous cargoes are advised to have an attendant aboard provided by an agency. Ships are advised to imform their agency or their representative in Cotonou of labor requirements and precisely the hours they will work, including ordinary days and time before noon to be worked on Sundays or Holidays (24 hrs. notice).
Pilotage:	Ships should indicate ETA by telegram 24 hours in advance to "Commandant du Port". Approach to port announced on V.H.F. Channel 16. No restriction on hours of entry and departure from port. Vessels with draft of over 9.75 m. remain outside port,(maximum length 230 m. and 9.75 m. draft allowed in port). Vessels arriving from the west or south, arriving at a point north of the lighthouse take on pilot half a mile from there.
Working Hours:	Port works 24 hours. Overtime rates payable outside ordinary working hours of 07.00 to 14.00 and 14.00 to 21.00, Monday to Friday, after 12.00 on Saturday and all day Sunday.

General Holidays:	New Year's Day (January 1), Youth Day (February 11), Good Friday, Labor Day (May 1), National Day (May 20), Ascension Day, Assumption B.V. Mary (August 15), Christmas Day (December 25). Also End of Ramadan, joulde Zaihadji.
Cargo Worked:	Rate of loading and unloading approx. 600 tons for bulk cargo and 400 tons for merchandise.
Bunkers:	Available, gas, oil, etc.
Shiprepairs:	No shipbuilding yard but facilities for minor repairs available.
Storage:	Warehouse capacity approx. 15,000 sq. m. Cold storage on quay.
Cranes:	No quay cranes, loading and unloading by ships' derricks.
Water:	Available from quay.
Towage:	Compulsory. One tug of 900 h.p. available.
Traffic:	Approx. 650 ships of 450,000 tons, in and out.
Airport:	5 km. from port.
Currency:	C.F.A. Franc.

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Coordinates:	Lat. 5°18'N; long. 4°00'W.
Accommodation:	Depth at entrance 10 m. Depth on bar 10 m. Maximum draft allowed in Vridi Canal, 9.75 m. to be increased to 11.28 m. shortly. LV: No limit to length of vessels which may use the harbor, but ships over 200 m. are subject to special conditions. Main quay 3,130 m. with 10 m. and 640 m. with 11 m. alongside. Banana quay 240 m. length, 7 m. alongside with belt conveyors and elevators for banana loading. Fishing quay 1,070 m. length with 5 and 7 m. alongside. There are docks 300 m. long, 2 m. deep; these docks are suitable for barges. There

are 14 berths between buoys for loading logs and 15 anchorages outside the lagoon. Refrigerated sheds at the Banana Docks, and also one berth for unloading grain with elevators and belt conveyors. A minimum of 500 tons of cargo per day must be worked on the quayside; vessels handling less than this or lying idle during overtime periods may be required to shift berth at their own expense in favor of vessels wishing to work over 500 tons of cargo. There are warehouses and a wood storage area. Radio and VHF, "Comport" Abidjan. Provisions for fresh water available.

Container and Ro/Ro facilities: Two berths for container handling with ship's gear.

Bunkers: Fuel, diesel and gas oil available.

Shiprepairs: Two dock yards for vessels 600 tons and 2,000 tons.

Towage: Available from the Union des Remorquers d' Abidjan and compulsory for all vessels mooring or unmooring alongside buoys, berthing or unberthing and in certain cases for swinging vessels at anchorge before sailing.

Pilotage: Compulsory through the Vridi Canal.

Traffic: 1976, 7,694,329 tons cargo in and out.

Airport: Adidjan/Port Bouet, 8 km.

Working Hours: Monday to Saturday: 07:30 to 12:00 hours; 14:30 to 17:30 hours. Other hours in overtime.

Holidays: Port is closed New Year's Day, Tabaski, Labor Day (May 1), Korite, National Feast Day (Dec. 7), Christmas Day. During Ramadan, work is restricted.

Lome, Tago

Coordinates: Lat. 6°7'N; long. 1°13'E.

Accommodation:	The port consists of the following: one principal jetty, 1,720 m. long; one mole 366.50 m. long and 71.50 m. wide, made of concrete. At the end of the mole there are four posts for mooring, two of 10.50 m. depth, one of 9.50 m and a fourth of 5.50 m., reserved for small vessels and tugs. Width of mole is 26 m. at east and 15.5 to the west. Two warehouses on the mole, one of which is 4,500 sq. m. and the other 2,250 sq. m. Capable of handling approx. 250,000 tons p.a.; possibly handling up to 500,000 tons with the installation of extra cranes on the quay. One water tank of 500 cu m. at Tokoin (town of Lome). Water piped to principal area. Rail and road transport inland.
Development:	A big fishing harbor and tanker terminal under construction. The construction of a harbor office is taking place on the mole. An extension program planned including more warehouses.
Container Facilities:	Available.
Offshore Facilities:	Available.
Towage:	Available.
Pilotage:	Not compulsory but available.
Airport:	8 km from the Port.
Working Hours:	06.00 to 14.00, 14.00 to 21.30 hours. No overtime can be worked. Saturday is an ordinary working day. Sundays and holidays can be worked at overtime rates.
Holidays:	New Year's Day (January 1), National Holiday, Sarakawa, Easter, National Day, Labor Day, Whitsun, Pya Martyrs, Assumption Day, Kpalime Historical Call, All Saints' Day, Christmas Day.

9.5 Airports

Owing to the size of the country, internal air services are of considerable importance. Niamey has an international airport capable of serving jumbo aircraft. There are also 5 regional airports and 99 other airstrips.

NB: For up-to-date information consult latest issue of Weekly International Notams, International Flight Information Manual, and/or ICAO's Air Navigation Plan for appropriate region.

AGADEZ/Sud

Runway Characteristics

Location Coordinates	Elevation M/ Temp C	NR/Type	Slope %	Aircraft Length M	CL	Aircraft/ Strength (1,000 kg)	Fuel Octane
16°58'N 07°59'E	505 41.6	07/25	0.16	1800	C	SW7 DW12 DTW25	100

Remarks: Alternate aerodromes: Niamey/Niamey, Sebha/Sebha.

Aids: VOR, RL, LR, LR, LTX, LO, MD, MT, MS. DC6 acceptable. No telex. Customs available on 12 hours prior notice.

NIAMEY/Niamey

Runway Characteristics

Location Coordinates	Elevation M/ Temp C	NR/Type	Slope %	Aircraft Length M	CL	Aircraft/ Strength (1,000 kg)	Fuel Octane
13°28'53"N 02°10'20"E	222 40.5	09/27	0.194	3000	A	SW15 DW23 DTW50	100

Remarks: Alternate aerodromes: Abidjan/Port Bouet, Accra/Kotoka Intl, Bobo-Dioulasso/Bobo/Dioulasso, Cotonou/Cadjehoun, Kano/Kano, Lome/Lome, Ouagadougou/Ouagadougou.

Aids: ILS 09-1, VOR, LSA09 and 27, LAV27, LR, LTX, LO, L4, L5, L9, MD, MC, MT, MTD, MS, MTX, MO. Stopway 09 & 27-300. DC10-30 acceptable. No telex.

ZINDER

Runway Characteristics

Location Coordinates	Elevation M/ Temp C	NR/Type	Slope %	Aircraft Length M	CL	Aircraft/ Strength (1,000 kg)	Fuel Octane
13°47'N	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100
08°59'E							100

Aids: L4. No telex. Customs available on 12 hours prior notice.

Key

Abbreviations

INSTR	Instrument Approach Runway
N-INSTR	Non-Instrument Runway
PA I	Precision Approach Runway Category I
PA II	Precision Approach Runway Category II
REG-NS	Intl Non-Scheduled Air Transport, Regular Use
REG-S	International Scheduled Air Transport, Regular Use

Radio Aids

ILS	Instrument Landing System
DME	Distance Measuring Equipment
VOR	VHF Omni-Directional Range
RL	Radio Locator

Lighting Aids

LPA	Precision Approach Lighting System
LSA	Simple Approach Lighting System
LVA	Visual Approach Slope Indicator System
LAV	Abbreviated Approach Slope Indicator System
LR	Runway Edge, Threshold & Runway End Lighting
LC	Runway Center Line Lighting
LTD	Runway Touchdown Zone Lighting
LTX	Taxiway Lighting
LB	Aerodrome or Identification Beacon
LO	Obstruction Lighting

Marking Aids

MD	Runway Designation Markings
MC	Runway Center Line Markings
MT	Runway Threshold Markings
MTD	Runway Touchdown Markings
MS	Runway Sidestripe Markings
MFD	Fixed Distance Markings
MTX	Taxiway Center Line & Holding Position Markings
MO	Obstruction Markings

Runway Surface and Length

H	Hard Surface (numbers = ft. in hundreds)
S	Non-Hard Surface (number = ft. in hundreds)

Additional Lighting

L1	Portable Runway Lights (electrical)
L2	Boundary Lights
L3	Runway Flood Lights
L4	Low Intensity Runway Lights
L5	Low Intensity Approach Lights
L6	High Intensity Runway Lights
L7	High Intensity Approach Lights
L8	Sequenced Flashing Lights
L9	Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI)

9.6 Personal Entry Requirements

Passport and visa required. Smallpox vaccination required. Yellow fever immunization required except for individuals arriving from non-infected areas and staying no more than 2 weeks.

9.7 Aircraft Entry Requirements

All private and non-scheduled commercial aircraft overflying or landing for commercial or non-commercial purposes must obtain prior approval from the Direction de l'Aeronautique Civile, B.P. 403, Niamey, Niger (telegraphic address: MINITRAVO NIAMEY/Telex: none) at least 4 working days prior to departure. All requests must include (a) type of aircraft and registration marks, (b) name of pilot and number of crew, (c) number of passengers and type and amount of cargo, if landing, (d) route of flight from point of origin to final destination, including intermediate stops, (e) date, time and airport of arrival or entry into the airspace of Niger, (f) purpose of flight.

Commercial flights planning more than 3 flights per month and charter flights remaining in Niger 6 nights or more must submit requests at least 15 days prior to departure.

Special Notices:

1. Permission to overfly or to land will be denied to aircraft departing from or destined to either Rhodesia or South Africa.

2. Pilots should carry a copy of the telegraphic request, certified by the telegraphic company to prove that the request was transmitted. Requests for overflight clearance may be considered approved unless denial is received. In all landing cases, however, authorization must be received before arrival.

9.8 Airlines

Air Niger, B.P. 865, Niamey. Government owned; domestic services and international service to Algeria and Libya. Fleet of 1 DC-4, 1 DC-3, 1 DC-6, and Fokker F27. Air Niger flies twice a week to Agadez and Tahoua and three times a week to Maradi and Zinder.

Niger is also served by the following foreign airlines: UTA, Air Afrique (of which Niger has a 7% share), Sabena, Air Algerie, Libyan Airlines, and Air Mali.

9.9 Air Distances

		Statute Miles
Niamey to :	Cotonou	494
	Lagos	421
	Lome	442
	New York (via Lagos & Lisbon)	6,131
	New York (via Lagos & Madrid)	6,377
	New York (via Lagos & Rome)	7,196
	New York (via Paris)	6,053
	Oran	1,537
	Ouagadougou	263
	Paris	2,432

		Statute Miles
Niamey to:	Pointe Noire	1,429
	Seychelles Intl'	3,865
	Tahoua	228
	Tombouctou	412
	Tripoli	1,495
	Zinder	456

10. Power and Communications

10.1 Electric Power

The cost of electric energy is among the highest in the world; average price in 1975 was the equivalent of $0.13/kWh. With the exception of some small groundnut shell-fired generators in Maradi and Zinder, all electric power generation depends on imported fuel oil. The distribution of electricity is controlled by the Niger Electricity Company from 6 central diesel stations: two at Niamey, and one each at Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua, and Agadez. Their combined installed capacity is 20,000 KW (1977), with each of the stations at Niamey producing 6,000 KW. Niger also has access to a 132 KV transmission line from Kainji dam in Nigeria. Under a bilateral agreement, power of 30 MW is guranteed for 20 years. Consumption: 70 million kWh (1977); 10 kWh per capita. Electricity supply: 220 volts, A.C. 50 cycles.

10.2 Fuel

Wood is the major indigenous fuel for the rural population. Obtained by gathering, wood is used as firewood for cooking, heating, wooking iron, and firing pottery.

10.3 Telecommunications

Niger has over 50 post offices, most containing both telegraph and telephone bureaus. There are approximately 70 telex offices. Long distance calls to the US may be made at certain times of the day. There are approximately 8,000 telephones; 1 Atlantic Ocean COMSAT station.

10.4 Radio Network

La Voix du Sahel, Office de Radiodiffusion-Television du Niger (ORTN). Niamey, B.P. 361; government station; programs in French, Hausa, Zerma, Tamachek, Kanuri, Fulfulde. English (twice a week) and Arabic. 13 transmitters were in operation in 1971; in 1977 there were an estimated 150,000 radio receivers.

10.5 Television

One small government operated (ORTN) station is used only for educational programming; no commercial TV. 1,100 television receivers in 1977.

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