



Nigeria

Federal Republic of Nigeria



Key Facts



World Freedom Press Global Index Ranking (Overall) Ranked 120 (36.50)

Head of State / Head of Government: President Maj. Gen. (ret.) Muhammadu BUHARI (since 29 May 2015); Vice President Oluyemi "Yemi" OSINBAJO (since 29 May 2015); note - the president is both chief of state,

head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces

Capital city: Abuja

Population: 203,452,505 (July 2018 est.)

Official Language(s): English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo),

Ethnic Groups: Hausa 27.4%, Igbo (Ibo) 14.1%, Yoruba 13.9%, Fulani 6.3%, Tiv 2.2%, Ibibio 2.2%, Ijaw/Izon 2%, Kanuri/Berberi 1.7%, Igala 1%, other 28.9%, unspecified .2% (2013 est.)

Currency: Nigerian naira

Gross domestic product (PPP): 375.8 billion USD (2017)

Internet penetration: 50.2 %

Most trusted medium of information:

Legal System: mixed legal system of English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law

Government System: federal presidential republic

Journalists Killed/Imprisoned 2019: 1

Media Environment: Nearly 70 federal government-controlled national and regional TV stations; all 36 states operate TV stations; several private TV stations operational; cable and satellite TV subscription services are available; network of federal government-controlled national, regional, and state radio stations; roughly 40 state government-owned radio stations typically carry their own programs except for news broadcasts; about 20 private radio stations; transmissions of international broadcasters are available; digital broadcasting migration process completed in three states in 2018. The print, television and radio once maintained a three-way control on the Nigerian reading public. The print typically appealed to elitist audiences — the literates, politicians, power movers, leaders of the corporate world and the rest of the educated class with distinctive affinity for pretty English. In contrast, the radio drew its largest audiences from the opposite group — illiterates who, with a small, battery-powered transistor, could catch up with happenings usually in their locality but sometimes in the rest of the world. The radio-oriented elites tuned in mostly in the mornings at home and while driving to the office.

Media Issues: The campaign for the elections won by President Muhammadu Buhari in February 2019 was marked by an unprecedented level of disinformation – especially on social networks – which was spread by officials within the two main parties. The defense of quality journalism and the protection of journalists need to be priorities during Buhari’s second term. Africa’s most populous nation has more than 100 independent newspapers and yet covering stories involving politics, terrorism or financial embezzlement by the powerful proves problematic. Journalists are often threatened, subjected to physical violence or denied access to information by government officials, police and sometimes the public itself. The all-powerful regional governors are often the most determined persecutors and act with complete impunity. In 2018, one governor had the premises of a radio station destroyed after a series of reports criticizing his handling of local affairs. The police also detained a journalist for several days in an attempt to identify his sources. Online freedom is restricted by a 2015 cyber-crime law that is widely used to arrest and prosecute journalists and bloggers in an arbitrary manner.

Popular Forms of Media Consumption

Print: Once the giant of Nigerian journalism, the print media has recently witnessed a large-scale weakening of its powers — exactly the way it has happened all over the world. As would have been expected, the Nigerian print media hasn’t been immune to the dwindling global advertising revenue of newspapers worldwide and, latterly, the advent of the Internet.

Radio: The largest radio network is organized by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Nigeria’s publicly funded radio broadcasting organization with FM stations across the 36 states and a zonal station in each of the six geopolitical zones of the country. According to a 2015 research by Broadcasting Board of Governors — an independent agency of the US government with the mission to “inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy” — Nigerians are avid consumers of news, with 77.4 percent overall and more than seven in 10 across all major demographic groups saying they listen to the radio for news at least weekly.

Television: In 2002, only 30 percent of the Nigerian population had a television set in their homes, according to Trade Economics. By 2004, it had risen to 32 percent and close to 34 percent by 2006. By 2010, 40 percent of Nigerians had TV in their homes. The number of Pay TV households is also on the rise. From 1.5 million in 2011 to 1.9 million in 2012, it rose to 2.3 million in 2017 and is expected to hit 4.9

million by 2021. Also important in Nigeria's TV landscape is the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), which prides itself on being the largest TV network in Africa.

Digital Media: By April 2014, when The Cable — the third of Nigeria's three strongest online newspapers — was founded, there was no print newspaper that hadn't created an online version. There was as well no television or radio station that hadn't established an online presence. That was the extent to which digital media was redesigning journalism practice.

Social Networks: As of June 2017, the number of internet users had increased to 91.6 million, according to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), justifying Nigeria's status as the country with the eighth highest number of Internet users across the globe. This has seen a corresponding rise in the revenue generation powers the digital space. From US\$10m in 2011, to US\$15m in 2012, and US\$24m in 2013, it rose to US\$82m in 2017. The Statista statistics portal predicts that Internet advertising revenues in Nigeria would have risen to US\$139m by 2020.