



**-Niger-**

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## Table of Contents

### GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY

#### TARIFFS AND DUTIES

#### IPR

## GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY

Niger is a Member of the WTO, where it has been recognized as a least-developed country (LDC). Its participation in the multilateral trading system leaves much to be desired because of the country's low level of financial and human resources; since 1997, a multidisciplinary unit has been following up the WTO's activities at the domestic level, but Niger does not have a mission in Geneva.

Since 1999, which was devoted to consolidating democracy, Niger has experienced social, political and economic renewal. In 2002, the Government adopted a poverty reduction strategy (PRS) which envisages that economic growth will be driven principally by the agricultural and livestock sector and the private sector.

Niger also hopes to benefit from the opening up of subregional markets under the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), particularly as regards agricultural exports.

Niger's policy on trade in goods essentially consists of implementing the instruments of the WAEMU, which establish a regulatory framework for a series of measures that affect trade in goods, both directly and indirectly. These are, for example, MFN customs duties under the common external tariff (CET), supplementary duties and the preferential regime.

#### Trade in goods

During the Uruguay Round, Niger bound all its tariff lines for agricultural products and a large number of tariff lines for non-agricultural products. Regarding agricultural products, the ceiling of bound duties was fixed at 50 per cent, with the exception of tariff lines included in Schedule LIII annexed to the GATT 1947, for which the ceiling is 200 per cent. For non-agricultural products, the bound ceiling is 50 per cent.

Niger has not made any commitment on domestic support for agricultural products.

Niger introduced the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994 (Customs Valuation Agreement), on 14 December 2001. The authorities had already invoked the provisions on special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries to defer its implementation (originally fixed at 1 January 2000) for a period of 18 months. In addition, the Government of Niger has notified the members of the WTO of its decision to maintain minimum values on a limited basis for a transitional period in accordance with the WAEMU's common position on this issue.

#### Trade in services

Niger's Schedule of Specific Commitments under the GATS sets out the commitments undertaken during the Uruguay Round. Sectors for which Niger has undertaken commitments are hotel and restaurant services, travel agencies, tour operators services, tourist guide services, and some transport services. Niger did not take part in the negotiations on basic telecommunication services (concluded in 1997), nor in those on financial services (concluded in 1998).

The following table is an overview of the trade flow between the European Union and Niger

Section	Year	Import(Euro)	Export(Euro)
<b>Animals &amp; animal products</b>	1996	166,770	7,131,400
	1997	252,670	10,695,850
	1998	17,310	10,270,670
	1999	2,270	7,957,340
	2000	84,000	9,594,230
	2001	20,000	9,197,520
	2002	31,760	6,493,400
	2003	64,440	4,681,500
<b>Vegetable products</b>	1996	750,270	3,641,230
	1997	227,160	5,042,810
	1998	314,530	11,476,960
	1999	714,140	5,899,810
	2000	1,298,100	7,004,270
	2001	132,460	8,153,150
	2002	380,200	7,052,220
	2003	815,200	5,381,030
<b>Animal or vegetable fats</b>	1996	0	818,460
	1997	0	251,630
	1998	0	63,770
	1999	0	125,790
	2000	0	223,400
	2001	0	158,630
	2002	0	63,360
	2003	0	131,000
<b>Prepared foodstuffs</b>	1996	0	13,296,170
	1997	0	14,155,730
	1998	51,030	15,021,160
	1999	321,820	12,122,230
	2000	208,030	17,487,020
	2001	80,270	23,726,970
	2002	853,610	25,757,550
	2003	763,850	24,144,240
<b>Mineral products</b>	1996	0	2,383,330
	1997	17,401,770	2,972,780
	1998	13,979,850	2,182,820
	1999	3,392,460	1,575,250
	2000	8,230	6,098,110
	2001	48,779,380	4,751,970
	2002	14,969,190	2,740,170
	2003	1,612,610	2,956,820
<b>Chemical products</b>	1996	7,567,570	11,862,920
	1997	4,390	13,416,300
	1998	42,200	17,911,070
	1999	68,550	13,417,770
	2000	6,340	18,664,520
	2001	8,070	14,168,160
	2002	1,890	15,453,940
	2003	5,213,240	14,102,360
<b>Plastics &amp; rubber</b>	1996	306,740	3,049,650
	1997	69,020	4,183,880
	1998	42,180	4,223,960
	1999	180,490	3,545,550
	2000	23,150	3,004,540
	2001	15,600	3,715,470
	2002	8,070	5,011,440
	2003	14,730	5,513,890
	1996	398,670	49,200
	1997	397,340	117,560
	1998	322,070	134,480

<b>Hides &amp; skins</b>	1999	14,920	214,120
	2000	168,750	146,260
	2001	497,100	190,460
	2002	333,600	133,490
	2003	326,460	206,800
<b>Wood &amp; wood products</b>	1996	126,240	57,050
	1997	126,980	77,730
	1998	177,250	23,140
	1999	32,780	47,700
	2000	27,510	14,730
	2001	97,470	71,300
	2002	391,770	97,760
2003	109,390	29,150	
<b>Wood pulp products</b>	1996	15,320	4,624,190
	1997	17,790	3,251,910
	1998	3,520	4,193,370
	1999	2,540	3,207,240
	2000	7,950	3,239,730
	2001	2,620	3,201,250
	2002	22,470	4,545,820
	2003	89,780	3,228,760
<b>Textiles &amp; textile articles</b>	1996	56,060	5,927,950
	1997	594,790	7,393,010
	1998	1,310,330	5,956,980
	1999	2,946,350	6,033,320
	2000	2,212,550	8,628,760
	2001	4,154,180	9,799,080
	2002	1,570,250	9,428,410
	2003	709,120	7,126,060
<b>Footwear, headgear</b>	1996	980	507,630
	1997	1,280	583,220
	1998	0	520,500
	1999	6,160	321,710
	2000	160,890	287,490
	2001	4,920	265,840
	2002	4,160	506,750
	2003	5,290	514,520
<b>Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos</b>	1996	940	775,330
	1997	3,250	850,430
	1998	1,410	1,096,220
	1999	6,890	911,680
	2000	16,830	1,048,860
	2001	21,650	817,810
	2002	92,470	1,228,590
	2003	40,280	1,482,510
<b>Pearls, (semi-)precious stones, metals</b>	1996	104,220	106,120
	1997	218,630	2,340,330
	1998	281,110	59,930
	1999	277,090	163,060
	2000	324,650	150,460
	2001	293,600	32,480
	2002	252,750	750,520
	2003	423,330	188,770
<b>Base metals &amp; articles thereof</b>	1996	182,650	5,969,880
	1997	57,490	5,003,170
	1998	180,990	4,020,340
	1999	75,280	2,517,890
	2000	414,160	3,707,670
	2001	167,920	3,617,510
	2002	96,190	3,278,940
	2003	14,070	7,476,020

<b>Machinery &amp; mechanical appliances</b>	1996	181,290	23,014,910	
	1997	137,960	26,539,660	
	1998	152,560	26,548,570	
	1999	440,160	26,503,350	
	2000	565,850	24,226,290	
	2001	420,590	34,367,790	
	2002	1,362,260	38,719,170	
	2003	459,160	35,226,700	
<b>Transportation equipment</b>	1996	167,420	25,296,590	
	1997	104,200	37,522,150	
	1998	48,030	40,839,520	
	1999	250,390	32,157,440	
	2000	66,180	62,553,990	
	2001	108,230	65,333,060	
	2002	655,640	71,368,490	
	2003	336,110	54,599,990	
<b>Instruments - measuring, musical</b>	1996	256,350	5,027,530	
	1997	31,970	3,749,820	
	1998	115,270	2,867,890	
	1999	237,790	2,656,730	
	2000	117,130	3,125,580	
	2001	236,100	3,736,280	
	2002	502,460	4,555,640	
	2003	328,880	6,055,480	
<b>Arms &amp; ammunition</b>	1996	0	10,200	
	1997	380	49,300	
	1998	0	20,840	
	1999	0	62,040	
	2000	0	140,800	
	2001	0	18,980	
	2002	0	54,260	
	2003	0	78,280	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1996	1,990	970,680	
	1997	260	1,847,480	
	1998	31,080	1,743,530	
	1999	11,750	1,841,460	
	2000	1,140	872,530	
	2001	67,390	1,488,550	
	2002	2,130	1,875,160	
	2003	63,450	2,033,670	
<b>Works of art</b>	1996	1,340	2,190	
	1997	1,180	0	
	1998	58,640	0	
	1999	930	0	
	2001	11,610	15,460	
	2002	37,970	22,090	
	2003	60,090	0	
			1996	10,070
1997		3,720	986,220	
1998		16,190	209,220	
1999		82,100	428,940	
2000		36,320	138,940	
2001		285,710	182,460	
2002		65,620	205,330	
2003		96,570	78,370	

**Agriculture and Fisheries**  
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Niger's economy is mainly based on agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and fishing, in which a large number of the rural population is also involved.

Most agricultural activities are carried out by farmers working on small family farms near villages using traditional methods. The main crops are millet and sorghum with the majority

of production being used for household consumption. The principal cash crops are cowpeas, groundnuts, sesame, onions and cotton. Around 20 per cent of the labour force works in stockbreeding and its contribution to GDP is some 10 per cent.

The rural sector is at the heart of the 1997 Economic Recovery Programme. Since 2000, the strategy for the development of the rural sector has been revised as part of the formulation of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), finalized in early 2002. Poverty reduction necessarily implies stronger and more sustainable growth of rural activities, in particular, agriculture and livestock breeding.

In the PRSP, emphasis is laid on better marketing of agricultural and livestock production by seeking and developing markets (including export markets), and on promoting the opening up of production areas in the interior by developing the road network and transport services. Niger intends to develop the export of agricultural products to WAEMU countries, neighbouring countries and the subregion (Central Africa, Ghana). Nigeria exempts local products of Niger origin from duty, pursuant to the provisions of the ECOWAS, but Niger indicates that bureaucratic problems are the main obstacles to development of these exports. As regards trade partners, the major problems are Niger's landlocked situation and the high cost of transport.

**Mining**  
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Niger is the world's third largest producer and exporter of uranium, after Canada and Australia, and its share of global production is some 9 per cent.

The Government hopes to boost foreign investment in the mining sector in order to exploit its potential. Investment goes through the Ministry of Mining and Energy, which is a single window for mining investment.

[back to top](#)

## TARIFFS AND DUTIES

Tariffs have been streamlined and lowered following the gradual introduction of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) common external tariff (CET) between 1998 and 2000. As a result, the simple average of MFN customs duties fell from 20 per cent to 12.1 per cent between 1997 and 2000.

Tariff actually applied

In addition to MFN customs duties, goods imported from countries not belonging to the WAEMU are subject to several additional duties: the statistical charge (RS) at a rate of 1 per cent, the community solidarity levy (PCS) of the WAEMU, at a rate of 1 per cent, and the ECOWAS community solidarity levy (PCS) at a rate of 0.5 per cent. The taxable base is the customs value.

[back to top](#)

## IPR

Niger is a member of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) established under the Bangui Agreement (1977). On 24 February 1999, the Bangui Agreement was revised to bring it into line with the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and Niger ratified the revised Agreement on 28 May 2002. The revised Agreement, together with Annexes I to VIII, entered into force on 28 February 2002.