

## **POPULATION DEMOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA**

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The most populous country in Africa, Nigeria accounts for approximately one sixth of the African population (or one fifth of Sub-Saharan African population). Approximately 50 % of Nigerians are urban dwellers. At least 24 cities have populations of more than 100,000. The variety of customs, languages, and traditions among Nigeria's 389 ethnic groups gives the country a cultural diversity. Nigeria suffers from a population explosion, with a current population in excess of 170 million (2012) and a growth rate of more than 2 % p.a. (or a doubling time of about 30 years), with all the associated problems such as youth bulge, crime, ethnic tension and high emigration.

Nigeria has experienced a population explosion for at least the last 50 years due to very high fertility rates, quadrupling its population during this time. Growth was fastest in the 1980s, after child mortality had dropped sharply, and has slowed slightly since then as the birth rate has sunk slightly. According to the 2012 revision of the World Population Prospects the total population was 159 708 000 in 2010, compared to only 37 860 000 in 1950. The proportion of children below the age of 15 in 2010 was 44.0 %, 53.2 % was between 15 and 65 years of age, while 2.7 % was 65 years or older.

According to the United Nations, the population of Nigeria will reach 440 million by 2050. Nigeria will then be the 3rd most populous country in the world. In 2100, the population of Nigeria will reach 914 million. According to the United States Census Bureau, the population of Nigeria will reach 402 million by 2050. Nigeria will then be the 4th most populous country in the world.

Age structure:

0–14 years: 43.8 % (male 39,127,615/female 37,334,281)

15–24 years: 19.3 % (male 17,201,067/female 16,451,357)

25–54 years: 30.1 % (male 25,842,967/female 26,699,432)

55–64 years: 3.8 % (male 3,016,896/female 3,603,048)

65 years and over: 3 % (male 2,390,154/female 2,840,722)

Median total age: 17.9 years, male – 17.4 years, female – 18.4 years. Population growth rate: 2.54 % o.

Birth rate: 38.8 births/1,000 population. Death rate: 13.2 deaths/1,000 population. Net migration rate: –0.22 migrant(s)/1,000 population. Urbanization: urban population: 50 % of total population (2010) rate of urbanization: 3.5 % annual rate of change (2010–15 est. Life expectancy at birth total population: 52.05 years, male – 48.95 years, female – 55.33 years.

According to a 2009 Pew survey 50.4 % of Nigeria's population were Muslims. Another Pew study in 2011 estimated that Christians now form the majority of the nation, comprising 50.8 % of the population. Adherents of other religions make up 1.4 % of the population.

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