

# NIGERIA

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

Nigeria, a country in West Africa, is home to more than 211 million people. As of 2022, over 154 million people have access to the internet ([Internet World Stats](#)), indicating a significant improvement in the country's digital inclusion. In 2021, Nigeria's ICT sector contributed over 11 trillion naira (24 billion USD) to the economy, with the sector expected to create over 3 million jobs by 2027.

Population Using Internet (2021)	154 Million
ICT Share of GDP (2022 Q4)	16.51 Percent
Cost of Internet Subscription (2022 Q3)	2.38 USD/1 GB

The Nigerian digital economy is experiencing significant growth driven by e-commerce, digital media, a tech-savvy demographic, and fintech services. To facilitate this growth, the Nigerian government has made significant investments in digital infrastructure and launched initiatives to improve digital usage and infrastructure. Nigeria's progress in digital literacy and tech-savvy demographic are encouraging indication of the country's willingness to embrace digital technologies. With continued investment and support, the digital sector in Nigeria can contribute even greater to the country's economic growth and job creation.

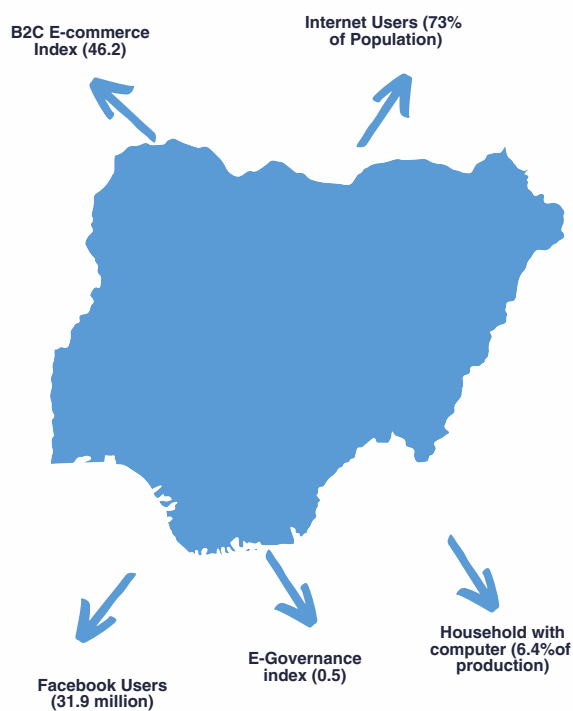
## DIGITAL ADOPTION

In Nigeria, digital adoption is gaining traction with the businesses, government, and citizens adopting digital technologies to improve efficiency and connectivity. Nigeria is ranked by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) as Africa's eighth largest B2C e-commerce market. Nigeria's high rank is due to increase in postal dependability as measured by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the volume of both customers as well as revenue.

The availability of affordable smartphones, internet connectivity, and digital payment platforms has also led to the widespread adoption of digital technologies by businesses in Nigeria.

Also, Nigeria's government has made some progress in its digital adoption efforts, as evidenced by its e-government development score. In 2018, Nigeria scored 0.38, and by 2022, its score had improved to 0.45. The Treasury Single Account (TSA), Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), e-Passport system and the e-Naira are examples of initiatives that the government has taken to promote digital adoption.

Citizens are also participating in the digitalization trend, with 73 percent of active internet users in Nigeria utilizing social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp for communication and business purposes. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated digital technology adoption in Nigeria, as various economic agents (government, businesses, and individuals) worked remotely, attending online classes, and using digital platforms for entertainment and communication. However, digital adoption in Nigeria faces several challenges despite government’s initiatives, including a lack of adequate infrastructure, limited access to digital technology in rural areas, high internet access costs, shortage of relevant digital skills, and inconsistencies in legal and regulatory frameworks for the digital economy. Additionally, concerns about the security of digital systems and the likelihood of cybercrime persist.



### DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN PLACE

Nigeria's digital governance is in its early stages, but the government has made notable progress in the policy and institutional environments. For the policy frameworks, the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation for example, establishes the rights of data subjects and provides a framework for personal data collection, processing, storage, and sharing. The government has also enacted the Cybercrime Act, which makes various types of cybercrime illegal. To protect personal information and ensure secure storage, the Nigerian government also developed the

Consumer Code of Practice Regulations 2007 and Consumer Protection Framework 2016. There is the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS), a policy and strategic framework developed by the Nigerian government to drive the growth and development of the digital economy in the country. Furthermore, Nigeria has an existing National Broadband Plan that aims to enhance broadband penetration and ensure that high-quality and affordable internet access is available to more Nigerians.

The government of Nigeria has also implemented multiple programs aimed at developing digital skills, such as the Digital Skills for Africa program. The primary objectives of this program include creating a conducive atmosphere for digital innovation, improving digital infrastructure, and promoting digital literacy and skill acquisition.

Also, Nigeria has taken significant steps towards digital transformation in its digital institutional environment, supported by the establishment of various structures. These include the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). Moreover, through National Identity Management Commission, the government has introduced a digital identification system.

Organization	Role	Year of Establishment
Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB)	Responsible for the supervision and regulation of data protection in Nigeria	2022
National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)	Responsible for creating, managing, and maintaining a centralized database of Nigerians' identity information.	2007
The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)	Responsible for implementing Nigeria's Information technology policy in the country.	2001
The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)	Responsible for regulating the country's telecommunications industry.	1992

Data Governance Laws	Status
Status of Malabo Convention	Absent
Cybercrime Law	Drafted
Electronic Transaction Regulation	Drafted
Consumer Protection Law	Present
Privacy and Data Protection Laws	Present
Data Governance Institution	Present

Despite these efforts, Nigeria's digital governance framework has significant gaps. For instance, regulatory bodies responsible for implementing data protection regulations in Nigeria often lack the funding capacity to carry out their mandates effectively. As a regional economic and political leader, Nigeria has not utilized its position to foster regional cooperation around digital development.

## RECENT DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria recently introduced National Data Policy, designed to govern data management and governance between 2023 and 2027. The policy aims to address issues surrounding data protection, privacy, security, and accessibility in Nigeria. The implementation of this policy is expected to catalyze Nigeria's digital economy, leading to job creation and economic expansion.

The Nigerian government has also released a National Blockchain Policy with the aim to boost economic growth, transparency accountability, and innovation. This will further consolidate Nigeria's leadership in spearheading digital transformation in the the financial sector with innovation such as digital currency (e-Naira).

In the area of e-governance, the 2023 National Election witnessed the introduction of digital technology for election management, the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV). The introduction of these systems by INEC is aimed at improving the credibility and accuracy of the electoral process through digital technology. However, the challenges that attended the technology deployment during the election illustrates the capacity and infrastructure issues in digital adoption.

## SUMMARY OF KEY INDICATORS

Digital Preparedness Indicator	Rank in Africa	Score
Digital Preparedness Index 2022	18/38	0.48
Education and Skills	20/38	0.36
Infrastructural Readiness	23/38	0.39
Macroeconomic Fundamentals	5/38	0.66
Business Dynamism and Environment	12/38	0.58
Regulatory Framework and Govt Effectiveness	25/38	0.54

Digital Development Indicators	Rank in Africa	Score
Global Cybersecurity Index	7/44	80.0
Total Number of Colocation Data Centre	2/16	10
Internet Speed (KBps)	8/49	3,854
Fixed-telephone subscriptions (per 100 person)	34/37	0.05
Digital Skills (not at all 1 - 7 to a great extent)	25/35	3.42
E-Participation Index	19/54	0.3