



General facts		Source
Surface area (km ²)	923,770	World Bank
Population	158,423,182 (2010)	World Bank
Population density (people/km ²)	171	UN DESA
GDP (USD millions)	415,132 [purchasing power parity (PPP), at current international prices, 2011]	IMF
GDP per person (USD)	2,589 (PPP, at current international prices, 2011)	IMF

ICT indicators (per 100 people)		Source
Fixed telephone lines	0.66 (2010)	ITU
Mobile cellular subscriptions	55.10 (2010)	ITU
Internet users	28.43 (2010)	ITU
Fixed broadband internet subscribers	0.06 (2010)	ITU

Summary of regulatory authorities

- National Frequency Management Council (NFMC):** Located within the Ministry of Information and Communications, it is the apex body for spectrum management and the primary sponsor of and influence on the government's frequency spectrum policies and legislation. The NFMC is responsible for the planning, coordination and bulk trans-sectoral allocation of radio spectrum to the National Communications Commission, the National Broadcasting Commission and the Ministry. The NFMC is the focal coordinator of all frequency spectrum activities. It is chaired by the minister of Information and Communications and consists of high-level representatives of other ministries.
- The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC):** The regulator of the telecommunications industry, with wide discretionary powers to plan, manage, assign and monitor the use of spectrum by commercial users of telecommunications services. The Commission develops and publishes radio frequency regulations and standards for the industry. The NCC is the most dominant regulator due to the significantly larger market size of the telecommunications industry vis-à-vis broadcasting and public services, and its role in the economy. The NCC appears to be playing a central role in the development of frequency spectrum policies as the de facto manager of the NFMC.
- National Broadcasting Commission (NBC):** Charged with regulating the broadcast industry, setting broadcast standards and upholding equity and fairness in broadcasting. It assigns the broadcast frequencies it receives from the NFMC to private and public radio and TV stations.
- Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC):** Through the Department of Spectrum Management, the MoIC is responsible for the formulation and monitoring of communications policies, international treaties and national representation in international organisations. With the establishment and increased legislative empowerment of both the NCC and NBC, the MoIC's functions have gradually been limited to the management and assignment of frequencies to government and non-commercial users, including the military, security services, diplomatic missions, volunteer organisations and non-profit groups. The Ministry is the secretariat of the NFMC and acts as the custodian of all frequencies in Nigeria.

Summary of laws and policies

- Draft National Information Communication Technology (ICT) Policy www.commtch.gov.ng/downloads/National_ICT_Policy_DRAFT_090112.pdf
- National Radio Frequency Management Policy (issued by the National Frequency Management Council)
- Nigerian Communications Act 2003 www.ncc.gov.ng/component/docman/doc_download/128-nigerian-communications-act-2003.html
- National Broadcasting Commission Act No. 38 of 1992 <http://nigeria-law.org/National%20Broadcasting%20Commission%20Decree%201992.htm>
- National Broadcasting Commission (Amendment) Decree No. 55 of 1999 [http://www.nigeria-law.org/National%20Broadcasting%20Commission%20\(Amendment\)%20Decree%20No%2055%20of%201999.htm](http://www.nigeria-law.org/National%20Broadcasting%20Commission%20(Amendment)%20Decree%20No%2055%20of%201999.htm)
- Wireless Telegraphy Act 1990 as amended 2004
There is intense debate on the applicability of the Wireless Telegraphy Act as it was omitted from the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990, though it continues to be cited by recent laws and amendments.
- Commercial Frequency Management Policy (Administrative Procedures and Technical Guidelines) 2007 www.ncc.gov.ng/component/docman/doc_download/137-commercial-frequency-management-policy-administrative-procedures-a-technical-guidelines.html
- Frequency Spectrum Fees and Pricing (Amendment) Regulations 2009 www.ncc.gov.ng/component/docman/doc_download/73-frequency-pricing-regulations-amended.html
- Guidelines for Deployment of Broadband Services on the 5.2-5.9 GHz Band www.ncc.gov.ng/component/docman/doc_download/59-guidelines-for-deployment-of-broadband-services-on-the-52-59ghz-band.html
- Guidelines for the Use of 2.4GHz ISM Band for Commercial Telecom Services (Deployment of Wi-Fi) www.ncc.gov.ng/component/docman/doc_download/64-guidelines-for-deployment-of-wifi-services.html

Methods for allocation of frequencies

Spectrum allocation in Nigeria is handled by three regulatory bodies: the NCC, for commercial providers and users of telecommunications equipment and services; the NBC, for public and private broadcasting organisations; and the MoIC, for government bodies and non-commercial users of spectrum.

Frequency spectrum licences in telecommunications are categorised into short-term permits with a tenure of four months, medium-term permits lasting one year, or long term licences with a tenure of five, ten or fifteen years. Regular licences range from five to fifteen years. The NCC reserves the right to change the duration, terms and conditions of any frequency spectrum licence. Nearly all frequency spectrum licences are automatically renewable as long as they are being utilised and the licensee is up to date in fee payments.

Broadcast licences have a renewable life span, although, as part of the renewal process, the Commission conducts a public hearing where the licensee's audience is invited to freely comment on the quality of the operator's service and the desirability of renewing the licence. The licensee is also required to clear any outstanding financial and administrative obligations to the Commission.

The modes by which the NCC awards licences and assigns frequencies appear to have been based on a combination of commercial value, optimal usage, uniform development across geographies and, to some extent, universal access and service. These policy objectives have led to competitive methods of licensing and frequency assignment, including open or selective auctions (either by way of lotteries or «beauty contests»), tenders, and fixed price as determined by the Commission.

Spectrum with the potential for increasing internet access

Frequencies	Current situation	Potential use
450 MHz	6.25 MHz available, proposed for assignment to commercial operators. It is unknown when the process will be adopted.	Fixed wireless connectivity for the rural market, mobile broadband (4G).
470-860 MHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Fixed wireless connectivity for the rural market, mobile broadband (4G).
700 MHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Potential application in wireless mobile broadband, mobile broadband (4G).
1.2-1.6 GHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Can be used by telecommunication operators and for mobile broadband.
2.4 GHz (WiFi spectrum)	Free for private use. Commercial operators require a licence.	WiFi, university/school LAN, public access, WiMAX, mass market potential.
2.5-2.7 GHz	1900 MHz available, proposed for assignment to commercial operators. It is unknown when the process will be adopted.	GSM mobile, mobile broadband (3G/4G/LTE), WiMAX.
2.7-2.9 GHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Can be used by telecommunication operators and for mobile broadband.
3.5 GHz	35 MHz spread spectrum available, proposed for assignment to commercial operators. It is unknown when the process will be adopted.	Rural market, GSM mobile, mobile broadband (3G/4G/LTE), WiMAX.
3.6-4.2 GHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Can be used by telecommunication operators and for mobile broadband.
4.4-5 GHz	Migration to digital broadcasting in 2015 will free up frequencies within this spectrum.	Can be used by telecommunication operators and for mobile broadband.
5 GHz, 5.8 GHz (WiFi spectrum)	Free for private use. Commercial operators require a licence.	WiFi, university/school LAN, public access, WiMAX, mass market potential
24 GHz	Free for private use. Commercial operators require a licence.	Broadband wireless access, mass market potential, public access.
26 GHz	100 MHz proposed for assignment to commercial operators. It is unknown when the process will be adopted.	Broadband wireless access, mass market potential, public access.