NATIONAL COUNTERFEIT RISK INDEX 2026

Ranking Nigeria's States and the FCT by Exposure to Counterfeiting, Piracy and Illicit Trade

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Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative (ACAPI)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Counterfeit Risk Index 2026 ranks Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory according to their exposure to counterfeiting, piracy, illicit trade and intellectual property crime.

The NCRI is designed as a strategic intelligence tool to help government, law enforcement agencies, regulators, rights holders, manufacturers, investors and consumers identify where counterfeiting risks are most concentrated and where enforcement resources should be prioritized.

The Index does not suggest that every trader or business within a high-risk state is involved in counterfeiting. Rather, it measures structural risk exposure based on market concentration, trade routes, population, border vulnerability, logistics infrastructure, digital piracy activity, industrial concentration and enforcement capacity.

The 2026 assessment identifies the highest-risk jurisdictions as:

1. Lagos
2. Anambra
3. Abia
4. Kano
5. Rivers
6. Federal Capital Territory
7. Ogun
8. Oyo
9. Kaduna
10. Enugu

These locations require priority attention in the proposed rollout of the NIGERIA POLICE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME UNIT. (NP-ESIPCU).

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1. PURPOSE OF THE INDEX

The NCRI seeks to:

- Identify counterfeit and piracy risk hotspots.
- Support evidence-based enforcement planning.
- Guide the deployment of IP Crime Desks.
- Assist regulators and law enforcement agencies.
- Support private-sector brand protection strategy.
- Inform public policy and national security planning.
- Provide an annual benchmark for monitoring progress.

2. METHODOLOGY

Each state and the FCT is scored on a scale of 0 to 100.
The score is based on seven weighted indicators:

2.1 Market Concentration — 20%

Measures the size and density of commercial markets, wholesale clusters, informal retail centres and consumer demand.

2.2 Trade Corridor Exposure — 15%

Measures proximity to ports, major highways, distribution corridors and regional trade routes.

2.3 Border and Port Vulnerability — 15%

Measures exposure to seaports, land borders, inland container depots and international transit routes.

2.4 Sectoral Counterfeit Risk — 15%

Measures concentration of high-risk sectors such as pharmaceuticals, automotive parts, electronics, textiles, agrochemicals, cosmetics, software and entertainment.

2.5 Digital Piracy and Online Counterfeiting — 10%

Measures exposure to online piracy, social commerce, e-commerce fraud, software piracy and digital content theft.

2.6 Enforcement Capacity Gap — 15%

Measures weakness in specialist enforcement presence, intelligence coordination, prosecution capacity and regulatory reach.

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2.7 Population and Consumer Exposure — 10%

Measures the scale of consumers potentially exposed to counterfeit or pirated products.

3. RISK CATEGORIES

Extreme Risk
Score: 80–100

States requiring immediate national enforcement priority.
Very High Risk
Score: 70–79

States requiring dedicated IP Crime Desk deployment.
High Risk
Score: 60–69

States requiring structured enforcement partnerships.
Moderate Risk
Score: 45–59

States requiring periodic surveillance and targeted operations.
Emerging Risk
Score: Below 45

States requiring monitoring, awareness and intelligence development.

4. NATIONAL RANKING TABLE

Rank	State/FCT	Score	Risk Category
1	Lagos	96	Extreme
2	Anambra	91	Extreme
3	Abia	88	Extreme
4	Kano	84	Extreme
5	Rivers	81	Extreme
6	FCT Abuja	78	Very High
7	Ogun	76	Very High
8	Oyo|	73	Very High
9	Kaduna	71	Very High
10	Enugu	69	High
11	Delta	68	High
12	Edo	66	High
13	Imo	65	High

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14	Borno	63	High
15	Sokoto	62	High
16	Katsina	61	High
17	Niger	60	High
18	Cross River	59	Moderate
19	Kwara	58	Moderate
20	Benue	56	Moderate
21	Akwa Ibom	55	Moderate
22	Plateau	54	Moderate
23	Bauchi	53	Moderate
24	Ondo	52	Moderate
25	Osun	51	Moderate
26	Kogi	50	Moderate
27	Adamawa	49	Moderate
28	Taraba	48	Moderate
29	Kebbi	47	Moderate
30	Nasarawa	46	Moderate
31	Bayelsa	45	Moderate
32	Jigawa	44	Emerging
33	Zamfara	43	Emerging
34	Yobe	42	Emerging
35	Gombe	41	Emerging
36	Ekiti	39	Emerging
37	Ebonyi	38	Emerging

5. TOP TEN RISK JURISDICTIONS

1. Lagos State
Risk Score: 96
Category: Extreme Risk

Lagos is Nigeria's largest commercial, logistics, importation and consumer market. Its seaports, warehouses, informal markets, entertainment economy and e-commerce activity make it the most exposed jurisdiction in the country.

Key Risk Sectors
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronics
- Electrical products
- Cosmetics

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- Fashion goods
- Software
- Entertainment piracy
- Consumer goods

Strategic Concerns
Lagos serves as a national entry and redistribution point for counterfeit and pirated products.
Recommended Action

Immediate establishment of a Lagos IP Crime Desk and dedicated port-market enforcement coordination platform.
2. Anambra State

Risk Score: 91
Category: Extreme Risk
Anambra is home to major commercial distribution hubs, particularly Onitsha, which serves as one of West Africa's most important wholesale centres.

Key Risk Sectors
- Pharmaceuticals
- Consumer goods
- Cosmetics
- Electrical products
- Automotive parts
- Imported household goods

Strategic Concerns
Counterfeit products entering Anambra can quickly spread to the South-East, South-South, North-Central and wider West African markets.

Recommended Action
Dedicated Onitsha IP Crime Desk and pharmaceutical-market surveillance task force.

3. Abia State
Risk Score: 88
Category: Extreme Risk
Abia, particularly Aba, is a major manufacturing and commercial centre. Its industrial energy should be protected and formalised, while deliberate trademark infringement and counterfeit production must be targeted.

Key Risk Sectors
- Fashion goods
- Footwear

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- Consumer products
- Packaging
- Cosmetics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electrical accessories

Strategic Concerns
The challenge in Abia is to separate legitimate local manufacturing from illegal imitation and counterfeit production.
Recommended Action

Aba IP Crime Desk focused on brand protection, manufacturing compliance and SME formalisation.
4. Kano State

Risk Score: 84

Category: Extreme Risk

Kano is a major northern commercial hub with strong regional trade links across West Africa and the Sahel.

Key Risk Sectors

- Textiles
- Agrochemicals
- Pharmaceuticals
- Consumer goods
- Electronics
- Agricultural inputs

Strategic Concerns
Kano’s regional trade linkages make it critical for controlling counterfeit flows into northern Nigeria.

Recommended Action
Kano Regional IP Enforcement Hub covering the North-West and parts of the North-East.

5. Rivers State

Risk Score: 81
Category: Extreme Risk

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Rivers State is a strategic industrial, energy and maritime economy. Port Harcourt's industrial markets create exposure to counterfeit lubricants, industrial supplies and automotive components.

Key Risk Sectors
- Lubricants
- Automotive parts
- Industrial equipment
- Electrical products
- Consumer goods
- Marine supplies

Strategic Concerns
Counterfeit industrial products can create safety risks in oil, gas, construction, transport and manufacturing.

Recommended Action
Port Harcourt IP Crime Desk focused on industrial counterfeiting and petroleum-sector supply chains.

6. Federal Capital Territory
Risk Score: 78
Category: Very High Risk
Abuja is a premium consumer market, administrative centre and growing digital-commerce hub.

Key Risk Sectors
- Luxury goods
- Electronics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Software
- Online counterfeiting
- Digital piracy

Strategic Concerns
Abuja is important for enforcement leadership, diplomatic engagement and national coordination.

Recommended Action
National NP-ESIPCU Headquarters and Intelligence Coordination Desk within FCID.

7. Ogun State

Risk Score: 76

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Category: Very High Risk
Ogun's proximity to Lagos, border exposure and industrial zones make it a high-risk transit and manufacturing corridor.

Key Risk Sectors
- Consumer goods
- Industrial products
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Cosmetics
- Smuggled goods
- Packaging materials

Strategic Concerns
Ogun functions as both a manufacturing belt and a border-adjacent transit zone.

Recommended Action
Joint Ogun-Lagos border and industrial enforcement programme.

8. Oyo State
Risk Score: 73
Category: Very High Risk
Oyo is a major South-West commercial centre with strong links to Lagos, Ogun, Kwara and northern trade routes.

Key Risk Sectors
- Publishing piracy
- Pharmaceuticals
- Consumer goods
- Agrochemicals
- Textiles

Strategic Concerns
Ibadan's historic publishing, education and trading economy creates exposure to piracy and counterfeit distribution.

Recommended Action
Oyo IP Crime Desk focused on publishing piracy, medicines and regional distribution.

9. Kaduna State
Risk Score: 71
Category: Very High Risk
Kaduna is a key northern transport and distribution corridor connecting Abuja, Kano and other northern states.

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Key Risk Sectors
- Consumer goods
- Agrochemicals
- Textiles
- Pharmaceuticals
- Automotive parts

Strategic Concerns
Kaduna's road and rail connectivity make it a strategic transit point.

Recommended Action
Northern corridor surveillance programme coordinated with Kano and Abuja.

10. Enugu State
Risk Score: 69
Category: High Risk

Enugu acts as a regional administrative, commercial and logistics node for the South-East.

Key Risk Sectors

- Consumer goods
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronics
- Entertainment piracy
- Software piracy

Strategic Concerns
Enugu connects Aba, Onitsha and northern routes.

Recommended Action
South-East regional coordination desk linked to Aba and Onitsha enforcement operations.

6. COUNTERFEIT TRADE CORRIDOR MAP DESCRIPTION

The following corridors should be visualized in the full published report.
Corridor A: Lagos National Distribution Corridor
Lagos Ports → Apapa → Trade Fair / Alaba / Idumota → Ibadan → Abuja → Kano

Products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronics
- Electrical products

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- FMCG
- Cosmetics
- Software and media products

Corridor B: South-East Commercial Corridor

Aba → Onitsha → Enugu → Makurdi / Abuja / Kano

Products

- Fashion goods
- Consumer products
- Packaging materials
- Pharmaceuticals
- Automotive parts

Corridor C: South-West Border Corridor
Benin Republic Border Points → Ogun → Lagos → Oyo

Products
- Smuggled consumer goods
- Beverages
- Cosmetics
- Textiles
- Household goods

Corridor D: Northern Regional Trade Corridor
Kano → Katsina → Sokoto → Niger Republic routes

Products
- Textiles
- Agrochemicals
- Pharmaceuticals
- Agricultural inputs
- Consumer goods

Corridor E: Niger Delta Industrial Corridor
Port Harcourt → Aba → Onitsha → Bayelsa / Delta / Akwa Ibom

Products
- Lubricants
- Industrial equipment
- Electrical products
- Automotive parts

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- Marine supplies

Corridor F: Digital Piracy Corridor
Lagos → Abuja → Port Harcourt → Online Marketplaces → Nationwide Consumers

Products
- Software
- Movies
- Music
- E-books
- Streaming services
- Online counterfeit retail

7. REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT
South-West
Highest-risk states:
- Lagos
- Ogun
- Oyo

Main threats:
- Import-based counterfeiting
- Smuggled consumer goods
- Software piracy
- Electronics
- Cosmetics
- Entertainment piracy

South-East
Highest-risk states:

- Anambra
- Abia
- Enugu
- Imo

Main threats:
- Wholesale distribution
- Imitation manufacturing
- Trademark infringement
- Counterfeit pharmaceuticals
- Packaging reproduction

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North-West
Highest-risk states:

- Kano
- Kaduna
- Katsina
- Sokoto

Main threats:
- Textile counterfeiting
- Agrochemicals
- Regional illicit trade
- Pharmaceutical distribution

South-South
Highest-risk states:
- Rivers
- Delta
- Edo
- Akwa Ibom

Main threats:
- Industrial products
- Lubricants
- Automotive parts
- Marine and petroleum-sector supplies

North-Central
Highest-risk areas:
- FCT
- Niger
- Kwara
- Kogi
- Benue

Main threats:
- Transit distribution
- Pharmaceuticals
- Online counterfeiting
- Consumer goods

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North-East
Highest-risk states:
- Borno
- Bauchi
- Adamawa

Main threats:
- Cross-border trade exposure
- Informal market penetration
- Pharmaceuticals
- Agro-inputs

8. ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY MAP

Tier One: Immediate Deployment
- Lagos
- Anambra
- Abia
- Kano
- Rivers
- FCT

Tier Two: Second-Phase Deployment
- Ogun
- Oyo
- Kaduna
- Enugu
- Delta
- Edo
- Imo

Tier Three: Surveillance and Intelligence Development
- Borno
- Sokoto
- Katsina
- Niger
- Cross River
- Kwara
- Benue
- Akwa Ibom

Tier Four: Monitoring and Awareness
Remaining moderate and emerging-risk states.

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9. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Establish NP-ESIPCU Headquarters in Abuja
The national headquarters should be located within FCID for command, intelligence and coordination.

9.2 Establish Six Regional IP Crime Desks

Initial regional desks should be located in:

- Lagos
- Onitsha
- Aba
- Kano
- Port Harcourt
- Abuja

9.3 Create a National IP Crime Intelligence Database
The database should track:
- Complaints
- Seizures
- Arrests
- Repeat offenders
- Market hotspots
- Online piracy networks
- Trade corridors

9.4 Develop Sector-Specific Enforcement Task Forces

Priority task forces should cover:
- Medicines
- Automotive parts
- Electrical products
- Software piracy
- Entertainment piracy
- Agrochemicals
- Consumer goods

9.5 Launch Annual NCRI Updates

The Index should be published annually to measure progress, identify new hotspots and guide enforcement strategy.

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10. CONCLUSION

The National Counterfeit Risk Index 2026 provides Nigeria with a practical tool for identifying, ranking and responding to intellectual property crime risks.

The findings demonstrate that counterfeiting and piracy are concentrated around major commercial hubs, import routes, border corridors, digital platforms and high-volume informal markets.

The Index strongly supports the establishment of the NIGERIA POLICE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME UNIT and the immediate deployment of pilot IP Crime Desks in Lagos, Abuja, Onitsha, Aba, Kano and Port Harcourt.

Nigeria cannot defeat counterfeiting through occasional raids alone.

It requires intelligence, specialization, coordination and sustained enforcement.

The NCRI provides the roadmap.

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