

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Republika y'u Rwanda  
(Republic of Rwanda)

**Head of State:** President Paul Kagame (FPR) (elected 2000; re-elected Aug 2010)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Pierre Damien Habumuremyi (from 7 Oct 2011)

**Ruling party:** Coalition led by Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR) (Rwandan Patriotic Front) (Tutsi-dominated) with six other political parties (elected 2003; re-elected Sep 2008 and Sep 2013)

**Area:** 26,338 square km

**Population:** 10.42 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Kigali

**Official language:** Kinyarwanda, French and English.

**Currency:** Rwanda franc (Rwf)

**Exchange rate:** Rwf650.50 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$693 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 7.69% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$7.22 billion (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 6.29% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$1.38 billion (2012)\*

**Annual FDI:** US\$160.00 million (2011)

\* estimated figure

# Rwanda



Rwanda is generally not considered a resource-rich country. It has so far not experienced the kind of major discovery recently observed elsewhere in the region (such as oil deposits in Kenya and Uganda, natural gas in Tanzania). Minerals, however, constitute an important part of Rwanda's exports, although their contribution has been erratic. Cassiterite, coltan and wolfram together accounted for 28.2 per cent of total exports in 2012. The country has 450 mine sites, relying on about 25,000 artisanal diggers. Even though there were significant increases in investment in 2012, the government argues that the mining potential remains largely untapped.

Despite the government's sustained efforts to diversify the economy, the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, reports that Rwanda is still heavily dependent on natural resources and commodities, which provide 77 per cent of exports. Agriculture continues to be the largest source of employment, absorbing 73 per cent of the workforce, but it accounts for only 36 per cent of output. Coffee, tea, hides, skins and pyrethrum provide most farming exports. Rwanda possesses very few value adding agro-processing industries, except for tea and maize, although there are plans to process rice. The government is seeking

to improve agricultural production and productivity through a number of measures, including the adoption of new crops and better land management. Around 7 per cent of the government budget is spent on agriculture. This is significantly more than in neighbouring Uganda (4.5 per cent) and Kenya (1.6 per cent), but short of the African Union's 10 per cent target.

## The economy

Real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.5 per cent, 9.9 per cent and 7.3 per cent in the first, second and third quarters of 2012 respectively; Rwanda expects to meet the 7.7 per cent target for 2012. Services, which grew by 13.7 per cent, and industry, which grew by 5.9 per cent largely drove the GDP performance. Construction, transport and communication, finance and insurance buoyed the growth. Services and construction, spurred by public investments, such as the Kigali Convention Centre and the new Bugesera International Airport, are expected to continue driving economic expansion in the short to medium term. In addition, improved seeds, fertilisers and farm equipment will support growth in agriculture. Growth is projected to moderate to 7.1–7.3 per cent in 2013 and 2014 however, due to fiscal consolidation, a weak global economy and the impact of the possible continuation of aid suspension.

Rwanda's economy relies largely on services, which account for 46 per cent of GDP in 2012. Tourism has become the largest foreign exchange earners with US\$281.8 million in 2012, an increase of US\$30 million over 2011. In addition to tourism, public administration, education, transport, as well as storage and communications are responsible for the expansion of the service sector over the past decade.

Growth in agriculture – 3 per cent in the first three quarters of 2012 – was subdued relative to growth in services and industry. Given the lack of irrigation, agriculture remains highly vulnerable to the weather and the vicissitudes of climate change, as well as fluctuations in commodity prices.

The performance of the industrial sector remained upbeat in 2012, growing by 9.2 per cent, 7.3 per cent and 11.2 per cent during the first, second and third quarters, respectively; mainly from utilities (electricity and water) and construction inputs. The mining sector contracted by 5 per cent during this period, due to the decrease in both the production and international price of cassiterite. Given its major contribution to exports, the government is keen to invigorate the small mining sector. Rwanda registered US\$69.9 million worth of mining investments in 2012, compared to US\$24 million the previous year.

Exports grew by 24.8 per cent due to the diversification of markets and favourable international prices for tea and minerals, particularly coltan. Although tea exports suffered in the first half of 2012 because of poor weather, they recovered in the second half of the year, thanks to higher prices and greater production. Coffee exports have been disappointing, due to a sharp fall in international prices. Coffee, tea and minerals accounted for 54 per cent of total exports in 2012. Non-traditional exports such as textiles, beer and cosmetics have been developing rapidly, albeit from a very low base, suggesting that a processing industry may increase its share of GDP in the future.

Rising imports (primarily of food, construction materials, industrial products and fuel) overshadowed the export performance in 2012. Exports currently cover 22.9 per cent of imports slightly up from 20.5 per cent in 2011. However, given the low export base, the trade deficit widened to US\$1.28 billion, from US\$1.03 billion in 2011. High deficits will remain a significant challenge over the medium term, as the growing but still narrow export base fails to catch up sufficiently with the high demand for intermediate and energy products, and capital goods.

Remittances are a growing source of foreign exchange for Rwanda, expanding from just US\$25.1 million in 2006 to US\$175.2 million in 2012.

In spite of the positive contribution of tourism and remittances, the current account deficit, including grants, reflected the trade performance and increased to 10.5 per cent in 2012. The current-account deficit is, however, projected to recede in 2013 and return to single digits in 2014 because of the government's National Export Strategy. The National Export Strategy seeks to accelerate production and export growth for both traditional (coffee, tea, and minerals) and non-traditional (horticulture and business process outsourcing) sectors through various

interventions such as the establishment of export promotion councils and Special Economic Zones.

A slump in private and official capital inflows (excluding project grants) from US\$511.2 million in 2011 to US\$480 million in 2012 further contributed to an overall balance of payments deficit of 0.1 per cent of GDP in 2012. The combined effect of aid suspension and increased sales of foreign currency to finance imports contributed to a reduction in gross international reserves by 25 per cent to US\$843.45 million at end-2012 compared to end-2011. This also translated into a reduction in the import cover of international reserves from 5.1 months in 2011 to 4.8 months in 2012.

Foreign direct investment (FDI), in contrast to development assistance (that is, aid), increased by 50 per cent to US\$159.8 million in 2012, flowing mainly into energy and banking. Tourism, agro-processing and construction also attracted new investors, including Nandan Agro-processing Industries Ltd from Singapore and South Africa's cement manufacturer Pretoria Portland Cement.

With capital inflows projected to recover to US\$543 million for 2013, primarily to finance public and private investments, the overall balance of payments should register a surplus of 0.2 per cent of GDP in 2013. Assuming aid disbursements resume in 2013 (see below), estimates for international reserves suggest they will cover 4.5 to 5.0 months of imports in 2013 and 2014.

## Elections

President Paul Kagame's Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR) (Rwandan

Patriotic Front) won its third successive election in September 2013 with a resounding 76 per cent of the vote, although it did drop one seat over the previous election held in 2008. It was unlikely to have been otherwise with Mr Kagame reportedly remarking even as voting was taking place that he had 'no reason to believe' that the FPR would achieve anything but a win. Mr Kagame's term as president does not end until 2017 and it is thought that parliament will attempt to change the constitution to allow him to run for a third seven-year term.

The government had its knuckles rapped by the United Nations (UN) in 2012 for its apparent involvement in on-going battles in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although Rwanda pledged to help 'resolve' the insurgency in eastern DRC it has been reported as being implicated in supporting the March 23 Movement (M23) rebels in DRC through the training of troops in Rwanda and supplying some recruits (a number of which were deemed under-aged) to the insurgency. This resulted in the suspension of budget support from key development partners. The Rwandan authorities strongly denied these claims. Aid is expected to resume in 2013, especially since the M23 have surrendered to the DRC government forces.

Rwanda relies heavily on foreign assistance, receiving US\$1.03 billion in 2010 from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) members, notably the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom. In per capita terms, Rwanda is still one of the most

KEY INDICATORS		Rwanda				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*9.68	*9.80	*10.41	*10.21	*10.42
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	4.50	5.20	5.60	6.20	*7.22
GDP per capita	US\$	465	533	562	605	*693
GDP real growth	%	11.2	4.1	7.5	8.8	*7.7
Inflation	%	15.4	10.3	2.3	5.7	*6.3
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	257.0	193.0	297.3	-	*590.7
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	880.0	961.0	1,084.0	-	*1,967.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-623.0	-768.0	-786.7	-	*-1,376.2
Current account	US\$m	-252.0	-379.0	-421.4	-463.0	*-786.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	596.3	742.7	812.8	752.4	*847.8
Foreign exchange	US\$m	564.9	611.8	684.2	619.1	*721.1
Exchange rate	per US\$	546.85	568.28	583.13	599.65	628.33
* estimated figure						

heavily aid-dependent countries in East Africa. It has become less reliant on foreign assistance in recent years though: budget support financed 44.0 per cent of total government spending in 2011, down from 52.5 per cent in 2004.

### Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

### COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Historical profile

1899 Rwanda, which for a long time had been an independent monarchy, was absorbed into German East Africa.

1916 It was taken over by Belgium, along with what is now Burundi.

1918 After the First World War ended, the two became Ruanda-Urundi, a Belgian-administered trust territory of the League of Nations (and later, the UN).

1950s Belgium had generally favoured the minority Tutsis as their Rwandan auxiliaries. They flourished and became more educated and prosperous than the majority Hutus. However, it was the Tutsis who agitated for independence after the Second World War and the Belgians switched their allegiance, promoting the Hutus, thereby laying the seeds of the genocide to follow. Belgian missionaries also encouraged the formation of a modern Hutu identity.

1959–63 Vengeful Hutus killed some 15,000 people, mainly Tutsis. Some 100,000 Tutsis fled, mainly to Uganda and Burundi.

1961 Rwanda's monarchy was abolished and a republic was proclaimed.

1962 Independence was granted. Belgium pulled out of the region.

1973 President Gregoire Kayibanda, was overthrown by Major General Juvenal Habyarimana. Habyarimana began a regime that stripped the Tutsis of their wealth and status; an estimated one million fled the country. The Front Patriotique Rwandais (Rwandan Patriotic Front) (RPF) was formed from this group, aiming to invade Rwanda and overthrow Habyarimana.

1990 Some 10,000 rebel Tutsi guerrillas the (RPF) invaded Rwanda from Uganda and occupied several towns.

1993 President Habyarimana signed a power-sharing agreement with the Tutsis (the Arusha Accord). A UN mission was sent to monitor the agreement.

1994 The death of Habyarimana in a plane crash (which also killed the president of Burundi), triggered the breakdown of civil society. Extremist Hutu militia began the systematic murder of Tutsis.

Within four months an estimated 800,000

Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. The Tutsis RPF forced the militia to flee, taking with them around two million Hutu refugees, who fled in fear of reprisal for the genocide, into neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Burundi.

1995 The militia responsible for the genocide were able to take control of the refugee camps and deter people from returning to Rwanda on pain of death. Mass repatriation efforts were complicated by screening operations, which were needed to identify genocide rebels from genuine refugees. President Pasteur Bizimungu and a transitional coalition government were sworn in. Rwanda applied to become a member of the Commonwealth.

1999 An extension of the transitional government's term of office was approved.

2000 Pasteur Bizimungu resigned and Paul Kagame was officially elected president (the first Tutsi to hold presidential office since Rwanda's independence in 1961) in a joint vote of the Rwandan legislature and cabinet. Ethnic Hutu, Bernard Makuza, was appointed prime minister.

2001 A peace agreement was signed between Rwanda and Uganda. A new national flag, emblem and anthem were unveiled. Gacaca courts, based on traditional courts, were set up to try those accused of involvement in the genocide. The accused were classified by four categories: planners, authors, perpetrators of human deaths and perpetrators of property theft. The gacaca courts sat in mostly rural areas and tried local inhabitants accused of relatively low level crimes.

2002 Rwanda and DRC signed a peace agreement.

2003 In a referendum, voters approved a new, more democratic constitution. Incumbent Paul Kagame won the presidential elections and the ruling party, FPR, won the parliamentary elections.

2004 Kagame denied he ordered the attack on the president's plane in 1994 which had sparked the genocide. Former president Bizimungu was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for embezzlement and inciting violence.

2005 The Forces Democratiques de Liberation du Rwanda (FDLR) (Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda) declared a cease-fire. A mass release of 36,000 prisoners took place as part of the process of reconciliation; many had confessed to acts of genocide.

2006 The country's 12 administrative provinces were replaced by a larger number of ethnically-diverse districts. Roman Catholic priest, Fr Athanase Seromba, was convicted of involvement in the genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and sentenced to 15

years imprisonment. Relations with France deteriorated as a French judge investigating the shooting down of President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane in 1994 and the killing of its French crew, accused President Kagame and nine top officials with involvement in the assassination. The president has immunity from prosecution as head of state and he strenuously denied the RPF were responsible for the death of the former president. A counter claim by Rwandan officials accused French authorities of attempting to divert international attention away from French collaboration in the Hutu regime responsible for the genocide. The Mouvement Democratique Republicain (MDR) (Democratic Republican Movement) was banned following allegations that it promoted genocide ideology.

2007 The Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL) (Great Lakes Countries Economic Community) was re-launched by Burundi, DRC and Rwanda. CEPGL is intended to promote regional economic co-operation and integration. President Kagame pardoned former president Pasteur Bizimungu. The death penalty was repealed. The traditional Gacaca courts trying genocide suspects, had their mandate extended into 2007. Rwanda became a full member of the East African Community (EAC).

2008 Accusations and counter-accusations of who was responsible for the 1994 genocide broke out between Rwanda and France following the acquittal by a French Appeals court of two men said to have played crucial roles in the slaughter – one a former priest and the other a former provincial governor. At the same time arrest warrants were issued in France for senior aides to President Kagame, accused of responsibility for the aeroplane crash of former president Habyarimana. In parliamentary elections the ruling FPR (predominately ethnic Tutsi) won 78.8 per cent (42 seats out of 53 directly elected seats), the opposition (predominately ethnic Hutu) Parti Social Démocrate (Social Democratic Party) (SDP) won 13.1 per cent (7 seats); turnout was 96.5 per cent. The ICTR, convicted former army general Theoneste Bagosora of inciting the 1994 genocide and sentenced him to life in prison; Bagosora and two co-defendants had led a Hutu committee that organised the massacre of ethnic Tutsis. He had also set up the *Interahamwe* (gangs of Hutu extremists), which carried out much of the killings.

2009 Rwandan government troops crossed into DRC in a joint military operation to eliminate Rwandan Hutu militia, exiled in DRC since 1994 and causing widespread mayhem in DRC's eastern province, and generally destabilising the

region. Former general and rebel leader Laurent Nkunda was arrested in Rwanda, having fled his stronghold in Bunagana (DRC). The Tanzanian-based ICTR, found Callixte Kalimanzira guilty of genocide and sentenced him to 30 years in jail. He had been interior minister and a close ally of then president, Bizimungu. The defence ministry announced that Rwanda was free of unexploded ordnance (UXO), after it completed a de-mining campaign ahead of the 2010 deadline set by the Ottawa Convention. Rwanda was admitted as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

2010 French President Nicolas Sarkozy made an historic visit to Rwanda and acknowledged that France had made 'serious errors of judgement' during the 1994 genocide; but he did not voice an apology. Transparency International, the Berlin-based anti-corruption watchdog, included Rwanda in its East African bribery survey for the first time, where it scored best in East Africa with a prevalence of 6.6 per cent. Critics said this was because Rwanda was a police state. Four candidates took part in presidential elections. Incumbent Paul Kagame (FPR) won with 93.1 per cent of the vote while his closest rival, Jean Ntawukuriyayo (SDP), won 5.1 per cent; turnout was 97.5 per cent.

2011 Joseph Habineza, minister for youth and sport, resigned in February following allegations of improper behaviour after photographs taken in 2008 appeared on the internet. In May the ICTR, in Arusha found former army chief Augustin Bizimungu guilty of genocide and sentenced him to 30 years in prison. Augustin Ndindiliyimana was found guilty at the same time, but while Bizimungu was said to have been in 'complete' control of the men he commanded, Ndindiliyimana had only 'limited control' and was given a lesser prison sentence of 12 years. President Kagame appointed Bernard Makuza as a senator and replaced him as prime minister with Pierre Habumuremyi, who took office in October.

2012 On 28 May, the UN revealed evidence that Rwanda was supporting the rebellion in the eastern region of DRC through the training of troops in Rwanda and supplying some recruits (a number of which was deemed under-aged) to the insurgency. The government denied the charge. On 31 May the former youth minister; Callixte Nzabonimana, was convicted of genocide, conspiracy, incitement and extermination of Tutsis during the massacres of 1994. He was given a life sentence of imprisonment. The (*gacaca*) courts, set up in 2001 to administer community justice locally to those considered to be involved in the genocide, were

terminated in June. Around 120,000 in total accused persons were tried by these courts. On 15 July the AU brokered an agreement between DRC and Rwanda to allow a neutral, international force to patrol their mutual border and tackle the militia forces active in the region. In November, Rwanda was voted as one of the top-ten destinations for adventure holidays in 2013, according to *Globe Spots* (an international travel guide). 2013 The RPF won a landslide victory of 76 per cent (40 out of 53 seats) in the directly elected portion of parliamentary elections held on 16 September.

## Political structure

### Constitution

A new 2003 constitution prevents a one-party dominance of the political system and bans incitement to racial hatred. It stipulates that no party can hold more than 50 per cent of the seats in cabinet, even if it secures an absolute majority in parliamentary elections.

The president, prime minister and president of the lower house cannot belong to the same party.

### Form of state

Republic

### The executive

The president is eligible for election for a maximum of two seven-year terms. Candidates must be Rwandan and over 35 years of age. Election is by universal suffrage with a simple majority of votes cast.

### National legislature

The bicameral Inteko Ishinga Amategeko (Parlement) (parliament) consists of a lower and upper chambers. The Umutwe w'Abadepite (Chambre des Députés) (Chamber of Deputies) has 80 members, of which 53 are elected by proportional representation, 24 are female members elected by provincial councils, two are elected by the National Youth Council and one by the Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons. All deputies serve five-year terms.

The Umutwe wa Sena (Sénat) (senate) has 26 members, 12 of whom are elected, eight are appointed by the president, four are designated by the Forum of Political Organisations and two are appointed by the universities or institutions of higher learning. All serve eight-year terms. In addition, former heads of state may become members, providing they completed their terms in office or resigned voluntarily.

### Last elections

16 September 2013 (parliamentary); 9 August 2010 (presidential).

**Results:** Parliamentary: Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR) (Rwandan Patriotic Front) won 76 per cent (40 seats) of the 53 directly elected seats.

Presidential: Paul Kagame won 93.1 per cent of the vote, Jean Ntawukuriyayo 5.1 per cent; turnout was 97.5 per cent.

### Next elections

2018 (chamber of deputies); 2017 (presidential).

## Political parties

### Ruling party

Coalition led by Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR) (Rwandan Patriotic Front) (Tutsi-dominated) with six other political parties (elected 2003; re-elected Sep 2008)

### Main opposition party

Social Democratic Party (SDP)

## Population

10.42 million (2012)\*

**Last census:** 16 August 2002:

8,128,553

**Population density:** 300 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 19 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 2.0 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

### Ethnic make-up

There are three ethnic groups: the Hutu (90 per cent), the Tutsi (9 per cent) and the Twa (1 per cent).

### Religions

Roman Catholic (56 per cent), Protestant (26 per cent), Adventist (11.1 per cent), Islam (4.6 per cent), indigenous beliefs (0.1 per cent).

## Education

On completion of primary education, a competitive entrance examination allows students to progress to the first cycle secondary school for general education, from age 13 to 16. The second cycle secondary school covers either modern or classical humanities, from age 16 to 19.

Technical education is provided for students who have completed two to three years general secondary education, although some may begin straight from primary education joining four-year courses. Education suffered badly as communities and the social infrastructure were devastated by the internal conflict of the early 1990s. This included the destruction of schools and educational institutions, as well as the loss of trained teachers. By 1998 it was estimated that approximately one-third of school-age children were not in school (having died or become refugees) and two-thirds of teachers were secondary school graduates with no teacher training (VSO 2003).

In October 2008 the government decided that all teaching classes would be undertaken using English instead of French. The decision will include every educational institution from nursery schools to universities. The decision was officially based on Rwanda joining the English-speaking East

African Community (EAC) and the increasing use of English in business circles. However the political tension with France since 1994, when France was accused of supporting the Hutu Militia in genocide, has also added to the government's commitment to change.

**Literacy rate:** 69 per cent adult rate; 85 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

**Compulsory years:** Seven to 13.

**Enrolment rate:** 95.5 per cent net primary (World Bank).

### Health

#### HIV/Aids

The average life expectancy of Rwandan citizens has reduced to under 40 due to the Aids epidemic. In 2003 there were 230,000 people HIV positive, of which 130,000 were women. There were also 22,000 children (0–17 years) with HIV/Aids and 160,000 orphans created by Aids. There has been evidence that national adult prevalence has fallen in Rwanda since reaching a peak in the mid-1990s (UNAID 2003).

**HIV prevalence:** 5.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 46 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 5.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

**Birth rate/Death rate:** 40 births per 1,000 population; 21.7 deaths per 1000 population (2003).

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 55 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

**Head of population per physician:** 0.05 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

### Welfare

More than half the population live below the national poverty line. According to the 2002 UN Development Report, 84.6 per cent of the population exist on less than US\$2 per day and 35.7 per cent on less than US\$1 per day.

### Main cities

Kigali (capital, estimated population 1.2 million in 2012), Ruhengeri (132,145), Gisenyi (127,587), Butare (115,704), Gitarama (86,741), Ruhango (84,836), Byumba (75,463), Cyangugu (69,992).

### Languages spoken

KiSwahili is also used among traders.

#### Official language/s

Kinyarwanda, French and English.

### Media

#### Press

There are only two domestically published newspapers, *La Nouvelle Relève* ([www.orinfor.gov.rw](http://www.orinfor.gov.rw)), is government owned and printed in French, *The New*

*Times* ([www.newtimes.co.rw](http://www.newtimes.co.rw)) is privately owned and printed in English.

A magazine, published regionally in French *Jeune Afrique* ([www.jeuneafrique.com](http://www.jeuneafrique.com)) covers news and interviews. Internet outlets in English include *Inside Rwanda* ([www.insideworld.com/rwanda](http://www.insideworld.com/rwanda)), and *Rwanda Information Exchange* ([www.rwanda.net](http://www.rwanda.net)), and in French, *Observatoire de l'Afrique Centrale* ([www.obsac.com](http://www.obsac.com)).

#### Broadcasting

**Radio:** Most residents of Rwanda receive their news from radio broadcasts and the most listened to radio station is the government-owned, commercial Radio Rwanda ([www.orinfor.gov.rw](http://www.orinfor.gov.rw)) broadcasting in KiSwahili, Kinyarwanda, French and English. There are six other private radio stations, including Radio Maria with religious programmes.

BBC radio broadcasts in the Kinyarwanda language were suspended in April 2009 due to a bias concerning the 1994 genocide as detected by the government. The BBC reports were considered to deny the genocide, a claim the BBC rejected saying its reports only differed from the interpretation the government had of the genocide.

**Television:** Television Rwandaise (TVR) is the only television broadcasting company in the country.

**Other news agencies:** This is no national news agency but the African Press Agency (APA) ([www.africannewsagency.org](http://www.africannewsagency.org)) and Panapress ([www.panapress.com](http://www.panapress.com)) report on news from Rwanda.

### Economy

Rwanda has few natural resources. The country's economy is still largely based on agriculture, dominated by small family-run farms. The service sector constitutes over 50 per cent of GDP, agriculture around 35 per cent and industry almost 15 per cent, of which, manufacturing is around 5 per cent. Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa and suffers from land shortages with the average farm size at half a hectare, enough for subsistence farming only. The land, with its steep mountain slopes, is not practical for most agribusiness purposes. Government land ownership has also increased pressure and reduced opportunities for development. Government aid and land reforms have been underway to give secure tenure and user rights since the 1990s. Agricultural production is led by exports of tea and coffee, plus pyrethrum (used in insect repellent), which together account for around 40 per cent of export earnings. GDP growth spiked in 2008 at 11.2 per cent, due to aid and grants provided by

donors, strong output in the service sector (tax revenue grew by 13.1 per cent during the fiscal year), as well as crop production (which fuelled exports). GDP growth slowed to 4.1 per cent in 2009 in the face of the global downturn, before strengthening in 2010 as world trade picked up with GDP growth of 7.5 per cent, which was estimated to have grown to 8.8 per cent in 2011.

The positive GDP growth was attributed to a robust expansion in agriculture facilitated by the government's crop-intensification programme (including providing seed and fertiliser to farmers and expanding harvest storage facilities) and good harvests. Industrial production, including manufacturing, construction and mining, all registered growth, largely due to private sector investment. According to the World Bank, total foreign direct investment was a record high of US\$118.7 million in 2009, but fell to a five-year low of US\$42.3 million in 2010. Tourism, centred on the rare mountain gorillas and other upscale tourist venues, has grown in importance but still requires further investment to take full advantage of resources. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Rwanda 166 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. In 2010, 53.2 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty and 76.8 per cent were living on the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day. However, since the depths of the genocide of the mid-1990s Rwanda has made continued improvement so that it by 2011, it was just below the regional average.

### External trade

Rwanda is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), and operates within a free trade zone with 13 of the 19 member states. Around 35 per cent of all imports originate in Africa

Rwanda is a member of the East African Community (EAC) (with Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). The East African Community Common Market Protocol (EACMP) was launched on 1 July 2010, which will lead to the free movement of labour, capital, goods and services between member states as well as employment opportunities and easier flow of investment capital. The signed protocol now requires that legislation in all states must be harmonised to conform to its jurisdiction.

As a landlocked country, the infrastructure must be maintained to move any imports and exports from neighbouring countries, which increases shipping costs; there is no railway linking Rwanda to the Tanzanian rail system. Rwanda has few natural

resources and imports its energy (beyond bio-fuels) as well as capital goods. Exports are limited to cash crops – tea represents 60 per cent – and pyrethrum, the extract of which is used in insect repellent.

#### Imports

Principal imports include foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, steel, petroleum products, cement and construction materials.

**Main sources:** Uganda (14.4 per cent of total in 2012), China (13.3 per cent), India (8.3 per cent).

#### Exports

Principal exports are tea, coffee, pyrethrum, animal hides and tin ore.

**Main destinations:** Tanzania (32.6 per cent of total in 2012), Democratic Republic of Congo (21.6 per cent), Kenya (18.7 per cent)

#### Agriculture

The agricultural sector contributes about 40 per cent to GDP and employs 90 per cent of the labour force. Approximately 30 per cent of the land area is cultivated arable land, 31 per cent pasture and 9 per cent forest; tree planting programmes are under way to combat deforestation. The main food crops are beans (17 per cent of cultivated land), sweet potatoes (14 per cent), sorghum (7 per cent), plantains, bananas, potatoes, cassava and maize. Crop yields fluctuate due to drought, soil erosion and underinvestment.

The coffee industry is scheduled for privatisation although little progress has been made. Coffee production fell so the government is encouraging the growth of speciality coffees that receive higher prices on the international market. If this move is successful, export revenues could be boosted, but if not, it is unlikely the failing coffee industry will recover swiftly. Tea overtook coffee as the country's main export.

Food production was boosted in early 2008 when high-yielding seed varieties provided by under the Crop Intensification Project proved successful.

#### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributed 21.5 per cent to GDP in 2004 and typically employs 6 per cent of the workforce. Industries include brewing, food processing, cigarette production, soaps, plastics, tin smelting and textiles. Growth of the sector is limited by the small domestic market, transport difficulties and irregular supply of imported fuels and raw materials which comprise 77 per cent of inputs. Industrial production increased by 4–5 per cent in 2004.

#### Tourism

Rwanda is a hilly country with tea plantations, rainforests, savannahs and active volcanoes. The Congo Nile Trail of 227km was opened in November 2011, allowing visitors to hike between Gisenyi and Cyangugu-Kamembe. Eco-tourism, and in particular the mountain gorillas, has driven the tourist industry. Around one-third of all mountain gorillas are located in Rwanda and visitors are willing to pay high fees for the limited number of permits to see them in their natural habitat. The money earned from these permits is returned to provide funding for all national parks and conservation work. In 1999 there were 417 visitors to Rwanda and by 2008 there were 17,000 who visited the Volcanoes National Park to see the gorillas.

Travel and tourism contributed a record 10.6 per cent of GDP in 2008 just before the global economic crisis cut visitor numbers from 765,000 in 2008 to 699,000 in 2009. Since 2009 its contribution has trended down from 8.8 per cent to 8.4 per cent in 2011, and a predicted 8.1 per cent in 2012. Employment in the industry has matched this trend as it fell from a record 9.2 per cent in 2008 to 7.7 per cent in 2009, and down further to 7.3 per cent in 2011.

Rwanda has been successful in attracting business and conference visitors, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as other East African Community countries, for which hotels and restaurants have been provided.

In a move calculated to encourage tourists, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda announced in November 2013 a joint visa scheme for tourists to take effect from 1 January 2014. The cost of the joint visa is US\$100; the current cost per visa is US\$50 each for Kenya and Uganda and US\$30 for Rwanda.

#### Environment

In February 2008 the governments of Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda agreed to joint measures to protect the mountain gorillas found within their shared border regions. Tourists visiting the area to view the endangered great apes raise a combined US\$5 million for the countries concerned. However, poaching and civil strife have dropped the numbers of gorillas to critically endangered levels, so that a 10-year conservation project which focuses of security and encouraging local people to preserve the animals and habitat is seen as the only hope for the gorilla's survival

#### Mining

The mining sector contributes 7 per cent to GDP and employs 1 per cent of the workforce.

Extraction of cassiterite (known reserves 90,000 tonnes) has been carried out since 1985, on an artisanal scale only.

#### Hydrocarbons

No significant reserves of hydrocarbons have been found in Rwanda, but oil exploration licences were issued in February 2009. All petroleum products must be imported, via Kenya/Uganda and Tanzania. Rwanda signed an agreement with Uganda in April 2008 to extend the proposed 320km Eldoret-Kampala (Kenya-Uganda) oil pipeline, construction of which began in April 2009, to be completed by 2012. The proposed oil pipeline will benefit Rwanda through the lower costs of transportation of imported oil. There are around 70 billion cubic metres of methane gas in Lake Kivu, with a regenerative capacity of around 250 million cubic metres per annum. In 2009 Rwanda signed an agreement with the US company, Contour Global, to produce 100MW of energy from methane gas. Natural gas and coal are neither produced nor imported.

#### Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 72.4MW in 2009, using hydropower, conventional thermal power and solar. Over 15MW of electricity is imported from the Ruzizi hydropower station located in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The World Bank has assisted Rwanda with funding for an urgent electricity rehabilitation project (2005–09), to improve generation and the power system to alleviate the numerous power cuts, including funds for a new thermal power station, which became operational in January 2009, producing an additional 20MW and designed to replace in part the country's extensive rented diesel generators. It also provided technical and administrative assistance as well as support in plans for future generation using renewable energies. The potential for geothermal generation was estimated at 170–300MW and a preliminary assessment confirmed the prospects for development. An investigation, sponsored by the Belgium government, into the development of wind farms will be undertaken shortly.

The US company Contour Global will produce 100MW of energy from methane gas by 2034, according to a 2009 agreement with the government. The gas will be extracted from Lake Kivu, in the western province, for electricity generation. A pilot project undertaken produced 2MW, 25MW will be produced by 2010 and 75MW by the end of 2012, all destined for the energy grid.

The Ministry of Infrastructure is responsible for energy policy and the state-owned company, Electrogaz is responsible for

generation, transmission and distribution of energy. Only 6 per cent of the population has access to electricity, with an increase to 16 per cent by 2012. The remainder of the population and the subsistence-farming sector in particular currently relies on wood and charcoal.

### Financial markets

#### Stock exchange

A new securities exchange, the Rwanda Capital Market, was set up by the Central Bank of Rwanda in Kigali in January 2008. To begin with it will deal in domestic corporate and treasury bonds, although other products such as shares will be included as the operation develops. The exchange is seen as an alternative market for cheaper financing than that offered by commercial banks.

### Banking and insurance

#### Central bank

Banque Nationale du Rwanda

#### Main financial centre

Kigali

#### Time

GMT plus two hours

### Geography

Rwanda is a landlocked country in central Africa, just south of the Equator, bounded by the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, where Lake Kivu (one of the Great Lakes) provides the border; Uganda is to the north, Tanzania to the east and Burundi in the south. Rwanda has rolling hill terrain for most of its eastern region. However, a chain of rugged, volcanic mountains runs from the north-west south to the border with Burundi in the south-west. The highest peak is Mount Karisimbi (4,532 metres). To the west of the mountain range Lake Kivu flows into the Congo River basin through the Ruzizi River valley, a section of Africa's Great Rift Valley. The south is swamp and savannah, which, in the south-east, peters out into desert.

#### Hemisphere

Southern

#### Climate

Warm, tempered by altitude. Rainfall is low and is concentrated in two seasons from mid-January to mid-May, and mid-October to mid-December. Temperatures in Kigali range from 12–14 degrees Celsius (C) at night to 28–32 degrees C during the day. Cooler in the highland areas.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by all. Passports must be valid for six months from date of visit.

#### Visa

Are required by all, except nationals of US, Germany, Canada, Uganda,

Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi and the DRC for visits up to 90 days; entry permits are issued on arrival, when visitors must provide evidence of sufficient funds for stay and return/onward passage.

Business travellers or tourists staying for longer must apply for a visa. A business visa requires a letter of introduction by an employer stating purpose of visit. Contact the nearest Rwanda Consulate for further details.

In a move calculated to encourage tourists, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda announced in November 2013 a joint visa scheme for tourists to take effect from 1 January 2014. The cost of the joint visa is US\$100; the current cost per visa is US\$50 each for Kenya and Uganda and US\$30 for Rwanda.

#### Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local currency is limited to a maximum Rwf5,000. Import of foreign currency is unlimited, but amounts should be declared; export is only allowed up to the amount declared.

Travellers cheques are not readily accepted.

#### Customs

Personal possessions are duty-free.

Export of game trophies require agreement from the relevant authority.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate is required by all.

#### Advisable precautions

Hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio vaccinations. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended. Water precautions should be taken. Aids is prevalent. There is a rabies risk.

#### Hotels

Tend to be expensive in Kigali; cheaper in Butare, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri. Advisable to book in advance.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 28 Jan (Democracy Day), 7 Apr (Genocide Memorial Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 1 Jul (Independence Day), 4 Jul (Liberation Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 25 Sep (Republic Day), 1 Nov (All Saints Day), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

#### Variable dates

Good Friday and Easter Monday (Mar/Apr).

### Working hours

#### Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1400–1800; Sat: 0800–1300.

#### Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1230, 1330–1700.

#### Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1230, 1330–1700.

### Shops

Dawn to dusk.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

A GSM900 coverage exists.

### Electricity supply

220V AC

### Security

The threat of attack from rebel groups continues and despite the cease-fire and elections in neighbouring DRC, the border regions are volatile. Local advice should be sought by those proposing to visit such areas; a military escort may be necessary. Kigali and major towns in the east, such as Butare and Gitarma, can be visited, but precautions need to be taken. Cars should not be left unattended in the centre of town and walking after dark or carrying large amounts of money or valuables is ill-advised.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** Rwandair Express

**International airport/s:** Kigali-Kanombe (KGL), 12km east of city; duty-free shop, bar, currency exchange, post office, shops, coach, taxi service.

**Airport tax:** None

#### Surface

**Road:** Roads from Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi are well-surfaced.

**Water:** Although landlocked there is a link on Lake Kivu, between the north and south.

**Main port/s:** Gisenyi, Cyangugu.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Rwandair Express operates a limited internal service.

**Road:** All cities are linked to Kigali by paved roads, and the roads Ruhengeri-Cyanika and Kayonza-Kagitumba are paved. Other roads are poor with many being impassable in bad weather.

**Buses:** Reliable regular bus services are available from Kigali to the main cities and between some cities themselves. Private minibuses (belonging to an association called ATRACO) also operate between Kigali and other cities.

**Water:** Services run between Gisenyi and Cyangugu, on Lake Kivu.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** They can be found in large towns; fares should be agreed at the start of journey and tipping is not necessary.

#### Car hire

Limited service is available in Kigali. International driving licence is required.

All-weather roads are sparse and in poor condition.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

**Telephone area codes**

The international dialling code (IDD) for Rwanda is +250, followed by subscriber's number.

**Chambers of Commerce**

Fédération Rwandaise du Secteur Privé, PO Box 319, Kigali (tel: 583-538/41; fax: 583-532; e-mail: frsp@rwanda1.com).

**Banking**

Banque à la Confiance d'Or, BP 2059, Kigali (tel: 575-780, 75-763; fax: 575-761).

Banque Commerciale du Rwanda, BP 354, Boulevard de la Revolution, Kigali (tel: 575-591, 576-117; fax: 573-395).

Banque Continentale Africaine (Rwanda) SA, BP 331, 20 Kigali, Boulevard de la Revolution, Kigali (tel: 574-456/7/8; fax: 573-486).

Banque de Commerce, de Developpement et d'Industrie, BP 3268, Kigali (tel: 574-143, 574-132, 74-427; fax: 573-790, 74-479).

Banque de Kigali, BP 175, 63 Avenue du Commerce, Kigali (tel: 576-931/2/3/4; fax: 573-461, 75-504).

Banque Nationale du Rwanda, BP 531, Kigali (tel: 574-282, 575-249; fax: 572-551).

Banque Rwandaise de Developpement, BP 1341, Kigali (tel: 575-079, 575-080; fax: 573-569).

Campagne Generale de Banque, BP 5230, Kigali (tel: 586-875; fax: 586-876).

Union des Banques Populaires du Rwanda, BP 1348, Kigali (tel: 573-564; fax: 573-579).

**Central bank**

Banque Nationale du Rwanda, Avenue Paul VI, BP 531, Kigali (tel: 574-282; fax: 572-551; e-mail: webmaster@bnr.rw).

**Stock exchange**

Rwanda Capital Market

**Travel information**

Air France, BP 411, Kigali (tel: 575-566).  
Rwandair Express, Ground & 2nd floor, Centenary House, Av de Revolution; BP 7275 Kigali (575-757, 503-687; fax: 503-686; internet: www.rwanda.com).

Office Rwandais du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux, BP 905, Kigali (tel: 576-514/5, 573-396; fax: 576-512; e-mail: Ortpn@rwandatel1.rwanda1.com).

Rwanda Travel Service, BP 140, Kigali (tel: 572-210).

Rwanda Explorations, BP 1514, Kigali (tel: 573-284).

**Ministries**

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, PO Box 621, Kigali (tel: 586-104; fax: 587-038; internet: www.minagri.gov.rw).

Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Investment, Promotion, Tourism and Co-operatives (tel: 574-725, 574-734; fax: 575-465; email: jnsengiyumva@minicom.gov.rw; internet: www.minicom.gov.rw).

Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Scientific Research, BP 622 Kigali (tel: 583-051; fax: 582-161; email: info@mineduc.gov.rw).

Office of the Prime Minister, Kigali (tel: 585-444/5, 584-648; fax: 583-714; internet: www.primature.gov.rw).

**Other useful addresses**

Agence Rwandaise de Presse (ARP), 27 avenue du Commerce, BP 83, Kigali (tel: 575-665).

Economat Général (tobacco exports), BP 45, Ruhengeri.

L'Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Rwanda, BP 138, Butare.

Office des Cafés, BP 104, Kigali (tel: 575-277).

Office du Pyrèthre au Rwanda, BP 79, Ruhengeri.

Office du Thé, BP 1344, Kigali (tel: 572-416).

Rwandan Embassy (USA), 1714 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20009 (tel: (+1-202) 232-2882; fax: (+1-202) 232-4544; email: rwandemb@rwandemb.org).

**Other news agencies:** This is no national news agency but the African Press Agency (APA) (www.africanewsagency.org) and Panapress (www.panapress.com) report on news from Rwanda.

**Internet sites**

General information: www.rwanda.net

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

AllAfrica.com: http://allafrica.com

Mbendi AfroPaedia (information on companies, countries, industries and stock exchanges in Africa): http://mbendi.co.za

Official website of government of Rwanda: www.gov.rw