



RWANDA



INTRODUCTION

A Rwandan kingdom dominated the region from the mid-18th century onward, with Tutsi rulers conquering others militarily and centralizing power. German colonial rule began in 1898, but Belgian forces captured Rwanda in 1916 during WW I. Rwandan independence came in 1962. Conflict between Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups continued for decades. Rwanda held its first local elections in 1999 and its first presidential and legislative elections in 2003.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Paul KAGAME

Head of Government

Prime Minister Edouard NGIRENTE

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Kigali

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate or Senat (26 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or Chambre des Deputes (80 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 26,338 sq km
Land: 24,668 sq km
Water: 1,670 sq km

Climate

temperate; two rainy seasons (February to April, November to January); mild in mountains with frost and snow possible

Natural Resources

gold, cassiterite (tin ore), wolframite (tungsten ore), methane, hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

fast-growing Sub-Saharan economy; major public investments; trade and tourism hit hard by COVID-19; increasing poverty after 2 decades of declines; Ugandan competition for regional influence; major coffee exporter; contested GDP figures

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$27.18 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,100 (2020 est.)

Industries - cement, agricultural products, small-scale beverages, soap, furniture, shoes, plastic goods, textiles, cigarettes

Agricultural products - bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava, potatoes, plantains, beans, maize, gourds, milk, taro

Exports \$1.05 billion (2017 est.)

gold, refined petroleum, coffee, tea, tin (2019)

partners: UAE 35%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 28%, Uganda 5% (2019)

Imports \$1.922 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, gold, raw sugar, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment (2019)

partners: China 17%, Kenya 10%, Tanzania 9%, UAE 9%, India 7%, Saudi Arabia 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

12.9 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.8% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Hutu, Tutsi, Twa (Pygmy)

Language

Kinyarwanda (official, universal Bantu vernacular) 93.2%, French (official) <0.1, English (official) <.01, Swahili/Kiswahili (official, used in commercial centers) <0.1, more than one language, other 6.3%, unspecified 0.3% (2002 est.)

Religion

Protestant 57.7% (includes Adventist 12.6%), Roman Catholic 38.2%, Muslim 2.1%, other 1% (includes traditional, Jehovah's Witness), none 1.1%

