

## Rwanda

**Type of Government:** Partially democratic centralised republic

**Head of Government:** President Paul Kagame (terms ends 2017)

**Capital City:** Kigali

**Ideology:** Economically liberal, socially conservative.

**Region:** East Africa

**Neighbours:** Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo



### DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 12 million (ranked 73 in the world)
- **Religion:** Roman Catholic 56.5%, Protestant 26%, Adventist 11.1%, Muslim 4.6%, indigenous beliefs 0.1 %, none 1.7%.
- **Age:** The median age is 18.7 years with a growth of 2.7% (21st in the world)
- **Ethnicities:** Hutu 84%, Tutsi 15%, Twa 1% -ethnic tensions are an ongoing problem in Rwanda and with its neighbours.
- **Languages:** Kinyarwanda, French and English.



### ECONOMY

- **GDP:** \$15 billion, \$1,400 per capita (170<sup>th</sup> in the world).
- **Poverty Rate:** Rwanda is one of the world's poorest countries. 44.9% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- In 2005-2006 Rwanda received IMF-World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative debt relief.
- The 1994 genocide largely destroyed Rwanda's economy and the 2009-2010 economic downturn saw Rwanda's exports fall by 40%.
- Their economy has rebounded fairly well, with growth rates of 7%-8% since 2003.

### Major Industries

- Agriculture 33% of GDP.
- 90% of the population relies on subsistence farming
- Industry (mainly import substitutes) 14%
- Services (mainly tourism) 53%

### Exports

- **Major export partners:** Kenya (18.3%), Malaysia (15.5%), China 12.6%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 11.2%, US 5.2%, Swaziland 4.5%
- Main exports: Tourism, minerals, coffee and tea. China has greatly increased minerals imports from Rwanda in recent years

## Imports

- **Major import partners:** Kenya 18.3%, Uganda 16.5%, US 10.5%, UAE 8.9%, China 5.8%, Tanzania 5.3%
- Tourism is an increasingly important industry in Rwanda and stability within Rwanda and the region is vital to the industry.



## MILITARY

**Size:** 3.4 million. Rwanda's army is unusually large due to integration of militias from post-genocide.

**Air Force:** Rwanda's air force was established with Belgian assistance after independence but most aircraft were shot down and destroyed during the 1994 genocide. Currently, Rwanda's military aircrafts consist of 9 utility helicopters, 8 attack helicopters and 3 transport helicopters.

**Navy:** Rwanda being a landlocked country has no naval capabilities.

## POLITICS

### Domestic Politics

- Politics is still haunted by the Rwandan Genocide, the mass slaughter of the Tutsis by Hutus in 1994. Any team representing Rwanda is should read [http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/take\\_action/atrisk/region/rwanda/](http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/take_action/atrisk/region/rwanda/) for details.
- Still serious ethnic tensions, especially since President Kagame (a Tutsi) has imposed a mildly authoritarian rule on the country. This however has generated significant economic benefits, and Rwanda is ranked as the 50<sup>th</sup> most corrupt state; a problem but much less so than most African countries.

### Foreign Policy Concerns

- Very sympathetic to humanitarian intervention (owing to past history), foreign aid, and promotion of free markets.
- Otherwise Rwanda generally follows the African Union's line (African UN Security Council countries tend to consider themselves representatives of the continent and the developing world).
- Reports surfaced in 2012 that the Rwandan government sponsors and directs military insurgency in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo in violation of UN sanctions. The US, Britain and the Netherlands withheld aid as a result of the accusations. Rwanda has been scaling back its intervention in the Congo but this remains a live issue.

## More Information

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda>

CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14093238>

Latest news from the New York Times <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/rwanda/index.html?8qa>

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/topics/rwanda>

Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/rwanda>

Al Jazeera <http://www.aljazeera.com/category/country/rwanda>

All Africa <http://allafrica.com/rwanda/>