

Rwanda Country Note

Rwanda, a small landlocked country in east-central Africa, striving to rebuild its economy with coffee and tea production. The World Bank has praised Rwanda's recent "remarkable development successes", which it says have helped reduce poverty and inequality.

Why Invest in Rwanda:

The 2015 Investment promotion law comes with new incentives that are critical towards driving the growth of key priority sectors: exports, energy, ICT, transport and logistics, health, manufacturing, financial services, tourism and affordable housing.

7.1% average year-on-year GDP growth since 2004, stable Sustained High Economic inflation and exchange rate Growth 3 year GDP growth rate highest among major African economies and neighboring countries A clear vision for growth through private investment set out by President Kagame (Vision 2020). Politically stable with well-Robust Governance functioning institutions, rule of law and zero tolerance for corruption Fastest global reformer of business regulations based on World Bank Doing Business Survey Investor Friendly Climate Most competitive place to do business in East Africa and 6th in Africa (WEF Global Competitiveness Report) A hub for rapidly integrating East Africa: located centrally bordering 3 countries in East Africa which has an existing Market Access Customs Union and a Common Market in 2010 for 550 million people in total **Untapped Opportunities**

Investment incentives

FISCAL INCENTIVES

- 0% Corporate income tax for companies planning to relocate headquarters to Rwanda
- 15% preferential corporate income tax for strategic sectors,including energy, transport, affordable housing, ICT and financial services
- Accelerated depreciation of 50% for key priority sectors, including tourism, construction, manufacturing and agro processing
- Exemption of capital gains tax
- Seven year corporate income tax holiday for large projects in strategic sectors, including energy, exports, tourism, health, manufacturing and ICT
- Repatriation of Capital and assets

NON FISCAL INCENTIVES

- Quick online registration for company incorporation and investment certificate
- Assistance with tax related services and exemptions
- Assistance to access utilities (water & electricity)
- Assistance with obtaining visas and work permits at the One stop center
- Notary services at the One Stop Center
- Provision of Aftercare services to facilitate project implementation

Opportunities for investment abound, particularly in the following sectors:

Infrastructure: Opportunities in rail, air transportation to further develop Rwanda as an EAC hub

Agriculture: Investment in tea and horticulture. Tea quality and tea growing conditions among the best in the world

Energy: Power generation, off grid generation and significant methane gas opportunities

Tourism: Unique assets creating booming sector; growth potential in birding and business (conference) tourism, other attractive sectors include Real estate and construction, Financial services and Mining

Commercial and Economic relations with India

Indian has consistently been one of the top import sources for Rwanda. The major items of India's exports to Rwanda include, among others, pharmaceuticals, vehicles, textiles, electrical machinery, optical and other precision instruments and plastics. Major imports from Rwanda include coffee, tea, mate, spices, salt, sulphur, earths and stones, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones and miscellaneous goods.

Annual Bilateral Trade Statistics: (Value in US \$ Million)

| Year | Exports f Rwanda | rom | India | to | Imports India | from | Rwanda | to |
|------|---------------------|-----|-------|----|------------------|------|--------|----|
| 2014 | 139.65 | | | | 0.62 | | | |
| 2015 | 124.97 | | | | 1.93 | | | |
| 2016 | 87.58 | | | | 0.95 | | | |

Source: Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India

Sources:

- *CIA* The World *Factbook* https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html
- MEA Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India http://mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India-Rwanda_Relations.pdf
- MOC Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Governent of India http://commerce.nic.in/eidb/iecntq.asp
- Rwanda Development Board http://www.rwandainvest.com.cn/invest.htm
- *Doing Business* http://businessprocedures.rdb.rw/menu/25?l=en