



Republic of Rwanda  
**Ministry of Trade  
and Industry**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>PSDYE</b>	Private Sector Development and Youth Employment
<b>Bn</b>	Billion	<b>RDB</b>	Rwanda Development Board
<b>BRD</b>	Rwanda Development Bank	<b>RFDA</b>	Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority
<b>CBM</b>	Cross Border Market	<b>RSB</b>	Rwanda Standards Board
<b>CBT</b>	Cross Border Trade	<b>SEZ</b>	Special Economic Zone
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community	<b>T</b>	Trillion
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year	<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>ICPC</b>	Integrated Craft Production Centre	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>KG</b>	Kilograms (a unit of mass/weight)	<b>USSD</b>	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
<b>KLP</b>	Kigali Logistics Platform	<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>L</b>	Litres (a unit of volume)		
<b>MCCs</b>	Milk Collection Centers		
<b>MINICOM</b>	Ministry of Trade and Industry		
<b>MiR</b>	Made in Rwanda		
<b>Mn</b>	Million		
<b>MT</b>	Metric Ton		
<b>NAEB</b>	National Agricultural Export Development Board		
<b>NISR</b>	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda		
<b>NST</b>	National Strategy for Transformation		
<b>NTBs</b>	Non-Tariff Barriers		



## Minister's **Foreword**

It is with great pleasure that we present the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2024/25. This year has been marked by significant strides in fostering economic resilience, enhancing industrial competitiveness, and expanding trade opportunities both locally and globally.

Despite ongoing global uncertainties, our industries and private sector have remained resilient to global shocks. Through close collaboration with the private sector, development partners, and key stakeholders,

we have continued to build a dynamic and enabling business environment that supports entrepreneurship, attracts investment, and promotes industrial transformation.

This report outlines the key achievements, policy initiatives, and strategic priorities pursued over the past year. We remain dedicated to our mission of driving economic progress that benefits all citizens, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

I extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners and stakeholders for their continued support and engagement.

Prudence Sebahizi  
Minister of Trade and Industry

# Introduction

- We present the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2024/25, a period marked by strong economic performance and transformative strides in trade and industrial development.
- Rwanda's economy demonstrated impressive resilience with real GDP growth reaching 6.3% and the industrial sector contributing 22% of GDP.
- Trade and Industrial development accelerated as a result of; eliminating NTBs, enhancing regional integration, and improving infrastructure to boost production and exports.
- The year also witnessed the landmark approval of the 10-year Rwanda Industrial Policy, laying a strategic foundation across five pillars to drive export-oriented industrialization, innovation, and green growth.

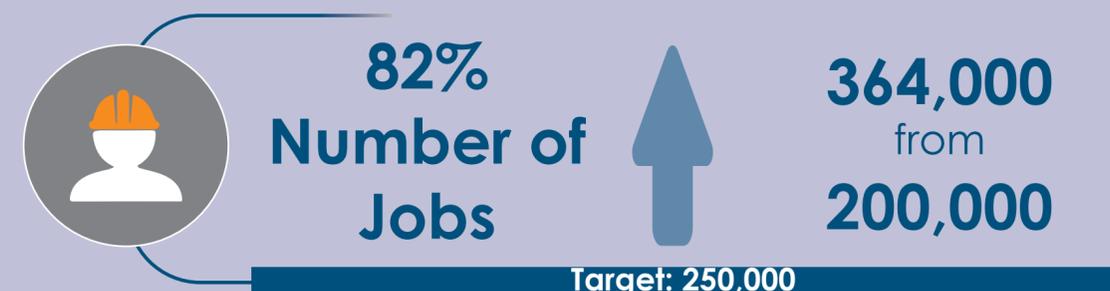
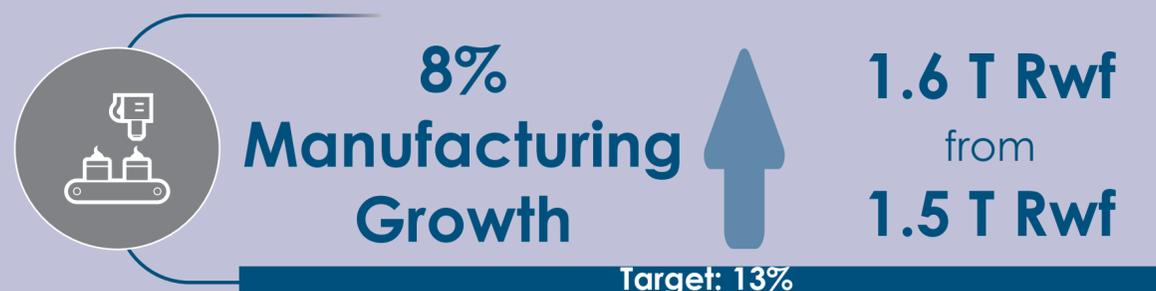
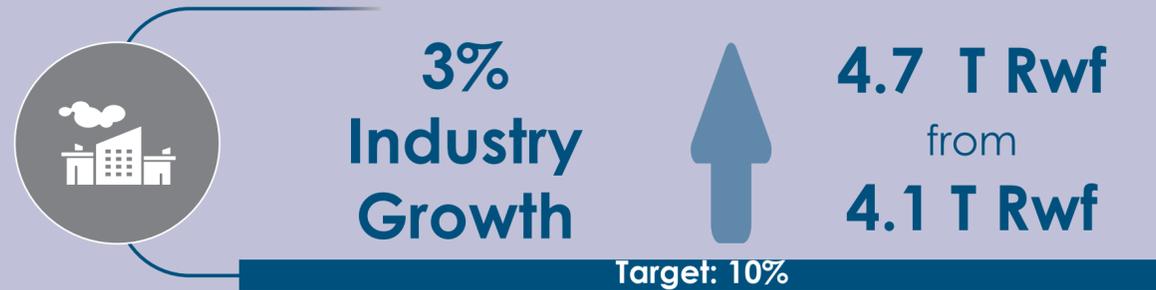
## Key Achievements

- **Exports and market access:** Domestic exports grew 16% with top destinations UAE, DRC, China, UK and Luxembourg. 10,218 export certificates were issued.
- **Industrial growth:** The industry grew by 3%, with the manufacturing sector expanding by 8%, driven by increased output in chemicals, rubber and plastics, non-metallic minerals, metal products, machinery and equipment, as well as wood, paper, and printing.
- **SME ecosystem:** The Ministry together with stakeholders supported export coaching, and activated SME export credit and guarantee fund through BRD.
- **Digital transformation:** The Ministry and its agencies have digitized service delivery through Irembo, including key processes such as industrial land allocation, VAT exemption, and electricity tariff exemption. Corporate printing budget has reduced by 72% due to the use of smart administration system for document tracking and management.
- **Trade facilitation:** Rusizi II One-Stop Border Post was completed and opened which boosted service efficiency at the Rusizi border, cutting transit delays—especially benefitting informal and women traders. Rubavu port has been opened for the pilot phase of operations, beginning with the cargo terminal.



Rusizi II One Stop Border Post facility plays a pivot role in facilitating cross-border socio-economic activities between Rwanda and DRC.

# Key PSDYE Indicators Progress Status 2024/25



Note: Targets are as outlined in NST II



# Industry Growth

Export Promotion

Tourism Development

Jobs Creation

Looking ahead

Conclusion



# Sectoral Contribution to Manufacturing



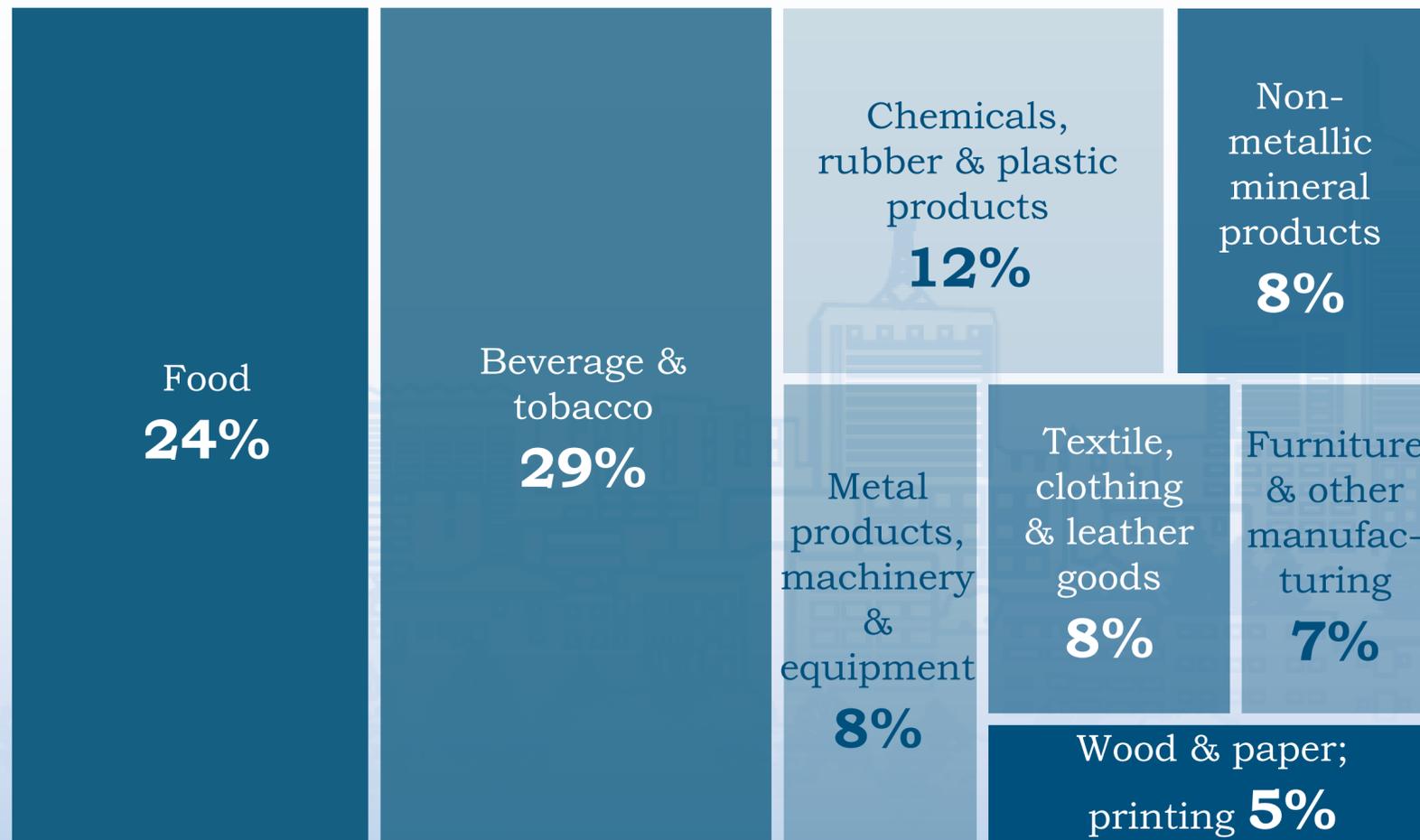
**3%**  
**Industry Growth**



**3.4 Bn USD**  
from  
**3.3 Bn USD**

Target: 10%

Industry expanded by 3%, after growing by 17% last year. This represents a cool-off in Construction activity and Mining after a boom.



## Top contributors

Food, beverages & tobacco, and chemicals, rubber & plastic products are the top manufacturing sub-sectors with the largest share of manufacturing activities.

## Least contributors

Wood & paper printing, furniture & other manufacturing, and textiles, clothing & leather goods, contribute the least to manufacturing activities.

Source: NISR (2025), GDP-National Accounts

## Growth of Manufacturing Sub-sectors



Among the industrial sector, **manufacturing grew by 8%**, mining & quarrying 2%, electricity 19%, water & waste management 7%, and construction -1%.



### Top growth recorded

Plastic products, non-metallic mineral products, and metal products, machinery & equipment, recorded the highest growth values.

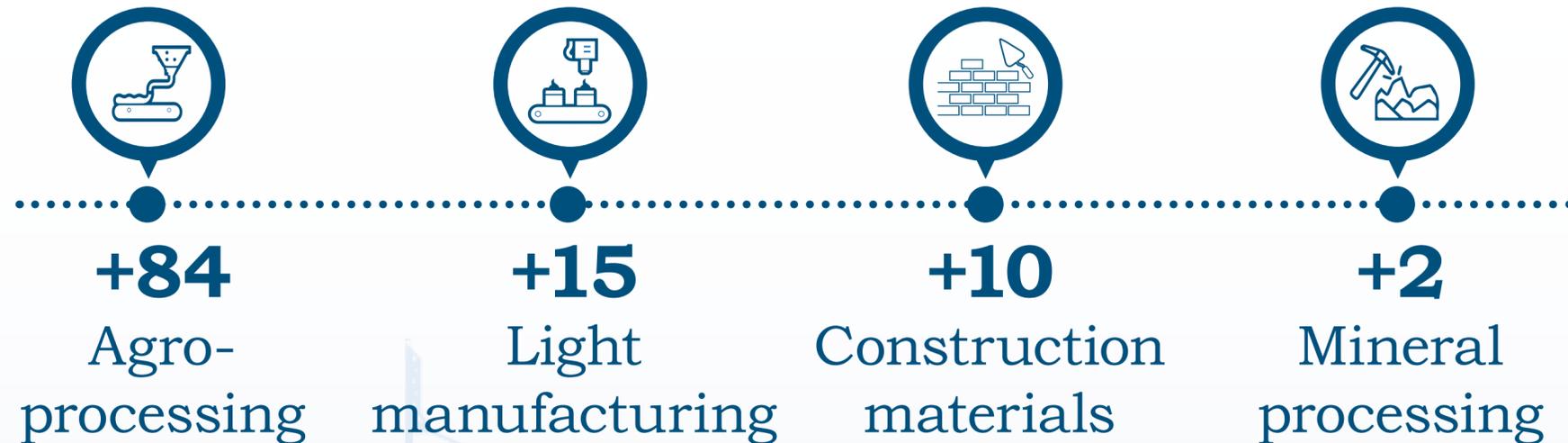
### Least growth recorded

Food and Beverages sectors are relatively larger than others and so lower growth was expected.

Certain producers in the textiles sector faced firm-level shocks.

## There have been some changes to industries

In this FY 111 new industries have been set up in various sectors below are some spotlights;



New industries like A1 Iron & Steel, transforming iron ore into steel products, and Cimerwa transforming lime stone into clinkers will go live in the next FY. As a result mining and quarrying activities are expected to increase.



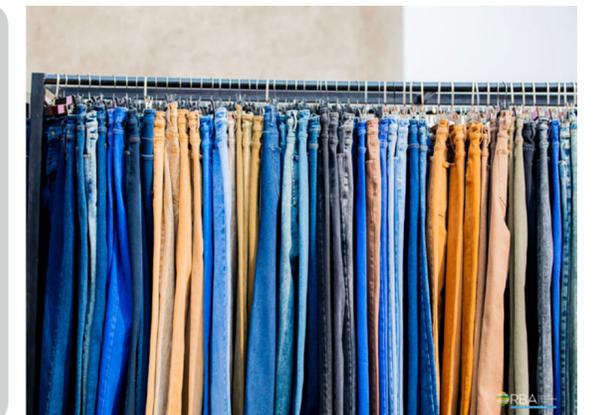


## Textiles

Textile sector has faced negative growth largely because it relies heavily on imported fabrics and inputs, with limited domestic cotton production. This dependency exposes producers to global price volatility, exchange rate pressures, and costly logistics, which raise production costs and create supply delays.

In addition to these structural challenges, the industry was hit by firm-level shocks in this FY: one major textile plant shut down to relocate, while another was partially affected by a fire. These disruptions, combined with high input costs, explain the recent reduction in textile manufacturing output.

Gorilla textiles located in Musanze Industrial Park, which started operations this FY, established innovative, new lines of jeans, employing close to 1, 400 people.





## Food

In this FY, food processing sector—though the largest share of manufacturing at 28%— is not the sector with the highest growth. This limited expansion is partly due to a mix of high input and transport costs, agricultural supply constraints from climate shocks, rising food inflation that dampened consumer demand, and strong competition from imports.

Inyange Milk Powder Plant- Nyagatare District was inaugurated in this FY. This is a 54 million USD facility capable of processing 650,000 liters of milk per day.

The plant employs 270 permanent workers and use milk from local farmers through Milk Collection Centers (MCCs). They will soon rollout powdered milk for the consumer market.



## Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment



Metal products, machinery and equipment production grew by 19% . Construction sector has been on the rise fuelled by rapid urbanization and public infrastructure development.

Construction activity grew by 5% which directly increased demand for steel products like rebar, roofing, and metal pipes.

Major projects for road network expansion, commercial real estate, and the resumption of New Kigali International Airport construction – required large quantities of metal materials.

New industries (A1 Steel, Golden Tree, and Mountain Cermaics) are expected to go online in the next FY and significantly contribute to metal products manufacturing.

# Incentives for Industrial Growth



## VAT Exemptions

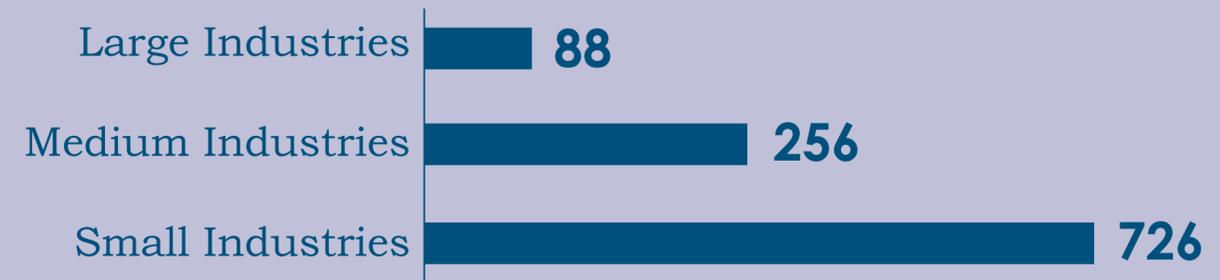


From July 2024 to June 2025 there have been a total of 864 VAT exemption application of which 65% have been approved, the remaining are in different stages of the application process.

Approved exemptions lowered operational costs, boosting productivity and driving industrial growth.



## Subsidized Electricity Tariff\*



A total of 1,069 industries benefited from preferential electricity tariffs, enhancing productivity and supporting industrial growth.

*\*Classified based on energy consumption*

# Industrial Research and Development Support Services



**345**

Supported with business management and coaching



**12**

Supported with products development



**40**

Supported to acquire machines



**Services provided to industries**

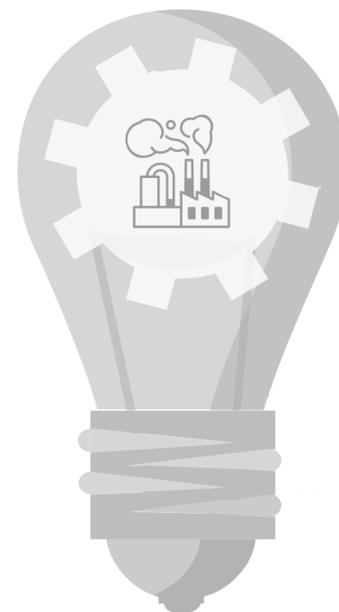
**2,137**

Supported with testing services



**3,328**

Jobs created



## Quality Standards and Certifications

Activities/outputs	2023/24	2024/25	% Increase
New standards developed	129	164	27
Harmonized/adopted standards	123	256	108
New systems certified	14	18	29
Re-certification of systems	13	15	15
New products that received S-Mark	144	194	35
Products re-certified	256	293	14
Products that received MiR Logo	92	77	-16
SMEs coached/trained on quality standards	260	200	-23
Product samples received and tested for quality	7,071	8,225	16
Number of measuring and weighing instruments calibrated	5,735	11,638	103
Verification of utility meters	67,158	106,124	58

# Reforms on enabling business environment



## SME Certification Fees waived

Fees waived for SMEs, and fees for large enterprises are capped at 100,000 Frw.



## Digitization of Services

VAT registration, preferential electricity applications, and industrial park land allocation are now online services accessible on Irembo,

irembo



## Timeline extension of Certification License

Certification licenses provided by RSB have been extended from 2 to 5 years.



## Elimination of export license

Export license is no longer required unless requested by importing country.

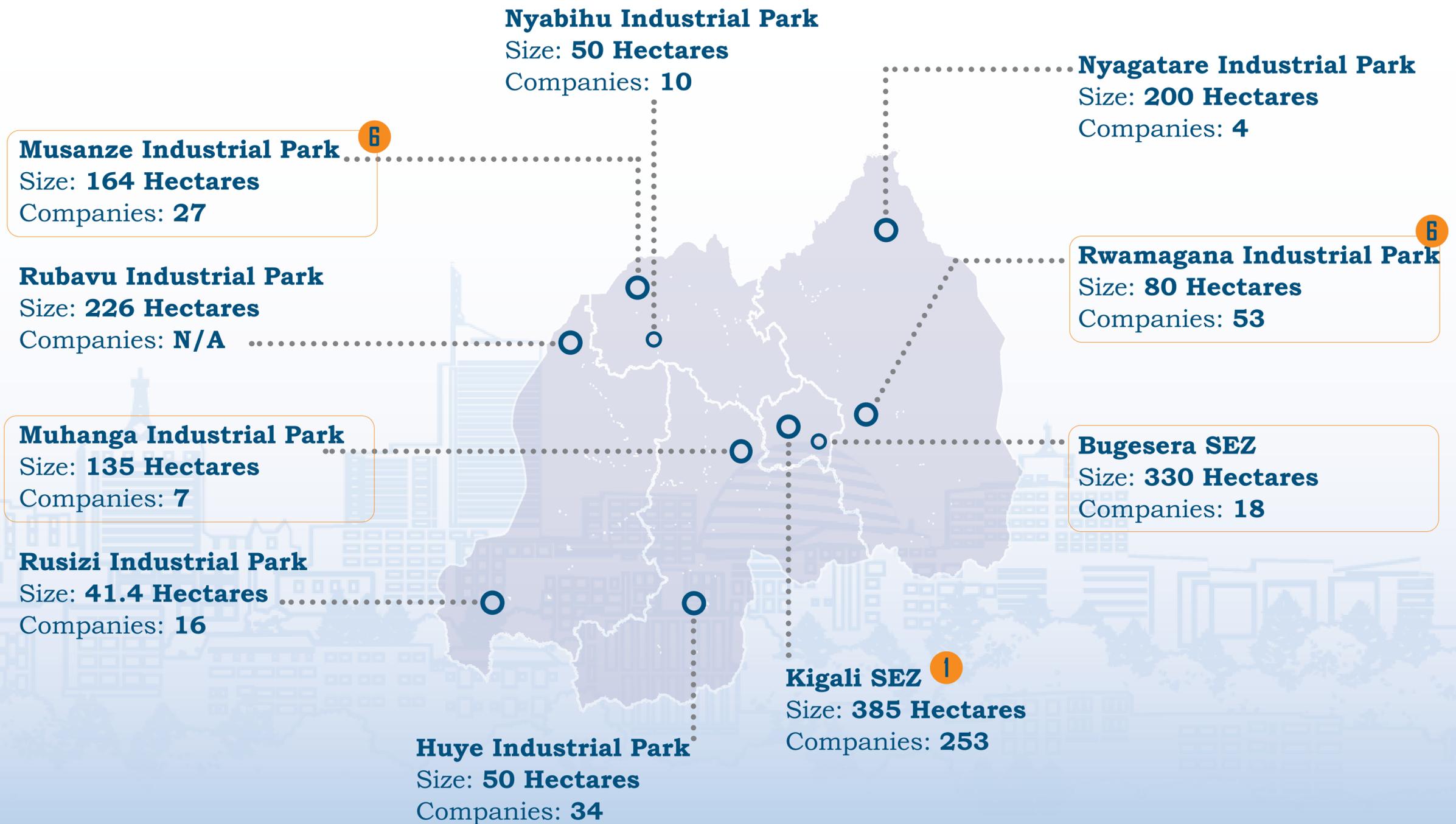
# Industrial Parks Status

- # Number of industries allocated land this financial year
- Industrial parks prioritized for development during the NST II period



Rwanda has 10 Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones.

Four Industrial Parks (Musanze, Muhanga, Rwamagana, and Bugesera) have been prioritized for the NST-II period.



## Integrated Craft Production Centres (Udukiriro) Status

Location	2023/24			2024/25		
Province	ICPC Number	Occupancy rate	New Jobs created	ICPC Number	Occupancy rate	New Jobs created
City of Kigali	3	99.7	3,100	3	99.7	3,100
Northern	3	100	159	4	99.3	286
Southern	7	73.9	506	7	73.9	506
Eastern	7	74.3	1,330	7	74.3	1,330
Western	11	92.3	393	11	92.3	393
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>5,488</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>5,615</b>

- ICPCs play a key role in promoting local manufacturing and creating jobs. They contribute to skills development, encourage innovation in crafts, and support the formalization of the manufacturing sector by providing artisans with shared workshops and collaborative spaces.
- One ICPC was developed in Rulindo district. Overall occupancy remain unchanged at 88%, with no ICPC developed in Gicumbi, and Kamonyi district.
- A 2% increase in new jobs created in ICPCs was achieved. The sub-sectors which employed new employees include; building materials hardware shops (12%), carpentry (8%), welding (3%), and timber trade (3%).

# Export Promotion

Tourism Development

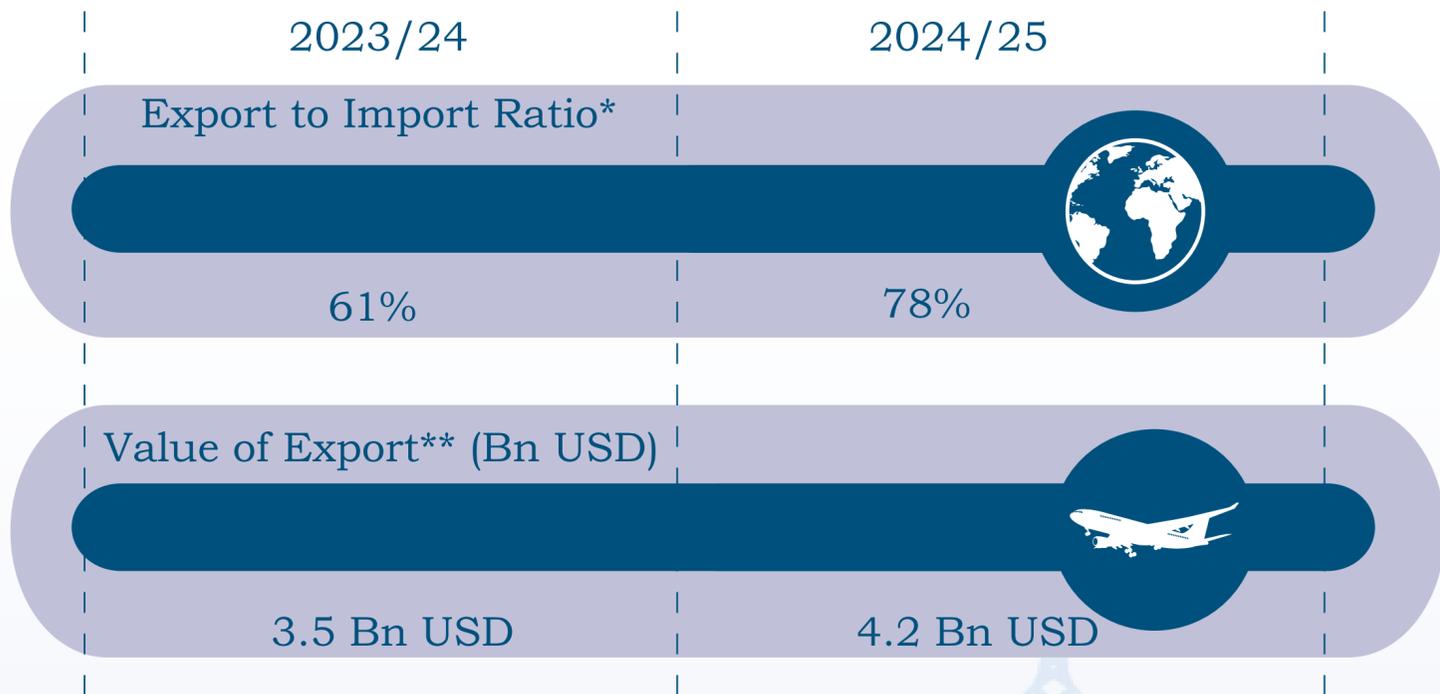
Jobs Creation

Looking ahead

Conclusion



# Export Trade Performance



Total exports (6.1 bn Frw) are equivalent to 78% of the total imports (7.8 bn Frw).

\*Export to Import Ratio is the percentage comparison of a country's export value to its import value, showing the balance of trade. \*\*Export Value of Goods and Services

Source: NISR (2025), GDP-National Accounts

The drivers of increased exports are edible oil, agro-processed goods (cereal flours, wheat and maize flour), as well as attractive international commodity prices (coffee/tea/minerals).

## A closer look at goods exports

Trade in goods/ Mn USD	2023/24	2024/25	Change
Formal: Export	1.7	2.2	25% ▲
Re-Export	0.6	0.6	-3% ▼
Informal: Export	0.2	0.2	4% ▲
Total Merchandise Export	25	3	17% ▲

Rwanda saw substantial growth in formal goods exports, and informal exports grew modestly.

## Sources of Growth

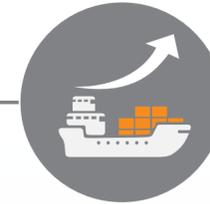


	Commodity	2023/24*	2024/25*	% Change
	Gold	996	1,261	27
	Niobium, tantalum, vanadium	91	110	21
	Coffee	84	109	30
	Tin ores	62	84	34
	Edible oil	9	59	591

\*Values are in Mn USD

- During FY 2024/25, mineral export total growth was 1.6 bn USD, constituted by tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold and others. Both 3Ts and gold exports growth were driven by increased quantities exported, rather than higher unit-value/prices, which instead fell.
- The second largest source of growth was edible oil, which grew rapidly in value and quantity. This is related to the expansion of existing, and establishment of new oil industries: Eri Rwanda, Mount Meru Soyco ltd, Manebu Industries, and Agri Value Chain ltd. Tea exports also increased by quantity and value.
- The volume of coffee exported to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Japan has increased.

# Import growth



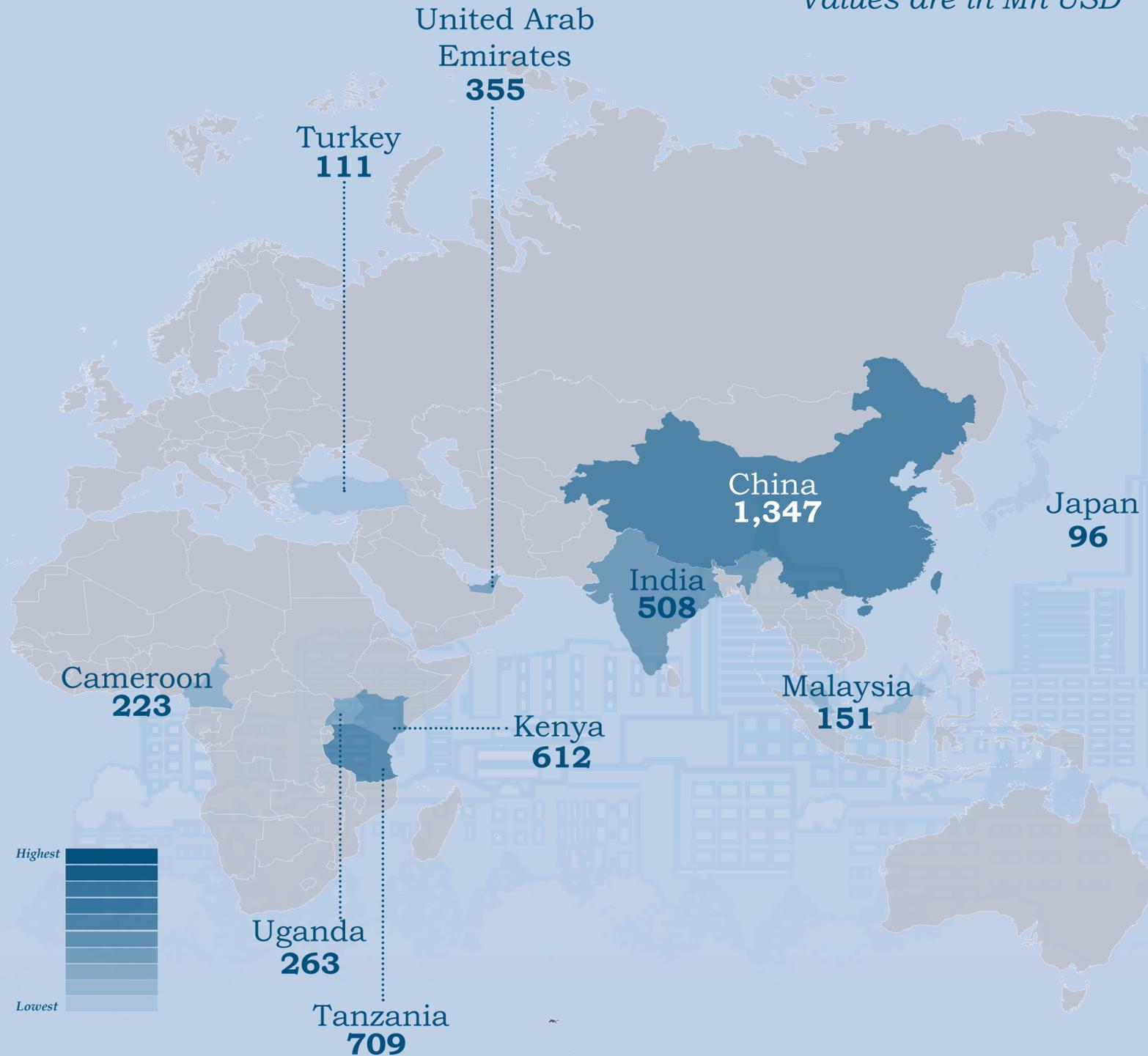
	Product	2023/24*	2024/25*	% Change
	Gold	1,016	1,174	16
	Petroleum oils	636	637	0.1
	Edible oil	202	222	10
	Motor cars	90	145	61
	Portland cement	60	100	66

*\*Values are in Mn USD*

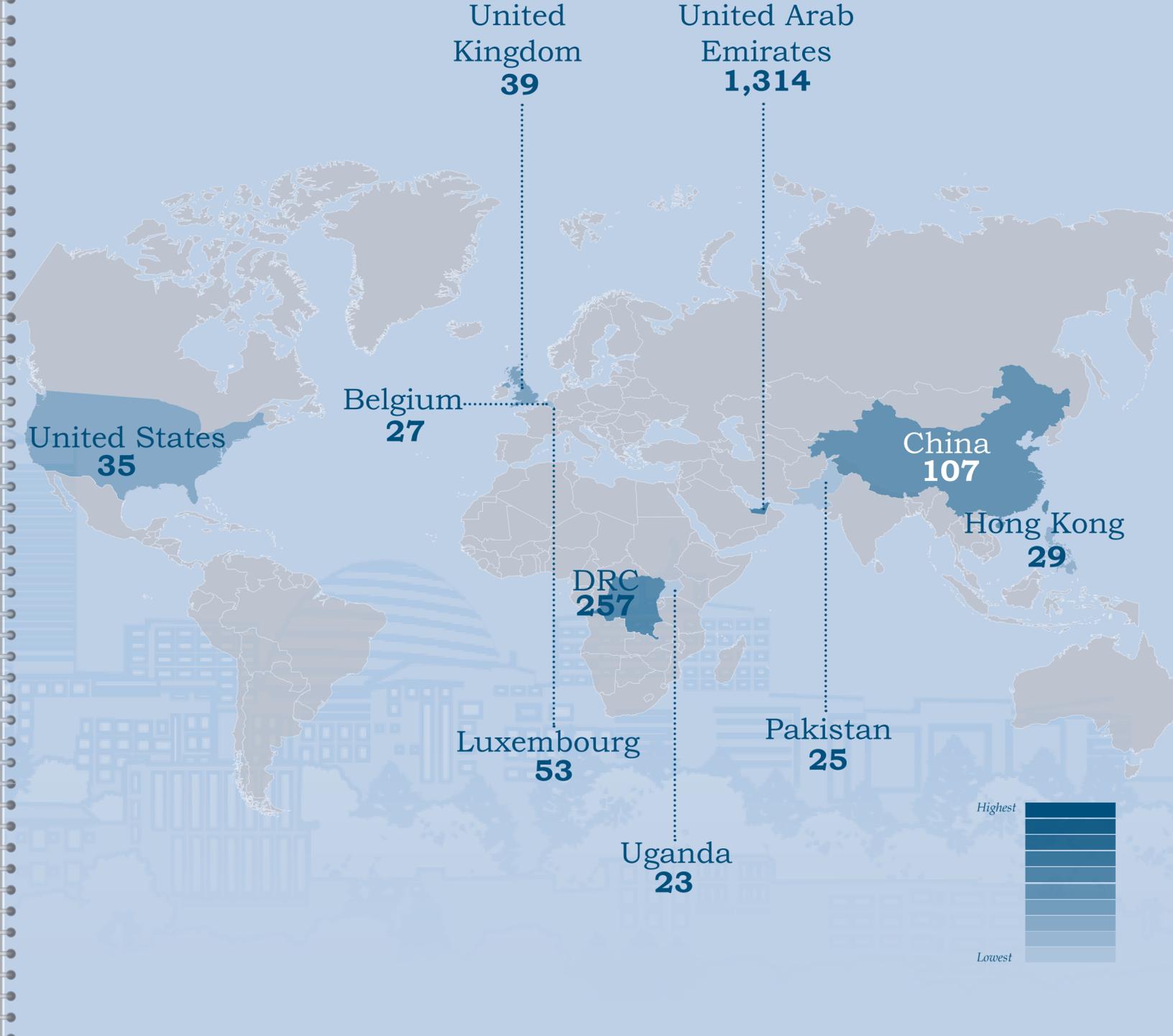
- Essential products such as petroleum and medical equipment imports increased in weight and value.
- Increased imports of mining machinery and cement suggest that there is additional production and possibly export to be expected in the cement and mining sector.
- Imported cars surged due to government tax incentives, especially for electric and hybrid vehicles. New emissions regulations and rising incomes have also pushed demand for newer, cleaner cars. This shift supports green transport goals and growing urban mobility needs.
- Import growth is largely related to inputs for local production and value addition.

# Top Import Countries

Values are in Mn USD



# Top Export Countries



# Export Decline

Commodity	2023/24*	2024/25*	% Change	
Cereal flours	32	17	-46	▼
Sanitary towels	8	7	-11	▼
Vegetable flour	15	15	-5	▼
Tea	109	108	-1	▼
Cement	42	42	0	▼

\*Values are in Mn USD



- ▶ Maize flour which is largely exported to the region as well as food preparations for infants decreased in both quantity and value. Maize flour producers faced logistical issues reaching export markets, and limited access to forex. Additionally, an infant food manufacturing company faced operational challenges.
- ▶ Despite higher unit prices, the quantity of tea exports reduced. This is due to lower export crops production.

## Import decline



Product	2023/24*	2024/25*	% Change	
Rice	307	221	-28	▼
Sugar	230	176	-24	▼
Wheat flour	78	64	-18	▼
Wiring	74	61	-17	▼
Medical equipments	89	78	-12	▼

\*Values are in Mn USD

- The decline in rice and sugar imports reflects Rwanda's push for self-sufficiency through increased local production and reduced reliance on imports. This indicates changing consumption patterns for the domestic market.
- Wheat flour imports also reduced in both quantity and value, suggesting that domestic production is increasingly meeting local demand.
- Imports of insulated wire, cable, and electric conductors used in construction as well as medicaments fell this year.

# AfCFTA Implementation Progress

## Certificates of Origin Issued

45 certificates of origin were issued for products such as: Coffee, Fruit, Mushroom, Dried Chili, Milk, Condiments/Sauces. These products were exported to Ghana, Congo Brazzaville, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, and Somalia.

## Trade in Goods (PTG)

- Rwanda executed a consolidated pilot export to Ghana on 25 Sept 2024 under AfCFTA: 400 kg tea, 400 kg coffee, 100 L avocado oil, 50 L honey.
- Marking a significant milestone, NAEB issued for the first time a single consolidated export license.
- The shipment used RwandAir's AfCFTA promotional cargo tariffs (USD 1.00/kg for consignments >1 tonne, USD 1.40/kg for <1 tonne; normal rate USD 1.80/kg).

## Cross-cutting national enablement

MINICOM launched an AfCFTA Desk in the RDB One-Stop Center; a public services booklet documents the support offered to firms (rules-of-origin, market info, certification, etc).

## Rules & Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes

Rwanda established a National AfCFTA Implementation Committee (NIC) and ran capacity-building for NIC members in July 2024 to gear up for implementation and compliance.

## Women & Youth in Trade (Phase III)

Rwanda has run capacity-building for cross-border traders (notably women) and set up service points and hotlines that dovetail with AfCFTA's inclusion agenda (e.g., CBT complaints USSD \*537#).

**One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs)** (e.g., Rusumo/Gatuna) are associated with sub-30-minute truck clearance at Rusumo, underpinning cross-border efficiency that AfCFTA leverages.

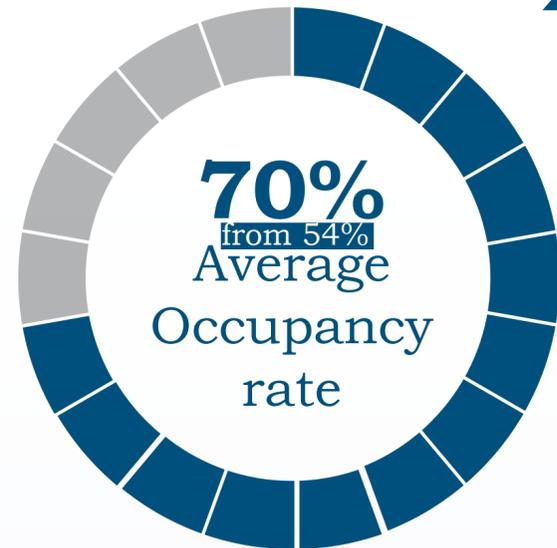
## External Trade in Services

The main services traded during FY 2024/25 are: Travel/tourism, government goods/services and transport services. There is also growing trend in financial services and telecoms.

Service Activities	Exports	Imports	Balance
Travel and tourism	572	368	204
Transport	211	463	-252
Government goods and services	175	26	149
Financial services	42	31	11
Telecoms	35	25	10
Construction	5	26	-21
Charges for use of IP	1	0	1
Personal, cultural and recreational	0	7	-7
Manufacturing	0	0	0
Maintenance and repair	0	25	-25
Insurance and pensions	0	11	-11
Other business services	4	23	-19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>40</b>

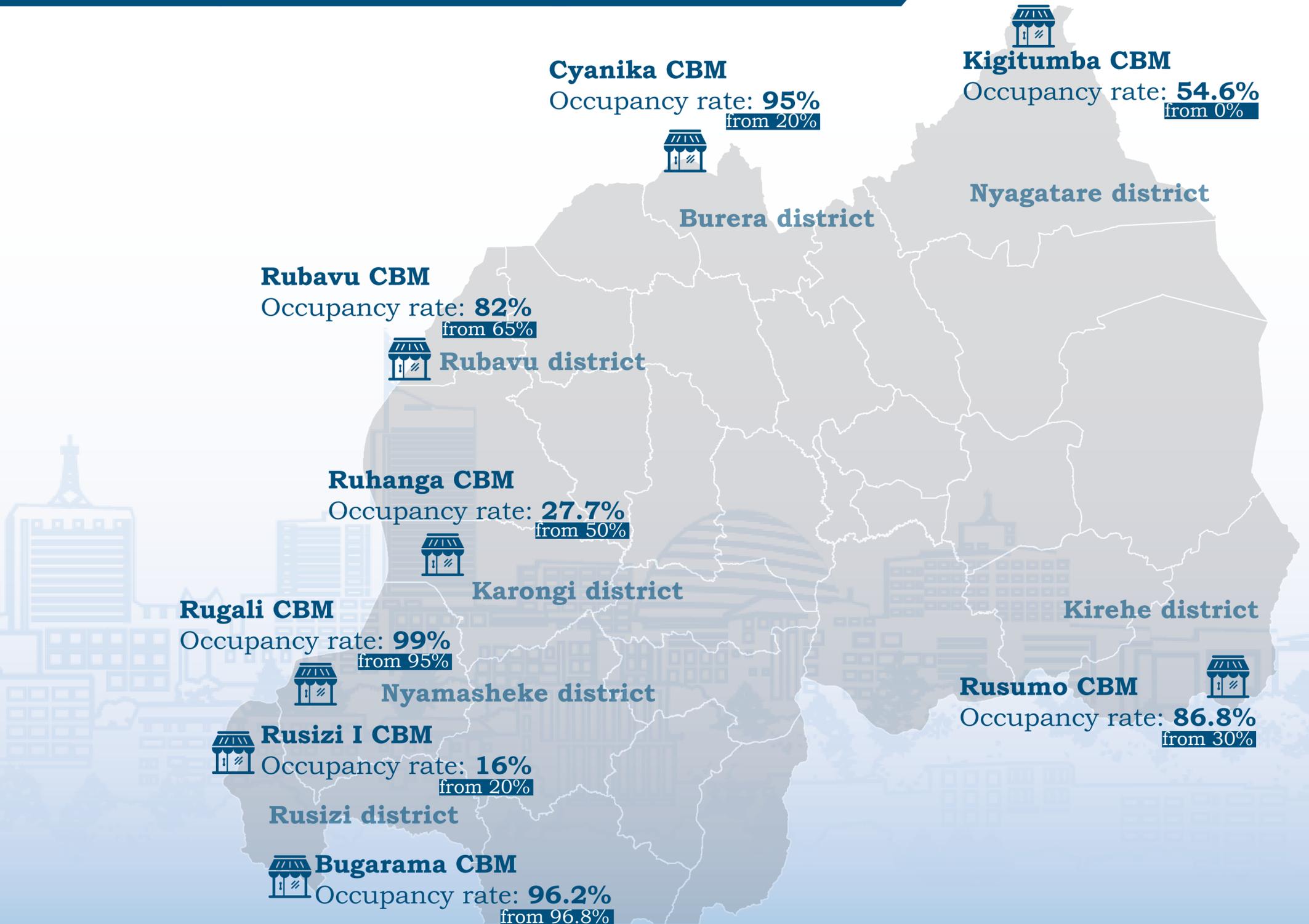
*\*Values are in Mn USD*

# Cross Border Markets Status



Rwanda has 8 CBMs with an overall occupancy rate of 70% from 54%. These CBMs consolidate goods for formal exports to regional markets.

Additionally, these markets illustrate significant impact on trade facilitation, though tailored interventions remain necessary to optimize performance across all sites.





# Tourism Development

Jobs Creation

Looking ahead

Conclusion



# Rwanda welcomed over 1.15 million visitors



**37%** Gorilla visitors



**24%** Friends and relatives



**17%** Business visitors



Tourism revenue grew by 10%. Rwanda continues to attract visitors from around the world, with the East African Community (EAC) leading as the top source market, welcoming over 1.1 million travellers.

- Gorilla tourism alone contributed over 240 Mn USD—the largest share—highlighting its strategic importance.
- The drop in overall visitor numbers reflects a strategic shift to high-value, low-volume tourism, rather than a decline in tourism interest.
- The high value from VFR (visiting friends and relatives) and business travel indicates continued economic and diaspora ties.

Source: RDB (2025)

## Investment Promotion

Top Sectors Contribution	2023/24*	2024/25*	% Change	
Manufacturing	573	1,156	102	▲
Real estate activities	372	569	53	▲
Mining and quarrying	53	338	538	▲
Accommodation and food service activities	137	131	-4	▼
Transportation and storage	173	89	-48	▼
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	116	76	-35	▼
Construction	178	35	-81	▼
Arts, entertainment and recreation	277	30	-89	▼
Other service activities	9	13	36	▲
Others	1,888	2,437	29	▲
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>▲</b>

\*Values are in M USD

Source: RDB (2025)



# Jobs Creation

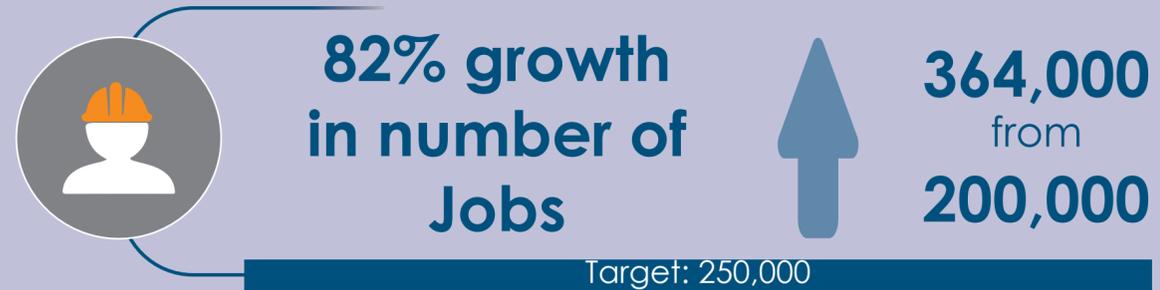
Looking ahead

Conclusion



## Job Creation

Job creation targets for the year 2024/25 have been surpassed by 100,000 jobs, of this 30,000 were in manufacturing.



Source: NISR (Jun 2025), Labour force survey

## Distribution of Jobs in Industry

 Sectors	% of Total Industrial Employment
 Construction	54
 Manufacturing	34
 Mining	10
 Water supply	1
 Electricity	1

In the Industrial sector, construction accounts for over half of employment as of 2025 Q1 and Manufacturing accounts for 34% of employment.

This is largely in line with the production contributions of these sectors to the Industrial sector at large.

# Looking ahead

**As we move into FY 2025/26 and beyond, these are interventions to look out for;**

## **Doubling real exports**

Target is 4.9 Bn USD exports by 2026 and these are the sectors to watch; horticulture, edible oils, construction materials and minerals.

**Construction of basic infrastructure will take place in priority industrial parks:** Musanze, Muhanga, Bugesera, and Rwamagana.

## **Developing a leather tannery park**

This entails establishment of basic infrastructure including an effluent water treatment plant to incentivize private sector investment in the tannery and leather products factory.

**New industries going online:** A1 Iron & Steel, Mountain Ceramics, and Golden Tree Mining.

## **Strengthen national quality infrastructure**

Establish accreditation office and strengthen certification to support local and export markets compliance.

## **Digital Trade Eco-System**

Working towards developing a digital system for improved payment systems, local e-commerce and logistics.

## **Improving fuel storage capacity**

New fuel storage depot will begin construction in the FY 2025/26.

## **Improving ICPCs infrastructure and developing new ones**

More ICPCs will be developed and existing ones will be improved in collaboration with stakeholders. Guidelines on ICPC standards and operations will be improved.

## Conclusion

We are bullish about Rwanda's industries as we see strong sectorial growth such as edible oils that more than doubled its exports. Industries are boosting exports, creating jobs, and steadily reducing the import-to-export gap. Manufacturing employment is on the rise, while tourism continues to expand, adding resilience to our economy.

The private sector has been at the heart of this progress; investing in new ventures, driving innovation, and building competitive value chains that link Rwanda to regional and global markets. At the same time, reforms to simplify processes and reduce fees have made it easier for businesses to invest, grow, and contribute to industrialization.

The mandate remains clear: building export-driven and private sector-led development with inclusive growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness at the core.



Republic of Rwanda  
**Ministry of Trade  
and Industry**



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