



# 2012 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

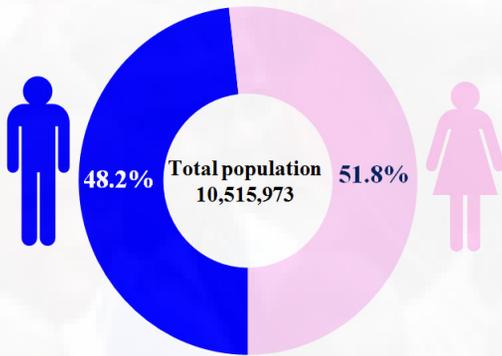
## Objective

To provide a comprehensive snapshot of basic information on the resident population of Rwanda, its major characteristics and housing arrangements.

## Census results

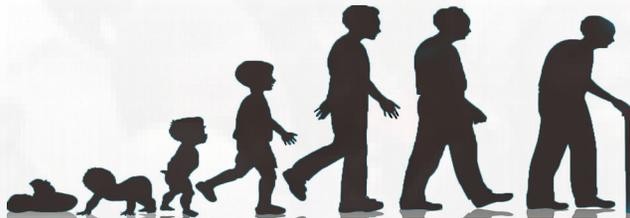
The results complement finding of previous statistics work.

## Total Population



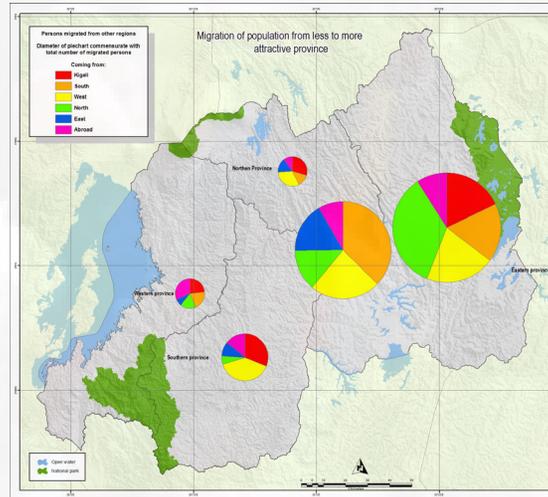
## Life expectancy at birth

Total life expectancy at birth in Rwanda has increased by 13.2 years in the last ten years from 51.2 to 64.4 years; an indication of overall increasing good health and wellbeing of the population.



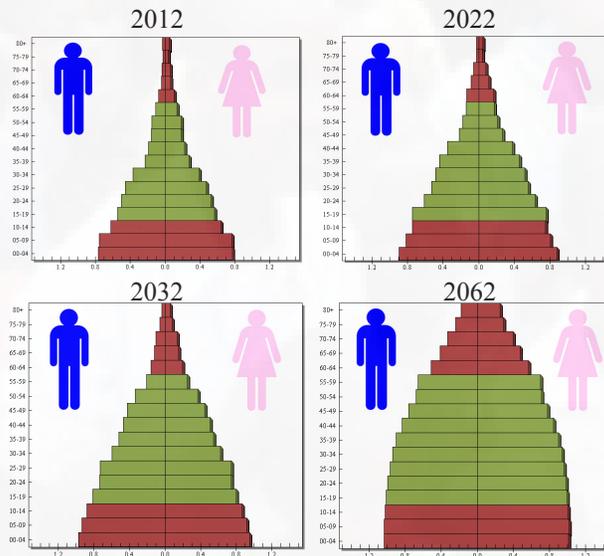
## Internal Migration

About 940,593 people have recently migrated internally in 5 years preceding the census with 39% and 35% of them living in the Eastern Province and Kigali city respectively. The Northern Province had the least recent immigrants 4%.



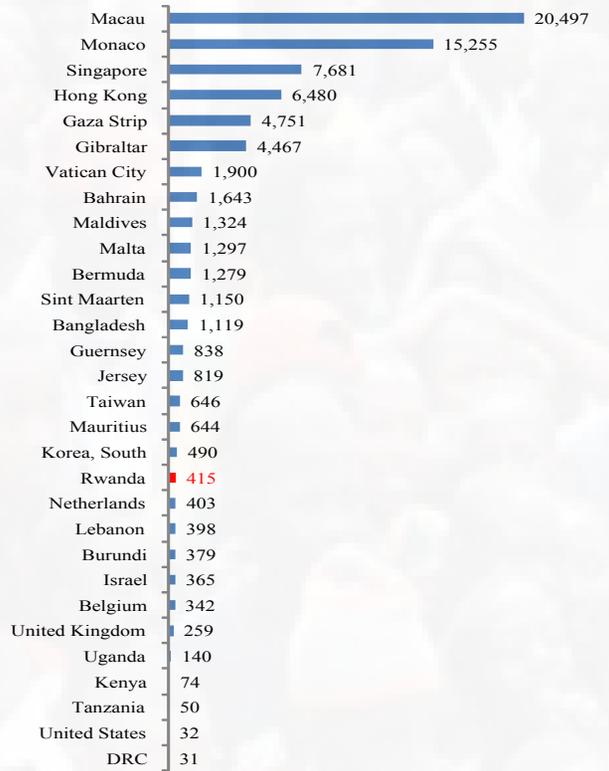
## Population Projections

The population of Rwanda grew at about 2.6% every year between 2002 and 2012. However, it is expected to reach 13.3 million in 2022 and 16.5 million in 2032 and double towards 2047 if projected figures are realised. In 2062, the population is expected to reach 25.4 millions.



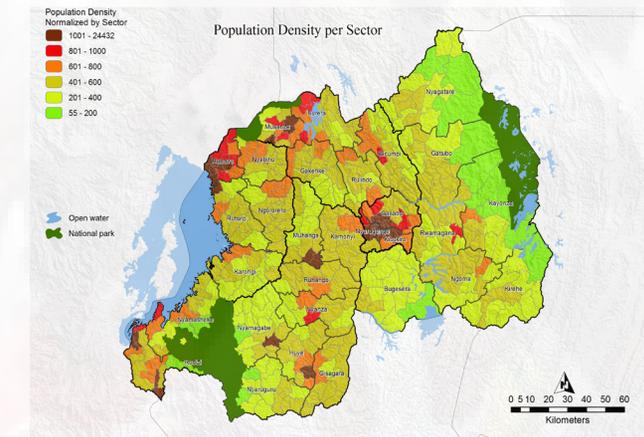
## Population Density

The population density at the time of the census was 415 persons per square kilometre; making Rwanda one of the most densely populated countries in the world.



Source: Index mundi & 2012 Rwanda Population and Housing Census,

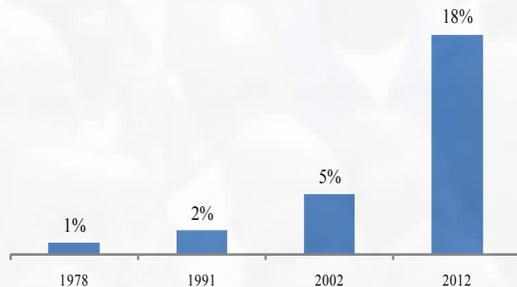
## Population Density by sectors



## Electricity

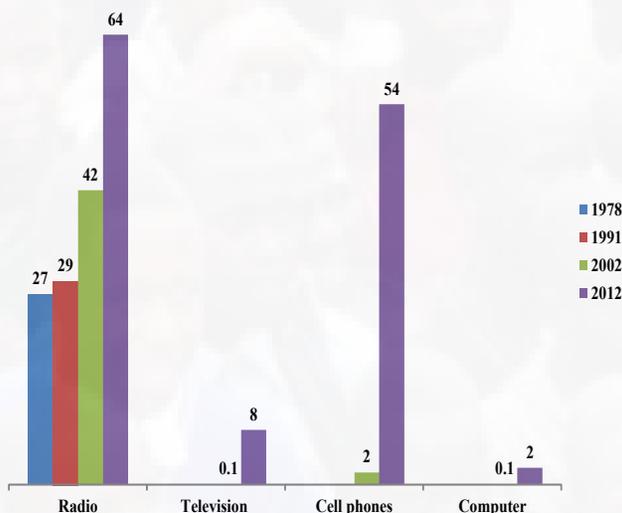
Household access to electricity increased from 1% to 18% between 1978 and 2012.

Access to electricity



## Information and communication technology

Household access to key communication technology assets (in %)



## Unemployment

Although total unemployment rate is 3.4%, urban unemployment rate is 7.7%; 12.1% for those with upper secondary and university education; and about 67% of all unemployed people are youth aged 16 – 34 years. While overall youth unemployment is 4.1%, urban youth unemployment is 8.7%.

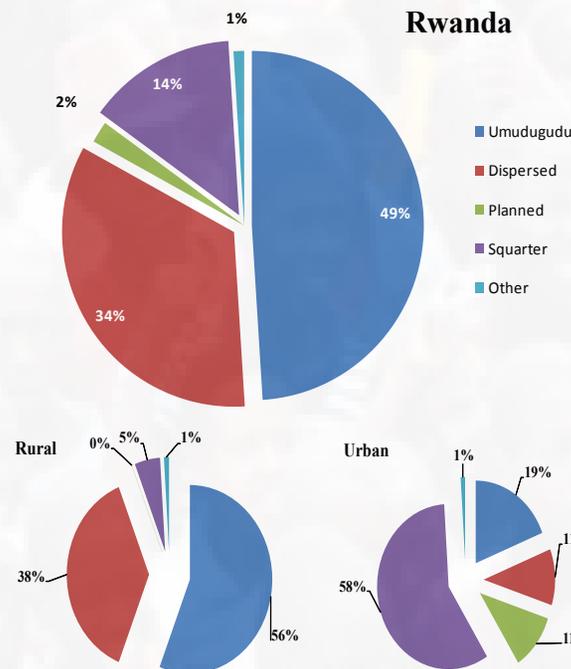
For more information

[www.statistics.gov.rw](http://www.statistics.gov.rw); email: [info@statistics.gov.rw](mailto:info@statistics.gov.rw)

## Settlement

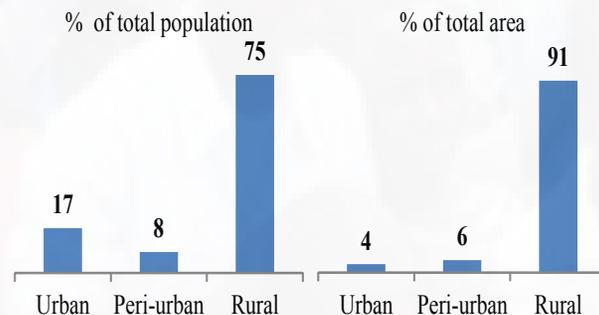
About 49% of households are in clustered rural settlements “Imidugudu”, 34% in dispersed areas, 14% squatter housings and only 2% are planned urban housing nationally. Such distribution of settlements varies significantly between rural and urban areas.

Rwanda



## Urbanisation

About 17% of the population is living in urban areas on 4% of the land.



For more information

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## Policy Perspective

Policy issues that can be derived from the census findings are diverse covering social, demographic and economic dimensions.

Rwanda faces competing challenges of population density, settlement, urbanisation and agriculture development. Industry and service sectors also have to be developed together with the necessary skills set of Rwandans.

The census results confirm the need to fast track economic development. Agriculture for example should grow higher than population growth if current food security is to be maintained and much higher if it is to further support poverty reduction, agro-processing industries and trade.

Likewise there is a lot of potential in industry and service sectors to cover demand in goods and services, keep up with population growth and provide jobs that young people need.

The trends in utilities like access to electricity is impressive, although a huge gap remains. Use of ICT's especially mobile phones is phenomenon providing a platform for further IT business initiatives and catalytic potential in facilitating other industries.

Rwandans are living longer due to improving health. The population is expected to continue growing relatively fast before it slows down and doubling by 2047. This will put pressure on services, economic opportunities and land, rising population density to a record high of about 830 persons per square kilometre.

Population growth in itself is not a problem. In the short to medium term, the main challenge will be to equip the young generations with necessary skills and establishing the right environment in which they will be productive to their full potential.

In about 30 to 50 years Rwanda has a demographic window in which the labour force, particularly the proportion of young people vis-à-vis the total population will be considerably high and dependency low. During this time Rwanda will potentially start reaping a lot from its population. Preparations however have to start now.