Based on the Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Census (2022 RPHC), Rwandan population is 13,246,394., of which 51.5% are females while 48.5% are males. The results indicates that the population of Rwanda has increased by 2.7 million, signifying an average annual growth rate of 2.3% compared to the 2012 RPHC.

Regarding the distribution of population by province, the East and South are the most densely populated provinces, constituting half of the total population of Rwanda. Population distribution by districts shows that Gasabo in the City of Kigali is the most populous district in Rwanda, while Nyaruguru in the Southern Province and Nyabihu in Western Province are the least populous districts.

In terms of population density, Rwanda's population density rose sharply to 503 habitants per square kilometer, in 2022 Census, from 415 in 2012, 321 in 2002, 272 in 1991 and 183 in 1978.

Concerning the age structure of the population, the 2022 RPHC shows that Rwanda has a large youthful population with the median age of 20 years, indicating that half of the country's population is under 20 years old. Only 4.2% of Rwandan population are aged 65 years and above. The same results indicates that the mean age of Rwandan population is 24,6 years.

TABLE: Resident population by residence, Province, and District (2022)

	Count			**Percentage**		
Province/ District						
	Total	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Total**	**Urban**	**Rural**
Rwanda	**13,246,394**	**3,701,245**	**9,545,149**	**100**	**27.9**	**72.1**
City of Kigali	**1,745,555**	**1,517,168**	**228,387**	**100**	**86.9**	**13.1**
Nyarugenge	374,319	315,899	58,420	100	84.4	15.6

Gasabo	879,505	714,069	165,436	100	81.2	18.8
Kicukiro	491,731	487,200	4,531	100	99.1	0.9
Southern Province	**3,002,699**	**444,106**	**2,558,593**	**100**	**14.8**	**85.2**
Nyanza	365,718	33,765	331,953	100	9.2	90.8
Gisagara	397,051	13,513	383,538	100	3.4	96.6
Nyaruguru	318,126	7,641	310,485	100	2.4	97.6
Huye	381,900	79,744	302,156	100	20.9	79.1
Nyamagabe	371,501	40,592	330,909	100	10.9	89.1
Ruhango	359,121	39,079	320,042	100	10.9	89.1
Muhanga	358,433	87,252	271,181	100	24.3	75.7
Kamonyi	450,849	142,520	308,329	100	31.6	68.4
Western Province	**2,896,484**	**640,307**	**2,256,177**	**100**	**22.1**	**77.9**
Karongi	373,869	33,542	340,327	100	9	91
Rutsiro	369,180	20,606	348,574	100	5.6	94.4
Rubavu	546,683	294,448	252,235	100	53.9	46.1

Nyabihu	319,047	78,027	241,020	100	24.5	75.5
Ngororero	367,955	18,142	349,813	100	4.9	95.1
Rusizi	485,529	162,165	323,364	100	33.4	66.6
Nyamasheke	434,221	33,377	400,844	100	7.7	92.3
Northern Province	**2,038,511**	**353,729**	**1,684,782**	**100**	**17.4**	**82.6**
Rulindo	360,144	38,110	322,034	100	10.6	89.4
Gakenke	365,292	14,788	350,504	100	4	96
Musanze	476,522	234,258	242,264	100	49.2	50.8
Burera	387,729	38,442	349,287	100	9.9	90.1
Gicumbi	448,824	28,131	420,693	100	6.3	93.7
Eastern Province	**3,563,145**	**745,935**	**2,817,210**	**100**	**20.9**	**79.1**
Rwamagana	484,953	180,056	304,897	100	37.1	62.9
Nyagatare	653,861	157,894	495,967	100	24.1	75.9
Gatsibo	551,164	55,351	495,813	100	10	90
Kayonza	457,156	65,071	392,085	100	14.2	85.8

Kirehe	460,860	29,039	431,821	100	6.3	93.7
Ngoma	404,048	37,297	366,751	100	9.2	90.8
Bugesera	551,103	221,227	329,876	100	40.1	59.9

Regarding the Rwanda's Population evolution, the Rwanda’s population has increased over time, tripling between 1978 (4.8 million) and 2022 (13.2 million). The increase was steady between 1978 and 1991, between 2002 and 2012 as well as between 2012 and 2022 as reflected by the respective average annual growth rates of 3.1%, 2.6% and 2.3%. In contrast, the population growth was slow between 1991 and 2002 (1.2% annually), reflecting the high death toll of the 1990 war and the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

TABLE: Evolution of the size of the resident population and annual growth rates by sex between 1978 and 2022

	Rwanda		
Year of census and annual growth rate			
	Total	**Male**	**Female**
Year of census			
1978	4,831,527	2,363,177	2,468,350
1991	7,157,551	3,488,612	3,668,939
2002	8,128,553	3,879,448	4,249,105
2012	10,515,973	5,064,868	5,451,105
2022	13,246,394	6,429,326	6,817,068

Intercensal growth rate (%)			
1978-1991	3.1	3.0	3.1
1991-2002	1.2	1.0	1.3
2002-2012	2.6	2.7	2.5
2012-2022	2.3	2.4	2.3
1978-2022	2.2	2.2	2.3

Considering the distribution of the population by residence area, results from the fifth population and housing Census show that 72.1% of the population of Rwanda live in rural areas while 27.9% live in urban areas. Compared to the previous census, this represents a continuous increase in regard to the population living in urban areas, as this proportion was 16.5% in 2012.

Population projections

The Rwanda population is projected to increase from 13.2 million in 2022 to 24.2 million (high scenario), to 23.8 million (medium scenario), and to 23.4 million (low scenario) by 2052.

The urban population is expected to increase from 3.7 million in 2022 to at least 16.2 million (low scenario), 16.5 million (medium scenario) and 16.8 million (high scenario) by 2052.

The projected rural population is bound to increase from 9.5 million in 2022 to: 9.6 million in 2027, then start decreasing up to 7.3 million (high scenario), to 7.1 million (medium scenario), and to 7.0 million (low scenario) in 2052.

Data sources

RPHC5: Main indicators reports

RPHC5: Population Projection

RPHC5: All thematic reports

RPHC5 : District profiles

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