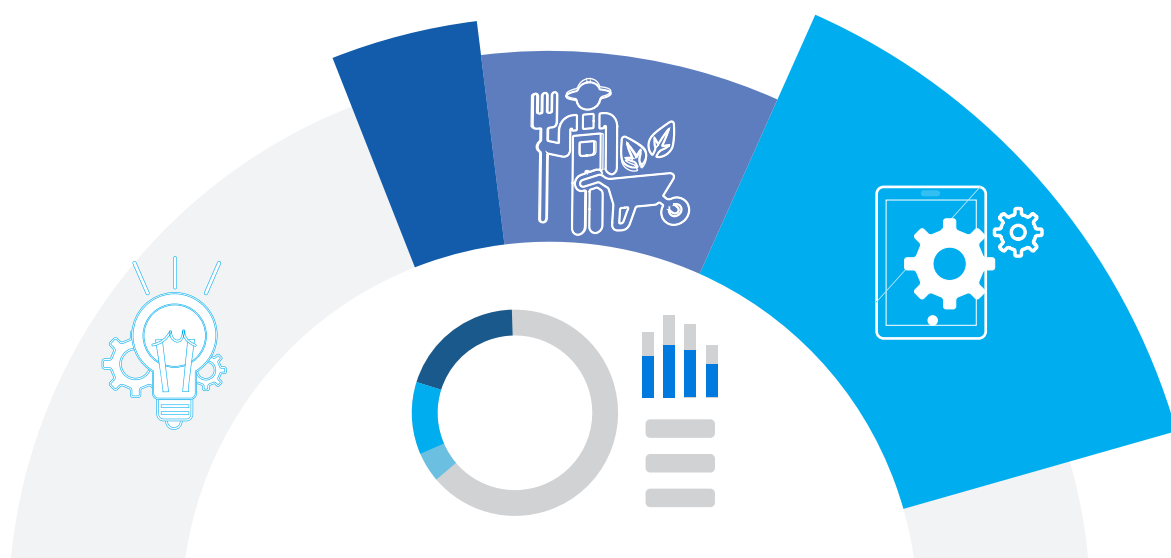




Republic
of Rwanda



Gender Thematic Report Establishment Census

2023

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The Rwandan government needs up-to-date information to monitor progress made under programs and policies, taking gender issues into account (as a cross-cutting theme), as outlined in the Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) 2025–2029, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Vision 2050. To track progress toward achieving these goals and targets, it is necessary to produce relevant, reliable, consistent, up-to-date, and accessible gender statistics to facilitate evidence-based policy-making and decision-making that takes into account both women and men in the community.

It is with great pride that the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), with the support of UN Women as part of the “ONE UN” initiative, has committed to establishing and strengthening a comprehensive Gender Statistics Framework (GSF), which has notably led to the production of thematic reports on gender based on key surveys. This report aims to serve as an essential resource for policymakers, researchers, private sector actors, and development partners. By grounding our decisions in reliable and disaggregated data, we can better design interventions that promote gender equality, economically empower women, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Understanding gender disparities and progress in the workplace is essential to fostering inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. The findings presented here highlight critical issues such as the distribution of employment, representation in leadership and ownership positions, access to opportunities, and the structural challenges that continue to shape gender equality outcomes in the entrepreneurial labor market.

In this context, the NISR is pleased to present this thematic report on gender equality, based on the results of the fifth Establishment Census conducted at the end of 2023. This census follows on from the series of censuses conducted in 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020. It covers all institutions, regardless of the institutional sector to which they belong.

The NISR congratulates everyone who contributed in any way to the production of this thematic report. In particular, the NISR expresses its gratitude to UN Women and the European Union for their continued support for the production and use of gender statistics.

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda invites policymakers, particularly those in institutions responsible for gender issues, program managers, researchers, and all users, to play an important role in utilizing the valuable data on business ownership and management by women and men presented in this report, which is based on the establishment census cycles.



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DSS:	Demographic and Social Statistics
EU:	European Union
GMO:	Gender Monitoring Office
GSF:	Gender Statistics Framework
IBES:	Integrated Business Enterprise Survey
ICLS:	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICPCs:	Integrated Craft Production Centers
ILO:	International Labour Organization
ISIC:	International Standards for Industry Classification
LFS:	Labour Force Survey
LNGO:	Local Non-Governmental Organization
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MIFOTRA:	Ministry of Public Service and Labour
MINICOM:	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NGO:	Non- Governmental Organization
NISR:	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
NS:	Not Stated
NST2:	National Strategy for Transformation 2 (2025–2029)
OECD:	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP:	Public-Private Partnership
PSF:	Private Sector Federation
RCA:	Rwanda Cooperative Agency
RDB:	Rwanda Development Board
RGB:	Rwanda Governance Board
RRA:	Rwanda Revenue Authority
RSSB:	Rwanda Social Security Board
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SMRP:	Statistical Methods and Research Publication Unit
SNA:	System of National Accounts
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TPR:	Professional Tax
VAT:	Value Added Tax
WTO:	World Trade Organization

vi Executive Summary

This report constitutes a critical contribution to the national Gender Statistics Framework (GSF) and serves as an authoritative reference document for policymakers, researchers, private sector actors, and development partners committed to advancing gender equality in Rwanda's entrepreneurial labor market landscape.

The 2023 Establishment Census covered a total of 269,326 establishments across all institutional sectors and geographic locations in Rwanda. Of these, 39.9 percent were managed by women and 60.1 percent by men. This proportion represents a commendable and consistent improvement compared to 32.6 percent female management recorded in 2017 and 37.1 percent in 2020, affirming a positive and sustained trend toward greater female participation in enterprises management. Notwithstanding this progress, women remain substantially underrepresented in larger enterprises: while 40.8 percent of micro enterprises (1–3 workers) were female-managed, only 10.8 percent of large enterprises (100+ workers) were under female management in 2023, highlighting the persistent gender gap in leadership as enterprise size increases.

In terms of geographic distribution, female-managed enterprises are more prevalent in urban areas (66,341) than in rural areas (37,975). In urban settings, female-managed enterprises slightly exceed their male-managed counterparts; however, in rural areas, male-managed enterprises (92,427) highly exceed those managed by women. This urban-rural disparity reflects both differing access to economic opportunities and the structural concentration of larger establishments in rural areas, where men continue to dominate enterprise management across all size categories.

With respect to economic activity, the majority of female-managed establishments are concentrated in the Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sector (44.6 percent), followed by Accommodation and Food Service Activities (33.7 percent). While women demonstrate a significant presence in trade and service-related activities, men dominate the majority of economic sectors, particularly those that are capital-intensive or a technical nature, including Construction (88.0 percent), Mining and Quarrying (83.7 percent), Transportation and Storage (79.0 percent), and Information and Communication (77.9 percent). Notably, Administrative and Support Service Activities emerges as the only sector in which female-managed establishments hold a slight majority at 52.8 percent.

Regarding the growth trajectory of establishments, the data reveal that female-managed establishments have consistently grown at a faster rate than their male-managed counterparts across consecutive census cycles. Between 2017 and 2020, female-managed establishments grew by 38.7 percent compared to 14.3 percent for male-managed establishments. This positive momentum continued between 2020 and 2023, with female-managed establishments recording a growth rate of 24.7 percent against 10.9 percent for male-managed ones. This accelerated growth was driven predominantly by urban areas, where female-managed establishments increased by 44.8 percent in the most recent period, while rural areas recorded gradual progress for women. These trends reflect an evolving landscape that, while still characterized by systemic gender disparities, is gradually and consistently shifting toward greater female managerial representation.

In the domain of formal and informal enterprise classification, the results and findings reveal a significant gender disparity in formality status. A total of 35.7 percent of business-oriented enterprises managed by women operate in the informal sector, compared to 52.3 percent of male-managed enterprises.

Whilst informal enterprise rates are higher for male-managed establishments in absolute terms, female-managed enterprises record a notably lower rate of formalization: only 4.3 percent of female-managed enterprises are classified as formal, compared to 7.6 percent for male-managed enterprises. Furthermore, male-managed enterprises consistently record higher rates of formality across all enterprise size categories, and operate with significantly higher levels of employed capital and annual turnover, particularly in the upper capital bands above 50 million Rwanda Francs. At the highest capital threshold of above 1 billion Rwanda Francs, 79.1 percent of formal enterprises are male-managed, compared to only 15.8 percent that are female-managed while 3.3 percent of informal enterprises are male-managed, compared to only 1.7 percent that are female-managed.

With regard to employment, the 2023 Establishment Census recorded a total workforce of 927,739 persons across all establishments in Rwanda, of whom 523,170 were male and 404,569 were female. Employment for both sexes is most highly concentrated in Kigali City, which accounts for 31.9 percent of total employment. Male workers exceed female workers in the majority of districts and economic sectors; however, female workers demonstrate relatively stronger representation in education (18.9 percent), human health and social work (6.2 percent), public administration (5.6 percent), and agriculture (3.3 percent). Male workers dominate in physically intensive and technical sectors, including Mining and Quarrying (4.7 percent), Administrative and Support Services (4.7 percent), Construction (1.6 percent), and Transportation and Storage (1.8 percent). The private sector accounts for the largest share of total employment (65.3 percent), although it also exhibits the widest gender gap, with female workers representing only 37.0 percent of the private sector workforce.

An analysis of sole proprietorship establishments which constitute the dominant legal form at 90.4 percent of all private and mixed sector establishments, further illustrates the gender dynamics of Rwanda's enterprise landscape. Sole proprietor enterprises, are overwhelmingly micro-sized, with 96.5 percent of female-owned and 94.9 percent of male-owned sole proprietor enterprises falling within the micro category (1–3 workers) in 2023. Female owners account for 40.2 percent of sole proprietor enterprises, compared to 59.8 percent for male owners. While there is no significant difference in registration rates between female-owned (75.0 percent) and male-owned (74.7 percent) sole proprietor enterprises, only 9.5 percent of female-owned and 9.7 percent of male-owned enterprises maintain regular accounting records, pointing to a critical need for capacity building and financial literacy interventions that target both women and men at the enterprise level.

The results and findings of this report further confirm that international trade engagement remains exceedingly limited among sole proprietor establishments, with only 0.1 percent of female-owned and 0.2 percent of male-owned establishments engaged in goods export, and 1.0 percent of female-owned establishments involved in goods import. The majority of sole proprietor establishments, irrespective of the sex of their owner, operate exclusively in the domestic market, reflecting the predominantly subsistence and local-market orientation of Rwanda's micro-enterprise sector.

In summation, whilst Rwanda has made praiseworthy and measurable progress toward gender parity in enterprise ownership and management, as evidenced by the steady increase in the proportion of female-managed enterprises from 32.6 percent in 2017 to 39.9 percent in 2023, and the consistently higher growth rate of female-managed establishments relative to their male-managed counterparts, substantive structural inequalities persist. Women remain disproportionately concentrated in micro-sized, informal, low-capital, and domestically oriented enterprises, with limited representation in large enterprises, capital-intensive sectors, and higher-turnover business categories.

1 INTRODUCTION

The importance of women entrepreneurs in the development of national economies has been recognised by a number of international organisations including the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). At a national level, many countries have instigated a variety of support mechanisms specifically designed to assist women in business¹.

Empowering women to engage in productive activities is one of the driving factors for transforming Rwanda into an upper-income country as envisaged by the vision 2050. The Government of Rwanda has repeatedly emphasized that Rwanda can only develop if men and women are equally empowered to exercise their rights and contribute to the achievement of the national long-term development aspirations.

Gender is one of the cross-cutting issues under the national strategy for transformation (NST2 2025-2029). This gives an opportunity to all priority sectors to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all sector priorities and interventions. A number of other gender promoting initiatives, such as high representation in the parliament and in decision making organs as well as reforming the legal framework to provide equal rights between men and women have been implemented.

Despite the above achievements, studies show that there are still a number of differences between men and women especially in terms of ownership and management of businesses, employment and financial inclusion.

The trend for women in business is growing. It is fueled by women determined to “lean in” and get into the big business game, millennials looking to define their own career paths, and many others who are more entrepreneurial in nature. Mentorship programs are helping pull women up, further than ever before. At the same time, women are pulling together and creating their own networking, meet-ups, etc — but they still have a way to go. Women looking to start businesses or expand existing ones have less opportunity for funding, and overall, they earn less than men. Women must be considered seriously in business, be it as executives or entrepreneurs².

The main objective of this report is to use the 2023 establishment census to identify women entrepreneurs in Rwanda, their characteristics, the potentials for growth as well as the trends since 2014.

Key Concepts

The concepts used in the Establishment Census 2023 follow the international standards. In order to avoid confusion, hereafter are the definitions for some concepts that have been considered during data collection and data analysis.

(a) Enterprise: According to the International Standards of Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, an enterprise is an economic transactor with autonomy in respect of financial and investment decision-making, as well as authority and responsibility for allocating resources for the production of goods and services. It may be engaged in one or more productive activities. An enterprise may be a corporation (or quasi-corporation), a non-profit institution or an unincorporated enterprise.

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253378610_WOMEN'S_BUSINESS_OWNERSHIP_RECENT_RESEARCH_AND_POLICY_DEVELOPMENTS , Accessed on 14th December 2021

² <https://businessdegrees.uab.edu/blog/women-in-business-a-trend-that-is-and-should-be-growing/>. Accessed on 11th October 2021.

The enterprise is the level of statistical unit at which all information relating to its transactions, including financial and balance sheet accounts, are maintained, and from which international transactions, an international investment position (when applicable), consolidated financial position and net worth can be derived (United Nations, 2008, p.16).

(b) Establishment: The System of National Accounts (SNA) defines the statistical unit for industrial or production statistics as the establishment. In this Census, the establishment is defined as an enterprise or part of an enterprise that is situated in a single location and in which only a single (non-ancillary) productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added (United Nations, 2008, p.16).

The establishments which are considered in the Establishment Census 2023 are:

Private establishment: all private establishments belonging to a private individual or organization rather than a state or public body.

Public establishment: All public institutions and businesses owned by the government,

Religious establishment: The institutions that have the objective of proclaiming the gospel and the good news according to their belief,

NGO: Non-profit, citizen-based group that functions independently of the government. These organizations include National (Local) as well as International Non-Governmental Organizations

(C) Formal and informal sector. According to the ILO (2000), the informal sector for enterprises is defined based on the following criteria³: They are private unincorporated enterprises (excluding quasi-corporations), i.e. enterprises owned by individuals or households that are not constituted as separate legal entities independently of their owners, and for which no complete accounts are available that would permit a financial separation of the production activities of the enterprise from the other activities of its owner(s). Private unincorporated enterprises include unincorporated enterprises owned and operated by individual household members or by several members of the same household, as well as unincorporated partnerships and cooperatives formed by members of different households, if they lack complete sets of accounts.

All or at least some of the goods or services produced are meant for sale or barter, with the possible inclusion in the informal sector of households which produce domestic or personal services in employing paid domestic employees.

Their size in terms of employment opportunities is below a certain threshold to be determined according to national circumstances, and or they are not registered under specific forms of national legislation (such as factories' or commercial acts, tax or social security laws, professional groups' regulatory acts, or similar acts, laws or regulations established by national legislative bodies as distinct from local regulations for issuing trade licenses or business permits), and or their employees (if any) are not registered.

³ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/download/papers/meas.pdf> consulted on the 22nd March 2018

They are engaged in non-agricultural activities, including secondary non-agricultural activities of enterprises in the agricultural sector.

The term “enterprise” is used here in a broad sense, referring to any unit engaged in the production of goods or services for sale or barter. It covers not only production units, which employ hired labour, but also production units that are owned and operated by single individuals working on own account as self-employed persons, either alone or with the help of unpaid family members. The activities may be undertaken inside or outside the enterprise owner’s home, and they may be carried out in identifiable premises, unidentifiable premises or without a fixed location. In the light of the above clarifications, the formal sector for enterprises comprises corporations, non-profit institutions, unincorporated enterprises owned by government units, and those private unincorporated enterprises producing goods or services for sale or barter which are not part of the informal sector (ILO, 2000).

Table 1: The ILO distinction between formal and informal sectors

Criterion	Formal Sector	Informal Sector
Complete accounts	Yes	No
Employment size	5 +	1-4
Registration	Yes	No
Production of goods/services for sale or barter in non-agricultural activities	Yes	Yes

Source: ILO, 2000

Formal and informal sector in Rwanda

As adopted in the 2014 establishment censuses, the formal or informal establishment was defined according to the criteria of maintaining operational accounts and Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) registration in addition to the production of goods or services for sale or barter in non-agricultural activities.

Main Results Of The Establishment Census 2023

2.1. Enterprise Management

Results from the table 2 show that, overall, 39.9 percent of all enterprises in Rwanda have a female manager compared to 60.1 percent with a male manager. Considering the size of the enterprise, the results show that 40.8 percent of micro enterprises have a female manager compared to 59.2 percent with a male manager. It should be noted that, as the size category of enterprise based on the number of workers increases, the number of enterprises with a female manager decreases. For example, only 10.8 percent of enterprises with more than hundred workers (large) have a female manager compared to 75.4 percent of enterprises with a male manager in this category.

Table 2: Distribution of enterprises by size and by sex of manager

Enterprise Size	Count				Percent			
	Female	Male	Not stated	Total	Female	Male	Not stated	Total
Micro (1-3)	98,488	142,672	19	241,179	40.8	59.2	0.0	92.2
Small (4-30)	5,066	11,646	18	16,730	30.3	69.6	0.1	6.4
Medium (31-100)	704	2,359	40	3,103	22.7	76.0	1.3	1.2
Large (100+)	58	405	74	537	10.8	75.4	13.8	0.2
Total	104,316	157,082	151	261,549	39.9	60.1	0.1	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Results in Table 3 show that the total number of enterprises with a female manager grew substantially from 60,786 in 2017 to 83,977 in 2020 and further to 104,316 in 2023, while male-managed enterprises similarly increased from 125,662 in 2017 to 142,245 in 2020 and 157,082 in 2023, indicating that although both groups expanded, female-managed enterprises grew at a faster pace. The majority of female-managed enterprises were concentrated in the micro category, rising from 56,740 in 2017 to 98,488 in 2023, followed by small enterprises which increased from 3,638 to 5,066 over the same period. It should be noted that as enterprise size increases, the count of female-managed enterprises drops sharply, with medium enterprises recording only 704 and large enterprises a mere 58 female-managed firms in 2023, compared to 2,359 and 405 male-managed enterprises respectively in the same size categories, highlighting the persistent and widening gender gap in leadership as enterprise size grows.

Table 3: Distribution of enterprises by size and sex of manager from 2017 to 2023

Size / Year	2017		2020		2023	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Micro (1-3)	56,740	114,306	79,351	130,357	98,488	142,672
Small (4-30)	3,638	9,719	4,179	10,093	5,066	11,646
Medium (31-100)	366	1,332	403	1,512	704	2,359
Large (100+)	42	305	44	283	58	405
Total	60,786	125,662	83,977	142,245	104,316	157,082

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

Results in Table 4 show that the overall share of female-managed enterprises increased steadily from 32.6 percent in 2017 to 37.1 percent in 2020 and further to 39.9 percent in 2023, while the share of male-managed enterprises correspondingly declined from 67.4 percent to 60.1 percent over the same period, suggesting a gradual but consistent shift toward greater female participation in enterprise management. Across all three Census years, micro enterprises (1–3 workers) dominated the distribution for both sexes, accounting for 93.3 percent of all female-managed enterprises and 91.0 percent of male-managed enterprises in 2017, and remaining similarly dominant in 2023 at 94.4 percent and 90.8 percent respectively. Small enterprises (4–30 workers) represented the second largest category, though their share among female-managed enterprises slightly declined from 6.0 percent in 2017 to 4.9 percent in 2023, compared to 7.7 percent and 7.4 percent for male-managed enterprises over the same period. Notably, medium and large enterprises continued to represent a very marginal share for both sexes, with female-managed medium enterprises accounting for only 0.7 percent and large enterprises a mere 0.1 percent in 2023, compared to 1.5 percent and 0.3 percent respectively for male-managed enterprises, reinforcing the pattern that women remain significantly underrepresented in the management of larger enterprises in Rwanda.

Table 4: Trend of enterprises by size and by sex of manager

Size / Year	2017		2020		2023	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Micro (1-3)	93.3%	91.0%	94.5%	91.6%	94.4%	90.8%
Small (4-30)	6.0%	7.7%	5.0%	7.1%	4.9%	7.4%
Medium (31-100)	0.6%	1.1%	0.5%	1.1%	0.7%	1.5%
Large (100+)	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Total Share	32.6%	67.4%	37.1%	62.9%	39.9%	60.1%

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

Results in Table 5 show that in 2023, a total of 130,996 enterprises were recorded in urban areas, compared to 130,402 in rural areas, indicating a similar overall distribution by residence. In urban areas, the number of female-managed enterprises (66,341) is slightly higher than male-managed ones (64,655), while in rural areas, male-managed enterprises (92,427) far exceed those managed by women (37,975). Across enterprise sizes, micro enterprises dominate in both locations, with 62,165 female- and 55,593 male-managed in urban areas, compared to 36,323 female- and 87,079 male-managed in rural areas. For small enterprises, urban areas record 3,785 female and 7,787 male managers, while rural areas have 1,281 female and 3,859 males. In medium enterprises, the numbers are relatively low, with 349 females and 1,004 males in urban areas, and 355 females and 1,355 males in rural areas. Large enterprises remain few, with 42 females and 271 males in urban areas, and only 16 females and 134 males in rural areas. Overall, the counts show that women are more represented in urban enterprises, particularly in micro businesses, while men dominate across all enterprise sizes in rural areas, with the gap becoming more pronounced as enterprise size increases.

Table 5: Enterprises by size and residence by sex of manager

Enterprise size	Urban		Rural	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Micro (1-3)	62,165	55,593	36,323	87,079
Small (4-30)	3,785	7,787	1,281	3,859
Medium (31-100)	349	1,004	355	1,355
Large (100+)	42	271	16	134
Total	66,341	64,655	37,975	92,427

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2.2. Economic activity

Results in Table 6 show that a total of 269,326 enterprises were recorded, of which 60.4% are managed by men (162,660) compared to 39.5% managed by women (106,515), while only 0.1% have managers not stated, indicating a clear dominance of male-managed enterprises overall. The largest share of enterprises is in Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (53.7%), where 55.4% are male-managed (80,160) compared to 44.6% female-managed (64,489). This is followed by Accommodation and Food Service Activities (23.0%), with 66.3% male (41,037) and 33.7% female (20,877). Other Service Activities (8.5%) and Manufacturing (6.6%) also account for notable shares, both dominated by men (71.6% and 56.1%, respectively). In contrast, Administrative and Support Service Activities (0.6%) is one of the few sectors where women slightly dominate, accounting for 52.8% (820) compared to 47.2% (732) for men. Several sectors are heavily male-dominated, including Construction (88.0% male vs 12.0% female), Mining and Quarrying (83.7% vs 16.3%), and Transportation and Storage (79.0% vs 20.9%). Similarly, Information and Communication (77.9% male), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (75.1% male), and Education (72.7% male) show strong gender gaps in favor of men. Overall, the results indicate that while women have a significant presence in trade and service-related activities, men dominate most economic sectors, particularly those that are capital-intensive or technical.

Table 6: Distribution of establishments (number and %) by economic activity and sex of the manager

Economic Activity	Female		Male		Not Stated		Total	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	141	20.0	565	80.0	0	0.0	706	0.3
Mining And Quarrying	48	16.3	247	83.7	0	0.0	295	0.1
Manufacturing	7,827	43.9	9,998	56.1	1	0.0	17,826	6.6
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3	3.9	72	94.7	1	1.3	76	0.0
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	903	46.6	1,035	53.4	0	0.0	1938	0.7
Construction	24	12.0	176	88.0	0	0.0	200	0.1
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	64,489	44.6	80,160	55.4	10	0.0	14,4659	53.7
Transportation And Storage	148	20.9	559	79.0	1	0.1	708	0.3
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	20,877	33.7	41,037	66.3	8	0.0	61,922	23.0
Information And Communication	554	22.1	1,957	77.9	1	0.0	2,512	0.9
Financial and Insurance Activities	1,472	36.2	2,591	63.7	3	0.1	4,066	1.5
Real Estate Activities	26	19.7	106	80.3	0	0.0	132	0.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities	461	24.9	1,392	75.1	0	0.0	1,853	0.7
Administrative And Support Service Activities	820	52.8	732	47.2	0	0.0	1,552	0.6
Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	3	2.3	11	8.5	116	89.2	130	0.0
Education	1,479	27.1	3,962	72.7	10	0.2	5,451	2.0
Human Health and Social Work Activities	627	33.9	1,224	66.1	0	0.0	1,851	0.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	96	19.2	404	80.8	0	0.0	500	0.2
Other Service Activities	6,517	28.4	16,432	71.6	0	0.0	22,949	8.5
Total	106,515	39.5	162,660	60.4	151	0.1	269,326	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2.3 Enterprises size

The results in Table 7 reveal that the majority of enterprises in Rwanda are Micro-sized (92.2 percent), followed by Small enterprises (6.4 percent), while Medium and Large enterprises account for only 1.2 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. This indicates a highly skewed structure of enterprises dominated by very small-scale businesses.

In terms of ownership by sex, Micro enterprises are predominantly owned by both males and females, with male owners accounting for a higher share (59.2 percent) compared to female owners (40.8 percent). A similar pattern is observed in Small enterprises, where male ownership is higher (69.6 percent) than female ownership (30.3 percent). The same trend continues for Medium enterprises, where male owners represent 76.0 percent compared to 22.7 percent for females. Large enterprises are also mainly owned by males (75.4 percent), while female ownership is relatively low (10.8 percent), with a noticeable share of not stated ownership (13.8 percent).

Overall, the data show that enterprise ownership in Rwanda is male-dominated across all size categories, with female ownership declining as enterprise size increase

Table 7: Distribution of enterprises (number and %) by size based on the number of workers by sex of owners

Size	Count				Percent			
	Female	Male	Not stated	Total	Female	Male	Not stated	Total
Micro(1-3)	98,488	142,672	19	241,179	40.8	59.2	0.0	100.0
Small(4-30)	5,066	11,646	18	16,730	30.3	69.6	0.1	100.0
Medium(31-100)	704	2,359	40	3,103	22.7	76.0	1.3	100.0
Large(100+)	58	405	74	537	10.8	75.4	13.8	100.0
Total	104,316	157,082	151	261,549	39.9	60.1	0.1	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2.4. Establishment by Legal Status

The results presented in Table 8 show that the private and mixed sector establishments in Rwanda are overwhelmingly dominated by sole proprietorships, which account for 90.4 percent of all establishments. The remaining legal forms are relatively marginal, including limited by shares (4.5 percent), none/undefined legal status (4.5 percent), unlimited companies (0.4 percent), and both limited by guarantee and limited by shares and guarantee at 0.1 percent each.

In terms of sex of the manager, sole proprietorships are mainly managed by males (59.8 percent) compared to females (40.2 percent), although female representation remains relatively strong in this category compared to other legal forms. For limited by shares companies, male managers dominate significantly (71.5 percent) compared to females (28.4 percent). A similar pattern is observed for limited by guarantee (76.0 percent male vs 24.0 percent female), limited by shares and guarantee (68.2 percent male vs 31.8 percent female), and unlimited companies (71.7 percent male vs 28.3 percent female), indicating a consistent male dominance in more formal and complex legal business structures.

The “none” category shows a relatively balanced distribution, with 55.5 percent male managers and 44.5 percent female managers. Overall, the data indicate that while sole proprietorships remain the dominant legal form and are relatively more accessible to both sexes, higher levels of business formalization tend to be associated with increased male managerial dominance.

Table 8: Distribution of establishments in the private and mixed sector by legal status by sex of the manager

Legal status	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Sole proprietorship	96,820	144,172	240,992	40.2	59.8	100.0
Limited by shares	3,400	8,563	11,984	28.4	71.5	100.0
Limited by guarantee	62	196	258	24.0	76.0	100.0
Limited by shares and by guarantee	54	116	170	31.8	68.2	100.0
Unlimited	295	747	1,042	28.3	71.7	100.0
None	5,375	6,703	12,078	44.5	55.5	100.0
Total	106,006	160,497	266,524	39.8	60.2	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2. 5. Registration of Enterprise

All enterprises in Rwanda are supposed to be registered by the concerned administrative and public/private entities such as the Administrative Sector, District, Social Security Board, Rwanda Cooperative Agency, Private Sector Federation, Rwanda Governance Board, Rwanda Development Board, and Rwanda Revenue Authority. The results in Table 9 show that, in terms of absolute numbers, the level of registration of establishments with a male manager is highest at the Rwanda Revenue Authority (144,065), followed by the Rwanda Development Board (96,401) and the Administrative Sector (116,569). The same pattern is observed among establishments with a female manager, where the highest number is also recorded at the Rwanda Revenue Authority (93,955), followed by the Rwanda Development Board (64,804) and the Administrative Sector (77,748)

Table 9: Level of registration of enterprises registered at different administrative and public/private authorities by sex of the manager

Level of Registration of Enterprises	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Sector	77,748	116,569	194,332	40.0	60.0	100.0
District	73,775	111,706	185,496	39.8	60.2	100.0
Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) only Cooperative	808	1,806	2,615	30.9	69.1	100.0
Private Sector Federation (PSF)	10,152	18,975	29,129	34.9	65.1	100.0
Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) only NGO	1,608	4,022	5,632	28.6	71.4	100.0
Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB)	2,959	7,572	10,663	27.8	71.0	100.0
Rwanda Development Board (RDB)	64,804	96,401	161,221	40.2	59.8	100.0
Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA)	93,955	144,065	238,167	39.4	60.5	100.0
Directorate of Immigration and Emigration	318	637	955	33.3	66.7	100.0
Other	228	442	670	34.0	66.0	100.0
Total	326,355	501,753	828,108	39.4	60.6	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2.6. Employment

In 2023, the total number of all establishments' workers in Rwanda was 927,739 persons, of which 523,170 were male and 404,569 were female (see Table 10), showing that males outnumber females in employment across all districts. The distribution of workers by sex is broadly similar geographically, with both female and male employment highly concentrated in Kigali City, which accounts for 31.9 percent of total employment (32.1 percent for females and 31.7 percent for males). Across other provinces, the shares remain relatively balanced between sexes, with the Eastern Province and Western Province each contributing about 18.5 percent, followed by the Southern Province (17.3 percent) and the Northern Province (13.8 percent). At district level, differences between female and male shares are generally small, but males consistently have a slightly higher representation in most districts, indicating that although employment opportunities are similarly distributed spatially for both sexes, a gender gap in favor of male workers persists nationwide.

Table 10: Distribution of establishments' workers by district and by sex

District/ Province	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Both sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes
Nyarugenge	38,586	51,172	89,758	9.5	9.8	9.7
Gasabo	57,956	72,903	130,859	14.3	13.9	14.1
Kicukiro	33,482	41,573	75,055	8.3	7.9	8.1
Kigali City	130,024	165,648	295,672	32.1	31.7	31.9
Nyanza	6,532	8,092	14,624	1.6	1.5	1.6
Gisagara	7,104	8,382	15,486	1.8	1.6	1.7
Nyaruguru	7,664	11,285	18,949	1.9	2.2	2.0
Huye	11,858	14,536	26,394	2.9	2.8	2.8
Nyamagabe	9,151	12,233	21,384	2.3	2.3	2.3
Ruhango	7,595	9,456	17,051	1.9	1.8	1.8
Muhanga	10,309	12,102	22,411	2.5	2.3	2.4
Kamonyi	11,455	13,108	24,563	2.8	2.5	2.6
South Province	71,668	89,194	160,862	17.7	17.0	17.3
Karongi	11,211	13,213	24,424	2.8	2.5	2.6
Rutsiro	7,015	12,408	19,423	1.7	2.4	2.1
Rubavu	15,281	19,125	34,406	3.8	3.7	3.7
Nyabihu	9,305	11,785	21,090	2.3	2.3	2.3
Ngororero	10,073	13,004	23,077	2.5	2.5	2.5
Rusizi	11,154	15,712	26,866	2.8	3.0	2.9
Nyamasheke	9,595	12,745	22,340	2.4	2.4	2.4
West Province	73,634	97,992	171,626	18.2	18.7	18.5
Rulindo	12,649	15,946	28,595	3.1	3.0	3.1
Gakenke	7,611	13,343	20,954	1.9	2.6	2.3
Musanze	16,952	19,058	36,010	4.2	3.6	3.9
Burera	6,668	11,270	17,938	1.6	2.2	1.9
Gicumbi	10,390	14,367	24,757	2.6	2.7	2.7
North Province	54,270	73,984	128,254	13.4	14.1	13.8
Rwamagana	12,994	14,825	27,819	3.2	2.8	3.0
Nyagatare	10,700	16,179	26,879	2.6	3.1	2.9

District/ Province	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Both sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes
Gatsibo	10,114	13,308	23,422	2.5	2.5	2.5
Kayanza	9,926	13,363	23,289	2.5	2.6	2.5
Kirehe	9,395	12,602	21,997	2.3	2.4	2.4
Ngoma	7,924	10,596	18,520	2.0	2.0	2.0
Bugesera	13,920	15,479	29,399	3.4	3.0	3.2
East Province	74,973	96,352	171,325	18.5	18.4	18.5
Rwanda	404,569	523,170	927,739	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

In 2020, the total number of all establishments' workers in Rwanda was 706,140 persons, increasing to 927,739 persons in 2023 (see Table 11). Over this period, both female and male employment grew across all districts, with male workers consistently remaining the majority. The distribution of workers by sex shows that employment is increasingly concentrated in Kigali City, where the share rose from 28.8 percent in 2020 to 31.9 percent in 2023, indicating that urban areas attract both female and male workers. However, within Kigali City, female workers show a stronger concentration than males — in 2023, females account for 32.1 percent of all female employment compared to 31.7 percent for males, reversing the pattern seen in 2020 when males had a slightly higher share (28.9 percent) than females (28.7 percent). Across provinces, the shares for female and male workers remained relatively stable, with the Eastern Province and Western Province each accounting for about 18–19 percent, while the Southern Province and Northern Province show slightly lower proportions. Notably, the Southern Province's share declined from 18.9 percent in 2020 to 17.3 percent in 2023 for both sexes. At district level, variations between female and male shares are generally small, but male workers tend to have a slightly higher representation in most districts. Overall, the results indicate that although employment opportunities expanded for both sexes between 2020 and 2023, gender disparities persist, with male workers consistently outnumbering female workers nationwide.

Table 11: Trend distribution of workers by district and sex from 2020 to 2023

District/ Province	Count(2020)			Count (2023)			Percent (2020)			Percent (2023)		
	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes
Nyarugenge	26,514	40,089	66,603	38,586	51,172	89,758	9.6	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.8	9.7
Gasabo	32,292	58,211	90,503	57,956	72,903	130,859	11.7	13.5	12.8	14.3	13.9	14.1
Kicukiro	20,470	26,013	46,483	33,482	41,573	75,055	7.4	6.0	6.6	8.3	7.9	8.1
Kigali City	79,276	124,313	203,589	130,024	165,648	295,672	28.7	28.9	28.8	32.1	31.7	31.9
Nyanza	6,266	8,207	14,473	6,532	8,092	14,624	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.6
Gisagara	6,179	6,950	13,129	7,104	8,382	15,486	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7
Nyaruguru	6,099	7,509	13,608	7,664	11,285	18,949	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.0
Huye	10,774	16,941	27,715	11,858	14,536	26,394	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
Nyamagabe	6,631	9,737	16,368	9,151	12,233	21,384	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Ruhango	4,993	7,226	12,219	7,595	9,456	17,051	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8
Muhanga	8,009	11,873	19,882	10,309	12,102	22,411	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.4
Kamonyi	6,315	9,879	16,194	11,455	13,108	24,563	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.6
South Province	55,266	78,322	133,588	71,668	89,194	160,862	20.0	18.2	18.9	17.7	17.0	17.3
Karongi	8,523	10,474	18,997	11,211	13,213	24,424	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.6
Rutsiro	4,899	9,496	14,395	7,015	12,408	19,423	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.7	2.4	2.1
Rubavu	12,451	19,098	31,549	15,281	19,125	34,406	4.5	4.4	4.5	3.8	3.7	3.7

District/ Province	Count(2020)			Count (2023)			Percent (2020)			Percent (2023)		
	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes	Female	Male	Both sexes
Nyabihu	3,790	7,739	11,529	9,305	11,785	21,090	1.4	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.3
Ngororero	4,210	8,190	12,400	10,073	13,004	23,077	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.5
Rusizi	7,769	14,216	21,985	11,154	15,712	26,866	2.8	3.3	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.9
Nyamasheke	8,041	11,690	19,731	9,595	12,745	22,340	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4
West Province	49,683	80,903	130,586	73,634	97,992	171,626	18.0	18.8	18.5	18.2	18.7	18.5
Rulindo	9,829	12,852	22,681	12,649	15,946	28,595	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1
Gakenke	4,429	9,735	14,164	7,611	13,343	20,954	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.3
Musanze	11,848	17,014	28,862	16,952	19,058	36,010	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.6	3.9
Burera	3,616	8,616	12,232	6,668	11,270	17,938	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.9
Gicumbi	7,462	14,726	22,188	10,390	14,367	24,757	2.7	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.7
North Province	37,184	62,943	100,127	54,270	73,984	128,254	13.5	14.6	14.2	13.4	14.1	13.8
Rwamagana	8,199	12,158	20,357	12,994	14,825	27,819	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.0
Nyagatare	8,563	13,106	21,669	10,700	16,179	26,879	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.6	3.1	2.9
Gatsibo	7,194	10,933	18,127	10,114	13,308	23,422	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5
Kayanza	7,638	12,296	19,934	9,926	13,363	23,289	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5
Kirehe	5,346	10,835	16,181	9,395	12,602	21,997	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Ngoma	6,951	10,893	17,844	7,924	10,596	18,520	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Bugesera	10,614	13,524	24,138	13,920	15,479	29,399	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.2
East Province	54,505	83,745	138,250	74,973	96,352	171,325	19.8	19.5	19.6	18.5	18.4	18.5
Rwanda	275,914	430,226	706,140	404,569	523,170	927,739	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

In 2023, the total number of workers in Rwanda was 927,739, with males (523,170) outnumbering females (404,569) across most economic activities (see Table 12). The distribution shows that both female and male workers are highly concentrated in wholesale and retail trade (25.2 percent), followed by education (17.5 percent) and accommodation and food service activities (12.2 percent). Female workers have relatively higher representation in sectors such as education (18.9 percent vs 16.3 percent for males), human health and social work (6.2 percent vs 4.2 percent), and agriculture (3.3 percent vs 2.4 percent), while male workers dominate in mining and quarrying (4.7 percent vs 2.0 percent), construction (1.6 percent vs 0.3 percent), transportation (1.8 percent vs 0.7 percent), and administrative and support services (4.7 percent vs 2.9 percent). In many other sectors such as manufacturing and trade, the gender distribution is relatively balanced. Overall, the results indicate that although both sexes are present across all economic activities, gender disparities persist, with females more concentrated in social and service-oriented sectors, while males are more represented in physically intensive and technical sectors.

Table 12: Distribution of workers by economic activities and by sex

Economic Activities	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	13,408	12,547	25,955	3.3	2.4	2.8
Mining and quarrying	8,071	24,836	32,907	2	4.7	3.5
Manufacturing	46,101	60,273	106,374	11.4	11.5	11.5
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	930	1,800	2,730	0.2	0.3	0.3
Water supply, sewage, waste management and remediation activities	2,073	3,017	5,090	0.5	0.6	0.5
Construction	1,299	8,124	9,423	0.3	1.6	1
Whole sale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106,847	126,905	233,752	26.4	24.3	25.2
Transportation and storage	3,012	9,502	12,514	0.7	1.8	1.3
Accommodation and food service activities	47,188	66,275	113,463	11.7	12.7	12.2
Information and communication	2,735	4,609	7,344	0.7	0.9	0.8
Financial and insurance activities	7,508	8,566	16,074	1.9	1.6	1.7
Real estate activities	317	631	948	0.1	0.1	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,617	7,044	10,661	0.9	1.3	1.1
Administrative and support services activities	11,629	24,731	36,360	2.9	4.7	3.9
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	22,794	11,280	34,074	5.6	2.2	3.7
Education	76,656	85,240	161,896	18.9	16.3	17.5
Human health and social work activities	25,021	21,717	46,738	6.2	4.2	5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,049	1,775	2,824	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other services activities	24,314	44,298	68,612	6	8.5	7.4
Total	404,569	523,170	927,739	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

When the institutional sector is considered (Table 13), the private sector accounts for the largest share of employment in 2023 (65.3 percent), followed by the public sector (15.4 percent), cooperatives (8.2 percent), and public private partnerships (7.2 percent), while NGOs contribute relatively smaller shares. In terms of sex distribution, the public sector shows the highest proportion of female employees (53.0 percent) compared to other sectors, while the lowest proportion of female workers is observed in the NGO (Local) (40.7 percent). The reverse pattern is observed for male workers, where the NGO (Local) has the highest proportion (59.3 percent) and the public sector with lowest (47.0 percent).

Table 13: Distribution of employees by sex and by institutional sector

Institutional sector	Count 2020			Count 2023			Percent 2020		Percent 2023	
	Female	Male	total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Female	Male
Private sector	167,387	285,446	452,833	248,279	357,726	606,005	37.0	63.0	41.0	59.0
Cooperative	32,706	41,743	74,449	33,590	42,077	75,667	43.9	56.1	44.4	55.6
Public sector	37,973	55,903	93,876	75,791	67,278	143,069	40.5	59.5	53.0	47.0
Public-Private Partnership	24,119	27,979	52,098	31,836	35,212	67,048	46.3	53.7	47.5	52.5
NGO (Local)	12,150	16,937	29,087	10,892	15,887	26,779	41.8	58.2	40.7	59.3
NGO(International)	1,579	2,218	3,797	4,181	4,990	9,171	41.6	58.4	45.6	54.4
Total	275,914	430,226	706,140	404,569	523,170	927,739	39.1	60.9	43.6	56.4

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

In 2023, the total number of all establishments' workers in Rwanda was 927,739 persons, of which 523,170 were male and 404,569 were female (see Table 14). Across all establishment age cohorts, male workers consistently outnumber female workers, reflecting the nationwide gender gap in formal employment.

The largest share of employment is found in establishments that started operations between 2021 and 2023, which alone account for 26.7 percent of total employment (27.5 percent for females and 26.1 percent for males), suggesting that recently established businesses are a growing source of jobs for both sexes, with females being slightly more represented in newer establishments. Establishments that started before 1970 employ 8.8 percent of total workers, with a notably more balanced gender distribution-females account for 10.1 percent of all female employment in this cohort compared to 7.9 percent for males-indicating that older, more established institutions tend to employ relatively more women. Conversely, establishments that started between 2000 and 2011 show the largest gender gap in favor of males, with males accounting for 16.6 percent of male employment compared to 13.8 percent for females in that cohort. A particularly notable finding concerns the “Not stated” category, where females (6.4 percent) significantly outnumber males (2.4 percent), which may warrant further investigation into the nature of those employment arrangements. Overall, the data suggest that while male workers dominate employment across most establishment age groups, female workers are relatively better represented in both the oldest and the newest establishments, pointing to evolving patterns of female participation in Rwanda’s formal labor market.

Table 14: Number of employees by establishment’s year of starting operation and by sex

year of starting operations	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Before 1970	40727	41310	82037	10.1	7.9	8.8
1970 -1999	46332	70379	116711	11.5	13.5	12.6
2000 - 2011	55643	87085	142728	13.8	16.6	15.4
2012 - 2014	23559	36739	60298	5.8	7	6.5
2015 - 2017	37191	53386	90577	9.2	10.2	9.8
2018 - 2020	55204	74713	129917	13.6	14.3	14
2021 - 2023	111100	136572	247672	27.5	26.1	26.7
2024 ⁴	9103	10290	19393	2.3	2	2.1
Not stated	25710	12696	38406	6.4	2.4	4.1
Total	404569	523170	927739	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

2.7. Changes in establishments characteristics

A comparison of the Establishment Census 2017 with the Establishment Census 2023 shows a consistently faster growth in establishments managed by females relative to those managed by males across both census periods (Table 15). Between 2017 and 2020, female-managed establishments grew by 38.7 percent, from 61,567 to 85,416, while male-managed establishments increased by only 14.3 percent, from 128,347 to 146,730; with female growth particularly pronounced in rural areas (49.3 percent) compared to urban areas (31.0 percent). Between 2020 and 2023, female-managed establishments continued to grow faster than male-managed ones, rising by 24.7 percent to 106,515 compared to a 10.9 percent increase to 162,660 for male-managed establishments; however, unlike the previous period, this growth was almost entirely driven by urban areas (44.8 percent for females and 44.5 percent for males), while rural areas recorded near stagnation for female-managed establishments (0.5 percent) and an outright decline for male-managed ones (-4.9 percent). The same patterns hold for business-oriented establishments, where female-managed establishments grew by 39.2 percent between 2017 and 2020 and by 24.4 percent between 2020 and 2023, consistently outpacing male-managed establishments at 14.9 percent and 10.5 percent respectively, further confirming that while gender gaps in establishment management persist, the trajectory increasingly favors female managerial representation, particularly in urban areas.

⁴ Data collection was conducted in January 2024.

Table 15: Change of all establishments and business-oriented establishments from 2017 to 2023 by residence (rural/urban) by sex of manager

Year	All establishments				Business oriented establishments		
		Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
2017	Total	190,288	75,449	114,839	183,718	73,621	110,097
	Female	61,567	35,598	25,969	60,210	35,180	25,030
	Male	128,347	39,477	88,870	123,253	38,186	85,067
	Not Stated	374	374	0			
2020	Total	232,283	93,622	138,661	225,436	91,768	133,668
	Female	85,416	46,639	38,777	83,827	46,216	37,611
	Male	146,730	46,846	99,884	141,609	45,552	96,057
	Not Stated	137	137	0			
2023	Total	269,326	135,373	133,953	260,776	132,593	128,183
	Female	106,515	67,534	38,981	104,280	66,778	37,502
	Male	162,660	67,705	94,955	156,477	65,813	90,664
	Not Stated	151	134	17			
% increase from 2017 to 2020	Total	22.1%	24.1%	20.7%	22.7%	24.6%	21.4%
	Female	38.7%	31.0%	49.3%	39.2%	31.4%	50.3%
	Male	14.3%	18.7%	12.4%	14.9%	19.3%	12.9%
% increase from 2020 to 2023	Total	15.9%	44.6%	-3.4%	15.7%	44.5%	-4.1%
	Female	24.7%	44.8%	0.5%	24.4%	44.5%	-0.3%
	Male	10.9%	44.5%	-4.9%	10.5%	44.5%	-5.6%

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

2.8. Changes of the number of establishments by economic activity

The distribution of establishments by economic activity and sex of manager reveals a persistent but gradually narrowing gender gap across all sectors between 2017 and 2023 (Table 16). Throughout the period, male-managed establishments consistently outnumber female-managed ones in virtually all economic activity categories, with the gap being particularly pronounced in sectors such as Wholesale and retail trade (79,998 male versus 64,348 female in 2023), Accommodation and food service activities (40,984 male versus 20,843 female), and Other service activities (14,946 male versus 6,396 female). However, female-managed establishments have been growing at a consistently faster rate than male-managed ones across both periods, 39.2 percent versus 14.9 percent between 2017 and 2020, and 24.4 percent versus 10.5 percent between 2020 and 2023, indicating a positive trajectory toward greater gender parity in establishment management. This faster female growth is particularly evident in sectors such as Transportation and storage, where female-managed establishments grew by 300.0 percent between 2017 and 2020 compared to 63.1 percent for male-managed ones, and in Information and communication, where female-managed establishments grew by 169.8 percent between 2020 and 2023 compared to 108.3 percent for males, suggesting that women are increasingly entering sectors that were historically male-dominated. Financial and insurance activities also stand out as a sector where female representation has grown strongly across both periods, recording increases of 66.8 percent and 103.1 percent respectively, compared to 53.1 percent and 54.1 percent for male-managed establishments. Overall, while gender disparities in establishment management persist across all economic activities, the data clearly indicate that female-managed establishments are growing faster than male-managed ones in most sectors, pointing to a gradual but consistent shift toward more equitable gender representation in Rwanda's formal establishment landscape.

Table 16: Change of private establishments and business oriented mixed establishments from 2017 to 2023 by economic activity by sex of the manager

Economic Activity	2017				2020				2023				% Change 2017→2020		% Change 2020→2023	
	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	Female	Male
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	91	449	5	545	95	297	0	392	137	546	0	683	4.4	-33.9	44.2	83.8
Mining and quarrying	32	262	10	304	34	246	0	280	45	242	0	287	6.2	-6.1	32.4	-1.6
Manufacturing	5,469	8,676	14	14,159	6,777	9,785	0	16,562	7,802	9,943	1	17,746	23.9	12.8	15.1	1.6
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	210	441	5	656	11	24	0	35	2	39	0	41	-94.8	-94.6	-81.8	62.5
Water supply, sewage, waste management and remediation activities	0	0	0	0	386	535	0	921	416	492	0	908	None	None	7.8	-8
Construction	8	111	35	154	17	152	0	169	21	173	0	194	112.5	36.9	23.5	13.8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	36,156	59,705	128	95,989	55,077	78,165	0	133,242	64,348	79,998	10	144,356	52.3	30.9	16.8	2.3
Transportation and storage	28	325	6	359	112	530	0	642	141	533	0	674	300	63.1	25.9	0.6
Accommodation and food service activities	13,906	37,919	3	51,828	14,050	32,043	0	46,093	20,843	40,984	8	61,835	1	-15.5	48.3	27.9
Information and communication	103	1,014	7	1,124	202	926	0	1,128	545	1,929	0	2,474	96.1	-8.7	169.8	108.3
Financial and insurance activities	422	1,055	14	1,491	704	1,615	0	2,319	1,430	2,489	0	3,919	66.8	53.1	103.1	54.1
Real estate activities	23	79	1	103	41	102	0	143	26	103	0	129	78.3	29.1	-36.6	1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	307	887	13	1,207	704	1,204	0	1,908	448	1,358	0	1,806	129.3	35.7	-36.4	12.8
Administrative and support service activities	615	779	6	1,400	277	907	0	1,184	798	661	0	1,459	-55	16.4	188.1	-27.1
Education	292	719	0	1,011	267	679	0	946	513	1,057	0	1,570	-8.6	-5.6	92.1	55.7
Human health and social work activities	196	408	0	604	284	590	0	874	280	599	0	879	44.9	44.6	-1.4	1.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	67	361	0	428	57	343	0	400	89	385	0	474	-14.9	-5	56.1	12.2
Other service activities	2,285	10,063	5	12,353	4,732	13,466	0	18,198	6,396	14,946	0	21,342	107.1	33.8	35.2	11
TOTAL	60,210	123,253	255	183,718	83,827	141,609	0	225,436	104,280	156,477	19	260,776	39.2	14.9	24.4	10.5

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

2.9. Change of the number of enterprises by size

With regard to the enterprise's size, there is an increase in numbers in all size categories regardless of the sex of the manager between 2017 and 2023 (Table 17). Among enterprises with a female manager, the highest percentage increase between 2017 and 2020 is observed for medium enterprises (29.9 percent), from 117 in 2017 to 152 enterprises in 2020, followed by small enterprises (33.5 percent), from 2,781 to 3,714 enterprises, and micro enterprises (41.1 percent), from 56,639 to 79,923 enterprises, while large enterprises recorded the lowest increase (5.6 percent), from 36 to 38 enterprises in the same period. Between 2020 and 2023, female-managed enterprises continued to grow across all size categories, with the highest increase recorded for medium enterprises (59.9 percent), from 152 to 243 enterprises, followed by large enterprises (26.3 percent), from 38 to 48 enterprises, small enterprises (28.3 percent), from 3,714 to 4,766 enterprises, and micro enterprises (24.1 percent), from 79,923 to 99,223 enterprises.

Among enterprises with a male manager, the highest percentage increase between 2017 and 2020 is observed for medium enterprises (54.3 percent), from 490 to 756 enterprises, followed by large enterprises (9.9 percent), from 223 to 245 enterprises, small enterprises (26.0 percent), from 7,002 to 8,823 enterprises, and micro enterprises (15.9 percent), from 113,665 to 131,785 enterprises. Between 2020 and 2023, male-managed enterprises also grew across all size categories, with large enterprises recording the highest increase (41.6 percent), from 245 to 347 enterprises, followed by medium enterprises (20.8 percent), small enterprises (23.1 percent), and micro enterprises (9.5 percent). Overall, while male-managed enterprises outnumber female-managed ones across all size categories throughout the period, female-managed enterprises consistently grew at a faster rate than male-managed ones in total 39.2 percent versus 14.9 percent between 2017 and 2020, and 24.4 percent versus 10.5 percent between 2020 and 2023 confirming a positive trend toward greater female managerial representation across all enterprise sizes.

Table 17: Change of private enterprises and public business-oriented enterprises by size categories from 2017 to 2023 by sex of the Manager

Size Category	2017				2020				2023				% Change 2017→2020		% Change 2020→2023	
	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	NS	Total	Female	Male	Female	Male
Micro (1-3)	56,639	113,665	61	170,365	79,923	131,785	0	21,1708	99,223	144,354	19	243,596	41.1	15.9	24.1	9.5
Small (4-30)	2,781	7,002	123	9,906	3,714	8,823	0	12,537	4,766	10,863	0	15,629	33.5	26.0	28.3	23.1
Medium (31-100)	117	490	47	654	152	756	0	908	243	913	0	1,156	29.9	54.3	59.9	20.8
Large (100+)	36	223	24	283	38	245	0	283	48	347	0	395	5.6	9.9	26.3	41.6
TOTAL	60,210	123,253	255	183,718	83,827	141,609	0	225,436	104,280	156,477	19	260,776	39.2	14.9	24.4	10.5

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2020 & 2023

3.1. Prevalence of formal and informal enterprises in Rwanda

Overall, 35.7 percent of business-oriented enterprises with a female manager are in the informal sector compared to 52.3 percent of enterprises with a male manager. Formal enterprises with a female manager account for 4.3 percent of enterprises while those with a male manager account for 7.6 percent of all eligible enterprises operating in Rwanda at the time of data collection (Table 18). While public and public-private partnership (PPP) enterprises are all classified as formal, 36.6 percent of private sector enterprises with a female manager are classified as informal compared to 3.8 percent classified as formal, while 53.6 percent of private sector enterprises with a male manager are classified as informal compared to only 6.1 percent classified as formal enterprises. On the other hand, 15.3 percent of cooperative enterprises with a female manager are classified as informal compared to 12.8 percent classified as formal. It should be noted that for cooperative enterprises with a male manager, 44.9 percent are classified as formal compared to 27.0 percent classified as informal.

Table 18: Prevalence of formal/informal enterprises according to formality status by sex of the manager

Institutional sector	Count					Percent			
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Private sector	9,493	92,539	15,431	135,534	253,016	3.8	36.6	6.1	53.6
Cooperative	293	350	1,026	617	2,286	12.8	15.3	44.9	27
Public sector	845	0	2,099	0	3,076	27.5	0	68.2	0
Public Private Partnership	508	0	1,245	0	1,753	29	0	71	0
Total	11,139	92,889	19,801	136,151	260,131	4.3	35.7	7.6	52.3

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.2. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises by size

The results in table 19 show that 3.3 percent of micro enterprises with a female manager are formal enterprises compared to 5.0 percent of micro enterprises with a male manager. On the other hand, 37.2 percent of micro enterprises with a female manager are informal compared to 54.3 percent of micro enterprises with a male manager. 21.1 percent of medium enterprises with a female manager are formal enterprises compared to 69.5 percent of medium enterprises with a male manager. It should be noted that 9.9 percent of large enterprises with a female manager are formal compared to 67.5 percent of large enterprises with a male manager. A limited number of large enterprises for both female and male managers are classified as informal, accounting for 1.2 percent and 9.0 percent respectively. For small enterprises, 15.6 percent of female-managed enterprises are formal compared to 42.7 percent for male-managed ones, while 13.5 percent of female-managed small enterprises are informal compared to 28.0 percent for male-managed ones. Overall, across all size categories, male-managed enterprises consistently record higher rates of formality than female-managed ones, reinforcing the finding that informality disproportionately characterizes female-managed enterprises regardless of enterprise size.

Table 19: Distribution of enterprises into formal and informal by size and by sex of the manager

Size	Count							Percent			
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Micro (1-3)	7,991	90,497	11,069	131,603	0	19	241,179	3.3	37.2	5	54.3
Small (4-30)	2,604	2,462	6,765	4,881	18	0	16,730	15.6	13.5	42.7	28
Medium (31-100)	654	50	2155	204	40	0	3,103	21.1	1.6	69.5	6.8
Large (100+)	53	5	362	43	74	0	537	9.9	1.2	67.5	9
Total	11,302	93,014	20,351	136,731	132	19	261,549	4.3	34.9	8.7	51.7

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.3. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises according to economic activity

Table 20 shows the distribution of enterprises across economic activities, by formality status and manager's sex. Three sectors stand out: wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service, and education. Wholesale and retail trade is the dominant activity for both formal and informal enterprises, and more so among female-managed firms. Among informal enterprises, 62.0 percent of female-managed firms operate in this sector, compared to 51.2 percent of male-managed firms. The same pattern holds for formal enterprises: 53.9 percent of female-managed firms are in wholesale and retail trade, compared to 42.1 percent of male-managed firms. Accommodation and food service activities show a smaller but reversed gender gap. Among formal enterprises, 14.9 percent of female-managed firms operate in this sector compared to 13.8 percent of male-managed firms. Among informal enterprises, however, male-managed firms are more concentrated in this activity (27.7 percent) than female-managed firms (20.4 percent). Education is the clearest example of a formally dominated sector: 10.2 percent of formal female-managed enterprises and 15.9 percent of formal male-managed enterprises operate in education, compared to just 0.3 percent of informal enterprises for both sexes reflecting the predominantly formal nature of the sector. Overall, wholesale and retail trade and accommodation and food service together account for the majority of enterprises in Rwanda, regardless of formality status or manager's sex. Within these dominant sectors, however, female-managed enterprises are consistently more concentrated than male-managed enterprises, in both the formal and informal economy.

Table 20: Distribution of formal/informal enterprises by economic activity by sex of the manager

Economic activity	Count							Percent			
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	48	84	223	282	0	0	637	0.4	0.1	1.1	0.2
Mining and quarrying	14	26	112	95	0	0	247	0.1	0	0.6	0.1
Manufacturing	570	7,193	1,181	8,593	0	1	17,538	5	7.7	5.8	6.3
Electricity, gas, steam and air condition	1	0	17	10	1	0	29	0	0	0.1	0
Water supply; sewerage, waste management	218	312	260	353	0	0	1,143	1.9	0.3	1.3	0.3
Construction	12	6	110	57	0	0	185	0.1	0	0.5	0
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6,092	57,662	8,562	70,028	0	10	142,354	53.9	62	42.1	51.2

Economic activity	Counts							Percent			
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Transportation and storage	70	51	248	163	1	0	533	0.6	0.1	1.2	0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	1,683	18,987	2,803	37,813	0	8	61,294	14.9	20.4	13.8	27.7
Information and communication	76	434	305	1,552	1	0	2,368	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.1
Financial and insurance activities	228	943	545	1,495	3	0	3,214	2	1	2.7	1.1
Real estate activities	15	10	59	43	0	0	127	0.1	0	0.3	0
Professional, scientific and technical a	91	351	431	900	0	0	1,773	0.8	0.4	2.1	0.7
Administrative and support service activities	170	627	267	391	0	0	1,455	1.5	0.7	1.3	0.3
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	1	0	3	2	116	0	122	0	0	0	0
Education	1,150	241	3,242	465	10	0	5,108	10.2	0.3	15.9	0.3
Human health and social work activities	361	130	660	280	0	0	1,431	3.2	0.1	3.2	0.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	18	38	57	213	0	0	326	0.2	0	0.3	0.2
Other service activities	484	5,919	1,266	13,996	0	0	21,665	4.3	6.4	6.2	10.2
Total	11,302	93,014	20,351	136,731	132	19	261,549	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.4. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises by residence

Findings from Table 21 examines the formality status by residence and manager's sex, where 74.3 percent of formal enterprises with a female manager are located in urban areas compared to 63.1 percent of formal enterprises with a male manager, while 62.3 percent of informal enterprises with a female manager are located in urban areas compared to 37.9 percent of informal enterprises with a male manager. The reverse pattern is observed in rural areas, where 62.1 percent of informal enterprises with a male manager are located in rural areas compared to 37.7 percent of informal enterprises with a female manager. It should be noted that formal enterprises with a male manager are more evenly distributed between urban (63.1 percent) and rural (36.9 percent) areas than those with a female manager, which are more heavily concentrated in urban areas (74.3 percent) than rural areas (25.7 percent).

Table 21: Distribution of formal/informal enterprises by residence and sex of the manager's

Residence	Count							Percent						
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male		Not stated		Total
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Urban	8,394	57,947	12,851	51,804	132	2	131,130	74.3	62.3	63.1	37.9	100.0	10.5	50.1
Rural	2,908	35,067	7,500	84,927	0	17	130,419	25.7	37.7	36.9	62.1	0.0	89.5	49.9
Total	11,302	93,014	8,785	136,731	132	19	261,549	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.5 Distribution of formal and informal enterprises by district

Table 22 shows the district-level distribution of enterprises by formality status and manager's sex. Gasabo and Nyarugenge Districts consistently host the largest shares of enterprises across all categories, while the lowest concentrations are more scattered across different districts.

Among formal enterprises, Gasabo District has the highest concentration of female-managed firms (16.0 percent), followed by Nyarugenge District (14.1 percent); the lowest is in Rutsiro District (0.5 percent). For male-managed formal enterprises, Nyarugenge and Gasabo Districts are tied for the highest concentration (13.6 percent each), with Rutsiro District again the lowest (1.2 percent).

Among informal enterprises, female-managed firms are most concentrated in Gasabo District (11.3 percent), followed by Nyarugenge District (10.7 percent), with the lowest share in Nyaruguru District (1.0 percent). For male-managed informal enterprises, Gasabo District again leads (6.8 percent), followed by Nyarugenge District (5.7 percent), while Gisagara District has the lowest concentration (1.7 percent).

Table 22: Distribution of formal and informal enterprises by district and by sex of the manager

	Count							Percent			
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male	
District	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Nyarugenge	1,593	9,933	2,772	7,810	22	0	22,130	14.1	10.7	13.6	5.7
Gasabo	1,803	10,516	2,767	9,359	58	0	24,503	16	11.3	13.6	6.8
Kicukiro	1,276	8,140	1,723	5,460	8	1	16,608	11.3	8.8	8.5	4
Nyanza	136	1,802	328	2,860	3	0	5,129	1.2	1.9	1.6	2.1
Gisagara	310	1,124	553	2,314	1	0	4,302	2.7	1.2	2.7	1.7
Nyaruguru	198	886	476	2,693	1	2	4,256	1.8	1	2.3	2
Huye	465	2,065	754	2,799	4	1	6,088	4.1	2.2	3.7	2
Nyamagabe	209	1,958	389	4,012	2	1	6,571	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.9
Ruhango	176	1,917	369	3,115	1	1	5,579	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.3
Muhanga	302	3,091	400	4,220	3	0	8,016	2.7	3.3	2	3.1
Kamonyi	405	3,131	517	4,765	1	1	8,820	3.6	3.4	2.5	3.5
Karongi	146	1,765	329	3,649	4	1	5,894	1.3	1.9	1.6	2.7
Rutsiro	61	1,658	252	4,360	1	0	6,332	0.5	1.8	1.2	3.2
Rubavu	443	5,380	840	5,985	1	1	12,650	3.9	5.8	4.1	4.4
Nyabihu	65	1,344	234	3,183	1	1	4,828	0.6	1.4	1.1	2.3
Ngororero	106	1,777	301	3,977	1	1	6,163	0.9	1.9	1.5	2.9
Rusizi	212	2,538	572	5,240	1	0	8,563	1.9	2.7	2.8	3.8
Nyamasheke	144	1,499	397	3,997	1	0	6,038	1.3	1.6	2	2.9
Rulindo	205	1,828	512	3,329	2	1	5,877	1.8	2	2.5	2.4
Gakenke	105	1,361	317	4,338	1	1	6,123	0.9	1.5	1.6	3.2
Musanze	669	4,736	1,049	6,477	3	0	12,934	5.9	5.1	5.2	4.7
Burera	68	1,184	251	4,614	1	3	6,121	0.6	1.3	1.2	3.4
Gicumbi	345	2,350	599	5,212	1	0	8,507	3.1	2.5	2.9	3.8
Rwamagana	372	4,084	523	4,450	3	0	9,432	3.3	4.4	2.6	3.3
Nyagatare	407	3,007	763	5,137	1	0	9,315	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.8
Gatsibo	179	2,103	522	4,529	1	2	7,336	1.6	2.3	2.6	3.3
Kayanza	215	2,849	416	4,616	1	0	8,097	1.9	3.1	2	3.4
Kirehe	263	2,220	580	4,389	1	0	7,453	2.3	2.4	2.8	3.2
Ngoma	150	2,351	316	4,126	2	0	6,945	1.3	2.5	1.6	3
Bugesera	274	4,417	530	5,716	1	1	10,939	2.4	4.7	2.6	4.2

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.6. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises by year of starting operations

Table 23 shows the time trend of the year of starting operations for formal and informal enterprises by sex of the manager. The findings reveal that nearly half (47.7 percent) of formal enterprises with a female manager started operations in 2021-2023, compared to 35.8 percent of formal enterprises with a male manager. On the other hand, 60.5 percent of informal enterprises with a female manager started operations between 2021 and 2023, compared to 54.0 percent of informal enterprises with a male manager. This pattern consistently shows that female-managed enterprises, both formal and informal, are more recently established than their male-managed counterparts.

Table 23: Distribution of formal/informal enterprises according to year of starting operations in Rwanda by sex of the manager

Year of starting operations	Count							Percent			
	Female		Male		Not stated		Total	Female		Male	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Before 1970	398	9	1094	109	0	0	1610	3.5	0	5.4	0.1
1970 -1999	393	510	1275	1197	0	0	3375	3.5	0.5	6.3	0.9
2000 - 2011	915	3597	2609	6627	0	0	13748	8.1	3.9	12.8	4.8
2012 - 2014	607	2665	1469	5044	0	0	9785	5.4	2.9	7.2	3.7
2015 - 2017	1036	6663	2252	12230	0	0	22181	9.2	7.2	11.1	8.9
2018 - 2020	2347	16789	4051	29520	0	0	52707	20.8	18	19.9	21.6
2021-2023	5396	56296	7286	73807	0	0	142785	47.7	60.5	35.8	54
2024 ⁵	210	6484	315	8194	0	0	15203	1.9	7	1.5	6
Not stated	0	1	0	3	132	19	155	0	0	0	0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.7. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises in private and public partnership by level of capital employed

The capital employed is in this case referred to as the value of the assets that contributes to the establishment ability to generate revenue. In other words, it is the value of fixed assets plus current assets minus current liabilities (NISR, 2014).

Results in Table 24 show that the majority of both formal and informal enterprises, regardless of the sex of the manager, are concentrated in the lower capital ranges. Specifically, 66.3 percent of informal enterprises with a female manager use a capital of less than 300,000 Rwanda Francs, compared to 61.0 percent of informal enterprises with a male manager. For formal enterprises, 54.5 percent of those with a female manager operate with capital between 300,000 and 12,000,000 Rwanda Francs, compared to 52.4 percent of formal enterprises with a male manager.

At the higher end of the capital spectrum, formal enterprises with a male manager are notably more capitalized than those with a female manager. Within enterprises with capital above 1 billion Rwandan Francs, 79.1% are male-managed formal enterprises and 15.8% are female-managed formal enterprises, while 3.3 percent of informal enterprises are male-managed, compared to only 1.7 percent that are female-managed. Similarly, among enterprises with capital between 50 million and 400 million Rwandan Francs, 63.1% are male-managed formal enterprises and 21.1% are female-managed formal enterprises, with the remaining 15.8% operating as informal enterprises.

⁵ Data collection was conducted in January 2024.

It is observed in general that the capital employed by formal enterprises is greater than that of informal enterprises, regardless of the sex of the manager, and that male-managed enterprises tend to operate with significantly higher capital levels than their female-managed counterparts, particularly in the formal sector.

Table 24: Distribution of formal and informal enterprises in private and public-private partnership(ppp) by employed capital by sex of the manager

Employed capital (Frws)	Count					Percent				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Less than 300.000	2548	61570	2932	83112	150177	1.7	41.0	2.0	55.3	100.0
300.000 - <12.000.000	5501	29978	8825	50181	94491	5.8	31.7	9.3	53.1	100.0
12 million - <20 million	965	1015	1950	2055	5985	16.1	17.0	32.6	34.3	100.0
20 million - < 50 million	507	235	1215	552	2509	20.2	9.4	48.4	22.0	100.0
50 million - < 400 million	381	82	1139	202	1804	21.1	4.5	63.1	11.2	100.0
400 million - < 1billion	116	7	408	42	573	20.2	1.2	71.2	7.3	100.0
Above 1 billion	72	8	360	15	455	15.8	1.8	79.1	3.3	100.0
Total	10090	92895	16829	136159	255994	3.9	36.3	6.6	53.2	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

3.8. Distribution of formal and informal enterprises in private and public private partnership which started operations in or before 2023 by the category of reported turnover in 2023

Annual turnover in this census refers to the value of all supplies made within an entity over the past twelve-month period. Given the sensitivity of this question, respondents may have underreported the actual figures. The findings in Table 25 show the distribution of enterprises by turnover category in 2023, broken down by sex of the manager and formality.

The results show that the majority of formal enterprises with a female manager (59.3 percent) reported an annual turnover between 300,000 and 12,000,000 Rwanda Francs, compared to 54.6 percent of formal enterprises with a male manager, indicating that female managers slightly dominate in this mid-low turnover band. Among informal enterprises, 45.2 percent of those with a female manager reported a turnover of less than 300,000 Rwanda Francs, compared to 42.4 percent of informal enterprises with a male manager.

At the higher end of the turnover spectrum, male managers clearly dominate. Combining all turnover bands above 50 million Rwanda Francs, 13.3 percent of male-managed formal enterprises fall in this range compared to only 6.6 percent of female-managed formal enterprises. This gap is most pronounced above 1 billion Rwanda Francs, where male-managed formal enterprises account for 2.7 percent against only 0.8 percent for female-managed enterprises.

Overall, while female managers are slightly more represented in lower turnover ranges, higher turnover enterprises are predominantly managed by males, particularly in the formal sector, suggesting a persistent gender gap in business performance and scale in Rwanda.

Table 25: Distribution of Formal/Informal enterprises in private and public-private partnership, which started operation in or before 2023, according to turnover category in 2023 by sex of the Manager

Employed Capital (Frws)	Count					Percent				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Less than 300,000	1,896	41,960	2,229	57,754	103,851	18.8	45.2	13.3	42.4	40.6
300,000 - <12,000,000	5,980	48,990	9,192	74,577	138,748	59.3	52.7	54.6	54.8	54.2
12 million - <20 million	1,001	1,407	1,920	2,655	6,983	9.9	1.5	11.4	1.9	2.7
20 million - <50 million	533	379	1,248	785	2,945	5.3	0.4	7.4	0.6	1.2
50 million - <400 million	458	125	1,295	316	2,194	4.5	0.1	7.7	0.2	0.9
400 million - <1 billion	136	16	491	52	695	1.3	0	2.9	0	0.3
Above 1 billion	82	12	446	15	555	0.8	0	2.7	0	0.2
Total	10,086	92,889	16,821	136,154	255,971	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP ENTERPRISES

A sole proprietorship is a business owned and operated by a single individual, who takes full personal responsibility for its debts and obligations while retaining complete control over decision-making and profits. This simplest form of business ownership requires minimal legal formalities to establish, making it a popular choice for small-scale entrepreneurs and independent professionals.

Table 26 shows the distribution of establishments by legal status. The prevalence of sole proprietorship enterprises is the highest (90.4 percent) in terms of legal status, with female-managed sole proprietor enterprises accounting for 91.3 percent compared to 89.8 percent for male-managed enterprises. The second most prevalent category is limited by shares with 4.5 percent, where female-managed enterprises account for 3.2 percent compared to 5.3 percent for male-managed enterprises.

Table 26: Distribution of establishment in Private and mixed sector by Legal status

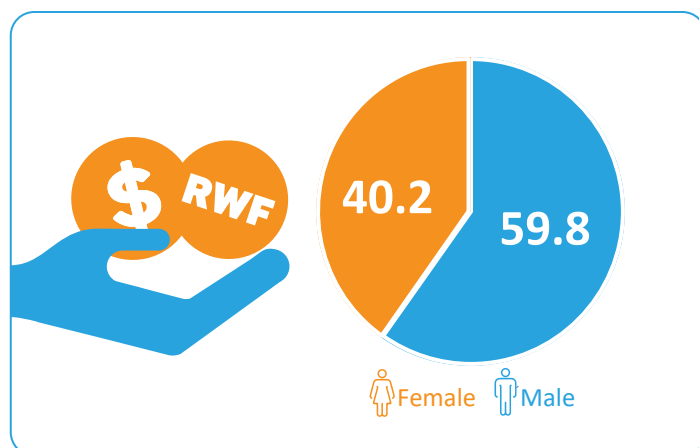
Legal status	Count				Percent			Total
	Female	Male	Not stated	Total	Female	Male	Not stated	
Sole proprietorship	96,820	144,172	0	240,992	91.3	89.8	0	90.4
Limited by shares	3,400	8,563	21	11,984	3.2	5.3	100	4.5
Limited by guarantee	62	196	0	258	0.1	0.1	0	0.1
Limited by shares and guarantee	54	116	0	170	0.1	0.1	0	0.1
Unlimited	295	747	0	1,042	0.3	0.5	0	0.4
None	5,375	6,703	0	12,078	5.1	4.2	0	4.5
Total	106,006	160,497	21	266,524	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.1. Ownership of sole proprietor establishments

In Rwanda, findings from Figure 1 show that 40.2 percent of sole proprietorship establishments are owned by females, compared with 59.8 percent owned by males.

Figure 1: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by sex of the owner



Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.2. Sole proprietor enterprises by size

Table 27 shows that 96.5 percent of female-managed and 94.9 percent of male-managed sole proprietor establishments fall under micro enterprises in 2023, compared to 96.8 percent and 95.9 percent respectively in 2020. This indicates that there is slight difference in the size of female and male managed establishments, as medium and large establishments represent less than 0.3 percent for both female and male managed enterprises in both census years. This calls for more interventions to stimulate the development of the private sector if it has to play its central role in helping the country attain its medium and long-term development goals.

Table 27: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by size and by sex of the owner

Size	Count 2020		Count 2023		Percent 2020		Percent 2023	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Micro (1-3)	74,242	121,905	92,025	134,762	96.8	95.9	96.5	94.9
Small (4-30)	2,404	4,970	3,267	6,953	3.1	3.9	3.4	4.9
Medium (31-100)	46	175	80	299	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Large (100+)	7	38	10	59	0	0	0	0
Total	76,699	127,088	95,382	142,073	37.6	62.4	40.2	59.8

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.3. Sole proprietor enterprises by economic activity

In addition to the size of sole proprietor establishments owned by female and male entrepreneurs, this report also intends to assess the main economic activities of female and male entrepreneurs in Rwanda. The classification of main economic activities was one based on the 2008 International Standard Industry Classification version (ISIC-2008).

Table 28 shows the distribution of sole proprietor establishments by economic activity and sex of the manager. Overall, Administrative and support service activities is the economic activity with the highest proportion of female-managed establishments at 59.3 percent, while the lowest is Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning with 0.0 percent. On the other hand, the opposite pattern is observed for male managers, where Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning records the highest proportion at 100.0 percent, while the lowest is Administrative and support service activities with 40.7 percent.

Table 28: Distribution of sole proprietor establishments by economic activity and by sex of the owner

Economic activity	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	46	175	221	79.2	20.8	100
Mining and quarrying	30	150	180	83.3	16.7	100
Manufacturing	7,196	8,979	16,175	55.5	44.5	100
Electricity, gas, steam and air condition	0	16	16	100	0	100
Water supply; sewerage, waste management	366	449	815	55.1	44.9	100
Construction	13	101	114	88.6	11.4	100
Wholesale and retail trade repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	59,844	75,396	135,240	55.7	44.3	100
Transportation and storage	91	278	369	75.3	24.7	100
Accommodation and food service activities	19,554	38,928	58,482	66.6	33.4	100
Information and communication	490	1767	2,257	78.3	21.7	100

Economic activity	Count			Percent		
	Female	Male	Total	Male	Female	Total
Financial and insurance activities	1,112	1,734	2,846	60.9	39.1	100
Real estate activities	19	54	73	74	26	100
Professional, scientific and technical a	387	1,106	1,493	74.1	25.9	100
Administrative and support service active	729	500	1,229	40.7	59.3	100
Education	337	670	1,007	66.5	33.5	100
Human health and social work activities	243	469	712	65.9	34.1	100
Arts, entertainment and recreation	46	303	349	86.8	13.2	100
Other service activities	5,909	13,505	19,414	69.6	30.4	100
Total	96,412	144,580	240,992	59.8	40.2	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

The findings in Table 29 show that, irrespective of the sex of the manager, sole proprietor establishments are concentrated primarily in two economic activities: Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles; and Accommodation and food service activities. Among female-managed establishments, 62.2 percent operate in Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, compared to 52.2 percent of male-managed establishments. Conversely, male-managed establishments are more concentrated in Accommodation and food service activities (27.1 percent) than female-managed establishments (20.3 percent).

Manufacturing and Other service activities represent smaller but still notable shares for both sexes. Manufacturing accounts for 7.5 percent of female-managed establishments compared to 6.2 percent of male-managed establishments, while Other service activities are more common among male-managed establishments (9.4 percent) than female-managed ones (5.6 percent)."

Table 29: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by economic activity, size and sex of the owner

Economic Activity	Female						Male						Total	
	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	%	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	%	Count	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	29	12	3	0	44	0	122	32	4	1	159	0.1	203	0.1
Mining and quarrying	7	15	1	2	25	0	22	69	20	16	127	0.1	152	0.1
Manufacturing	6,753	387	13	2	7,155	7.5	7,934	849	46	11	8,840	6.2	15,995	6.7
Electricity, gas, steam & air cond.	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	3	0	12	0	12	0
Water supply; sewerage, waste managment	281	3	0	0	284	0.3	324	10	4	1	339	0.2	623	0.3
Construction	8	3	0	0	11	0	56	40	3	2	101	0.1	112	0
Wholesale & retail trade; motor veh.	58,552	800	13	2	59,367	62.2	72,345	1,813	65	4	74,227	52.2	133,594	56.3
Transportation and storage	51	29	0	0	80	0.1	106	95	9	3	213	0.1	293	0.1
Accommodation & food services	18,382	983	17	0	19,382	20.3	36,264	2,250	43	3	38,560	27.1	57,942	24.4
Information and communication	457	9	0	0	466	0.5	1,626	74	3	2	1,705	1.2	2,171	0.9
Financial and insurance activities	991	9	1	0	1,001	1	1,541	38	1	0	1,580	1.1	2,581	1.1
Real estate activities	10	9	0	0	19	0	42	12	0	0	54	0	73	0

Economic Activity	Female						Male						Total	
	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	%	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	%	Count	%
Professional, scientific & technical	354	23	0	0	377	0.4	947	115	7	1	1,070	0.8	1,447	0.6
Administrative & support services	677	40	3	0	720	0.8	388	87	4	6	485	0.3	1205	0.5
Education	85	205	20	4	314	0.3	142	385	67	5	599	0.4	913	0.4
Human health & social work	123	104	3	0	230	0.2	237	182	7	0	426	0.3	656	0.3
Arts, entertainment & recreation	29	7	1	0	37	0	202	28	1	1	232	0.2	269	0.1
Other service activities	5,236	629	5	0	5,870	6.2	12,458	871	12	3	13,344	9.4	19,214	8.1
Total	92,025	3,267	80	10	95,382	100	134,762	6,953	299	59	142,073	100	237,455	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.4. Sole proprietor enterprises by annual turnover

The results in Table 30 show no substantial difference between the proportion of female and male managed establishments in the sole proprietorship category falling under different turnover categories and sizes. For instance, 99.1 percent and 98.9 percent of female and male managed micro establishments respectively registered an annual turnover of less than 300,000 Rwanda Francs. In both female and male managed micro enterprise cases, more than 95 percent have registered a turnover not exceeding 12,000,000 Rwanda Francs.

At higher turnover bands, male-managed establishments show a slightly stronger presence than female-managed ones. For instance, 50.0 percent of both female and male managed small enterprises registered an annual turnover between 400 million and 1 billion Rwanda Francs. Among medium enterprises, 23.3 percent of female-managed and 21.6 percent of male-managed establishments reported a turnover above 1 billion Rwanda Francs, reflecting a marginal difference between the two groups.

This again highlights the need for making finances accessible through existing channels as well as through potential innovative approaches that fit the needs of the market, in order to support the growth of sole proprietor establishments managed by both female and male managers in Rwanda.

Table 30: Distribution of sole proprietor business-oriented enterprises, which started before 2023 by size and annual turnover category by sex of the owner

Sex	Annual Turnover (Frws)	Count					Percent				
		Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total
Female	Less than 300,000	40,848	370	1	0	41,219	99.1	0.9	0	0	43.2
	300,000 - <12,000,000	48,760	2,146	18	1	50,925	95.7	4.2	0	0	53.4
	12 - <20 million	1,634	387	16	2	2,039	80.1	19	0.8	0.1	2.1
	20 - <50 million	538	190	14	0	742	72.5	25.6	1.9	0	0.8
	50 - <400 million	206	128	16	3	353	58.4	36.3	4.5	0.8	0.4
	400 million - <1 billion	27	37	8	2	74	36.5	50	10.8	2.7	0.1
	Above 1 billion	12	9	7	2	30	40	30	23.3	6.7	0
	Total	92,025	3,267	80	10	95,382	96.5	3.4	0.1	0	100

Sex	Annual Turnover (Frws)	Count					Percent				
		Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total
Male	Less than 300,000	56,462	602	3	1	57,068	98.9	1.1	0	0	40.2
	300,000 - <12,000,000	73,997	4,330	66	4	78,397	94.4	5.5	0.1	0	55.2
	12 - <20 million	2,846	922	52	4	3,824	74.4	24.1	1.4	0.1	2.7
	20 - <50 million	938	527	42	11	1,518	61.8	34.7	2.8	0.7	1.1
	50 - <400 million	435	399	73	11	918	47.4	43.5	8	1.2	0.6
	400 million - <1 billion	65	116	38	13	232	28	50	16.4	5.6	0.2
	Above 1 billion	19	57	25	15	116	16.4	49.1	21.6	12.9	0.1
	Total	134,762	6,953	299	59	142,073	94.9	4.9	0.2	0	100
Grand Total		226,787	10,220	379	69	237,455	95.5	4.3	0.2	0	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.5. Sole proprietor enterprises by employed capital

As shown in Table 31, the majority (141,793) of the female and male-owned establishments in the sole proprietorship category in Rwanda with employed capital less than 300,000 (Rwanda Francs). Of these, 42.4 percent of female and 57.6 percent of male managed establishments. Establishments with employed a capital ranging between 300,000 and 12 million Rwanda Francs represent 37.4 percent and 62.6 percent of female and male-managed establishments, respectively. At the higher end, only 19.8 percent of establishments employing a capital above 1 billion Rwanda Francs are female-managed compared to 80.2 percent that are male-managed (Table 31). There is a strong link between what is invested as assets and the income generated. The higher the employed capital, the higher the income generated. Access to finance is therefore crucial to support investment in employed capital and consequently in the earnings of establishments, particularly given that male managers consistently dominate across all higher capital bands.

Table 31: Distribution of business-oriented sole proprietor enterprises by employed capital by sex of the owner

Employed capital (Frws)	Count		Percent	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Less than 300,000	60,075	81,718	42.4	57.6
300,000 < 12 million	32,732	54,852	37.4	62.6
12 < 20 million	1,676	3,268	33.9	66.1
20 < 50 million	554	1,269	30.4	69.6
50 < 400 million	266	704	27.4	72.6
400 < 1 billion	58	177	24.7	75.3
Above 1 billion	21	85	19.8	80.2
Total	95,382	142,073	40.2	59.8

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Findings in table 32 show that, 99.2 percent of female-owned and 99.0 percent of male-owned micro establishments employed a capital of less than Frw 300,000. About 93.5 percent of female-owned and 92.0 percent of male-owned establishments respectively employed a capital that ranges between Frw 300,000 and 12 million.

Table 32: Distribution of sole proprietor business-oriented enterprises by size and employed capital by sex of the owner

		Count					Percent				
	Employed Capital (Frws)	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total
Female	Less than 300,000	59,597	477	1	0	60,075	99.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	63.0
	300,000 < 12,000,000	30,599	2,115	17	1	32,732	93.5	6.5	0.1	0.0	34.3
	12 < 20 million	1,302	353	20	1	1,676	77.7	21.1	1.2	0.1	1.8
	20 < 50 million	359	180	14	1	554	64.8	32.5	2.5	0.2	0.6
	50 < 400 million	140	113	12	1	266	52.6	42.5	4.5	0.4	0.3
	400 < 1 billion	18	26	9	5	58	31.0	44.8	15.5	8.6	0.1
	Above 1 billion	10	3	7	1	21	47.6	14.3	33.3	4.8	0.0
	Total	92,025	3,267	80	10	95,382	96.5	3.4	0.1	0.0	100.0
Male	Less than 300,000	80,896	814	6	2	81,718	99.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	57.5
	300,000 < 12,000,000	50,472	4,310	67	3	54,852	92.0	7.9	0.1	0.0	38.6
	12 < 20 million	2,325	885	51	7	3,268	71.1	27.1	1.6	0.2	2.3
	20 < 50 million	732	485	43	9	1,269	57.7	38.2	3.4	0.7	0.9
	50 < 400 million	283	338	72	11	704	40.2	48.0	10.2	1.6	0.5
	400 < 1 billion	41	92	36	8	177	23.2	52.0	20.3	4.5	0.1
	Above 1 billion	13	29	24	19	85	15.3	34.1	28.2	22.4	0.1
	Total	134,762	6,953	299	59	142,073	94.9	4.9	0.2	0.0	100.0
Grand Total		226,787	10,220	379	69	237,455	95.5	4.3	0.2	0.0	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.6. Buying or selling goods and services abroad by Sole proprietor enterprise

This section intended to capture the share of different types of female and male owned sole proprietor establishments that buy or sell goods abroad. The findings in table 33 indicate that only a tiny share of female (0.1 percent) and male (0.2 percent) owned establishments in the sole proprietorship category export goods abroad. About 1.0 percent of female and 1.2 percent of male owned establishments import goods abroad. It should be noted that a very small fraction (0.0 percent of female and 0.1 percent of male) of sole proprietor establishments both export and import goods. Majority (98.9 percent of female and 98.6 percent of male) owned establishments are not involved in either import or export of goods.

Table 33: Distribution of sole proprietor establishments by whether they buy or sell goods abroad or not, by sex of the owner

Establishments Buy or Sell Goods Abroad	Count			Percent	
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Yes, Export	108	251	359	0.1	0.2
Yes, Import	920	1,675	2,595	1.0	1.2
Yes, Export and Import	39	142	181	0.0	0.1
No	95,345	142,512	237,857	98.9	98.6
Total	96,412	144,580	240,992	100.0	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.7. Sole proprietor enterprises by year of starting operations

The table 34, shows the distribution of sole proprietor establishments by year of starting operations where the most businesses are relatively recent, with a strong concentration in the last decade. The findings indicate that majority of female owned (60.2 percent) and male owned (53.4 percent) sole proprietor establishments were created between 2021 and 2023. This is followed by establishments created between 2018 and 2020, accounting for 18.5 percent of female and 21.9 percent of male owned establishments. Overall, it is observed that about 99.5 percent of female and 99.2 percent of male owned establishments were created from the year 2000 onwards, indicating that the sole proprietorship sector is largely composed of recently established businesses.

Table 34: Distribution of sole proprietor establishments by year of starting operations by sex of the owner

Year of starting operations	Count			Percent	
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Below 1970	10	53	63	0.0	0.0
1970-1999	518	1148	1666	0.5	0.8
2000-2011	3774	7351	11125	3.9	5.1
2012-2014	2940	5736	8676	3	4
2015-2017	7076	13491	20567	7.3	9.3
2018-2020	17856	31660	49516	18.5	21.9
2021-2023	58056	77151	135207	60.2	53.4
2024 ⁶	6181	7987	14168	6.4	5.5
Not stated	1	3	4	0.0	0.0
Total	96412	144580	240992	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.8. Sole proprietor enterprises by area of residence

The table 35 shows that 95.3 percent of female owned sole proprietor establishments and 89.9 percent male owned establishments in urban area fall under the category of micro enterprises. In rural area, 98.6 percent of female owned and 98.2 percent of male owned sole proprietor establishments fall in micro enterprise category. This suggests that there is no significant difference in the size of female and male owned establishments as medium and large establishments represent less than 0.5 percent for both female and male regardless of the area of location.

⁶ Data collection was conducted in January 2024.

Table 35: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by size and location areas by sex of the owner

	Count						Percent					
	Female			Male			Female			Male		
Size	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Micro (1-3)	57,514	34,511	92,025	51,685	83,077	134,762	95.27	98.57	96.92	89.95	98.19	94.07
Small (4-30)	2,786	481	3,267	5,506	1,447	6,953	4.61	1.37	2.99	9.58	1.71	5.64
Medium (31-100)	65	15	80	233	66	299	0.11	0.04	0.07	0.41	0.08	0.24
Large (100+)	7	3	10	37	22	59	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.045
Total	60,372	35,010	95,382	57,461	84,612	142,073	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.9. Sole proprietor enterprises by type

Table 36, shows the distribution of sole proprietor private business-oriented establishments by establishment type shows a very high concentration in single unit establishments for both female and male owners. This pattern reflects the dominance of independent, stand-alone businesses that are not structurally linked to larger enterprise networks within the country.

The analysis further shows that about 98.6 percent of female owned establishments and 97.7 percent of male owned establishments are single unit establishments. These constitute the micro as majority in both male and female managed establishments. Head office, branch, and sub-branch types account for only a very small share of total establishments for both sexes, indicating that very few sole proprietor businesses operate as part of larger organizational structures.

Overall, the results suggest that the majority of sole proprietor establishments, regardless of size and sex of the owner, operate as independent single units, which are not connected to broader enterprise hierarchies such as branches or sub-branches.

Table 36: Distribution of sole proprietor private business - oriented enterprises by establishment type, size and by sex of the owner

Sex of the owner	Size	Head office	Single unit establishments	Branch	Subbranch	Total
Female	Micro (1-3)	191	91,834	431	428	92,884
	Small (4-30)	109	3,158	142	23	3,432
	Medium (31-100)	12	68	4	1	85
	Large (100+)	3	7	1	0	11
	Total	315(0.3%)	95,067(98.6%)	578(0.6%)	452(0.5%)	96,412(100.0%)
Male	Micro (1-3)	389	134,373	988	863	136,613
	Small (4-30)	344	6,609	506	88	7,547
	Medium (31-100)	55	244	42	4	345
	Large (100+)	20	39	13	3	75
	Total	808(0.6%)	141,265(97.7%)	1549(1.1%)	958(0.6%)	144,580(100.0%)

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.10. Sole proprietor enterprises by registration

This section assesses the registration status of an enterprises by sex of owner and enterprise size. The findings from the table 37 shows about 75 percent of establishments owned by both female and male owners, regardless of size, are registered at different levels of administration. Specifically, 75.0 percent of female-owned and 74.7 percent of male-owned establishments reported being registered, reflecting a near-equal registration rate across both sexes. It should be noted that, as the size of employees of an enterprise increase, the likelihood of registration increases as well.

Table 37: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by registration status, size and sex of the owner

Size	Count						Percent					
	Female			Male			Female			Male		
	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total
Micro (1-3)	23,024	69,001	92,025	34,153	100,609	134,762	25.0	75.0	100.0	25.3	74.7	100.0
Small (4-30)	1,079	2,188	3,267	2,234	4,719	6,953	33.0	67.0	100.0	32.1	67.9	100.0
Medium (31-100)	22	58	80	86	213	299	27.5	72.5	100.0	28.8	71.2	100.0
Large (100+)	1	9	10	21	38	59	10.0	90.0	100.0	35.6	64.4	100.0
Total	24,126	71,256	95,382	36,494	105,579	142,073	25.3	74.7	100.0	25.7	74.3	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

4.11. Sole proprietor enterprises by maintaining regular accounting

Lack of knowledge to manage businesses, including lack of accounting skills, is a serious threat to business development. In this study, we wanted to assess whether female and male-owned establishments have maintained regular accounting for their businesses. The findings from the table 38 show that only 9.5 percent of female-owned and 9.7 percent of male-owned establishments maintain regular accounting of their business. It should be noted that as the size of the employees of an enterprise increases, the likelihood of maintaining regular accounting increases as well.

Table 38: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by size and maintaining regular account status, by sex of the owner

Size	Count						Percent					
	Female			Male			Female			Male		
	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total
Micro (1-3)	84,428	7,597	92,025	124,532	10,230	134,762	91.7	8.3	100.0	92.4	7.6	100.0
Small (4-30)	1,887	1,380	3,267	3,723	3,230	6,953	57.8	42.2	100.0	53.5	46.5	100.0
Medium (31-100)	5	75	80	48	251	299	6.3	93.8	100.0	16.1	83.9	100.0
Large (100+)	1	9	10	9	50	59	10.0	90.0	100.0	15.3	84.7	100.0
Total	86,321	9,061	95,382	128,312	13,761	142,073	90.5	9.5	100.0	90.3	9.7	100.0

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

1 Tables

Table 39: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and urban/rural areas and the sex of the manager

Institutional Sector	Female		Male		Not Stated		Total
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1. Private sector	66,444	37,144	65,081	89,592	2	17	258,280
2. Cooperative	334	358	732	1,072	0	0	2,496
3. Public sector	304	812	585	1,997	132	0	3,830
4. Public Private Partnership	174	436	351	1,086	0	0	2,047
5. NGO (Rwanda)	183	134	753	947	0	0	2,017
6. NGO (International)	95	97	203	261	0	0	656
Total	67,534	38,981	67,705	94,955	134	17	269,326

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 40: Distribution of enterprises by institutional sector and registration status by sex of the manager

	1. Private sector			2. Cooperative			3. Public sector			4. Public Private Partnership			5. NGO (Rwanda)			6. NGO(International)			Total		
Institutions	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Sector level	111,616	75,872	187,488	1,173	458	1,631	2,024	827	2,851	975	392	1,367	644	140	784	137	59	196	116,569	77,748	194,317
District level	106,576	71,860	178,436	1,186	449	1,635	2,025	827	2,852	1,078	423	1,501	682	149	831	159	67	226	111,706	73,775	185,481
RCA	847	523	1,370	922	271	1,193	1	1	23	5	28	10	6	16	4	2	6	1,806	808	2,614	
PSF	18,409	9,979	28,388	410	113	523				84	35	119	57	20	77	15	5	20	18,975	10,152	29,127
RGB	2,870	1,295	4,165	169	42	211	1	1	378	125	503	488	100	588	116	46	162	4,022	1,608	5,630	
RSSB	3,493	1,415	4,908	383	97	480	2,099	845	2,944	1,245	508	1,753	284	68	352	68	26	94	7,572	2,959	10,531
RGB	91,798	63,017	154,815	852	334	1,186	2,025	828	2,853	1,245	507	1,752	399	88	487	82	30	112	96,401	64,804	161,205
RRA	138,719	91,912	230,631	1,349	494	1,843	2,025	828	2,853	1,245	507	1,752	596	150	746	131	64	195	144,065	93,955	238,020
DGIE	607	306	913	11		11				8	3	11	6	2	8	5	7	12	637	318	955
Other	334	197	531	38	9	47				57	20	77	9	1	10	4	1	5	442	228	670
Total	475,269	316,376	791,645	6,493	2,267	8,760	10,200	4,157	14,754	6,067	2,926	8,830	2,783	1,222	3,415	649	427	6,688	498,783	332,183	820,306
Sector level(%)	23,5	24,0	23,7	18,1	20,2	18,6	19,8	19,9	19,3	16,1	13,4	15,5	23,1	11,5	23,0	21,1	13,8	2,9	23,4	23,4	23,7
District level(%)	22,4	22,7	22,5	18,3	19,8	18,7	19,9	19,9	19,3	17,8	14,5	17,0	24,5	12,2	24,3	24,5	15,7	3,4	22,4	22,2	22,6
RCA(%)	0,2	0,2	0,2	14,2	12,0	13,6	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,1	1,0	0,1	0,2	1,3	0,1	0,3	1,4	27,0	0,2	0,8	0,0
PSF(%)	3,9	3,2	3,6	6,3	5,0	6,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,4	1,2	1,3	2,0	1,6	2,3	2,3	1,2	0,3	3,8	3,1	3,6
RGB(%)	0,6	0,4	0,5	2,6	1,9	2,4	0,0	0,0	2,6	2,1	17,2	5,5	3,6	48,1	3,4	7,1	37,9	60,1	0,3	1,7	0,0
RSSB(%)	0,7	0,4	0,6	5,9	4,3	5,5	20,6	20,3	20,0	20,5	17,4	19,9	10,2	5,6	10,3	10,5	6,1	1,4	1,5	0,9	1,3

	1. Private sector			2. Cooperative			3. Public sector			4. Public Private Partnership			5. NGO (Rwanda)			6. NGO(International)			Total		
Institutions	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
RGB(%)	19,3	19,9	19,6	13,1	14,7	13,5	19,9	19,9	19,3	20,5	17,3	19,8	14,3	7,2	14,3	12,6	7,0	1,7	19,3	19,5	19,7
RRA(%)	29,2	29,1	29,1	20,8	21,8	21,0	19,9	19,9	19,3	20,5	17,3	19,8	21,4	12,3	21,8	20,2	15,0	2,9	28,9	28,3	29,0
DGIE(%)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,8	1,6	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1
Other(%)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,6	0,4	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,9	0,7	0,9	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,6	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 41: Distribution of enterprises by institutional sector, by size and by sex of the manager

Institutional Sector	Medium (31-100)			Large (100+)			Small (4-30)			Micro (1-3)			Total
	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	
1. Private sector	627	165	0	223	34	0	8,655	3,953	0	141,460	97,880	19	253,016
2. Cooperative	179	60	0	91	8	0	887	381	0	486	194	0	2,286
3. Public sector	873	232	40	45	6	74	927	336	18	254	271	0	3,076
4. Public Private Partnership	569	215	0	29	6	0	552	231	0	95	56	0	1,753
5. NGO (Rwanda)	84	20	0	14	2	0	501	120	0	323	55	0	1,119
6. NGO(International)	27	12	0	3	2	0	124	45	0	54	32	0	299
Total	2,359	704	40	405	58	74	11,646	5,066	18	142,672	98,488	19	261,549

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 42: Distribution of business-oriented establishments which started operations in Rwanda before 2023 by institution sector and level of annual turnover in 2022 by sex of the manager

	Institutional sector	Less than 300.000	300.000 - 12.000.000	12 - 20 million	More than 20 to 50 million	More than 50 million
Female	1. Private sector	58,381	33,828	1,897	690	507
	2. Cooperative	133	338	48	33	65
	3. Public sector	182	204	6	5	6
	Public Private Partnership	30	75	3	4	3
	NGO (Rwanda)	0	3	0	0	1
Male	1. Private sector	78,911	56,419	3,745	1,597	1,820
	2. Cooperative	215	803	187	138	283
	3. Public sector	133	316	10	5	28
	Public Private Partnership	43	134	9	7	21
	NGO (Rwanda)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.00%)

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 43: Distribution of enterprises by institutional sector and registration status by sex of the manager (table has different information not here)

Institutional Sector	Yes			No			Total
	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	
1. Private sector	16,275	10,145	0	134,690	91,887	19	253,016
2. Cooperative	1,165	354	0	478	289	0	2,286
3. Public sector	2,099	845	132	0	0	0	3,076
4. Public Private Partnership	1,245	508	0	0	0	0	1,753
5. NGO (Rwanda)	579	131	0	343	66	0	1,119
6. NGO(International)	144	58	0	64	33	0	299
Total	21,507 (8.2%)	12,041 (4.6%)	132 (0.1%)	13,575 (51.8%)	92,275 (35.3%)	19 (0.0%)	261,549 (100.0%)

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 44: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and whether they buy or sell goods abroad or not, by sex of the manager

	Institutional sector	Yes, Export	Yes, Import	Yes, Export and Import	4. No
Female	1. Private sector	141	1,199	65	102,183
	2. Cooperative	15	10	4	663
	3. Public sector	2	5	0	1,109
	Public Private Partnership	1	4	2	603
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	3	12	1	301
	6. NGO(International)	1	8	0	183
	Total	163	1,238	72	105,042
Male	1. Private sector	402	2,416	297	151,558
	2. Cooperative	29	29	2	1,744
	3. Public sector	7	11	5	2,559
	Public Private Partnership	8	19	8	1,402
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	3	19	0	1,678
	6. NGO(International)	3	20	1	440
	Total	452	2,514	313	159,381
Total	1. Private sector	543	3,615	362	253,741
	2. Cooperative	44	39	6	2,407
	3. Public sector	9	16	5	3,668
	Public Private Partnership	9	23	10	2,005
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	6	31	1	1,979
	6. NGO(International)	4	28	1	623
	Total	615	3,752	385	264,423

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 45: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and whether they buy or sell service abroad or not, by sex of the manager

	Institutional sector	Yes, Export	Yes, Import	Yes, Export and Import	4. No
Female	1. Private sector	98	299	57	103,134
	2. Cooperative	3	8	0	681
	3. Public sector	1	3	3	1,109
	Public Private Partnership	1 (0.0%)	6 (0.3%)	4 (0.2%)	599 (29.3%)
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	2	10	1	304
	6. NGO(International)	2	4	0	186
	Total	107	330	65	106,013
Male	1. Private sector	308	821	233	153,311
	2. Cooperative	16	9	3	1,776
	3. Public sector	12	8	6	2,556
	Public Private Partnership	2	8	8	1,419
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	5	10	4	1,681
	6. NGO(International)	6	16	2	440
	Total	349	872	256	161,183
Total	1. Private sector	406	1,120	290	256,445
	2. Cooperative	19	17	3	2,457
	3. Public sector	13	11	9	3,665
	Public Private Partnership	3	14	12	2,018
	5. NGO (Rwanda)	7	20	5	1,985
	6. NGO(International)	8	20	2	
	Total	456	1,202	321	267,196

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 46: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and maintaining regular account status by sex of the manager

Institutional sector	Female		Male		Note stated		Total			Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Female	Male	NS	
1. Private sector	10,862	92,726	18,180	136,493	0	19	103,588	154,673	19	258,280
2. Cooperative	386	306	1,280	524	0	0	692	1,804	0	2,496
3. Public sector	1,116	0	2,582	0	132	0	1,116	2,582	132	3,830
Public Private Partnership	610	0	1,437	0	0	0	610	1,437	0	2,047
5. NGO (Rwanda)	194	123	1,026	674	0	0	317	1,700	0	2,017
6. NGO(International)	96	96	288	176	0	0	192	464	0	656
Total	13,264	93,251	24,793	137,867	132	19	106,515	162,660	151	269,326

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 47: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and year of starting operations by sex of the manager

Institutional Sector	Before 1970			1970 -1999			2000 - 2011			2012 - 2014			2015 - 2017			2018 - 2020			Not stated (Year)			Total
	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	Male	Female	NS	
1. Private sector	168	24	0	1,547	633	0	8,395	4,224	0	6,339	3,247	0	14,444	7,677	0	33,672	19,182	0	90,108	68,601	19	258,280
2. Cooperative	5	0	0	45	11	0	661	189	0	240	48	0	262	82	0	278	114	0	313	248	0	2,496
3. Public sector	434	170	0	607	180	0	412	161	0	150	64	0	119	74	0	240	165	0	620	302	132	3,830
4. Public Private Partnership	578	225	0	301	116	0	193	91	0	68	25	0	65	22	0	77	55	0	155	76	0	2,047
5. NGO (Rwanda)	228	13	0	489	56	0	359	70	0	136	27	0	179	30	0	159	58	0	150	63	0	2,017
6. NGO(International)	35	8	0	86	12	0	104	36	0	59	11	0	50	20	0	53	30	0	77	75	0	656
Total	1,448	440	0	3,075	1,008	0	10,124	4,771	0	6,992	3,422	0	15,119	7,905	0	34,479	19,604	0	91,423	69,365	151	269,326

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 48: Distribution of private business-oriented establishments by legal status and by the sex of the manager

Sex	Legal status	Rwandan Only	Joint and Foreigners	Not stated	total
Female	1. Sole proprietorship	95,898	774	1	96,673
	2. Limited by shares	1,428	182	6	1,616
	3. Limited by guarantee	47	1	0	48
	4. Shares and by guarantee	23	4	0	27
	5. Unlimited	160	7	0	167
	6. None	5,009	48	0	5,057
	Total	102,565	1,016	7	103,588
Male	1. Sole proprietorship	142,574	1,436	15	144,025
	2. Limited by shares	3,014	706	17	3,737
	3. Limited by guarantee	132	10	0	142
	4. Shares and by guarantee	38	13	1	52
	5. Unlimited	440	15	1	456
	6. None	6,153	105	3	6,261
	Total	152,351	2,285	37	154,673

Sex	Legal status	Rwandan Only	Joint and Foreigners	Not stated	total
Total	1. Sole proprietorship	238,472	2,210	16	240,698
	2. Limited by shares	4,442	888	42	5,372
	3. Limited by guarantee	179	11	0	190
	4. Shares and by guarantee	61	17	1	79
	5. Unlimited	600	22	1	623
	6. None	11,162	153	3	11,318
	Total	254,916	3,301	63	258,280

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 49: Distribution of business –oriented establishments which started operation in or before 2019 by legal status and annual turnover by sex of the manager

Legal Status	Less than 300.000	300.000 - <12.000.000	12 million - <20 million	20 million - < 50 million	50 million - < 400 million	400 million - < 1billion	Above 1 billion	Total
Female								
Sole proprietorship	11,018	11,883	980	384	234	52	25	24,945
Limited by shares	69	341	118	72	126	57	42	1,040
Limited by guarantee	4	10	3	3	5	2	1	33
Limited by shares and by guarantee	6	8	6	1	4	0	1	35
Unlimited	12	27	12	9	10	2	2	109
None	695	628	64	17	21	5	2	1,474
Subtotal	11,804	12,897	1,183	486	400	118	73	27,636
Male								
Sole proprietorship	18,389	23,806	2,189	934	655	179	96	47,298
Limited by shares	169	870	332	253	449	218	265	3,217
Limited by guarantee	24	37	6	13	10	11	2	125
Limited by shares and by guarantee	5	12	5	7	16	6	2	80
Unlimited	59	117	27	29	39	11	6	393
None	722	970	103	58	53	15	2	2,168
Subtotal	19,368	25,812	2,662	1,294	1,222	440	373	53,281
Total								
Sole proprietorship	29,407	35,689	3,169	1,318	889	231	121	72,243
Limited by shares	238	1,211	450	325	575	275	307	4,257
Limited by guarantee	28	47	9	16	15	13	3	158
Limited by shares and by guarantee	11	20	11	8	20	6	3	115
Unlimited	71	144	39	38	49	13	8	502
None	1,417	1,598	167	75	74	20	4	3,642
Subtotal	31,172	38,709	3,845	1,780	1,622	558	446	80,917

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 50: Distribution of enterprises by size and location areas by sex of the manager

Size	Female			Male			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Micro (1-3)	62,165	36,323	98,488	55,593	87,079	142,672	117,758	123,402	241,160
Small (4-30)	3,785	1,281	5,066	7,787	3,859	11,646	11,572	5,140	16,712
Medium (31-100)	349	355	704	1,004	1,355	2,359	1,353	1,710	3,063
Large (100+)	42	16	58	271	134	405	313	150	463
Total	66,341	37,975	104,316	64,655	92,427	157,082	130,996	130,402	261,398

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 51: Distribution of enterprises by economic activity, size and sex of the manager

Economic Activity	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total
Female					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	58	62	16	5	141
Mining and quarrying	11	27	5	5	48
Manufacturing	7,197	577	42	11	7,827
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1	1	1	0	3
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	890	10	2	1	903
Construction	12	11	0	1	24
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	63,203	1,220	58	8	64,489
Transportation and Storage	78	65	4	1	148
Accommodation and food service activities	19,636	1,199	38	4	20,877
Information and communication	530	23	1	0	554
Financial and Insurance Activities	1,228	237	3	4	1,472
Real Estate Activities	13	12	1	0	26
Professional, Scientific and technical activities	397	61	2	1	461
Administrative and Support Service Activities	731	79	7	3	820
Public Administration and defence; compulsory social security	2	1	0	0	3
Education	169	822	478	10	1,479
Human Health and social work activities	177	361	76	13	627
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	58	36	2	0	96
Other Service Activities	5,626	866	25	0	6,517
Total	100,017	5,670	761	67	106,515

Economic Activity	Micro(1-3)	Small(4-30)	Medium(31-100)	Large(100+)	Total
Male					
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	257	207	66	35	565
Mining And Quarrying	29	116	50	52	247
Manufacturing	8,521	1,253	152	72	9,998
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	12	42	14	4	72
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	958	47	24	6	1,035
Construction	77	73	12	14	176
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	77,081	2,857	179	43	80,160
Transportation and Storage	205	282	46	26	559
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	38,321	2,607	90	19	41,037
Information and Communication	1,802	137	12	6	1,957
Financial and Insurance Activities	1,890	666	24	11	2,591
Real Estate Activities	60	40	6	0	106
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	1,116	244	25	7	1,392
Administrative and Support Service Activities	483	203	23	23	732
Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security	5	5	1	0	11
Education	266	2,042	1,615	39	3,962
Human Health and Social Work Activities	338	710	119	57	1,224
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	289	107	5	3	404
Other Service Activities	14,187	2,078	125	42	16,432
Total	145,897	13,716	2,588	459	162,660

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 52: Distribution of private business - oriented enterprises by owners' nationality and size, by sex of the manager

Size	Ownership nationality			
	Total	Rwandan Only	Joint (Rwandan+other)	Non-Rwandan
Female				
Micro (1-3)	99,223	98,482	24	717
Small (4-30)	4,766	4,516	25	225
Medium (31-100)	243	210	2	31
Large (100+)	48	38	1	9
Total	104,280	103,246	52	982
Male				
Micro (1-3)	144,354	143,094	55	1,205
Small (4-30)	10,863	9,970	81	812
Medium (31-100)	913	784	11	118
Large (100+)	347	282	6	59
Total	156,477	154,130	153	2,194
Grand Total				
Micro (1-3)	243,596	241,576	79	1,941
Small (4-30)	15,629	14,486	1,06	1,037
Medium (31-100)	1,156	994	13	149
Large (100+)	395	320	7	68
Total	260,776	257,376	205	3,195

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 53: Distribution Of Business-Oriented Enterprises By Legal Status And Size By Sex Of The Manager

Size based on workers	Legal status						
	Total	Sole proprietorship	Limited by shares	Limited by guarantee	Limited by shares and by guarantee	Unlimited	None
Female							
Micro (1-3)	98,488	92,334	1,014	31	16	97	4,909
Small (4-30)	5,066	3,308	1,236	18	16	65	258
Medium (31-100)	704	80	540	5	5	12	30
Large (100+)	58	10	35	0	2	2	5
Total	104,316	95,732	2,825	54	39	176	5,202
Male							
Micro (1-3)	142,672	134,453	1,715	104	21	276	5,727
Small (4-30)	11,646	6,912	3,379	47	49	180	454
Medium (31-100)	2,359	299	1,804	10	6	55	74

Size based on workers	Legal status						None
	Total	Sole proprietorship	Limited by shares	Limited by guarantee	Limited by shares and by guarantee	Unlimited	
Large (100+)	405	59	284	6	5	18	16
Total	157,082	141,723	7,182	167	81	529	6,271
Grand Total							
Micro (1-3)	241,160	226,787	2,729	135	37	373	10,636
Small (4-30)	16,712	10,220	4,615	65	65	245	712
Medium (31-100)	3,063	379	2,344	15	11	67	104
Large (100+)	463	69	319	6	7	20	21
Total	261,549	237,455	10,028	221	120	705	11,473

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 54: Distribution Of Business-Oriented Enterprises Which Started In Or Before 2019 By Size, Annual Turnover And Sex Of The Manager

Size	Annual Turnover							
	Total	Less than 300,000	300,000 - 12,000,000	12 million - 20 million	20 million - 50 million	50 million -400 million	400 million - 1 billion	Above 1 billion
Female								
Micro(1-3)	91,719	43,352	45,602	1,845	600	265	36	19
Small(4-30)	4,282	487	2,608	526	288	266	73	34
Medium(31-100)	242	16	66	32	23	47	31	27
Large(100+)	43	1	5	5	1	5	12	14
Total	96,286	43,856	48,281	2,408	912	583	152	94
Male								
Micro(1-3)	133,834	59,131	69,789	3,153	1,101	540	87	33
Small(4-30)	9,465	802	5,200	1,307	812	852	303	189
Medium(31-100)	842	30	238	96	93	168	107	110
Large(100+)	334	16	47	19	27	50	46	129
Total	144,475	59,979	75,274	4,575	2,033	1,610	543	461
Grand Total	240,761	103,835	123,555	6,983	2,945	2,193	695	555

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 55: Distribution of business-oriented enterprises by size and employed capital by sex of the manager

Sex of Manager	Section / Q21. Current Employed Capital	Micro (1-3)	Small (4-30)	Medium (31-100)	Large (100+)	Total
Female	Less than 300,000	63,475	626	15	2	64,118
	300,000 - <12,000,000	32,756	2,649	70	4	35,479
	12 million - <20 million	1,459	485	32	4	1,980
	20 million - <50 million	422	288	30	2	742
	50 million - <400 million	182	232	41	8	463
	400 million - <1 billion	21	70	21	11	123
	Above 1 billion	14	20	34	12	80
Male	Total	98,329	4,370	243	43	102,985
	Less than 300,000	84,938	1,041	46	19	86,044
	300,000 - <12,000,000	53,338	5,384	230	54	59,006
	12 million - <20 million	2,606	1,266	108	25	4,005
	20 million - <50 million	881	770	89	27	1,767
	50 million - <400 million	349	779	168	45	1,341
	400 million - <1 billion	52	254	102	42	450
Grand Total	Above 1 billion	24	123	106	122	375
	Total	142,188	9,617	849	334	152,988
	Less than 300,000	148,413	1,667	61	21	150,162
	300,000 - <12,000,000	86,094	8,033	300	58	94,485
	12 million - <20 million	4,065	1,751	140	29	5,985
	20 million - <50 million	1,303	1,058	119	29	2,509
	50 million - <400 million	531	1,011	209	53	1,804
	400 million - <1 billion	73	324	123	53	573
	Above 1 billion	38	143	140	134	455
Grand Total	Total	240,517	13,987	1,092	377	255,973

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 56: Distribution of enterprises by size and whether they buy or sell goods abroad, by sex of the manager

	Did you have any transactions of goods with a foreign country?										
size	Female					Male					Total
	Yes, Export	Yes,Import	Yes, Export and Import	No	Not, stated	Yes, Export	Yes, Import	Yes, Export and Import	No	Not stated	
Micro (1-3)	84	811	31	97,562	0	139	1,226	74	141,233	0	241,160
Small (4-30)	46	263	18	4,739	0	136	777	93	10,640	0	16,712
Medium (31-100)	10	39	6	649	0	46	146	30	2,137	0	3,063
Large (100+)	4	11	4	39	0	22	80	49	254	0	463
Total	144	1,124	59	102,989	0	343	2,229	246	154,264	0	261,398

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 57: Distribution of enterprises by size and whether they buy or sell services abroad, by sex of the manager

	Did you have any transaction of service with a foreign country										
	Female					Male					Total
Size	Yes, Export	Yes, Import	Yes, Export and Import	No	Not stated	Yes, Export	Yes, Import	Yes, Export and Import	No	Not stated	
Micro (1-3)	50	177	28	98,233	0	102	343	56	142,171	0	241,160
Small (4-30)	32	83	13	4,938	0	120	266	81	11,179	0	16,712
Medium (31-100)	3	19	4	678	0	25	81	16	2,237	0	3,063
Large (100+)	1	9	2	46	0	15	53	22	315	0	463
Total	86	288	47	103,895	0	262	743	175	155,902	0	261,398

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 58: Distribution of sole proprietor enterprises by size, sex, and age of the owner

Age of owner	Size based on the number of workers				Total
	Micro (1-3)	Small(4-30)	Medium(31-100)	Large (100+)	
Female					
15-24	141	16	0	0	157
25-29	253	13	0	0	266
30-34	330	40	0	0	370
35-39	268	37	0	0	305
40-44	256	44	0	0	300

Age of owner	Size based on the number of workers				Total
	Micro (1-3)	Small(4-30)	Medium(31-100)	Large (100+)	
45-49	144	34	2	0	180
50-54	120	34	3	0	157
55-59	58	15	1	0	74
60-64	51	10	1	1	63
65 +	40	23	4	1	68
Not stated	91,566	3,230	74	10	94,880
Total	93,227	3,496	85	12	96,820
Male					
15-24	232	14	0	0	246
25-29	334	23	0	0	357
30-34	405	56	0	0	461
35-39	344	79	2	1	426
40-44	332	84	11	4	431
45-49	211	77	7	1	296
50-54	171	80	10	2	263
55-59	93	37	5	0	135
60-64	90	42	3	3	138
65 +	101	38	14	3	156
Not stated	133,957	6,953	293	60	141,263
Total	136,270	7,483	345	74	144,172
Both sex					
15-24	373	30	0	0	403
25-29	587	36	0	0	623
30-34	735	96	0	0	831
35-39	612	116	2	1	731
40-44	588	128	11	4	731
45-49	355	111	9	1	476
50-54	291	114	13	2	420
55-59	151	52	6	0	209

Age of owner	Size based on the number of workers				Total
	Micro (1-3)	Small(4-30)	Medium(31-100)	Large (100+)	
60-64	141	52	4	4	201
65 +	141	61	18	4	224
Not stated	225,523	10,183	367	70	236,143
Total	229,497	10,979	430	86	240,992

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 59: Distribution of enterprises by size and maintaining regular account status, by sex of the manager

Size	Male			Female			Not stated			Total
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
Micro (1-3)	11,830	130,842	142,672	8,575	89,913	98,488	0	19	19	241,179
Small (4-30)	7,100	4,546	11,646	2,741	2,325	5,066	18	0	18	16,730
Medium (31-100)	2,201	158	2,359	670	34	704	40	0	40	3,103
Large (100+)	376	29	405	55	3	58	74	0	74	537
Total	21,507	135,575	157,082	12,041	92,275	104,316	132	19	151	261,549

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 60: Distribution of private business – oriented establishments by economic activity, by owners' nationality, and by sex of the manager

Economic activity	Legal status												
	Total	Sole proprietorship		Limited by shares		Limited by guarantee		Limited shares and by guarantee		Unlimited		None	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	286	44	159	3	29	0	2	0	0	0	5	12	32
Mining and quarrying	201	28	124	5	34	1	2	0	0	0	5	0	2
Manufacturing	17,124	7,140	8,838	106	335	3	2	0	0	11	27	332	323
Electricity, gas, steam and air condition	27	0	12	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Water supply; sewerage, waste management	669	234	290	31	26	0	0	0	0	4	6	37	41
Construction	179	10	102	7	52	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motorcycles	141,613	59,490	74,020	665	1,126	27	74	0	0	35	100	3,264	2784
Transportation and storage	435	79	212	31	104	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	5

Economic activity	Legal status												
	Total	Sole proprietorship		Limited by shares		Limited by guarantee		Limited shares and by guarantee		Unlimited		None	
Accommodation and food service activities	61,167	19,541	38,392	136	281	3	23	0	0	26	78	915	1,760
Information and communication	2,341	473	1,694	13	68	0	0	0	0	2	3	19	69
Financial and insurance activities	2,823	1,008	1,572	25	102	0	1	0	0	3	2	44	60
Real estate activities	112	17	56	6	28	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,711	383	1,062	32	178	0	2	0	0	2	4	8	38
Administrative and support service activities	1,366	720	485	33	94	0	2	0	0	1	1	16	13
Education	1,390	313	598	66	190	2	3	0	0	24	54	60	75
Human health and social work activities	784	220	425	29	74	0	1	0	0	2	6	5	21
Arts, entertainment and recreation	309	42	227	5	19	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	10
Other service activities	20,479	5,859	13,351	83	138	3	7	0	0	6	46	261	724
Total	253,016	95,601	141,619	1,277	2,889	41	121	0	0	117	342	4,976	5,966

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 61: Distribution of business-oriented establishments, which started before 2016 by economic activity and by annual turnover category by sex of the manager

Economic activity	Annual Turnover Category												
	Total	less than 300,000		300,000 –12,000.000		12 - 20 million		More than 20 to 50 million		More than 50 million		Not stated	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Agriculture forestry and fishing	346	17	48	39	130	13	25	3	13	3	21	5	29
Mining and quarrying	244	4	14	14	76		21	4	11	3	31	6	60
Manufacturing	11,509	2,183	2,671	1,371	2,916	45	185	20	89	20	188	705	1,116
Electricity gas steam and air conditioning supply	33	2	1	2	3	1	2	1		1	4	4	12
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities													
	741						6		3		3	70	124
		189	210	53	83								
Construction	140		9	2	26	2	15		13	6	50	2	15
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	83,026												
		13,985	20,878	11,856	19,565	749	1,269	262	494	207	545	5,427	7,789
Transportation and storage	575	7	36	43	190	5	44	16	36	10	66	17	105

Economic activity	Annual Turnover Category												
	Total	less than 300,000		300,000 –12,000,000		12 - 20 million		More than 20 to 50 million		More than 50 million		Not stated	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Accommodation and food service activi-ties	28,058	4,034	11,576	2,032	4,65	99	199	38	106	28	114	1,571	3,611
Information and communication	750	42	172	51	256	5	21		9	7	25	29	133
Financial and insurance activities	1.89	79	195	137	289	29	60	27	77	63	194	211	529
Real estate activities	124	2	5	13	34	3	13	5	8	7	26	1	7
Professional, scientific and technical ac-tivities	1,501	100	151	313	478	26	79	6	45	9	51	101	142
Administrative and support service activ-ities	896	53	152	85	321	4	32	9	27	11	43	42	117

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 62: Distribution of business-oriented establishments by economic activity and employed capital by sex of the manager

Economic activity	Less than 300,000			300,000 - <12,000,000			12,000,000 - <20,000,000			20,000,000 - <50,000,000			50,000,000 - <400,000,000			400,000,000 - <1 billion			Above 1 billion			Total		
Economic activity	Male	female	Not stated	Male	Female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated
agriculture, forestry and fishing	151	42		202	62		59	6		31	9		34	6		11	2		11	2		565	141	
mining and quarrying	7	3		101	21		34	5		19	4		24	5		9	1		12			247	48	
manufacturing	4,066	5,492		5,012	2,081	1	308	95		106	38		123	25		39	9		108	15		9,998	7,827	1
electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4			33			3			1			3			1			9	1		72	3	1
water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	408	378		330	275		4	2		4	1		4			4			2			1,035	903	
construction	5	1		62	7		30	2		20	2		20	2		14	4		14			176	24	

economic activity	less than 300,000			300,000 - <12,000,000			12,000,000 - <20,000,000			20,000,000 - <50,000,000			50,000,000 - <400,000,000			400,000,000 - <1 billion			above 1 billion			total		
economic activity	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated	male	female	not stated
wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	36,832	37,206	7	37,543	24,385	3	2,431	1,385		968	481		568	233		149	43		89	19		80,160	64,489	10
transportation and storage	47	10		187	77		64	15		47	10		41	8		9	1		24	3		559	148	1
accommodation and food service activities	30,907	15,261	8	8,861	5,036		476	199		186	78		98	44		41	22		20	7		41,037	20,877	8
information and communication	648	158		1,124	335	1	40	12		20	3		18	2		4			5	2		1,957	554	1
financial and insurance activities	831	597		828	458	1	70	31		87	13		163	49		59	14		24	9		2,591	1,472	3
real estate activities	8	2		35	11		13	2		10	1		11	6		15	2		9	1		106	26	
professional, scientific and technical activities	383	115		744	282		92	19		53	7		24	7		6	1		5	1		1,392	461	
administrative and support service activities	132	111		345	586		58	53		28	10		39	14		13	3		14	11		732	820	
public administration and defence; compulsory social security																						11	3	116
education	106	76		481	254		149	64		93	52		101	36		40	13		12	6		3,962	1,479	10
human health and social work activities	86	34		345	186		48	21		31	18		35	13		19	5		10	1		1,224	627	
arts, entertainment and recreation	96	11		139	31		12	8		8	1		5			3			1	1		404	96	
other service activities	11,330	4,624		2,990	1,622		114	61		55	14		30	13		14	3		6	1		16,432	6,517	
Total	86,047	64,121	15	59,362	35,709	6	4,005	1,980		1,767	742		1,341	463		450	123		375	80		162,660	106,515	151

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

Table 63: Employment by nationality and institutional sector by sex of the manager

Institutional sector	Total			Rwandan			Foreigners		
	Female	Male	Not stated	Female	Male	Not stated	Female	Male	Not stated
Private sector	183,620	422,364	21	181,322	415,864	21	2,298	6,500	
Cooperative	12,240	63,427		12,153	63,184		87	243	
Public sector	21,556	83,132	38,381	21,498	82,810	38,136	58	322	245
Public Private Partnership	16,908	50,140		16,820	49,812		88	328	
NGO (Rwanda)	3,546	23,233		3,446	22,772		100	461	
NGO(International)	2,232	6,939		2,074	5,931		158	10,08	
Total	240,102	649,235	38,402	237,313	640,373	38,157	2,789	88,62	245

Source: NISR, Rwanda Establishment Census 2023

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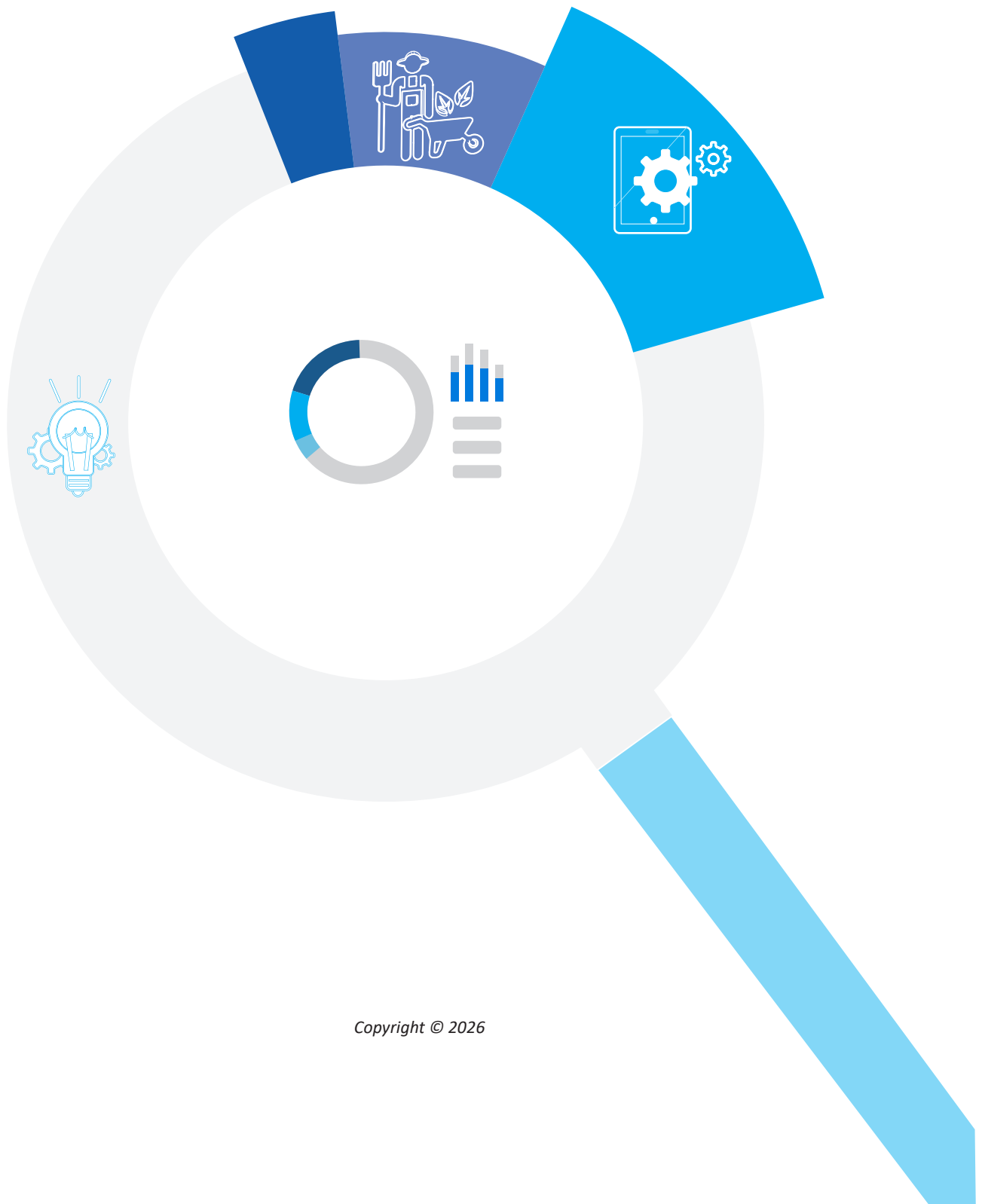
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