



# Burundi



**Background** Established in the 1600s, the Burundi Kingdom has had borders similar to those of modern Burundi since the 1800s. Burundi's two major ethnic groups, the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi, share a common language and culture and largely lived in peaceful cohabitation under Tutsi monarchs in pre-colonial Burundi. Regional, class, and clan distinctions contributed to social status in the Burundi Kingdom, yielding a complex class structure. German colonial rule in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and Belgian rule after World War I preserved Burundi's monarchy. Seeking to simplify administration, Belgian colonial officials reduced the number of chiefdoms and eliminated most Hutu chiefs from positions of power. In 1961, the Burundian Tutsi king's oldest son, Louis RWAGASORE, was murdered by a competing political faction shortly before he was set to become prime minister, triggering increased political competition that contributed to later instability.

Burundi gained its independence from Belgium in 1962 as the Kingdom of Burundi. Revolution in neighboring Rwanda stoked ethnic polarization as the Tutsi increasingly feared violence and loss of political power. A failed Hutu-led coup in 1965 triggered a purge of Hutu officials and set the stage for Tutsi officers to overthrow the monarchy in 1966 and establish a Tutsi-dominated republic. A Hutu rebellion in 1972 resulted in the deaths of several thousand Tutsi civilians and sparked brutal Tutsi-led military reprisals against Hutu civilians which ultimately killed 100,000-200,000 people. International pressure led to a new constitution in 1992 and democratic elections in 1993. Tutsi military officers feared Hutu domination and assassinated Burundi's first democratically elected president, Hutu Melchior NDADAYE, in 1993 after only 100 days in office, sparking a civil war. In 1994, his successor, Cyprien NTARYAMIRA, died when the Rwandan president's plane he was traveling on was shot down, which triggered the Rwandan genocide and further entrenched ethnic conflict in Burundi. The internationally brokered Arusha Agreement, signed in 2000, and subsequent cease-fire agreements with armed movements ended the 1993-2005 civil war. Burundi's second democratic elections were held in 2005, resulting in the election of Pierre NKURUNZIZA as president. He was reelected in 2010 and again in 2015 after a controversial court decision allowed him to circumvent a term limit. President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE -- from NKURUNZIZA's ruling party -- was elected in 2020.

**Capital** name: Gitega (political capital), Bujumbura (commercial capital)

**Government type** presidential republic

**Area**  
total : 27,830 sq km  
land: 25,680 sq km  
water: 2,150 sq km

**Climate** equatorial; high plateau with considerable altitude variation (772 m to 2,670 m above sea level); average annual temperature varies with altitude from 23 to 17 degrees Celsius but is generally moderate; average annual rainfall is about 150 cm with two wet seasons (February to May and September to November) and two dry seasons (June to August and December to January)

<b>Natural resources</b>	nickel, uranium, rare earth oxides, peat, cobalt, copper, platinum, vanadium, arable land, hydropower, niobium, tantalum, gold, tin, tungsten, kaolin, limestone
<b>Population</b>	total: 13,590,102 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	2.81% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Hutu, Tutsi, Twa, South Asian
<b>Religions</b>	Christian 93.9% (Roman Catholic 58.6%, Protestant 35.3% [includes Adventist 2.7% and other Protestant religions 32.6%]), Muslim 3.4%, other 1.3%, none 1.3% (2016-17 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Kirundi (official), French (official), English (official, least spoken), Swahili (2008 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE (since 18 June 2020) head of government: Prime Minister Nestor NTAHONTUYE (since 5 August 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Parliament (Parlement)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Jean Bosco BAREGE (since 27 February 2024)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Lisa PETERSON (since 27 June 2024)
<b>Economic overview</b>	highly agrarian, low-income Sub-Saharan economy; declining foreign assistance; increasing fiscal insolvencies; dense and still growing population; COVID-19 weakened economic recovery and flipped two years of deflation
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$11.739 billion (2024 est.) \$11.343 billion (2023 est.) \$11.048 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$800 (2024 est.) \$800 (2023 est.) \$800 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$378.229 million (2023 est.) \$333.637 million (2022 est.) \$302.752 million (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	UAE 59%, Uganda 8%, China 5%, Germany 5%, USA 3% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	gold, coffee, tea, tin ores, iron bars (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$1.433 billion (2023 est.) \$1.42 billion (2022 est.) \$1.166 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Tanzania 26%, China 15%, Uganda 10%, Kenya 10%, India 6% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	fertilizers, cement, packaged medicine, plastic products, cars (2023)

Population Pyramid

