



MAKE IT EAST AFRICA

Rwanda's Textile & Apparel
Industry Snapshot



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Rwanda - The Land of a Thousand Hills

A Landscape of Enchanting Beauty

Rwanda's topography is a captivating blend of lush, emerald-green mountains, sprawling valleys, glistening lakes, and vibrant ecosystems. Volcanoes pierce the sky, with Volcanoes National Park offering a glimpse of the endangered mountain gorillas, a sight that will leave a lasting impression.

A Cultural Tapestry

Rwandan culture is a vibrant blend of ancient traditions and modern influences. The Intore dance, a rhythmic performance characterized by intricate costumes and powerful movements, is a captivating display of Rwandan heritage. Skilled artisans continue to craft beautiful baskets, pottery, and textiles, keeping age-old techniques alive.

A Haven for Wildlife Encounters

Rwanda's diverse landscapes provide a sanctuary for a variety of wildlife. Track chimpanzees swinging through the Nyungwe Forest canopy, or embark on a safari in Akagera National Park, where you might encounter lions, elephants, zebras, and giraffes.

Where Stability Meets Growth

Rwanda's recent history has been one of remarkable transformation. Following a period of adversity, the nation has emerged as a beacon of stability and economic growth in Africa. This progress, coupled with a forward-thinking government and a skilled workforce, makes Rwanda a prime destination for investors seeking a dynamic and rewarding business environment.

Additional Information

Rwanda's strategic location makes it an ideal gateway to the vast East African market. Investors can benefit from preferential trade agreements and access a growing regional consumer base.

The Rwandan government actively fosters economic development through business-friendly policies, infrastructure investment, and a focus on innovation.

Rwanda boasts a young, energetic, and well-educated workforce. The government invests heavily in education and skills development, ensuring a constant supply of talent for businesses. It is consistently ranked as one of the safest countries in Africa.



Rwanda At A Glance

Nestled in East Africa, Rwanda is a landlocked nation with a remarkable story of resilience. It's a modern country and an investment environment built for creativity, innovation and large scale garment manufacturing.

Overview



With a commitment to English as a language of business and a strategic location offering access to regional markets. Government initiatives aim to further entice investors through competitive expat costs, reduced power costs for manufacturers, and a growing emphasis on sustainable energy resources.

Economy



GDP
13.31 Billion

As reported by the World Bank



CPI
17.69

As reported by the World Bank



GDP Per Capita
966.23

As reported by the World Bank

Economy



FDI to GDP
2.99%

As reported by the World Bank



CO2 Emissions
2.88Mt

As reported by the World Bank



External Debt to GDP
72.79%

As reported by the World Bank

Demographics



Population
13.7 Million

As reported by the World Bank



Median Age
19 - 20 Years

As reported by the World Bank



Working Age Population
5.1 Million

As reported by the World Bank

A Thriving Textile and Apparel Industry

Rwanda's textile and apparel industry is poised for significant growth, offering a compelling proposition for investors seeking a dynamic and profitable market. With a supportive government, a skilled workforce, and a strategic location, Rwanda presents a unique opportunity to tap into the booming African fashion market.

A Government with Vision

The Rwandan government recognizes the textile and apparel industry as a key driver of economic development. The "Made in Rwanda" initiative actively promotes domestic production, offering investors incentives like tax breaks and duty-free imports on machinery. Additionally, the government invests in infrastructure development, including special economic zones with streamlined business processes and logistics support.

A Young and Skilled Workforce

Rwanda boasts a young and eager workforce with a growing talent pool in the textile and apparel sector. The government prioritizes vocational training, ensuring a readily available workforce equipped with the necessary skills for production, design, and quality control. Investors benefit from competitive labor costs and a workforce known for its dedication and work ethic.

Strategic Location and Access to Markets

Rwanda's geographical position offers a significant advantage. Situated in the heart of Africa, Rwanda enjoys duty-free access to the vast East African Community (EAC) market, with a population exceeding 200 million. Additionally, preferential trade agreements with the United States and the European Union further enhance export opportunities for Rwandan-made garments.

A Vertically Integrated Approach

Rwanda is actively developing a vertically integrated textile industry. While cotton production is still in its nascent stages, the government is investing in initiatives to increase domestic cotton cultivation. Existing textile factories produce high-quality fabrics, catering to a variety of garment types. This integrated approach reduces reliance on imports and fosters a self-sufficient and competitive industry.



Textile And Apparel Industry

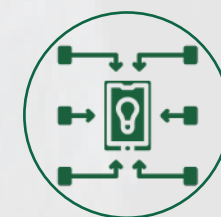
Investing in Rwanda's textile and apparel industry presents a win-win proposition for businesses and the nation alike. Investors can expect attractive returns, while contributing to Rwanda's economic development and social progress. It offers competitive production costs compared to other established textile hubs. Favorable labor rates, tax incentives, and a streamlined business environment contribute to significant cost savings for investors.



Fabric Suppliers

N/A

These companies provide the raw materials that fuel Rwanda's textile production.



Vertical Solutions

N/A

Offering a one-stop shop, these companies handle various stages of production.



Apparel Manufacturing

N/A

From t-shirts to complex garments, these manufacturers transform fabric into the apparel we wear.



Cotton Production

N/A

The robust cotton production serves as the cornerstone of its textile and apparel industry.



The Rwandan government prioritizes ethical and sustainable practices within the industry. Investors can leverage this commitment to build a strong brand reputation and cater to the growing consumer demand for ethically sourced and produced clothing.

Rwanda's government provides comprehensive support to investors. From streamlined business registration processes to readily available land and facilities in special economic zones, investors benefit from a supportive ecosystem that fosters success.

By investing in Rwanda's textile and apparel industry, businesses contribute to the nation's social development.

Competitive Advantages

Rwanda has several advantages that position it for success

Beyond just cost, Rwanda prioritizes streamlining operations. The strategic location offers easy access to regional markets, facilitated by trade agreements within the East African Community.

Overview

Rwanda positions itself competitively in the textile and apparel industry by offering attractive costs and a focus on efficiency. The minimum wage is lower compared to some established garment-producing countries, making it financially viable for manufacturers. Additionally, the government actively works to reduce power costs for businesses, further lowering production expenses.

Government Support and Incentives

- "Made in Rwanda" initiative promoting domestic production with tax breaks and duty-free imports.
- Investment in infrastructure development and special economic zones.

Vertically Integrated Approach

- Government initiatives to increase domestic cotton production.
- Existing factories producing high-quality fabrics for various garments.

Ethical and Sustainable Practices

- Government prioritizes ethical production, allowing investors to build a strong brand reputation.
- Caters to the growing consumer demand for ethically sourced and produced clothing.

Strategic Location and Market Access

- Duty-free access to the vast East African Community market (over 200 million people).
- Preferential trade agreements with the US and EU for garment exports.

Young and Skilled Workforce

- Growing talent pool with government-backed vocational training programs.
- Competitive labor costs and a dedicated workforce.

Minimum Wage

- Rwanda's minimum wage in the textile sector is around \$100 USD per month.



Why Invest in Rwanda's Textile & Apparel Industry

Untapped Potential Meets Strategic Advantages

Unlike established textile hubs, Rwanda offers a relatively uncrowded market brimming with potential. This translates to a first-mover advantage for investors. Coupled with Rwanda's strategic location in the heart of Africa, duty-free access to the vast East African Community market, and preferential trade agreements with major economies, Rwanda offers a launchpad for regional and international success. Imagine your garments being readily available to over 200 million consumers in the EAC, alongside duty-free export opportunities to the US and EU.

Profitability with a Sustainable Edge

Rwanda presents a compelling combination of cost competitiveness and a commitment to ethical practices. Competitive labor rates, government incentives like tax breaks and duty-free imports on machinery, and a streamlined business environment contribute to significant cost savings. At the same time, Rwanda prioritizes ethical production, allowing you to build a strong brand reputation that caters to the growing global demand for ethically sourced and produced clothing. This translates to a win-win scenario – you can achieve healthy profit margins while building a brand that resonates with a socially conscious consumer base.

Investing in People, Empowering Communities

Investing in Rwanda's textile industry goes beyond just profit. The industry is a powerful engine for job creation, particularly for Rwanda's young and eager workforce. By establishing your business here, you'll be contributing to the economic empowerment of local communities. The government's focus on vocational training ensures a readily available workforce equipped with the necessary skills for success. Furthermore, Rwanda's commitment to ethical practices translates to ensuring fair wages and a positive working environment for garment workers.

A Stable and Supportive Ecosystem for Business Growth

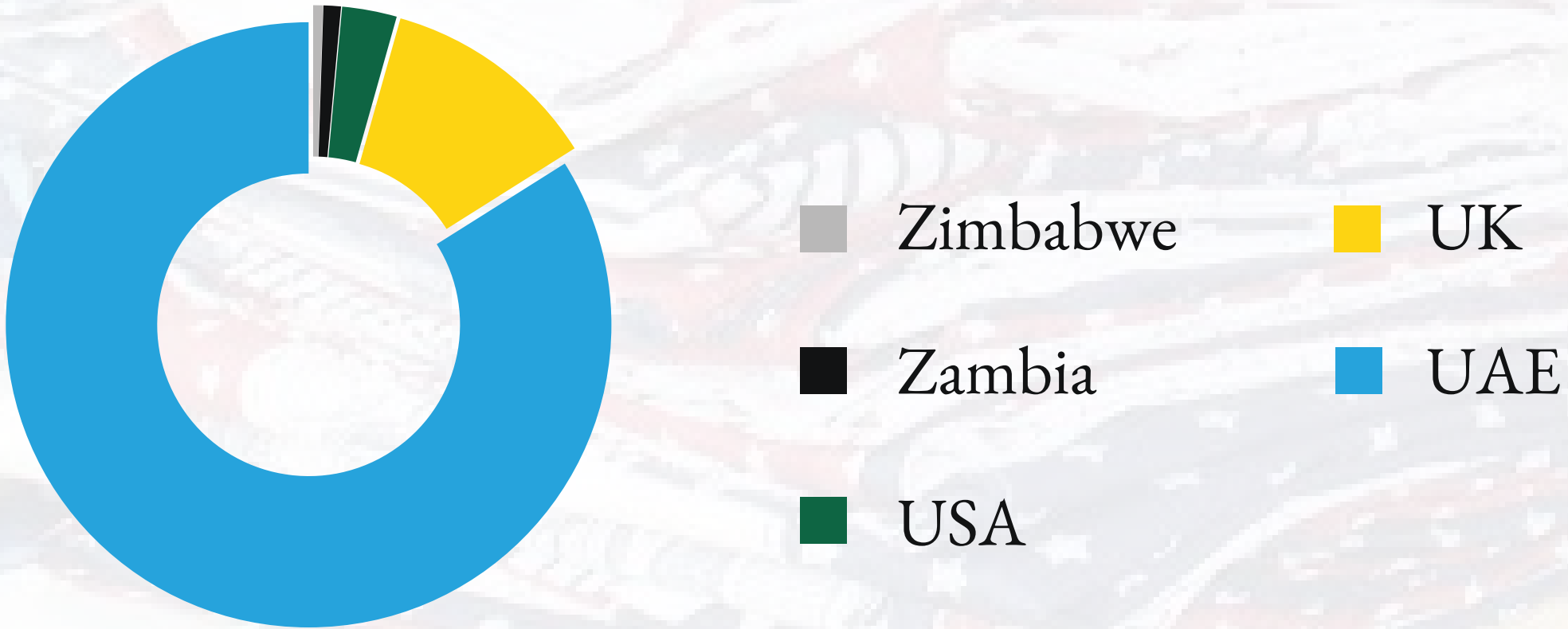
Rwanda boasts a reputation for political stability and security, offering a safe and predictable environment for businesses to thrive. The government actively fosters a business-friendly climate, attracting foreign investment through streamlined registration processes, readily available land and facilities in special economic zones, and a supportive bureaucracy. This commitment to facilitating business growth ensures a smooth operational environment for your investment.



Textile & Apparel Trade Imports

Rwanda's domestic production is still in its development phase. Imports cater to the diverse needs of the Rwandan consumer base, offering a wider variety of styles, fabrics, and specialized garments. This access to a broader range of products keeps the market dynamic and fosters a fashion-forward consumer culture. For investors, this highlights the potential for establishing niche production lines or focusing on specific garment types to complement the import landscape.

The import of high-quality textiles and garments exposes Rwandan manufacturers to the latest trends, production techniques, and design innovations. This knowledge transfer can inspire domestic production and elevate the overall quality of Rwandan-made apparel. Investors can leverage this environment by establishing partnerships or joint ventures with local manufacturers, combining international expertise with Rwanda's skilled workforce to create high-quality, export-ready garments.



1.2 Major Importers of textile and apparel In Rwanda

Additional Information

Rwanda's import policies allow for duty-free imports of certain machinery and raw materials. This strategic sourcing from international markets allows domestic manufacturers to optimize production costs while maintaining high-quality standards. Investors can benefit from this by establishing production facilities in Rwanda and utilizing a combination of imported materials and locally sourced fabrics to create cost-competitive garments for export.

Rwanda's strategic location and membership in the East African Community (EAC) make it a springboard for regional distribution. Investors establishing production facilities in Rwanda can leverage import channels to source specific materials or finished garments from other EAC countries, creating a wider product portfolio for export throughout the region.



Textile & Apparel Trade Exports

Rwanda's textile and apparel industry is not just import-driven; it's a thriving export sector with immense potential. Here's why you should consider Rwanda as a base for your garment export business:

Duty-Free Access to a Massive Market: Rwanda's membership in the EAC grants duty-free access to a market exceeding 200 million people. This eliminates trade barriers and allows investors to export their Rwandan-made garments freely throughout East Africa.

A Government Committed to Export Growth: The Rwandan government actively supports the growth of the export sector. The "Made in Rwanda" initiative prioritizes promoting domestic exports. Investors benefit from streamlined export procedures, infrastructure development for efficient logistics, and access to export financing facilities. This government support system fosters a business environment conducive to export success.

Ethical and Sustainable Practices - A Differentiating Factor: The global fashion industry is witnessing a growing demand for ethically sourced and produced clothing. Rwanda's commitment to ethical practices positions it as a leader in this space. Investors can leverage this focus to build a strong brand reputation and cater to a conscious consumer base, giving them a distinct advantage in the international market.

Rwanda's textile industry is making waves! In 2022, apparel, including both new and used clothing, topped their export list. This reflects their growing garment manufacturing sector. Beyond clothes, Rwanda exports diverse textiles like industrial fabrics and yarn, showcasing their ability to cater to various needs.

Rwanda's textiles aren't just local hits. In 2022, the UK was their top buyer, followed by Germany and the rest of the EU. The US and Canada also play a significant role. This global reach highlights Rwanda's rise as a textile trade player.



1.1 Export trends in the last 6Yrs Rwanda

Access To Major Markets

Preferential Trade Agreements

Rwanda has gone beyond regional integration by forging strategic trade agreements with major economies like the United States and the European Union. These agreements offer significant benefits for garment exporters. Duty-free or reduced-tariff access to these lucrative markets allows investors to tap into a wider consumer base with greater purchasing power. This translates to increased export potential and the ability to compete effectively in the global fashion arena. By establishing your production base in Rwanda, you gain the ability to serve not just the thriving African market but also discerning consumers in established economies worldwide.

The East African Community (EAC)

As a member of the EAC, Rwanda enjoys duty-free access to a vast and rapidly growing market of over 200 million people. This eliminates trade barriers and simplifies logistics, allowing investors to seamlessly distribute their Rwandan-made garments throughout the region. Imagine your clothing lines gracing the shelves of boutiques in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and South Sudan, all without facing any trade restrictions. The sheer size and growth potential of the EAC market present a significant opportunity for investors to scale their businesses and achieve substantial returns.

Strategic Location and Efficient Logistics

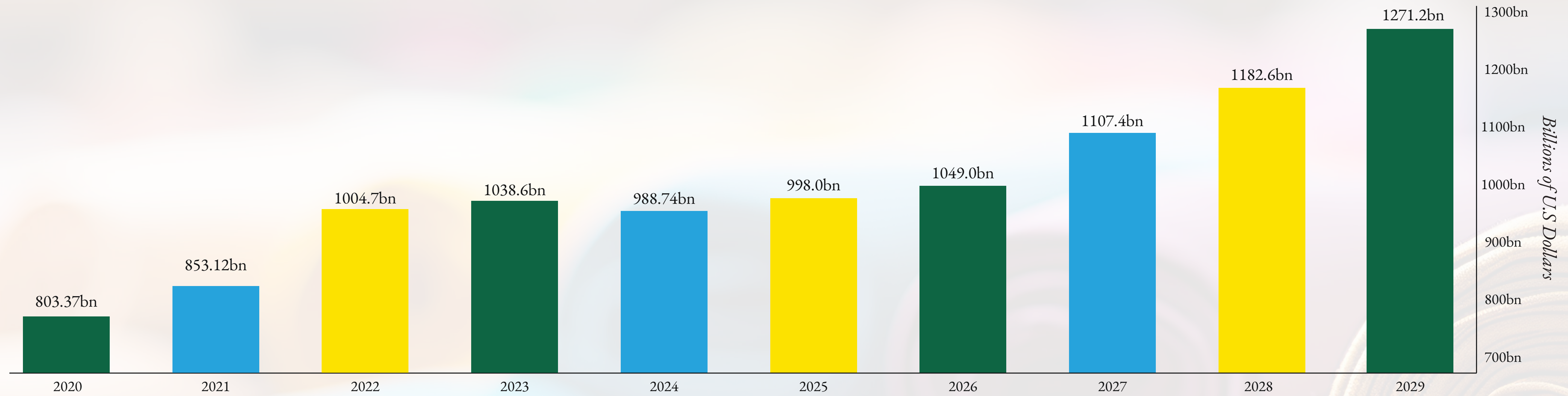
Rwanda's geographical position in the heart of Africa offers logistical advantages for regional and international distribution. Well-maintained road networks connect Rwanda to neighboring EAC countries, facilitating the smooth movement of goods. Additionally, Rwanda's modern airport provides efficient air cargo facilities for international exports. Investors benefit from a well-developed transportation infrastructure that minimizes transportation costs and ensures timely delivery of garments to your target markets. The Rwandan government is actively investing in further infrastructure development, including special economic zones with streamlined logistics procedures, making Rwanda an even more attractive location for export-oriented businesses.

Aligning with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

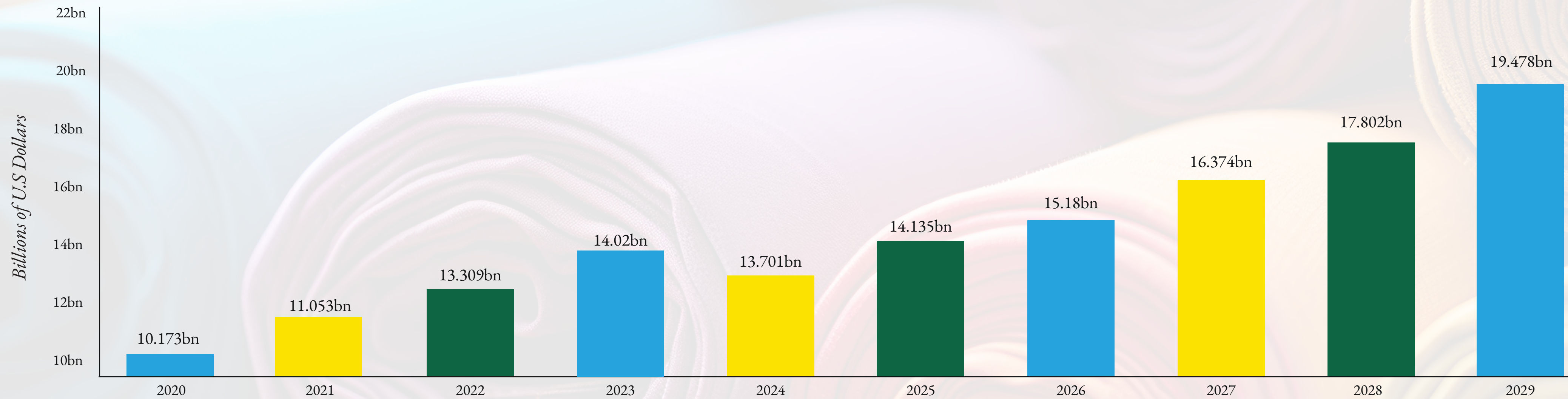
Rwanda is a leading proponent of the AfCFTA, a trade agreement that aims to create a single continental market with a population of over 1.4 billion. This initiative has the potential to revolutionize trade within Africa, eliminating tariffs and fostering economic integration. By investing in Rwanda's textile and apparel industry, you position yourself at the forefront of this groundbreaking initiative.



IMF Growth Forecast



1.1 IMF forecast of GDP Per Capita in Rwanda



1.2 IMF forecast of GDP in Rwanda

Key Agencies in Rwanda

Key Agency

Role

Contact

Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

- Promoting Investment Opportunities in sectors such as Agriculture, Agribusiness, Construction, Real Estate, Energy, Finance, ICT, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Mining, and Tourism.
- Facilitating Investor Engagement by connecting prospective investors with relevant people and entities in Rwanda.
- Providing Information and Support by Addressing investor inquiries and assisting with information such as potential local and foreign partners for investors.
- Collaborating Internationally: through diplomatic missions and dedicated investment offices in Shenzhen (China), Quebec (Canada), and Turkey to promote Rwanda's investment opportunities to foreign investors.

Phone : 1415
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Major Industrial Parks

Industrial Parks	Location	Distance to Nearest Airport (Km)	Distance to Nearest Port (Km)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



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