



RWANDA BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

RBA

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"Together for a better banking environment"

SEMI-ANNUAL BULLETIN

January - June 2025



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OVERVIEW

The first half of 2025 marked a period of strong momentum for the Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA), characterized by strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening financial inclusion, sector leadership, and institutional capacity. A notable milestone was Rwanda's signing of the **Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code** (We-Fi Code) at the Financial Alliance for Women Annual Summit, an ambitious step toward bridging the gender finance gap and unlocking capital for women-led enterprises.

In the area of capacity building, the Rwanda Academy of Finance (RAF) launched the **Advanced Banking Leadership Programme** (ABLP) in May, welcoming 21 senior professionals into a transformative journey designed to shape the next generation of banking executives. RAF also continues to prepare for the upcoming July intake for RAF 1 and RAF 2, extending its reach to early- and mid-career professionals.

RBA's commitment to evidence-based policy and sector dialogue remained evident through the successful hosting of the 2025 Research Conference under the theme "Credit Market Dynamics in Rwanda: Technology, Regulation, and Competition", as well as the ongoing contributions of the **RBA Research Center**, whose publications continue to inform national monetary policy and industry strategy.

Other key developments include thought leadership engagements across regional and global platforms, celebrations of member institutions' achievements, and preparations for the next Interbank Sports Tournament, which reinforces sector cohesion and wellness.

Looking ahead, **RBA** remains committed to strengthening the foundations of Rwanda's banking sector through inclusive programming, data-driven research, and collaborative engagement. By investing in people, policy, and partnerships, the RBA continues to drive sustainable growth and position the sector to meet emerging challenges with agility and purpose.

PUBLICATIONS

Rwanda signs the WE Finance code

In May, at the 2025 Financial Alliance for Women Annual Summit, Rwanda took a significant step towards financial inclusion by signing the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code (WE Finance Code). This initiative, coordinated by the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) aims to increase funding for women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (WMSMEs) globally.

[Read here](#)



“This initiative is more than symbolic; it’s a blueprint for systemic reform. It brings together leadership, data, and action to transform how financial institutions serve micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.”

Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye
Governor
National Bank of Rwanda

RBA launches the ABLP

On May 6, 2025, RBA, through the Rwanda Academy of Finance, in partnership with HoT-ATTF Luxembourg, launched the Advanced Banking Leadership Programme (ABLP), a nine-month programme aimed at equipping senior managers in the Rwandan Banking sector with high-level skills as the future bank executives. The ABLP aims to equip participants with knowledge to lead with confidence, drive innovation, boost performance and drive Rwanda’s position in the global financial landscape.

[Read here](#)



“The Advanced Banking Leadership Program builds on the success of RAF 1 and RAF 2, which have already trained over 393 professionals since 2020. The ABLP is however different in the sense that, it represents a step-change, an advanced, leadership-focused programme for those who are already at the helm of institutions, setting direction, making strategic decisions, and mentoring future leaders.”

Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva
Deputy Governor
National Bank of Rwanda

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

RBA Research conference 2025

On June 19, 2025, RBA hosted the RBA *Research Conference 2025* under the theme “Credit Market Dynamics in Rwanda: Technology, Regulation, and Competition”.

Watch the research presentations [here](#)



The conference brought together researchers, regulators, and industry experts to share insights on how technology, regulation, and competition are transforming Rwanda’s credit landscape.



Discussions focused on strategies for achieving optimal credit growth, improving access to finance for MSMEs, understanding fintech’s impact on banking sector profitability, and exploring how to balance competition, innovation, and financial market stability.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Inclusive Fintech Forum

In February 2025, Tony Francis Ntore, the CEO of RBA joined a roundtable on SMEs & cross-border trade, stressing the power of fintech, frictionless payments & digital trade finance in reshaping global commerce. With the right partners & resources, SMEs can scale beyond borders - seamlessly & securely!



The East Africa Banking Summit

In February 2025, RBA participated in the East Africa Banking Solutions Summit 2025 in Nairobi, hosted by MDEC. The summit explored key innovations in the financial sector, including AI-driven banking, digital onboarding and eKYC, cybersecurity and AML, and fintech best practices from Malaysia's advanced ecosystem.



RWANDA ACADEMY OF FINANCE (RAF)



The **Rwanda Academy of Finance (RAF)** was launched by the Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA) in September 2019—is the country's flagship professional training institute for the finance sector to Bridge the Skills Gap. **RAF** was born out of a recognized shortfall: academic graduates lacked sufficient practical skills for modern banking roles, forcing institutions to train abroad at high costs.



In May 2025, **RAF** launched the **Advanced Banking Leadership Programme (ABLP)** with 21 senior professionals from various financial institutions.

Between 2020 and 2024, the **Rwanda Academy of Finance (RAF)** successfully trained a total of 393 banking professionals through its structured capacity-building programs. Of these, 251 participants completed training under **RAF 1**, while 142 professionals were equipped with advanced skills under **RAF 2**



RBA RESEARCH CENTER

Since its establishment in 2023, the **Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA) Research Centre** has made a strong impact by contributing to national monetary policy through its quarterly *Research Notes* and establishing itself as a key industry voice with the launch of the *Annual Research Conference* and the *State of the Banking Industry Report*.

State of the Banking Industry Report



The **State of the Banking Industry Report** (SBIR) is RBA's flagship annual publication that offers a comprehensive analysis of Rwanda's banking sector. Designed to inform policy, investment, and strategy, the report unpacks key trends in profitability, asset quality, credit growth, and digital transformation.



RBA Research Conference



The RBA Annual Banking Research Conference is a flagship event organized once a year by the RBA Research Center to advance data-driven dialogue and evidence-based innovation in Rwanda's financial sector.



It brings together bankers, fintechs, regulators, researchers, and policymakers to unpack pressing industry challenges and explore forward-looking solutions. Through working papers, panel discussions, and policy insights, the conference offers a unique platform for shaping a more inclusive, competitive, and resilient financial system.

RBA Research Notes

The Quarterly **Research Notes** by the RBA Research Centre are timely, forward-looking analyses published ahead of each Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. Designed to inform and shape conversations around macroeconomic trends, interest rates, inflation dynamics, and banking sector developments, these notes offer actionable insights grounded in evidence. Issued quarterly, they have become a trusted resource for policymakers, banks, and market watchers seeking clarity in a fast-evolving economic environment.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Ecobank Rwanda Launches Ellevate 2.0 to Empower Women in Business Across Sectors



On June 27, 2025, in Kigali, Rwanda, Ecobank Rwanda, part of the pan-African Ecobank Group, launched an enhanced version of its award-winning 'Ellevate by Ecobank' programme.

Originally focused on financing women-owned SMEs within Commercial Banking, Ellevate 2.0 now offers a broader range of financial and non-financial solutions tailored to women entrepreneurs across Consumer, Commercial, and Corporate banking.

BPR Bank Rwanda Plc: 50 Forward – A Legacy of Growth, A Future of Possibilities

In 2025, BPR Bank Rwanda Plc proudly celebrates 50 years of service, marking a significant milestone under the theme “50 Forward” honoring our past while shaping the future of banking in Rwanda.

The launch of IKAMBA, a women-focused financial solution, is empowering female entrepreneurs through access to finance, training, and mentorship.

The IGIRE program continues to equip Rwandan youth with vocational skills and startup capital, driving entrepreneurship nationwide.



GTBank launches a digital platform for easy, branch-free account opening



In July, GTBank introduced a fully digital account opening platform, enabling customers to open accounts quickly and conveniently without the need to visit a physical branch. This innovation reflects the bank's ongoing commitment to making banking more accessible and enhancing customer experience through technology and supports the broader shift toward digital banking solutions in Rwanda's financial sector.

SECTOR INSIGHTS

Amid substantial global headwinds, Rwanda's economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience. The recovery has remained on a steady trajectory, underpinned by strong performance across the services, agriculture, and industry sectors. Macroeconomic stability has been further strengthened by effective monetary policy implemented by the National Bank of Rwanda, along with coordinated efforts from both public and private institutions. These collective actions have been instrumental in reducing inflation from the double-digit levels recorded in 2023 to a stable, single-digit rate—well within the target range of 2% to 8%—and in stabilizing the Rwandan franc against major international currencies. This stability provides a firm foundation for sustained economic progress, even as the global outlook remains uncertain.



The banking sector constitutes a substantial component of Rwanda's overall financial ecosystem and continues to serve as a pillar of strength in the national economy. It functions as a key engine of economic development, primarily through its role in mobilizing resources and facilitating private sector financing. The sector has remained stable and resilient, as reflected by its strong compliance with both domestic and international banking performance indicators, underscoring its sound governance and operational robustness. Overall, the performance of the Rwandan banking sector highlights its capacity to navigate the complexities of the global economic environment through prudent risk management and a strategic focus on financing the local economy.

MEDIA COVERAGE

PRESS RELEASE: Rwanda Bankers' Association convenes National Dialogue on Credit Market Dynamics at 2025 Research Conference
[*\(The NewTimes\)*](#)



Policy, Inclusion, and Banking System Readiness in Rwanda
[*\(CNBC Africa\)*](#)

Amafaranga ahererekanywa mu ikoranabuhanga yikubye gatatu umusaruro mbumbe w'igihugu
[*\(Igihe\)*](#)



Business Edge: A dive into Rwanda's credit market
[*\(RwandaTV\)*](#)



PRESS RELEASE: Rwanda Bankers' Association launches State of the Banking Industry Report
[*\(The NewTimes\)*](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Interbank Sports Tournament

As part of its ongoing efforts to foster collaboration and wellness within the banking sector, the Rwanda Bankers' Association is preparing for the next edition of the Interbank Sports Tournament. This annual tradition has become a key highlight in the sector's calendar, offering banking professionals a unique opportunity to connect beyond the workplace through friendly competition across various sports. The tournament not only promotes physical fitness and teamwork but also strengthens the sense of community among member institutions.



Afreximbank Compliance Forum

The Afreximbank Compliance Forum (ACF2025) is a premier pan-African platform dedicated to advancing best practices in compliance, governance, and digital transformation across Africa's financial and trade sectors. Organized by Afreximbank's Compliance Division and hosted in partnership with the Central Bank of Rwanda, the forum serves as a space for sharing knowledge and exploring solutions to the continent's most pressing compliance challenges.



November 12- 15, 2025

RAF 1 AND RAF 2 July intake

In line with RBA's ongoing efforts to strengthen sector-wide capacity, preparations are underway for the July intake of RAF 1 and RAF 2. These structured training programs remain a cornerstone of RBA's capacity-building strategy, offering targeted learning for professionals at different stages of their banking careers. (RAF 1 for employees' level, RAF 2 for middle management level)

July 21, 2025



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