

Argentina at a glance

OFFICIAL NAME	República Argentina (Argentine Republic)
CAPITAL CITY	Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Autonomous City of Buenos Aires)
MAIN CITIES	Córdoba, Rosario, La Plata, Mar del Plata, Mendoza
SURFACE AREA	3.8 million km ² (2.8 million km ² of continental land mass and 969 thousand km ² on the Antarctic continent and South Atlantic Islands)
POPULATION	40.1 million
POPULATION GROWTH	1.1% per year
LITERACY RATE	98%
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	76 years
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) PER CAPITA (PPP)	US\$ 17,660
CURRENCY	Argentine Peso (AR\$)
POLITICAL SYSTEM	Republican, representative and federal
POLITICAL DIVISION	23 autonomous provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires
TIME ZONE	GMT -03:00
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Spanish
PRESIDENT	Cristina Fernández de Kirchner



Main economic indicators

INDICATOR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
GDP GROWTH RATE (% PER YEAR, AT CONSTANT PRICES)	8.8%	9.0%	9.2%	8.5%	8.7%	6.8%	0.9%	9.2%	8.9%	2.4%
GDP (US\$ MILLION, AT CURRENT PRICES)	128,078	152,158	181,967	212,868	260,682	326,872	306,754	368,399	445,652	471,441
GDP (PPP PER CAPITA, CURRENT INTERNATIONAL US\$)*	8,983	9,938	11,051	12,236	13,527	14,597	14,684	16,062	17,660	18,205
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (US\$ MILLION)	34,439	39,864	47,021	54,569	66,343	82,175	66,639	81,689	99,431	47,226
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (US\$ MILLION)	19,544	29,064	36,313	42,677	55,583	70,902	51,039	71,205	91,658	41,918
GOODS AND SERVICES TRADE BALANCE (US\$ MILLION)	14,895	10,799	10,708	11,892	10,760	11,272	15,600	10,485	7,773	5,308
TRADE SURPLUS (% OF GDP)	11.6%	7.1%	5.9%	5.6%	4.1%	3.4%	5.1%	2.8%	1.7%	1.1%
CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS (% OF GDP)	6.4%	2.1%	2.9%	3.6%	2.8%	2.1%	3.6%	0.8%	-0.1%	0.3%
PRIMARY FISCAL SURPLUS (% OF GDP)	2.3%	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%	3.2%	3.1%	1.5%	1.7%	0.3%	0.2%
GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION (% OF GDP, AT CONSTANT PRICES)	14.3%	17.7%	19.8%	21.6%	22.6%	23.1%	20.6%	22.8%	24.5%	21.3%
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (US\$ MILLION)	1,652	4,125	5,265	5,537	6,473	9,726	4,017	7,055	8,671	5,388
EXCHANGE RATE (\$/US\$, ANNUAL AVERAGE)	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.5
INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (US\$ MILLION)	14,119	19,646	28,077	32,037	46,176	46,386	47,967	52,145	46,376	46,348
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (% OF EAP)**	17.3%	13.6%	11.6%	10.9%	8.5%	7.9%	8.7%	7.7%	7.2%	7.2%
GINI INDEX***	0.53	0.51	0.49	0.48	0.47	0.46	0.45	0.44	0.43	0.43

* 2007-2011 DATA IS BASED ON ESTIMATES. **DATA PER YEAR WAS CALCULATED AS THE AVERAGE OF THE FOUR QUARTERS. *** POPULATION ACCORDING TO PER CAPITA FAMILY INCOME FOR THE UNIVERSE OF PEOPLE.

The Undersecretariat for Investment Development and Trade Promotion is your strategic partner to invest in Argentina.

Our mission is to foster quality foreign direct investment to contribute to sustainable development built on competitiveness and social inclusion in Argentina.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE UNDERSECRETARIAT INCLUDE:

- > Specific information about business sectors and geographical locations throughout the country.
- > Identification of investment opportunities in strategic sectors through the Productive Investment Opportunity Database (BaPIP for its acronym in Spanish) <http://bapip.inversiones.gov.ar>
- > Personalized and professional assistance throughout the investment process.
- > Assistance in building alliances and partnerships between international investors and local companies.



Secretariat of International Economic Relations



Undersecretariat for Investment Development and Trade Promotion

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Secretariat of International Economic Relations



Undersecretariat for Investment Development and Trade Promotion

Argentina

Naturally talented to meet global market needs



Argentina = Talent + Opportunity

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Profitability, productive diversification, dynamism and innovation all converge in Argentina, bringing about investment opportunities in a wide range of sectors with great potential for global growth.
- > Access to a broad regional market and high integration to global value chains make Argentina an attractive investment destination at a global level.
- > Highly qualified workers, abundant natural resources, long-standing tradition of technological and industrial development and a modern infrastructure build a highly creative and competitive productive platform.



1- Sustainable economic growth

A DYNAMIC ECONOMIC MODEL BASED ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

- > One of the fastest-growing countries worldwide: leader in Latin America for the past decade.
- > Sustainable macroeconomy: sustained external surplus, accumulated international reserves, fiscal solvency and substantial reduction in public debt.
- > Record-high exports close to US\$ 100 billion for goods and services in 2011.
- > Five million new jobs created; a decrease in unemployment levels from 21.5% in 2002 to 7.1% in 2012.
- > Ranked as a Very High Human Development country in the United Nations 2011 Human Development Index.

2- Attractive business profitability

PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT DELIVERING HIGH RETURNS

- > High profitability in a wide range of productive sectors.
- > New record-high profits from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a percentage of assets, with the annual average exceeding 10% in the last four years.
- > Profits over sales above 13% for the 500 non-financial private companies in 2006-2010.
- > More than 2,000 multinational companies operating in diverse sectors share a long-term vision and renewed investment commitment.
- > Highest investment rate in the last 30 years (24.5% of GDP in 2011) fueled by the diversity and profitability of all existing investment opportunities.

3- Strength to face the global crisis

PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT FOSTERING DEMAND

- > An inclusion-based model for growth, in which the strong and dynamic domestic market is one of the key pillars.
- > Proven ability to sustain the economic growth cycle from the on-start of the global crisis, exceeding the average of emerging countries.
- > Low level of public debt and high level of international reserves, increasing capacity to implement counter-cyclical public policies.
- > Job protection and social inclusion policies drive domestic demand and production.

- > Investment promotion initiatives such as credit facilities for the productive sector and a construction plan to build 400,000 homes.

4- Strategic location

STRONG TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA

- > Located in a region endowed with resources to meet current and future global demands.
- > Strategic player within the main food exporting region in the world.
- > A motor for Latin America's increased integration in terms of economy, politics, society and culture.
- > Full MERCOSUR member; together with Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela: preferential access (0% tariff) to a regional market of 275 million inhabitants; aggregate GDP of US\$ 3.35 trillion; and great industrial complementarity.
- > Member of UNASUR (Union of South American Nations); ALADI (Latin American Integration Association); and ECLAC (Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).

5- Openness to the world

GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- > G-20 Member, with an active presence in several international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, G77+China, United Nations, UNCTAD, ECLAC and FAO, among others.
- > Strengthening of the bilateral relations with the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) as well as other developing countries.
- > Highly dynamic exports to more than 150 destinations, with values tripling over the past 8 years.
- > Trade growth with the rest of the world (2003-2011) over 17% per year.
- > Highest proportion of FDI projects with high technological intensity in South America (ECLAC).

6- Diversified economy

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EVERY PRODUCTIVE SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY

- > Leading country in the international food market, with exports exceeding US\$ 25 billion in 2011 and great technological

development in the agrifood value chain.

- > Industrial structure with a strong tradition in countless diverse productive sectors, along with dynamic growth of industrial exports (16% per year in 2003-2011).
- > Accelerated development of renewable energies, biotechnology, software, creative industries and other frontier sectors.
- > Main tourism destination in Latin America, with almost 6 million tourists per year.
- > Increase in the productive capacity of domestic and foreign companies, with 96% of FDI flows being directed to new projects and expansion.

7- Abundant and diverse natural resources –

RICH RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- > Vast extension of fertile land for agriculture: 9th largest extension of agricultural area in the world with 140 million hectares of arable lands (FAO).
- > 4,500 km of mountain ranges with mining resources: gold, copper, lithium, carbon, lead, zinc, tin, silver and potassium.
- > 4,700 km coast along the Atlantic Ocean with rich fisheries.
- > Vast oil and gas resources with exploration and exploitation opportunities.
- > Ranked 3rd worldwide in shale oil and shale gas reserves.

8- Skilled and highly creative workforce

STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE COMBINED WITH A DIVERSE WORKFORCE OF RESOURCEFUL SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS

- > Workforce internationally renowned for its skill set, creativity and versatility.
- > More than 98,000 graduates from higher education programs and almost 11,000 postgraduate students from 115 universities across the country enter the labor market each year.
- > Economically active population (EAP) with the highest education level in Latin America.
- > Highest level of public investment in education in the region (equal to 6% of GDP).
- > The most dynamic work productivity in the region in recent years (ECLAC).

9- High level of scientific, technological and productive innovation

PROMOTION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER HIGHER COMPETITIVENESS AND BRING ADDED VALUE TO PRODUCTION

- > Public policy supportive of scientific and technological development spearheaded by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation created in 2007.
- > 55% increase in the number of R&D professionals over the period 2003-2011.
- > Highest ratio of researchers to the economically active population (EAP) and ranked 3rd in terms of the number of R&D technicians, measured as total number per million inhabitants in Latin America (World Bank).
- > Development of aerospace projects led by INVAP a public company of world renown for satellite development and other space projects.
- > One of a few countries in the world with multispecies cloning capacity.

10- Modern infrastructure and high-quality connectivity

A STRONG NETWORK IN EXPANSION PROVIDING THE NEEDED SUPPORT FOR PROJECTED GROWTH

- > Public investment at a historic high (going from 0.5% of total public spending in 2002 to 6% in 2011).
- > Well-developed transport and infrastructure system: 35,000 kilometers (21,700 miles) of national roads; one of the longest rail road networks in the world (36,000 kilometers / 22,000 miles); 43 ports; and 54 airports.
- > Ranked 2nd in the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank in Latin America (2010).
- > High rates of internet penetration in companies and homes.
- > Highest fixed and mobile telephone density in Latin America, ranking 6th worldwide (World Bank, 2010).