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Introduction :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Background:** 

In 1816, the United Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. After Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay went their separate ways, the area that remained became Argentina. The country's population and culture were heavily shaped by immigrants from throughout Europe, with Italy and Spain providing the largest percentage of newcomers from 1860 to 1930. Up until about the mid-20th century, much of Argentina's history was dominated by periods of internal political conflict between Federalists and Unitarians and between civilian and military factions.

After World War II, an era of Peronist populism and direct and indirect military interference in subsequent governments was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983 after a failed bid to seize the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) by force, and has persisted despite numerous challenges, the most formidable of which was a severe economic crisis in 2001-02 that led to violent public protests and the successive resignations of several presidents. Argentina served a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council from 2013 to 2014.

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Geography :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Location:** 

Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay

Geographic coordinates:

34 00 S, 64 00 W

Map references:

South America

Area:

total: 2,780,400 sq km

land: 2,736,690 sq km

water: 43,710 sq km

country comparison to the world: 8

Area - comparative:

slightly less than three-tenths the size of the US

Area comparison map:

Land boundaries:

total: 11,968 km

border countries (5): Bolivia 942 km, Brazil 1,263 km, Chile 6,691 km, Paraguay 2,531 km, Uruguay 541 km

Coastline:

4,989 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

contiguous zone: 24 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

Climate:

mostly temperate; arid in southeast; subantarctic in southwest

Terrain:

rich plains of the Pampas in northern half, flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia in south, rugged Andes along western border

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Laguna del Carbon -105 m (located between Puerto San Julian and Comandante Luis Piedra Buena in the province of Santa Cruz)

highest point: Cerro Aconcagua 6,960 m (located in the northwestern corner of the province of Mendoza; highest point in South America)

Natural resources:

fertile plains of the pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron ore, manganese, petroleum, uranium, arable land

Land use:

agricultural land: 53.9%

arable land 13.9%; permanent crops 0.4%; permanent pasture 39.6%

forest: 10.7%

other: 35.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

15,500 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources:

814 cu km (2011)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

total: 32.57 cu km/yr (23%/13%/64%)

per capita: 864.9 cu m/yr (2005)

Natural hazards:

San Miguel de Tucuman and Mendoza areas in the Andes subject to earthquakes; pamperos are violent windstorms that can strike the pampas and northeast; heavy flooding in some areas

volcanism: volcanic activity in the Andes Mountains along the Chilean border; Copahue (elev. 2,997 m) last erupted in 2000; other historically active volcanoes include Lullailaco, Maipo, Planchon-Peteroa, San Jose, Tromen, Tupungatito, and Viedma

Environment - current issues:

environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, air pollution, and water pollution

note: Argentina is a world leader in setting voluntary greenhouse gas targets

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified: Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note: 

second-largest country in South America (after Brazil); strategic location relative to sea lanes between the South Atlantic and the South Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage); diverse geophysical landscapes range from tropical climates in the north to tundra in the far south; Cerro Aconcagua is the Western Hemisphere's tallest mountain, while Laguna del Carbon is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere

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People and Society :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Nationality:** 

noun: Argentine(s)

adjective: Argentine

Ethnic groups: 

white (mostly Spanish and Italian) 97%, mestizo (mixed white and Amerindian ancestry), Amerindian, or other non-white groups 3%

Languages: 

Spanish (official), Italian, English, German, French, indigenous (Mapudungun, Quechua)

Religions: 

nominally Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%

Demographic profile: 

Argentina's population continues to grow but at a slower rate because of its steadily declining birth rate. Argentina's fertility decline began earlier than in the rest of Latin America, occurring most rapidly between the early 20th century and the 1950s and then becoming more gradual. Life expectancy has been improving, most notably among the young and the poor. While the population under age 15 is shrinking, the youth cohort - ages 15-24 - is the largest in Argentina's history and will continue to bolster the working-age population. If this large working-age population is well-educated and gainfully employed, Argentina is likely to experience an economic boost and possibly higher per capita savings and investment. Although literacy and primary school enrollment are nearly universal, grade repetition is problematic and secondary school completion is low. Both of these issues vary widely by region and socioeconomic group.

Argentina has been primarily a country of immigration for most of its history, welcoming European immigrants after its independence in the 19th century and attracting especially large numbers from Spain and Italy. European immigration diminished in the 1950s, when Argentina's military dictatorships tightened

immigration rules and European economies rebounded. Regional migration, however, continued to supply low-skilled workers and today it accounts for three-quarters of Argentina's immigrant population. The first waves of highly skilled Argentine emigrant workers headed mainly to the United States and Spain in the 1960s and 1970s. The ongoing European economic crisis is driving the return migration of some Argentinean and other Latin American nationals, as well as the immigration of Europeans to South America, where Argentina is a key recipient.

Population:

43,431,886 (July 2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: [33](#)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 24.74% (male 5,498,766/female 5,244,555)

15-24 years: 15.59% (male 3,458,318/female 3,311,765)

25-54 years: 39.01% (male 8,452,645/female 8,489,476)

55-64 years: 9.11% (male 1,917,317/female 2,040,750)

65 years and over: 11.55% (male 2,088,160/female 2,930,134) (2015 est.)

population pyramid:



Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 54.1%

youth dependency ratio: 37%

elderly dependency ratio: 17.1%

potential support ratio: 5.9% (2014 est.)

Median age:

total: 31.2 years

male: 30.1 years

female: 32.3 years (2014 est.)

Population growth rate:

0.93% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: [123](#)

Birth rate: 

16.64 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: [113](#)

Death rate: 

7.33 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: [119](#)

Net migration rate: 

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: [108](#)

Urbanization: 

urban population: 91.8% of total population (2015)

rate of urbanization: 1.04% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major urban areas - population: 

BUENOS AIRES (capital) 15.024 million; Cordoba 1.504 million; Rosario 1.367 million; Mendoza 999,000; San Miguel de Tucuman 899,000; La Plata 835,000 (2014)

Sex ratio: 

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.94 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.71 male(s)/female

total population: 0.97 male(s)/female (2015 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 

total: 9.69 deaths/1,000 live births

male: 10.86 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 8.47 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 141

Life expectancy at birth: 

total population: 77.69 years

male: 74.46 years

female: 81.09 years (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 67

Total fertility rate: 

2.23 children born/woman (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 97

Contraceptive prevalence rate: 

78.9% (2004/05)

Health expenditures: 

7.3% of GDP (2013)

country comparison to the world: 52

Physicians density: 

3.86 physicians/1,000 population (2013)

Hospital bed density: 

4.7 beds/1,000 population (2012)

Drinking water source: 

improved:

urban: 99% of population

rural: 95.3% of population

total: 98.7% of population

unimproved:

urban: 1% of population

rural: 4.7% of population

total: 1.3% of population (2012 est.)

Sanitation facility access: 

improved:

urban: 97.1% of population

rural: 99.4% of population

total: 97.2% of population

unimproved:

urban: 2.9% of population

rural: 0.6% of population

total: 2.8% of population (2012 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 

0.4% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 75

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 

97,900 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 42

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 

1,500 (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 64

Obesity - adult prevalence rate: 

26.5% (2014)

country comparison to the world: [29](#)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 

2.3% (2005)

country comparison to the world: [119](#)

Education expenditures: 

5.1% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world: [32](#)

Literacy: 

definition: age 10 and over can read and write

total population: 98.1%

male: 98%

female: 98.1% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education): 

total: 18 years

male: 17 years

female: 19 years (2012)

Child labor - children ages 5-14: 

total number: 435,252

percentage: 7%

note: data represents children ages 5-13 (2003 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: 

total: 18.3%

male: 15.3%

female: 23.1% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [63](#)

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Government :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Country name:** 

conventional long form: Argentine Republic

conventional short form: Argentina

local long form: Republica Argentina

local short form: Argentina

note: originally the area was referred to as Tierra Argentina, i.e., "Land beside the Silvery River" or "Silvery Land," which referred to the massive estuary in the east of the country, the Rio de la Plata (River of Silver); over time the name shortened to simply Argentina or "silvery"

Government type: 

republic

Capital: 

name: Buenos Aires

geographic coordinates: 34 35 S, 58 40 W

time difference: UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions: 

23 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 autonomous city*; Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Chubut, Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires*, Cordoba, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Formosa, Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquen, Rio Negro, Salta, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Tierra del Fuego - Antartida e Islas del Atlantico Sur (Tierra del Fuego), Tucuman

note: the US does not recognize any claims to Antarctica

Independence: 

9 July 1816 (from Spain)

National holiday: 

Revolution Day, 25 May (1810)

Constitution: 

several previous; latest effective 11 May 1853; amended many times, last in 1994 (2013)

Legal system: 

civil law system based on West European legal systems; note - in 2014, Congress passed government-backed reform to the civil code that will go into effect in 2016

International law organization participation: 

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 

18-70 years of age; universal and compulsory; 16-17 years of age - optional for national elections

Executive branch: 

chief of state: President Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER (since 10 December 2007); Vice President Amado BOUDOU (since 10 December 2011); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

head of government: President Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER (since 10 December 2007); Vice President Amado BOUDOU (since 10 December 2011)

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president

elections: president and vice president elected on the same ticket by popular vote for four-year terms (eligible for a second consecutive term); election last held on 23 October 2011 (next election to be held in October 2015)

election results: Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER reelected president; percent of vote - Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER 54%, Hermes BINNER 16.9%, Ricardo ALFONSIN 11.1%, Alberto Rodriguez SAA 8%, Eduardo DUHALDE 5.9%, other 4.1%

Legislative branch: 

description: bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate (72 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 6-year terms with one-third of the membership elected every 2 years) and the Chamber of Deputies (257 seats; members

directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote; members serve 4-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 2 years)

elections: Senate - last held on 27 October 2013 (next to be held October 2015); Chamber of Deputies - last held on 27 October 2013 (next to be held October 2015)

election results: Senate - percent of vote by bloc or party - NA; seats by bloc or party - FpV 32, UCR 17, dissident Peronists 7, FAP and UNEN 7, FpV allies 6, PRO and allies 3, other 6; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by bloc or party - NA; seats by bloc or party - FpV 18, FpV allies 14, UCR 10, dissident Peronists 34, FAP and UNEN 21, PRO 16, CC 3, other 14

Judicial branch: 

highest court(s): Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (consists of the court president, vice-president, and 5 judges)

judge selection and term of office: judges nominated by the president and approved by the Senate; judges have a mandatory retirement age of 75

subordinate courts: federal level appellate, district, and territorial courts; provincial level supreme, appellate, and first instance courts

Political parties and leaders: 

Civic Coalition or CC (a coalition loosely affiliated with Elisa CARRIO)

Dissident Peronists (PJ Disidente) or Federal Peronism (a sector of the Justicialist Party opposed to the Kirchners)

Front for Victory or FpV (a broad coalition, including elements of the PJ, UCR, and numerous provincial parties) [Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER]

Peronist (or Justicialist) Party or PJ [Eduardo FELLNER]

Radical Civic Union or UCR [Ernesto SANZ]

Republican Proposal or PRO [Mauricio MACRI]

Socialist Party or PS [Hermes BINNER]

Renewal Front (Frente Renovador) [Sergio MASSA]

numerous provincial parties

Political pressure groups and leaders: 

Argentine Association of Pharmaceutical Labs (CILFA)

Argentine Industrial Union (manufacturers' association)

Argentine Rural Confederation or CRA (small to medium landowners' association)

Argentine Rural Society (large landowners' association)

Central of Argentine Workers or CTA (a union for employed and unemployed workers)

General Confederation of Labor or CGT (Peronist-leaning umbrella labor organization)

Roman Catholic Church

Blue and White CGT (dissident CGT labor confederation)

other: business organizations, Peronist-dominated labor movement, Piquetero groups (popular protest organizations that can be either pro or anti-government), students

International organization participation: 

AfDB (nonregional member), Australia Group, BCIE, BIS, CAN (associate), CD, CELAC, FAO, FATF, G-15, G-20, G-24, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAES, LAIA, Mercosur, MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, NAM (observer), NSG, OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, Paris Club (associate), PCA, SICA (observer), UN, UN Security Council (temporary), UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina (observer), UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US: 

chief of mission: Ambassador Maria Cecilia NAHON (since 19 February 2013)

chancery: 1600 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone: [1] (202) 238-6400

FAX: [1] (202) 332-3171

consulate(s) general: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Washington, DC

Diplomatic representation from the US: 

chief of mission: Ambassador Noah Bryson MAMET (since 16 January 2015)

embassy: Avenida Colombia 4300, C1425GMN Buenos Aires

mailing address: international mail: use embassy street address; APO address: US Embassy Buenos Aires, Unit 4334, APO AA 34034

telephone: [54] (11) 5777-4533

FAX: [54] (11) 5777-4240

Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of light blue (top), white, and light blue; centered in the white band is a radiant yellow sun with a human face known as the Sun of May; the colors represent the clear skies and snow of the Andes; the sun symbol commemorates the appearance of the sun through cloudy skies on 25 May 1810 during the first mass demonstration in favor of independence; the sun features are those of Inti, the Inca god of the sun

National symbol(s):

Sun of May (a sun-with-face symbol); national colors: light blue, white

National anthem:

name: "Himno Nacional Argentino" (Argentine National Anthem)

lyrics/music: Vicente LOPEZ y PLANES/Jose Blas PARERA

note: adopted 1813; Vicente LOPEZ was inspired to write the anthem after watching a play about the 1810 May Revolution against Spain

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Economy :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Economy - overview:** 

Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population, an export-oriented agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Although one of the world's wealthiest countries 100 years ago, Argentina suffered during most of the 20th century from recurring economic crises, persistent fiscal and current account deficits, high inflation, mounting external debt, and capital flight.

A severe depression, growing public and external indebtedness, and an unprecedented bank run culminated in 2001 in the most serious economic, social, and political crisis in the country's turbulent history. Interim President Adolfo RODRIGUEZ SAA declared a default - at the time the largest ever - on the government's foreign debt in December of that year, and abruptly resigned only a few days after taking office. His successor, Eduardo DUHALDE, announced an end to the peso's decade-long 1-to-1 peg to the US dollar in early 2002. The economy bottomed out that year, with real GDP 18% smaller than in 1998 and almost 60% of Argentines under the poverty line. Real GDP rebounded to grow by an average 8.5% annually over the subsequent six years, taking advantage of previously idled industrial capacity and labor, an audacious debt restructuring and reduced debt burden, excellent international financial conditions, and expansionary monetary and fiscal policies. Inflation also increased, however, during the administration of President Nestor KIRCHNER, which responded with price restraints on businesses, as well as export taxes and restraints, and beginning in 2007, with understating inflation data.

Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER succeeded her husband as President in late 2007, and the rapid economic growth of previous years began to slow sharply the following year as government policies held back exports and the world economy fell into recession. The economy in 2010 rebounded strongly from the

2009 recession, but has slowed since late 2011 even as the government continued to rely on expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, which have kept inflation in the double digits.

The government expanded state intervention in the economy throughout 2012. In May 2012 the Congress approved the nationalization of the oil company YPF from Spain's Repsol. The government expanded formal and informal measures to restrict imports during the year, including a requirement for pre-registration and pre-approval of all imports. In July 2012 the government also further tightened currency controls in an effort to bolster foreign reserves and stem capital flight. In October 2013, the government settled long-standing international arbitral disputes dating back to before and following the 2001 Argentine financial crisis. During 2014, the government continued with expansionary fiscal and monetary policies and foreign exchange and imports controls. Between 2011 and 2013, Central Bank foreign reserves had dropped \$21.3 billion from a high of \$52.7 billion. In July 2014, Argentina and China agreed on an \$11 billion currency swap; the Argentine Central Bank has received the equivalent of \$3.2 billion in Chinese yuan, which it counts as international reserves.

In 2014, the government also took some measures to mend ties with the international financial community, including engaging with the IMF to improve its economic data reporting, reaching a compensation agreement with Repsol for the expropriation of YPF, and agreeing to pay \$9.7 billion in arrears to the Paris Club over five years, including \$606 million owed to the United States. In July 2014, Argentina made its first payment to Paris Club creditors since the country's 2001 financial crisis. At the same time, the Argentine government in July 2014 entered a technical default on its external debt after it failed to reach an agreement with holdout creditors in the US. The government's delay in reaching a settlement and the continuation of interventionist and populist policies are contributing to high inflation and a prolonged recession, according to private analysts.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$927.4 billion (2014 est.)

\$943.4 billion (2013 est.)

\$916.5 billion (2012 est.)

note: data are in 2014 US dollars

country comparison to the world: 26

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$536.2 billion (2014 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

-1.7% (2014 est.)

2.9% (2013 est.)

0.9% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 211

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$22,100 (2014 est.)

\$22,700 (2013 est.)

\$22,300 (2012 est.)

note: data are in 2013 US dollars

country comparison to the world: [78](#)

Gross national saving:

17.1% of GDP (2014 est.)

17.5% of GDP (2013 est.)

17.1% of GDP (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [101](#)

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 66.9%

government consumption: 16.3%

investment in fixed capital: 15.9%

investment in inventories: 1.4%

exports of goods and services: 16%

imports of goods and services: -16.6% (2014 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 10.4%

industry: 29.5%

services: 60.1% (2014 est.)

Agriculture - products:

sunflower seeds, lemons, soybeans, grapes, corn, tobacco, peanuts, tea, wheat; livestock

Industries:

food processing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, textiles, chemicals and petrochemicals, printing, metallurgy, steel

Industrial production growth rate:

-2.1%

note: based on private sector estimates (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: [186](#)

Labor force:

17.31 million

note: urban areas only (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: [36](#)

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 5%

industry: 23%

services: 72% (2009 est.)

Unemployment rate:

7.7% (2014 est.)

7.1% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [85](#)

Population below poverty line:

30%

note: data are based on private estimates (2010)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 1.5%

highest 10%: 32.3% (2010 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index: 

45.8 (2009)

country comparison to the world: 34

Budget: 

revenues: \$117.2 billion

expenditures: \$130.5 billion (2014 est.)

Taxes and other revenues: 

21.9% of GDP (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 147

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-): 

-2.5% of GDP (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 96

Public debt: 

37.9% of GDP (2014 est.)

39.5% of GDP (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 101

Fiscal year: 

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 

36.4% (2014 est.)

20.7% (2013 est.)

note: data are derived from private estimates

Central bank discount rate: 

NA%

Commercial bank prime lending rate: 

25.5% (31 December 2014 est.)

17.15% (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [7](#)

Stock of narrow money: 

\$54.13 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$62.53 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [47](#)

Stock of broad money: 

\$120.8 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$139.7 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [50](#)

Stock of domestic credit: 

\$156 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$168.1 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [47](#)

Market value of publicly traded shares: 

\$34.24 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

\$43.58 billion (31 December 2011)

\$63.91 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [58](#)

Current account balance: 

-\$4.57 billion (2014 est.)

-\$4.635 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [167](#)

Exports: 

\$76.47 billion (2014 est.)

\$81.53 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [49](#)

Exports - commodities: 

soybeans and derivatives, petroleum and gas, vehicles, corn, wheat

Exports - partners: 

Brazil 21%, China 7.1%, US 5.5%, Chile 4.6% (2013)

Imports: 

\$65.9 billion (2014 est.)

\$70.54 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [46](#)

Imports - commodities: 

machinery, motor vehicles, petroleum and natural gas, organic chemicals, plastics

Imports - partners: 

Brazil 27.9%, US 14.5%, China 12.4%, Germany 4.6% (2013)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: 

\$26.6 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$30.53 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [54](#)

Debt - external: 

\$115.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$118.7 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [45](#)

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home: 

\$116.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$109.9 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [40](#)

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad: 

\$35.98 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$34.33 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [43](#)

Exchange rates: 

Argentine pesos (ARS) per US dollar -

8.223 (2014 est.)

5.4594 (2013 est.)

4.54 (2012 est.)

4.1101 (2011 est.)

3.8963 (2010 est.)

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Energy :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Electricity - production:** 

123.2 billion kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [30](#)

Electricity - consumption: 

114.2 billion kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [29](#)

Electricity - exports: 

506 million kWh (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [67](#)

Electricity - imports: 

8.116 billion kWh (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [29](#)

Electricity - installed generating capacity: 

32.88 million kW (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [26](#)

Electricity - from fossil fuels: 

68.3% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [113](#)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels: 

2.9% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [26](#)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants: 

28.4% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [81](#)

Electricity - from other renewable sources: 

0.4% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: [91](#)

Crude oil - production: 

691,100 bbl/day (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [27](#)

Crude oil - exports: 

90,920 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [38](#)

Crude oil - imports: 

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [155](#)

Crude oil - proved reserves: 

2.82 billion bbl (1 January 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: [32](#)

Refined petroleum products - production: 

622,200 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [27](#)

Refined petroleum products - consumption: 

758,000 bbl/day (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [27](#)

Refined petroleum products - exports: 

94,500 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [45](#)

Refined petroleum products - imports: 

76,550 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: [58](#)

Natural gas - production: 

35.5 billion cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [26](#)

Natural gas - consumption: 

48 billion cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: [20](#)

Natural gas - exports: 

100 million cu m (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [44](#)

Natural gas - imports: 

8.94 billion cu m (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [26](#)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 

378.8 billion cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: [36](#)

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy: 

196 million Mt (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: [32](#)

- **Hide**

Communications :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Telephones - main lines in use:** 

10 million (2012)

country comparison to the world: [22](#)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 

58.6 million (2012)

country comparison to the world: 23

Telephone system: 

general assessment: in 1998 Argentina opened its telecommunications market to competition and foreign investment encouraging the growth of modern telecommunications technology; fiber-optic cable trunk lines are being installed between all major cities; major networks are entirely digital and the availability of telephone service is improving

domestic: microwave radio relay, fiber-optic cable, and a domestic satellite system with 40 earth stations serve the trunk network; fixed-line teledensity is increasing gradually and mobile-cellular subscribership is increasing rapidly; broadband Internet services are gaining ground

international: country code - 54; landing point for the Atlantis-2, UNISUR, South America-1, and South American Crossing/Latin American Nautilus submarine cable systems that provide links to Europe, Africa, South and Central America, and US; satellite earth stations - 112; 2 international gateways near Buenos Aires (2011)

Broadcast media: 

government owns a TV station and a radio network; more than 2 dozen TV stations and hundreds of privately owned radio stations; high rate of cable TV subscription usage (2007)

Radio broadcast stations: 

AM 260, FM (probably more than 1,000, mostly unlicensed), shortwave 6 (1998)

Television broadcast stations: 

42 (plus 444 repeaters) (1997)

Internet country code: 

.ar

Internet hosts: 

11.232 million (2012)

country comparison to the world: 13

Internet users: 

13.694 million (2009)

country comparison to the world: 27

- **Hide**

Panel - Expanded

- **Airports:** 

1,138 (2013)

country comparison to the world: [6](#)

Airports - with paved runways: 

total: 161

over 3,047 m: 4

2,438 to 3,047 m: 29

1,524 to 2,437 m: 65

914 to 1,523 m: 53

under 914 m: 10 (2013)

Airports - with unpaved runways: 

total: 977

over 3,047 m: 1

2,438 to 3,047 m: 1

1,524 to 2,437 m: 43

914 to 1,523 m: 484

under 914 m:

448 (2013)

Heliports: 

2 (2013)

Pipelines: 

gas 29,930 km; liquid petroleum gas 41 km; oil 6,248 km; refined products 3,631 km (2013)

Railways:

total: 36,966 km

broad gauge: 26,475 km 1.676-m gauge (94 km electrified)

standard gauge: 2,780 km 1.435-m gauge (42 km electrified)

narrow gauge: 7,711 km 1.000-m gauge (2008)

country comparison to the world: 8

Roadways:

total: 231,374 km

paved: 69,412 km (includes 734 km of expressways)

unpaved: 161,962 km (2004)

country comparison to the world: 21

Waterways:

11,000 km (2012)

country comparison to the world: 12

Merchant marine:

total: 36

by type: bulk carrier 1, cargo 5, chemical tanker 6, container 1, passenger/cargo 1, petroleum tanker 18, refrigerated cargo 4

foreign-owned: 14 (Brazil 1, Chile 6, Spain 3, Taiwan 2, UK 2)

registered in other countries: 15 (Liberia 1, Panama 5, Paraguay 5, Uruguay 1, unknown 3) (2010)

country comparison to the world: 80

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, La Plata, Punta Colorada, Ushuaia

river port(s): Arroyo Seco, Rosario, San Lorenzo-San Martin (Parana)

container port(s) (TEUs): Buenos Aires (1,851,701)

LNG terminal(s) (import): Bahia Blanca

- **Hide**

Military :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Military branches:** 

Argentine Army (Ejercito Argentino), Navy of the Argentine Republic (Armada Republica; includes naval aviation and naval infantry), Argentine Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Argentina, FAA) (2013)

Military service age and obligation: 

18-24 years of age for voluntary military service (18-21 requires parental consent); no conscription; if the number of volunteers fails to meet the quota of recruits for a particular year, Congress can authorize the conscription of citizens turning 18 that year for a period not exceeding one year (2012)

Manpower available for military service: 

males age 16-49: 10,038,967

females age 16-49: 9,959,134 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service: 

males age 16-49: 8,458,362

females age 16-49: 8,414,460 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually: 

male: 339,503

female: 323,170 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures: 

0.91% of GDP (2012)

0.9% of GDP (2011)

0.91% of GDP (2010)

country comparison to the world: [106](#)

Military - note: 

the Argentine military is a well-organized force constrained by the country's prolonged economic hardship; the country has recently experienced a strong recovery, and the military is implementing a modernization plan aimed at making the ground forces lighter and more responsive (2008)

- **Hide**

Transnational Issues :: ARGENTINA

Panel - Expanded

- **Disputes - international:** 

Argentina continues to assert its claims to the UK-administered Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands in its constitution, forcibly occupying the Falklands in 1982, but in 1995 agreed to no longer seek settlement by force; UK continues to reject Argentine requests for sovereignty talks; territorial claim in Antarctica partially overlaps UK and Chilean claims; uncontested dispute between Brazil and Uruguay over Brazilera/Brasiliera Island in the Quarai/Cuareim River leaves the tripoint with Argentina in question; in 2010, the ICJ ruled in favor of Uruguay's operation of two paper mills on the Uruguay River, which forms the border with Argentina; the two countries formed a joint pollution monitoring regime; the joint boundary commission, established by Chile and Argentina in 2001 has yet to map and demarcate the delimited boundary in the inhospitable Andean Southern Ice Field (Campo de Hielo Sur); contraband smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal narcotic trafficking are problems in the porous areas of the border with Bolivia

- **Illicit drugs:** 

a transshipment country for cocaine headed for Europe, heroin headed for the US, and ephedrine and pseudoephedrine headed for Mexico; some money-laundering activity, especially in the Tri-Border Area; law enforcement corruption; a source for precursor chemicals; increasing domestic consumption of drugs in urban centers, especially cocaine base and synthetic drugs (2008)