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# Chapter 1

## 10

### 1.1 10.guide

Texified version of data for Argentina.

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Argentina

### 1.2 10.guide/Argentina

Argentina

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Geography (Argentina)

Geography (Argentina 2. usage)

People (Argentina)

Government (Argentina)

Government (Argentina 2. usage)

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Economy (Argentina)  
 Economy (Argentina 2. usage)  
 Communications (Argentina)  
 Defense Forces (Argentina)

### 1.3 10.guide/Geography (Argentina)

Geography (Argentina)

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Location:

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

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

2,766,890 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

2,736,690 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly less than three-tenths the size of the US

Land boundaries:

total 9,665 km, Bolivia 832 km, Brazil 1,224 km, Chile 5,150 km, Paraguay 1,880 km, Uruguay 579 km

Coastline:

4,989 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 m (depth) or to depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone:

not specified

territorial sea:

200 nm; overflight and navigation permitted beyond 12 nm

International disputes:

short section of the boundary with Uruguay is in dispute; short section of the boundary with Chile is indefinite; claims British-administered Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas); claims British-administered South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; territorial claim in Antarctica

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

Natural resources:

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

Land use:

arable land:  
   9%  
 permanent crops:  
   4%  
 meadows and pastures:  
   52%  
 forest and woodland:  
   22%  
 other:  
   13%  
 Irrigated land:  
   17,600 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
   Tucuman and Mendoza areas in Andes subject to earthquakes; pamperos are violent windstorms that can strike Pampas and northeast; irrigated soil degradation; desertification; air and water pollution in Buenos Aires

## 1.4 10.guide/Geography (Argentina 2. usage)

Geography (Argentina 2. usage)

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Note:

second-largest country in South America (after Brazil); strategic location relative to sea lanes between South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage)

## 1.5 10.guide/People (Argentina)

People (Argentina)

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Population:  
   33,533,256 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
   1.13% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
   19.75 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
   8.64 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
   0.22 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
   30 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
   total population:  
     71.19 years  
   male:

67.91 years  
female:  
74.65 years (1993 est.)  
Total fertility rate:  
2.72 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
Nationality:  
noun:  
Argentine(s)  
adjective:  
Argentine  
Ethnic divisions:  
white 85%, mestizo, Indian, or other nonwhite groups 15%  
Religions:  
nominally Roman Catholic 90% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%,  
Jewish 2%, other 6%  
Languages:  
Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French  
Literacy:  
age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
total population:  
95%  
male:  
96%  
female:  
95%  
Labor force:  
10.9 million  
by occupation:  
agriculture 12%, industry 31%, services 57% (1985 est.)

## 1.6 10.guide/Government (Argentina)

Government (Argentina)

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Names:  
conventional long form:  
Argentine Republic  
conventional short form:  
Argentina  
local long form:  
Republica Argentina  
local short form:  
Argentina  
Digraph:  
AR  
Type:  
republic  
Capital:  
Buenos Aires  
Administrative divisions:  
23 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia), and 1 federal district\*, ↔  
(distrito federal);

Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Chubut, Cordoba,  
 Corrientes, Distrito Federal\*, 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 (Territorio  
 Nacional de la Tierra del Fuego, Antartida e Islas del Atlantico Sur),  
 Tucuman  
 note:  
 the national territory is in the process of becoming a province; the US ←  
 does  
 not recognize claims to Antarctica  
 Independence: 9 July 1816 (from Spain)  
 Constitution:  
 1 May 1853  
 Legal system:  
 mixture of US and West European legal systems; has not accepted compulsory  
 ICJ jurisdiction  
 National holiday:  
 Revolution Day, 25 May (1810)  
 Political parties and leaders:  
 Justicialist Party (JP), Carlos Saul MENEM, Peronist umbrella political  
 organization; Radical Civic Union (UCR), Mario LOSADA, moderately  
 left-of-center party; Union of the Democratic Center (UCD), Jorge AGUADO,  
 conservative party; Intransigent Party (PI), Dr. Oscar ALENDE, leftist  
 party; Dignity and Independence Political Party (MODIN), Aldo RICO,  
 right-wing party; several provincial parties  
 Other political or pressure groups:  
 Peronist-dominated labor movement; General Confederation of Labor (CGT;  
 Peronist-leaning umbrella labor organization); Argentine Industrial Union  
 (manufacturers' association); Argentine Rural Society (large landowners'  
 association); business organizations; students; the Roman Catholic Church;  
 the Armed Forces  
 Suffrage:  
 18 years of age; universal  
 Elections:  
 Chamber of Deputies:  
 last held in three phases during late 1991 for half of 254 seats; seats ←  
 (254  
 total) - JP 122, UCR 85, UCD 10, other 37 (1993)  
 President:  
 last held 14 May 1989 (next to be held NA May 1995); results - Carlos Saul  
 MENEM was elected

## 1.7 10.guide/Government (Argentina 2. usage)

Government (Argentina 2. usage)

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Senate:  
 last held May 1989, but provincial elections in late 1991 set the stage for  
 indirect elections by provincial senators for one-third of 46 seats in the  
 national senate in May 1992; seats (46 total) - JP 27, UCR 14, others 5  
 Executive branch:



president, vice president, Cabinet  
 Legislative branch:  
 bicameral National Congress (Congreso Nacional) consists of an upper ↔  
 chamber  
 or Senate (Senado) and a lower chamber or Chamber of Deputies (Camara de  
 Diputados)  
 Judicial branch:  
 Supreme Court (Corte Suprema)  
 Leaders:  
 Chief of State and Head of Government:  
 President Carlos Saul MENEM (since 8 July 1989); Vice President (position  
 vacant)  
 Member of:  
 AG (observer), Australian Group, CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-6, G-11, G-15, G-19,  
 G-24, AfDB, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC,  
 ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LAES, LAIA ↔  
 ,  
 LORCS, MERCOSUR, MINURSO, OAS, PCA, RG, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO,  
 UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIKOM, UNOMOZ, UNPROFOR, UNTAC, UNTSO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO,  
 WIPO, WMO, WTO  
 Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Carlos ORTIZ DE ROZAS  
 chancery:  
 1600 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009  
 telephone:  
 (202) 939-6400 through 6403  
 consulates general:  
 Houston, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, and San Juan (Puerto  
 Rico)  
 consulates:  
 Baltimore, Chicago, and Los Angeles  
 US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador James CHEEK (since 28 May 1993)  
 embassy:  
 4300 Colombia, 1425 Buenos Aires  
 mailing address:  
 APO AA 34034  
 telephone:  
 [54] (1) 774-7611 or 8811, 9911  
 FAX:  
 [54] (1) 775-4205  
 Flag:  
 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

## 1.8 10.guide/Economy (Argentina)

Economy (Argentina)

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Overview:

Argentina is rich in natural resources and has a highly literate population ←  
 an export-oriented agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Nevertheless, following decades of mismanagement and statist policies, the economy in the late 1980s was plagued with huge external debts and ←  
 recurring bouts of hyperinflation. Elected in 1989, in the depths of recession, President MENEM has implemented a comprehensive economic restructuring program that shows signs of putting Argentina on a path of stable, sustainable growth. Argentina's currency has traded at par with the US dollar since April 1991, and inflation has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years. Argentines have responded to the relative price stability by repatriating flight capital and investing in domestic industry. Much ←  
 remains to be done in the 1990s in dismantling the old statist barriers to growth and in solidifying the recent economic gains.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$112 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$3,400 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

17.7% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

6.9% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$33.1 billion; expenditures \$35.8 billion, including capital expenditures of \$3.5 billion (1992)

Exports:

\$12.3 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

meat, wheat, corn, oilseed, hides, wool

partners:

US 12%, Brazil, Italy, Japan, Netherlands

Imports:

\$14.0 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)

commodities:

machinery and equipment, chemicals, metals, fuels and lubricants, agricultural products

partners:

US 22%, Brazil, Germany, Bolivia, Japan, Italy, Netherlands

External debt:

\$54 billion (June 1992)

Industrial production:

growth rate 10% (1992 est.); accounts for 26% of GDP

Electricity:

17,911,000 kW capacity; 51,305 million kWh produced, 1,559 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

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

Agriculture:

accounts for 8% of GDP (including fishing); produces abundant food for both domestic consumption and exports; among world's top five exporters of grain and beef; principal crops - wheat, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sugar beets

Illicit drugs:

increasing use as a transshipment country for cocaine headed for the US and Europe

## 1.9 10.guide/Economy (Argentina 2. usage)

Economy (Argentina 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.0 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$4.4 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$718 million

Currency:

1 peso = 100 centavos

Exchange rates:

pesos per US\$1 - 0.99000 (January1993), 0.99064 (1992), 0.95355 (1991), 0.48759 (1990), 0.04233 (1989), 0.00088 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.10 10.guide/Communications (Argentina)

Communications (Argentina)

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Railroads:

34,172 km total (includes 209 km electrified); includes a mixture of 1.435-meter standard gauge, 1.676-meter broad gauge, 1.000-meter narrow gauge, and 0.750-meter narrow gauge

Highways:

208,350 km total; 47,550 km paved, 39,500 km gravel, 101,000 km improved earth, 20,300 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

11,000 km navigable

Pipelines:

crude oil 4,090 km; petroleum products 2,900 km; natural gas 9,918 km

Ports:

Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Comodoro Rivadavia, La Plata, Rosario, Santa Fe

Merchant marine:

60 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,695,420 GRT/1,073,904 DWT; includes 30 cargo, 5 refrigerated cargo, 4 container, 1 railcar carrier, 14 oil tanker, 1 chemical tanker, 4 bulk, 1 roll-on/roll-off

Airports:

total:

1,700

usable:

1,451

with permanent-surface runways:

137

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

31

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

326

Telecommunications:

extensive modern system; 2,650,000 telephones (12,000 public telephones);  
microwave widely used; broadcast stations - 171 AM, no FM, 231 TV, 13  
shortwave; 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth stations; domestic satellite  
network has 40 earth stations

## 1.11 10.guide/Defense Forces (Argentina)

Defense Forces (Argentina)

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Branches:

Argentine Army, Navy of the Argentine Republic, Argentine Air Force,  
National Gendarmerie, Argentine Naval Prefecture (Coast Guard only),  
National Aeronautical Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 8,267,316; fit for military service 6,702,303; reach  
military age (20) annually 284,641 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP