**Argentina Facts and Culture**

* [Food and Recipes:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipes.htm) The evening meal is lighter than the lunchtime meal. Dinner is frequently served later in the evening, even after... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipes.htm)
* [Family:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/family.htm) The responsibility of raising children lies with the mother. Women working outside the home comprise less than thirty percent of... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/family.htm)
* [Fashion:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/fashion.htm) Most people wear modern fashions, especially in urban areas. Clothing that one finds in Europe or North America is readily... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/fashion.htm)
* [Visiting:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/visiting.htm) Visitors introduce each person individually rather than a single group introduction. If invited to dinner, one should bring a small... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/visiting.htm)

**Argentina Facts**

Argentina stats

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital  | Buenos Aires  |
| Government Type  | republic  |
| Currency  | Argentine peso (ARS)  |
| Population  | 42,610,981  |
| Total Area  | 1,073,512 Square Miles2,780,400 Square Kilometers  |
| Location  | Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay  |
| Language  | Spanish (official), Italian, English, German, French, indigenous (Mapudungun, Quechua)  |

**Argentina Geography**

**Terrain and geography**

Argentina is South America's second largest country, after Brazil, in land area and population. It occupies most of the continent's southern region between the Andes Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Argentina stretches from 22'S to 55'S latitude a distance of about 2,300 miles and is shaped roughly like an inverted triangle that tapers southward from a base about 1,000 miles wide.

Argentina's area of 1,072,067 square miles is about one-third that of the U.S. In climate, size, and topography, Argentina can be compared with the portion of the U.S. between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, although the North American region has colder winters. The humid lowlands of eastern Argentina, especially along the rivers of the Rio de la Plata system, resemble the Mississippi Valley. In northern Argentina, the savannas and swamps of the Chaco region find a parallel in coastal Louisiana. Westward, the humid pampa (plain) gives way to rangeland and finally to desert that is broken only by irrigated oases, just as the Great Plains of the U.S. become drier toward the west. The Andes present a far more imposing barrier than the Rockies, but both mountain systems mark the western end of the plains.

The variety of vegetation in Argentina is striking. The vast Pampa region fanning out 500 miles from Buenos Aires stands in sharp contrast to such areas of limited agricultural potential. The most extensive level grassland in South America, the Pampa region covers roughly one-quarter of the nation, and its abundance can be credited for turning Argentina into a rising star country at the beginning of the 20th century. Containing some of the richest topsoil in the world, the Pampa is extensively cultivated in wheat and corn and provides year-round pasturage for most of Argentina's 50 million head of cattle.

The Andean region extends from the dry north to the heavily glaciated and ice covered mountains of Patagonia. Its trajectory includes the dry mountains and desert west of Cordoba and south of Tucuman and embraces the irrigated valleys on the eastern slopes and foothills of the Andes.

Patagonia is a region of arid, windswept plateaus, covering about 300,000 square miles. Except for some irrigated valleys, this is poor, scattered pastureland.

The Argentine Mesopotamia, which consists of the provinces between the Uruguay and Parana Rivers, is made up of floodplains and gently rolling grassy hills.

**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

**Argentina Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Geographic Location  | South America  |
| Total Area  | 1,073,512 Square Miles2,780,400 Square Kilometers  |
| Land Area  | 1,056,636 Square Miles2,736,690 Square Kilometers  |
| Water Area  | 16,876 Square Miles43,710 Square Kilometers  |
| Land Boundaries  | 6,127 Miles9,861 Kilometers  |
| Irrigated Land  | 60 Square Miles155 Square Kilometers  |
| Border Countries  | Bolivia 832 km, Brazil 1,261 km, Chile 5,308 km, Paraguay 1,880 km, Uruguay 580 km  |
| Coastline  | 3,100 Miles4,989 Kilometers  |
| Geographic Coordinates  | 34 00 S, 64 00 W  |
| Terrain  | rich plains of the Pampas in northern half, flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia in south, rugged Andes along western border  |
| Highest Point  | 6,960 Meters  |
| Highest Point Location  | Cerro Aconcagua 6,960 m (located in the northwestern corner of the province of Mendoza; highest point in South America)  |
| Lowest Point  | -105 Meters  |
| Lowest Point Location  | Laguna del Carbon -105 m (located between Puerto San Julian and Comandante Luis Piedra Buena in the province of Santa Cruz)  |
| Natural Resources  | fertile plains of the pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron ore, manganese, petroleum, uranium  |
| Time Zone  | UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  |
| Daylight saving time  | none scheduled  |

**Argentina Weather and Climate**

**Climate and Weather**

The vast Pampa region fanning out 500 miles from Buenos Aires has an average annual rainfall range of 20 inches in the west to 40 inches in the east.

The Andean region extends from the dry north to the heavily glaciated and ice covered mountains of Patagonia. Its trajectory includes the dry mountains and desert west of Cordoba and south of Tucuman and embraces the irrigated valleys on the eastern slopes and foothills of the Andes. Annual precipitation ranges from 4 to 24 inches in the arid regions and 20 to 120 inches in the heaviest rainfall areas.

Patagonia is a region of arid, windswept plateaus, covering about 300,000 square miles. Except for some irrigated valleys, this is poor, scattered pastureland. Far south, the weather is continuously cold and stormy; the region has no summer, and winters can be severe.

The alluvial plain of the Chaco in the north has a subtropical climate with dry winters and humid summers. Rainfall decreases from 60 to 20 inches, and temperatures reach 120 °F.

The Argentine Mesopotamia, which consists of the provinces between the Uruguay and Parana Rivers, is made up of floodplains and gently rolling grassy hills The greatest precipitation falls in the extreme north of Misiones Province, where it amounts to about 80 inches yearly.

Buenos Aires, located on the southern bank of the Rio de la Plata, borders on the vast Pampa. The terrain within the city varies from low flatland only inches above the high tide line to slightly rolling countryside with a maximum elevation of 129 feet. Average rainfall in Buenos Aires is 39 inches, distributed evenly throughout the year. Humidity is high year round (the yearly mean is 76%). High humidity makes winters seem colder and summers hotter. Abrupt temperature changes are experienced throughout the year, bringing relief from summer's heat and winter's cold.

**Argentina Environmental Issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Climate  | The vast Pampa region fanning out 500 miles from Buenos Aires has an average annual rainfall range of 20 inches in the west to 40 inches in the east.The Andean region extends from the dry north to the heavily glaciated and ice covered mountains of Patagonia. Its trajectory includes the dry mountains and desert west of Cordoba and south of Tucuman and embraces the irrigated valleys on the eastern slopes and foothills of the Andes. Annual precipitation ranges from 4 to 24 inches in the arid regions and 20 to 120 inches in the heaviest rainfall areas.Patagonia is a region of arid, windswept plateaus, covering about 300,000 square miles. Except for some irrigated valleys, this is poor, scattered pastureland. Far south, the weather is continuously cold and stormy; the region has no summer, and winters can be severe.The alluvial plain of the Chaco in the north has a subtropical climate with dry winters and humid summers. Rainfall decreases from 60 to 20 inches, and temperatures reach 120 °F.The Argentine Mesopotamia, which consists of the provinces between the Uruguay and Parana Rivers, is made up of floodplains and gently rolling grassy hills The greatest precipitation falls in the extreme north of Misiones Province, where it amounts to about 80 inches yearly.Buenos Aires, located on the southern bank of the Rio de la Plata, borders on the vast Pampa. The terrain within the city varies from low flatland only inches above the high tide line to slightly rolling countryside with a maximum elevation of 129 feet. Average rainfall in Buenos Aires is 39 inches, distributed evenly throughout the year. Humidity is high year round (the yearly mean is 76%). High humidity makes winters seem colder and summers hotter. Abrupt temperature changes are experienced throughout the year, bringing relief from summer's heat and winter's cold.  |
| 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  |
| 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 areasvolcanism: volcanic activity in the Andes Mountains along the Chilean border; Copahue (elev. 2,997 m) last erupted in 2000; other historically active volcanoes include Llullaillaco, Maipo, Planchon-Peteroa, San Jose, Tromen, Tupungatito, and Viedma  |
| Irrigated Land  | 60 Square Miles155 Square Kilometers  |
| Environmental Issues  | environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, air pollution, and water pollutionnote: 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  |

**Argentina Population Comparison**

[Argentina](http://www.countryreports.org/) [China](http://www.countryreports.org/) [France](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Germany](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Japan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [United Kingdom](http://www.countryreports.org/) [United States of America](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Afghanistan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Akrotiri](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Albania](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Algeria](http://www.countryreports.org/) [American Samoa](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Andorra](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Angola](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Anguilla](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Antarctica](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Antigua and Barbuda](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Armenia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Aruba](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Australia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Austria](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Azerbaijan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bahamas](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bahrain](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bangladesh](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Barbados](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Belarus](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Belgium](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Belize](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Benin](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bermuda](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bhutan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bolivia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bosnia and Herzegovina](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Botswana](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Brazil](http://www.countryreports.org/) [British Indian Ocean Territory](http://www.countryreports.org/) [British Virgin Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Brunei](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Bulgaria](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Burkina Faso](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Burma](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Burundi](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cambodia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cameroon](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Canada](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cape Verde](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cayman Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Central African Republic](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Chad](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Chile](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Christmas Island](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Clipperton Island](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cocos (Keeling) Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Colombia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Comoros](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Congo, Democratic Republic of the](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Congo, Republic of the Cook Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Coral Sea Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Costa Rica](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cote d’Ivoire](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Croatia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cuba](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Curacao](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Cyprus](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Czech Republic](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Denmark](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Dhekelia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Djibouti](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Dominica](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Dominican Republic](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Ecuador](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Egypt](http://www.countryreports.org/) [El Salvador](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Equatorial Guinea](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Eritrea](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Estonia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Ethiopia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Falkland Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Faroe Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Fiji](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Finland](http://www.countryreports.org/) [French Guiana](http://www.countryreports.org/) [French Polynesia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Gabon](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Gambia, The](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Gaza Strip](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Georgia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Ghana](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Gibraltar](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Greece](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Greenland](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Grenada](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guadeloupe](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guam](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guatemala](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guernsey](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guinea](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guinea-Bissau](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Guyana](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Haiti](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Holy See](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Honduras](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Hong Kong](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Hungary](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Iceland](http://www.countryreports.org/) [India](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Indonesia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Iran](http://www.countryreports.org/) 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[Philippines](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Pitcairn Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Poland](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Portugal](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Puerto Rico](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Qatar](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Reunion](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Romania](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Russia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Rwanda](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saint Kitts and Nevis](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saint Lucia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saint Pierre and Miquelon](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Samoa](http://www.countryreports.org/) [San Marino](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Sao Tome and Principe](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Saudi Arabia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Senegal](http://www.countryreports.org/) 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[Thailand](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Timor-Leste](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Togo](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Tokelau](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Tonga](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Trinidad and Tobago](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Tunisia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Turkey](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Turkmenistan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Turks and Caicos Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Tuvalu](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Uganda](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Ukraine](http://www.countryreports.org/) [United Arab Emirates](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Uruguay](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Uzbekistan](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Vanuatu](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Venezuela](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Vietnam](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Virgin Islands](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Wake Island](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Wallis and Futuna](http://www.countryreports.org/) [West Bank](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Western Sahara](http://www.countryreports.org/) [World](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Yemen](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Zambia](http://www.countryreports.org/) [Zimbabwe](http://www.countryreports.org/)

PopulationArgentinaUnitedStatesofAmericaChinaFranceGermanyJapanUnitedKingdom0B1B2BHighcharts.com

**Argentina Population Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Population  | 42,610,981  |
| Population Growth Rate  | 1%  |
| Urban Population  | 92.5%  |
| Population in Major Urban Areas  | BUENOS AIRES (capital) 13.528 million; Cordoba 1.556 million; Rosario 1.283 million; Mendoza 957,000; San Miguel de Tucuman 868,000; La Plata 759,000  |
| Nationality Noun  | Argentine(s)  |
| Nationality 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)  |
| Population - note  | 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.  |
| Rate of Urbanization- annual rate of change  | 1.01%  |

**Argentina Life Expectancy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life Expectancy At Birth  | 77 Years  |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Female  | 81 Years  |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Male  | 74 Years  |
| Median Age (female)  | 32 Years  |
| Median Age (male)  | 30 Years  |
| Median Age  | 31 Years |

**Argentina Language**

Spanish is the official language of Argentina, however many people speak some English. German, French, and Italian are also widely spoken, as are several indigenous languages. Argentine Spanish also contains many distinct phrases and terms not used in other Spanish-speaking countries.

**Argentina Literacy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Predominant Language  | Spanish (official), Italian, English, German, French, indigenous (Mapudungun, Quechua)  |
| Literacy Definition  | age 10 and over can read and write  |
| Literacy Female  | 98%  |
| Literacy Male  | 98%  |
| Literacy Total  | 98%  |

**Argentina Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Education Expenditures - percent of GDP  | 6.3%  |
| Literacy - female  | 98%  |
| Literacy - male  | 98%  |
| Literacy - total population  | 98%  |
| Literacy Definition  | age 10 and over can read and write  |
| School Life Expectancy - female  | 18 Years  |
| School Life Expectancy - male  | 16 Years  |
| Total School Life Expectancy - (primary to tertiary)  | 17 Years  |

**Argentina Age of Population**

Age 0-14: 25.1 %Age 15-24: 15.8 %Age 25-54: 38.8 %Age 55-64: 9.1 %Over 64: 11.3 %Highcharts.com

**Classroom**

In order to create a sense of equality among students, regardless of economic background, students wear standard uniforms consisting of knee-length white smocks over their everyday clothes: the boys smocks button down the front, and the girls button down the back. The smocks resemble white laboratory coats. Students must buy their own books and uniforms.

Private schools are conducted by churches and other organizations, but they of course charge tuition. Separate programs are available for special needs children.

Schools have varying schedules, but many will have split sessions, with half of the students attending in the morning and half in the afternoon. School sessions provide three 10-minute breaks during each morning and afternoon session.

**Education Culture**

Most citizens of Argentina aged 15 or older can read and write. The country has one of the better educated populations in Latin America. Indeed, education is prized as one of the most important assets people can have.

The government provides free public education for children ages 5-14, covering elementary and high school. There are also many privately funded schools that charge tuition for their schools.

Children attend school from March, which is fall in South America, until late November. Summer vacation occurs when it is hottest, during December, January, and February.

The length of school day can vary, especially among private schools, but in general the day begins at approximately 8:00 in the morning and will conclude in the early afternoon. School is finished each day by 4:30 in the afternoon. For younger children, the school session either runs from 8:00 until noon or from 1:00 until 5:00.

Subjects for children in elementary school include math, science, history, geography, Spanish, English, music, belief systems, technology, and physical education. Until the age of nine, a child must study English for at least two hours a day.

**Learning**

One of Latin America's most frequent problems with education is the number of malnourished children who attend school hungry. Argentina is one of the best countries on the continent for ensuring that its children are fed properly. Certainly a small percentage of poor families cannot provide their children with sufficient nourishment, but only 2% of children under the age of five are considered underweight because a lack of food. Furthermore, almost three-fourths of the entire population has ready access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities.

Recently, the Argentina's educators has teamed up with some wealthy businessmen to improve the technological part of education. Over 50,000 personal computers have been installed in schools around the country, and the plan is to install another 50,000 before 2008. This is a tremendous asset for educators and provides children with a background that will allow them to get much higher paying jobs because of their familiarity with computers and the Internet.

Spanish is the national language, though it is spoken in many accents, including a significant Italian influence in much of the country. Other languages spoken in the country include German and French.

When students are 14 years old, they take exams that dictate which type of secondary school they can enter. Some schools are for those who plan to attend college, others train children for vocations (business, industries, or trades), and yet others prepare students for teaching primary school.

**To School**

There are no public school buses, so kids will usually walk or ride a public transportation bus to school, depending on the local circumstances. They will catch their bus in time to arrive at school around 8:00. Wealthier parents often drive their children to school.

In country or rural areas, some children will even go to school on horseback. Argentina is home to many large cattle ranches, and children who grow up on such ranches are very comfortable riding horses from the time they are very young. Larger ranches may even have their own one-room school for the children on the ranch to attend.

**Argentina Government and Politics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government 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  | bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate (72 seats; members are elected by direct vote; presently one-third of the members elected every two years to serve six-year terms) and the Chamber of Deputies (257 seats; members are elected by direct vote; one-half of the members elected every two years to serve four-year terms)elections: Senate - last held on 23 October 2011 (next to be held on 27 October 2013); Chamber of Deputies - last held on 23 October 2011 (next to be held on 27 October 2013)election results: Senate - percent of vote by bloc or party - NA; seats by bloc or party - FpV 38, UCR 17, PJ Disidente 10, FAP 4, other 3; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by bloc or party - NA; seats by bloc or party - FpV 134, UCR 41, PJ Disidente 28, FAP 22, PRO 11, CC 7, other 14; note - as of 1 January 2013, the composition of the entire legislature is as follows: Senate - seats by bloc or party - FpV 32, UCR 14, PJ Disidente 9, minor parties allied with the FpV 6, FAP 4, other 7; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by bloc or party - NA; seats by bloc or party - FpV 116, UCR 40, PJ Disidente 22, FAP 22, minor parties allied with the FpV 20, PRO 11, CC 6, other 20  |
| Judicial Branch  | Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (the Supreme Court judges are appointed by the president with approval of the Senate)note: the Supreme Court has seven judges; the Argentine Congress in 2006 passed a bill to gradually reduce the number of Supreme Court judges to five  |
| Regions or States  | 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), Tucumannote: the US does not recognize any claims to Antarctica  |
| Political Parties and Leaders  | Broad Progressive Front or FAP [Hermes BINNER]; Civic Coalition or CC (a broad 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 [vacant]; Radical Civic Union or UCR [Mario BARLETTA]; Republican Proposal or PRO [Mauricio MACRI]; Socialist Party or PS [Ruben GIUSTINIANI]; numerous provincial parties  |
| International Law Organization Participation  | has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction  |
| 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), 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, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina (observer), UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC  |
| Politicial 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); White and Blue CGT (dissident CGT labor confederation); Roman Catholic Churchother: business organizations; Peronist-dominated labor movement; Piquetero groups (popular protest organizations that can be either pro or anti-government); students  |

**Argentina Economy Data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GDP - Gross Domestic Product  | $771,000,000 (USD)  |
| GDP - official exchange rate  | $484,600,000,000 (USD)  |
| GDP - real growth rate  | 3.5%  |
| GDP Per Capita  | $18,600.00 (USD)  |
| GDP by Sector- agriculture  | 9.3%  |
| GDP by Sector- Industry  | 29.7%  |
| GDP by Sector- services  | 61%  |
| Population Below Poverty Line  | 30%  |
| Inflation Rate  | 25%  |
| Labor Force  | 17,070,000  |
| Labor Force By Occupation- agriculture  | 5%  |
| Labor Force By Occupation- industry  | 23%  |
| Labor Force By Occupation- services  | 72%  |
| Unemployment Rate  | 7%  |
| Fiscal Year  | calendar year  |
| Annual Budget  | $117,500,000,000 (USD)  |
| Budget Surplus or Deficit - percent of GDP  | -3.2%  |
| Public Debt (% of GDP)  | 41.6%  |
| Taxes and other revenues - percent of GDP  | 26.8%  |
| Major Industries  | food processing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, textiles, chemicals and petrochemicals, printing, metallurgy, steel  |
| Industrial Growth Rate  | 7%  |
| Agriculture Products  | sunflower seeds, lemons, soybeans, grapes, corn, tobacco, peanuts, tea, wheat; livestock  |
| Currency Code  | Argentine peso (ARS)  |
| Child Labor - % of children ages 5-14  | 7%  |
| Child Labor - # of children ages 5-14  | 435,252  |
| Child Labor - note  | note: data represents children ages 5-13  |
| Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate  | 16.4%  |

**Argentina Economy**

**Economic 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 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 per-registration and per-approval of all imports. In July the government also further tightened currency controls in an effort to bolster foreign reserves and stem capital flight.

**Argentina Natural Resources**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Oil Exports- Barrels Per Day (bbl/day)  | 936  |
| Oil Reserves- Barrels Per Day (bbl/day)  | 2,820,000  |
| Oil Consumption- Barrels Per Day (bbl/day)  | 6,781  |
| Oil Production- Barrels Per Day (bbl/day)  | 734,000  |
| Natural Gas Production- Cubic Meters (cu m)  | 401,000,000  |
| Natural Gas Consumption - Kilowatt Hours (kWh)  | 43,290,000  |
| Natural Gas Exports- Cubic Meters (cu m)  | 420,000  |
| Natural Gas Imports- Cubic Meters (cu m)  | 3,610,000  |
| Natural Gas Reserves- Cubic Meters (cu m)  | 378,800,000  |
| Electricity Production- Kilowatt Hours (kWh)  | 116,000,000  |
| Electricity Consumption- Kilowatt Hours (kWh)  | 104,200,000  |
| Electricity Exports- Kilowatt Hours (kWh)  | 1,701,000  |
| Electricity Imports- Kilowatt Hours (kWh)  | 10,300,000 |

**Argentina Flag**

This flag was adopted on February 12, 1812, four years after Argentina achieved independence from Spain (1816). The "Sun of May" design was added to the flag in 1818. The blue and white colors were chosen by Manuel Belgrano, the leader of the Argentinian revolution against Spain.

**Flag Date of Adoption**

February 12, 1812

**Argentina 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.

It's width-to-length ratio varies: proportions of 1 to 2 and of 9 to 14 are commonly used on land, while the ratio 2 to 3 is used at sea.

The colors may represent the clear skies and snow of the Andes. However, research indicates that the colors were already in use as ribbons and cockades to denote an individual's political leanings and may have originally come from the House of Bourbon.

The sun symbol is a replica from the first Argentine coin. It is said to commemorate the appearance of the sun breaking through cloudy skies on 25 May 1810, at the beginning of the first mass demonstration in favor of independence. The sun features are those of Inti, the Inca god of the sun.

|  |
| --- |
| After watching a play about the 1810 revolution against Spain, Vicente Lopez was inspired to write an anthem for his country. Lopez called his song the "Anthem of May" and originally wrote nine verses.The anthem underwent many modifications to tone down the militaristic and anti-Spanish nature of the song before the government chose to adopt the first and last verses on May 11, 1813 (the third anniversary of the revolution).The government initially named the anthem the "Marcha Patriotica" and it was later known as the "Cancion Patriotica Nacional. Today it is the "Himno Nacional Argentino."  |
|  |  |

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Anthem Lyrics English

Mortals! Hear the sacred cry;

Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

Hear the noise of broken chains.

See noble Equality enthroned.

The United Provinces of the South

Have now displayed their worthy throne.

And the free peoples of the world reply;

We salute the great people of Argentina!

(repeat once)

And the free peoples of the world reply;

We salute the great people of Argentina!

(repeat once)

May the laurels be eternal

That we knew how to win.

Let us live crowned with glory,

Or swear to die gloriously.

(repeat three times)

**Argentina Interesting Facts**

* More than 300,000 Jews reside in Buenos Aires. That gives the city the second largest Jewish population in the Americas, after New York.
* The soil brought down by the rivers flowing into the Río de la Plata has created landfill over the centuries that has allowed Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, to advance several miles into the large river mouth.
* The city of Buenos Aires is divided into barrios (districts or neighborhoods). Palermo is subdivided into several smaller unofficial districts, one of which is nicknamed Villa Freud because so many psychoanalysts and psychologists have offices there.
* The confiterias (cafes) of Buenos Aires have played an important role in social, business and cultural life for more than 150 years. A little piece of history, each cafe provides a unique glimpse into the cultural heritage of the city.
* Almost 3 million people live in Buenos Aires. If surrounding suburbs are included the number jumps to 13 million. A huge amount of people also commute to Buenos Aires every day.
* Argentinians celebrate a Day of Friendship or Friend's Day every July 20th. Although not an official holiday, many Argentines participate by going out, getting together and giving presents. The amount of calling and texting often leads to temporary breakdowns of the mobile network and people have to book seats in advance in restaurants, bars and pubs if they want to gather with friends.
* Ernesto Guevara, an Argentinian doctor, helped to lead a revolution in Cuba. His frequent use of the word "che", got him his nickname, Che Guevara.
* One of Argentina's greatest military leaders was General José Francisco de San Martín, a professional soldier who led an army across the Andes. This national hero helped lead the revolutions against Spanish rule in Argentina (1812), Chile (1818) and Perú (1821).
* German colonies are found in Santa Fe, Corrientes, Misiones, Cordoba, Neuquén and Buenos Aires.
* Argentinian Juan Manuel Fangio is the only person in the world to win the Formula One Grand Prix automobile race five times: in 1951 and every year from 1954 to 1957.
* MERCOSUR, a South American free trade agreement signed by Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil, was formed in 1991 to encourage trade among the four countries and allowed these countries to compete internationally.
* The National Foundation for the Arts has started a campaign to preserve and promote traditional Argentinian arts and crafts such as leather-working, horn-carving, silver-work, ceramics and weaving.
* Just before midnight on January 1st, many Argentinians flock to the streets to celebrate with neighbors. Kids light fireworks to ring in the New Year with a bang.
* Nobel Prizes have been awarded to five Argentinians: Carlos Saavedra Lamas (1936) and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (1980) for peace, Bernardo Houssay (1947) for medicine, Luis Federico Leloir (1970) for chemistry and César Milstein (1984) for biology.
* Argentina's most important Welsh colony was settled in the province of Chubut in 1865. For four generations settlers in this area still spoke Welsh, but the language is now dying out.
* Argentinians often pull on the earlobes of the birthday boy or girl--one pull for each year of their life.
* When girls turn fifteen they usually have a huge party where they dance the waltz with their father and other boys.
* The Argentine currency has changed twice since 1985. In 1985, it changed from the peso to the austral. In 1992, the government introduced the peso argentino.
* Argentina boasts both the highest and lowest elevations in the Western Hemisphere: Cerro Aconcagua is the tallest mountain (6960 m), while Laguna del Carbon is the lowest point (-105 m).
* Sixty percent of Argentinians own their homes. They will often build additional rooms rather than move to a larger house.
* Llamas are important to the people of the Andes. Llamas are good at climbing mountains and the people use them to carry things. Llama wool makes warm blankets, ponchos and sweaters. Llama meat is used in many dishes in the Northern Andean region of Argentina.
* When many Argentine children lose a baby tooth, they will put it under their pillow at night. During the night, a little mouse called "El Raton Perez" will come and take the tooth and leave some coins.

**Argentina Lost Tooth Traditions**

When Argentine children lose a baby tooth, they will put it under their pillow at night. During the night, a little mouse called "El RatÃƒn Perez" will come and take the tooth, and leave some coins.

In some areas, children include a letter for "El RatÃƒn Perez"; it might tell him how they lost the tooth or about their activities or situation at that time in their lives. The mouse will take this letter when he takes the tooth.

**History of Argentina**

Europeans arrived in the region with the 1502 voyage of Amerigo Vespucci. Spanish navigator Juan Diaz de Solias visited what is now Argentina in 1516. Spain established a permanent colony on the site of Buenos Aires in 1580, although initial settlement was primarily overland from Peru. The Spanish further integrated Argentina into their empire by establishing the Vice Royalty of Rio de la Plata in 1776, and Buenos Aires became a flourishing port. Buenos Aires formally declared independence from Spain on July 9, 1816. Argentines revere Gen. Jose de San Martin, who campaigned in Argentina, Chile, and Peru as the hero of their national independence. Following the defeat of the Spanish, centralist and federationist groups waged a lengthy conflict between themselves to determine the future of the nation. National unity was established, and the constitution promulgated in 1853.

Two forces combined to create the modern Argentine nation in the late 19th century: the introduction of modern agricultural techniques and integration of Argentina into the world economy. Foreign investment and immigration from Europe aided this economic revolution. Investment, primarily British, came in such fields as railroads and ports. As in the United States, the migrants who worked to develop Argentina’s resources--especially the western pampas--came from throughout Europe.

From 1880 to 1930 Argentina became one of the world’s 10 wealthiest nations based on rapid expansion of agriculture and foreign investment in infrastructure. Conservative forces dominated Argentine politics until 1916, when their traditional rivals, the Radicals, won control of the government. The Radicals, with their emphasis on fair elections and democratic institutions, opened their doors to Argentina’s rapidly expanding middle class as well as to groups previously excluded from power. The Argentine military forced aged Radical President Hipolito Yrigoyen from power in 1930 and ushered in another decade of Conservative rule. Using fraud and force when necessary, the governments of the 1930s attempted to contain the currents of economic and political change that eventually led to the ascendance of Juan Domingo Peron (b. 1897). New social and political forces were seeking political power, including a modern military and labor movements that emerged from the growing urban working class.

The military ousted Argentina’s constitutional government in 1943. Peron, then an army colonel, was one of the coup’s leaders, and he soon became the government’s dominant figure as Minister of Labor. Elections carried him to the presidency in 1946. He aggressively pursued policies aimed empowering the working class and greatly expanded the number of unionized workers. In 1947, Peron announced the first 5-year plan based on the growth of industries he nationalized. He helped establish the powerful General Confederation of Labor (CGT). Peron’s dynamic wife, Eva Duarte de Peron, known as Evita (1919-52), played a key role in developing support for her husband. Peron won reelection in 1952, but the military sent him into exile1955. In the 1950s and 1960s, military and civilian administrations traded power, trying, with limited success, to deal with diminished economic growth and continued social and labor demands. When military governments failed to revive the economy and suppress escalating terrorism in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the way was open for Peron’s return.

On March 11, 1973, Argentina held general elections for the first time in 10 years. Peron was prevented from running, but voters elected his stand-in, Dr. Hector Campora, as President. Peron’s followers also commanded strong majorities in both houses of Congress. Campora resigned in July 1973, paving the way for new elections. Peron won a decisive victory and returned as President in October 1973 with his third wife, Maria Estela Isabel Martinez de Peron, as Vice President. During this period, extremists on the left and right carried out terrorist acts with a frequency that threatened public order. The government resorted to a number of emergency decrees, including the implementation of special executive authority to deal with violence. This allowed the government to imprison persons indefinitely without charge.

Peron died on July 1, 1974. His wife succeeded him in office, but a military coup removed her from office on March 24, 1976, and the armed forces formally exercised power through a junta composed of the three service commanders until December 10, 1983. The armed forces applied harsh measures against terrorists and many suspected of being their sympathizers. They restored basic order, but the human costs of what became known as "El Proceso," or the "Dirty War" were high. Conservative counts list between 10,000 and 30,000 persons as "disappeared" during the 1976-83 period. Serious economic problems, mounting charges of corruption, public revulsion in the face of human rights abuses and, finally, the country’s 1982 defeat by the United Kingdom in an unsuccessful attempt to seize the Falklands/Malvinas Islands all combined to discredit the Argentine military regime. The junta lifted bans on political parties and gradually restored basic political liberties.

On October 30, 1983, Argentines went to the polls and chose Raul Alfonsin, of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), as President. He began a 6-year term of office on December 10, 1983. In 1985 and 1987, large turnouts for mid-term elections demonstrated continued public support for a strong and vigorous democratic system. The UCR-led government took steps to resolve some of the nation’s most pressing problems, including accounting for those who disappeared during military rule, establishing civilian control of the armed forces, and consolidating democratic institutions. However, failure to resolve endemic economic problems, and an inability to maintain public confidence undermined the effectiveness of the Alfonsin government, which left office 6 months early after Peronist candidate Carlos Saul Menem won the 1989 presidential elections.

President Menem imposed peso-dollar parity (convertibility) in 1992 to break the back of hyperinflation and adopted far-reaching market-based policies. Menem’s accomplishments included dismantling a web of protectionist trade and business regulations, and reversing a half-century of statism by implementing an ambitious privatization program. These reforms contributed to significant increases in investment and growth with stable prices through most of the 1990s. Unfortunately, widespread corruption in the administrations of President Menem and President Fernando De la Rua (elected in 1999) shook confidence and weakened the recovery. Also, while convertibility defeated inflation, its permanence undermined Argentina’s export competitiveness and created chronic deficits in the current account of the balance of payments, which were financed by massive borrowing. The contagion effect of the Asian financial crisis of 1998 precipitated an outflow of capital that gradually mushroomed into a 4-year depression that culminated in a financial panic in November 2001. In December 2001, amidst bloody riots, President De la Rua resigned, and Argentina defaulted on $88 billion in debt, the largest sovereign debt default in history.

A legislative assembly on December 23, 2001, elected Adolfo Rodriguez Saa to serve as President and called for general elections to elect a new president within 3 months. Rodriguez Saa announced immediately that Argentina would default on its international debt obligations, but expressed his commitment to maintain the currency board and the peso’s 1-to-1 peg to the dollar. Rodriguez Saa, however, was unable to rally support from within his own party for his administration and this, combined with renewed violence in the Federal Capital, led to his resignation on December 30. Yet another legislative assembly elected Peronist Eduardo Duhalde President on January 1, 2002. Duhalde--differentiating himself from his three predecessors--quickly abandoned the peso’s 10-year-old link with the dollar, a move that was followed by currency depreciation and inflation. In the face of rising poverty and continued social unrest, Duhalde also moved to bolster the government’s social programs.

In the first round of the presidential election on April 27, 2003, former President Carlos Menem (Justicialist Party--PJ) won 24.3% of the vote, Santa Cruz Governor Nestor Kirchner (PJ) won 22%, followed by Ricardo Murphy with 16.4% and Elisa Carrio with 14.2%. Menem withdrew from the May 25 runoff election after polls showed overwhelming support for Kirchner. President Kirchner took office on May 25, 2003.

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**Argentina History Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Argentina Year in History | Argentina Timeline |
| 1516  | **Juan Diaz de Solis became the first European to enter Argentina in search of gold.**Many of the indigenous population of Argentina are killed by the diseases brought over by the Europeans.  |
| 1580  | **Buenos Aires is established.**  |
| 1680  | **The Portuguese established a trading post near Buenos Aires.**  |
| 1776  | **Spain consolidates its territories in south-east South America**To create one large colony called the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata.  |
| 1810  | **Overthrow of the king of Spain by Napoleon**  |
| 1812  | **Jose de San Martin leads the fight for independence from Spain.**  |
| 1816  | **Argentina declares its independence from Spain.**José de San Martín defeats Spanish forces in Chile.  |
| 1816  | **The provinces of Argentines declare independence from Spain.**  |
| 1853  | **Argentina became a republic after adopting a constitution.**  |
| 1859  | **Buenos Aires refuses to become part of the country of Argentina**And sets up their own independent state. It is then defeated by General Bartolome Mitre.  |
| 1943  | **Juan Perón rises to power.**  |
| 1945  | **Juan Perón and Eva Marie Duarte (Evita) are married.**  |
| 1952  | **Maria Eva Duarte de Perón dies of cancer.**  |
| 1955  | **The army and navy rebel and Juan Perón flees the country.**  |
| 1956  | **The Constitution of 1853 is restored.**  |
| 1960  | **Juan Perón marries Isabel Martinez.**  |
| 1973  | **Juan Perón is elected President of Argentina.**  |
| 1974  | **Juan Perón dies**His wife, Isabel, who had been vice president becomes president.  |
| 1976  | **Isabel Peron is deposed by a military coup and exiled.**  |
| 1982  | **Argentina goes to war with Britain**Over control of the Falkland Islands. Argentina's military government collapses, ending a period of repression.  |
| 1982  | **Argentina surrenders.**General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri Castelli is removed from office.  |
| 1991  | **The government makes the peso equal to the value of the U.S. dollar.**This helps to stabilize the Argentine economy.  |
| 2001  | **Adolfo Rodriguez Saa named interim president.**Adolfo Rodriguez Saa named new interim president. Lacking political support he resigns on December 30th.  |
| 2001  | **President Fernando de la Rua resigns**On December 20th, in the midst of protests on unemployment and increased democracy. Congress names a new president, Eduardo Duhalde.  |
| 2002  | **Congress elects Peronist Senator Eduardo Duhalde as president.**Congress elects Peronist Senator Eduardo Duhalde as president.  |
| 2003  | **Nestor Kirchner sworn in as president.**Nestor Kirchner sworn in as president. Former President Carlos Menem led all candidates but pulled out before second round of elections.  |
| 2004  | **Former President Carlos Menem returns from self-imposed exile.**Former President Carlos Menem returns from self-imposed exile in Chile after two arrest warrants are cancelled.  |
| 2004  | **International arrest warrant for former President Carlos Menem, over allegations of fraud.**Judge issues international arrest warrant for former President Carlos Menem, over allegations of fraud.  |
| 2007  | **Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner sworn in as president.**  |
| 2008  | **Two former generals are sentenced to life imprisonment.**Two former generals are sentenced to life imprisonment for their actions during the period of Argentina's military rule - known as the Dirty War - during the 1970s and 1980s.  |
| 2009  | **Argentina claims parts of ocean, Antarctic and British islands as territory.**Argentina hands documents to UN formally laying claim to a vast expanse of the ocean, as far as the Antarctic and including island chains governed by Britain.  |
| 2011  | **President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner wins a second term**Benefiting from strong economic growth, President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner wins a second term with a landslide 54% of the vote.  |
| 2013  | **Falkland Islanders vote**Falkland Islanders vote overwhelmingly in favour of remaining a British overseas territory. Argentina describes the referendum as pointless.  |
| 2014  | **Debt restructured**Argentina's Congress approves a bill to restructure the country's debt and sidestep a recent US court ruling that caused Argentina to default.  |

**Argentina Meals and Food**

Recipes from Argentina

* [Alfajores Danubio (Sweet Layered Pastries) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/alfajores-danubio-sweet-layered-pastries.htm)
* [Argentina Fritters - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/argentina-fritters.htm)
* [Argentine Stew in a Pumpkin Shell - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/argentine-stew-in-a-pumpkin-shell.htm)
* [Carbonada Criolla (Veal and Vegetable Stew) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/carbonada-criolla-veal-and-vegetable-stew.htm)
* [Crillo De Pollo - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/crillo-de-pollo.htm)
* [Dulce the Leche (Milk Jam) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/dulce-the-leche-milk-jam.htm)
* [Gnoquis de Semola a la Romana - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/gnoquis-de-semola-a-la-romana.htm)
* [Jugosas Empanadas Criollas Argentinas (Juicy Argentine Creole Empanadas) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/jugosas-empanadas-criollas-argentinas-juicy-argentine-creole-empanadas.htm)
* [Potato and Beef Empanadas - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/potato-and-beef-empanadas.htm)
* [Tortilla Campesina (Potato Pudding) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Argentina/recipe/tortilla-campesina-potato-pudding.htm)

**Argentina Recipes and Diet**

Argentina food and meal customs

**Diet**

Beef has long been the staple of the Argentine diet. A favorite way to entertain is the weekend "asado" (barbecue). At such an event, friends and relatives will gather to eat grilled meat, sharing side dishes and spending hours relaxing.

Other popular dishes include baked stuffed beef and "empanadas" (meat or vegetable pies). A preferred winter stew is "locro" (with meat, corn, and potatoes). More people are incorporating salads and other fresh produce into their diets.

**Meals**

The evening meal is lighter than the lunchtime meal. Dinner is frequently served later in the evening, even after 9:00 p.m.. Argentines use the continental style of eating, meaning they hold a knife in their right hand and a fork in the left--using both utensils to eat. Hands should always be above the table, not in the lap.

Food in Argentina



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**Argentina Languages**

**Languages**

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

Spanish is the official language of Argentina, however many people speak some English. German, French, and Italian are also widely spoken, as are several indigenous languages. Argentine Spanish also contains many distinct phrases and terms not used in other Spanish-speaking countries.

**Language Translations:**

**Greetings in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you speak English? | Habla usted ingles? |
| Do you speak Spanish? | Habla usted espanol? |
| Excuse me | Dispenseme |
| Fine / Good | Bien |
| Good afternoon | Buenas tardes |
| Good evening | Buenas tardes |
| Good morning | Buenos diás |
| Good night | Buenas noches |
| Goodbye | Adios |
| Happy New Year! | ¡Felíz año nuevo! |
| Hello | ¡Hóla! |
| How are you? | Como esta usted? |
| I'm pleased to meet you | Encantado de conocerle |
| Merry Christmas | Feliz Navidad |
| Please | Por favor |
| See you later | Hasta luego |
| Thank you | Gracias |
| Welcome | Bienvenido |
| What is your name? | Como se llama? / Deme su nombre |
| Yes / No | Si / No |

**Days in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Domingo |
| Monday | Lunes |
| Tuesday | Martes |
| Wednesday | Miercoles |
| Thursday | Jueves |
| Friday | Viernes |
| Saturday | Sabado |

**Months in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January | Enero |
| February | Febrero |
| March | marzo |
| April | Abril |
| May | Mayo |
| June | Junio |
| July | Julio |
| August | Agosto |
| September | Septiembre |
| October | Octubre |
| November | Noviembre |
| December | Diciembre |

**Colors in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Black | Negro |
| Blue | Azul |
| Green | Verde |
| Orange | Anaranjado |
| Pink | Rosado |
| Red | Rojo |
| White | Blanco |
| Yellow | Amarillo |

**Numbers in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One | Uno |
| Two | Dos |
| Three | Tres |
| Four | Cuatro |
| Five | Cinco |
| Six | Seis |
| Seven | Siete |
| Eight | Ocho |
| Nine | Nueve |
| Ten | Diez |
| Fifty | Cincuenta |
| one Hundred | Cien |
| One Thousand | mil |

**Argentina Clothing and Fashion**

Most people wear modern fashions, especially in urban areas. Clothing that one finds in Europe or North America is readily available in Argentine cities. Traditional costumes representing a region's heritage may be worn on special occasions or holidays but not on a daily basis. Older people tend to wear more conservative styles and colors.

**Dating, Family and Children Argentina**

**Dating and Marriage**

Group dating between young men and young women oftens begins at age fifteen. The fifteenth birthday is the girls most important birthday as it marks the end of their childhood. Young couples' favorite activity is dancing. Going to movies or eating at cafes are also popular dating activities.

**Family and Children**

The responsibility of raising children lies with the mother. Women working outside the home comprise less than thirty percent of the Argentine work force. Men are often occupied with work, even in the evening. Families are smaller than other countries, with on average just two children. A good education is important to Argentines and families sacrifice to make it possible for their children. Divorce used to be illegal in Argentina Now the family structure is changing and leading to more single-parent households.



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**Argentina Gestures and Greetings**

**Greetings**

It is customary to address people by a title (Señor, Señora, Doctor, among others) when being introduced. A handshake and slight nod show respect. Women are most likely to kiss each other, but a man and woman may greet in this manner if well acquainted. When approaching someone such as a police officer or customs official for information, one should always greet the official before asking any questions.

**Gestures**

Traditionally, it has been improper for a man and a woman to show affection in public--although these customs are not observed as much in large urban areas. During conversation personal spaces tend to be less than in some cultures, and people might touch each other or stand close when speaking. It is impolite to yawn without covering ones's mouth. Eye contact is considered important in conversation. Hats are removed in buildings, houses, elevators, and in the presence of women.

**Visiting**

Visitors introduce each person individually rather than a single group introduction. If invited to dinner, one should bring a small gift such as flowers or candy for their hosts. Guests will not offend hosts if they arrive late. Guests are not seated until the head of the household directs them to do so. It is considered good manners to compliment the home or meal. When leaving, a guest should say goodbye to each person.

**Cultural Attributes**

Prosperity, family, education, and personal relationships are important values to Argentines.
Urban Argentines tend to be cosmopolitan, progressive, and outgoing.

Those who live in rural areas are more conservative and traditional. Throughout the country, it is important to show respect to the elderly and to honor friendships.

**Argentina Church and Religion**

The Argentine Constitution states that the federal government "sustains the apostolic Roman Catholic faith," and the government provides the Catholic Church with a variety of subsidies. The Secretariat of Worship in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship is responsible for conducting the government's relations with the Catholic Church, all non-Catholic Christian churches, and other religious organizations in the country.

The Secretariat of Worship maintains a National Registry of approximately 2,800 religious organizations representing some 30 different denominations, including most of the world's major faiths.

While Christians typically enjoy vacation days for significant Christian holidays, the law also provides for three days of excused and paid leave for those observing the Jewish holy days (New Year, the Days of Atonement, and Passover) and certain Islamic holy days.

In late 2002, a gubernatorial candidacy brought to light that the oath of office of the Province of Tucuman provided for the governor to swear on the "Holy Gospels." A legal challenge to the provision resulted in a provincial Supreme Court ruling that the governor could instead swear by "God and the Fatherland," thereby opening the oath to people of all religions.

**Religions in Argentina**

The following chart illustrates the breakdown of major religions in Argentina:

Roman Catholic: 92.0 %Other: 4.0 %Protestant: 2.0 %Jewish: 2.0 %Highcharts.com

**Religion Photos**



[](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/ar/evaduartesperon.jpg) [](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/ar/argentinachurch.jpg) [](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/ar/argentinachurch2.jpg) [](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/ar/argentinachurch3.jpg)

**Students Life in Argentina**

**Mornings**

Although there is some variety when school begins, most children must get up between 7:00 and 7:30 to get ready for school. Breakfast in Argentina usually consists of hard rolls (or toast) and jam with tea or coffee. A favorite drink for young children is called "submarino"Ã‚Â which is milk with chocolate syrup added.

**School**

There are no public school buses, so kids will usually walk or ride a public transportation bus to school, depending on the local circumstances. They will catch their bus in time to arrive at school around 8:00. Wealthier parents often drive their children to school.

In country or rural areas, some children will even go to school on horseback. Argentina is home to many large cattle ranches, and children who grow up on such ranches are very comfortable riding horses from the time they are very young. Larger ranches may even have their own one-room school for the children on the ranch to attend.

**Classroom**

In order to create a sense of equality among students, regardless of economic background, students wear standard uniforms consisting of knee-length white smocks over their everyday clothes: the boys smocks button down the front, and the girls button down the back. The smocks resemble white laboratory coats. Students must buy their own books and uniforms.

Private schools are conducted by churches and other organizations, but they of course charge tuition. Separate programs are available for special needs children.

Schools have varying schedules, but many will have split sessions, with half of the students attending in the morning and half in the afternoon. School sessions provide three 10-minute breaks during each morning and afternoon session.

**Student Learning**

One of Latin America's most frequent problems with education is the number of malnourished children who attend school hungry. Argentina is one of the best countries on the continent for ensuring that its children are fed properly. Certainly a small percentage of poor families cannot provide their children with sufficient nourishment, but only 2% of children under the age of five are considered underweight because a lack of food. Furthermore, almost three-fourths of the entire population has ready access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities.

Recently, the Argentina's educators has teamed up with some wealthy businessmen to improve the technological part of education. Over 50,000 personal computers have been installed in schools around the country, and the plan is to install another 50,000 before 2008. This is a tremendous asset for educators and provides children with a background that will allow them to get much higher paying jobs because of their familiarity with computers and the Internet.

Spanish is the national language, though it is spoken in many accents, including a significant Italian influence in much of the country. Other languages spoken in the country include German and French.

When students are 14 years old, they take exams that dictate which type of secondary school they can enter. Some schools are for those who plan to attend college, others train children for vocations (business, industries, or trades), and yet others prepare students for teaching primary school.

**After School Activities**

Sports in Argentina are usually organized by leagues rather than schools. Most youth will pick a sport when they are quiet young and stick with that sport throughout their school-age days. Competition between schools does still happen, however, but they are focused in other areas, such as dance and music. Thus extracurricular activities, when they are offered, involve art, academic clubs, music, dance, and similar activities.

**Student Free Time**

The most popular sport in Argentina is soccer, as in most of Latin America and Europe. However, Argentines also enjoy basketball, rugby, and auto and horse racing. People are friendly and will encourage fun and openness.

**Evenings**

Cultural backgrounds are so diverse in Argentina that it is difficult to describe a "typical"Â Argentinian family. In the primary city of Buenos Aires, in which about one-third of the entire population of the country lives, there is a saying that a citizen there speaks Spanish, eats Italian, dresses like a Frenchman, and thinks he is an Englishman.

Fathers are considered the head of the family, while mothers are in charge of the home, although in recent years women have become more active in business and affairs outside of the home. Grandparents will often live with extended families and help care for the younger children while parents work, and newlywed couples usually live with parents until they are financially able to move out on their own.

Argentinians usually eat four meals per day: a light breakfast, lunch, a small dish of cheeses or snacks following work, and dinner in the evening. The late afternoon light meal probably comes from a British influence of having afternoon tea. Empanadas, which are little pies filled with meats, seafood, or vegetables are a popular snack, one which children often take with them to school and which can be easily purchased from street vendors, along with warm peanuts, sweet popcorn, fruit, and similar fast foods. Traditional evening meals are eaten after nine in the evening. Argentina is known throughout the world for its superb beef, and many evening meals include pasta and beef, accompanied by mate, a native tea like beverage.

**Education Culture**

Most citizens of Argentina aged 15 or older can read and write. The country has one of the better educated populations in Latin America. Indeed, education is prized as one of the most important assets people can have.

The government provides free public education for children ages 5-14, covering elementary and high school. There are also many privately funded schools that charge tuition for their schools.

Children attend school from March, which is fall in South America, until late November. Summer vacation occurs when it is hottest, during December, January, and February.

The length of school day can vary, especially among private schools, but in general the day begins at approximately 8:00 in the morning and will conclude in the early afternoon. School is finished each day by 4:30 in the afternoon. For younger children, the school session either runs from 8:00 until noon or from 1:00 until 5:00.

Subjects for children in elementary school include math, science, history, geography, Spanish, English, music, belief systems, technology, and physical education. Until the age of nine, a child must study English for at least two hours a day.

**Argentina Sport and Recreation**

Recreation in Argentina: Argentina's national game is "futbol" (soccer), which was introduced in the 1860s by British soldiers. In the streets of Buenos Aires, as elsewhere, important matches are often the topic of discussion--even among strangers.

Families often go to the Atlantic coast in summer. Mar del Plata, southeast of Buenos Aires, is a popular destination for summer holidays. In winter, many Argentinians enjoy Andinismo, which means hiking, mountain-climbing or alpine or cross-country skiing in the Andes mountains.

Pato (duck) is a special Argentinian sport, first played by the Gauchos (cowboys). Pato was originally played by two teams on horseback using a duck in a leather pouch with handles. Two players would grab the handles and pull until one let go. The winning team would ride away, while the opposing team tried to stop them and grab the pato. The sport became dangerous and was banned in 1882. In the late 1930s, it was revived with new rules. Now two teams of four men on horseback attempt to throw the modern pato, a leather ball with six handles, into one of two baskets at either end of a large field.

Horse racing is another popular spectator sport. Races are held throughout the year. The two most important events are the Argentine Republic Prize, held in April, and the Grand National in November.

Tennis was once a sport reserved for the wealthy until the Argentinian Guillermo Vilas did well in international competitions. Now it is played by young people throughout the country. Gabriela Sabatini, also of Argentina, was ranked as one of the world's top women tennis players during her teenage years

**Argentina Places to Visit**

* Confiterias of Buenos Aires - Description: The confiterias of Buenos Aires have played an important role in social, business and cultural life for more than 150 years. A little piece of history, each cafe provides a glimpse into the cultural heritage of the city.

Menus are as unique as the decor but you can count on coffee, sandwiches and baked items. With distinct personalities, many cafes are entertainment as well as dining venues. Tango is often associated with the confiteria experience--take in a show while you eat or take lessons! Other activities (like billiards, cards and dominoes) have also been around since the 1850s, but now days you can watch your favorite team on the big screen amidst colorful memorabilia and other enthusiastic fans.

In confiterias people meet friends and business associates, workers start the day or take a break for coffee, retired people read the papers and tourists appreciate the atmosphere. Certain confiterias have been associated with artistic, literary, political and student groups.

Over seventy traditional cafes are considered historical monuments. Many of the oldest and most nostalgic are located on Avenida de Mayo. Perhaps Argentina's most famous confiteria is Café Tortoni. Founded in 1858, entering this establishment will take you back to a time when people like Albert Einstein, Jorge Luis Borges and Federico Garcia Lorca would gather to discuss art, literature and politics with colleagues and friends. You might even run into one of the celebrities or politicians who still make an appearance at The Tortoni. - Location: Buenos Aires