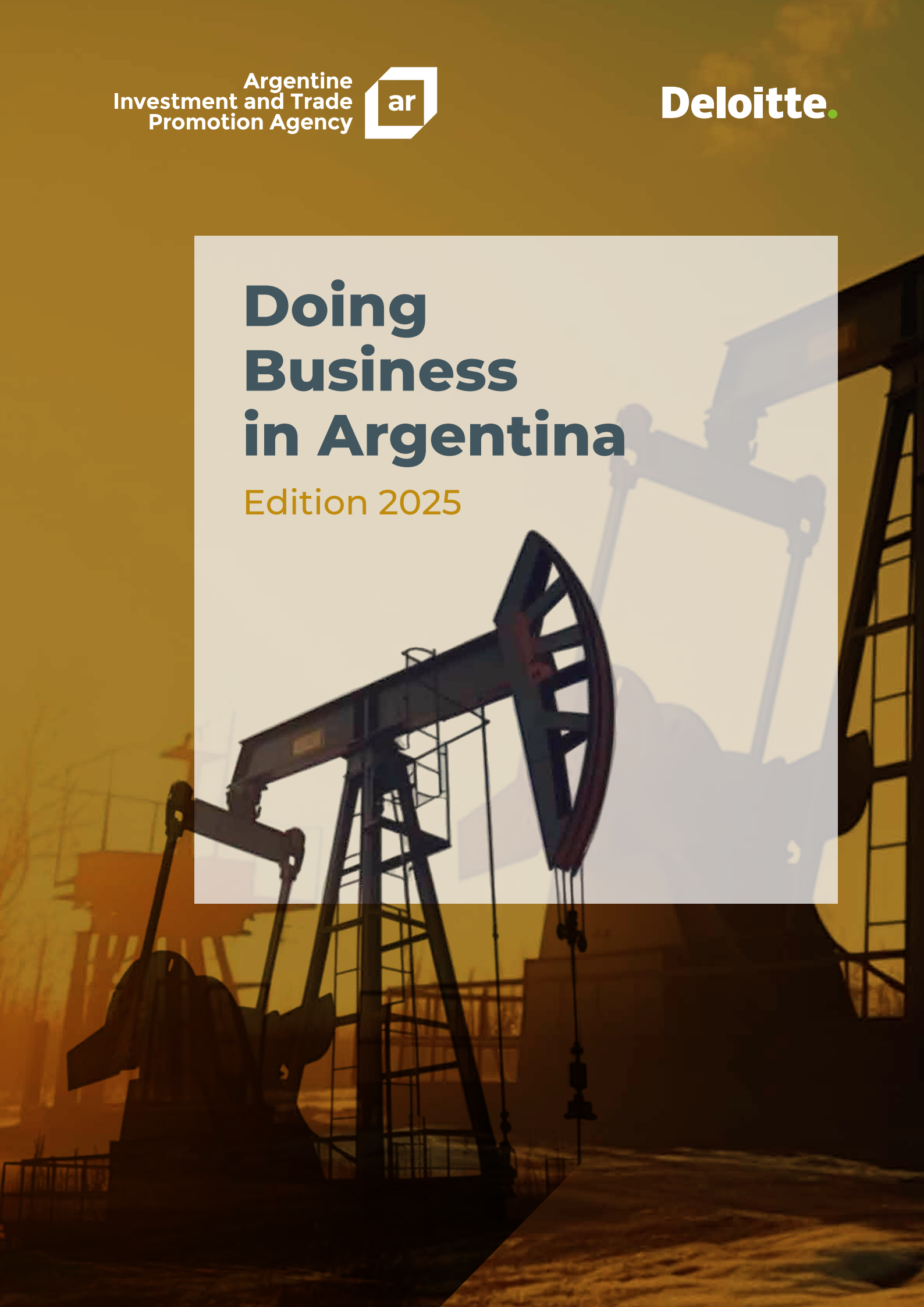


Doing Business in Argentina

Edition 2025



This report published by the Argentine Investment and International Trade Promotion Agency (AAICI) has been edited in collaboration with Deloitte.

The purpose of this report is to provide a general overview of how to do business in Argentina. It does not constitute an exhaustive analysis and should not be considered professional advice from the AAICI. While the AAICI has verified the accuracy of the information contained in this report, the AAICI strongly recommends seeking independent professional advice before making any decisions based on its content. Furthermore, the Agency assumes no responsibility for any information, opinions, or actions resulting from the use of this material.

The English version of this document and the information presented herein is a translation of the original in Spanish. Any discrepancies created in the translation are not binding and have no legal effect for compliance or enforcement purposes.

Argentine Investment and International Trade Promotion Agency

Phone: +54 11 5199 2263

Email: consultas@inversionycomercio.org.ar

Address: Carlos Pellegrini 675, floor 9 (C1009ABM)

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentine
Investment and Trade
Promotion Agency



Argentina

Deloitte.

04.

Doing business
in argentina

16.

Main economic
variables

19.

References

20.

Establishing
a company

38.

Regulatory framework

46.

Tax system

73.

Labor legislation

Doing Business in Argentina



Doing Business in Argentina

General Profile

In terms of size, Argentina's GDP stood at USD 632.15 billion in 2024, which makes it the third largest economy in Latin America and the twenty-second in the world ranking. The GDP per capita amounted to USD 13,415 in 2023, according to IMF data.

Argentina features comparative advantages in several areas such as agribusiness and technological services, with high penetration levels in relevant international markets. In addition, the country has the Lithium Triangle, shared with Chile and Bolivia, where Argentina features the world's second largest lithium reserves. The country also has enormous potential in metalliferous minerals, mainly gold, silver and copper.

In terms of population, its 47.07 million inhabitants make it the fourth most populated country in Latin America and the 33rd in the world's population ranking by country. The Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (16 million inhabitants) is the country's main demographic center,

followed by the rest of the province of Buenos Aires (4.3 million), Córdoba (3.8 million), Santa Fe (3.5 million) and Mendoza (2 million) as other major demographic centers in Argentina.

The country's population is largely young. A total of 53% of them are under 35 years old, while 35% are aged between 35 and 64, and the remaining 12% are aged over 65. In terms of education, almost 80% of the population starts secondary school, while university enrollment rates stand at around 45%. This means that the population aged between 25 and 59 currently features, on average, 11.2 years of schooling, one of the highest indicators in Latin America.

As regards the level of English proficiency, Argentina stands 28th out of 116 countries in the ranking of average country population English proficiency according to the "EF English Proficiency Index", which makes it Latin America's highest-ranking country in terms of English language proficiency.

The country features 19 currently effective international agreements, with 12 out of them having been executed through the Mercosur (the commercial block made up by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia). Being a member of Mercosur ensures Argentina's preferential tariff access to a 300 million people market, thus boosting regional trade and competitiveness. In addition, the country is signatory to 6 other bilateral trade agreements, plus one resulting from its entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO). These agreements reflect Argentina's commitment to global economic integration and the promotion of a favorable environment for business and foreign investment.

Economic structure

Argentina's productive structure is characterized by its remarkable diversity, with each sector playing a key role in added value creation, exports and employment in various regions of the country. The interaction among these sectors defines the national economic dynamics, ranging from raw material production to industrial transformation and the provision of a wide range of services.

The primary sector, consisting mainly of agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and mining, plays a key role in the national economy. Its relevance is due to the country's exceptional geographical conditions, which positions Argentina as one of the world's main grains and by-products exporters. The country's promising future will also allow it to consolidate its position as a major player in the global hydrocarbons and minerals market. Given its standing as a highly foreign trade-oriented country, primary activities will be thoroughly reviewed in the main exports section.

The secondary sector, on the other hand, includes the manufacturing and the construction industries and other goods transformation related activities. This sector is essential for adding value to primary products and turning them into final or intermediate goods. Manufacturing is closely intertwined with the primary and tertiary sectors, since its structure depends mostly on the primary sector production and, in turn, it creates the demand for services and distribution. In the following section, the manufacturing industry's main aspects and the GDP composition will be thoroughly, clearly and accurately reviewed.

The tertiary sector, which accounts for the largest share of GDP and employment, includes a wide variety of activities such as trade, financial services, transportation, tourism, education, health and public administration. As of the fourth quarter of 2024, this sector accounted for 54.7% of GDP, thus consolidating its position as the most relevant sector in terms of economic activity. Regarding the distribution of the labor force, it is estimated that 1.2% work in primary activities, while 19.4% are employed in the secondary sector and 79.4% in the tertiary sector. Its dynamism depends both on domestic consumption and on the technology and business services sector, as well as on primary and secondary sectors' support activities.

Manufacturing industry

Given its comparative advantage in the agri-food sector, Argentina remains a leader in food production and export (ranking among the world’s 10 largest agricultural commodities producers and exporters). Food, beverage and tobacco stand as the most important items in the manufacturing sector, accounting for 29% of the sector added value.

The second most relevant industry is chemical and petrochemical (24%) in 2024. Its relevance stems from the installed capacity in the country and from its close productive relationship with the oil and gas sector.

One of Argentina’s advantages lies in the competitive relationship between the workforce quality (in terms of average years of education and level of English proficiency), its average age and the labor costs for companies. In several industries, the labor factor stands out for its adaptability and ability to quickly learn new technologies and methodologies, which has led to the creation of differently sized startups in the country. Diversity in talent, coupled with the availability of prestigious universities and educational institutions, contributes to the training of highly qualified professionals in various areas. These factors turn Argentina into an attractive option for companies looking for high quality talent.

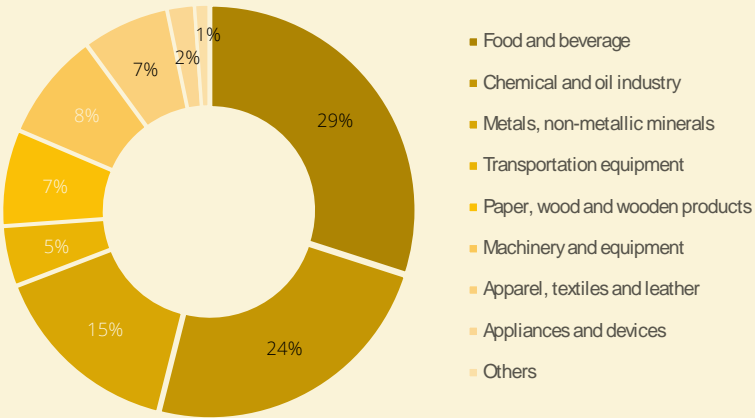
Argentina has a diversified industrial network with important developments in the pharmaceutical, fine chemicals, iron and steel, metal-mechanic and automotive industries, including links of high technological value in the manufacture of satellites, radars and nuclear reactors.

Table 1.
GDP composition breakdown
(average in billion dollars for the last 4 quarters)

| GDP 2024 | Value (USD bill.) | % GDP |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Total | 632.364 | |
| Primary | 36.229 | 5,7% |
| Secondary | 143.108 | 22,6% |
| Manufacturing | 95.404 | 15,1% |
| Mining | 26.937 | 4,3% |
| Construction | 20.767 | 3,3% |
| Tertiary | 346.006 | 54,7% |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 102.284 | 16,2% |
| Real estate services | 59.740 | 9,4% |
| Education and health | 54.691 | 8,6% |
| Public adm. and defense | 36.945 | 5,8% |
| Transportation and communications | 30.436 | 4,8% |
| Financial services | 22.250 | 3,5% |
| Tourist services | 14.052 | 2,2% |
| Other tertiary | 25.608 | 4,0% |
| Taxes | 105.425 | 16,7% |

Source: Prepared based on data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC). “Other tertiary activities” include electricity, gas, and water; other community, social, and personal service activities; and private households with domestic services. The “A” 3500 exchange rate reported by the BCRA, average for October 2024, was used for the calculation.

Graph 1.
Manufacturing industries
(Contribution to total revenue,
in percentage, 2024)



Source: Based on official data.

Argentina's main exports

Agri-food sector exports are the main source of foreign exchange earnings in Argentina, having generated an average of 40 billion US dollars a year between 2006 and 2023 (7% of the GDP in 2024 and 8.6% on average in the 2006-2024 period). The quality and diversity of Argentine agri-food products, coupled with the sector's capacity for innovation and adaptation, have been key factors for maintaining its relevance in the international market. According to the FAO, Argentina has been the world's third largest food exporter after Brazil and the United States, with 95 million tons exported. It also stands as the second largest net food exporter, once again after Brazil. Argentina ranks first in the worldwide export of the following products: soybean oil and meal, peeled peanuts and lemon juice concentrate. In the world export ranking, Argentina ranks second through fifth in the following product exports: corn, sunflower/barley/ sorghum industry, and powdered milk. The country also stands out in the export of wines, cereals and by-products, pome fruits, fish and seafood, beef, and poultry meat¹.

The oil & gas sector is another outstanding and high-potential industry in the country. Vaca Muerta, located in the Neuquén basin, is the world's second largest shale gas reserve and the fourth largest shale oil reserve, with the potential to make Argentina one of the 20 main oil exporting countries². According to data from the Secretariat of Energy, in 2024 crude oil production reached 710 Mbbl a day (+10% year-on-year), while gas production amounted to 140 MMm³ a day (+48% year-on-year). A 5.67 billion USD surplus has thus been achieved in 2024 according to INDEC data. By 2030, the sector's production potential underpinned by high investments levels would allow for an exponential increase in hydrocarbon exports, along with a drop in imports due to an enhanced gas pipeline transportation capacity. It is estimated that the energy surplus would amount to 25.60 billion USD in 2030.

In turn, Argentina offers great potential in the Mining sector, especially in copper, lithium, gold and silver. While current lithium exports are relatively low (655 million USD having been reached in 2024, according to INDEC data) and copper production is non-existent, they are expected to increase exponentially in the coming years thanks to higher private investment: copper exports are expected

The quality and diversity of Argentine agri-food products, coupled with the sector's capacity for innovation and adaptation, have been key factors for maintaining its relevance in the international market. According to the FAO, Argentina has been the world's third largest food exporter.

Source: INDEC, BCRA

1. According to data from FADA, "Agro-industrial exports Observer". July 2024.

2. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

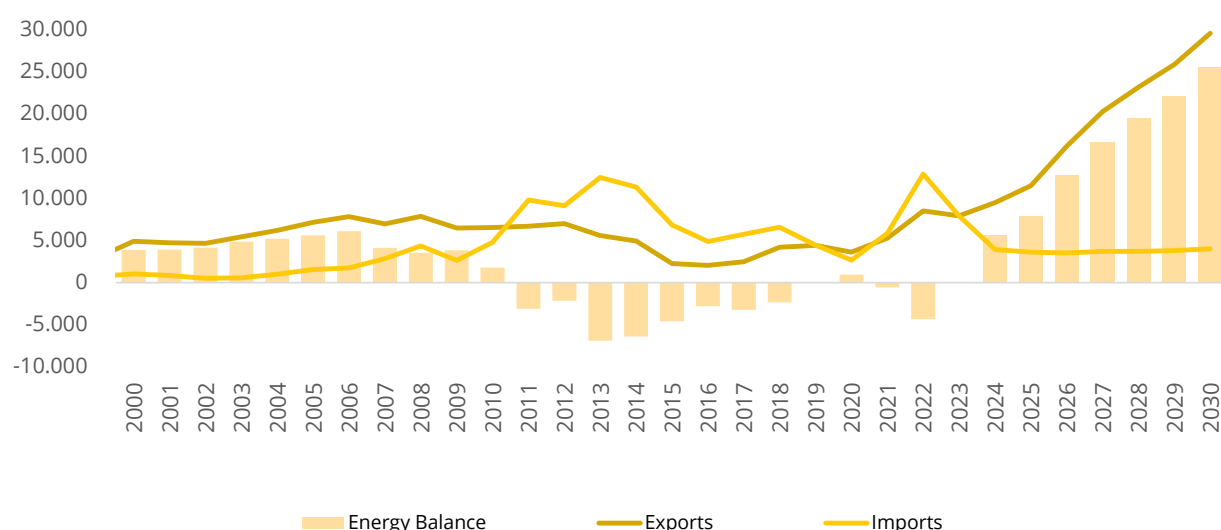
3. According to data from Argentina's Central Bank (BCRA), "Argentina Phase II: Establishing an Orthodox Monetary Framework". July 2024.

to reach 6.20 billion USD and lithium exports to reach 5.20 billion USD by 2030. In the case of gold and silver, exports are expected to reach 4.20 billion USD.

Foreign sales of industrial manufactured goods also play a key role in total exports, accounting for 3.5% of GDP in 2024 (22.01 billion USD). In turn, knowledge-based services exports, also known as the Knowledge Economy, accounted for 1.4% of GDP (8.91 billion USD) in 2024. The country's high-quality workforce, especially in the field of software development and disruptive technologies (12 technological unicorns out of the 50 total in Latin America were created in Argentina) along with a streamlined regulatory framework, have paved the way for the take-off of this sector exports in recent years.

Only in 2023 did the income in US dollars from Tourism (international travelers) reached the levels prior to 2020, when the pandemic paralyzed this sector globally due to international borders' closing and restrictions to circulation. In the mid run, the country's diverse range of touristic offerings (including not only Buenos Aires city, but also the country's southern and northern areas) will continue to attract increasing numbers of international tourists to Argentina.

Graph 2. Energy trade balance, exports and imports (in billion US dollars)



Foreign direct investment

The bulk of Argentina’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) volume comes from Brazil, Spain, the United States, China and Chile. Between 2023 and 2024, FDI in Argentina was mainly allocated to the Manufacturing Industry (especially food processing, motor vehicle manufacturing and chemical products/substances) and to Mining and Quarrying projects (mainly crude oil and natural gas exploitation), Mining (lithium, copper, gold and silver), renewable energies (solar and wind) and iron & steel industry. The discovery of the Vaca Muerta reservoir greatly influenced the recent substantial increase in foreign investments in this sector. Between Q4 2023 and Q3 2024, FDI in Argentina amounted to a total 18.1 billion USD, that is, a 3.5% rise compared to the same period in the preceding year, according to BCRA figures. FDI is key for Argentina’s economic development, as it boosts job creation, access to state-of-the-art technology and integration into global value chains.

In this context, the Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI) is presented as a key tool to boost FDI in the coming years. The RIGI offers tax, customs and foreign exchange incentives to attract projects above 200 million USD. Benefits include income tax reductions from 35% to 25%, Value-Added Tax (VAT) refunds, zero export

tariffs for exports derived from these investments, free access to foreign currency from exports and access to the foreign exchange market for debt and dividends payment and repatriation of investments.

By offering a 30-year term tax stability, streamlined procedures and easy terms for investment in different sectors, the RIGI considerably enhances business predictability and climate in areas related to oil & gas, energy, steel industry, technology and mining, among others featuring high growth potential. As a result, large investments are expected for the coming years in the hydrocarbons sector (focused on oil & gas exploitation infrastructure in Vaca Muerta), mining (lithium, copper, gold and silver), solar energy, steel industry and metalworking industry.

In summary, the RIGI is expected to generate a sustained rise in FDI and to contribute to the increase of the country’s exports and to key sectors’ strengthening. Moreover, regulatory predictability and streamlined regulations make international investors more confident and attracted to Argentina as a competitive destination for their projects. Investments under the RIGI might reach 30 billion USD in the energy sector and 54 billion USD in total, according to estimates by the Ministry of Economy.

Table 2.
Main FDI source countries (in billion US dollars and % of the total, Q4 2023 through Q3 2024)

| Total | Brazil | Spain | United States | China | Chile |
|-------|--------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 18,1 | 4,53 | 3,07 | 2,58 | 1,37 | 0,57 |
| | 25% | 17% | 14% | 8% | 3% |

Source: AAICI based on data by the BCRA.

Table 3.

Main investment sectors (in billion US dollars and % of the total, Q4 2023 through Q3 2024)

| Manufacturing Industry | Deposit-taking financial institutions | Mining and quarrying | Trade |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 7,1 | 6,2 | 2,8 | 1,0 |
| 39% | 34,2% | 15% | 6% |

Source: AAI CI based
on data by the BCRA.

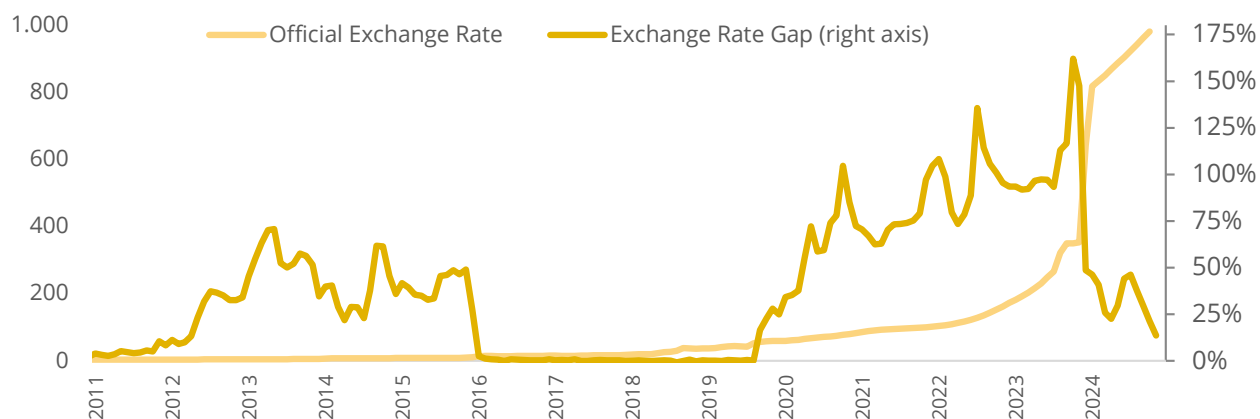
Macroeconomic stabilization and outlook for the next few years

Up to and including 2023, Argentina had serious difficulties stabilizing its macroeconomy, with a high inflation scenario along with recurrent currency devaluations, proliferation of multiple exchange rates and a high exchange rate gap, among other difficulties. Most of these problems stemmed from a cronic fiscal deficit financed by monetary emission, which had a negative impact on the Central Bank's balance sheet. This led to an acceleration of inflation and, ultimately, a decline in economic activity and social conditions.

All this changed dramatically as of December 2023, when required changes were made to bring the country back to the path of growth and to gradually reverse the restrictions inherited. The current administration has implemented an economic program based on the following: 1) fiscal consolidation to cut monetary assistance from the Central Bank to the Treasury; 2) reduction of interest rates and removal of the excessive interest-bearing liabilities held by the BCRA with commercial banks (used by previous administrations to sterilize excessive money supply); and 3) an exchange rate policy consisting of a discrete exchange rate leap in December 2023 to adjust relative prices distortion, followed by a monthly fixed devaluation rate throughout 2024 and the beginning of 2025. These policies had a swift impact on the exchange rate gap, which reduced significantly.

Exchange rate policy has been crucial to align devaluation expectations and allow for rapid disinflation. The economy gradually reduced its nominal value, achieving progressive stabilization while inflation expectations began to reflect a downward trend. By the end of 2023, annual inflation stood at 211.4%, while in April 2025 the year-on-year variation was reduced to 47.3%, with a price increase of around 30.7% expected for 2025, according to projections published by the BCRA in its Market Expectation Survey (REM, Relevamiento de Expectativas de Mercado).

Graph 3
Argentine peso-US dollar official exchange rate and informal exchange rate gap (Monthly average exchange rate)



Source: Based on data from BCRA and Ámbito Financiero

Note: The implementation of exchange controls in Argentina in late 2019 led to the emergence of parallel dollar markets, which traded at values different from the official exchange rate. By the end of 2023, the disparity between the parallel and official exchange rates reached 160%, driven by an excess of pesos in the economy and limited foreign exchange inflows. Within this context, distinct exchange rates can be identified: the "MEP dollar," obtained through transactions with securities and deposits in bank accounts in Argentina, and the "CCL dollar," or cash with settlement, derived from transactions with securities and deposits in bank accounts abroad. The introduction of the stabilization program significantly improved the supply of foreign currency, reduced the excess pesos, and restored economic confidence, resulting in a narrowing of the exchange rate gap.

In this sense, the maintenance of key macroeconomic indicators seems to show that inflation will continue to decelerate and then move to levels comparable with that of most countries in the region and developed countries, leaving behind the high inflation regimes that meant great costs in terms of growth, investments and real wages of the population.

The swift improvement of government budget balance was achieved thanks to a generalized reduction in public spending, including cuts in public works spending and in subsidies on energy and transportation, as well as through state workforce downsizing and operational inefficiencies reduction. This resulted in a primary surplus equivalent to 1.8% of the GDP in 2024. When considering interest payments, the surplus stood at 0.3% of the GDP, the first primary surplus since 2006.

The fiscal and monetary policy adjustment caused an inevitable fall in GDP, which stood at 2.2% in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the preceding quarter, and

at 1.7% in the second quarter, in an economy that had already shrunk by 1.6% in 2023. The most heavily affected sectors were the manufacturing industry (-15.6% YoY in the first semester), construction (-21%) impacted by public works cuts, and trade (-12.6%), in contrast to the strong performance of the agricultural sector, which was able to pull through the 2023 drought.

Since May 2024 and including the first months of 2025, economic activity showed a significant rebound of 7%, just 2% below the historic peak in 2017. This was a result of a real wage increase brought by the gradual inflation downtrend and the rise in private credit availability in Argentine pesos, following the successive interest rate cuts by the Central Bank (instead of investing pesos in the Central Bank's interest-bearing instruments, commercial banks began lending increasingly more to companies and families).

At the same time, the slowdown in inflation rate and the gradual recovery of real wages and pensions had a positive impact on poverty, which had peaked at 52.9% in June 2024 and dropped to 35.4% in April 2025.

The consolidation of the stabilization and recovery process of the economy allowed the implementation in April 2025 of a new floating exchange rate scheme with divergent bands, established between 1,000 and 1,400 pesos per dollar. These bands have a monthly increase of 1% the ceiling and a 1% decrease for the floor, allowing certain flexibility within a predictable framework. At the same time, foreign exchange market regulations were relaxed, aimed at their definitive normalization and liberalization. Among the most relevant policies are the free access to the official market for individuals, the normalization of payments of export and import flows, and the authorization for individuals to operate simultaneously in the official and parallel markets, among others. Also, the distribution of dividends abroad is made more flexible for companies as of the profits obtained during fiscal year 2025.

The changes in the foreign exchange scheme were made within the framework of a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations that allowed capitalizing the Central Bank and increasing international reserves by 51.4% without increasing net government debt.

Considering Argentina's historical volatility in fiscal, monetary and credit matters, it is vital for the present and future of the Argentine economy to achieve medium/long-term public debt sustainability. The fiscal anchor of the program ensures this purpose, a fact that is also reflected in the significant improvement in the price of fixed income assets issued by the public sector and in the financing conditions of the public sector itself, but also of the private sector. The Country Risk Index fell from 2,500 basis points (bps) in mid-2023 to 650 bps in May 2025, a sign of greater market confidence in debt sustainability, macroeconomic stability and the course adopted.

In this sense, as of April 2025, the stock of gross debt of the Central Administration reached 472.9 billion USD. Of the total, 30.84% is in Argentine pesos, while the remaining 35.21% is in foreign currency: of this subtotal,

32.79% corresponds to debt with the IMF. In turn, 80% of the local currency debt is inflation adjustable, 27% is non-adjustable and the remaining 3% corresponds to dual and dollar linked bonds. Considering the stock of debt net of intra-public sector debt, it reaches USD 265 billion. This projected value at the end of 2024, representing 64.3% of GDP, would be in line with the Latin American average. Public debt with multilateral organizations represented 21% of the total.

In addition to the implementation of a stabilization plan, the economic program is complemented by deregulation and liberalization microeconomic reforms in several key sectors of the economy. The new Ministry of Deregulation and State Transformation has been implementing initiatives aimed at reducing state intervention and promoting economic efficiency. For example, more than 200 government agencies have been closed, and some 40,000 public employees have been laid off. In addition, rules allowing price fixing in sectors such as meat, dairy products and communications were repealed, and obsolete programs were eliminated. In the pharmaceutical, hydrocarbon and airline markets, regulations were eliminated to promote competition and lower drug prices. Transportation was deregulated and foreign trade customs processes were simplified. Regulations were also revised in the fuel and automobile markets.

With the approval in Congress of the "Ley Bases" in July 2024, changes were implemented in the income tax and personal property tax, also including a labor reform, the privatization of public companies, a tax moratorium, an asset regularization regime, among other important changes.

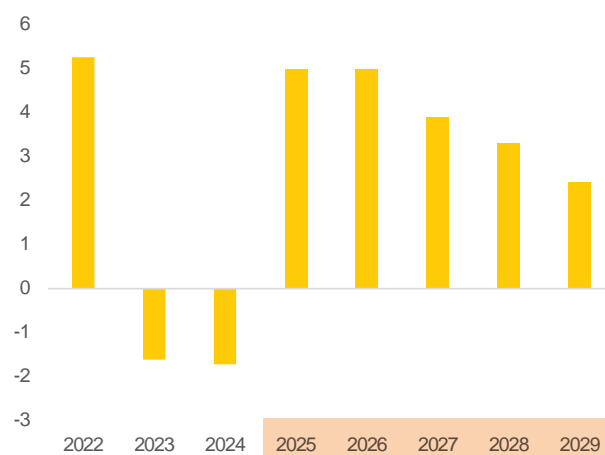
The asset regularization regime allowed taxpayers who did not have their assets declared in the country to enter the system without paying fines for amounts of up to USD 100,000, or higher if they were converted into certain Argentine assets. The result was much better than expected: more than USD 20 billion entered the system.

Graph 4.
Country Risk index (EMBI+)
(Basic points)



Source: AAI CI based on data from JP Morgan.

Graph 5.
GDP growth expectations (Gross Domestic Product at constant prices percentage change)



Source: AAI CI based on data from INDEC and IMF.

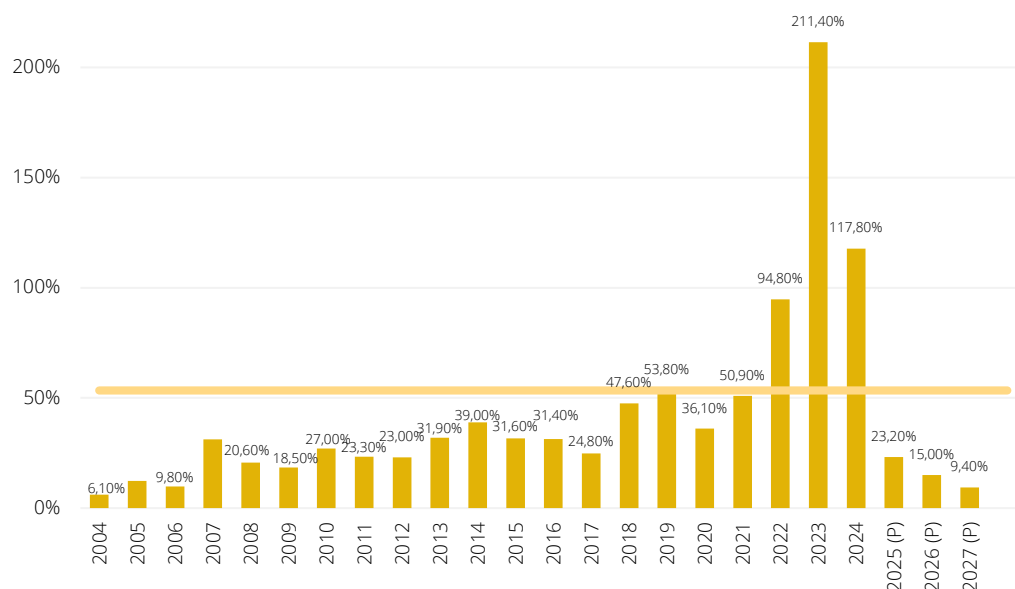
These changes are part of a structural transformation process promoted by the current administration, aimed at consolidating a more competitive, free and predictable economic environment. The improvement in the business climate, together with greater openness and certainty, has favored investment and boosted private activity.

Looking to the medium term, the different international organizations agree that Argentina will undertake a process of sustained growth in the coming years. According to IMF projections, the country will grow by 5.5% in 2025, 4.5% in 2026 and 4.0% in 2027, thus putting 15 years of stagnated economic activity behind. Inflation rate is projected to reach 30.7%, 16.2% and 9.7%, respectively, according to data from the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic.

Growth will be driven by the recovery of wages and private credit and by a highly dynamic hydrocarbons sector, which reached its all-time high oil and gas production rate thanks to the undertakings in the Vaca Muerta geological formation. In turn, fiscal surplus, the cornerstone of the government's economic program, is expected to remain unchanged and will lay the foundations for inflation to continue a downward trend.

A key factor in the country's growth will be the performance of the Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI, Régimen de Incentivo para Grandes Inversiones), a new program that provides tax, customs and exchange rate incentives over a 30-year term for the purpose of attracting investment projects in amounts over 200 million USD. At the time of writing this report, four projects have already been approved: El Quemado Solar Park of YPF LUZ in Mendoza, with an investment of USD 211 million; the Vaca Muerta Sur Pipeline of YPF and others in Río Negro, with an investment of USD 2,486 million; the LNG plant of Southern Energy in Río Negro, with an investment of USD 6,878 million; and the Rincón Project of Río Tinto in Salta, oriented to the production of lithium carbonate, with an investment of USD 2,724 million. In addition, the RIGI has 9 other applications that are in the process of evaluation, and it is expected that in the short term more projects that exploit the country's potential will continue to be incorporated.

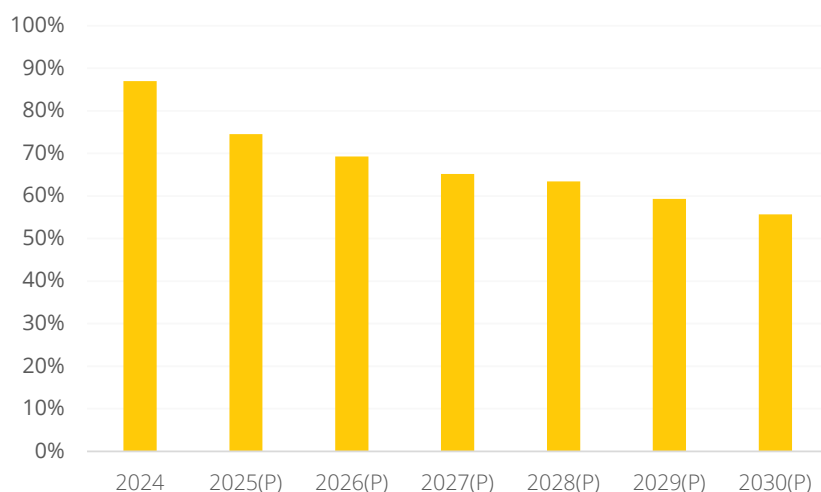
Graph 6. Retail Inflation rate (Annual variation, in percentage)



Source: AAICI based on data from INDEC, San Luis CPI and Market Expectations Survey (BCRA).

These changes are part of a structural transformation process promoted by the current administration, aimed at consolidating a more competitive, free and predictable economic environment.

Graph 7. Public debt net of intra-public sector debt (Percentage of GDP)



Source: AAICI based on data from the IMF Staff Report, June 2024.

Main economic variables

Macroeconomic context (2024 figures or latest available data)

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 GDP | 632 billion USD |
| Reference rate | 32.0% (Annual Percentage Rate) 37.7% (Effective Annual Rate) |
| Monthly inflation (April 2025) | 2.8% monthly |
| Year-on-year inflation (April 2025) | 47.3% annual |
| Unemployment rate (Q4 2024) | 7.2% |
| Reference exchange rate A3500 (April 2025) | 1,053.50 ARS/USD |
| Population | 47.07 Million |
| FDI (Q4 2023 to Q3 2024) and annual variation | 18.1 billion USD (+3.5% annual) |
| Fiscal balance in GDP percentage | 0.3% |
| Primary balance in GDP percentage | 1.8% |
| Public debt net of intra public sector debt in GDP percentage (P) | 51.4% of the GDP |
| Current account, in GDP percentage (P) | -0.4% |
| Trade balance, in GDP percentage (P) | 2.7% |
| International reserves, in GDP percentage (P) | 5.3% |
| Reserves, in public external debt percentage (P) | 19.5% |

MAIN ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Based on its diversified economy and on its various powerful productive sectors, Argentina has established itself as a key player in international trade. In 2024, Argentine exports reached a total of 79.72 billion USD, while imports totaled 60.82 billion USD.

Argentina's exports are diversified in several areas, with agricultural and livestock manufacturing leading with a 37.2% share, followed by industrial manufacturing (27.7%), primary products (23.0%) and fuel and energy (12.1%). Brazil stands as the main destination for Argentine exports, accounting for 17.1% of the total share, representing 13.61 billion USD. Other major destinations include the United States (8.1%), Chile (7.9%), China (7.6%) and India (4.9%). The remainder of the world accounts for 54.4% of the country exports, thus reflecting the broad scope of Argentina's trade network. As for imports, Brazil takes the lead again as Argentina's main imports supplier, with a 23.6% share, for an amount of 14.35 billion USD. China and the United States are also significant sources of imports, with their shares being 19.2% and 10.2%, respectively. Other major suppliers include Paraguay (5.4%) and Germany (4.4%). This trade balance highlights the relevance of the agreements and trade relations Argentina maintains with various countries and trade blocs, especially Mercosur.

Mercosur, a trade bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia, plays a crucial role in Argentina's foreign trade standing. As a member of this bloc, Argentina is ensured preferential access to a market of almost 300 million people. The bloc features a Common External Tariff (CET) for extra-Mercosur imports, but allows intra-regional, tariff-free trading of goods meeting the Mercosur's Rules of Origin (ROM)⁴ criteria. This policy fosters productive integration and improves Argentine products' competitiveness in the regional market.

Brazil, another Mercosur member, is not only the main destination for Argentine exports, but also the main source of imports. This close relationship with Brazil underscores the importance of Mercosur for Argentine economy. In addition, Mercosur has established trade agreements with other economic blocs and countries, thus reducing or removing tariffs on a broad range of products. This type

Foreign trade

(main trading partners, January to December 2024)

| Country | Value in billion USD | Share |
|----------------|----------------------|-------|
| Exports | 79.72 | |
| Brazil | 13.61 | 17.1% |
| United States | 6.45 | 8.1% |
| Chile | 6.32 | 7.9% |
| China | 6.05 | 7.6% |
| India | 3.93 | 4.9% |
| Others | 43.35 | 54.4% |
| Imports | 60.82 | |
| Brazil | 14.35 | 23.6% |
| China | 11.67 | 19.2% |
| United States | 6.23 | 10.2% |
| Paraguay | 3.31 | 5.4% |
| Germany | 2.66 | 4.4% |
| Others | 22.61 | 37.2% |

4. Mercosur's new Rules of Origin, effective since July 2024, have rendered regional content requirements more flexible and customs procedures more streamlined, thus facilitating intra-bloc trade. <https://www.mercosur.int/politica-comercial/regimen-de-origen-del-mercador/>

Foreign trade

(main items, January to December 2024)

| Item | Value in billion USD | Share |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Exports | 79.72 | |
| Agricultural and farming manufactures | 29.68 | 37.2% |
| Industrial manufactures | 22.06 | 26.7% |
| Primary products | 18.31 | 23.0% |
| Fuel and energy | 9.68 | 12.1% |
| Imports | 60.82 | |
| Intermediate goods | 23.05 | 37.9% |
| Capital goods' parts | 13.22 | 21.7% |
| Capital goods | 9.98 | 16.4% |
| Consumer goods | 7.41 | 12.2% |
| Fuel and lubricants | 4.01 | 6.6% |
| Passenger motor vehicles | 2.87 | 4.7% |
| Others | 0.29 | 0.5% |

Source: AACI based on data from the INDEC.

of agreement expands export opportunities for Argentina and boosts the entry of its products into international markets at lower trade costs.

With Mercosur as a cornerstone, Argentina has been able to forge strong trade relations both within the region and globally. These economic ties not only enhance the country’s competitiveness but also promote a favorable environment for economic growth and foreign investment. Preferential tariffs, international agreements and regional integration strengthen Argentina’s positioning in global trade, consolidating it as a strategic destination for investment and business expansion.

Argentina currently maintains 19 active international trade agreements, with Mercosur providing preferential access to a market of nearly 300 million people

References

1. World Bank (2024). World Bank Open Data. Accessed on November 20, 2024. <https://data.worldbank.org/>.
2. BCRA (2024). Foreign Direct Investment Report. Statistical series of the External Assets and Liabilities. Accessed on November 20, 2024. <https://www.bcra.gob.ar/Pdfs/PublicacionesEstadisticas/anexo-informe-inversion-extranjera-directa.xlsx>.
3. BCRA (2024). Report on the Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and Exchange Balance. Foreign exchange market and exchange balance statistical exhibit. Accessed on November 20, 2024. <https://www.bcra.gob.ar/Pdfs/PublicacionesEstadisticas/Nuevo-anexo-MC.xlsm>.
4. BCRA (2024). Presentation by the Vice President at the 18th IAEF (Argentine Financial Executives Institute) Capital Markets and Corporate Finance Symposium. November 12, 2024.
5. World Bank (2020). Doing Business 2020. The World Bank.
6. Argentine Chamber of the Oil Industry (CIARA). Cereal Exporters' Association (CEC). Monthly foreign exchange settlement report, October 2024.
7. International Monetary Fund (2024). World Economic Outlook, October 2024. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2024/10/22/world-economic-outlook-october-2024>.
8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Trade of agricultural commodities 2005-2022. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b32f9ee9-a721-4e2a-95f9-e60922b3e546/content>
9. INDEC (2023). 2022 National Population, Household and Housing Census. Sex- and age-based demographic indicators. Final results, November 2023.
10. INDEC (2024). Argentina' trading balance. Comercio exterior. Vol. 8, nº 19. Buenos Aires, November 2024.
11. INDEC (2024). National Accounts. Historical series. Global supply and demand quarterly series. Years 2004-2023. <https://www.indec.gob.ar/>. Accessed on November 20, 2024.
12. INDEC (2024). Labor market. Socioeconomic rates and indicators (Continuous household survey-CHS). Employment and income. Vol. 8, nº7. Buenos Aires, September 2024.
13. INDEC (2024). International Accounts. Balance of payments, international investment position and foreign debt. Statistics according to Balance of Payments Manual no. 6 (BPM 6). <https://www.indec.gob.ar/>. Accessed November 20, 2024.
14. National Ministry of Economy (2024). Finance. Monthly debt data. Monthly series 2019 - October 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/finanzas/datos-mensuales-de-la-deuda/datos>. Accessed November 20, 2024.
15. Congressional Budget Office (2024). Public Debt Operations - September 2024. October 22, 2024. <https://www.opc.gob.ar/operaciones-de-deuda-publica/operaciones-de-deuda-publica-septiembre-2024/>.
16. United Nations (2024). World Population Prospects. Accessed on November 20, 2024. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.
17. UNCTAD (2024). World Investment Report 2024. International Tax Reforms and Sustainable Investment.

Establishing a company



Establishing a company

Argentina is a federal country consisting of a vast territory divided into 24 provincial districts, which do not always feature similar provincial legislation. This document should therefore not be regarded as an accurate or comprehensive compilation of guidelines. This chapter, in turn, is intended to provide investors with an overview of the steps to establish a company in Argentina.

Introduction

The following section is an initial step-by-step guide designed to assist investors who are unfamiliar with the country and its bureaucratic business requirements.

In Argentina, the commercial companies' incorporation process, governed by Act No. 19,550, takes 30 to 60 business days in average, depending on the jurisdiction. In turn, Act No. 27,349 introduced the Simplified Stock Corporation category into the Argentine regulatory framework, with an average incorporation time of 10 to 11 business days. In line with the incumbent national administration's current policies, the regulations applicable to the commercial companies' incorporation are being subject to a review and deregulation process by the Superintendence of Corporations (IGJ, Inspección General de Justicia), the regulatory authority in charge of overseeing commercial companies under the scope of Act 19,550.

In terms of construction quality control, Argentina's average is higher than the region's (11 to 9, out of 15 points in the index score) and features an outstanding performance (among the top three in Latin America) in terms of energy costs as a proportion of per-capita income (the measure used by the World Bank). Likewise, energy supply reliability ranks above the regional average.

In the property registration ranking, Argentina leads in the region in all categories except costs, where it features a similar performance. The country is also in the top five in terms of retail investors' protection against self-dealing. In the case of exports, the average time required to comply with border control requirements stands within the top 4 in the region and as the fastest in South America, only 8 hours behind OECD countries' average. In the case of compliance with documentation requirements, the time required is 10 hours lower than the regional average. When it comes to contract enforcement, Argentina features one of the lowest claim cost-value ratios and stands second following Brazil in terms of judicial processes' quality.

Step by step in Argentina

The following is a step-by-step guide for establishing any type of company in Argentina. However, since this is a general guide and each Argentine province may have their own specific requirements, it should be regarded only as a general overview of the required procedure rather than as a detailed description.

1

Establishment

- 1.1 Company identification
- 1.2 Investment type
- 1.3 Accounting requirements
- 1.4 Intellectual property

2

Registration and location

- 2.1 Tax ID number (CUIT) and tax code
- 2.2 Location definition
- 2.3 Registration with local tax authorities

3

Application for incentives

4

Personnel

- 4.1 Employer registration
- 4.2 Labor risk insurance
- 4.3 Mandatory life insurance
- 4.4 Labor registration books
- 4.5 Recruitment

1

Establishment

According to the National Companies' Registry, the largest number of companies are concentrated and registered in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires with the Superintendence of Corporations (IGJ, Inspección General de Justicia), followed by the province of Buenos Aires' Legal Persons Direction (DPPJ) and by the provinces of Córdoba and Santa Fe in the third and fourth place, respectively. Over the latest few years, as a result of the different projects in Vaca Muerta, the number of companies registered in the province of Mendoza has increased, but it is still nearly half the number of companies registered in Santa Fe.

1.1 Company identification

1.1.a Select a company type

Investors must first choose the type of company that best suits the investment they intend to make. To that effect, Argentine law provides a wide range of options, which are listed and specified at the end of this chapter.

As of 31/Aug/2024, 37.4% of companies registered in the country belong to the limited liability type, while 31.8% are corporations.

1.1.b Check name availability

Investors should access the Superintendence of Corporations (IGJ) website or the entity relevant to the jurisdiction where they intend to incorporate it and complete the form in the Business Name Availability section.

1.1.c Reserve the name of the company

This is done by submitting the form on the website within a period not exceeding 30 days; otherwise, the application will expire.

1.2 Type of investment

For foreign subjects, whether companies or individuals, to make or expand an investment in Argentina, the following modalities are usually used:

- (A) Establishment of a local company through the creation of a subsidiary or branch office
- (B) Acquisition of interest in an already incorporated Argentine company
- (C) Acquisition of goodwill

1.2.a Establishment of a local company through the creation of a subsidiary or a branch office

A local company may be established through the incorporation of an Argentine subsidiary or a branch office in Argentina.

Creating a subsidiary:

Incorporating a subsidiary implies establishing/ incorporating a company under one of the corporate types

provided for in the General Corporations' Act No. 19,550 and requires the investor's prior registration (foreign legal person) with the Public Registry to become a shareholder or partner in an Argentine company, either through interest acquisition or through creation. This prior registration is not required in the case of foreign individuals or natural persons. Investors must be registered with the Argentine tax revenue authority (ARCA, Agencia de Recaudación y Control Aduanero), in order to obtain an identification code (CDI, Clave de Identificación), intended only for identification purposes.

The most common types of companies are corporations (SA, Sociedades Anónimas) and limited liability companies (SRL, Sociedades de Responsabilidad Limitada). Only SA companies can be sole shareholder (SAU, Sociedad Anónima Unipersonal). The following chapters will discuss the specific features of each company type. Unlike branch offices, subsidiaries initially allow restricting shareholders'/partners' liability to the capital contributed to the company.

For the incorporation of a local company, drafting and undersigning bylaws is required, where the following items must be included: (i) identification of the shareholders or partners; (ii) corporate name and corporate headquarters' jurisdiction or location of operation; (iii) corporate purpose or object; (iv) capital contribution, along with the amount contributed by each partner/shareholder; (v) terms; (vi) provisions governing management/BOD meetings, partners/shareholders meetings (assemblies) and the operation of the syndicate, if applicable; (vii) provisions in relation to profits and losses; (viii) partners'/shareholders rights and obligations; and (ix) provisions in relation to the company performance, dissolution or liquidation. Depending on the type of company selected, the bylaws must be signed as a public document (for SA or SAU types) or as a private document signed before a notary public (for the SRL type).

The capital subscribed to or pledged by each partner/shareholder must be paid as follows: in the case of a Sole Shareholder Company (SAU) it must be subscribed to and paid in upon incorporation. In the case of other company types, the total subscribed capital may be paid in full, or, at each shareholder's/partner's discretion, a minimum 25% of

the committed capital may be paid in upon incorporation, with the remainder to be paid in within 2 years from the date of incorporation. Such amounts must be deposited at the Banco de la Nación Argentina (Argentina's National Bank) with the corresponding deposit voucher or with a notary public authorization.

A notice must be published in Argentina's Official Gazette with the following information: (i) identification of the shareholders or partners; (ii) bylaws date; (iii) corporate name; (iv) address; (v) purpose/object; (vi) terms; (vii) capital; (viii) managers/directors and syndicate, if applicable; (ix) legal representative or chairman and (x) fiscal year closing date. For notice publication purposes, a notification shall be sent to the Official Gazette by the legal representative in case it is such a representative who requests the publication.

The application for registration with the IGJ and with the relevant provincial company registration authority must be completed with the following documents: (i) duly sealed form; (ii) pre-qualification report; (iii) bylaws and registered office; (iv) written notice signed by the managers/directors and trustee/s in acceptance of their appointment, as well as a guarantee on behalf of the incumbent managers/directors; (v) notices published in the Official Gazette; proof of capital deposit; managers'/directors' or auditors' politically exposed person declaration; and (viii) registration fee payment.

Establishing a foreign company's branch office

The key difference between a subsidiary and a branch office lies in the fact that a branch is a local representation of the foreign parent company, meaning that the parent company will be liable to consumers, regulatory agencies, customers and suppliers. Hence, the parent company liability is not limited by Argentine contingencies to the capital or equity allocated to the branch office but, instead, that liability will be extended to include the parent company.

The branch office may operate on either of two modalities: it may stand as a branch office per se in the country, with its own business-related customers and suppliers, or it may stand as a representative office in order to engage

in the promotion of the parent company's products or services in Argentina, with potential customers having to contract directly with the parent company for purchasing the relevant product or service.

Establishing a branch office in either modality implies a decentralization of the company head office, which is governed by the law of the country where the head office is located, and is accountable and liable for the branch office operations. It requires registration with the IGJ or with the companies' registration authority relevant to the provincial jurisdiction where it is to be incorporated.

This implies that, by virtue of their nature, Branch Offices do not require their own capital, nor do they require to hold shareholders' or board of directors' meetings or engage in minutes recording. However, depending on the registration authority where the public companies were registered, the parent company may be required to allocate an amount of capital to the Branch Office as suitable for its operation and to keep a book of the legal representative's decisions records, which is usually optional. Under the General Corporations Act, accounting records must be kept separate from the parent company ones and annual financial statements should be submitted with the IGJ or with the relevant public registry. It is generally not allowed to remain in operation on a negative net worth over a long period of time.

Branch Offices must have a legal representative in Argentina, who shall be a natural person and the one responsible for the Branch Office administration. This person may or may not be a resident of Argentina. In case of non-residents, these must be registered with the federal tax authority (ARCA, Agencia de Recaudación y Control Aduanero) and obtain a national tax identification code (CUIT) or tax ID number.

Requirements:

- Duly approved "Registration of a foreign incorporated company for its regular business (Section 118 General Corporations Act - LSC)" Form.
- Pre-qualification report issued by a notary public or local attorney.

Business structures in Argentina can be set up as commercial companies, branches of foreign companies, joint ventures, or trusts, allowing the legal structure to be tailored to the specific needs of the business

- Documentation from the parent company (duly legalized, apostilled and translated): (i) articles of incorporation; (ii) certificate of good standing and compliance; (iii) parent company's resolution approving the establishment of a branch office in Argentina, with declaration of domicile in Argentina, fiscal year closing date and representative appointment; and (iv) proof that the parent company's main business and assets are located outside Argentina.
- Identification of its legal shareholders or partners.
- Politically exposed person declaration.
- A document signed by the representative and certified by a notary public in acceptance of their appointment as such, which should provide personal information, including the National Tax Identification Code (CUIT, Código Único de Identificación Tributaria).
- Payment of the IGJ registration fee.
- The registration must be published in the National Official Gazette.

1.2.b Acquisition of interest in an already incorporated Argentine company

The other way of making an investment in Argentina is by purchasing an interest in a previously incorporated

company (either dormant or active). This allows investors to join an operating company in order to inject capital through a capital contribution (which may or may not entail becoming a majority shareholder).

To acquire shares of or interest in an Argentine company, a foreign company must first be registered with the IGJ and/or with the relevant provincial company registration authority. Registration is waived in the case of natural persons.

Failure to register implies that the holder of the acquired interest shall not be able to cast a valid vote in shareholders' or partners' meetings until registration has been completed.

Once the foreign company has acquired shares of or interest in the local company, whether in part or in full, it may increase its investment through capital contributions (in cash or in kind).

For the purpose of acquiring interest in a local company, the following steps are usually observed:

- Signing of a letter of intent (LOI) or memorandum of understanding (MOU) and a non-disclosure agreement (NDA).
- Due diligence of the company to be acquired.
- Signing of the purchase agreement (commonly known as stock purchase agreement) and submission of the relevant stock certificates.
- If the company to be acquired is a corporation (SA, Sociedad Anónima): (a) the board of directors must be notified of the shares' transfer; (b) the shares' transfer must be recorded in the Shareholders' Registration Book; and (c) in the event of a change in the management/administration body (i.e., the board of directors), a shareholders' meeting must be held for such purpose in order to accept resignations and make new appointments. The newly appointed authorities must then be registered with the IGJ. The new chairman must link his own National Tax Identification Code to the company's one.

- If the company to be acquired is a Limited Liability Company (SRL, Sociedad de Responsabilidad Limitada), interest transfers and changes in management must be registered with the IGJ, if applicable. The new chairman must link his own National Tax Identification Code to the company's one at ARCA.

1.2.c Acquisition of goodwill

This procedure involves purchasing all the seller's business assets, including not only its premises, equipment, furniture and tools, but also the company's name, leasing agreements and customers. It differs from shares acquisition in the sense that, when acquiring goodwill under this procedure, the buyer is not liable for any hidden assets, so no contractual provision is required in this regard.

The following steps are usually followed when making an investment:

- A deed must be executed, where the seller must provide the buyer with a detailed and signed statement of all assets and liabilities.
- A notice must be published in the Official Gazette with transaction details and location information.
- Creditors are allowed 10 days from the last notice publication to submit their objections to the transaction.
- In the event of an objection, the buyer or the acting notary public must withhold the amount of such credit from the purchasing price and deposit it as a guarantee in a special account at the relevant bank.
- Such a deposit is valid for a 20-day term during which creditors must produce evidence in justification of their purported claim. Failure to do so following said 20-day term will mean the deposit is released and the sale document may be validly signed.
- Creditors failing to justify their objection and credit shall not be allowed to file a claim against the buyer or against the assets included in the goodwill once transferred. The only exception is the case of labor claims' creditors, who may file a claim against both the seller and the buyer.

- The purchasing price shall not be less than the amount of the claims making up the liabilities declared by the seller, plus the amount of the claims not declared by the seller, but whose holders (creditors) have raised an objection.

- Should there be no objections or when the appropriate procedures have been followed to settle them, the purchasing agreement is thus executed and registered with the IGJ and with the relevant provincial company registration authority. The transaction is binding on the parties as from the date of signature. In the case of third parties, such transaction will become effective at the time of registration.

1.3 Accounting requirements

After completing the registration with the IGJ, a notary public must request the following items from the IGJ, according to the company legal specifications: corporate records books (except in the case of foreign companies' branch offices) and accounting books. There may be differences depending on the type of legal company established.

1.4 Intellectual property

The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) is the controlling authority for patents, trademarks, know-how transfer and technical assistance.

1.4.a Patents

The INPI's National Patent Administration is the department in charge of the inventions' registration process. In Argentina, patents and utility models are governed by the Patents Act No. 24,481, which provides that patents shall be granted for any invention that meets certain main requirements: (i) innovation; (ii) inventive step; and (iii) industrial application.

The Patent Act grants a 20-year protection term from the date each patent registration application has been filed. Foreign natural and legal persons must establish a legal domicile in Argentina for the application process.

Both invention patents and utility models are industrial property rights granted by the State to inventors so that they may have exclusivity over their creation. This entitles inventors to prevent unauthorized third parties from making, using, offering, selling or importing the patented product or procedure.

As an intangible asset, like a real estate or automobile title deed, the holder can sell, bequeath or even give it away as a gift. It may also be subscribed as an in-kind contribution by way of investment in a local company.

Pharmaceutical patents

The regulation, effective rights and enforcement related to this type of patents are, in general, identical to those of non-pharmaceutical patents. However, they are governed by resolutions No. 118/2012, 546/2012 and 107/2012 collectively signed by the INPI, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Health. These resolutions restrict, to a great extent, the patentability of various invention categories in the pharmaceutical sector.

Steps to register a patent (available for fully online registration):

- Filing of the application with the INPI.
- Preliminary review by the INPI.
- Publication of the application for third parties to raise objections.
- In-depth review and fee payment.
- Application result: patent granting and publication in

Intellectual property protection

Trademarks and trade names

Patents and utility models

Pharmaceutical patents

Industrial designs and models

Website registration

Copyright

the official Gazette for Patents.

It is worth mentioning that Argentina is signatory to the Paris Convention, ratified by Act No. 17,011, which provides that whoever has filed a patent or utility model application in a member country and is interested in filing it in another member country is entitled to request a priority certificate.

1.4.b Trademarks and trade names

The INPI authority dealing with trademark registration is the National Trademark Office. Trademarks and trade names are governed by Trademark Act No. 22,362 and its implementation regulations. The act protects the ownership of a registered trademark and grants exclusivity of use once registered.

This registration may be sold, bequeathed or even given away as a gift. It may also be subscribed to as in-kind contribution by way of the investment a partner/ shareholder wishes to make.

Changes in ownership are recorded through ownership transfer, a process carried out by the Technology Transfer Office.

Trademarks are valid for a 10-year period from the granting date and may be renewed indefinitely for 10-year periods by means of an online procedure, provided certain requirements regarding their use are met. Although there are international regulations, there are no international registries.

This means that the trademark must be registered in all the countries where its registration is desired. For this purpose, the right of priority included in the Paris Convention (and ratified by Act 17,011) may be invoked.

1.4.c Industrial Designs and Drawings

Only new and original designs and drawings that have not been previously exploited or disclosed may be registered with the INPI, the entity responsible for registration.

The registration of industrial designs or models is granted to protect industrial production rights. In order to apply for these certifications, any foreign natural or legal person

must establish a legal domicile in the country. If the design or model has not been previously used or advertised in Argentina, the certificate will provide protection for a 5-year term. Renewals must be requested no later than 6 months before the date of the current protection expiration. In case an application for a design has been filed in a foreign country, the application for design registration in Argentina must be filed within 6 months from the date of application filed abroad.

Argentina is a member of the Paris Convention, through which the State recognizes and protects industrial property rights, granting inventors exclusivity over their creations.

1.4.d The “.ar” domain

NIC Argentina, the National Internet Domains Registration Office, which operates under the National Legal and Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, manages the registration of “.ar” domains, such as com.ar; net.ar; tur.ar; int.ar; seg.ar; and bet.ar, among others.

Domains are valid for one year and can be renewed annually, through the NicAr’s site in the Single Digital Procedures Platform, to which effect a legal representative must be appointed.

1.4.e Copyright

The legal framework for the regulation of intellectual property rights is set forth on Act No. 11,723, as amended (the Intellectual Property Act). Protection pursuant to this act includes works of scientific, literary, artistic or educational nature, regardless of the processes used for their reproduction.

2

Registration and location

2.1 National Tax Identification Code (CUIT) and tax code

The competent authority is the Tax Revenue and Customs Control Agency (ARCA, Agencia de Recaudación y Control Aduanero). The legal representative's National Tax Identification Code (CUIT, Código Único de Identificación Tributaria) and the tax code should be requested at the ARCA office, the representative's biometric data should be then accepted, and the business activity should be declared on the ARCA website to obtain the company CUIT, which should be linked to the representative's CUIT at the ARCA office.

2.2 Location definition

As regards the definition of where to establish a business, this report can only provide information regarding provincial agencies' contact numbers. Investors may access a wide variety of information regarding tax incentives and local benefits for investing in certain provinces, as well as information regarding property acquisition, licenses and utilities.

It is recommended to conduct a thorough review of the features of each province in order to define the one that best suits the company's objectives. to the Argentine Investment and International Trade Promotion Agency (AAICI) may provide information regarding economic sectors and their related areas.

2.3 Registration with local tax authorities

Each province features its own local tax agency. Investors' registration in the different local jurisdictions will depend on whether they are residents of Argentina and on the investment modality they may have defined.

3

Application for incentives

In Argentina there are multiple tax incentives at federal level. For more information, please refer to the last section of this chapter. However, for information on provincial tax incentives, it is recommended to consult the Federal Investment and Trade Network (Red Federal) available through the **AAICI website**.

4

Personnel

4.1 Employer registration

On the ARCA website, employers must register as such for social security purposes, with all employers required to register through this page. The company must then also make an appointment at the local employer registry.

4.2 Labor risk insurance

Each employer must either get their own insurance or contract out a labor risk insurance company (ART, Aseguradora de Riesgos del Trabajo).

4.3 Mandatory life insurance

Every employer must take out mandatory life insurance for each employee.

4.4 Labor registration books

Labor registration books are implemented as a provincial procedure. For more information, please refer to Chapter 4 of this report.

4.5 Recruitment

In terms of recruitment, there is a wide range of possibilities. For example, universities throughout the country can sign internship contracts for a maximum one-year period. The government holds a public registry of universities that may also be useful for recruitment purposes. At the same time, manpower may be recruited through trade unions or private employment agencies.



Argentina features an annual 125,000 university graduates and 15,000 and postgraduates' average



131 universities throughout the 24 provinces



3,220 total number of technical and professional education institutions

Company types

The most common investment modalities used by non resident individuals and foreign companies are Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, and Branch Offices.

The features of each of these company types, as provided on Argentine legislation and on the IGJ regulations, are presented below.

Corporations (SA, Sociedades Anónimas)

The capital is divided into shares. Shares must be registered and not endorsable. According to the rights they grant, they may be classified as common or preferred.

Generally, share transfer is unrestricted, though restrictions may be provided for on the company's bylaws. They may feature one single shareholder (SAU, Sole Shareholder) or more than one shareholder.

Shareholders' liability is limited to the capital contributed. The minimum capital required is 30,000,000 ARS.

In the event that foreign business entities wish to acquire shares in an Argentina-based corporation, they must first submit the articles of incorporation or bylaws with the IGJ, together with other documents, for the IGJ to register them as an Argentine company shareholder.

Shareholders must hold at least one regular meeting a year for the sole purpose of approving the financial statements, reviewing the fiscal year results and the company's performance, and defining the board of directors' members and trustee(s) compensation, as well as appointing directors and trustees, if applicable.

The shareholders' meeting is entrusted with appointing the Board of Directors' members, which may be made up of one or more individuals (depending on the by-laws provisions). More than half of the directors must be Argentine residents. In those cases where the company capital exceeds 2,000,000,000,000 ARS, it is mandatory to appoint three principal directors.

Certain corporations, which are subject to regular government control, should feature their own internal supervisory body. Depending on the case, this supervision role may be exercised by a Trustee or by a Supervisory Committee appointed at the shareholders' meeting.

Sole-Shareholder Corporations (SAU, Sociedad Anónima Unipersonal)

The General Corporations Act of Argentina provides for the incorporation of Sole-Shareholder Corporations or SAU, which stands as a specific type of corporation featuring the following special requirements:

- SAUs may only feature corporation standing, as no other company type may be registered by one sole shareholder.
- The shareholder shall not be another sole shareholder corporation.
- The “Sociedad Anónima Unipersonal” text or its acronym, “SAU”, must be included in the company name.
- 100% of the capital stock must be paid in full at the time of incorporation.
- SAUs are subject to regular State supervision and must appoint at least one trustee and one deputy shareholder.

Limited Liability Companies (SRL, Sociedad de Responsabilidad Limitada)

Members’ liability is restricted to the nominal value of the interest they agree to subscribe. Interest transfers must be registered with the IGJ.

The number of interest holders shall be at least 2 and shall not exceed 50. In the event that foreign business entities wish to acquire interest in an Argentine Limited Liability Company, they must first be registered with the IGJ.

There is no minimum capital requirement. However, the IGJ requires that the capital subscribed by the members be adequate to the company corporate purpose.

LLCs are managed by one or more managers appointed for a fixed term or indefinitely.

The appointment of a trustee or supervisory committee is optional for those LLCs whose capital amount may not exceed 2,000,000,000,000 ARS.

Similar rules apply for LLCs and SAs in relation to partners’ and managers’ liability, with some exceptions. If more than one manager is appointed, liability will depend on the provisions contained in the bylaws.

Branch offices

These must be properly organized under the country of origin’s law and provide proof of existence of their

headquarters abroad. In addition, they must register the articles of incorporation or bylaws with the IGJ, along with other documents, and appoint and register a legal representative.

Branch offices are required to keep their books separate from their parent company ones and to file their financial statements with the IGJ. Capital allocation by the foreign company to the Argentine branch office is not required.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the IGJ or the corresponding provincial registry may require that the branch office net worth be kept positive in its ordinary course of business in the country, under penalty of dissolving it ex officio.

Other investment company types

General Partnerships

In accordance with the provisions contained in the General Corporation Act of Argentina, all partners are jointly and severally liable for the company obligations.

The company will be managed by any of its members, unless otherwise provided on by the bylaws. No minimum capital is required.

Joint ventures

The purpose of these is to develop or execute specific works or provide services or supplies, either inside or outside Argentina.

In addition, they may carry out activities or provide services that are complementary or accessory to the main business purpose. A foreign company may be part of a local joint venture as long as it is registered locally as a branch office. In case it participates by means of a subsidiary, it is assumed that it is not the foreign company serving as the joint venture member, but rather the local company organized by the foreign company. The joint venture contract and the appointment of its representative must be registered with the IGJ.

Cooperation groups

The purpose of these groups is to create a common organization among various parties in order to facilitate or take care of certain phases of its members' activities or to improve such activities' results. As is the case with joint ventures, this type of contractual business integration does not lead to the establishment of a legal entity separate and distinct from that of its members — however, it must still be registered with the IGJ. These groups are non-profit with their members being jointly and severally liable for the organization's obligations.

Cooperation consortiums

These activities are similar in nature and features to cooperation groups. However: (i) the profits resulting from the activity will be distributed among the members according to the contract provisions (if unspecified, in equal parts), and (ii) its members may agree not to be jointly and severally liable for the consortium legal representatives' obligations. The contract and the appointment of the legal representative must be registered with the IGJ.

Trusts

Under Argentine law, trusts stand as contractual agreements and allow venture partners to set aside certain assets or property items in order to use them for specific purposes. The duration of a trust cannot exceed 30 years from the contract execution date, except when beneficiaries are individuals with diminished capacity. All asset types may be included in a trust, except for future inheritances.

In accordance with the local legal framework, trustees are required to use a businessman's reasonable judgment and caution, while, in addition, the contract is required to be registered with the Argentine Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the general provisions, the act contains certain specific regulations applicable to some types of trusts, such as financial and testamentary trusts.

Legal Company types



Corporation
(SA, Sociedad Anónima)

**Foreign company
branch office**
(Branch office)

**Sole shareholder
corporation**
(SAU, Sociedad Anónima
Unipersonal)

Limited Liability Company
(SRL, Sociedad de Respon-
sabilidad Limitada)

Dispute resolution

In the event of conflicts between a company and a consumer

In Argentina, all dispute procedures are governed by the judicial system, but there are pre-judicial instances for each case.

The National Consumer Arbitration System (SNAC, Sistema Nacional de Arbitraje de Consumo) is a voluntary and free, alternative dispute resolution procedure. Companies must join the SNAC system to fall under the SNAC pre-judicial jurisdiction. Non-member companies are invited to accept arbitration. If mediation fails, the Consumer Arbitration Court will issue an award, which will be binding on the parties and not subject to appeal. Consumers may also file their claim through the administrative channels available at each jurisdiction's Consumer Protection office.

By virtue of the recently issued Executive Order 55/2025, the National Executive Branch dissolved the Prior Conciliation Service for Consumer Relations (COPREC), while it still maintained the rules applicable to consumer relations and the existing agencies and procedures in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and the provinces in full force and effect.

In the event of conflicts between companies and employees

Labor law governs all legal proceedings involving employers and employees. Prior to this stage, there is a Mandatory Labor Mediation Service (SECLO, Servicio de Conciliación Laboral Obligatoria) that provides for a non-judicial stage intended to reach conflict settlement.

In the event of conflicts between two companies

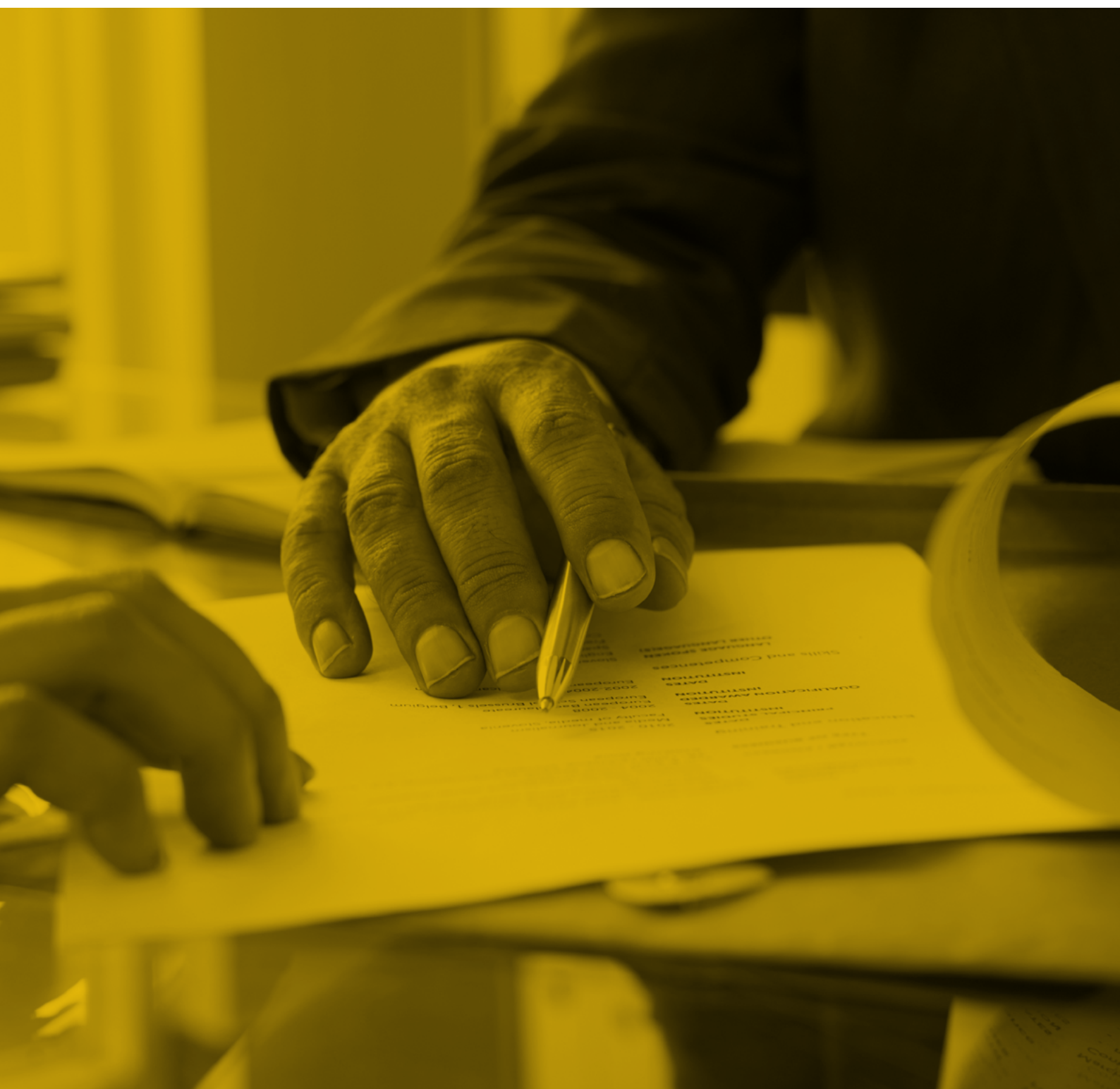
Commercial law governs legal disputes involving companies. However, there is a pre-judicial stage intended to reach conflict settlement.

In the event of conflicts between the State and a company

There are special courts to deal with cases of conflict between the state and private entities. These courts are legally allowed to set up pre-judicial mediation instances.

Disputes are resolved within the Argentine judicial system, although there are pre-judicial mechanisms available that allow for more expedited solutions.

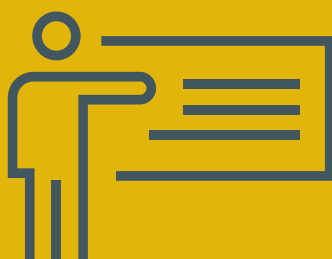
Regulatory Framework



Regulatory Framework



Financial activities



Insurance activities



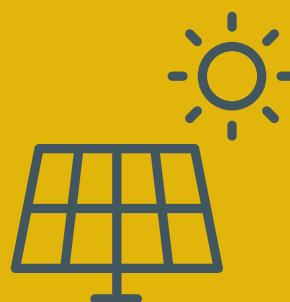
Capital market regulations



Oil and gas



Mining



Natural and energy resources



Financial activities

Pursuant to the Financial Institutions Act No. 21,526, which mainly governs the activities of commercial banks and other financial institutions expressly covered by that act, the Central Bank is responsible for: a) regulating and supervising all financial institutions, b) authorizing financial institutions' operations, mergers and transfers, and c) authorizing the establishment of foreign banks branch offices and representative offices.



Insurance activities

According to Act No. 12,988 (as amended), only insurance companies with the relevant authorization provided by the National Insurance Superintendency (SSN, Superintendencia de Seguros de la Nación) may insure persons, property and any other insurable interest within the national jurisdiction. In addition, Act No. 20,091 establishes that the following types of entities may carry out insurance business in Argentina:

- A. Corporations, cooperatives, mutual companies with registered offices in Argentina.
- B. Foreign insurance companies' branch offices or agencies, cooperatives and mutual organizations that have allocated local capital.
- C. Government-owned entities, whether national, provincial or municipal.



Oil and gas

On July 8, 2024, Act No. 27,742 (the “Bases and Starting Points for the Freedom of Argentines” act, hereinafter, the “Ley Bases”) was published in the Official Gazette, which, among other things, substantially amended: (i) Act No. 17,319 on hydrocarbons, in order to make certain hydrocarbons activity stages more flexible, thus allowing further oil and gas exploration, exploitation and export development, improving competitiveness and transparency; and (ii) Act No. 24,076 on natural gas to make gas imports and exports more flexible and to promote new activities, such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production and natural gas underground storage in gas fields. The purpose of these amendments is to provide greater legal certainty to the investments required for the hydrocarbons industry development. Oil and gas exploration, development and production require an exploration permit or a production license granted by the federal or provincial government, depending on the field location. Act No.

13,660, enacted in 1949, offers the basic legal framework for processing activities, which must also be compliant with provincial and municipal regulations regarding technical, safety and quality standards. In order to obtain an exploration permit or a production license, the applicant must engage in a competitive bidding process. Once awarded, an applicant may be appointed upon the grantor's approval. As of the effective date of Executive Order No. 1057/2024, on 29/Nov/2024, anyone interested in obtaining permits, concessions, authorizations and licenses as provided for in Section 4 of Act 17,319 (i.e.: exploration permits and exploitation concessions, transportation and storage authorizations, and hydrocarbon processing licenses) must establish domicile in Argentina and certify the following with the controlling authority: (i) effective compliance with the economic-financial solvency requirements; (ii) observance of the minimum net worth standards; and (iii) adequate technical capabilities. It is also established that the national government grants licenses and/or transportation authorizations in such cases where the hydrocarbons and/or their by-products transportation pipeline is intended for: (i) interjurisdictional trade between the City of Buenos Aires and/or one or more provinces or between two or more provinces; or for (ii) total or partial exporting or importing purposes.



Capital market regulations

On May 11, 2018, the Productive Financing Act (No. 27,440), which introduced substantial amendments to the Capital Markets Act (No. 26,831), was published in the Official Gazette. The foregoing amendments were enacted to suit the local capital market to global trends, upon specialized international organizations suggestions, such as those made by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), which regards the capital market development as a strategic and paramount activity for Argentina's growth. Some of its major goals are to foster capital market integrity and transparency, minimize systemic risk by promoting healthy and free competition, and easing the financial condition of companies.

Visa and citizenship regime for investors

On May 29, 2025, the government enacted Decree 366/2025, which establishes a comprehensive reform of the immigration regime, incorporating for the first time the possibility of accessing Argentine citizenship without the need to comply with a minimum term of residence.

This benefit will be available to those foreigners who make a significant investment in strategic sectors, as defined by the Ministry of Economy,

and comply with the established legal, immigration, tax and criminal requirements.

Within this framework, the Agency of Citizenship by Investment Programs is created, an agency under the Ministry of Economy, in charge of designing, managing and supervising the new regime.

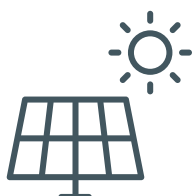


Mining

Mining activities in Argentina are governed by the Mining Code enacted in 1886 as Act No.1,919, as regularly amended.

Local and foreign individuals and legal entities may be granted a license to explore for and exploit minerals in a specific area. The licensee must pay for the license granted, pursuant to the tariffs applied, and must additionally pay an annual royalty established by the Argentine National Congress, to the federal or provincial government depending on the jurisdiction where the mine is located.

Mining activities involve special tax incentives that should be thoroughly analyzed during the decision-making process prior to defining the area where to invest



Natural and energy resources

The electricity sector was reformed and privatized by the national and provincial governments in 1992. At federal level, the legal framework arises from Act No. 24,065 and both regulatory executive order No.1,398/1992 and executive order 186/1995, among other regulatory agencies' executive orders and resolutions.

This legal framework created four vertical divisions within the electricity sector: generation, transmission, distribution and demand. Aiming at enhancing the general legal framework in the electricity sector, in December 2006 and October 2015 the Argentine Congress passed Acts No. 26,190 and 27,191, respectively, which establish the rules applicable to the generation, cogeneration and self-generation of electricity from renewable sources. The regulatory framework for "renewable energy sources" includes the following energy sources: solar energy, wind energy,

geothermal energy, tidal energy, hydro energy and biomass energy, among others. The regulatory framework grants certain tax benefits to individuals or entities who may undertake qualified projects.

In turn, the Act 27,742 (“Ley Bases”) empowered the national executive branch so that it may, up to December 31, 2025, adjust the regulatory framework applicable to electrical energy for the purpose of ensuring its free trade at international level and free marketing and competition at industry level.

Incentive Regime for Large Investments

Among the most significant items in Act 27,742 (“Ley Bases”) stands the “Incentive Regime for Large Investments” (the “RIGI”, for its acronym in Spanish), developed to promote investments in Argentina in the fields of forestry, tourism, infrastructure, mining, technology, steel, energy, and oil & gas.

Special Purpose Vehicles (“SPVs”) may join the RIGI provided their sole and exclusive purpose shall be to perform one or more phases of an investment project within the scope of industries encompassed by the RIGI, with the minimum investment amount being set at 200 million USD.

SPVs benefit primarily from a 30-year tax, customs, foreign exchange and regulatory stability regime.

In addition, as regards disputes settlement, the standard provides that any dispute between the national State and a SPV in relation to the RIGI shall be settled by international arbitration.

For detailed information on the benefits, requirements and sectors covered by the Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI), please refer to the specific section on page 63 of this document.

International investment agreements

| Short title | Partner | Status | Execution Date |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Argentina - Japan BIT (2018) | Japan | Signed | 01/Dec/2018 |
| Argentina - United Arab Emirates BIT (2018) | United Arab Emirates | Signed | 16/Apr/2018 |
| Argentina - Qatar BIT (2016) | Qatar | Signed | 06/Nov/2016 |
| Argentina - Dominican Republic BIT (2001) | Dominican Republic | Signed | 16/Mar/2001 |
| Argentina - Thailand BIT (2000) | Thailand | Effective | 18/Feb/2000 |
| Argentina - Greece BIT (1999) | Greece | Signed | 26/Oct/1999 |
| Argentina - Philippines BIT (1999) | Philippines | Effective | 20/Sep/1999 |
| Argentina - New Zealand BIT (1999) | New Zealand | Signed | 27/Aug/1999 |
| Argentina - India BIT | India | Complete | 20/Aug/1999 |
| Argentina - Nicaragua BIT (1998) | Nicaragua | Effective | 10/Aug/1998 |
| Argentina - South Africa BIT (1998) | South Africa | Complete | 23/July/1998 |
| Argentina - Russian Federation BIT (1998) | Russian Federation | | 25/June/1998 |
| Argentina - Guatemala BIT (1998) | Guatemala | Effective | 21/Apr/1998 |
| Argentina - Costa Rica BIT (1997) | Costa Rica | Effective | 21/May/1997 |
| Argentina - Mexico BIT (1996) | Mexico | Effective | 13/Nov/1996 |
| Argentina - Czech Republic BIT (1996) | Czech Republic | Effective | 27/Sep/1996 |
| Argentina - Morocco BIT (1996) | Morocco | Effective | 13/June/1996 |
| Argentina - Vietnam BIT (1996) | Vietnam | Effective | 03/June/1996 |

International investment agreements

| Short title | Partner | Status | Execution Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Argentina - Netherlands BIT (1992) | Netherlands | Effective | 20/Oct/1992 |
| Argentina - Austria BIT (1992) | Austria | Effective | 07/Aug/1992 |
| Argentina - Tunisia BIT (1992) | Tunisia | Effective | 17/June/1992 |
| Argentina - Egypt BIT (1992) | Egypt | Effective | 11/May/1992 |
| Argentina - Turkey BIT (1992) | Turkey | Effective | 08/May/1992 |
| Argentina - Sweden BIT (1991) | Sweden | Effective | 22/Nov/1991 |
| Argentina - USA BIT (1991) | USA | Effective | 14/Nov/1991 |
| Argentina - Canada BIT (1991) | Canada | Effective | 05/Nov/1991 |
| Argentina - Spain BIT (1991) | Spain | Effective | 03/Oct/1991 |
| Argentina - Chile BIT (1991) | Chile | Complete | 02/Aug/1991 |
| Argentina - Poland BIT (1991) | Poland | Effective | 31/July/1991 |
| Argentina - France BIT (1991) | France | Effective | 03/July/1991 |
| Argentina - Switzerland BIT (1991) | Switzerland | Effective | 12/April/1991 |
| Argentina - Germany BIT (1991) | Germany | Effective | 09/April/1991 |
| Argentina - United Kingdom BIT (1990) | United Kingdom | Effective | 11/Dec/1990 |
| Argentina - Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) BIT (1990) | Belgium-Luxembourg | Effective | 28/June/1990 |
| Argentina - Italy BIT (1990) | Italy | Effective | 22/May/1990 |

This list is taken from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic (<https://cancilleria.gob.ar/es/politica-exterior/mercados-y-negociaciones/acuerdos-de-protección>).

Tax System



Tax System



Federal Taxes

Value-added tax (VAT)
Income tax
Personal property tax
Internal taxes
Financial transactions Tax
Customs duties



Provincial and municipal taxes

Gross income
Real estate tax
Stamp tax
Vehicle tax
Tax on outdoor advertising
Others

In Argentina, federal, provincial and municipal governments are empowered to levy taxes. It is incumbent upon the federal government to collect income tax, value added tax, personal property tax, internal taxes, financial transaction tax and customs duties.

In turn, it is incumbent upon provincial and municipal jurisdictions to collect gross income tax, real estate tax, stamp tax, vehicle tax and outdoor advertising tax, among others

Procedures for tax returns filing and payment

The Argentine tax system is based on the self-assessment principle. Federal tax laws require taxpayers to report their monthly or annual earnings in order to define their taxable income, determine tax liability, deduct taxes withheld or prepaid, and pay balances due.

Corporate income tax must be reported within five months after fiscal year closing. In the case of natural persons, the fiscal year is based on the calendar year.

Individuals whose income consists solely of their wages as employees are not required to file an individual income tax return. Instead, employers must withhold income tax monthly, which is deemed complete. Notwithstanding the foregoing, they may be required to file informational affidavits depending on their income level.

Foreign taxpayers not based in Argentina are not required to file a tax return if their income tax liability is covered by the Argentine origin income tax withholding (foreign beneficiaries).

Tax calculation

The tax laws establish specific rules on how taxes are to be calculated. The calculation is usually based on taxpayers' information recorded in accounting books or other documentation.

Only when taxpayers fail to submit detailed information or to keep adequate accounting records, or the information in the records is incorrect or incomplete, may the tax authorities rely on legal assumptions to calculate their tax liability.

Income tax - Legal persons

Resident companies

Tax Rate

A progressive tax rate system is applied to resident companies and foreign companies' branch offices in Argentina, with rates ranging from 25% through 35% on

income brackets that may be adjusted annually. For 2024, the maximum 35% rate applies to profits exceeding 347,035,230 ARS.

No withholding tax is applied on dividends paid by an Argentine company to another company based in Argentina. A 7% withholding tax is levied on dividends paid by an Argentine company to resident and non-resident individuals and/or legal entities, or remittances made by a foreign entity's branch office to its parent company. The "equalization tax" (a 35% withholding tax on dividend distributions in excess of accumulated taxable profits, after certain adjustments) applies to dividend distributions made from profits earned in current fiscal years as of January 1, 2018, or prior years.

Territorial taxation

Resident corporations are taxed on a worldwide income basis, including foreign branch offices and subsidiaries' earnings. Foreign subsidiaries income is taxable to the extent that dividends have been paid — unless the subsidiary is included in a tax transparency regime, in which case, it shall be taxed on the share allocated to the subsidiary's profit, regardless of dividends payment. Foreign companies organized under Argentine law — whether commercial, industrial, agricultural, mining or any other kind, which may be established on a permanent basis — are deemed resident and taxed similarly. They must keep separate accounting records and books in order to be granted permanent residence in Argentina. Non-resident companies without a permanent residence in Argentina are subject to tax only on Argentine origin income and generally collected in the form of a final withholding, depending on the type of income involved.

Business income

Business income refers to income arising from the sale of goods, depreciable assets, shares, real estate or income from dividends other than from resident companies, interest, royalties, fees and foreign exchange gains. The only type of business income specifically defined by law as “gross profit” is the one resulting from the sale of inventories, which is equivalent to net sales minus the acquisition or production costs.

Capital gains

Corporate capital gains are not subject to a specific tax, but fall under the income tax scope, being therefore subject to the progressive tax scale.

Sole proprietorship companies' profits

Sole proprietorship companies' profits are not subject to a specific tax, but fall under the income tax scope, being therefore subject to the progressive tax scale.

Net operating loss

Net operating losses may not be carried to prior fiscal years, but they may be carried over to the upcoming ones for a maximum five-year term.

Non-resident companies

Foreign companies are taxed on Argentine origin income only and are subject to different rates, depending on the nature and source of income.

Import-related revenues

Revenue earned by a foreign company from its imports into Argentina is not taxable, provided that ownership over such goods may be based abroad, and the local buyer clear them through the Argentine customs.

Earnings from investment portfolios

Earnings derived from the sale of local companies' shares are taxed at a rate of 13.5% of the gross amount, or 15% of the net amount (at the taxpayer's discretion). However, foreign beneficiaries are exempt from the following (provided they are non-residents and the funds do not come from non-cooperating jurisdictions):

- Profits arising from the sale of shares listed on the stock exchange or stock market under the supervision of the National Securities Commission (CNV, Comisión Nacional de Valores).

Resident corporations are taxed on a worldwide income basis, including foreign branch offices and subsidiaries' earnings.

- Interest or capital gains from the sale of government securities, corporate bonds and deposit certificates involving shares issued abroad by companies based in Argentina (for instance, ADRs).

As regards indirect shares transfer, non-resident companies are deemed to make Argentine origin income from the sale of shares or other rights equivalent to the capital or to the net worth of an entity domiciled abroad, provided that the following conditions are met:

- The shares market value at the time of the sale or within the twelve (12) months prior to the sale accounts for at least 30% of the value of the assets held by the appointed seller- either directly or indirectly through other intermediary entities in Argentina.

- Stock, shares, interest, securities or rights disposed of at the time of the sale or within the twelve (12) months prior to the sale, account for at least 10% of the net worth of the foreign company which, either directly or indirectly, owns the assets referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

| Revenue | Transfer | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Co-operators | | | | Non-Co-Operators | |
| | 5% | | 15% | | 35% | |
| | Assumption | Effective rate | Assumption | Effective rate | Assumption | Effective rate |
| Government bonds, except LEBACs, and bonds and debt securities on a public offering scheme. Debt securities and Mutual Funds shares [except those included in subsection c) of section 98 of the Act - first paragraph], on a public offering scheme. LEBACs, debt securities, Mutual Funds profit shares [except those included in subsection c) of section 98 of the Act - first paragraph], and bonds and negotiable debt not included in a public offering scheme. Shares and other securities equivalent to shares and deposit certificates involving shares referred to in subsection u) of section 26 of the act. Shares and other securities equivalent to shares and deposit certificates involving shares not referred to in subsection u) of section 26 of the act. Certificates of shares in financial trusts. Closed Mutual Funds condominium shares described in item c) of section 98 of the act – first paragraph. Unlisted shares and equity interests (including operations under Section 15 of the act). | Exempt | | | | 90% | 31,50% |
| | Exempt | | | | | |
| | 90% | 4,50% | 90% | 13,50% | | |
| | Exempt | | | | | |
| | | | 90% | 13,50% | | |
| | Exempt | | | | | |
| | | | 90% | 13,50% | | |

Federal taxes



Value added tax (VAT)

Value added tax (VAT) is a general tax on consumption within the Argentine territory. It is levied on goods sales, loans granted, or services rendered by natural or legal persons engaged in a business activity, except for those specifically exempted. It is also levied on goods and services (rendered from abroad and economically used in Argentina) importing, provided that the recipients are VAT taxpayers in Argentina.

VAT is filed and paid monthly based upon an online tax filing system available from the tax authority. In the case of goods and services importing (foreign loans included), the tax is paid by the recipient in Argentina, which may later be used as a tax credit for tax payment purposes. The tax rate is 21%, while a higher 27% one is applicable to electricity, natural gas and water supply for business activities. In turn, a lower 10.5% rate is applied to certain activities.

Exporting goods and services is subject to VAT taxation, though at zero rate (0%), meaning it is not taxed with VAT at the time of export, but allows recovering VAT paid on inputs upon the taxpayer's request for a VAT refund.

Personal Property Tax

It is a tax on natural persons' net assets. However, this tax is paid by a substitute taxpayer when a local entity or trust shareholder is a foreign entity.

Argentine companies currently pay this tax as substitutes for their shareholders, in amount equal to 0.5% per year of the local entity's net worth. Local companies required to pay this tax are entitled to request reimbursement thereof from foreign shareholders.

Tax on financial transactions

The general rate is 0.6% for credits and debits, except for transactions related to collection management and for merchants' collection and payment vouchers within the credit card system, in which case it shall be 1.2%.

Bank accounts' holders taxed at the general 0.6% rate may take 33% of the taxes paid on credits and debits as a tax credit. Such an amount shall be deemed as credit for income tax filing purposes.

Aiming at fostering money registration and incorporation into the banking system, cash withdrawals are taxed at a 1.2% rate, except for small or micro enterprises.

Internal taxes

Internal taxes stand as a federal level levy on specific products sales, transfers or imports, generally based on the amount invoiced.

This category's main taxable items are tobacco and its by-products, as well as alcoholic beverages, beverage or soft drink concentrates, diesel engines and cars, mobile phone services, electronic products and insurance premiums, though it is not applicable to exported goods. In turn, this category tax rate varies according to the product.

Important considerations

Limitations on interests' deduction: Interests on financial debts — excluding, therefore, debts resulting from goods purchased, leasing or services rendered in connection with the line of business — held with persons, whether residents of Argentina or related parties (Argentine or foreign residents) shall be deducted from the balance sheet for taxation purposes during the year of their accrual. In the event of foreign beneficiaries, the interest is to be paid within the prescribed terms for the purpose of filing such a fiscal year tax return. The same principle applies to the capital exchange difference (deemed by law as “interest”). According to law, such deduction cannot exceed the annual amount established by the Argentine Executive Branch (1,000,000 ARS according to Executive order 862/19), or an amount equal to 30% of the net income before deducting the aforementioned interest and tax depreciation (whichever is greater).

Exceptions apply to specific activities, such as highly leveraged economic groups, or when interest is subject to a single and final tax withholding payment (the amount of interest and the exchange differences arising from that interest until the payment date is included). This limitation, in turn, does not apply either to exchange differences on loans' principal in fiscal years in which tax inflation adjustment proves applicable.

Transfer pricing rules

Argentine transfer pricing rules require that the prices of transactions entered into with related foreign companies be consistent with the prices of transactions between similar third parties at market price.

Royalties

Royalties are deductible from income tax and subject to withholding. The withholding rate will depend on the nature of the service provided as well as on compliance with local technology transfer legislation. The applicable rates are 21%, 28% and 31.5%. Trademark royalties' deduction is limited to 80% of the gross payment made to non-resident entities.

Interests

Interest is a deductible expense and is subject to income tax withholding at a rate of 15.05%, or 35% when paid to foreign beneficiaries.

Specific losses

Tax losses from the sale of shares or other securities, losses from activities resulting in foreign source income and losses incurred in derivative transactions (excluding hedging transactions) can only be offset against income from similar transactions.

Inflation adjustment

Argentine tax legislation provides for inflation adjustment. Comprehensive inflation adjustment proceeds to the extent that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) cumulative variation over the 36 months' period prior to the end of the tax period exceeds 100%.

Foreign tax credit

Resident companies may take the income tax paid abroad as a credit against tax liability — up to the amount of the tax liability increase resulting from including the foreign origin income in the taxable income. The foreign tax credit may not be carried to prior fiscal years but may be carried over to the upcoming ones for a maximum five-year period.

Export duties

The Solidarity Act established a cap on export duties equal to 33% of the FOB value; in the case of industrial products or services, the maximum rate stands at 28%. Nevertheless, most exports are not subject to duties. In the case of agro-industrial products from regional economies, the applicable rate may not exceed 5%, while the maximum export duty rate for mining and hydrocarbon activities stands at 8% of the FOB value.

Customs Regulations

In order to conduct importing or exporting operations in Argentina, natural or legal persons must be registered with the tax authorities and request a prior import authorization called SEDI. Imports into Argentina are subject to import duties (ranging between 0-35%), a statistical tax (3%) and VAT (21%). In addition, withholdings for VAT, Income Tax and Gross Income Tax are also applicable. Both the VAT levied on imports and the additional withholdings stand as a tax credit for importers. Argentina has entered into various free trade agreements within the framework of ALADI (the Latin American Integration Association), which imply import duty reductions or exemptions for goods manufactured in those countries. Exports are subject to duties, which are capped at 33%, but usually stand below 10%.

Foreign Exchange Regulations

Argentina is undergoing a gradual process of making the exchange rate regime more flexible, reducing historical restrictions and moving towards a more open, predictable and investment-friendly scheme. Natural persons have no restrictions on the foreign exchange market, while the following foreign exchange controls are applicable to companies:

- Revenues from goods and services exports must be converted into ARS in the foreign exchange market within the term established by the Central Bank (BCRA).
- Funds may be transferred abroad to settle liabilities from December 2023 pursuant to BCRA regulations, which also require relevant information on foreign assets and liabilities. Currently, these payments can be made without a waiting period for the importation of the goods or acquisition of the services abroad. Additional requirements may apply based on the nature of the liability to be settled.
- Borrowings must be deposited in a local bank account and converted into ARS when the borrower wishes to make principal and interest repayments in ARS.
- Access to the foreign exchange market is restricted to companies that have sold securities settled in foreign currency or transferred those securities to depository entities abroad, or who have acquired foreign currency or related assets during the 90-day term prior to the transaction date by means other than the official foreign exchange market. Furthermore, they must not have traded securities over the preceding 90-day term.
- Prior authorization from the BCRA will be required to access the foreign exchange market, provided Argentine companies hold liquid assets abroad surpassing 100,000 USD, or provided they wish to:
 - Purchase foreign currency in the foreign exchange market to hold funds in local US dollar denominated bank accounts and/or to transfer funds to a foreign bank account on behalf of the company.
 - Pay dividends corresponding to before 2025 to foreign shareholders.
 - Make advance payments on general goods to be imported.

- Settle external liabilities in foreign currency before their maturity date. However, in practice, approval is rarely obtained, as the legislation does not specify any criteria or timeframe for the BCRA application and approval process.

In April 2025, the possibility of repatriating foreign investments that have entered the foreign exchange market and have been liquidated into Argentine pesos as from that date was enabled.

Penalties for non-compliance with foreign exchange regulations are specified in the Foreign Exchange Criminal Regime and range from fines up to 10 times the value of the regulation-infringing transaction, to company representatives and directors' imprisonment in the most serious cases, or in the event of recidivism.

Local and provincial taxes



Gross income

Local governments are entitled to levy tax on the gross income (profits) of businesses engaged in commercial, industrial, agricultural, financial or professional activities. The rates vary according to the activity and jurisdiction involved (there are 24 jurisdictions) ranging from 1% to 5%. Some jurisdictions may impose higher rates on certain services (e.g. financial activity) whereas industrial activities are generally exempt or subject to lower rates. The rates are applied to the total amount of gross income accrued during the calendar year, although the tax is collected on a monthly basis. In turn, goods exports are tax exempt. Please contact the relevant jurisdiction agency or authority to check the relevant tax rate.

Stamp tax

Stamp tax is levied on the formal execution of public and private instruments. It is payable in the jurisdiction where the transaction is registered, but it may also be applicable to the jurisdiction where it becomes effective. Documents subject to this tax include all types of contracts, title deeds, debtor-certified invoices, promissory notes and corporate bonds. In general, the taxable base is the contract financial value, with the applicable rate usually being 1%, although it may vary depending on the document title or the legislation applicable in the tax jurisdiction. In the case of real estate sales, among others, the rate may amount to 2.5%.

Real estate tax

Local governments appraise local real estate and levy a progressive tax on real estate according to such appraisal value. The rates range from 0.2% to 2%. Municipal governments apply a 0.55% rate on such appraisal value for street lighting and cleaning services and a 0.02% for sidewalk and street maintenance.

Tax incentives

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Mining promotion | 6 | Biofuel industry |
| 2 | Tax credit regime for training institutions | 7 | Modern biotechnology |
| 3 | Tax credit for research and development projects | 8 | MSME Program |
| 4 | Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI) | | |
| 5 | Knowledge-based services regime | | |

1

Mining promotion

The mining promotion regime established in the 1990s marked a turning point for the development of the sector in Argentina. Its implementation significantly improved the business environment, providing predictability and favorable fiscal conditions that facilitated the arrival of the first large international investments in the country. Within this framework, guidelines and benefits were established that are still in force and that, at present, have been strengthened by the Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI, Régimen de Incentivo para Grandes Inversiones) for projects that meet the established requirements.

Eligible entities must perform mining operations in Argentina or set up a facility to that effect. For a project to be regarded as eligible it must be in the territory of the provinces included in the incentive program. Incentives are granted for minerals' excavation, exploration, development, preparation, extraction and processing in specific areas.

Eligible entities are entitled to the following taxation benefits:

- Tax stability: The total tax burden (including federal, provincial and municipal taxes, and excluding VAT and social security contributions) cannot be increased for a thirty-year period as of the date of the feasibility study submission. Specific tax relief and depreciation rules apply.
- Royalties: Royalties imposed by provinces are limited to 5% of the value of the mineral volume extracted and transported prior to processing.

2

Tax credit regime for training institutions

There is a tax credit that is granted in accordance with certain donations or specific expenses incurred by companies or entrepreneurs whose purpose is to support training institutions.

In the case of large companies, the credit cannot exceed 0.8% of the annual payroll (30% for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises). The tax credit can be used to pay federal taxes (such as VAT or income tax).

3

Tax credit for research and development projects

Argentine companies may be granted a tax credit certificate of up to 10% or 5 million ARS (whichever is lower) for specific expenses in research, development and technological innovation. Such certificates may be used for federal taxes payment. It is incumbent upon the Executive Branch to define the number of credits to be granted under this regime.

4

Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI)

The Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI, Régimen de Incentivo para Grandes Inversiones) is applicable to large investments in the forestry, tourism, infrastructure, mining, technology, steel, energy, and oil & gas industry projects.

The deadline to join this regime is July 8, 2026, which may be extended by the Executive Branch for 1 (one) additional year.

Who is eligible to join this Regime?

RIGI beneficiaries include the following:

- Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV, Vehículos de Proyecto Único): a name to refer to entities granted responsibility over one or more phases of a project qualifying as Large Investment.

These SPVs must be intended solely and exclusively to carry out one or more phases involved in one single investment project admitted to the RIGI. Therefore, they shall not be allowed to develop activities or hold assets unrelated to that project, except for temporary working capital investments for the purpose of adequately managing company funds.

SPVs shall be deemed to include the following entities: corporations, including sole shareholder ones and limited liability companies; foreign companies' branch offices registered under the Argentine General Corporations' Act; Dedicated Branch Offices and joint ventures; as well as other partnership agreements.

To start the procedure to join the RIGI, companies must enter the official platform of Trámites a Distancia (TAD) using their CUIT and Clave Fiscal (<https://tramitesadistancia.gob.ar/>). They can then search for the corresponding procedure and complete the application according to the established requirements.

It is worth mentioning that the RIGI introduces the above-mentioned Dedicated Branch Office concept, which refers to those set up for the sole purpose of joining the RIGI by corporations, limited liability companies, or foreign companies' branch offices engaged in one or more activities not related to the investment project or holding one or more assets not allocated to it. In addition to complying with the RIGI requirements, these companies must be registered with the relevant public registry and tax authorities, and keep separate accounting records, among other requirements.

- Holders of licenses related to infrastructure works' execution and/or exploitation, and/or to the services' rendering, operation and/or administration, which may be in competition with other licensees, operators or service providers at local or regional level.
- Suppliers of goods or services involving imported items.

The benefits shall apply solely to the items imported for the supply of goods or services to a member SPV but shall not apply to items intended for other purposes.

How are “Large Investments” defined?

In order to apply for admission to the RIGI, “Large Investment” projects must comply with the following requirements:

- The investment project must be of a long-term nature. This is the case when the investment ratio does not exceed 30% between, on the one hand, the expected net cash flow value (excluding investments) during the first three years as of the initial capital contribution and, on the other hand, the capital investments net value, as planned for the same period. This ratio may be subject to variation by the relevant authority.
- A minimum investment in eligible assets must be involved and completed within the terms suggested by the member and approved by the relevant authority.

This minimum investment amount varies according to the industrial sector or sub-sector, according to what is shown on the table below:

| Sector | Subsector | Minimum Investment Amount |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Forestry Industry | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Tourism | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Infrastructure | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Mining | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Technology | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Iron and Steel Industry | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Energy | | USD 200,000,000 |
| Oil and Gas | Off-shore exploitation and production | USD 600,000,000 |
| | Exploitation and production of gas intended for export | USD 600,000,000 |
| | Processing, fractionation, compression and liquefaction | USD 300,000,000 |
| | Refining | USD 200,000,000 |
| | Petrochemistry and Fertilizers | USD 200,000,000 |

- At least 40% of the minimum investment must be made within a 2-years term from the membership application approval date.

Long-term Strategic Export Projects

Projects that may result in Argentina's positioning as a new long-term supplier in global markets where its current share is not significant, and which may involve stagewise capital contributions for a minimum eligible assets investment amount of 1 billion USD per stage, may qualify as Long-Term Strategic Exports, and therefore enjoy special tax, customs and foreign exchange benefits.

What investments and/or assets are eligible under the RIGI?

Investments in eligible assets shall include all those made as of the Regime effective date (08/Jul/2024) and intended for the acquisition, production, construction and/or establishment of assets allocated to RIGI-related activities, and for the development of projects managed by a member SPV, excluding financial and/or portfolio assets and inventories.

It is worth noting that specific limitations apply to certain assets according to the applicable regulations, which means this topic should be subject to careful review.

What tax, customs and foreign exchange benefits and/or incentives apply?

Tax Benefits

- A 25% reduced income tax rate.
- Accelerated investment repayment.
- Tax loss may be used indefinitely and may be transferred after 5 years if not absorbed, with its value being inflation adjustable.
- Reduced 3.5% withholding tax rate on dividends after 7 years from the date of RIGI effective membership.
- Unlimited interest deduction values and exchange rate differences related to project financing for 5 years.
- VAT payment to suppliers or to the Tax Authority (ARCA) by means of Tax Credit Certificates.
- Accrual of one hundred percent (100%) of bank accounts' debits and credits amounts paid and/or collected as tax.
- In the case of Long-Term Strategic Export Projects, payments made to beneficiaries abroad for:
 - Maritime rentals or charters, international transportation for exporting purposes and services included in engineering, procurement and construction management contracts will be income tax-free.
 - In the other cases, they will be subject to income tax on a net alleged profit equal to 30% of the amounts paid — that is, an effective 10.50% rate — unless a provision involving a more favorable treatment is available.
 - If the relevant payments are subject to income tax, grossing up does not apply.
- Transactions between SPVs and local related parties will be subject to Transfer Pricing rules, except for formal obligations.

Customs benefits:

- Exemption from import duties, statistical rates, control at destination and any other national or local tax collection or withholding regime on imports of new capital goods, spare parts, parts, components and consumer goods, and temporary imports.
- Consumer goods exports exempted from export duties following 3 years from the date of effective RIGI membership.
- For Long Term Strategic Export Projects, the exemption becomes effective following two years since the effective membership date.
- RIGI member SPVs may freely import and export goods intended for the relevant Project construction, operation and development, with no direct prohibitions or bans, or quantitative restrictions or quotas of any kind, or qualitative or economic restrictions being applicable. In addition, no official prices nor domestic market supply priorities shall apply to them.

Foreign exchange rate benefits:

- Free availability of foreign currency for export purposes: 20% in the second year, 40% in the third year and 100% as of the fourth year.
- Access to the foreign exchange market for profits, dividends or interest payment to non-residents.

RIGI guarantees investors 30 years of regulatory stability in tax, customs, foreign exchange, and general regulatory matters.

5

Knowledge-based services regime

It is aimed at the promotion of knowledge-based and information digitalization economic activities with the support of science and technology advances, which may create added value, promote quality employment, encourage SMEs development and increase the level of exports from companies engaged in the software industry, nanotechnology, biotechnology, audiovisual, aerospace and satellite industries, nuclear industry engineering and robotics, among other activities.

The Law for the Promotion of the Knowledge Economy (Law No. 27,506), enacted in 2019, establishes a sectorial regime of incentives aimed at promoting economic activities that apply the use of knowledge and the digitalization of information, generate added value, foster quality employment, facilitate the development of SMEs and increase exports of companies engaged in the software industry, nanotechnology, biotechnology, audiovisual, aerospace and satellite industries, engineering for the nuclear industry and robotics, among others.

Benefits include:

- Fiscal stability applicable to national taxes until December 31, 2029.
- Reduced income tax rate according to the company size (60% for micro and small companies, 40% for medium-sized enterprises and 20% for large ones).
- Tax credit certificate covering for 70% of social security contributions of personnel employed in the promoted activity.
- Additional benefits on employer contributions may apply provided that they employ women, post-graduate professionals with a major in related areas, people with disabilities, underdeveloped areas' residents, transvestites and transsexuals.

- A Knowledge Economy Promotion Fund has been created for MSMEs exclusively, aiming at funding labor training and education, productive investment projects, companies' internationalization and innovation activities.

To access the benefits provided for in Argentina's Knowledge Economy Act (No. 27,506), a series of requirements must be met:

- 70% of the total turnover must be certified to derive from the Knowledge Economy or these activities must be documented to be embedded into their production processes.
- Two of the following conditions must be complied with:
 - The quality of products, services or processes must be certified in accordance with a related well-known standard or through an ongoing improvement plan accreditation.
 - Investment made in the Knowledge Economy training or research and development.
 - Exporting of Knowledge Economy related goods or services.

6

Biofuel industry

The law defines biofuel as bioethanol and biodiesel produced from agricultural, agro-industrial and organic

waste, in compliance with the standards established by the competent authority. Biodiesel and bioethanol will not be subject to the Liquid Fuels Tax and the Carbon Dioxide Tax provided for in Act No. 23,966, Title III, Chapters I and II, respectively, with this benefit additionally applying to all the production, distribution and commercialization stages. In the case of biofuels being blended with fossil fuels, the tax will be only levied on the fossil fuel component in the blend.

The tax treatment provided for in this article shall be effective until the Regime termination date and shall be applicable as long as the main raw materials used in the relevant production processes are of national origin.

7

Modern biotechnology

The program grants tax benefits to anyone presenting research, development or production projects based on the use of modern biotechnology. The benefits of this program, which shall be in effect for fifteen years, are the following:

- Accelerated depreciation effective on income tax payable on fixed assets, equipment and parts.
- An early VAT refund on such assets' purchase.
- A tax credit certificate amounting to 50% of the expenses intended for the hiring of technical assistance and of research and/or development services from the National Science, Technology and Innovation System's relevant entities.

8

MSME Program

Act No. 27,264 establishes manifold tax benefits for micro-enterprises and SMEs, among which the following stand out:

- Micro and small companies may take 100% of the debits and credits tax effectively paid as advanced income tax. Medium-sized companies of category 1 related to industrial activities may offset 60% of such payments.
- Micro and small businesses may pay their VAT outstanding balance on the due date of the second month following the original due date.
- MSMEs making investments in production or carrying out industrial activities are granted additional tax benefits.
- Act No. 27,440 endows electronic credit invoices issued by MSMEs with financial instrument standing.

Double taxation agreements



Argentina has signed double taxation agreements with the following countries: Australia, the United Kingdom, Chile, China, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Sweden, Canada, Bolivia, Brazil, Finland, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Russia, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Turkey.

Treaties not yet in force include the following:

1. Those with Austria, Japan and Luxembourg.
2. A new agreement with France has been signed and must be approved by the Argentine Congress.

On the other hand, there are other treaties in force related to international transportation income tax exemption. The countries to which such tax exemption applies are China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, the United States, Greece, Iran, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay, Venezuela and Luxembourg.

Labor legislation



Labor Law and Social Security

Labor relations in Argentina are governed by the National Constitution, the Labor Contracts Act (LCT, Ley de Contrato de Trabajo), enacted in 1974, as amended since its original enactment; special laws; collective bargaining agreements (CCT, Convenios Colectivos de Trabajo), and those clauses employers and employees may agree upon in individual employment contracts. Individual contracts entered into between an employer and an employee may enshrine more beneficial rights than those provided for in the LCT or the CCT, but in no case shall contract amounts or conditions stand below those provided by law or by the CCT.

Employment Relationship Rights and Obligations

The parties (employers and employees) are bound to comply with the basic obligations established by the Labor Contracts Act. The employees' main obligation is to provide their workforce to the employer, while the latter's main obligation is to pay the relevant compensation.

The LCT is not applicable to employment relationships involving: (i) private household employees; (ii) Civil servants; (iii) agricultural workers; and (iv) work, services or agency contractors or to those relationships provided for in the Argentine Civil and Commercial Code.

Wages

Wages may be paid on a monthly, daily or hourly basis depending on the type of work performed by the employee. In the case of employees under the scope of a CCT, the wages they earn may not be lower than those provided for in the applicable CCT.

Minimum Wage

Workers under a full-time contract of employment may not earn wages below the Minimum Living and Mobile Wage (SMVM, Salario Mínimo Vital y Móvil). The SMVM as of April 2025 for full-time employees is 302,600 ARS.

Working hours in Argentina stand at 8 a day or 48 a week, though it may be shorter in the case of work performed in hazardous or unhealthy settings.

Employees may be able to work longer than the maximum legal working hours, in which case employers shall pay an overtime surcharge equivalent to 50% over regular wages paid on normal business days and equivalent to 100% on Saturday afternoons (after 1:00 p.m.), Sundays and official holidays. Directors and managers are not entitled to overtime pay.

13th Month Pay

In addition to the 12 monthly salaries, all employees are entitled to receive a 13th salary equivalent to one month's salary known as Supplementary Annual Salary (SAC, Sueldo Anual Complementario).

The SAC is paid for in two installments, the first one on June 30 and the second one on December 18 every year. The amount is calculated based on the best remuneration paid each semester of the year.

Accident-related and Non-Occupational Disease Leaves

The law protects workers in the case of disease or of accidents occurring outside the workplace and preventing them from performing their labor tasks. In the case of accidents or disease preventing workers from performing their tasks, they shall be entitled to paid leave each time, whose duration shall depend on the employees' seniority and on whether they have family dependents.

Employees on leave shall be paid by employers a remuneration equal to the one received at the time of interruption of their labor activities, along with the applicable wage increases granted during the term of leave.

| Seniority | Without Family Dependents | With Family Dependents |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Less than 5 years of service | 3 months | 6 months |
| More than 5 years of service | 6 months | 12 months |

Special Leaves

Employees shall be granted special paid leaves in the event of marriage (10 days), childbirth (3 days), spouse, parents, siblings or children death (1 to 3 days) as well as in case they may need to sit for high school or university examinations (2 days for each exam, with a maximum of 10 days a year).

Maternity leave

The law prohibits pregnant women from working 45 days before and 45 days after childbirth. However, they are allowed to reduce their pre-birth leave into 10 days and accumulate the remaining leave time for the post-birth period.

Hiring requirements

In order to hire personnel in Argentina, employers must obtain the National Tax Identification Code (CUIT, Clave Única de Identificación Tributaria); be registered as employers under the General Regime; be registered for taxation purposes such as in Value Added Tax (VAT) and Income Tax schemes, if applicable; be registered in the Single Social Security System (SUSS, Sistema Único de la Seguridad Social); and obtain the Early Registration Code (CAT, Código de Alta Temprana) for each worker hired. Hiring a Labor Risks Insurance Company (ART, Aseguradora de Riesgos de Trabajo) is mandatory in order to provide coverage over employees' occupational risks.

If affordable, employers may take out self-insurance, though this is not a very common practice in Argentina. Employers must also contract out a mandatory life insurance policy.

Employment Contract Execution:

Even though the general rule establishes it is not mandatory to execute an employment contract in writing, this is common practice when hiring hierarchical personnel. It is compulsory to execute an employment contract in writing when using any of the special hiring modalities provided for by the LCT, such as fixed-term employment

contracts, seasonal labor contracts, temporary contracts or remote working agreements.

Trial period: under the current law, the initial 6 months of the employment relationship are regarded as a trial period. This implies that employers may decide to terminate the employment relationship within the trial period without this decision resulting in any compensation payment. When both parties wish to terminate the employment relationship within the trial period, they shall have to give 15 days' notice to the other party.

The trial period may be extended up to 8 or 12 months through collective bargaining and depending on the number of company employees.

Fixed-term contract: The fixed-term employment contract is a special modality established by law, which may be extended up to a 5-year time period. Shorter terms may be agreed upon in writing though not for time periods longer than 5 years.

Temporary employment agreement:

The temporary employment agreement is a type of contract developed to meet the company's specific and temporary needs provided there is not an accurate date when such manpower need will end.

Part-time contract: It is allowed to enter into part-time employment contracts, whereby employees shall render services for a certain number of hours a day or a week, equal to less than two thirds (2/3) of the regular working hours for the activity performed.

In this case, the remuneration payable may not be lower than the one proportional to a same category or position full-time worker, as established by law or in the collective bargaining agreement. If the agreed working hours exceed this proportion, employers shall pay the compensation corresponding to a full-time worker.

Telework contract: For remotely performed jobs, the current effective law provides for the telework contract category, which must be entered into when all or part of the tasks are performed from the employee's home

or in places other than the employer's facility through technological tools. This contract must be executed in writing and shall be applicable to both 100% remote work cases and to hybrid ones combining remote and in-person modalities.

Vacations

Employees are entitled to an annual paid vacation period, which must be granted by the employer each year between October 1 of every year and April 30 of the next one, and whose duration shall depend on the employee's seniority, according to the following schedule:

- 14 days in the case of seniority under 5 years.
- 21 days in the case of seniority between 5 and 10 years.
- 28 days in the case of seniority between 10 and 20 years.
- 35 days when seniority exceeds 20 years.

Vacation periods longer than the ones above may be agreed upon in the Collective Bargaining Agreements or through individual contracts, but under no circumstances shall they be shorter. Employees shall receive their remuneration for the vacation period, which shall be paid along with a vacation bonus. The vacation bonus is calculated by dividing the monthly salary by 25 and multiplying the result by the corresponding vacation days number.

Termination of employment

Resignation

Employees may resign from employment, to which effect they are required to notify the employer accordingly. A resignation is valid when notified by postal mail or when submitted with the administrative labor authority. In this case, no compensation is payable by the employer.

Dismissal for cause

This type of dismissal takes place when the employer decides to terminate the employment relationship due to serious misconduct on the side of the employee rendering the employment relationship no longer feasible. Unlike other legislation frameworks, Argentina has not listed the authorized grounds for dismissal.

In these cases, employers are not obliged to pay severance compensation, but must justify and ultimately certify the existence, reasonableness, proportionality and timing of the action leading to dismissal, in particular if the employee challenges it at the labor court.

Since 2024, employees' active involvement in facility blockades or takeovers has become a ground for dismissal. Strictly speaking, the law does not prevent or restrict the exercise of the right to strike, but rather, it penalizes an employee whose infringement proves detrimental to third parties' rights or damages employer's property.

Termination without cause

Employers may terminate an employee's employment with no need to invoke a fair cause. In such cases, employers are bound to make a severance seniority-based pay to the employee (calculated based on one month's salary for each year of service or period exceeding three months). In addition, employers must give one month's notice of their decision if the employee's seniority is equal to or less than 5 years, or two months' notice if the employee's

seniority exceeds 5 years. In case of failure to notify their decision, employers shall pay the employee compensation for the missing notice, which shall be equal to 1 month or 2 months' salaries, according to the previously mentioned seniority scheme. In addition, other compensations may be applicable depending on the specific case (vacations not taken, proportional 13th month pay, etc.), which must be paid.

| Seniority | Employer's notice |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 0-6 months | 15 days |
| 6 months-5 years | 1 month |
| > 5 years | 2 months |

Special cases

Unfair Dismissal: In such cases, employers must pay additional compensation ranging from 50% to 100% of the seniority-based severance pay, which must be added to such severance pay. Unfair grounds for dismissal may be based on race or ethnic origin, religion, nationality, ideology, political or trade union opinion, sex or gender, economic position, physical appearance or disability, or any other type of discriminatory notion.

Special protection against dismissal

There are certain employee categories that benefit from a special legal protection against termination without cause and who, in the event of dismissal, are entitled to additional severance pay based on their specific condition.

The cases are the following:

Pregnant women dismissed within 7 and a half months before or after childbirth.

Workers dismissed within 3 months prior to their date of marriage and within 6 months thereafter.

Workers dismissed while on leave due to their trade union activities or within 1 year following the end of their term of office.

Severance pay items

Prior notice

The prior notice term is provided by law depending on the employee's seniority.

If the employer terminates the employment contract without cause and fails to comply with the prior notice requirement, the employee shall be entitled to compensation in lieu thereof, which shall be equivalent to the amount he/she would have been entitled to receive during the missing notification period.

Seniority-based compensation

In the event of termination without cause, employers must pay compensation equal to one month's salary for every working or service year, or period exceeding three months. There are caps established by the collective bargaining agreement's applicable average remuneration, but having been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, a new criterion was adopted, which states that in no case may the compensation reduction used as basis for the calculation of the severance pay be reduced by more than 33%.

Severance Fund

As of 2024, employers may choose to join a Severance Fund system, which must be agreed upon through collective bargaining with the trade union representing the relevant industry workers. The implementation of this fund may replace the severance pay system set forth in Section 245 of the LCT.

Final settlement

Whenever an employment relationship is terminated for any cause, the employer shall pay the following mandatory items:

- Vacations not taken: This compensation must be equal to the salary corresponding to the proportional vacation period the employee would have been entitled to as a result of the proportional working period during that year.

- 13th month proportional pay: The employee shall be entitled to receive a proportion of the 13th month pay, which will be calculated based on one twelfth of the remuneration accrued during the part of the six-month period of employment until the time of dismissal.

- Days worked: The employee shall receive a remuneration amount based on the days worked up to the effective employment termination date.

Social Security Aspects

Payroll-related taxation

Social security contributions

Employers and employees must comply with social security contributions. In addition, union contributions in the amount of 1% to 2.5% may be withheld from employees' salaries as provided for in the applicable collective bargaining agreements. Mandatory social security withholdings and contributions are calculated based on the employee's remuneration. The employee's contribution is calculated on a minimum taxable base of 85,142.48 ARS and a maximum of 2,767,090.68 ARS, as of November 2024.

| Social Security Contributions ¹ | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| # | Employees' contributions | Employer's contribution | |
| % over employees' total remuneration | | SMEs and/or other listed activities | Non- SMEs |
| Argentina's Integrated Social Security System | 11% | 12,35% | 10,77% |
| Family Allowances | | 5,40% | 4,70% |
| National Employment Fund | | 1,08% | 0,94% |
| National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners | 3% | 1,57% | 1,59% |
| Social Work | 3% | 6% | 6% |
| Total | 17% (*) | 24% | 26,4% |

*Employees' contributions are limited to the application of the maximum base provided for in Section 9 of Act No. 24,241. As of October 2024, this amount stands at 2,674,292.72 ARS. If the employee receives amounts in excess of the foregoing one, he/she shall only contribute up to the percentage of such amount.

Single Social Security System (SUSS)

Employers and employees' social contributions to the Argentine Integrated Pension System (SIPA, Sistema Integrado de Pensiones de Argentina) and premiums payable to the Employees' Compensation Insurance Company (ART) and to the Mandatory Life Insurance, are paid monthly through tax returns (F.931) available on the Tax Authority's (ARCA) website. Tax returns (F.931) are filed and paid monthly during the first 10 days after the month's closing.

Occupational Health and Safety

Employers have a basic obligation: ensuring employees' safety in the workplace. To that effect, the currently effective regulations provide two mandatory payment benefits, namely: Labor Risk Insurance, whose rate depends on the main activity and/or on the employer's risk, plus a fixed amount of 1,026 ARS (as of November 2024) per employee, both payable to the Insurance Company (ART), plus a fixed 175.89 ARS amount (as of November 2024) per employee as contribution to the Life Insurance Company.

Expatriate Personnel

There are no restrictions regarding foreigners' employment, provided they have obtained the required visas. To enter into employment contracts in Argentina, foreigners must have a permanent residence certificate, or a residence certificate issued by the national immigration authority. It is also required to comply with the contributions to the Integrated Social Security System.

Foreigners may be exempt from the foregoing obligations for a certain period, provided that the individuals meet specific legal conditions, or when there is a reciprocity agreement with the country of origin in place.

Argentina has executed international social security agreements providing for reciprocal rules, so that individuals who have worked in an agreement signatory country may have access to social security benefits.

Argentina's currently effective Social Security Agreements:

Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Uruguay, Ibero-American Convention on Social Security (1978), Multilateral Agreement on Social Security of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) (1997), Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security (2007).



Deloitte.



/promocionarg

inversionycomercio.ar