

Argentine Republic

National name: República Argentina

President: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (2007)

Current government officials:

Land area: 1,056,636 sq mi (2,736,690 sq km); **total area:** 1,068,296 sq mi (2,766,890 sq km)

Population (2008 est.): 40,677,348 (growth rate: 0.9%); birth rate: 16.3/1000; infant mortality rate: 13.8/1000; life expectancy: 76.5; density per sq mi: 38

Capital and largest city (2003 est.): Buenos Aires, 13,349,000 (metro. area), 2,768,772 (city proper)

Other large cities: Córdoba, 1,486,200; Rosario, 1,276,900; Mendoza, 988,600; Mar del Plata, 683,700

Monetary unit: Peso

Languages: Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French

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

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

Literacy rate: 97.2% (2001 est.)

Industries: food processing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, textiles, chemicals and petrochemicals, printing, metallurgy, steel. **Natural resources:** fertile plains of the pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron ore, manganese, petroleum, uranium. **Exports:** \$54.6 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.): edible oils, fuels and energy, cereals, feed, motor vehicles. **Imports:** \$40.26 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.): machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, metal manufactures, plastics. **Major trading partners:** Brazil, Chile, U.S., China, Spain, Germany (2006).

Communications: Telephones: main lines in use 9.46 million (2006); mobile cellular: 31.51 million (2006). **Radio broadcast stations:** AM 260 (including 10 inactive stations), FM n.a. (probably more than 1,000, mostly unlicensed), shortwave 6 (1998). **Television broadcast stations:** 42 (plus 444 repeaters) (1997). **Internet hosts:** 2.159 million (2007). **Internet users:** 8.184 million (2006).

Transportation: Railways: total: 31,902 km (2006). **Highways:** total: 229,144 km; paved: 68,809 km (including 734 km of expressways); unpaved: 160,335 km (2004). **Waterways:** 11,000 km (2006). **Ports and harbors:** Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Concepcion del Uruguay, La Plata, Punta Colorada, Rosario, San Lorenzo-San Martin, San Nicolas. **Airports:** 1,272 (2007).