



Argentina Facts

Background: Following independence from Spain in 1816, Argentina experienced periods of internal political conflict between conservatives and liberals and between civilian and military factions. After World War II, a long period of Peronist dictatorship was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983, and numerous elections since then have underscored Argentina's progress in democracy.

Climate: mostly temperate; arid in southeast; subantarctic in southwest

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

Natural resources: fertile plains of the Pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron ore, manganese, petroleum, uranium

Geography: second-largest country in South America after Brazil.

Land use: *arable land: 9%; permanent crops: 1%; permanent pastures: 52%; forests and woodland: 19%; other: 19% (1993 est.)*

Environment - current issues: environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as soil degradation, desertification, air pollution, and water pollution. *note:* Argentina is a world leader in setting voluntary greenhouse gas targets.

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People

Population: 37,384,816 (July 2001 est.)

Age 0-14 years: 26.54% (male 5,077,593; female 4,842,811)

structure: 15-64 years: 63.04% (male 11,795,282; female 11,773,855)

65 years and over: 10.42% (male 1,609,672; female 2,285,603)
(2001 est.)

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

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