Australia and Argentina

Mutually beneficial relationship with shared interests.

Key engagement
Mining, agriculture, science, technology and education. Likeminded on multilateral issues, including trade, human rights, Antarctica and arms control.

Outlook
Export and investment opportunities in mining, oil and gas, primary production and agribusiness, environmental and water management, education, wine, construction equipment and high-tech machinery and services.

Opportunities in the revitalisation of Argentine industry, including communications, transport and public utilities.

Bilateral relations
Australia and Argentina established diplomatic relations in December 1959. Australia sent its first Ambassador to Buenos Aires in 1964.

Argentina has an Embassy in Canberra and a Consulate-General in Sydney.

Foreign relations
Australia and Argentina are both members of the G20, WTO, Cairns Group, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the Antarctic Treaty, International Whaling Commission, United Nations (UN), and UN specialised agencies.

The Southern Common Market (Mercosur) is Argentina’s most important trade and political arrangement.

Argentina is a member of regional organisations, including the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Organisation of American States (OAS). Argentina participates alongside Australia in the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) and is an observer of the Pacific Alliance.

Argentina is seeking membership to the OECD.

FAST FACTS

- Argentine visitors to Australia (2019 Dept of Home Affairs) # 23,800
- Australian visitors to Argentina (primary destination (2019 Dept of Home Affairs) # 14,300
- Resident Australian population born in Argentina (2016 Census) 13,347
- Australian residents of Argentine descent (2016 Census) 12,092
- Argentine Work and Holiday visas granted (2019 Dept of Home Affairs) 3,119
- Argentine students in Australia (2019 Dept of Education) 1,328

Australian Embassy in Argentina

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# This data is owned by Home Affairs. It provides quarterly updates to this data on its website.
*Argentina reports the estimated number of Australian visitors as 60 000 in 2019 ([Argentina Migraciones and MFA]).
Public diplomacy

Through the Direct Aid Program, the Australian Government provides financial support to a range of projects in Argentina. In 2019-20, the Direct Aid Program supported projects in: women’s economic empowerment, education, rural development, sports for social inclusion and indigenous development. Working with the alumni network, DAP supported projects in rural schools to develop IT connectivity and networking across vulnerable and isolated communities, especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019-20, the Council on Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR) provided grants to the University of Tasmania to undertake workshops in Argentina on crop-livestock adaptation to climate change based on modelling and remote-sensing and to the Centro National Patagónico (CONICET) and Dr Adam Barnett from James Cook University to build local capacity for sustainable management of aquatic wildlife in Patagonia.

Economic diplomacy

The Argentine economy remains in recession and has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. High degree of economic uncertainty has increased demand for safe assets, such as foreign currency. The Government has introduced a variety of short-term measures to slow the fall in foreign exchange reserves. The Embassy is working closely with Australian companies operating in Argentina to help them avoid unintended impacts of the new Government regulations. Further opportunities for cooperation and investment in the mining sector show great promise, along with ongoing engagement in education and agriculture.

Agreements with Argentina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>MoU on Cooperation in Agriculture</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>MoU on Exchange of Information on Migration</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>MoU on reciprocal Work and Holiday Visa Arrangement</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>MoU on Air Services Agreement</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Investment Protection Agreement</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Argentina - Australia Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT 1995)</td>
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Further economic and trade information can be found in our [Economic Factsheet](https://www.dfat.gov.au) for Argentina.

Business

Over 65 Australian companies operate in Argentina, including 10 ASX200 companies. Around $1 billion has been invested in Argentina by Australian firms in the last two years. Sectors of interest have included mining (especially lithium), agribusiness, entertainment, port management, freight equipment and insurance services.

Argentina has a wealth of natural resources and is an important producer of aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold and silver. The Argentine Government continues to prioritise development of the mining and petroleum sectors.

Austrade aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia. It also identifies market opportunities and promotes the capabilities of Australian exporters and education providers.

Austrade
[https://www.austrade.gov.au/contact/offices/country-index](https://www.austrade.gov.au/contact/offices/country-index)

Travel

See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to Argentina: [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au)