

## Argentina

### 1. Industrial Strategy

Argentina's industrial policy has fluctuated largely depending on the government in power. There have been periods of active state intervention and periods dominated by a more market driven approach. The current industrial strategy focuses on re-industrialization and attracting foreign investment through incentives and deregulation. Since December 2023, there has been dominance of macroeconomic policy over productive policy. The shift away from macroeconomic policy is attributed to the belief that state intervention in the economy creates more problems than it solves. The government enacted the Emergency Decree (DNU 70/2023), which repealed previous industrial development laws and initiated a deregulatory agenda. The Ministry of Deregulation and State Transformation has been established to reduce regulatory burdens. The government has resorted to severe austerity cuts to reduce investments in R&D, high-tech projects, and sectoral financing by up to 63% in 2024 including mass layoffs of public sector workers, deep cuts to government subsidies, and the elimination of Argentina's fiscal deficit for the first time in over a century.<sup>1</sup>

Argentina launched Regime for Incentives to Large Investments (RIGI), to attract large-scale investments (over \$200 million) in strategic sectors such as oil and gas, mining, energy, and high-tech industries like biotechnology, aerospace, and AI.<sup>2</sup> RIGI focuses at offering fiscal, foreign exchange, and customs incentives, with limited requirements for domestic supplier development. There is a shift towards trade liberalization with the country dismantling strict trade management and protectionist measure. The government has simplified importation significantly by relaxing formalities and reducing tariffs in sectors like capital goods, electric and hybrid vehicles, textile, footwear and steel.<sup>3</sup> There is a push towards maximizing exports with the national government eliminating export duties on 88% of industrial products.<sup>4</sup> The Argentinian industrial strategy places a clear emphasis on market-driven resource allocation and investment attraction, with limited emphasis on comprehensive sectoral industrial development.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See 'One Year with Javier Milei: Economic and Industrial Policy in Argentina' (*McGill Policy Association*, 31 March 2025) <<https://mcgillpolicyassociation.com/latest-articles/2025/4/15/one-year-with-javier-milei-economic-and-industrial-policy-in-argentina>> accessed 13 June 2025.

<sup>2</sup> 'Argentina: One Year Javier Milei' (22 November 2024) <<https://www.freiheit.org/one-year-javier-mileis-economic-policy>> accessed 13 June 2025.

<sup>3</sup> 'El Gobierno Nacional baja impuestos de importación a ropa, calzado y telas' (*Argentina.gob.ar*, 31 March 2025) <<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-baja-impuestos-de-importacion-ropa-calzado-y-telas>> accessed 13 June 2025; <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-abrio-el-proceso-de-solicitud-de-importacion-sin-aranceles-de>.

<sup>4</sup> 'El Gobierno Nacional eliminó retenciones a las exportaciones industriales' (*Argentina.gob.ar*, 7 May 2025) <<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-elimino-retenciones-las-exportaciones-industriales>> accessed 13 June 2025

<sup>5</sup> Daniel Schteingart and others, 'Lights and Shadows of Industrial Policy in Argentina in the 21st Century' (Fundar 2024) <[https://fundar.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Fundar\\_Doc2\\_Lights-and-shadows-of-Industrial-Policy-in-Argentina\\_CC-BY-NC-ND-4.0.pdf](https://fundar.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Fundar_Doc2_Lights-and-shadows-of-Industrial-Policy-in-Argentina_CC-BY-NC-ND-4.0.pdf)>.

## ***2. Digital (Development) Strategy***

The Digital Argentina Agenda aims to leverage technological transformation of Argentina, and promote digital inclusion. The agenda emphasizes on a sustainable and globally competitive digital economy.<sup>6</sup>

The agenda has the following objectives

- Establish legal frameworks that protect both public and private data and facilitate the responsible use of digital technologies.
- Strengthen digital infrastructure to improve connectivity and accessibility for all regions, including underserved areas.
- Promote widespread digital literacy to foster inclusion and empower citizens.
- Create an efficient, transparent, and citizen-focused government that adopts open digital practices.
- Integrate digital education into the national curriculum to enhance employment prospects.
- Stimulate economic growth by adopting digital tools across various sectors, especially supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Develop cybersecurity measures to build trust and safeguard digital environments.
- Elevate Argentina's role in the global digital landscape through active participation and leadership.

The agenda is organized around the following five key pillars, each supported by targeted actions:

- Normative Framework: Update regulations to keep pace with emerging digital technologies, ensuring data protection and cybersecurity standards are met.
- Infrastructure: Expand and improve digital access and quality, with particular focus on bridging the digital divide in rural and underserved communities.
- Education and Inclusion: Incorporate digital skills into education systems and work to reduce inequalities in digital access.
- Digital Economy: Promote the integration of digital tools in all sectors, emphasizing support for small and medium enterprises and the digital transformation of agriculture and financial services.
- Digital Government: Transform government services to be more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly, ensuring secure and reliable digital interactions for all users.<sup>7</sup>

The government launched the Plan Argentina Innovadora 2030 that aims to advance science and technology within the country. The plan focuses on institutional development

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<sup>6</sup> 'BOLETIN OFICIAL REPUBLICA ARGENTINA - AGENDA DIGITAL ARGENTINA - Decreto 996/2018' <<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/195154>> accessed 26 June 2025.

<sup>7</sup> 'Agenda Digital Argentina | Digital Watch Observatory' <<https://dig.watch/resource/agenda-digital-argentina>> accessed 14 June 2025.

to strengthen the scientific and technological infrastructure. The plan's objectives include transforming the economy through the promotion of cutting-edge technologies, consolidating resources, reforming the funding models for science and technology projects, and updating the overall regulations related to science, technology, and innovation.<sup>8</sup>

### **3. Main Constitutional Provisions**

The Argentine Constitution (Article 75, Section 18) empowers the National Congress to promote industry, immigration, and the development of the country's productive forces. The Constitution makes the Congress responsible for the growth of the national economy, the creation of jobs, the professional training of workers, the defense of the currency value, the scientific and technological research and development, their overall diffusion and beneficial use (Article 75, Section 18).<sup>9</sup>

### **4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments**

Certain legislative and regulatory acts have a considerable impact on industrial policy aspects surrounding digital development. These include the:

- Law 27078 Digital Argentina<sup>10</sup>
- Law 25506 on Digital Signature<sup>11</sup>
- Law 27483 Approving the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data<sup>12</sup>
- Law 25326 on Personal Data Protection Act<sup>13</sup>
- Law 19798 on Telecommunications<sup>14</sup>
- Promotion of the Knowledge Economy<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 'Argentina: Macroeconomic Country Outlook' <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/globaldataplc/>> accessed 14 June 2025.

<sup>9</sup> Constitution of the Argentine Nation <<http://www.biblioteca.jus.gov.ar/Argentina-Constitution.pdf>>

<sup>10</sup> Law 27078 Digital Argentina <<https://observatoriolegislativocele.com/en/Argentina-digital-law-27078/>>

<sup>11</sup> Law on Digital Signature <<https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/70000-74999/70749/norma.htm>>.

<sup>12</sup> Law 27483 Approving the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data <<https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/315000-319999/318245/norma.htm>>

<sup>13</sup> Law 25326 on Personal Data Protection Act <<https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/60000-64999/64790/norma.htm>>.

<sup>14</sup> Law 19798 on Telecommunications <<https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/30000-34999/31922/texact.htm#1>>.

<sup>15</sup> Promotion of the Knowledge Economy <<https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2023%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F26893>>.

- National Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030<sup>16</sup>
- Digital Argentina Agenda 2030<sup>17</sup>
- Recommendations for a Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence<sup>18</sup>
- AI National Plan<sup>19</sup>
- Argentina Second Cybersecurity Strategy

## **5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to which Argentina is a Signatory**

Argentina is a signatory to multiple economic treaties. Some of the most relevant ones are the:

- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- EU-Mercosur Framework Co-operation Agreement
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) - Egypt
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) - India
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) - Southern African Customs Union (SACU)<sup>20</sup>

## **6. Plurilaterals**

Argentina participates in multiple plurilateral initiatives and agreements. Some of the most relevant ones are:

- Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP)<sup>21</sup>
- Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation<sup>22</sup>
- WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) (Observer)<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> National Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030 <<https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2023%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F99993903>>.

<sup>17</sup> Digital Argentina Agenda 2030 <<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/195154/20181105>>

<sup>18</sup> Recommendations for a Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence <<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-27494>>

<sup>19</sup> AI National Plan <<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-26935>>

<sup>20</sup> 'WTO | Regional Trade Agreements' <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 13 June 2025

; 'EU Trade Relations with Argentina' (6 December 2024) <[https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/argentina\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/argentina_en)> accessed 13 June 2025.

<sup>21</sup> 'WTO | Regional Trade Agreements' <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 13 June 2025.

<sup>22</sup> 'WTO | Services Domestic Regulation' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/jsdomreg\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/jsdomreg_e.htm)> accessed 23 June 2025.

<sup>23</sup> 'WTO | Government Procurement - The Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/gproc\\_e/memobs\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/memobs_e.htm)> accessed 23 June 2025.

***7. Proceedings Initiated Against Argentina, or by It, Before International Fora for the Adoption/Implementation of Industrial Policy Measures (e.g., Before WTO Panels, the WTO's AB)***

Argentina has been involved in several WTO disputes, both as complainant and respondent, particularly regarding anti-dumping and countervailing duties, import measures, export subsidies, and trade remedies. Notable cases include disputes with the European Union and the United States over import restrictions and export taxes.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> 'WTO | Dispute Settlement - Map of Disputes between WTO Members'  
<[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/dispu\\_maps\\_e.htm?country\\_selected=PAK&sense=e](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_maps_e.htm?country_selected=PAK&sense=e)> accessed 24 June 2025.