

Principal Cities

Buenos Aires is the current capital of the country with a metropolitan population estimated at 10 million. Approximately 30 per cent of the nation's population resides in this city. (A decision was taken in 1986 to eventually move the capital to Viedma, a city approximately 1 000 km south of Buenos Aires in the region of Patagonia.)

Other main centres include (1980 census) :

City	Population	City	Population
Cordoba	983 969	Santa Fe	291 966
Rosario	957 301	Salta	260 744
Mendoza	605 623	Bahia Blanca	223 818
La Plata	564 750	Resistencia	220 104
San Miguel de Tucuman	498 579	Corrientes	180 612
Mar del Plata	414 696	Parana	161 638
		San Juan	291 707

Currency

As part of a comprehensive economic adjustment program introduced in June 1985, the "Austral" replaced the Argentine peso as the official monetary unit of the country. The Austral is equal to 100 centavos.

Working Conditions

(i) International Time

Argentine official time is three hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and two hours ahead of Canadian Eastern Standard Time (EST). The twenty-four hour system is generally preferred to the twelve-hour a.m. and p.m. system.

(ii) Business Hours

Work generally commences in offices between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. (one hour earlier in factories), except where a continuous period (usually six or seven hours) is worked without a meal break, when a start is made between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. or between noon and 1:00 p.m. Government offices are generally open from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the summer and from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the winter. Banks are open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(iii) Public Holidays

New Year's Day

— January 1

Good Friday

— variable

Labour Day

— May 1