

Argentina



The Land of Silver

Resting at the tip of South America, the country of Argentina is the second largest country in its region, after Brazil. Originally conquered by the Inca in 1480, Argentina did not become Spanish territory until the early 1500s. In the mid-16th century, a Portuguese explorer expected to find Argentinian lands rich with natural silver and marked all of his documents and maps accordingly. Because of these documents, the Portuguese started associating the land with silver, and the nation of Argentina eventually took on the nickname “The Land of Silver.”

While home to 4 million evangelicals, the country’s largest religious block is Catholicism, making up around 80% of the total population. However, a 2014 study showed that the majority of those officially registered as Catholic are only Catholic by name and do not regularly attend Mass, and less than 20% of Argentina’s Catholic population practices their faith regularly. With only 9% of the population being evangelical, Argentina has become a massive country that is home to a relatively small evangelical church.

The Argentinian evangelical church is founded upon a stable economy, is well bridged to the unreached, and has access to around 190,000 unreached within their borders. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send out Argentinian workers to the unreached!



NUMBER OF EVANGELICALS Small Evangelical Population that Continues to Grow **Moderate**

Argentina is a predominantly Christian nation, with 89% of the population identifying with the Christian faith and 9% identifying as evangelical.¹ Home to approximately 4,141,590 evangelicals, Argentina has seen great church growth in the last few years. In the last 9 years, the evangelical church in Argentina has grown approximately 6%.²

Praise God for such growth in the Argentinian church! Pray that the Lord would continue to grow the church, as well as the hearts of those burdened for the unreached.



CULTURAL BRIDGES Culturally Bridged to the Arab World **High**

Argentina has an average Median Cultural Distance of 19.6, giving it moderate cultural similarities with the 30 UPG nations on our list. The country also ranks moderate when compared to other Mobilization Index countries.

Argentina has a culture founded on the ideals of loyalty, community, and respect. With a moderate ranking in the individualism category, Argentina

is the most individualistic of all Latin American countries. This is typically credited to the high number of European immigrants Argentina has received throughout its existence. Despite its moderate ranking in individualism, the nation keeps a high regard for the family unit, which often results in values of respect for authority and familial loyalty.³

Argentina's high value for community and family gives believers a great connection to many UPG nations, specifically those in the Arab world. Argentinian missionaries are uniquely positioned to build cultural bridges with the billions of unreached Muslims in need of Jesus Christ, including those within their own borders. Ask the Lord to burden the hearts of Argentinian evangelicals, spurring them to capitalize on their cultural connections with Arab UPG nations.



STRATEGIC ACCESS

Low Access but not without Opportunity
Low

With access to only 190,000 unreached in-country and 772,000 regionally, Argentina scores low on the Strategic Access index.

Though the country scores low comparatively, the Argentinian church is still blessed to have access to almost 200,000 unreached within their borders! While many missionaries have to purchase a plane ticket and uproot their lives and families, Argentinian Evangelicals have the opportunity to share the hope of Christ with those who have never heard his name, all without leaving their hometown.

Would you pray with us that the Argentinian evangelical church would be mobilized to this harvest?



RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS

Freedom of Religion, but not Without Hostilities
Very High

According to Pew Research, Argentina has a low level of religious restrictions and hostilities.⁴ Argentina has a higher score in governmental restrictions than in social hostilities, meaning that someone is more likely to experience push-back from the government on their religious beliefs than they are to experience social or communal pressures regarding their religious beliefs.

Argentinian constitution allows for freedom of religion and all religious practices, stating that there is no one official state religion, but the constitution states that Catholicism will be given preferential status and is the only denomination that is not required to register with the state to receive tax exemption. Mission mobilization and other Christian ministries are free to promote and carry out their work as they see fit.

Argentina continues to see a rise persecution against religious minorities, such as Islamic and Jewish communities. 2019 saw double the amount of reports of anti-semitism, from 400 annual reports to nearly 1,000.⁵

Pray that the Lord would ease any religious tensions in Argentina and that believers would capitalize on their religious freedom and take the gospel to the unreached!

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PROSPERITY

Impressive Prosperity and Stability

High

Ranked at 63, Argentina scores better than most Mobilization Index countries ranked on the Legatum Prosperity Index. Argentina sits at the 7th most prosperous nation of all 22 Latin American countries on the Legatum index.⁶ Argentina scores highest in Natural Environment and Health, with its lowest scores being in Social Capital and Living Conditions.

Argentina's overall prosperity has remained fairly stable over the past decade, only raising 4 ranks in the past 10 years. Its rank in Social Capital has dropped 24 places in the last 10 years, being the only category with great fluctuation.

Argentina's overall stable prosperity is great news for its evangelical church! When it comes to raising support and launching to the unreached, missionaries and mobilizers are extremely dependent upon the prosperity and stability of their economy and church.

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MOBILIZATION POTENTIAL

Great Potential for the Lord to Mobilize Argentina to the Unreached

High

Obstacles:

Despite its moderate Prosperity, Argentina has very low sending numbers.

Argentina's low access to the unreached is potentially one of the country's biggest obstacles to reaching its full Mobilization Potential.

Opportunities:

The cultural values of Argentina are extremely similar to many UPG nations on our list! Praise God for the connection they have to the unreached world.

The stability and prosperity of the Argentinian economy are in a great position to raise up and support missionaries and mobilizers.

Prayer:

For laborers from Argentina to be mobilized to the unreached harvest in the Arab world.

For believers to find their most strategic role in seeing Christ proclaimed among the nations.

For increased sending from the Argentinian church.

Praise:

Praise God for blessing the Argentinian church with no governmental restrictions on religion!

Praise the King for providing many cultural similarities between the Arab world and Argentina.

Endnotes

- 1 Operation World. “Argentina.” operationworld.org/locations/argentina/.
- 2 Evangelical Focus. “Growth of Evangelicals in Argentina.” evangelicalfocus.com/print/4915/Growth-of-evangelicals-in-Argentina.
- 3 Prosperity. “Argentina.” prosperity.com/globe/argentina.
- 4 Pew Research Center. “Religious Restrictions Around the World.” pewresearch.org/religion/feature/religious-restrictions-around-the-world/.
- 5 U.S. Department of State. “2019 Report on International Religious Freedom: Argentina.” state.gov/reports/2019-report-on-international-religious-freedom/argentina/.
- 6 Prosperity. “Argentina.” www.prosperity.com/globe/argentina.