



Argentina

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Globalization and Trade

Because some have blamed the 2001 collapse of their economy on globalization, Argentines might be expected to view globalization with suspicion. Most Argentines actually believe it generally benefits their country and their economy, though they register relatively less confidence that it helps them individually and have a negative view of its impact on the environment.

- 55% of Argentines say that globalization, “especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world,” is “mostly good” for their country, while just 22% say it is mostly bad and 23% do not offer an opinion.
- Argentines, like most other publics polled, say that international trade overall is good for the Argentine economy (65%) and Argentine companies (61%).
- 46% of Argentine respondents think that trade is good for “consumers like you” (31% say bad) and only 42% say it is good for their “standard of living” (30% say bad). These are the lowest percentages among the 13-14 countries polled.
- A modest majority of Argentines (53%) see international trade as good for creating jobs in Argentina, but they are divided on whether trade is positive or negative for “job security for Argentine workers” (38% good, 39% bad, 23% no response).
- Argentines tend to think that international trade is not good for the environment: 46% think that it is bad and 27% think it is good.
- Nine in 10 Argentine respondents (90%) want environmental protections to be part of trade agreements.
- Argentines strongly support including “minimum standards for working conditions” in trade agreements (89%).

Climate Change

Argentines are among the world publics that are most ready to take significant action on global warming.

- Four in five Argentines (82%) believe action is needed to address the problem of global warming. Most of these (63%) support taking steps now even if they involve “significant costs.” Only 19% say that because

climate change is gradual, the response should be gradual and “low in cost.”

- Two-thirds of Argentine respondents (68%) say developing countries should agree to limit greenhouse gas emissions provided they are given foreign aid.

Genocide and Darfur

Argentines tend to believe that the UN Security Council should intervene to protect people from severe human rights violations, though large numbers are unsure.

- By a margin of 48% to 27%, Argentines believe that the UN Security Council has the “responsibility to authorize the use of force to protect people from severe human rights violations such as genocide, even against the will of their own country.” One-fourth (25%) declined to respond.
- On Darfur: Argentines are supportive of UN action to stop the killings in western Sudan, but many do not take a position: 37% say the Security Council has either “a responsibility” to authorize intervention (22%) or “the right” to do so (15%). Only 19% think the council does not have such a right. But large numbers of those polled (43%) declined to answer this question.

Future of the United Nations

Argentines tend to support most options for the expansion of UN power but this support is expressed by pluralities not majorities and, in several cases, a plurality is opposed. Compared to other countries, Argentines show low levels of support.

- About half of Argentine respondents favor some new UN powers though sizeable numbers are opposed: 48% favor a standing UN peacekeeping force (30% oppose); 46% believe the UN should be able to go into countries to investigate human rights violations (29% oppose).
- Argentines tend to oppose giving the UN the power to regulate the international arms trade (42% oppose, 36% favor) or to impose a small tax on the international sale of arms or oil in order to fund UN activities (42% oppose, 32% favor).
- Asked whether Argentina should be “more willing to make decisions within the United Nations even if this means that Argentina will have to go along with a policy that is not its first choice,” 41% agree that it should and 32% disagree.

US Leadership

Argentines are among the most negative about US leadership in the world. Very large majorities do not trust the United States and want it to reduce its military presence overseas.

- Argentina is one of only two countries (the other is the Palestinian territories) where a majority (55%) believes that “the US should withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems.”
- An overwhelming majority (84%) does not trust the United States to act responsibly in the world, including 69% who do not trust it at all, more than any other public polled.
- Three-fourths (75%)—the largest majority among 12 countries polled—say that the United States should reduce the number of military bases it has overseas.
- 62% of Argentines agree that “the US is playing the role of world policeman more than it should be.”

Rise of China

Along with most other publics polled, Argentines expect that China's economy will grow to equal the United States' and are somewhat neutral about what effect that will have on the world. Argentines are skeptical about the trustworthiness of China, the United States, and Japan.

- 61% believe that China's economy will someday grow to be as large as the US economy.
- About one-third (34%) consider the prospect of China catching up with the United States to be mostly positive and nearly as many (29%) think it would be equally positive and negative. Only 14% say mostly negative.
- Most Argentines (84%) do not trust the United States to act responsibly in the world and smaller majorities feel that way about China (65%) and Japan (52%).