



## INFOCARD ELANBiz

### Trade Agreements of Argentina<sup>1</sup>

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#### General Information

Argentina has important economic and commercial links with the world. The country is one of the member countries of the G-20, a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and member since 1956 of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Argentina is also a full member of the Southern Common Market ([MERCOSUR](#) - Mercado Común del Sur), a customs union with Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Venezuela is also a member of Mercosur, but its membership has been suspended. In 2015, Mercosur approved the membership of Bolivia as a sixth full member of the block, but the entry process is still pending. Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana and Surinam are associated countries.

Mercosur offers significant opportunities for European SMEs: a large market of over 300 million people, in a territory of almost 15 million Km<sup>2</sup>. Mercosur is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

The Member States of Mercosur in general negotiate jointly their trade agreements with third countries or with groups of countries. However, Member States of Mercosur can also conclude individual trade agreements with countries of the Latin America region within the framework of the Treaty of Montevideo (1980), which established the Latin American Integration Association ([Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración](#) or "ALADI"). Member States of ALADI are invited to participate in the Mercosur meetings to discuss issues of shared interest, related to political, economic and social integration.

#### Trade Relations with Europe

Bilateral relations between the EU and Argentina are governed by the [Framework Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement](#), which entered into force in 1990. As a member of Mercosur, Argentina is also party to the [EU-Mercosur Framework Co-operation Agreement](#) signed in 1995, which includes provisions on trade cooperation.

In 2019, Mercosur concluded the negotiations of [Free Trade Agreements with the European Union](#) and with [EFTA](#). These agreements cover tariffs and regulatory topics, such as trade in goods, trade in

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<sup>1</sup> The information provided in this document is of a general nature only. For more detailed information, events and commercial trade offers, as well as commercial business contacts, please contact the Commercial Offices of the member states Embassies, the European trade organizations and the bilateral chambers of commerce.



services, investment, government procurement, trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, sustainable development, competition, trade remedies, and intellectual property.

Although the approval of the legal texts will take some time, it should be noted that with the entry into force of these agreements, Mercosur will have a privileged access to almost the entire European market, which entails a significant opportunity for the region's economic development. The European Union considers Argentina as an important trading partner, and this relationship will be strengthened by the implementation of the results of the concluded FTA negotiations with Mercosur.

### Commercial Integration of Mercosur

With the ultimate objective of forming a customs union, Mercosur aims to promote trade and the fluid movement of goods, services and capital. Mercosur has established an Common External Tariff (referred to in Spanish as AEC - [Arancel Externo Común](#)), though this system contains numerous exceptions. It has also adopted a coordinated economic and trade position in regional or international topics, and strives for the harmonization of legislation and standards that would strengthen its economic integration process.

### List of Trade Agreements

#### In Force

The following agreements have been signed by either Mercosur or Argentina. They are denominated "preferential" or "free trade" and imply different levels of commitment (i.e. type and quantity of concessions). The tables below indicate the dates of signature and entry into force for each agreement.

#### Free Trade Agreements of Mercosur

Agreement /Partner	Date of Signature	Entry into force	Text	Trade Developments
MERCOSUR - Colombia AAP.CE Nº 72	21 July 2017	20 December 2017 (for Argentina)	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR - Egypt	2 August 2010	1 September 2017	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR - Israel	18 December 2007	9 September 2011 (for Argentina)	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR - Peru (ACE 58)	30 November 2005	14 December 2005 (for Argentina)	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>



MERCOSUR - Bolivia (ACE 36)	17 December 1996	28 February 1997	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR -Chile (ACE 35)	25 June 1996	01 October 1996	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>

### Free Trade Agreements of Argentina

Agreement /Parter	Date of Signature	Entry into force	Text	Trade Developments
Chile	2 November 2017	1 May 2019	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>

### Preferential Agreements of Mercosur

Agreement /Parter	Date of Signature	Entry into force	Text	Trade Developments
Mercosur - SACU	15 December 2008	1 April 2016	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR - Colombia - Ecuador - Venezuela - (AAP. CE No. 59)	18 October 2004	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
MERCOSUR - India	25 January 2004	1 June 2009	<a href="#">→</a>	No data
MERCOSUR - Mexico (ACE No. 55) Auto Sector	27 September 2002	1 January 2003 (for Argentina)	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>

### Preferential Agreements of Argentina

Agreement /Parter	Date of Signature	Entry into force	Text	Trade Developments
Mexico (ACE No. 6)	24 August 2006	1 January 2007	<a href="#">→</a>	<a href="#">→</a>
Uruguay -Auto Sector (ACE No. 57)	31 March 2003	1 May 2003	<a href="#">→</a>	No data



Paraguay (ACE No. 13)	6 November 1992	6 November 1992		No data
Chile (AAP.CE No. 16)	2 August 1991	2 August 1991		No data
Brazil (ACE No. 14)	20 December 1990	20 December 1990		No data

### Pending Signature/Ratification

As mentioned before, Mercosur has in 2019 concluded Free Trade Agreements with the European Union (which is the subject of a separate infocard) and with EFTA. These agreements still need to be formally signed and ratified according to the procedures of each party. It is estimated that those proceedings will take a period of up to 2 years.

### Trade Negotiations

In recent years, Mercosur has promoted the idea of concluding further Trade Agreements and is currently involved in the following negotiations:

- ✓ Canada
- ✓ South Korea
- ✓ Singapore
- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Morocco
- ✓ Tunisia

### Useful links

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina](#)

[MERCOSUR](#)

[ALADI](#)

[SICE Trade](#)

[WTO, RTA Database](#)

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