

Argentina

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14%

Population below international poverty line

€211

per month

National minimum wage

€378

per month

Urban living wage

€489

per month

Rural living income

6%

Agriculture share of GDP

3

medium

Risk to workers' rights

Context

Argentina has a population of roughly 45 million people.^[1] The country is highly urbanized with 92% of its population living in cities^[2] and only 8% residing in rural areas.^[3] The agricultural sector in Argentina represents 6% of the national GDP^[4], but only employs 0.1% of the workforce.^[5]

Argentina is one of the most important countries in terms of food exports worldwide. The agricultural sector is dominated by large scale farms, specifically in the region of Pampas. This region has undergone an important agricultural transformation through mechanization and increased production and has favored the cultivation of grains and soybeans.^[6] Outside the Pampas, however, rural poverty is on the rise as the rural population has limited access to land and resources. Smallholder farmers struggle with low productivity and are excluded from larger markets and value chains. In addition, smallholder farmers are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events due to climate change.^[7]

The top produced commodities in Argentina are maize, soybeans, wheat, sugar cane, milk and barley.^[8] Similarly, Argentina's top export commodities in terms of quantity are soybeans, maize, wheat and barley.^[9]

Wages

Minimum wage

The national minimum wage in Argentina is set by law at 21,600 Argentine pesos (211 EUR) per month including retirement benefits. The law also establishes different wage levels for domestic workers.^[10] Even so, the minimum wage in Argentina remains below the poverty income level for a typical family. Furthermore, the enforcement of labor law is not equal for all sectors, with the informal sectors being hit the hardest despite the fact it employs around to 35% of the national workforce. In many cases, workers could not refuse to compromise their safety without putting their jobs at risk, and the authorities are insufficient to protect them.^[11]

The **Global Living Wage Coalition** has developed 2 Reference Value studies for Argentina based on the Anker methodology. A Living Wage Reference Value for non-metropolitan urban Argentina and a Living Income Reference Value for rural Argentina.

Living wage

The Anker Living Wage Reference Value for non-metropolitan urban Argentina is 38,741 Argentine pesos (378 EUR) per month. This is the wage workers in non-metropolitan urban areas of Argentina would need to afford a basic but decent standard of living. The living wage estimate for non-metropolitan urban Argentina is 1.8 times the national minimum wage and 2.5 times more than the average agricultural wage in Argentina. When compared to the national poverty line wage, the estimate is 28% higher.^[12]

Living income

The estimated living income is 50,023 Argentine pesos (489 EUR) per month. This is the income rural families require to access a basic but decent living standard in an average rural area of Argentina. This estimate is 60% higher than the World Bank poverty line income for a family of 4 in an upper middle-income country, such as Argentina, and 57% higher than the average family income for agricultural workers.^[13]

What's happening

RESOURCE

[Living Wage Reference Value, Non-Metropolitan Urban Argentina](#) ↗

Living wage estimate for workers to be able to afford a basic but decent living standard in urban non-metropolitan areas of Argentina.

RESOURCE

[Living Income Reference Value, Rural Argentina](#) ↗

Living income estimate for a typical family in rural Argentina to cover the monthly cost of a basic but decent standard of living.

RESOURCE

[Soybeans and their Economic Effect](#) ↗

This FAO report, focuses on the relationship of the soybean sector with economic growth and poverty in Argentina and Brazil.

RESOURCE

[The Invisible Poor-Rural Poverty in Argentina](#) ↗

This report deals with the poorest Argentines, rural populations, whose condition is not visible in official statistics due to urban bias.

Footnotes

1. World Bank (2019). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=AR>
2. World Bank (2019). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=AR>
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4. World Bank (2019). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=AR>
5. World Bank (2020). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.ZS?locations=AR>
6. OECD (2019). Agricultural Policies in Argentina. Trade and Agriculture Directorate Committee for Agriculture. [https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/CA\(2018\)9/FINAL&docLanguage=En](https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/CA(2018)9/FINAL&docLanguage=En)
7. IFAD. Country Profiles: Argentina. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/country/id/argentina>
8. FAOSTAT (2019). http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities_by_country
9. FAOSTAT (2019). http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities_by_country_exports
10. Wage Indicator Foundation (2021). Minimum Wage-Argentina. <https://wageindicator.org/salary/minimum-wage/argentina>.
11. U.S. Department of State. 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Argentina. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/argentina/>
12. Global Living Wage Coalition (2020). Anker Living Wage Reference Value: Non-Metropolitan Urban Argentina. <https://www.globallivingwage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Non-Metro-Urban-Argentina-LW-Reference-Value-FINAL.pdf>
13. Global Living Wage Coalition (2020). Anker Living Income Reference Value: Rural Argentina 2020. <https://www.globallivingwage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Rural-Argentina-LI-Reference-Value-FINAL.pdf>