

008 Buenos Aires (Argentina)

13.0 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Buenos Aires	2,776,138	7.66%	203	13,676
Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area	11,460,575	31.61%	3,759	3,049
Province of Buenos Aires (3)	13,827,203	38.13%	304,907	45.3
Argentina	36,260,130	100.00%	2,780,403	13.0

(1) Data provided by INDEC of Argentina (Census 2001).

(2) Data provided by INDEC for Buenos Aires (Autonomous City) and for Argentina (it does not include neither the Antarctic Sector nor the South Atlantic Islands).

Data by the *Dirección Provincial de Geodesia* for the Province of Buenos Aires (it includes the Conindelta Islands: 2.882 km²) and for the Member Municipalities of the AMBA (it includes the Conindelta Islands: 1.044 km²).

(3) The Province of Buenos Aires does not include data referred to no the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Buenos Aires	Autonomous City of Buenos Aires <i>Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires</i>	1 Autonomous City (<i>Ciudad Autónoma</i>) 57 Neighbourhoods (<i>Barrios</i>)
Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires (AMBA)	<i>Área Metropolitana de Buenos Aires*</i>	1 Autonomous City (<i>Ciudad Autónoma</i>) 24 Municipalities (<i>Municipios</i>) of the Province of Buenos Aires: Almirante Brown, Avellaneda, Berazategui, Esteban Echeverría, Ezeiza, Francisco Varela, General San Martín, Hurlingham, Ituzaingo, José C. Paz, La Matanza, Lanús, Lomas de Zamora, Malvinas Argentinas, Merlo, Moreno, Morón, Quilmes, San Fernando, San Isidro, San Miguel, Tigre, Tres de Febrero and Vicente López..
Provincie of Buenos Aires	<i>Provincia de Buenos Aires</i>	1 Province (<i>Provincia</i>) 134 Municipalities (<i>Municipios</i>)
Argentina	Argentinian Republic <i>República Argentina</i>	A two level political and administrative structure: Province level: 1 Autonomous City (<i>Ciudad Autónoma</i>) 23 Provinces Municipal level: 2.172 municipal bodies **

* This are the municipalities according to the *Organización y Funciones de las Metropolis* (2005) by Metropolis and la Pompeu Fabra University elaborated for the Standing Commission on Metropolitan Governance. Nevertheless the public bodies that hold sectorial powers cover different areas and even a larger number of municipalities..

** Cantidad de Municipios según Instituto Federal de Asuntos Municipales (I.F.A.M.).

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Buenos Aires

General Aspects

In the definition of its provincial structure, the Argentinean Constitution recognises the City of Buenos Aires and attributes it the statute of capital and an autonomous capacity for government. Thus the legal framework is created that gives way to the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. This self-government puts it at a level of powers similar to the other provinces in Argentina. Its authority covers areas such as the environment, security, economic promotion, taxation, employment, transport, public works, public space, education, health, etc.

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires Head of Government

The Head of Government, or Governor, exercises executive power in the Autonomous City. He or she leads the city's administration, has legislative initiative and can initiate regulations. Is directly elected by the citizens, together with the Deputy Governor, for a four-year mandate.

City of Buenos Aires Legislature

The Legislature has executive power in the city, approves budgets, controls the activity of the Head of Government and his or her government, creates committees of investigation and approves the main instruments of urban planning and general plans. The 60 members are elected every four years in a proportional system.

Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (AMBA)

General Aspects

There is no political entity or organisation that covers the whole of the metropolitan area. There are four organisations with specific sectarian powers that do cover this area. The organisations cover different territories, depending on the commitment of the different municipalities.

State Company for Ecological Co-ordination of the Metropolitan Area (CEAMSE)

State company responsible for waste management and environmental coordination. The sphere of action includes the AMBA and others seven municipalities (Berisso, Ensenada, La Plata, Presidente Perón, Brandsen, Magdalena and Escobar). Management is made up of representatives of the autonomous city and the province of Buenos Aires.

Tripartite Entity for Health Works and Services (ETOSS)

This organisation jointly owned by the federal government, the Autonomous City and Buenos Aires Province is responsible for the water and sewerage service. Territorially it acts on the Autonomous City and the 14 municipalities in AMBA. Its management is made up of two members from each institution.

Metropolitan Area Transport Co-ordination Organisation (ECOTAM)

This organisation, aimed at the planning and co-ordination of the urban and inter-urban transport system in AMBA, had yet to be established at the time of writing this report. It will include the territory of AMBA and another 19 municipalities. Its management will be made up of representatives from the executive of the nation, the government of the Autonomous City and the municipalities in the AMBA.

Metropolitan Urban Planning Forum

The Forum is an intermunicipal consortium of technical representatives in the respective areas of urban and environmental planning in the member cities. The aim is to formulate

technical and conceptual recommendations in terms of urban and environmental planning for the whole of the area.

Province of Buenos Aires

General Aspects

The Argentinean Constitution attributes the provincial bodies responsibility for all areas of authority not expressly conferred to the Federal Government under the law. Provinces do not have authority over foreign relations, navigation, customs, currency minting, the civil, penal or commercial codes, defence, citizenship or naturalisation.

Governor of Buenos Aires Province

Has executive power in the province, supported by a Deputy Governor and Minister's Cabinet. Functions include appointing and removing members of the Cabinet, enacting laws approved by the chambers, exercising legislative initiative and the faculty of legislative veto in the first reading, convoking elections, responding to the legislature and approving budget bills that are sent to the Legislature to be approved. Elected by direct vote in a simple majority system to serve a four-year term and can only stand for re-election once.

Legislature

The legislature is composed of two chambers, i.e., the Chamber of Senators (46 senators) and the House of Representatives (92 members) who develop legislative power symmetrically. The senate should endorse the appointments of most of senior public servants proposed by the Governor, except the ministers. They have to agree also on the members of the General Council of Education and Culture. The mandate in both chambers is for four years and they are simultaneously renewed by halves every two years. The electoral system applied is proportional in multi-member districts weighted according to population.

Argentina

President of the Argentinean Nation

Has executive power in the Republic. Is elected by the public using a plurality system of double return for a four-year mandate. May stand for one consecutive re-election. For a third mandate, must abandon the presidency for one term of office.

Congress of the Argentinean Republic

Legislative power is exercised by a bicameral parliament made up of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The 257 members of the latter are elected for four-year terms and half the positions are renewed every two years. Elections are carried out via a proportional system applied in 24 provincial multi-member districts weighted according to the population. The 72 senators are elected on the basis of three per province, two from the leading party and the third from the runner-up. Since 2001, the senators have been elected for six-year mandates, with partial renewals every two years and there is no limit on the number of mandates.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires: <http://www.buenosaires.gov.ar/>

Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires: <http://www.legislatura.gov.ar/>

Ente Tripartito de Obras y Servicios Sanitarios: <http://www.etoss.org.ar/>

Government of the Province of Buenos Aires: <http://www.gba.gov.ar/>

Congress of the Argentinean Republic: <http://www.congreso.gov.ar/>

Presidency of the Argentinean Nation: <http://www.presidencia.gov.ar/>