Government expenditures in Argentina are comparatively high

In 2018, Argentina had the highest government expenditure in the LAC region (38.9% of GDP) compared to a regional average of 31.2% and not far from OECD average of 40.3%. Compared with 2007, expenditures in Argentina increased by 9.4 percentage points, thereby making sure that government expenditures are well targeted is key for achieving inclusive growth.

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics
2.13. General government expenditures as a percentage of GDP, 2007 and 2018

Argentina scores best in the Index of Quality of Regulations Against undue Influence

The index measures the existence and reach of lobbying regulations, enforcing transparency of influence seeking and the regulation on conflicts of interest. With a score of 7.5 (0 being the lowest possible and 9 the highest) Argentina fares as the country with the most comprehensive set of regulations on these aspects compared to a LAC regional average of 4.08.

Chapter 9: Public sector integrity
9.4. Index Quality of Regulations Against Undue Influence (pilot), 2018

Argentina approved a complementary budget every year between 2010 and 2017

The reasons for the approval of complementary budgets have been diverse including changing economic forecasts and increased estimates of mandatory spending. Still, the recurrent approval of complementary budgets increases the burden on public finances and could be detrimental to their sustainability.

Chapter 5: Budgeting practices and procedures
5.11. Approval of complementary budgets, fiscal years 2010 through 2017
5.12. Main reason to approve complementary budget between 2014 and 2017, 2018
Public Finance and Economics

**Fiscal balance (2018)**
\[ \text{% of GDP} \]
- **Argentina**: -5.2%
- **Average of OECD country values in blue**: 0%
- **Average of LAC country values in purple**: -8%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: -10% to 0%

**Government gross debt (2018)**
\[ \text{% of GDP} \]
- **Argentina**: 86.1%
- **Average of OECD country values in blue**: 64.7%
- **Average of LAC country values in purple**: 120%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: 120% to 140%

Public Employment

**Government investment (2017)**
\[ \text{% of GDP} \]
- **Argentina**: 1.6%
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 3.1%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: 2% to 4%

**Public sector employment as % of total employment (2018)**
- **Argentina**: 17.2%
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 21.1%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: 10% to 30%

**Gender equality in public sector employment (2018)**
- **Argentina**: 53.0%
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 60.2%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: 50% to 70%

Public Procurement

**Government procurement expenditures (2017)**
\[ \text{% of GDP} \]
- **Argentina**: n.a.
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 6.0%
- **Range of LAC country values in grey**: 2% to 10%

**Strategic public procurement by objective (2018)**

- **Support to green public procurement**
  - **Support to SMES**: n.a.
  - **Support to innovative goods and services**: n.a.
  - **Support to women-owned businesses**: n.a.
  - **Support to responsible business conducts**: n.a.
  - Argentina: n.a.

- **Support to responsible business conducts**
  - A strategy/policy has been developed at a central level
  - Some procuring entities have developed an internal strategy/policy
  - There has never been a strategy/policy in place
  - A strategy/policy has been rescinded

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Values have been rounded.

n.a. refers to data not available.

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* See Notes: Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database.

Source: OECD-IDB Survey on Public Procurement
**Institutions**

**Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Influence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD-IDB Survey on Organization and Functions of the Centre of Government

**iREG: Composite indicator on stakeholder engagement in developing subordinate regulations (2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The max. score for each category is 1, and the max. aggregate score for the composite is 4

**Open Government Data**

**OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government support for data re-use</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data accessibility</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data availability</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IDB-OECD Open Government Data Survey

**Public Sector Integrity**

**Index of quality of regulations against undue influence (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Public Integrity in Latin America

**Budgeting Practices**

**Existence of participatory budgeting at the central/federal level (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Existence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD/IDB Survey of Budget Practices and Procedures

**Human Resources Management**

**Proportion of vacancies that are published and open to external recruitment (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD/IDB Survey on Strategic Human Resources Management in Central/Federal Governments
Core Government Results

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2018)

- **National government**
  - Argentina: 26%
  - Average: 34%

- **Judicial system**
  - Argentina: 27%
  - Average: 34%

- **Health care**
  - Argentina: 55%
  - Average: 49%

- **Education system**
  - Argentina: 63%
  - Average: 57%

**Gini coefficient: Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2017)**

Indicator from 0 (low income concentration) to 1 (high income concentration)

- **Argentina**
  - Higher inequality: 0.62
  - Lower inequality: 0.2

**Five OECD most unequal**

- OECD average: 0.47
- Subsidy transfers: 0.37

**Notes**

LAC and OECD averages for Public finance and economics and Government procurement expenditures are weighted.

* Costs of goods and services financed by general government are not included in government procurement because they are not accounted separately in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (database).

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: [http://www.oecd.org/gov/government-at-a-glance-lac.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/government-at-a-glance-lac.htm)

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: [https://doi.org/10.1787/13130fbb-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/13130fbb-en)