

# Argentina

## Disruptive tech gets a chilly reception

Hard hit by years of economic turbulence, Argentina has lagged behind other countries in welcoming innovative technology.

A Buenos Aires-based taxi union filed a lawsuit against Uber when it first launched in Argentina. The U.S.-based ridesharing service faces particularly harsh backlash in the capital city, where local taxi drivers display anti-Uber slogans and passengers are asked to sit up front to avoid harassment. In 2017, a judge in Buenos Aires blocked Uber throughout the country, but stopped short of granting the prosecutor’s request to jail local Uber representatives. Uber appealed the decision, which the company says lacks any legal standing, but the case nonetheless earns Argentina a ‘D-’ in Ridesharing.

At the other end of Argentina’s sharing economy, short-term rentals face far fewer challenges. Aside from a rule that limits vacation rental agreements to three months, short-term rentals can operate throughout the country largely unencumbered by government rules.

Unlike ridesharing and short-term rentals, self-driving vehicles aren’t prohibited by the government, but the country doesn’t actively encourage development either, a middle ground that landed Argentina a ‘C’ in this category.

Sources: (CNN) (Coin Telegraph) (The Verge)

## WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Argentina allows short-term rentals to operate, but a federal rule caps rentals at three months.

## WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Reform ridesharing policies. Current rules hamper ride-sharing by requiring for-hire vehicles to return to their registered businesses between each trip. This prevents Argentines how people in Argentina can hail a ride.

Diversity	C-
Freedom	B-
Broadband	F
Human Capital	C
Tax Friendliness	F
R&D Investment	D+
Entrepreneurial Activity	D-
Drones	C
Ridesharing	D-
Short-Term Rentals	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	C
Environment	B



### Self-Driving Vehicles

The Argentine government hasn't delved into regulating self-driving technologies.



### Short-Term Rentals

One national law limits how long hosts can rent out their homes, but platforms such as Airbnb, Homeaway and VRBO are otherwise allowed throughout Argentina.



### Environment

Argentina received a 'B' for its clean air and drinking water.



## Human Capital

Nearly a quarter of Argentina's workers are highly-skilled and another quarter of the population has degrees in STEM from one of the country's universities. Compared to other Latin American countries graded, Argentina ranks second after Mexico.

## BUENOS AIRES

After recently emerging from years of economic strife, Argentina has cemented its role as a regional hub for technology entrepreneurs and a flourishing startup industry has developed in Buenos Aires.

Lino Barañao, the country's minister for science, technology and innovation, credited the economic hardships weathered by Argentinian businesses for creating a culture of innovation. Despite being largely cut off from the type of foreign investment that has fueled tech entrepreneurs elsewhere, that cultural ingenuity has paid off with a burst of successful startups in the capital city. Buenos Aires is now home to four of Latin America's 10 startups valued at more than \$1 billion.

The Parque Patricios district at the southwestern end of the city has seen a renaissance, attracting hundreds of technology and startup ventures since it was dubbed a creative district in 2008. Formerly an industrial neighborhood cut off by a lack of public transit, the area is now home to established companies like Deloitte and homegrown operations like Atomic Labs, which uses 3D printers to create mechanical hands and arms.



Technology entrepreneurs have found a welcoming reception in Buenos Aires, and the Argentinian city has seen a burst of successful startups, including four unicorns.

Sources: (Angel.co) (Financial Times) (Reuters) (Bloomberg) (Brookings) (The Next Web)