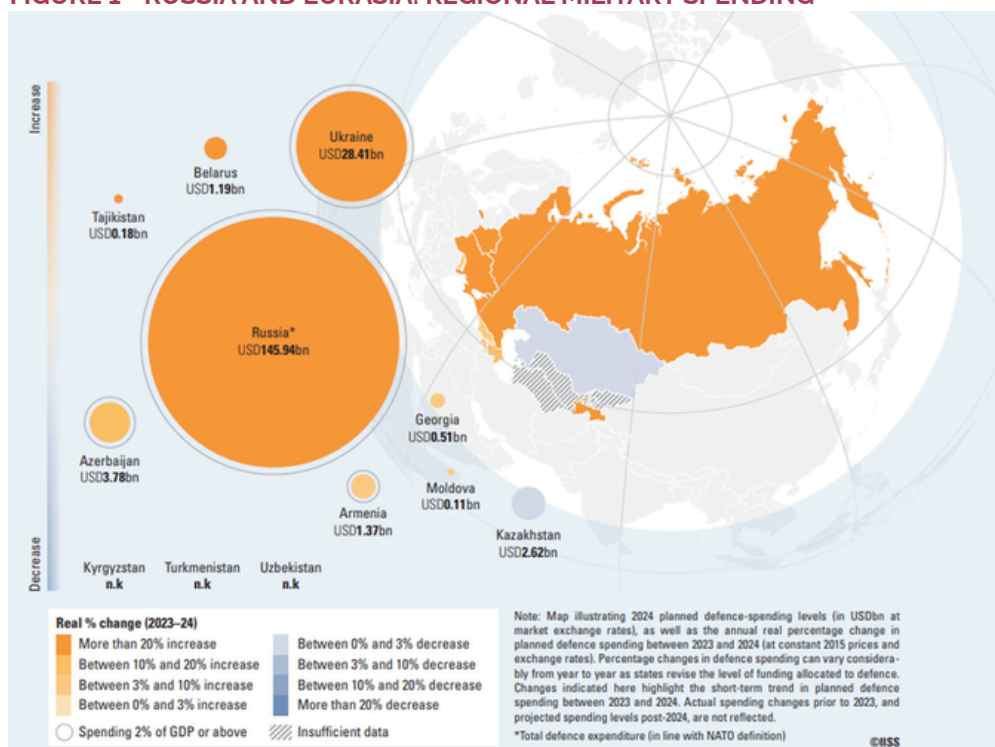


DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Argentina-Russia

RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

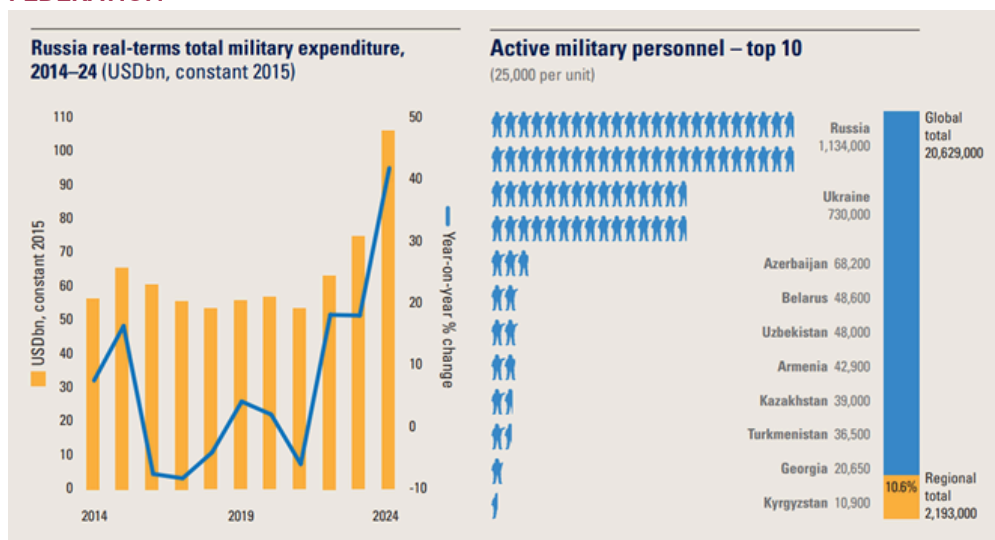
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities, intensifying the mobilization of its defense industry and expanding state military efforts. At the same time, international sanctions imposed since 2022 have restricted Russia's access to traditional markets, supply chains, and sensitive technologies, prompting a search for new partners and spheres of influence outside the Western bloc.

FIGURE 1 - RUSSIA AND EURASIA: REGIONAL MILITARY SPENDING



Source: The Military Balance 2025

FIGURE 2 - MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND ARMED FORCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Source: The Military Balance 2025

RUSSIA'S GLOBAL POSITION

- 3rd highest military spending in the world
- 6.7% of GDP allocated to defense (2024)
- A budget close to Europe's combined military spending
- A military power currently engaged in armed conflict

ARMED FORCES AND CAPABILITIES

- Numerically large armed forces
- Arsenal inherited from the USSR and modernized
- Emphasis on missiles, air defense, and hybrid warfare

DEFENSE INDUSTRY

- Industrial mobilization for the war effort
- Direct impact of international sanctions
- Decline in exports in recent years
- Search for alternative markets outside the Western bloc

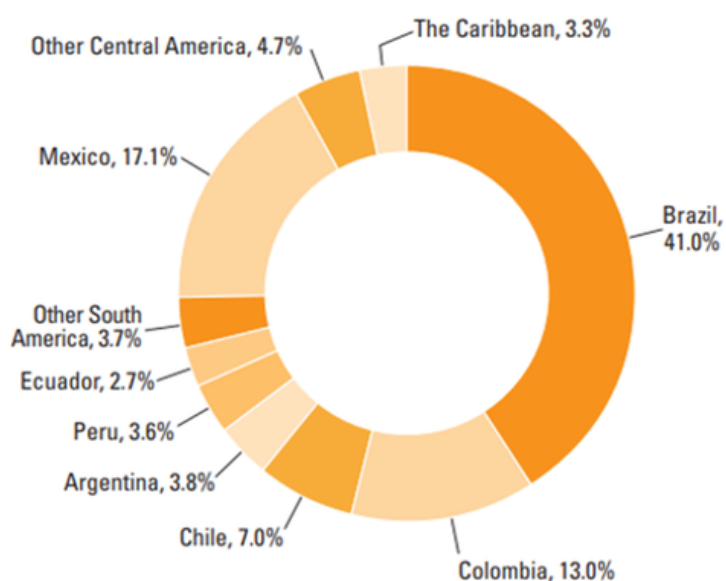
DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Argentina–Russia

ARGENTINA: INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

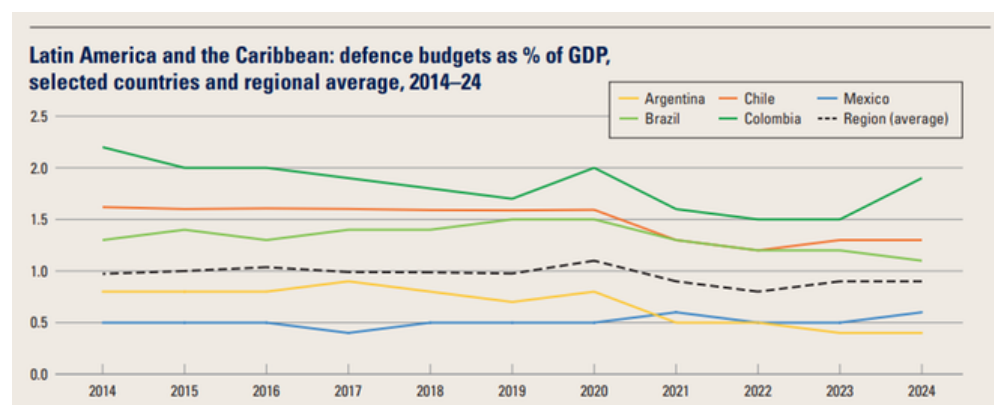
Argentina possesses a defense policy oriented toward the protection of national sovereignty and the deterrence of external threats, coordinated by the Ministry of Defense under the leadership of the President of the Republic as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. In recent years, the country has sought to strengthen its military capabilities through the modernization of equipment, the revitalization of its Defense Industrial Base, and the expansion of international partnerships for the acquisition of strategic technologies. The National Defense Fund (FONDEF) finances projects directed toward industrial and technological development, encompassing dual-use sectors such as the aerospace, cybernetic, and nuclear domains. Although it maintains relatively modest military expenditures in regional comparison, Argentina seeks to preserve operational autonomy and expand its capabilities in the face of contemporary strategic challenges.

FIGURE 3 – % OF TOTAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Source: The Military Balance 2025

FIGURE 4 – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: DEFENSE BUDGET AS A % OF GDP



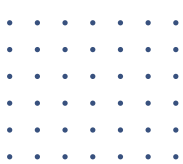
Source: The Military Balance 2025

ARGENTINA'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Regional military power in the Southern Cone
- 0.62% of GDP allocated to defense (2024)
- 5th largest defense budget in Latin America
- 6th largest military personnel in the region

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

- Financed by the National Defense Fund (FONDEF)
- Emphasis on dual-use technologies
- Prominence of FM (Fabricaciones Militares), FAdA (Fábrica Argentina de Aviones), and the naval industry
- Priority on technological autonomy and modernization



DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Argentina–Russia

RUSSIA AND ARGENTINA: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

Defense relations between Argentina and Russia exhibit greater institutional density than those of other South American nations, having been structured since the 2004 Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement and deepened over the subsequent decade through the Action Plan for Strategic Cooperation. Cooperation encompassed initiatives in the fields of nuclear energy, space technology, scientific exchange, combating transnational crimes, and negotiations for the production and acquisition of military equipment. Political alignment between the Argentine and Russian governments facilitated this rapprochement until the early 2020s. However, the shift in the Argentine government's strategic orientation, accompanied by a rapprochement with the United States and its allies, has significantly curtailed the prospects for expanding bilateral military cooperation.

Argentine Imports from Russia

- Transport helicopters
- Training aircraft
- Military-technical cooperation
- Select, ad hoc military equipment

Russian Strategic Interests

- Projection of regional influence
- Expansion of technological cooperation
- Nuclear energy and the aerospace sector
- Diversification of defense markets

RESTRICTIVE FACTORS AND CONTEXT

Base Agreement (2004)

Defense cooperation is structured upon the Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in 2004, subsequently broadened by the Action Plan for Strategic Cooperation.

Strategic Cooperation

Principal projects involved nuclear energy, aerospace technology, scientific exchange, counter-terrorism, and the joint production of military equipment.

Russian Interests

Russia sought to expand its political footprint in Latin America, access alternative markets, and consolidate cooperation in strategic technological sectors.

Political Shift

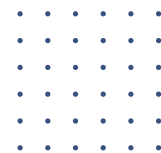
The Argentine government's reorientation toward the United States has diminished the scope for deepening military relations with Moscow.

Military Modernization

The recent acquisition of equipment from Western partners underscores the shift in Argentine strategic priorities.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Argentina–Russia



SYNTHESIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION: Argentina has developed one of the most extensive institutional frameworks for military cooperation with Russia in South America.



TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION: The partnership prioritized strategic sectors such as nuclear energy, aerospace, science, and the defense industry.



REDUCTION IN DYNAMISM: The shift in Argentine strategic orientation has decelerated the momentum of bilateral cooperation.

LIMITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



SHIFT IN ALIGNMENT: Rapprochement with the United States and its allies restricts new military initiatives with Russia.



SANCTIONS AND WAR: The Russian military effort in Ukraine constrains exports and new cooperative projects.



ARGENTINE PRIORITIES: The modernization of the Armed Forces increasingly relies upon Western suppliers.

FUTURE PROSPECTS



INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE: Existing agreements are likely to remain formally valid, albeit with low practical operationalization.



AD HOC EXCHANGES: Prospective initiatives will likely focus on technical and scientific areas of mutual interest.



PREDOMINANCE OF THE WESTERN AXIS: The current trajectory of Argentine foreign policy mitigates the probability of resuming strategic military cooperation with Russia in the short term.