

# The Collapse of Argentine Science Under Javier Milei: One Year of Unprecedented Defunding

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## Abstract

This article critically examines the systematic erosion of Argentina's public science ecosystem during the first year of President Javier Milei's administration, highlighting the broader implications for the nation's socio-economic and geopolitical landscape. Drawing on prior forecasts of a decline in scientific support, I assess the immediate and long-term ramifications of the government's decision to defund key scientific institutions and initiatives. By reviewing recent reports and government actions, I argue that Milei's policies —characterized by devastating budget cuts exceeding 32% of R&D public investment, large-scale layoffs of researchers, and the suspension of critical projects— jeopardize Argentina's status as a scientific leader in Latin America. These measures threaten to dismantle decades of progress in Argentina's scientific community, undermining its capacity to drive innovation, address pressing national challenges, and maintain global research collaborations. Public science has long served as a pillar for technological development and social well-being, playing an

irreplaceable role in confronting issues such as public health, agriculture, and climate change. In this context, I argue that Milei's approach not only weakens Argentina's scientific foundations but also jeopardizes its capacity for sustainable, autonomous growth. Unless immediate policy reversals are enacted, these actions will exacerbate existing social inequalities, accelerate the exodus of intellectual talent, and inflict long-lasting damage on Argentina's capacity for self-determined development, ultimately isolating the country from vital global scientific networks.

### Keywords

Argentine; Scientific system; Scientific policy; Javier Milei; Public science ecosystem; Government; Public Administration; Scientific support; Budget cuts; Long lasting effects.

### Conflicts of interest

The author is a researcher from *INTA*, a publicly funded science and technology federal agency from Argentina.

## 1. The Dismantling of Argentine Science Under Milei's Austerity Agenda

As a member of Argentina's scientific community, I have witnessed firsthand the profound challenges that have emerged under President Javier Milei's "austere" policy agenda. The scientific landscape, once a beacon of innovation and resilience in Latin America, has been subjected to an unprecedented attack, with drastic funding cuts, institutional dismantling, and a growing hostility toward public research (**De Ambrosio; Koop**, 2024a). The consequences of these policies extend beyond mere financial constraints; they represent a fundamental shift in the role of science within Argentine society. Under previous administrations, despite periods of economic turbulence, scientific institutions such as the *National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)* maintained a central role in national development, fostering advancements in biotechnology, medicine, and environmental research (**Debat**, 2023a). However, Milei's government has adopted a radically different approach, one that not only deprioritizes science but actively undermines its very existence as a public good.

This article extends earlier warnings (**Debat**, 2023a; **Debat**, 2023b) by evaluating the tangible impacts observed in the first year of Milei's governance, as reports emerging from diverse publications raise concerns about the long-term sustainability: research budgets in some agencies have been slashed by more than 70%, effectively paralyzing long-term projects and halting new lines of investigation. Public investment in R&D has declined to just 0.208% of GDP, down from 0.302% in 2023, despite the target of 0.39% set by the Argentinian Law 27,614. In real terms, this represents a 43% decrease from its 2015 peak (*EPC-CIICTI*, 2025). Laboratories that once thrived with interdisciplinary collaborations now struggle to

cover basic operational costs, forcing scientists to abandon experiments or seek alternative funding abroad (Trager, 2024). The dissolution of the *Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation* in December 2023 was not merely symbolic; it signaled an intentional marginalization of scientific research from national policy, reducing the ability of researchers to contribute to urgent societal challenges (Capasso; Capasso, 2024). These policies have also fostered an environment of uncertainty and precarity, leading to mass resignations and an exodus of scientific talent, with many of Argentina's brightest minds relocating to institutions in Europe and North America (Orfila, 2024).

The deliberate erosion of public research infrastructure threatens to disconnect Argentina from global knowledge networks, undermining our ability to effectively respond to crises ranging from pandemics to climate change (Vessuri, 2024). Argentina has historically played a crucial role in international collaborations and regional advances, particularly in areas such as agricultural science, virology, and climate research. For instance, during the COVID-19, Argentine laboratories contributed to global genomic surveillance efforts, enhancing the understanding of virus mutations and their implications for public health (Pérez, 2024). Similarly, research in agronomy has led to innovations in drought-resistant crops, which are vital for food security in an era of climate change (Sheridan, 2021). By systematically defunding and destabilizing the country's scientific institutions, Milei's administration is not only jeopardizing Argentina's progress but also weakening the broader regional scientific community that has long benefited from Argentine contributions (Viola, 2024). The impact of these policies is not confined to the academic sphere; they have profound socio-economic ramifications, exacerbating inequality, impeding technological innovation, and increasing reliance on foreign expertise and imports at the expense of national sovereignty (Sívori, 2024).

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## 2. Argentina's Legacy of Scientific Excellence and Its Current Threats

Argentina has a legacy of scientific development that has shaped its national progress, underpinned by substantial public investment and a long-standing recognition of the critical role that research and technological development play in national progress. From the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the country has fostered a strong scientific culture, producing pioneering figures who have left a lasting impact on global knowledge. Among them, Nobel laureates Bernardo Houssay, Luis Federico Leloir, and César Milstein stand out not only for their groundbreaking discoveries in physiology, chemistry, and immunology but also for their commit-

ment to establishing a robust institutional framework for scientific advancement (*CONICET Ed, 2020*). Their contributions laid the foundation for a public research system that thrived despite economic fluctuations and political instability, reflecting a national consensus that scientific development was not merely an intellectual pursuit but a crucial driver of social and economic progress.

The establishment of the *National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)* in 1958 was a milestone in consolidating Argentina's scientific infrastructure. Conceived as a response to the need for a centralized institution that could coordinate and support high-quality research, *CONICET* rapidly became the backbone of the country's scientific ecosystem. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, funding thousands of researchers, and providing the resources necessary for cutting-edge experimentation, the council enabled Argentina to maintain its relevance in global science despite recurrent financial crises. Over the decades, its programs expanded to include technological innovation in key sectors, bridging the gap between academia and industry. From 1996 to 2023, Argentina had ascended to the third position in Latin America concerning scientific outputs, a testament to the resilience and adaptability of its research community (*Scimago Journal and Country Rank, 2025*). This achievement was particularly significant given the financial constraints that have historically plagued scientific funding in the region, underscoring the efficiency of Argentina's public science institutions

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The impact of Argentine research extends beyond national borders, with contributions spanning a wide range of disciplines. In agriculture, scientists have played a pivotal role in developing genetically modified crops suited to the country's diverse climate conditions, strengthening Argentina's position as a global leader in agribusiness. In healthcare, advancements in vaccine development and biotechnology have benefited both local and international markets, exemplified by Argentina's participation in the COVID-19 vaccine supply chain (**Pérez, 2024**).

Argentine scientists and medical professionals from the public sector played a pivotal role in the nation's COVID-19 response. Their efforts spanned rapid development and implementation of diagnostic testing, crucial for tracking and controlling the spread of the virus. Simultaneously, they pursued domestic vaccine

research and development, aiming for self-sufficiency and contributing to global scientific knowledge.

Public sector doctors and researchers also focused on bolstering clinical capacity, developing treatment protocols, and conducting epidemiological studies to inform public health policy, all while confronting the challenges posed by limited resources and a rapidly evolving pandemic (**Rabinovich; Geffner**, 2021). These accomplishments underscore the integral role that publicly funded science plays in national development, demonstrating that sustained investment in research yields tangible economic and societal benefits. However, the continuity of these advancements is now under threat, as the current administration's policies undermine the very foundations upon which Argentina's scientific progress has been built (**Gentil**, 2025).

### **3. Argentina's University Crisis and the Cost of Austerity**

The significant budget cuts imposed on Argentina's public national universities in 2024 have raised profound concerns regarding the future of the country's higher education system. President Javier Milei's administration, in its pursuit of fiscal austerity, has implemented measures that have severely impacted university funding (**Orfila**, 2024). Notably, a law passed by Congress to adjust university budgets in line with Argentina's soaring inflation was vetoed by President Milei, a decision that was subsequently upheld by the lower house of Congress despite widespread protests from the academic community (*Reuters Ed*, 2024a). This veto has exacerbated the financial challenges faced by public universities, leading to significant reductions in salaries and resources, thereby threatening the quality and accessibility of higher education in Argentina (*Associated Press Ed*, 2024). The repercussions of these budgetary constraints extend beyond the universities themselves, affecting the broader scientific and technological landscape of the nation (*Reuters Ed*, 2024c).

The *CONICET* experienced a substantial reduction in its workforce, losing approximately 9% of its employees since President Milei assumed office. This contraction has raised alarms within the global scientific community, prompting 68 Nobel laureates to express their concern over the potential long-term damage to Argentina's scientific infrastructure (*Buenos Aires Times Ed*, 2024; *Reuters Ed*, 2024b). The erosion of support for public universities and research institutions not only undermines the nation's capacity for innovation but also jeopardizes its socio-economic development, given the pivotal role these institutions play in fostering critical thinking and driving technological advancement.

#### 4. Ideology Over Evidence: The Market-Driven Dismantling of Public Science

Elected on a platform espousing radical libertarianism, President Milei's administration has systematically targeted public science as part of a broader initiative to diminish state functions (Molina et al., 2024). The ideological underpinnings of this approach are rooted in a belief that the free market should dictate the direction of research and innovation, with minimal or no government intervention. Milei's economic advisors, many of whom align with the *Austrian School of Economics*, argue that state-funded science represents an inefficient allocation of resources and should instead be subjected to private sector incentives (Capasso; Capasso, 2024). This perspective, however, fundamentally misinterprets the role of basic and applied research, which often requires sustained investment over long periods before yielding tangible commercial applications. Historically, even in the most market-driven economies, the state has played an essential role in financing foundational scientific advancements, as seen in the United States with agencies such as the *National Science Foundation (NSF)* and the *National Institutes of Health (NIH)*. By contrast, Milei's administration has not only withdrawn support for public science but has also actively delegitimized its value, characterizing researchers as a burden on the economy rather than as contributors to national development (Orfila, 2024).

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The 2024 fiscal allocation for public R&D experienced a drastic reduction of funding, effectively stalling grants and halting the procurement of essential researchers and equipment (De Ambrosio; Koop, 2024a). The impact of these cuts extends beyond individual laboratories; they disrupt entire research ecosystems that depend on stable funding to function (Trager, 2024). Projects that require years of continuous experimentation, such as those in biomedicine, environmental science, and materials engineering, face abrupt terminations, with researchers forced to abandon studies mid-course (Viola, 2024). The consequences are particularly severe in fields where Argentina has historically excelled, such as agricultural biotechnology, where genetic research on drought-resistant crops is now under threat. Furthermore, the inability to acquire new equipment or even maintain existing infrastructure has left many research centers in a state of stagnation, rendering them unable to compete internationally (Pinto, 2024). The erosion of research capabilities in these critical areas not only weakens Argentina's posi-



tion in global scientific collaboration but also increases dependence on foreign technology and expertise, exacerbating economic vulnerabilities (Sívori, 2024).

More than 1,500 researchers faced non-renewal of their contracts, with remaining staff enduring salary reductions that have plunged their earnings below the poverty threshold (Orfila, 2024). This mass displacement of scientific personnel is reminiscent of the early 2000s economic crisis, when Argentine researchers were forced to seek opportunities abroad in what became known as the "brain drain" phenomenon (Pérez, 2024). However, the current exodus is even more alarming due to the explicit political hostility toward the scientific community. Unlike previous financial crises, where budgetary constraints were the primary obstacle, the present

scenario reflects a deliberate effort to dismantle public science as a state function. The dissolution of the *Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation* in December 2023 further reinforced this trajectory, symbolically marginalizing scientific inquiry from national policy discourse (Capasso; Capasso, 2024). These measures reflect Milei's characterization of public research as "parasitic," a position that disregards empirical evidence indicating that each dollar invested in research and development yields a at least a threefold return in economic benefits (Wynn et al., 2022). A recent government resolution to assess scientific programs threatens to terminate research not aligned with economic sectors like agroindustry and mining, effectively sidelining critical social and environmental studies (*Buenos Aires Times*, 2025). This move exemplifies Milei's market-driven ideology, prioritizing short-term profitability over the long-term societal benefits of diverse scientific inquiry. The dismissal of such data in favor of ideological dogma underscores the administration's disregard for evidence-based policy, a stance that threatens not only the future of Argentine science but also the broader prospects of national development in an increasingly knowledge-driven global economy (Horton, 2025).

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## 5. The Brain Drain Crisis: Argentina's Scientific Talent in Exile

The Argentine scientific workforce is experiencing a pronounced exodus, with professionals seeking stability in countries that offer consistent research funding, career development opportunities, and institutional support. Unlike past periods of economic hardship, where scientists endured financial constraints but remained committed to their work within Argentina, the current climate of hostili-

ty toward public science has made staying untenable for many (**Molina et al.**, 2024). The conditions have particularly affected early-career researchers, who constitute approximately 60% of *CONICET*'s personnel and who rely on state funding for salaries, laboratory resources, and international collaborations. Without these support structures, young scientists face limited prospects for conducting meaningful research, pushing them to seek academic positions abroad.

The virtual standstill of research funding in 2024, including the freezing of incorporation of new scientist to the *CONICET* and grants by the I+D+i agency, has pushed scientists to abandon Argentina, fearing a government intent on halting state-supported research (**Jaureguay**, 2024). This trend signals a loss of critical human capital that will be difficult to reverse, as highly trained professionals are unlikely to return without a drastic shift in policy. Unlike previous economic crises, where financial austerity was the primary challenge, the current crisis is ideological in nature, amplifying the sense of uncertainty and abandonment within Argentina's scientific community. Milei's policies have not only driven researchers abroad but have also led to a notable decline in university student enrollments, a critical pathway for social mobility, as documented by the *Network of Institutes of Geography and Territorial Studies (REDIGET-AMBA, 2025)*.

This ongoing brain drain poses a direct threat to Argentina's role in international scientific collaborations, many of which require sustained participation over decades (**Vessuri**, 2024). The country has historically been an important contributor to large-scale research initiatives, including projects like the *Global Framework for Biodiversity*, where Argentine biologists have played important roles in the study of plant diversity. Similarly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Argentine virologists were instrumental in the development of local virus detection technologies and in global genomic surveillance networks, contributing to the identification of variants and informing public health responses. These contributions reflect Argentina's broader commitment to the production of knowledge with global relevance, yet such collaborations are now in jeopardy. If funding cuts and institutional instability persist, Argentina risks being excluded from these partnerships, as international institutions increasingly require long-term commitments and stable investment from participating nations. The potential withdrawal of Argentine researchers from these global networks would create significant gaps in research areas that benefit from Latin American expertise, particularly in fields such as epidemiology, environmental science, and agricultural technology (**Nori et al.**, 2024).

## **6. Eroding Sovereignty: The Economic and Technological Fallout of Science Defunding**

The consequences of this decline extend beyond academia and scientific institutions; they directly impact Argentina's economic and technological sovereignty (**Sívori**, 2024). Publicly funded scientific research is foundational to the country's



key economic sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, and nuclear technology (De Ambrosio; Koop, 2024c). For decades, Argentine scientists have developed innovative agricultural technologies, such as drought-resistant crops and bioengineered seeds, that have strengthened the nation's agribusiness sector and contributed to food security. In this line, the government has initiated a so-called "modernization" plan for the *National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)*, which includes the sale of essential infrastructure—such as buildings and hundreds of hectares of productive land—along with the dismissal of agency employees (Clarín Ed, 2024).

INTA of Argentina drives agricultural innovation through research and development. It significantly contributes to no-till farming adoption and digital agriculture, enhancing sustainability and competitiveness. INTA's research and extension services play a vital role in advancing Argentine agriculture. Similarly, medical research has played a vital role in the development of vaccines, diagnostic tools, and biopharmaceuticals, reducing reliance on expensive imports. The nuclear sector, historically one of Argentina's technological strongholds, is also at risk, with cuts affecting the country's ability to sustain its nuclear energy infrastructure and maintain leadership in peaceful nuclear applications (Molina et al., 2024). The erosion of these capabilities will increase Argentina's dependence on foreign technologies and patents, limiting its ability to compete in high-value industries and reducing its strategic autonomy (Gentil, 2025). The dismantling of public science is not just a loss for the academic community—it is a broader national crisis that threatens economic resilience, technological progress, and Argentina's standing in the global research landscape.

The *National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE)*, has played a crucial role in satellite development, particularly in Earth observation and environmental monitoring. Argentine satellites such as SAOCOM have been instrumental in tracking deforestation in the Amazon basin, mapping soil moisture for agricultural applications, and aiding in disaster response efforts across Latin America

The current crisis in Argentina's scientific domain has far-reaching implications, extending well beyond the immediate impact on researchers and laboratories. One of the most alarming consequences is the potential dismantling of Argentina's space program, which has long been a source of national pride and regional leadership. The *National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE)*, established in 1991, has played a crucial role in satellite development, particularly in Earth observation and environmental monitoring. Argentine satellites such as SAOCOM have been instrumental in tracking deforestation in the Amazon basin, mapping soil moisture for agricultural applications, and aiding in disaster response efforts across Latin America. Defunding CONAE and halting satellite projects will not on-

ly weaken Argentina's contributions to global climate action but will also deprive the region of critical data needed to combat deforestation, manage water resources, and mitigate the effects of climate change (**Reingold**, 2024). These setbacks could force Latin American nations to rely on costly foreign satellite data, reducing their ability to make autonomous environmental policy decisions and further entrenching technological dependence on wealthier nations.

## 7. Public Health and Social Inequality: The Wider Consequences of Science Defunding

The decline of Argentina's scientific infrastructure also threatens research that addresses region-specific health challenges, particularly those that receive limited attention from the Global North (**Barberia; Geffner**, 2024). Historically, Argentine scientists have made significant contributions to infectious disease research, including efforts to combat Dengue fever, Chagas disease, and other vector-borne illnesses that disproportionately affect Latin American populations.

Unlike pharmaceutical research in wealthier nations, which is often driven by market incentives and focused on diseases prevalent in high-income countries, Argentine research institutions have prioritized public health concerns that directly impact local communities. The erosion of this research capacity risks leaving these pressing issues underexplored, exacerbating health disparities and weakening regional preparedness for future epidemics (**Barberia; Geffner**, 2024).

This comes at a time when climate change is expanding the geographic range of many tropical diseases, making sustained investment in disease surveillance and prevention more critical than ever. Without a well-funded scientific infrastructure, Argentina may lose its ability to develop locally adapted public health solutions, increasing dependence on external actors and limiting the country's ability to respond effectively to emerging health threats (**Horton**, 2025).

Beyond the loss of scientific expertise and technological capabilities, the collapse of public research institutions threatens to deepen Argentina's already stark social inequalities (**Cholakian**, 2024). Public universities and research centers have long functioned as engines of social mobility, providing high-quality education and career opportunities to students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The deterioration of these institutions will disproportionately impact lower-income students and early-career researchers who rely on state-funded scholarships, research grants, and teaching positions to advance in their fields (**Reingold**, 2024). As research opportunities shrink and university budgets are slashed, access to scientific careers will become increasingly restricted to those with independent financial means, reinforcing existing disparities. This erosion of equitable access to education and scientific training could have broader political and societal ramifications, as the increasing concentration of knowledge and opportunities among the elite fosters resentment and social unrest (**De Ambrosio; Koop**, 2024b). Historically, Argentina has maintained a strong tradition of free

public education as a mechanism for upward mobility, but the current assault on public science and academia threatens to dismantle this legacy (*Associated Press Ed*, 2024). If these trends continue, the country risks not only a loss of scientific leadership but also a broader decline in democratic resilience and social cohesion.

## 8. The Point of No Return: The Lasting Consequences of Scientific Disinvestment

If the current policies persist, the ramifications for Argentina's scientific ecosystem will be profound and potentially irreversible. The closure of research laboratories and entire research centers will not only displace thousands of highly trained professionals but will also lead to the permanent loss of invaluable data and expertise accumulated over decades (**Orfila**, 2024). Many of these laboratories house long-term studies that cannot simply be restarted elsewhere; the discontinuation of agricultural research, climate monitoring, and biomedical investigations will mean the destruction of datasets that took years to build (**Wessel**, 2019). In fields such as biodiversity conservation, where research often involves multi-year ecological studies, the interruption of funding and the dissolution of research teams will result in knowledge gaps that could have significant environmental and economic consequences. The loss of institutional memory—where experienced scientists train and mentor younger generations—will create a generational void that cannot be easily restored, even if funding is reinstated in the future (**Vessuri**, 2024). Once scientific communities disband and infrastructure deteriorates, rebuilding these capacities requires far more resources than maintaining them in the first place.

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Moreover, the shift toward privatized research models, encouraged by Milei's administration, threatens to fundamentally alter the purpose and accessibility of scientific knowledge in Argentina. Public research institutions have historically prioritized national interests, addressing critical issues such as food security, public health, and technological innovation in sectors that lack immediate profitability but hold long-term strategic importance. In contrast, the privatization of scientific research often reorients funding toward projects that offer direct financial returns, sidelining investigations that serve broader societal needs. This shift risks eroding the principles of open-access science and public-good-oriented research, as private companies have little incentive to make their findings freely available or to invest in fields with uncertain commercial prospects (*NAS*, 2018).

The privatization of knowledge production also raises ethical concerns, as corporate-controlled research agendas may prioritize patents and proprietary technologies over collaborative efforts that benefit the wider public. The consequence will be an increasing dependency on foreign patents and technologies, further constraining Argentina's ability to develop independent solutions to its most pressing challenges (**Jaureguy**, 2024).

Scientific progress is increasingly dependent on international cooperation, where shared resources, expertise, and funding facilitate breakthroughs that no single country could achieve alone. By cutting funding to public research institutions and disengaging from these networks, Argentina risks marginalizing itself from the global scientific community (**Wessel**, 2019). The country has already begun to see the repercussions of this withdrawal, with international partners hesitating to initiate new collaborations due to the instability of Argentina's research environment. The longer Argentina remains outside these collaborative ecosystems, the harder it will be to reintegrate, as lost credibility and severed relationships take years to rebuild (**Reingold**, 2024). Scientific isolation not only hampers innovation but also diminishes Argentina's geopolitical influence, reducing its ability to shape global research agendas in areas where it has historically led, such as agricultural biotechnology, nuclear energy, and infectious disease research. If the current trajectory continues, Argentina may find itself relegated to the periphery of global scientific discourse, dependent on external actors for knowledge and technology that it once helped to pioneer.

## 9. Conclusions

Argentina's scientific community stands at a critical crossroads, facing an existential crisis driven by unprecedented funding cuts, institutional dismantling, and an ideological shift that actively undermines public research. Historically, Argentina has maintained a strong tradition of scientific excellence, marked by pioneering contributions across multiple disciplines and the establishment of robust institutions such as *CONICET*. These foundations have enabled the country to play a vital role in regional research networks, drive technological innovation, and contribute to economic growth. However, the current policies threaten to dismantle this legacy, risking irreversible damage to Argentina's research ecosystem. The consequences of defunding and destabilizing public science extend far beyond academia. The loss of scientific expertise and research infrastructure undermines Argentina's ability to address pressing national and global challenges, from food security and infectious diseases to climate change and energy sustainability. The exodus of researchers, compounded by

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the erosion of institutional support, jeopardizes Argentina's participation in international collaborations and diminishes its influence in the global scientific landscape. Furthermore, the privatization of research risks shifting priorities away from public-good-oriented science, exacerbating social inequalities and increasing reliance on foreign technology and expertise.

The decline of Argentina's scientific sector also has profound socio-economic and geopolitical implications. As funding disappears and research programs collapse, the country faces a growing dependence on imported knowledge, weakening its technological sovereignty and long-term economic resilience. The dismantling of public research institutions not only stifles innovation but also threatens social mobility, as state-funded education and scientific careers have historically served as avenues for economic advancement. If these trends persist, Argentina risks deepening inequality, losing its competitive edge in key industries, and retreating from its once-prominent position in regional research. Reversing this trajectory requires urgent policy shifts that restore investment in public science, reaffirm the role of research as a national priority, and reintegrate Argentina into international scientific collaborations. The cost of inaction will be measured not only in lost knowledge and economic stagnation but in the country's diminished capacity to shape its own future in an increasingly knowledge-driven world. The preservation and advancement of Argentina's scientific infrastructure are not merely academic concerns—they are essential to the nation's long-term prosperity, resilience, and global standing (Jaureguy, 2024).

The decline of Argentina's scientific sector also has profound socio-economic and geopolitical implications. As funding disappears and research programs collapse, the country faces a growing dependence on imported knowledge, weakening its technological sovereignty and long-term economic resilience

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