

Analysis of first economic impacts of Covid-19 in Argentina



Alfredo Sese
Technical Secretary of Transport and Infrastructure at the Rosario Commodity Exchange (BCR).



Ricardo Javier Álvarez
Vice-President of the Argentine subsidiary of the Ibero-American Maritime Law Institute (IIDM) and the legal affairs coordinator of Hidrovías Latin America.

" We are facing a delicate situation. In terms of health, we are doing well for the moment. The problem is the consequence of this health crisis on the Argentinean economy, which is already very fragile "

As in the rest of the world, Argentina – Latin America's third largest economy – is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Alfredo Sese and Ricardo Javier Álvarez tell us about daily life in this period of containment and analyse the potential impact of the health crisis on an already struggling Argentinean economy.

The number of people infected with the coronavirus is growing exponentially. Added to this is the beginning of the winter period in the southern hemisphere that could accelerate the spread of the virus. Thanks to a implementation of strict containment rules, good quality health care system and the the

fear is more of an economic one. In 2018, a new economic crisis occurs, characterized by the depreciation of the Argentine peso, recession, inflation, a decline in economic activity, an increase in the number of unemployed, business failures and food insecurity.

The agricultural sector and export activities are affected by this crisis. The Paraná River allows ships carrying cereals, maize and soya to reach the Port of Rosario. In 2019, the marketing of these grains abroad doubled the country's exports. The economic slowdown will affect Argentina's ability to emerge quickly from the crisis.