

CONSTRUCTION & RELATED SERVICES



Construction of DPM 2 - Paso de los Toros, Uruguay | Saceem



Uruguay



Uruguay

buyfromuruguay.uy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The construction sector plays a key role in the country's economy, employing 120,000¹ people and representing 5% of the nation's GDP -- with an annual contribution of USD 2.6 billion. Investment in construction accounts for 65% of total investment in the country's economy, with 70% of it coming from the private sector.

Institutionally, the sector is organized around the Uruguayan Chamber of Construction (CCU), a business association that brings together 90 companies, including the most important in the sector. Created in 1930, it is a long-standing, efficient, and solid institution.

Uruguay's value proposition for the sector is based on the following pillars:

- Strong institutional framework, transparency, and a solid ecosystem.
- Flexible scale.
- Highly qualified and specialized professionals and technicians.
- Experience working with large, world-class international counterparts.
- Compliance with labor legislation and workforce.
- Financial soundness and efficient risk management throughout the project's life cycle.

Uruguayan construction companies have gone global and accumulated extensive experience, especially in the region. In addition to the main project destinations of Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Paraguay, other international market destinations include Spain, Turkey, and France.

To offer a couple of examples, a Uruguayan company is currently working in Peru with local professionals to build the first concrete road at an altitude of 4,000 meters and, in Argentina, Uruguayan companies are actively involved in wind energy and electrical infrastructure projects.

The sector's exports include construction services (construction in destination), setup, operation and maintenance services, consulting services, project development, and project management. As for the sale of specific goods, Uruguay exports equipment and machine components for the construction industry -- including tailor-made elements for specific construction sites, such as boilers, mills, and measuring instruments.

The construction industry also has a significant level of economic spillover, resulting in positive impacts both inside and outside the country. Exports from construction companies, which vary depending on the type of contract, involve:

- the invoicing of both goods and services from Uruguay to foreign countries,
- the relocation of personnel from Uruguay to different destinations, contributing to their professionalization,
- eventually opening offices and hiring human resources abroad.

In short, Uruguay's construction sector is a dynamic industry of great economic importance, where a growing trend of international expansion is driving employment, investment, and exports.

¹ According to data on the employed population from the National Statistics Institute (INE). Of this total, close to 45,000 correspond to direct work personnel.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN URUGUAY



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

EMPLOYMENT

The industry employs about 8% of the labor force in Uruguay and, as a whole, is the fifth largest source of employment (including direct labor, professional, technical, administrative, and indirect personnel).

CONTRIBUTION TO GDP AND TRACTION CAPACITY

The sector's GDP was USD 2.6 billion in 2020. The added value generated by the construction sector accounts for approximately 5% of national GDP (SNA Base 2016²).

According to a study commissioned by the [Uruguayan Chamber of Construction \(CCU\)](#), every dollar invoiced in construction activity leads to an economic turnover of four USD.

EXPORT TURNOVER

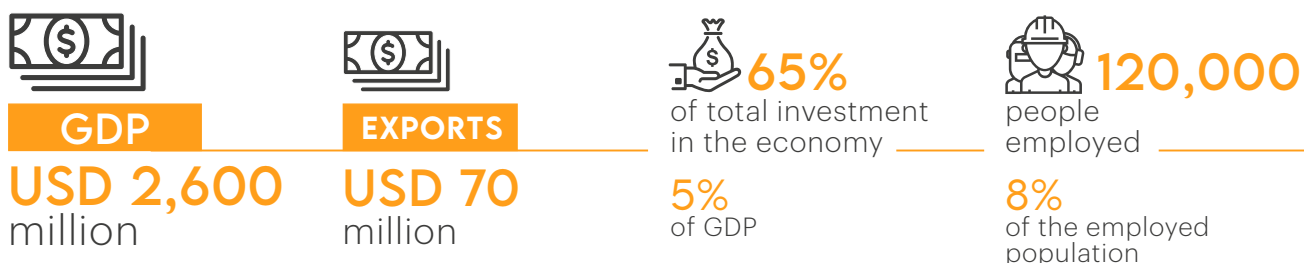
According to a study³ conducted by CCU and Uruguay XXI, turnover among exporting companies in the sector represents at least 25% of the total annual turnover for the industry, which was equivalent to at least USD 70 million in 2019.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Uruguayan construction companies have offices in several countries, such as Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Colombia.

The sector's institutional framework is made up primarily by the Uruguayan Chamber of Construction, which brings together 90 companies⁴ representing most of the sector's work in the country. It is a solid and long-standing institution.

Source of data for this section: Uruguayan Chamber of Construction (CCU).



Offices abroad:

ARGENTINA
PERU
CHILE

PARAGUAY
BOLIVIA
COLOMBIA

² In 2020, the system of national accounts was modified. In previous calculations the sector represented approximately 10% of the National GDP.

³ [Zunino, 2016](#).

⁴ Counting construction companies and other manufacturing, cement and related companies.

SECTOR VALUE PROPOSITION

The value proposition of this sector is based on the following pillars:

<p>1. STRONG INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, TRANSPARENCY AND SOLID ECOSYSTEM</p> 	<p>2. FLEXIBLE SCALE</p> 	<p>3. HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS AND TECHNICIANS</p> 
<p>4. EXPERIENCE WITH LARGE, WORLD-CLASS INTERNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS</p> 	<p>5. COMPLIANCE WITH LABOR LEGISLATION AND WORKFORCE</p> 	<p>6. FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS AND EFFICIENT RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT'S LIFE-CYCLE</p> 



STRONG INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, TRANSPARENCY, AND A SOLID ECOSYSTEM

Uruguay has a strong national ecosystem for the construction sector, involving academia, business, and professional associations -- as well as public and private organizations.

SECTORIAL ECOSYSTEM

<p>CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS</p>	
<p>PRIVATE AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LINKED TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY</p>	
<p>PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS</p>	
<p>UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS</p>	
<p>PUBLIC-PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS</p>	
<p>SOCIAL FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY</p>	

Institutional synergies have provided for the promotion and accelerated adoption of new technologies, as well as improving general productivity and competitiveness.

The sector's institutional strengths are the result of the long traditions and professional trajectories of many of the organizations involved. As a reference, the CCU, the School of Architecture, Design, and Urbanism at the University of the Republic (FADU), the School of Engineering at the University of the Republic (FING), the Uruguayan Society of Architects (SAU), and the Uruguayan Association of Engineers (AIU), are all centennial institutions.



FLEXIBLE SCALE

This solid institutional ecosystem has historically provided support for the development of a strong and innovative entrepreneurial fabric, with the capacity to lead and coordinate diverse projects:

- **Scale:** large scale and relatively smaller projects.
- **Complexity:** high levels of complexity and technical specificity.
- **Contractual formats:** public-private participation (PPP), international bids, turnkey projects, works under administration, and concessions.
- **Counterpart arrangements:** local/international and public/private.
- **Financial structure**



HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS AND TECHNICIANS

In Uruguay, which has nearly three and a half million inhabitants, 214,362 people are enrolled in university programs, while 11,216 are currently studying technical tertiary programs at technical institutes. Out of the total student population, 14,732 people study university courses related to construction fields and 648 are enrolled in technical courses associated with the industry⁵.

The construction sector has a **relative weight of 7%** of all student enrollment in degree programs.

In addition, the number of training courses organized by the CCU has grown considerably over the last five years, while also diversifying to address the different areas of work in the industry. Each year, the CCU reaches more than one thousand people with its training activities and annual events..

14,732 enrolled in university programs
+1,000 people trained annually at specific events

⁵Source: Statistical Yearbook Ministry of Education and Culture - MEC 2019



EXPERIENCE WITH LARGE, WORLD-CLASS INTERNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

In large scale construction projects carried out in Uruguay, international firms usually work together with local companies under various types of partnerships, allowing Uruguayan firms to incorporate the practice of working with international counterparts into their daily procedures and company culture.

EXAMPLE: CENTRAL RAILWAY

The **"Ferrocarril Central" project** is one of the most important infrastructure works of the last 50 years for the country and is currently under execution. The project involves the rehabilitation of 273 km of railroad track linking the city of Paso de los Toros (Tacuarembó) with the Port of Montevideo, to transport cargo and passengers more quickly, safely and economically.



The construction will use the latest technology such as welded rails, anti-noise and anti-vibration protections. It will also enable the railroad to reduce its travel times by half and increase the infrastructure's load capacity.



The Uruguayan companies **Saceem** and **Berkes**, the Spanish company **Sacyr**, and the French company **NGE** make up the **Grupo Vía Central** (GVC), which is in charge of the Central Railway project for the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTO). GVC is responsible for the financing, design, rehabilitation and maintenance of the project for 18 years.



Grupo Vía Central is entrusting construction to a consortium *Consortio Constructor Ferrocarril Central*, CCFC (Central Railway Construction Consortium) comprising NGE Contracting S.A., Sacyr Construcción Uruguay S.A., and two Uruguayan companies, Saceem and Berkes.



COMPLIANCE WITH LABOR LEGISLATION AND WORKFORCE

Uruguay boasts an agile and enabling environment with fluid interaction between business, government and labor force. The construction sector is a pioneer in work arrangements in tripartite and bipartite scenarios, as well as in forming working groups and specific commissions to come together and resolve concerns while focusing on the development of the activity. In these areas, the focus has been especially on areas related to occupational health and safety, labor relations, norms, and regulations.

On average, 34% of the quality, environmental management, and occupational health and safety certifications issued by [UNIT Uruguay](#) are for companies in the sector, 37% of the occupational health and safety certifications are issued to companies in the construction industry.

NUMBER OF CERTIFIED COMPANIES IN THE SECTOR:



ISO 9000 - Quality management: **27**

ISO 14001 - Environmental management: **20**

ISO 45001 - Occupational health and safety: **18**

Source: [UNIT](#)



FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS AND EFFICIENT RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT LIFE-CYCLE

In addition to their financial soundness and specific expertise related to the long-term management of projects and their inherent risks, the industry's companies have extensive experience in the financial structuring of large infrastructure projects.

Therefore, they have the necessary expertise to participate in various project stages and adequately respond to all requirements, even in adverse scenarios with limited resources.

PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: STRATEGIC PILLARS

Members of CCU are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following:



Within this framework, **productivity and sustainability** are fundamental pillars in the industry's strategic vision in Uruguay.



PRODUCTIVITY

In recent years, the sector has incorporated substantial improvements in two main lines of work:

1. Comprehensive productivity measurement services
2. Promoting the adoption of virtual construction as a working methodology

1. COMPREHENSIVE PRODUCTIVITY MEASUREMENT SERVICES

In the period from 2019 to 2020, the CCU implemented a Construction Productivity Measurement Project⁶, aiming to offer a tool for improvements and sector benchmarking, while allowing companies and potential investors to evaluate on-site productivity using the same criteria and methodology -- adapted to local considerations.

As a result of this initiative, a comprehensive productivity measurement service is currently available to all companies in the sector, with identical evaluation methods and a report of results.

⁶ With the support of the National Development Agency (ANDE) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS).

2. PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF VIRTUAL CONSTRUCTION AS A WORKING METHODOLOGY

Since 2016, responding to private sector initiatives and in coordination with the public sector and academia, the adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM) has been promoted as a design and management tool for architectural and engineering construction projects.

This new system, used globally, allows all those involved in the project to work on a single digital model in a collaborative and integrated manner.

To encourage the use of BIM technology, several national and international training and awareness-raising events were held, also making use of the **Finishing Schools** tool offered by Uruguay XXI and financed by the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (Inefop), to train professionals and companies in modeling and design software, languages, and certifications.

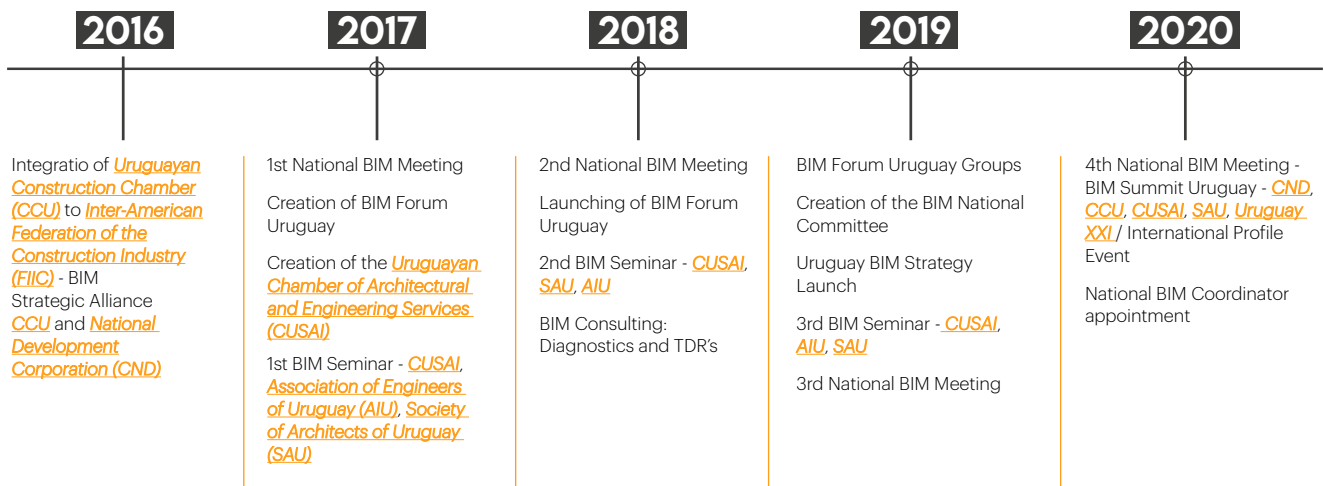
In addition, **BIM Forum** was founded to promote and accelerate the adoption and implementation of BIM methodologies in Uruguay through research, dissemination, and training activities across the public and private sectors, as well as in academia.

A National BIM Committee was also created to comply with the National BIM Strategy, outlined in 2019.

These milestones made it possible for Uruguayan professionals to master the skills required at each stage of the construction process with the latest available technologies, from virtual construction methods to virtual reality.

Uruguay has made important advances in this methodology in recent years:

MAIN MILESTONES - BIM AGENDA IN URUGUAY



143 COMPANIES

417 PEOPLE TRAINED

in modeling software, languages, certifications and design software



SUSTAINABILITY

Regarding **sustainability**, the industry is currently working on environmental impact measurement and the improvement of circular economy practices across the entire industry ecosystem.

One of the most recent lines of work is the promotion and incorporation of **carbon emission measurement** tools in construction companies. This project is driven by the public sector, with private sector support and financing from the **Green Climate Fund**.

In line with the country's commitment to environmental care and global sustainability, the number of buildings with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification -- developed by the **United States Green Building Council (USGBC)** -- has grown in recent years. This certification process defines a set of standards that ensure that new projects are built with eco-efficiency standards in mind and meet sustainability requirements.

Also, since 2017, the **Uruguay Green Building Council (UYGBC)** -- a non-governmental organization aiming to accelerate the transformation of the construction industry toward more sustainable business models, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and promoting the responsible use of resources -- has been operational.

All of the above is evidence of the capacity and talent of the country's professionals to develop world-class projects based on substantial improvements in construction technologies, materials, energy management solutions, land use, and water treatment.

LEED CERTIFICATIONS IN URUGUAY⁷



CELEBRA BUILDING GOLD CERTIFIED 2015

Icon of innovation in the field of green buildings. It is the first GOLD LEED certified building in Uruguay, guaranteeing that its design, construction and operation meet the highest demands in terms of environmental impact and energy conservation.

**INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY AWARDS,
BEST OFFICE BUILDING IN THE WORLD - 2010**



GARZÓN WINERY SILVER CERTIFIED 2019

First winery in the world to obtain LEED certification for all of its facilities, including its wine production and hospitality services.

**BEST WINERY IN THE NEW WORLD - WINE MAGAZINE
ENTHUSIAST, WINE STAR AWARDS 2018**

⁷ Source: **US Green Building Council**

OTHER LEED SILVER CERTIFIED BUILDINGS:

PUERTO BUCEO COTTAGE HOTEL
AEROCARGAS DHL GLOBAL FORWARDING NEW HOME
COSTA CARRASCO BUILDING
WTC DUTY-FREE ZONE
PORTO SEGURO URUGUAY - HEADQUARTERS
ROCHE WTC TOWER 4
UNILEVER URUGUAY DISTRIBUTION CENTER



NEW CAF URUGUAY HEADQUARTERS

The new headquarters of [CAF Southern Region - Development Bank of Latin America](#) is the result of a National Architecture Competition promoted by the institution and sponsored by the Municipality of Montevideo in 2012, designed by LAPS Arquitectos.



MORE BUCEO BUILDING

[More Buceo](#), a residential tower in Montevideo, under construction since October 2020, is the first residential building in Uruguay with LEED precertification.

INVESTMENT AND EXPORT INCENTIVES



GENERAL FRAMEWORK

By law, Uruguay offers investment and export incentives as well as attractive tax benefits. Exports are exempt from value added taxation (VAT) and investments receive a reduction in income (IRAE) and wealth tax rates, as stipulated in the Investment Promotion Law 16.906. The country also offers an attractive duty-free zone framework, exempting companies in the zone from IRAE, property tax, and any other tax (currently on the books or to be authorized in the future).

The country guarantees equal treatment to local and foreign investors and allows free circulation of foreign currency and profits.

- For more information regarding the Investment Promotion Regime in Uruguay, please consult Uruguay XXI's [Investor Services Guide](#)
- The [Setup Cost Simulator](#), an application developed by Uruguay XXI, offers a reliable reference for the cost of setting up a business in the country.
- The [Live in Uruguay](#) platform provides useful information for those moving to Uruguay to live, work, study, or invest.

Uruguay signed tax agreements with 21 countries, including some of the main export destinations for the construction sector, such as Paraguay and Spain, to avoid double taxation on income tax and wealth tax.

More information on the country's current trade agreements can be found in Uruguay XXI's [Uruguay Trade Agreements Report](#).

Uruguay XXI offers specific and updated information regarding the costs of moving an operation to Uruguay. For details and personalized attention, please contact exportaciones@uruguayxxi.gub.uy



INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

In addition to the general framework, Uruguay has developed specific investment regimes that promote social housing, large-scale economic projects, and tourism projects.

1. SOCIAL HOUSING

Private investment in social housing is promoted by granting **tax exemptions for the construction, renovation, recycling, or expansion of housing in certain pre-established areas of the capital and the country's interior**. The benefits are both for construction projects and for those who acquire housing for rent.



Regulatory framework: [Law 18.795](#) and [Decree 129/020](#).

2. LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC PROJECTS

The country establishes tax benefits for developers covering the Corporate Income Tax (IRAE)⁸, equity, VAT, and import taxes. The promoted activities are:

- Construction for sale or lease of office real estate.
- Construction for sale or lease of residential real estate.
- Private urban developments on rural or suburban land, including:
 - Development of necessary infrastructure and subdivisions.
 - Development, subdivision, and construction (total or partial) of housing on said land.



Regulatory framework: [Decree 316/020](#) and [Decree 138/020](#), under [Investment Law 16.906 of 1998](#).

3. TOURISM PROJECTS AND HOTELS

The construction of hotels, apartment hotels, inns, motels, tourist farms, and condominium hotels is promoted by public agencies. Uruguay grants tax exemptions to the tourism sector, with greater tax benefits awarded to those developing complex units that attract new tourism demand.



Regulatory framework: [Decree 175/003](#) and [Decree 404/010](#).

For further information, see [Real Estate Sector Report - Uruguay XXI](#).

⁸ Corporate income tax (IRAE) has a general rate of 25%.

SECTORIAL EVENTS IN URUGUAY

ANNUAL BIM MEETING

Since 2017, BIM meetings have been held annually with the aim of raising awareness and training companies and professionals in the area. They are organized by various institutions in the construction sector to promote the use of BIM and have been declared of National Interest, a good indication of the importance attributed to the field at a national level.



The fourth edition of the BIM meeting was held in 2020, with the active participation and support of all the public and private organizations that make up the local construction ecosystem. The event featured high-profile international speakers and more than **800 people from 25 countries registered to attend.**

Some reference presentations can be found [here](#).



SYSO IN CONSTRUCTION NATIONAL CONGRESS

Since 2017, this event organized by the Uruguayan Chamber of Construction has been held yearly, with the support of various institutions and companies linked to occupational health and safety at work. The congress is generally held close to the International Day of Occupational Health and Safety at Work. [\[+\]](#)

CONSTRUCTION DAY

Every year, every third Monday of October, Construction Day is celebrated in Uruguay, usually including events and celebrations in the construction sector.

PLATFORMS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Business opportunities for international companies with Uruguayan construction include:

1. LOCAL COUNTERPART FOR THE REGIONAL EXPANSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

2. SPECIALIZED AND RELIABLE SUPPLIER FOR MEDIUM AND LARGE SCALE PROJECTS

3. LOCAL PARTNER FOR MAJOR PROJECTS IN URUGUAY

In turn, Uruguay's exportable goods and services in the construction sector consist of:

- On-site **construction services**.
- **Consulting, project development, and project management services**.
- **Installation, operation, and maintenance services**.
- **Specific goods:** goods and machinery related to the industry, tailor-made for specific construction sites, including boilers, mills, and measuring instruments.



EXPORT CASE STUDIES WITH URUGUAYAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES



URUGUAYAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES ARE PRESENT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE, AND COLOMBIA.

GRUPO SACEEM



Grupo Saceem is a Uruguayan company of recognized prestige in the areas of engineering and construction. It has operations in **Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay.**

SACEEM operations abroad

Some reference projects:



PERÚ - ANDRÉS AVELINO CÁCERES SPORTS COMPLEX AND CALLAO SPORTS VILLAGE

2018-2019

Construction of sports infrastructure in the framework of the XVIII Pan American and Parapan American Games Pan American and Parapan American Games Lima 2019 which included the expansion and remodeling of the San Marcos stadium of the Universidad Nacional Mayo, the remodeling of the Miguel Grau Coliseum and the construction of a new sports center (Yahuar Huaca). The work was carried out under the fast track modality, meaning the design and construction at the same time.



PERÚ - OYÓN - AMBO HIGHWAY 2019-2020

Grinor, as part of the Consorcio Vial Ambo, is in charge of the construction of 50 kilometers -of the Oyón - Ambo concrete road. It involves work at an altitude of between 3,500 and 4,600 meters.

Ingener

Ingener is the largest electrical infrastructure construction company in Uruguay, an industry leader in engineering, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance services for the energy, industry and services sector.

With operations in **Uruguay, Argentina and Bolivia**, it has participated in more than 550 MW of wind power projects, 80 MWp of solar photovoltaic projects, 600 MW of thermal generation plants and more than 25 high voltage substations, where it executes EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contracts, resolving works of interconnection to the grid, electromechanical infrastructure, civil works, assembly, commissioning and O&M services to guarantee the availability O&M to guarantee the availability of the facilities during their commercial operation.

Some reference projects:



ARGENTINA - LA BANDERITA WIND FARM

Execution of the BOP of the Wind Farm in EPC modality, complete civil works of the wind farm and complete electrical works including the connection of 11 wind turbines of 3.6 MW each, totaling 40 MW of installed power.



BOLIVIA - SAN JOSÉ I AND SAN JOSÉ II HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

Construction of the hydroelectric power plants, with a capacity of 55MW and 69MW respectively, and the electrical interconnection between them. The selection of Ingener as the main contractor for the works was a milestone in the company's history as it was the first contract outside Uruguay.



Berkes, an Uruguayan company with more than 80 years of experience, operates in vital sectors such as health, education, energy and transportation with the execution of civil, mechanical and electrical projects, not only in Uruguay but also abroad.

The company advances in the construction of power plants in EPC format and the supply and assembly of power boilers in **Argentina, Colombia, Guyana, Brazil and Uruguay** as well as liquid storage tank farms in Brazil. storage tank farms in **Brazil**.

With a global presence in Montevideo, Copenhagen and Madrid, it works in coordination to strengthen the brand and its engineering. Its greatest strength and hallmark is being an interdisciplinary company, capable of providing global solutions.

Some reference projects:



COLOMBIA - REFOCOSTA
2019

EPC power plant of 5 MW of power. Traveling grate system. Fuel: wood chip.



FRENCH GUYANA - VOLTALIA
2019

23 t/h, 68 barg, 485 C° boiler. Traveling grate system. Fuel: wood chip.

VENTUS

Ventus is an engineering and construction company for renewable and infrastructure projects, with operations in **Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Chile and Colombia**. The company has more than 20 projects outside the country.

Some reference projects:



COLOMBIA - **SAN FERNANDO SOLAR PARK** 2021

Ventus recently completed the participation BoP construction of the largest industrial self-consumption solar plant in Colombia, with 61 MWp of installed capacity, in which more than 600 employees participated in this project. Ventus is the company that builds more solar MW in Colombia.



Multi-specialist engineering consulting firm with 40 years of experience providing world-class services in the industrial and infrastructure sectors, with **more than 2,000 projects in more than 20 countries and a global presence with offices in Latin America and the United States**.

Some reference projects:



MYANMAR (BIRMANIA) 2019 - PRESENT

Design and executive project for a new rice parboiling plant with a capacity of 21 tons per hour. With an area of 4,000 m² and a height of 40 meters, the plant is located in **Thilawa in Myanmar (Asia)**.

WHY URUGUAY?



Construction of the Río Negro - Route 5 Bridge, Paso de los Toros, Uruguay | Saceem

URUGUAY: A SMART CHOICE

Among emerging countries, Uruguay is the best ranked in ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) factors according to an index prepared by JP Morgan (J-ESG).

RELIABLE AND SAFE FOR DOING BUSINESS

Located in an economically attractive region, Uruguay is one of the most reliable countries in which to do business. It is a vibrant democracy with effective separation of powers that boasts political and social stability, a favorable business climate, an investment-grade rating ratified by the main rating agencies, and 17 consecutive years of economic growth. Uruguay has entered into multiple international agreements and is a member of the main global dispute-resolution mechanisms.



#1 RULE OF LAW INDEX

World Justice Project, 2020



#1 DEMOCRACY INDEX

Economist Intelligence Unit, 2020



#1 LOW CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

Transparency International, 2020

SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY

Uruguay offers highly complex goods and services to diversified markets. While famous for providing safe and nutritious food to the world, Uruguay is also a net exporter of global services -- including information technology, tourism, architecture and engineering, construction, audiovisual, and corporate services.

With long-standing ties to the most demanding markets, Uruguay provides goods and services to world-class companies located in more than 160 countries. Likewise, a wide variety of global companies choose the country as a base for their international operations or as a hub from which they support their teams in Latin America, the United States, and the rest of the world. Investors highlight the country's world-class infrastructure and the excellent quality of life it affords executives and their families.



SERVICES ACCOUNT FOR 70% OF GDP

Central Bank of Uruguay (BCU), 2020



IN ICT ADOPTION in LATAM

The Global Competitiveness Report, 2019

More information about Uruguay: [Live in Uruguay](#).

WORKING CONDITIONS

Uruguay offers the best working conditions in the region, leading formal labor registration indexes in Latin America. The provision of goods and services in Uruguay considers the ethical dimensions of productive processes to guarantee decent working conditions and greater access to opportunities.



#1 FORMALITY DIMENSION BETTER JOBS INDEX
in LATAM

IDB, 2020



#1 GLOBAL SOCIAL MOBILITY INDEX
in LATAM

World Economic Forum, 2020

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Uruguay's wealth, based on abundant natural resources, reflects an ethos of protection and care for the environment. Global consumers value the high quality of natural resources available in the country, incorporated into safe production processes through innovation, talent, and design.



90% OF LAND

suitable for agricultural and livestock use



98% OF THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY GENERATION

comes from renewable sources



Patio of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism (FADU) | SMA-S815-007 Archive

“My first trip to Uruguay was an eye-opener. I had no idea that this small country had so much to offer. From the impressive universities, the entrepreneurial spirit, and the magnificent coastline, it’s clear that Uruguay is ready to step onto the world stage.”

TINA SEELIG, LECTURER AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

URUGUAY IN BRIEF (2021)

OFFICIAL NAME	Oriental Republic of Uruguay
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	South America, bordering with Argentina and Brazil
CAPITAL	Montevideo
AREA	176,215 km ² . 95% of the territory is productive land suitable for agriculture and livestock farming.
POPULATION (2019)	3.52 million
POPULATION GROWTH (2019)	0.3% (annual)
GDP PER CAPITA (2019)	US\$ 17,466
CURRENCY	Uruguayan peso (\$)
LITERACY RATE	98%
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	77.6 years
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	Democratic republic with presidential system
POLITICAL DIVISIONS	19 departments
TIME ZONE	GMT - 03:00
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Spanish

MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS 2016-2021*

INDICATORS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*
GDP (ANNUAL % VARIATION)	1.7%	2.6%	1.6%	0.2%	-5.6%	3%
GDP (MILLIONS US\$)	57,287	64,431	53,301	55,995	53,301	55,720
POPULATION (MILLIONS OF PEOPLE)	3.48	3.51	3.53	3.52	3.53	3.54
GDP PER CAPITA (US\$)	16,461	18,377	15,095	15,914	15,095	15,727
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - ANNUAL AVERAGE (% EAP)	7.8%	8.3%	10.4%	8.9%	10.4%	10.9%
EXCHANGE RATE (PESOS PER US\$, AVERAGE ANNUAL)	30.1	30.8	42.0	35.3	42	44.4
EXCHANGE RATE (ANNUAL AVERAGE VARIATION)	10.1%	7.3%	19.1%	14.7%	19.1%	5.6%
CONSUMER PRICES (ANNUAL CUMULATIVE % CHANGE)	8.1%	8.0%	9.4%	8.8%	9.4%	7.1%
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (MILLIONS US\$)**	15,460	17,038	13,742	16,008	13,742	14,596
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (MILLIONS OF US\$)**	12,441	13,816	11,319	12,707	11,319	12,003
TRADE SURPLUS / DEFICIT (US\$ MILLIONS)**	3,019	3,222	2,423	3,301	2,423	2,593
TRADE SURPLUS / TRADE DEFICIT (% OF GDP)	5.3%	5.0%	4.5%	5.9%	4.5%	4.7%
OVERALL FISCAL RESULT (% OF GDP)	-3.4%	-3.9%	-6.0%	-4.8%	-6.0%	-
GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION (% OF GDP)	17.5%	15.0%	16.5%	16.2%	-	-
GROSS PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT (% OF GDP)	58.5%	59.6%	64.5%	66.4%	-	-
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (US\$ MILLIONS) ****	-1,825	146	-487	189	-	-
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (% OF GDP)	-2.2%	-1.4%	0.8%	-0.3%	-	-

⁹ Sources: Data on GDP, foreign trade, FDI, exchange rate, international reserves and external debt are from BCU; population growth, literacy, unemployment and inflation rates are from the National Institute of Statistics. Estimated data for 2020 based on economic and inflation expectations surveys from BCU and projections from Exante. Fiscal outturn data are from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, since 2018 figures are adjusted for the effect of Law N°19590 (50 year olds).

* Projected data in red.

** In 2017 the BCU adopted the methodology of the 6th Balance of Payments Manual. Data based on this new methodology includes purchase and sale of goods and re-exports and is available from 2012.

*** In 2017 the BCU adopted the methodology of the 6th Balance of Payments Manual. The data are net flows so they can take negative values.

ANNEXES



ANNEX: SECTORIAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS



Chamber of Construction: with more than 100 years of history, the chamber seeks to work with public authorities in the consideration, study, drafting, and application of laws, decrees, resolutions, and ordinances related to the industry. The chamber seeks to promote continuous, sustainable, and equitable development with environmental protection, human growth, and continuous training for our workers and their families.

ccu.com.uy ✦



Association of Private Construction Developers: a non-profit organization, made up of real estate developers (involved in any area of the industry), university professionals, public and private Institutions, and companies linked to the sector.

www.appcu.org ✦



The Liga de la Construcción (Construction League): brings together companies from across the country working on commercial activities related to the construction industry. It aims to promote development, improvement, and productivity in the construction industry and related branches.

www.ligaconstruccion.org ✦



Eastern Construction Industry Coordinator (CICE): an association that brings together construction companies, subcontractors, suppliers, and providers of construction items -- gathered with the aim of promoting the industry and creating the foundations for sustainable and permanent construction development in the Department of Maldonado.

www.cice.org.uy ✦

PRIVATE AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Uruguayan Chamber of Architectural and Engineering Services: a civil association that seeks to promote and develop companies providing architectural and engineering services with a focus on internationalization and contributing to the strategic positioning of Uruguay in the international market as a global service provider.

www.cusai.org.uy ✨



Uruguayan Society of Architects (SAU): a guild with more than 100 years of history. Its main objective is to consolidate the role of the architect, promoting best practices in the field and generating spaces for social action. The SAU is an active member of globally recognized organizations in Architecture, such as: The International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Pan-American Federation of Architect Associations (FPAA).

www.sau.org.uy ✨



Uruguayan Association of Engineers: a civil association acting as a trade union with more than 100 years of history, constituted to promote the permanent improvement of national engineers -- materially, morally, and intellectually.

www.aiu.org.uy ✨

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS



Uruguay XXI: is the agency responsible for the promotion of exports and investments in the country. It promotes the internationalization and competitiveness of Architectural and Engineering services, for which it promotes and develops BIM technological capabilities in companies through its Finishing Schools program.

www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy ✨



The National Corporation for Development (CND): a non-state legal entity under public law, chartered to provide services to ministries, municipalities, public entities, and private companies -- pursuant to the promotion of the country's development objectives through management excellence with a focus on the citizen and social responsibility.

www.cnd.org.uy ✨



The National Housing Agency: a decentralized agency tasked with promoting and facilitating access to and permanence in housing, as well as contributing to the development and implementation of public housing policies considering economic, social, and environmental factors..

www.anv.gub.uy



Ministry of Housing and Land Management: responsible for designing and implementing participatory and holistic public policies on housing, environmental, territorial, and water concerns -- serving to promote equity and sustainable development while contributing to improvements in quality of life for the country's inhabitants.

www.gub.uy/ministerio-vivienda-ordenamiento-territorial



Ministry of Transportation and Public Works: responsible for designing, executing, and controlling national transportation policy for all modes of transportation -- acting in coordination with public companies, departmental governments, and other state and private organizations.

www.gub.uy/ministerio-transporte-obras-publicas



Ministry of the Environment: created in July of 2020 as a state secretariat with exclusive competencies in environmental matters, the ministry is responsible for the execution of national environmental policy, environmental management, sustainable development proposals, and plans for conservation and natural resource use.

www.gub.uy/ministerio-ambiente



Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining: responsible for designing and implementing government policies related to the industrial, energy, mining, telecommunications, audiovisual and postal communication services, industrial property and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises sectors.

www.gub.uy/ministerio-industria-energia-mineria



Planning and Budget Office (OPP): responsible for advising the Executive Branch in the formulation of national and departmental plans, programs and policies as well as in the definition of the Government's economic and social strategy.

www.opp.gub.uy



Congress of Mayors (Congreso de Intendentes): responsible for coordinating the policies of the Departmental Governments and entering into agreements with the Executive Branch, Autonomous Entities and Decentralized Services, the organization and provision of their own or common services and activities.

www.ci.gub.uy

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



Universidad de la República: the main public university in the country, with the widest range of undergraduate and graduate courses. It also offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses specifically in the areas of Architecture and Engineering.

udelar.edu.uy ✦



ORT University: one of the main private universities in the country, currently offering Architecture, Interior Design, and Electrical Engineering degrees.

www.ort.edu.uy ✦



University of Montevideo: the only private university that offers a Civil and Industrial Engineering degree.

www.um.edu.uy ✦



Catholic University of Uruguay: private university offering engineering degrees, with three campuses distributed across different regions of the country.

ucu.edu.uy ✦



Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC): a public educational institution with a technological profile, currently expanding the university's tertiary study opportunities outside the capital city to foster links with productive enterprises and promote the nation's social and cultural development. It offers training in Renewable Energy Engineering, Logistics, and Mechatronics.

utec.edu.uy ✦



Uruguayan Labor University (UTU): public organization in charge of technical and technological training at the intermediate and non-university tertiary level. It provides tertiary education in electrotechnical engineering.

utu.edu.uy ✦



Uruguayan Road Association: civil association that connects the various social agents linked to road development, designed to provide a forum to present, discuss, and develop topics of shared interest.

www.auc.com.uy ✦

PUBLIC-PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

BIM

National BIM Committee: a committee managing the national BIM adoption process, with an emphasis on the use of BIM in public projects. The committee is integrated by leading representatives of the public and private sectors in Uruguay. The Committee is coordinated by Transformación Productiva y Competitividad (STPC), the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the National Development Corporation (CND).



BIM Forum Uruguay: an organization whose purpose is to promote and accelerate the process of adoption and implementation of BIM methodology in Uruguay -- through research, dissemination, and training activities in the construction industry, the public sector, the private sector, and academia.

www.bimforum.org.uy ✨

SOCIAL FUNDS



Social Fund for Construction: provides support to workers in the construction industry and their families by granting benefits that address different social areas, contributing to their development.

www.fsc.org.uy ✨



Unemployment and Retirement Fund: consists of the creation of individual accounts for each worker in the construction industry, which will be made up of employer and personal contributions.

www.focer.org.uy ✨



Construction Training Fund: formed by different actors of the construction industry to promote professional training related to the construction industry.

www.focap.org.uy ✨



Social Housing Fund for Construction Workers: provides assistance to workers in the industry for the acquisition of new or used housing, construction or renovation of existing housing.

www.fosvoc.org ✨



Uruguay XXI

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