

COVID-19 PULSE

Start off with a weekly recap of the main Public Affairs developments across **LATAM**.



STATS: 1,310,491 cases of COVID-19, 35,436 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] The Minister of Territorial Development and Habitat of the Nation resigned to her position and has been replaced by the Mayor of Avellaneda, Jorge Ferraresi ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] The Ministry of Transport has authorized train and bus passengers to travel stand up during peak hours, leaving behind the epidemiological restrictions that established that they could only travel seated. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] A joint effort done by the National Communications Entity (Enacom) and the National Registry of Popular Neighborhoods (Renabap) will allow internet access in deprived areas and places where digital connectivity has not reached or is very incipient. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] The Buenos Aires Minister of Health, Fernán Quirós, has announced that the City will require a PCR from foreigners who enter the Capital, either for work or tourism, in the framework of the coronavirus pandemic. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Inflation for the month of October was 3.8% and has accumulated a total of 26.9% in 2020. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] The Minister of Health, Ginés González García, has announced that the Government began to organize the "most important vaccination plan in Argentine history," in reference to the hope of immunization to end the coronavirus pandemic. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] The Government has made progress in the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the discussion of a new financing program, so as not to have to pay until 2025 the capital debt of almost 44,000 million dollars received between 2018 and 2019, plus the interests. ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] The National Government has presented a media campaign to raise awareness against grooming at the national level that seeks to make the population aware of sexual harassment of minors by digital means. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] The textile industry has recovered from the initial shock caused by the pandemic and activity is currently 20 percent above pre-pandemic levels ([Source](#))



STATS: 5.876.791 cases of COVID-19, 166.078 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry



[EXECUTIVE POWER] President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday criticized what he called a “small talk” about a possible second wave of covid-19 in the country, a disease that has already killed more than 164,000 and infected 5.78 million people in Brazil. ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] The government of São Paulo extends the quarantine throughout the state until December 16. The measure was announced yesterday by Governor João Doria (PSDB) after confirming the increase in the number of hospitalizations ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] The Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, announced that the country will create the digital real, a virtual currency backed by the national currency unit. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] In the last 24 hours, 256 new deaths due to covid-19 have been recorded in Brazil, reaching a total of 166,067 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Sixteen states and the Federal District show an increasing trend in the average daily deaths ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] The coronavirus turned the Brazilian's life upside down - and food is no exception. However, while two studies suggest improvements in table habits in Brazil, another one points to worsening. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] President of the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), Antonio Barra Torres, defended that the population take the vaccine against covid-19 when it is available. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] Although the economic effects of the new coronavirus pandemic are felt in most parts of the world, Brazil is expected to close the year with more unemployment and public debt higher than the average of the ten countries that registered the highest number of deaths from the disease. ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] Santa Claus is at risk for Covid-19. Characteristics such as old age and a certain overweight should be an alert. Shopping malls create technological and virtual strategies to maintain magic without putting actors at risk. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] The scarcity of raw materials in various segments and high prices are currently the main factors that limit the expansion of industrial production in the country. ([Source](#))



STATS: 143,181 cases of COVID-19, 8,841 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] New government approves the first economic measure to rebuild domestic demand for the reactivation of the national economy. [\(Source\)](#)



[LOCAL MEASURES] Mayor of La Paz prepares protocols to revive sporting activities at venues and entertainment. [\(Source\)](#)



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] The virtual platform Sale Bolivia, which seeks to encourage tourism at a national and international level, will provide information on prices, destinations and tourism agencies and all operators in the sector. [\(Source\)](#)



[COVID RELATED] Only 12.7% of COVID 19 cases reported since the start of the pandemic are active. [\(Source\)](#)



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Five municipalities in the tropics, banana producers, reported losses of approximately 50 percent of their production "because there is no rain and at this time the drought is hitting the region very hard." [\(Source\)](#)



[HEALTH] Bolivia registers a slight increase in municipalities with high risk of coronavirus infections: from 33 to 39. [\(Source\)](#)



[ECONOMY] The construction sector, affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, is beginning to rise up and regain the dynamizing momentum it has in the economy. With this objective, more than thirty construction actors will meet at Expoconstruction 2020, an annual fair that this time will be virtual. [\(Source\)](#)



[TECHNOLOGY] Compramóvil de Cainco, an app aimed at boosting commerce, is the first digital shopping service through salary advances in the country. With this initiative, the business institution seeks to promote economic reactivation and the dynamization of commerce in the country... [\(Source\)](#)



[MANUFACTURING] The Departmental Chamber of Industries of La Paz, highlighted yesterday the need to promote products with the "Made in Bolivia" seal and asked the new national government to promote a State that promotes private initiative, which supports and creates the conditions to promote more entrepreneurship. [\(Source\)](#)



STATS: 532,604 cases of COVID-19, 14,863 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] Piñera highlighted the country's economic growth figures in recent months and stressed that to date more than 300,000 jobs have been recovered. He also assured that "we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel", after the crisis caused by the pandemic ([Source](#)).



[LOCAL MEASURES] Four new municipalities in the Metropolitan Region have advanced to the "Initial Opening" stage within the Step by Step Plan to face COVID-19. However, the people will must continue with the basic sanitary measures of self-care to avoid contagion ([Source](#)).



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] Viu Manent, chosen among the Best Vineyards in the World 2020, launched its virtual store, which offers the entire range of Viu Manent wines and accessories with nationwide delivery, as well as a complete tourist offer ([Source](#)).



[COVID RELATED] All foreigners who wish to enter Chile must do so by plane and meet three requirements: a PCR taken 72 hours before boarding the plane, a mandatory health insurance and a health passport obtained at www.c19.cl ([Source](#)).



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Authorities launched a self-care guide for workers in the agricultural sector. The document include four tips that the worker must follow to prevent COVID-19: before leaving home, during the working day, lunch and the end of the day ([Source](#)).



[HEALTH] Health Minister, Enrique Paris, appreciated Pfizer's announcement about the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine and he said that it will not be necessary to carry out tests to prove its effectiveness when it arrives in Chile ([Source](#)).



[ECONOMY] The authorities increased the maximum capacity for shopping centers that are in cities in phases 4 and 5 -now one person will be allowed every 5 square meters- and requested the people to avoid crowds due to shopping for Christmas ([Source](#)).



[TECHNOLOGY] Academics and authorities presented the conclusions of the pilot study of clinical validation of the TeraSystem breath analyzer, a new exhaled air technology developed to facilitate the detection of COVID-19 ([Source](#)).



[MANUFACTURING] Chilean scientists developed the copper and zinc-based antimicrobial polymer technology, Copptech, 10 years ago, which can be applied in many products and offers 99% resistance to COVID-19, which is why today is required in different industries due to the pandemic ([Source](#)).



STATS: 1,211,128 cases of COVID-19, 34,381 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] The national disasters have marked the agenda due to hurricane Iota. The president also expressed his solidarity with the victims and families of people who died from landslides in Dabeiba and asked the local authorities to activate their contingency plans to face the rain phenomenon that will continue throughout this month. ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] President Duque confirmed that there is a destruction of about 98% or 99% on the infrastructure of the island of Providencia after the passage of Hurricane Iota. The president flew over the place with his government team and spoke with the local mayor, Norberto Gari Hooker, who corroborated that preliminary balance. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce (SIC) organizes International Congress on Product Safety in the digital economy. The digital meeting will be held next Friday, November 20, and will discuss the challenges in the midst of digitization. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] President Iván Duque announced on Tuesday that the vaccines against covid-19, which are approved and that the Colombian State acquires, will be delivered free of charge and on time to the Colombian population. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Health Minister Fernando Ruiz decreed the closure of bars and discos at midnight starting Tuesday, November 17. According to the minister, bars that are located in departments or municipalities with high or moderate COVID-19 affectation must close at midnight. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] Colombia already has the Elipse-COL, a blood serological test capable of detecting if someone who was in contact with Sars-CoV-2 generated antibodies. A Colombian advance developed by researchers from the National University and the National Institute of Health (INS). ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] According to the president of ProColombia, Flavia Santoro, investment projects for US 7,567 million have arrived in the country. Likewise, Santoro affirmed that Colombia is an ideal nearshoring destination, that companies are increasingly inclined to increase the efficiency of their supply and production chains ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] During these months, the different telecommunications operators in Colombia have seen a very high increase in traffic in this sector due to the new dynamics. Precisely, the three companies that lead the fixed internet service in the country reported increases in consumption of more than 66 percent. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] According to the Bogota Chamber of Commerce (CCB), between January and August, 37,000 companies were liquidated. Most of those companies are micro-enterprises (96%) dedicated to commerce (35%), accommodation and food services (14%), and manufacturing industries (10%). ([Source](#))



STATS: 180,676 cases of COVID-19, 13,016 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] President Lenin Moreno repealed the decrees that reduced the salary of the President, Vice President, and ministers of the State by 50%. However, the Government maintained a reduction of 16.66% in the salary of them. ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] On November 12 in Quito, there were 37 intensive therapy beds available. The hospitals of the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security (IESS), the Police, and the Armed Forces are 100% occupied. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] Juan Fernando Velasco, the presidential candidate of the Construye movement, presented the proposals of his campaign. One of its proposals is to promote the digitization of the currency to favor purchases through digital platforms. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] The director of the National Institute for Public Health Research (Inspi), Alberto Orlando, announced that Ecuador is preparing a pharmacovigilance process to evaluate the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Vice President María Alejandra Muñoz stated that Ecuador signed a letter of commitment with the World Food Program to establish a care plan in the areas of the country with the highest rates of chronic child malnutrition due to the pandemic. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] According to David González, president of the Red Unión Nacional de Enfermeras y Enfermeros, Ecuador's health personnel will march to demand greater job stability and better treatment from the Government. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] The Minister of Foreign Trade, Iván Ontaneda, mentioned that Ecuador and the United States will sign a first-phase agreement focused on points of easy implementation. ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] The pandemic accelerated the growth of the number of users of applications such as Glovo, Rappi, and Uber in the country. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] The world's most sought green jobs are in sectors such as engineering, science, masonry, manufacturing, and technology development. ([Source](#))



STATS: 1,009,396 cases of COVID-19; 98,861 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) announced that private hospitals, as part of their collaboration with the Federal Government, will now be able to accept people with and without social security who have been infected by COVID-19. ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] The state of Aguascalientes has implemented more sanitary restrictions that include the mandatory use of facemasks, temporary closure of non-essential establishments, and the prohibition to sale alcohol in the 11 municipalities. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] Luz María de la Mora, Undersecretary of Trade, participated in the virtual meeting of the APEC Economic Leaders, in which they agreed to consolidate the digital economy and e-commerce sector of the countries. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] Marcelo Ebrard, Minister of Foreign Affairs, assured that Mexico has the capacity to distribute the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine created by Pfizer. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] According to the National Chamber of Restaurants and Seasoned Food Industry (Canirac) the pandemic has caused the closure of 90 thousand restaurants, the loss of more than 300 thousand jobs and the decrease in sales by 50%. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] According to the Undesecretary of Health, Hugo López-Gatell despite the recent increase in the contagion rate, the mortality rate in the country has decreased. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] According to a study published by BBVA Mexico, if the Mexican economy declines by 7% this year, 12 million people would fall into poverty and another 12.3 million would go into extreme poverty. ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard, announced that the Space Agency in Latin America and the Caribbean (ALCE) will begin operations by 2021 and will be joined by 8 countries in the region. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] According to José Luis de la Cruz Gallegos, director of the Institute for Industrial Development and Economic Growth, the arrival of Joe Biden to the presidency of the United States translates to an opportunity for the manufacturing industry in Mexico. ([Source](#))

COVID-19 PULSE – PUBLIC AFFAIRS LATAM

Tuesday, November 10 – Monday, November 16, 2020
Paraguay



STATS: 71,574 cases of COVID-19, 1587 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] President Mario Abdo appoints Luis Alberto Castiglioni as Minister of Industry and Commerce, while the outgoing head will be the representative of the National Chancellery before the Council of the Binational Entity Itaipú. Finally, Viviana Casco Molinas, was appointed as Executive Secretary of the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning (STP). ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] The Government reaffirms its commitment to assist Peasant Family Farming, in compliance with an agreement signed between the National Executive and the National Congress, by reallocating resources as part of the Economic Reactivation Plan, for USD 25 million. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY]

Paraguay is making progress in expanding QR payments at the local level to allow greater financial inclusion. It is already available in most of the country's banks and reaches 2,500 stores. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] By Decree, the National Executive has provided new measures within the framework of the Plan for the Gradual Suspension of Preventive Isolation in the national territory by Covid-19, except for the district of Caacupé, from November 16 to December 6. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] The Government of Ñeembucú is currently making the eighth delivery of food kits to families of students from educational institutions in Pilar. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] The Pan American Health Organization delivered 24 oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare for use by respiratory patients. The investment amounts to \$ 20,273. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] Paraguay registered an accumulated fiscal deficit of 4.3% on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which corresponds to approximately US \$ 1,591 million, according to a report from the Ministry of Finance. ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY]

The Government has delivered 800 computers with Internet connection to the National University of Asunción. The lot is part of the 1,700 units distributed to the 14 academic institutions of the UNA, for the benefit of 55,000 students. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] Total exports as of October 2020 have reached a value of US \$ 9,412.7 million, 11.6% lower than the US \$ 10,650.6 million accumulated as of October of the previous year. ([Source](#))



STATS: 938,268 cases of COVID-19, 35,271 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] Martín Vizcarra was vacated by the Congress, and the de facto president Manuel Merino resigned. At the moment, it is known that Francisco Sagasti would assume the presidency of Peru this Tuesday, November 17. ([Source](#))



[LOCAL MEASURES] A total of 915 tons of food will be distributed by the Qali Warma program to the vulnerable Asháninka population living in 68 indigenous communities in the Junín region. ([Source](#))



[DIGITAL ECONOMY] Although Phase 3 for the delivery of the Second Family Bonus began on November 7 with the beneficiaries who already had a digital wallet, new users of this modality will only be able to receive the subsidy on November 16, since they must first enroll. ([Source](#))



[COVID RELATED] The Urban Transportation Authority for Lima and Callao (ATU) reported that the Metropolitano feeder buses resumed their services this week, after having stopped working for more than three weeks due to “economic losses”, as a result of the restrictions established to stop the advance of COVID-19 in the country. ([Source](#))



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] El Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas (MEF) reestructuró la lista de fertilizantes que quedan exonerados o incluidos en la aplicación del impuesto general a las ventas (IGV) a fin de abaratar los costos de la actividad agrícola familiar. ([Source](#))



[HEALTH] Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) to date, the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation (MVCS) has installed a total of 434 temporary modules in various hospitals of the Ministry of Health and Social Health Security (EsSalud); as well as in penitentiary establishments. ([Source](#))



[ECONOMY] In the midst of growing national discontent, the head of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), José Arista, confirmed the enactment of the signing of the law for the second withdrawal of contributions from the Pension Fund Administrators (AFP). ([Source](#))



[TECHNOLOGY] The National Superintendency of Customs and Tax Administration (Sunat) will make available, as of December 1, the Electronic Claim File, which will allow taxpayers to submit their claim documents digitally, 24 hours a day and without leaving home. ([Source](#))



[MANUFACTURING] The Executive Power extended until November 30 the deadline for granting the Government guarantee to the credits of the Reactiva Peru program. ([Source](#))



STATS: 4.030 cases of COVID-19, 65 deceased, as confirmed by the Health Ministry.



[EXECUTIVE POWER] The Government will evaluate the situation of covid-19 in Montevideo and will convene the Coordinating Center for Departmental Emergencies (Cecoed), but rules out backing down. [\(Source\)](#)



[LOCAL MEASURES] Banco República (BROU) presented a benefit program for the promotion of internal tourism, with the BROU Recompensa credit card, which includes benefits in restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and fuels. [\(Source\)](#)



[DIGITAL ECONOMY]. Web purchases abroad fell in October for the second consecutive month in the year-on-year comparison, after having grown in June, July and August. [\(Source\)](#)



[COVID RELATED] Currently there are 732 people who are suffering from the disease throughout the country, and 65 people have died since the beginning of the health emergency on March 13. [\(Source\)](#)



[FOOD AND BEVERAGE] Scientific evidence does not support that there are food groups against covid-19. [\(Source\)](#)



[HEALTH]. The Ministry of Public Health reminded health institutions in which cases PCR diagnostics for the detection of covid-19 are covered. [\(Source\)](#)



[ECONOMY] The unemployment rate data for the month of September was released, which stood at 11%, which implies a growth of two tenths compared to the estimated value for the previous month (10.8%). [\(Source\)](#)



[TECHNOLOGY] Since Monday, Cerro Largo Department has its own laboratory for the detection of Covid, with the capacity to process 300 PCR per day. [\(Source\)](#)



[MANUFACTURING] The Uruguayan Chamber of Industries (CIU) stated that job creation is one of the priorities at this time and highlighted several points for national recovery, such as the new regulation of the Investment Law and other measures that the government has adopted. [\(Source\)](#)