

# South American Weekly Report

Tuesday, May 18h – Monday, May 24th, 2021





# Argentina – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3,586,736 Cases of COVID-19	75,056 Deceased	2,434,836 (5,4%) Fully Vaccinated	8,807,373 (19,6%) Received at least one dose
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## Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernández visited the plant of a footwear and apparel company in Misiones, where executives of the company will announce investments, import substitution and job creation. ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernández participated in the World Health Summit virtually from the presidential residence. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

According to INDEC data, economic activity increased 11.4% year-on-year in March, while it accumulated in the first quarter an increase of 2.4%. ([Source](#))

2.

Productive activity, measured based on energy consumption, grew 6% in April compared to the same month of 2019. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The Government announced new restrictions that include a total "closure" of activities during the weekend in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (AMBA) and other areas of the country. ([Source](#))

2.

On Thursday night, in a special session, the Senate approved the bill sent by the Executive Power for the "Covid Emergency", which establishes a regulatory framework on epidemiological and sanitary risk parameters to combat the spread of coronavirus. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Secretariat of Domestic Trade presented the "SMEs on the Gondolas" program for small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs (SEPyMEs) to join the supermarkets' supplier registry. ([Source](#))

2.

According to INDEC, in March, the industry's installed capacity utilization rate stood at 64.5%. This was 6.2 percentage points higher than in February (58.3%). ([Source](#))



# Brazil – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

16,194,209	452,031	21,214,582 (10,02%)	42,991,742 (20,3%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

President Bolsonaro signs law that facilitates health care for pregnant women and puerperal women during pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

Covid CPI details flaws in the pandemic and becomes yet another obstacle to Bolsonaro's reelection. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

Brazilian economy 'ignores' the worsening pandemic and GDP may grow up to 4.5% in 2021. Minor isolation, high commodities and resilience of activities cause analysts to revise the forecasts upwards. ([Source](#))

2.

A total of 628 products used to combat the covid-19 pandemic will continue to enter the country without paying an import tax until the end of the year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The Senate approved on Wednesday (19) a project that can speed up the release of imported goods to combat the covid-19 on its arrival in the country. ([Source](#))

2.

Government ignored 10 Pfizer vaccine emails in 1 month, Covid CPI documents show. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Sputnik V is highly effective against Brazilian coronavirus variant, study says. ([Source](#))

2.

Ministry of Health makes new request to Anvisa to import Indian vaccine Covaxin. ([Source](#))



# Bolivia – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

352.170  
Cases of COVID-19

14.083  
Deceased

1.415.120 (13%)  
Fully Vaccinated

1.112.812 (10%)  
Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

Putin hopes to expand relations with Bolivia in mining, energy and peaceful use of nuclear energy. ([Source](#))

2.

Six regions of the country run out of oxygen, government seeks international suppliers. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Central Bank of Bolivia (BCB) emphasized today that the use of virtual currencies in any type of payment is prohibited. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the UNCTAD report, the change in consumer behavior will influence the demand for goods and services. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

In the midst of anguish, people seek oxygen and there are patients awaiting therapy. ([Source](#))

2.

In May, deaths grow and cremations due to Covid double Deaths from coronavirus went from 183 in April to 257 so far in May. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Productive Development Bank (BDP) trained students and producers from La Paz, Cochabamba and Tarija in the use and advantages of the Complexity Map, a digital tool designed to support the productive development of Bolivia. ([Source](#))

2.

Companies from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay showed Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) their intentions to buy up to 1.4 million tons of urea, once the Ammonia and Urea Plant (PAU) is back in operation. ([Source](#))



# Colombia – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3,270,614	85,666	3,147,478 (6.3%)	8,425,588 (16.8%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The Strike Committee and the Government completed nine days of dialogue. According to the Labor Ministry, the conversations have had a favorable tone that has allowed progress in a document that guarantees peaceful social protest. ([Source](#))

2.

The Senate carried out the motion of censure to the Minister of Defense, Diego Molano, who has been in office for four months. The session was led by Iván Cepeda, a Senator from the Opposition Coalition. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

Although GDP growth in Colombia was higher than most forecasts for the first quarter of the year, the Center for Economic Studies (Anif) makes it clear that the growth will be lower for the second quarter. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Finance reported that COP 128.8 trillion were allocated in the General Budget of the Nation. It corresponds to 38.7% of the COP 332.797 trillion.. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The National Vaccination Plan that completes three months in the country has shown its benefits in health workers and people over 80 years. ([Source](#))

2.

The Vice President of Colombia, Marta Lucía Ramírez, assured that the government requested a vaccine loan from the United States to accelerate the immunization and economic recovery. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Ombudsman's Office warned that, due to the national strike and blockades in the different cities of the country, the departments more affected are Valle del Cauca, Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Bolívar, among others. ([Source](#))

2.

A day after officially ending his role as High Commissioner for Peace, Miguel Ceballos announced that he aspires to be president in 2022. ([Source](#))



# Ecuador – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

419,198 Cases of COVID-19	20,210 Deceased	489,559 (2.8%) Fully Vaccinated	1,946,346 (10.9%) Received at least one dose
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## Political Outlook

1.

Conservative Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso took office on Monday promising to revive an economy battered by the coronavirus pandemic and create jobs for a population weary from years of painful austerity measures. ([Source](#))

2.

President Guillermo Lasso made new appointments of officials, governors, and ambassadors, through the signing of several executive decrees, between May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Chamber of the Audiovisual Industry of Ecuador (CIAE) asks President Lasso for a meeting to raise their concerns about the proposal to eliminate the current Communication Law and, on the contrary, prepare a new bill. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Economy and Finance, Simón Cueva, appointed Diego Burneo Aguirre as Deputy- Minister of Finance, while Luis Alberto Fierro was appointed as Deputy- Minister of Economy. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

President Lasso promised an ambitious COVID-19 vaccination plan. He said his Government would vaccinate nine million people in his first 100 days in office to boost the economy. ([Source](#))

2.

The Health Ministry of Ecuador reported that the vaccination process against the coronavirus (COVID-19) for older adults would be resume. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

President Guillermo Lasso changed the entire military leadership through Executive Decree 36, signed on the same day of his inauguration, but made public on May 26. ([Source](#))

2.

The CREO movement did not obtain the votes to gain the presidency of the Economic Regime Commission of the National Assembly, in charge of legislative affairs and initiatives of macroeconomic policy. ([Source](#))



# Paraguay – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

338,914	8,591	51,780 (0,72%)	252,945 (3,5%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez signed decree No. 5322 extending the sanitary measures in force against COVID-19 throughout the country until June 7. ([Source](#))
2. The National Government, through the Ministry of Social Development, delivered real estate purchase contracts to 10 families, representing the 319 that will receive their documents nationwide. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1. According to the foreign trade report of the Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP), imports of consumer goods totaled US\$ 1,022 million during the first four months of this year. ([Source](#))
2. Registered exports of primary products totaled US\$1,290.4 million during the first four months of the year, representing a growth of 35.2% over the same period of the previous year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1. 250,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines arrived at the "Silvio Pettrossi" International Airport, out of a total of one million doses acquired from the United Arab Emirates by the National Government. ([Source](#))
2. Minister Julio Borba announced that the National Government, through the Ministry of Public Health, signed a pre-contract with Pfizer to purchase 1 million vaccines to protect against COVID-19. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1. The Executive Power enacted the "zero expense" law for patients hospitalized with covid-19. This initiative arose from the massive demand of citizens who had to pay millions of dollars for the hospitalization of their relatives. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministries of Labor and Education agreed on a partnership for high-level professional technical training to boost employment reactivation. ([Source](#))



# Peru – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>– Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1,925,289 Cases of COVID-19	68,053 Deceased	1,035,067 (3.23%) Fully Vaccinated	2,349,962 (7.34%) Received at least one dose
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## Political Outlook

1.

On Sunday 23 the debate of the technical teams of Fuerza Popular (FP) and Peru Libre (PL) took place. FP promised one million jobs and PL pointed out that medical care will be a fundamental right. ([Source](#))

2.

A group of parliamentarians demanded the "immediate resignation" of Magistrate Jorge Luis Salas as president of the National Elections Jury. For its part, the electoral authority expressed its rejection of this act. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

168,965,806 soles were allocated to subsidize the formal hiring of 241,885 workers by small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), within the framework of the "Recovering formal employment" program. ([Source](#))

2.

In April 2021, Central Government investment increased by 233% compared to the same month in 2020, according to the Central Reserve Bank of Peru. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The Minister of Health reported that on May 31 the immunization against COVID-19 of citizens aged 60 to 64 years will begin. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Health reported that in the last week, compared to the previous one, the number of new cases of COVID-19 has been reduced by 26%, which shows a significant downward trend in this second wave. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Minister of Transport and Communications reported that a tender process has been developed to place satellite internet this year in 1,036 locations in the Amazon within the framework of the "All Connected" plan. ([Source](#))

2.

The Superintendency of Banking, Insurance and AFP (SBS) approved the operating procedure that will allow members of the Private Pension Fund Administrators (AFP) the optional withdrawal of up to 17,600 soles. ([Source](#))





# Uruguay – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

265,098	3,871	978,346 (27,91%)	1,587,084 (45,27%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

With 60% of people vaccinated or scheduled, the government focuses its communication on anti-vaccines. This week will begin a campaign that targets misinformation on social networks. ([Source](#))

2.

The Executive Branch works on the reactivation of the tourism sector and one of the elements for the return of activities and eventual reopening of borders is the health passport. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

Uruguay, among the worst in the business climate ranking, mainly affected by the effects of the pandemic and the increase in income inequality. ([Source](#))

2.

A Trade and Services Activity survey made by the sector union shows a negative scenario and a perspective that the impact of the pandemic will not improve until next year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Despite the immunization of more than 20% of Uruguayans, the authorities note with some concern the slowness of the fall in deaths and admissions to CTI. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government announced that mobility reduction measures extend until May 30, except for sports clubs, gyms and free shops, which will reopen next Monday 24. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Interior Minister Jorge Larrañaga died last Saturday after a cardiopulmonary arrest at the age of 64. ([Source](#))

2.

Health Minister Salinas said that most of the cases detected in recent days correspond to intra-family outbreaks, associated with the celebration of Mother's Day. ([Source](#))