

South American Weekly Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

3,817,139 Cases of COVID-19	78,733 Deceased	2,830,075 (6,3%) Fully Vaccinated	9,667,003 (21,5%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

The President, Alberto Fernandez, led the delivery of the 10,000th home of the Casa Propia program. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government extended the suspension until June 30, at a meeting of the Economic Cabinet headed by President Alberto Fernandez. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

OECD forecasted Argentina's economy to expand 6.1% in 2021 and 1.8% in 2022. ([Source](#))

2.

In 2020, almost a third of workers (27.4%) were in poverty. The most impacted were those employed in marginal jobs, those residing in the conurbation and women. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Government empowered public administration agencies to grant leaves of absence to workers in charge of children up to 14 years of age who have been suspended from classes due to the pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

As of this week, a new restriction scheme begins to be applied in the country, leaving behind strict isolation. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Supermarket sales reached \$107,222.8 million in March, an increase of 25% in the year-on-year measurement at current prices but fell 8.8% at constant December 2016 prices. ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernandez spoke with Angela Merkel, the leader of Germany, who expressed her support to the country in the negotiation of the debt with the IMF. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st 2021

16,624,480
Cases of COVID-19

465,199
Deceased

22,374,235 (10,57%)
Fully Vaccinated

46,224,872 (21,83%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Jair Bolsonaro filed a new lawsuit in the Supreme Court (STF) against restrictive measures imposed by the States to contain the spread of the pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

During the Brazil 2021 Investment Forum President Jair Bolsonaro said that the pandemic "does not have the power to compromise the long term of one of the largest economies in the world". ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Brazil's GDP grows 1.2% in the 1st quarter and returns to pre-pandemic levels. Compared to the same quarter in 2020, the advance was 1%. Result came above expectations, but the pace of recovery lost strength. ([Source](#))

2.

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said the government may extend emergency aid if the covid-19 pandemic gets worse in the country and the immunization program does not reach sufficient levels for most of the population. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Anvisa recommends restrictive measures against variants from other countries and suggests quarantine policy for maritime workers. ([Source](#))

2.

Documents sent by the TCU (Court of Accounts of the Union) to Covid's CPI in the Senate show that the agency investigates possible irregularities in the use of federal resources in the Ministry of Health. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Butantan tests efficient insulation in cities in the interior of São Paulo. ([Source](#))

2.

Ministry of Health has already identified seven cases of the Indian variant in Brazil. ([Source](#))



Bolivia – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

371.279 Cases of COVID-19	14.576 Deceased	350.094 (3,18%) Fully Vaccinated	1.681.883 (15,27%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

Government must reduce current spending for investment. ([Source](#))

2.

Foreign Minister says the US informed Bolivia about the Arturo Murillo case. The former government minister is serving six days in the custody of the United States authorities. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Bolivia exported US \$ 3,096 million until April, 15% more than in the same period two years ago, because in 2020 trade was paralyzed. The price of raw materials doubled and demand grew. ([Source](#))

2.

Bolivia's exports to India increased by 91.7% in the first four months of 2021, making the Asian country the main destination for national sales. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Lack of oxygen and drugs threaten patients' lives. Family members of patients with covid-19 are prevented from acquiring medicines due to the shortage or the high cost. ([Source](#))

2.

With 17.87% vaccinated, Bolivia enters the peak month of the third wave. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Jeanine Áñez after the arrest of Arturo Murillo: 'nobody chooses his collaborators to corrupt themselves'. ([Source](#))

2.

Exporters expressed their willingness to work jointly with the Government and proposed improving promotion, advancing red tape and creating logistics centers. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

1,389.357
Cases of COVID-19

29,344
Deceased

8,005.987 (42,2%)
Fully Vaccinated

10,676.196 (56,3%)
Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1.

The Health Ministry is analyzing the need to vaccinate the population with a third dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 to achieve herd immunity. The idea is not only discussed in Chile, but also worldwide ([Source](#)).

2.

The Public Health Institute has authorized in the country the use of the Pfizer vaccine from the age of 12. It was currently being administered to people between the ages of 16 and 55 ([Source](#)).

Political Outlook

1.

During his Annual Public Account, Sebastián Piñera apologized for the mistakes made by the Government in controlling the pandemic. He assured that they have always done what they believe "best for Chile" and "sparing no effort" ([Source](#)).

2.

The Social Development Commission once again postponed the vote on the project that creates a new Emergency Family Income due to the pandemic. Opposition politicians requested to increase the value and duration of this benefit ([Source](#)).

Economic Outlook

1.

The OECD projects that Chile's Gross Domestic Product will grow 6.7% in 2021. The main reasons for this are the rapid distribution of vaccines and the better world economic prospects ([Source](#)).

2.

The Chilean economy continues to recover from the serious economic crisis generated by the pandemic and in April it experienced the highest growth in almost 30 years, with an increase of 14.1% ([Source](#)).

Other News

1.

In the Metropolitan Region, the use of private vehicles and public transport increased during the first weekend with the Mobility Pass, which the authorities give to people who have already completed their vaccination against COVID-19 ([Source](#)).

2.

Authorities are confident that mass vaccination will help reverse unemployment figures in the country. During the February-April moving quarter, the unemployment rate reached 10.2% ([Source](#)).



Colombia – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

3,432,422	89,297	3,293,247 (6.5%)	10,092,122 (20%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The Strike Committee and the Government met on Tuesday at 9:00 am to try to conclude a final version of the document that would allow a negotiation table to begin. ([Source](#))

2.

These are the last 20 days of ordinary sessions of the Congress, in which there are some pending issues, the first of them regarding whether the National Government will present the new tax reform. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

At an event held by the Congress, the trade associations presented their proposals for economic reactivation. The presidents of Fenalco, ACOPI, the CUT, the Trade Union Council, and ANDESCO participated in the event. ([Source](#))

2.

President Duque announced new measures on Monday in the framework of the country's economic reactivation. There was a change in the tax so that SMEs can have a longer-term payment of income taxes. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Health Minister, Fernando Ruiz, assured that, although the health emergency was announced until August 31, since June, the country will begin to visualize how the reactivation of Colombia will be safe. ([Source](#))

2.

May 24-30 was the worst week of the pandemic in Colombia in almost 15 months. The number of deaths reported by the Ministry of Health amounted to 3,558, and the cases detected 150,823. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Conmebol announced that the Copa América would take place in 2021 in Brazil. It happens after Colombia and Argentina could not host the event due to the massive protests and the high occupancy of the hospitals due to COVID 19. ([Source](#))

2.

The government has been working on comprehensive departmental agendas for competitiveness, science, technology, and innovation, with sectorial bets identified by the regions to sophisticate the productive system. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

427,690 Cases of COVID-19	20,620 Deceased	662,035 (3.8%) Fully Vaccinated	2,225,005 (12.8%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

The Minister of Education, María Brown, and President Guillermo Lasso announced a plan for a progressive and voluntary return to the classes at all levels. ([Source](#))

2.

President Guillermo Lasso ratified Juan Zapata as his delegate to chair the National Emergency Operations Committee (COE-N). ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Economic Development Commission of the National Assembly urged President Guillermo Lasso to eliminate the 2% tax for microentrepreneurs. According to the director of the Internal Revenue Service, 340,000 microentrepreneurs don't make the declaration. ([Source](#))

2.

During this week, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meets to decide on a probable increase in the production of barrels of oil. It would provoke various world scenarios with an impact on Ecuador, according to experts. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

President Guillermo Lasso asked his country's businessmen to donate COVID-19 vaccines to advance his plan to immunize nine million Ecuadorians in one hundred days. ([Source](#))

2.

The goal of immunizing nine million people against COVID-19 in one hundred days will depend on the number of vaccines that the new government of Ecuador can get, according to medical experts. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Ecuadorian State will have to face a millionaire payment to the Perenco oil company after a ruling issued by a committee constituted under the auspices of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank. ([Source](#))

2.

The office in Ecuador of the Unicef invited the Government of President Guillermo Lasso to reopen schools and combat malnutrition and violence against children. ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

358,244 Cases of COVID-19	9,293 Deceased	72,924 (1%) Fully Vaccinated	305,098 (4,3%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1. The President inaugurated a new Trauma Pavilion at the Regional Hospital of Salto del Guairá. This work is intended to strengthen public health and expand the medical service for about 200,000 inhabitants of the department. ([Source](#))
2. The President delivered new homes to 53 families in the Renacer neighborhood of the city of Salto del Guairá through the Ministry of Urbanism, Housing and Habitat (MUVH). ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. IMF to support the country's recovery with an estimated contribution of USD 250 million. ([Source](#))
2. Imports during the first four months of the year totaled US\$ 3,474.6 million, representing a 12.8% increase over the figure for the same period last year. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez received at the Government Palace the Chargé affairs of the United States, Joseph Salazar, with whom he discussed the possibility of the arrival of more vaccines for Paraguay. ([Source](#))
2. The Government expects the arrival of some 234,400 vaccines against the coronavirus, 134,000 of them acquired through the Covax Mechanism and another 100,000 that are part of a donation from Qatar. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez enacted Law No. 6739, which expropriates several properties in favor of the State for the creation of development centers. ([Source](#))
2. In the face of rumors that a strict quarantine would be installed in the country, businessmen from different sectors agreed to reject the application of phase zero to contain Covid-19 infections and assured that the correct strategy would be to speed up vaccination. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

1,955,469 Cases of COVID-19	184,507 Deceased	1,252,729 (3.91%) Fully Vaccinated	2,884,434 (9.01%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

One week before the second round of elections, Pedro Castillo obtained 42.6% of the valid votes and Keiko Fujimori 41.7%, according to the Datum national voting simulation. ([Source](#))

2.

President, vice president and member of the Court of Honor of the National Elections Jury (JNE) resigned their positions, alleging lack of loyalty on the part of the logistics team assigned to them. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Executive Power allocated 918,473,170 soles, by means of an emergency decree, to finance the economic reactivation and face the health emergency. ([Source](#))

2.

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) affirmed that Peru continues to meet the criteria for accessing the resources of the Flexible Credit Line (LCF). ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Peru is the first country in the world to sincere the number of its deaths from COVID-19, which now total more than 180,000. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government approved an emergency decree that provides an economic stimulus to the health personnel in charge of vaccination, as well as the return to face-to-face work of those who have already been immunized. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Peru has a financing of 140 million dollars to work only on innovation issues in the coming years, thanks to a line of credit granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), announced the Ministry of Production. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) reported that as of September 3, the application of fines to cyclists who fail to comply with the traffic regulations will come into effect. ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Tuesday, May 25th – Monday, May 31st, 2021

291,488 Cases of COVID-19	4,213 Deceased	1,019,513(29,08%) Fully Vaccinated	1,774,374 (50,61%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

Mayors belonging to the ruling party conveyed the need to take "drastic" measures against covid-19 to the national Executive Branch. ([Source](#))

2.

Opposition health advisers recommend severely restricting mobility for 21 days. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

A report from the Competitiveness Institute of the UCU indicates that 62% of Uruguayan companies claim to have been affected by the pandemic; 30% say the impact was positive. ([Source](#))

2.

An IMF mission made a series of recommendations to the Uruguayan Government, among them those of promoting measures that restore demand in the domestic market and promote employment. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The government began a vaccination campaign in small towns in the interior of the country with the aim of vaccinating 150,000 people in 15 days with mobile vaccinations from the Ministry of Public Health. ([Source](#))

2.

According to a survey by the Uruguayan Society of Intensive Medicine (SUMI), the average age of new admissions to intensive care units during May fell from 62 to 57 years. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The death toll from Covid -19 grows by several dozen per day and, near the end of May, there are 1,597 deaths from the disease, compared to 1,642 the previous month. ([Source](#))

2.

The government told the Honorary Scientific Advisory Group that it sees little willingness in the population to isolate itself and understands that a measure that cannot be enforced cannot be ordered. ([Source](#))