

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, Aug 26th – Wednesday, Sept 1st, 2021

5,185,620 Cases of COVID-19	111,812 Deceased	14,387,231 (32 %) Fully Vaccinated	27,873,340 (62%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernandez was supposed to travel to Ecuador for a CELAC meeting, but for the time being this visit is cancelled due to the government's agenda and the proximity to the elections. ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernández closed the "Congress of Production and Labor", which was attended by officials, together with chambers of small and medium-sized companies from different productive sectors, businessmen and union leaders. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The production of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Argentina grew 36.3 percent in July compared to the same month of 2020 and 3.8 percent compared to last June. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Productive Development called for those companies interested in accessing the National Supplier Development Program, for which the State will allocate a financial assistance of \$2,360 million in Non-Reimbursable Contributions (NRA) and interest rate subsidies. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Government exempts from quarantine Argentine nationals and residents in national territory who have travelled abroad for business or commercial reasons. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Health, Carla Vizzotti, chaired a new session of the Federal Health Council (COFESA), in which representatives of the 23 provinces and the city of Buenos Aires participate, with the aim of addressing issues related to the management of the coronavirus pandemic. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Federal Education Council approved a proposal to return to "full attendance" in schools as of September 1, in a scheme with protocols. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government extended the ban on meat exports until October 31. The resolution explains that "in terms of prices, the impact of the measures that temporarily limited sales abroad has begun to show positive results. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

20,804,215	581,150	63,554,779 (29,79%)	132,174,844 (61,96%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The Federal Court removed the secrecy, determined by the federal Government, on the documents that deal with the acquisition of the Indian vaccine Covaxin. The decision was based on a request from the CPI of Covid. Covaxin's purchase contract was terminated after a series of reports of irregularities and fraud. ([Source](#))

2.

President Jair Bolsonaro has been advised to extend emergency aid to the vulnerable. The extension of the benefit would be given through credit, outside the spending ceiling. The economic team has already warned that it will not sign such a measure. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Brazilian economy is recovering from the fall of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic and registers a growth of 12.4% this quarter, compared to the same period in 2020. But data released this Wednesday revealed a poor performance in the second quarter, with a 0.1% decline in economic activity between April and June compared to the previous quarter. ([Source](#))

2.

Unable to readjust Bolsa Família as Jair Bolsonaro wishes, the economic team tries to contain the movement for the extension of emergency aid. The special secretary for the Treasury said that, with the drop in the curve of infections and the economy returning, it makes no sense further extensions of the benefit. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Ministry of Health reported that, for the first time since the beginning of the new coronavirus pandemic, 20 Brazilian states have an occupancy rate in COVID-19 beds below 50%. The data involves both clinical and ICU beds. ([Source](#))

2.

On Monday, Anvisa released a report on the actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil. The document provides an overview of the implementation of sanitary measures carried out from January 1, 2020, until May 15 of this year, totaling 500 days. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Ministry of Health officially announced this Saturday that more than 1 million teenagers from 12 to 17 years old were vaccinated in Brazil against COVID-19. The number was reached with just one month of immunization. ([Source](#))

2.

Anvisa once again extended the deadline for special rules for the import of priority drugs. The Resolution facilitates the procedure for importing new medical devices and priority medicines defined by the World Health Organization in response to COVID-19. ([Source](#))



Bolivia – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

490,879
Cases of COVID-19

18,475
Deceased

2,766,347
Fully Vaccinated

3,253,313
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

At least a dozen former justice administrators from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) have positions in different spheres, either as Executive authorities, legislators or as part of the foreign service. [\(Source\)](#)

2.

Deputy of the Citizen Community denounces the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) for trying to bribe her. [\(Source\)](#)

Economic Outlook

1.

The unemployment rate in Bolivia falls to 6.4% and according to the Government, the sector that contributed the most to the reduction in unemployment was construction. [\(Source\)](#)

2.

Real estate companies register an encouraging recovery in sales and rentals since January. [\(Source\)](#)

COVID-19

1.

The Government and the Public University of El Alto (UPEA), inaugurated a new specific vaccination point with the aim of intensifying COVID-19 immunization to the university community. [\(Source\)](#)

2.

Bolivia is going through a sustained drop in COVID-19 cases, but this does not mean that the virus has disappeared in the country. [\(Source\)](#)

Other News

1.

In view of the possibility of a trial of responsibilities against former president Jeanine Áñez, the Catholic Church issued a statement in which it deplored the human rights situation and advocated for the former president. [\(Source\)](#)

2.

Government clarified yesterday that the granting of USD \$326.4 million by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not a credit, but a distribution of resources and that it has differences with the other credit during Áñez government. [\(Source\)](#)



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

1,639,123
Cases of COVID-19

36,945
Deceased

12,946,675 (85,2%)
Fully Vaccinated

13,701,765 (90,1%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Minister of Home Affairs and Security says that it doesn't seem necessary to renovate the state of emergency. This measure rules until September 30th and Minister of Health also believes that will not be necessary to extend it. ([Source](#))

2.

Senate's Commission approved mining royalty. This bill propose a compensation to mining exploitation equivalent to 3% of sale value for exporters. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

National Institute of Statistics (INE): Unemployment rate descended to 8.9% in trimester of May-July. Occupation rate went up in construction, commercial and transport sectors. ([Source](#))

2.

Chilean economy keeps strong recovery on July: Imacec (Monthly Rate of Economic Activity) went up 18,1%. Economic measures to support families and withdrawals of pension funds contributed to this result. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

August was the month with better rate of positive tests, fewest deaths of the year and fewer cases since April 2020 in Chile. ([Source](#))

2.

Undersecretary of Health, Paula Daza, advise to vaccinate with booster shot facing Delta variant "menace" and decrease of immunity in over of 80 years old persons. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Ministry of Health (Minsal) study demonstrates that AstraZeneca vaccine increases antibodies in 15 times, after booster shot. ([Source](#))

2.

San Javier's Court sentenced "patient 0" of Delta variant to 300 days of prison with conditional remission. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

4,909,086 Cases of COVID-19	124,945 Deceased	14,685,797 (29,1%) Fully Vaccinated	20,669,822 (44%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President Iván Duque summoned the International Relations Advisory Commission to discuss Nicaragua's territorial dispute with Colombia. What is special about this call is that this group includes living former presidents. ([Source](#))

2.

The former Minister of Health, Alejandro Gaviria, and the former Mayor of Medellín, Federico Gutierrez, have each made official their campaigns for the presidency. The number of pre-candidates from different political sectors increases every week. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

In July 2021, 1.7 million people came out of unemployment compared to the same month last year. Adding those who came out of inactivity, a total of 2.9 million jobs were recovered. Unemployment rate stands at 14.3%. ([Source](#))

2.

Between January and July 2021, Colombian exports of non-mining and energy goods totaled USD \$9,849 million, the highest value for the first 7 months since 2008, when they reached USD \$10,522 million. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

For several days citizens have reported a shortage of doses or cancellations in their scheduled appointments for the immunization process. The government expects the COVID-19 vaccine shortage to end in September. ([Source](#))

2.

WHO qualifies the Mu variant identified in Colombia as "of concern" because it has less neutralization by antibodies left by previous infection, or vaccination, and may proportionally increase cases in a region. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The appointment of the former Finance Minister, Alberto Carrasquilla, as co-director of Banco de la República has generated debate on the independence of the entity from the Government, as President Duque has appointed 5 of the 7 members of the board. ([Source](#))

2.

The second rainy season of the year, which is expected to start this month, could be accompanied by the La Niña phenomenon. Several regions of the country are already experiencing floods and emergencies. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

501,201 Cases of COVID-19	32,244 Deceased	8,604,850 (40,8%) Fully Vaccinated	10,699,102 (61,6%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

The investigation for alleged sexual abuse in the ordinary justice system and the impeachment trial in the National Assembly for alleged breach of duty against the Ombudsman, Freddy Carrión, are moving forward. ([Source](#))

2.

President Lasso modified some of the conditions for the protection and security provided to former presidents. Lasso stipulated that the protection will be provided "only within the country" for periods of one year and six months. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

From January to July 2021, company incorporations grew by 98% compared to the same period of the previous year. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) obtained by incorporation of companies represents 30 % of total FDI. ([Source](#))

2.

The budget increase for the health and education sectors for this year, which the Ministry of Finance presented in the General State Budget is around USD \$519 million, which corresponds to 0.5% of GDP for each sector. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Passengers coming to Ecuador may present the Traveler's Health Declaration form in printed and digital form upon boarding in the country of origin and upon entering the airports of Quito and Guayaquil. ([Source](#))

2.

763,057 people in Manabí have already received their two doses of vaccines against COVID-19, according to statistics of this province. This figure exceeds 50% of the population of Manabí, estimated at about 1.5 million inhabitants. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Referring to the 100 days of his mandate, President Guillermo Lasso pointed out that the Government has complied with the main offer it made for the first 100 days: vaccination against COVID-19 to nine million Ecuadorians. ([Source](#))

2.

President Guillermo Lasso ordered the sale of the Legacy presidential aircraft. Among the justifications for the measure is that the State currently has two aircrafts destined to transport the president, whose maintenance and operation costs are inconvenient for the country. ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

458,528	15,767	1,661,765 (23,2%)	2,266,494(31,7%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The bill "On Public Procurement and Contracting" will be considered by the Senate during this week. The proposal seeks to provide the State with more instruments to guide the entire public procurement process. ([Source](#))

2.

As a result of the study towards the reopening of the border with Argentina, within the framework of the forthcoming opening of the international tourist circuit in the tri-border area, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the meeting held with the mayor of the Argentine municipality. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

As of July, of this year, registered exports totaled USD 6,376 million (FOB), which represents the best historical performance in terms of value for exports from January to July of each year. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the projections presented to businessmen by the Minister of Finance, Óscar Llamosas, public investment will reach USD 1,068 million next year, an amount that is USD 18 million lower than the target for the end of this year. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

A new batch of 18,720 doses of Pfizer vaccine against Covid-19 arrived in Paraguay to be used to continue the vaccination plan. ([Source](#))

2.

Paraguay will participate from next week in phase three of the clinical trial for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Taiwanese laboratory Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corporation. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The department of Misiones adds a new asphalt connection that connects the city of Yabebyry with the company Santa Rita, in the district of San Ignacio. The work will boost the local economy, mainly rice and livestock producers. ([Source](#))

2.

Municipal and national authorities met with the Minister of Finance, Óscar Llamosas, to discuss financing for the paving of the 60-km Cruce Mbaracayú-Puerto Indio section. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, August 26th – Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

2,151,010	198,329	8,287,518 (25.90%)	10,491,881 (32.78%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1. The plenary session of the Congress of the Republic granted the vote of confidence to the Ministerial Cabinet chaired by Guido Bellido, after the presentation of the general policy of the Government. ([Source](#))
2. The Minister of Labor and Employment Promotion, Iber Maraví, reported that he has placed his position at the disposal of President Pedro Castillo, after questions about his alleged relationship with terrorist actions. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) indicated that Peru's economy will register an expansion of 10.6% this year, an advance greater than the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. ([Source](#))
2. Moody's downgraded Peru's rating from A3 to BAA1. It notes that "the environment has increased political risk and weakened policymaking capacity". ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. The Minister of Health reported that for September 12,968,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have arrived in Peru. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Health is scheduled to end the nationwide immunization against COVID-19 of people over 30 years of age in September. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. The Government presented the public sector budget bill for fiscal year 2022, which will amount to S/197,002 million, which means a nominal increase of 7,06% compared to the 2021 budget. ([Source](#))
2. The Government ordered the creation of a working group to propose actions and solutions to the main demands of the peasant communities of the Southern Mining Corridor. ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Thursday August 26 - Wednesday September 1st, 2021

384.934	6.032	2.512.323	2.668.116
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	(70,91 %) Fully Vaccinated	(75,91%) Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1. The National Executive issued a decree ratifying the authorization for the entry into the country of foreigners who have properties in Uruguay as from next Wednesday, September 1. ([Source](#))
2. The tourism sector maintains moderate expectations regarding the effects of the partial opening of borders and warns that it is only a first step towards reactivation. ([Source](#))

Political Outlook

1. Political experts agree that as the impact of the pandemic has lessened, the political landscape has returned to a normal period of government with agenda items such as Accountability. ([Source](#))
2. The MSP reported that there are two pharmacies and one laboratory authorized to perform rapid tests for COVID-19, with a total of 52 trained workers in pharmacies, emergencies and laboratories. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The fiscal deficit for the 12 months ended July was 4.3% of GDP, as reported yesterday by the MEF. This implied a slight worsening with respect to the 4.2% of GDP in the 12 months to June. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Labor will extend the partial unemployment insurance until March 2022, although with changes in the modality due to control difficulties. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. The Municipality of Montevideo issued a statement explaining which social gatherings are allowed to dance or not, the capacity and the requirements for the development of the events. ([Source](#))
2. The number of inquiries from Argentine citizens in real estate agencies, schools and sanatoriums increased. The announcement of the opening of the borders in stages has encouraged the tourism sector. ([Source](#))