

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

5,245,265 Cases of COVID-19	114,684 Deceased	20,602,871 (45,8%) Fully Vaccinated	29,157,102 (64,9%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernandez spoke at the UN and stressed the need to reconfigure the global financial architecture and to establish "a multilateral framework for the restructuring of the debt of middle-income countries". ([Source](#))

2.

President, Alberto Fernandez sworn in the new ministers recently appointed in a ceremony held at the Bicentennial Museum. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Argentina paid close to u\$s1.9 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the first principal payment of the debt of u\$s44 billion. ([Source](#))

2.

The primary fiscal deficit was \$147,756 million in August, showing an acceleration compared to last month. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Minister of Health, Carla Vizzotti, announced a series of measures due to the drop in the number of cases of COVID-19 in the country. These measures will come into effect as of October 1. ([Source](#))

2.

The City of Buenos Aires announced a new stage of measures with a greater relaxation of the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Chief of Cabinet, Juan Manzur, headed his first meeting with the ministers of the national government to address government agenda items. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government extended to September the Repro II program to partially pay the salaries of employees of companies affected by the crisis. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

21,283,567	592,316	83,397,254 (39,1%)	143,056,255 (67,06%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The government sent a bill to Congress that reduces tax incentives and benefits for sectors of the economy. The measure is the result of the commitment signed between the Legislative and the Executive to enable the payment of emergency aid in 2021, which serves the most vulnerable population during the Covid-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

President Jair Bolsonaro signed a decree to raise the rate of the Tax on Financial Transactions (IOF), which applies to credit, foreign exchange, insurance, bonds and securities transactions. The money raised will be used to fund the Auxílio Brasil program, which will replace Bolsa Família. Billing will start next Monday and run until December 31st. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The OECD raised its expectations for the growth of the Brazilian economy this year to 5.2%, 1.5 percentage points more than what was expected four months ago. At the same time, the organization cut its forecast for the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of 2022 to an increase of 2.3%, 0.2 point less than indicated in the May calculations. ([Source](#))

2.

The plenary of the Lower House approved this Wednesday (22) a proposal that provides exemption from Income Tax for retirees, and people who receive pension benefits with complications or sequelae resulting from Covid-19. The matter goes to the Senate for analysis. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Ministry of Health went back on a previous announcement and is recommending the vaccination of teenagers aged 12 to 17 years– including young people without comorbidity. The announcement was made during a press conference, a week after the ministry's recommendation to suspend immunization in this age group, except in cases of comorbidity. ([Source](#))

2.

Brazil recorded 333 deaths and 11,202 new cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours. The moving averages of deaths and infections were 532 and 15,053, respectively. The numbers for the last seven days, which have risen recently, showed a slight drop compared to data from the previous week, when averages of 15,731 cases and 581 deaths were recorded. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

In a speech this Tuesday (21) at the opening of the 76th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN), in New York, President Jair Bolsonaro used distorted data to exalt environmental policy and the performance of the Brazilian economy during his administration and defended the adoption of the so-called early treatment against Covid-19. ([Source](#))

2.

A study by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), shows that there was a 6.6% drop in usual income and a 0.9% increase in the effective income of Brazilian workers in the second quarter of 2021, in comparison with the same quarter last year, the worst moment in the labor market during the covid-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22th, 2021

1,648,026
Cases of COVID-19

37,374
Deceased

13,322,330 (87.6%)
Fully Vaccinated

13,801,595 (90.8%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Piñera regretted that immunization against COVID-19 is so unequal in the world, with Chile being one of the countries that has vaccinated the fastest, with almost 90% of the target population fully vaccinated and more than 2.6 million third administered doses. ([Source](#))

2.

President Sebastián Piñera participated in the UN General Assembly, where he highlighted the work done to confront COVID-19 in Chile and the world through a treaty, along with measures to avoid an “apocalypse environmental”. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Autonomous Fiscal Council warns that if there is no spending adjustment, public debt could reach 100% of GDP in 15 years. The agency stated that as of 2022 there should be a significant review of the transitory measures to face the pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

OECD lowers projection of world economic growth: Vaccination is still lacking, and it is a risk for all. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The authorities reported that 12 regions have a positivity less than or equal to 1%, seven of them decrease their cases in the last 7 days and 11 do so in the last 14 days. ([Source](#))

2.

COVID-19: Authorities call to reinforce self-care measures to avoid backsliding in the pandemic. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Government detailed that 60% of the infections derived from the Delta variable did not have their vaccine against COVID-19, calling on the importance of inoculation. ([Source](#))

2.

More than 48,000 deaths associated with COVID-19 have been registered since the arrival of the pandemic. This was confirmed by the latest weekly report from the Department of Health Statistics and Information of the Ministry of Health. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

4,945,203	126,006	16,223,761 (32,1%)	22,459,373 (50%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The economic commissions of the Congress approved a proposal that would allow local authorities (only during 2022, an election year) to enter into inter-administrative agreements. The current law stops Government contracting for 4 months to avoid the use of the entities for political purposes. ([Source](#))

2.

Political sectors propose the creation of a Ministry of Security and Citizen Coexistence. The national police would be transformed and attached to this ministry. The proposal comes from the *Coalición de la Esperanza* movement in the middle of the electoral campaign. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

At the UN, President Duque requested capitalization from IDB and CAF for more green financing. The president also requested debt forgiveness to multilateral banks for achievements in the fight against climate change. ([Source](#))

2.

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), revealed that Bogota's GDP grew 17.3% in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020, which led to an 8.5% growth in consolidated GDP for the first half of the year. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The intention to get vaccinated is growing in the country. Only 6.2% of Colombians are not vaccinated, nor are they interested in doing so, according to the latest issue of DANE's 'Pulso País' survey, which shows a decrease in this trend, which in June was 11.6%. ([Source](#))

2.

The director of Promotion and Prevention of the Ministry of Health said that the vaccines received from Moderna are currently undergoing several analyses in order to produce the quality certificates that will allow them to be included in the Ministry's inventories and thus begin the distribution process. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The United States announced more than USD \$336 million in new humanitarian aid to respond to the Venezuelan migration crisis, which was welcomed by President Iván Duque during his visit to that country. ([Source](#))

2.

Minister Tito Crissien filed the bill that aims to give continuity to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The Constitutional Court declared Law 1951 of 2019, which created this Institution, as unconstitutional since it did not comply with the requirements that must be met to create a new ministry. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

507,588	32,705	9,773,765 (56,3%)	11,039,941 (63,5%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The legal representatives of thirteen universities closed during the government of Rafael Correa filed a criminal complaint before the Attorney General's Office to investigate former President Correa and three of his then officials for the confiscation of property and cash funds in accounts, that were withheld from these institutions "in a legal and unconstitutional manner". ([Source](#))

2.

The Ethics Committee of the National Assembly will be reactivated this September 22, to validate the evidence presented within the investigation process requested against Assemblywoman Bella Jimenez, second vice-president of the Parliament, for alleged management of public offices. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Guillermo Lasso proposes to increase taxes to those who earn more than USD \$25,000 per year. This proposal would be part of the reform package he will send next Friday. The president believes that with the revision of tax rates, labor regulations, and other factors, his approval rating of more than 70% could decrease. ([Source](#))

2.

President Guillermo Lasso met with one hundred businessmen at the headquarters of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA) and presented the country's progress in vaccination against COVID-19 and other aspects to attract investment to the country. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Comptroller's Office detected legal noncompliance by State institutions in 269 approved audits. Only 6% of the audits conducted on public procurement during the COVID-19 health emergency did not report irregularities. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the Ministry of Health, 15% of the country's adolescents have already been vaccinated against COVID-19. The Government implemented a plan to vaccinate young people in schools. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Attorney General sent a request to President Guillermo Lasso recommending that actions be coordinated to pay USD \$374,373,154.25 of the arbitration process that Ecuadorian state lost against Perenco Ecuador. ([Source](#))

2.

At the General Assembly of the UN, president Lasso called on all countries that want to deepen trade relations with Ecuador, "because one of the solutions to this problem (massive migration) lies in bringing markets closer to citizens, instead of forcing citizens to migrate to markets". ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

459,720 Cases of COVID-19	16,138 Deceased	1,850,231 (25,9%) Fully Vaccinated	2,550,991 (35,7%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President Mario Abdo Benítez will meet with his Chilean counterpart Sebastián Piñera, who will be visiting Paraguay at the end of September as part of his international tour of South America. ([Source](#))

2.

During his speech at the Celac summit in Mexico, President Mario Abdo Benítez thanked for the vaccine donations and called attention to the Covax mechanism for not meeting the needs of the countries. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Ministry of Finance announced the extension until December 31 of the extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs for capital goods. ([Source](#))

2.

The Chamber of Automotive and Machinery Distributors (Cadam) reported that, at the end of August, there was an increase of 19.7% over 2020 in the importation of imported vehicles. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

On October 1, the land crossings to Argentina will be reopened, after a year and a half of closure due to the covid-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

The National Congress approved the bill that approves the new loan of USD 150 million to be used for health expenses. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Senate approved the bill "On trust services for electronic transactions, electronic documents and electronic transferable documents". ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) launched a tender to support 50 formalized microenterprises with financing of up to 50 million guaraníes for market access. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, September 16th – Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

2,169,427 Cases of COVID-19	199,108 Deceased	9,647,785 (30.15%) Fully Vaccinated	14,795,247 (46.23%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

The president of Peru, Pedro Castillo, proposed to the UN a global agreement between states and patent owners for access to vaccines. ([Source](#))

2.

Congressmen from Peru Libre presented a bill to control radio and television content. Specialists warn that it would be a threat to freedom of expression. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Central Reserve Bank of Peru reduced its growth projection for the Peruvian economy from 4.5% to 3.4% by 2022. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Agrarian Development ordered the creation of the sectoral working group that will be in charge of the development of the second agrarian reform, one of the campaign proposals of President Castillo. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Minister of Health, Hernando Cevallos, warned that the third wave of COVID-19 may begin in Peru in two or three weeks. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health reported that all persons entering Peruvian territory must have a negative molecular test with a result date of no more than 72 hours before boarding at their point of origin. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The National Institute for the Defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property warned that clinics charged more than double for drugs for COVID-19 compared to private pharmacies. ([Source](#))

2.

The Regional Government of Ica is the first to promulgate an ordinance that establishes the requirement of a vaccination card against COVID-19 to enter "events of massive attendance in public and private establishments". ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Wednesday September 16 - Wednesday September 22nd, 2021

387.922	6.049	2.561.023	2.722.360
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	(72,28 %) Fully Vaccinated	(76,84%) Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1. Covid victims create Civil Association to address after-effects. To date, more than 380,000 people have been affected by the disease and many remain with physical, psychological and emotional sequelae. ([Source](#))
2. The Chair of Infectious Diseases of the University of the Republic warned about the risks of hasty openings and emphasized the delta variant. ([Source](#))

Political Outlook

1. Presidency confirmed the arrival of 500,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines for the remainder of the year, which will enable the reinforcement of third doses for health personnel, the elderly and other age groups. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Tourism announced that next season foreign tourists will have a 10% VAT discount, a measure that will be signed in a few days to reactivate the sector. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The economy would reach pre-pandemic levels between late 2021 and the second half of 2022. Analysts expect strong year-on-year growth in the second quarter of the year. ([Source](#))
2. Currently, Uruguay's Trade Vulnerability Index stands at 55.1% in 2021; a figure that would have been lower with the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement with China. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. Tourist activity returns to the port of Colonia del Sacramento after the announcement of the company Colonia Express to resume trips to Buenos Aires as from September 22. ([Source](#))
2. The Uruguayan Chamber of Tourism expects that measures to encourage tourist arrivals and mitigate the effects of the unfavorable exchange rate will be defined as soon as possible. ([Source](#))