

# South American Weekly Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021





# Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

5,211,801	112,851	16,745,593(37,3%)	28,431,871 (63,3%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernandez to address a Latin American summit on climate change called "High-Level Dialogue on Climate Action in the Americas". ([Source](#))

2.

The Chief of Cabinet, Santiago Cafiero, presented the bill for the Law for the Upbringing with Tenderness and Good Treatment, which proposes to recognize and guarantee the right of children and adolescents to be raised without violence and to enjoy good treatment. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Province of Buenos Aires, Pablo López, stated that "in June, the economic activity of the PBA, as measured by the Monthly Activity Estimator (EMA-PBA), grew 7.8% with respect to May and 15.1% year-on-year". ([Source](#))

2.

Tax collection grew 64% in August compared to the same month in 2020, with revenues amounting to one trillion 5,306 million pesos, which again represented an improvement in real terms. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The My Argentina digital vaccination credential will function as an official document of international accreditation of the application of the coronavirus vaccine. ([Source](#))

2.

Provincial authorities emphasized that the marked decrease in coronavirus infections has been maintained for more than a month due to the scope of the vaccination campaign and that this situation has allowed all jurisdictions to expand permitted activities. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Argentina has already received almost 55 million Covid-19 vaccines to continue its vaccination plan. ([Source](#))

2.

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Production of the province of Buenos Aires, during the first half of the year, 103 investment announcements were made, which implies an increase of 178% compared to the same period of 2020. ([Source](#))



# Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

20,928,008	584,421	68,944,846 (32,32%)	204,972,926 (69,3%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The demonstrations that took place in several cities in Brazil this Tuesday, September 7, the day of the country's Proclamation of Independence, gained space in the international press, with emphasis on the participation of President Jair Bolsonaro and his speech against the Supreme Court. ([Source](#))

2.

President Jair Bolsonaro sanctioned with vetoes the alteration of the Industrial Property Law, which establishes the temporary breaking of patents on vaccines and supplies in periods of national or international emergency or recognition of a state of public health calamity, as is the case in the current case pandemic. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

A study by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation and IDados, highlighted two factors that could threaten the Brazilian economy: the water crisis and the Delta variant of the new coronavirus. The survey details three possible economic scenarios in the country for the second half of this year and the first six months of 2022. ([Source](#))

2.

Of the total balance of 316,580 new hires made in July, 72% of formal jobs were created by micro and small companies. The data is from SEBRAE, based on statistics from the General Register of Employed and Unemployed Persons (Novo Caged), updated monthly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The National Supplementary Health Council approved the general transparency and monitoring guidelines for health plans to act during the Covid-19 pandemic. The guidelines of the National Supplementary Health Policy for Covid-19 were accepted by all the ministries that are part of the council. ([Source](#))

2.

The average death toll has dropped to less than 500 per day. This is a decrease of 34%, the highest percentage of fall since the press media consortium started to calculate the numbers, in June of last year. But it's important to remember that we're coming from a holiday, and on holidays part of the records is often delayed. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Minister Ricardo Lewandowski, of the Supreme Court, ordered the Minister of Health to present the protocol and guidelines for drug treatment of Covid-19, within the scope of the so-called "early treatment" advocated by the Jair Bolsonaro government, within the legal deadline of 180 days, counted from the 29th of April. ([Source](#))

2.

Anvisa interrupted the match between Brazil and Argentina, in São Paulo, for the World Cup qualifiers. Four minutes into the game, Agency officials entered the field and forced the game to be stopped as four Argentine players had entered Brazil without complying with quarantine rules. ([Source](#))



# Bolivia – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

493,518  
Cases of COVID-19

18,544  
Deceased

2,870,996  
Fully Vaccinated

3,282,322  
Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The trial against former president Jeanine Áñez is halted in the Legislative Assembly that decided to suspend the session without a new date. ([Source](#))

2.

Luis Arce reached 10 months at the head of the government with a political agenda loaded with revenge and far from reconciliation. Encouraging data is shown in the economy, but not consolidated. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

La Paz businessmen seek a way to combine education and technology to innovate and improve the national economy. ([Source](#))

2.

State companies owe Bs \$36 billion to the Central Bank of Bolivia. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Interest in vaccination decreases in Bolivia, especially in the youth sector. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health reported the identification of the variant "MU" better known as Colombian and highlighted that Bolivia now has the latest technology for this type of research. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Government reactivated the operations of the Ammonia and Urea Plant in Bulo Bulo, Cochabamba, and did so with the announcement that a second plant will be built to support the national agricultural activity. ([Source](#))

2.

The Americas Division of Human Rights Watch expressed its concern about the threats made by the so-called "Wila Lluch'us" (red caps) warrior army against the president of the permanent assembly of Human Rights in Bolivia.. ([Source](#))





# Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1,641,791  
Cases of COVID-19

37,115  
Deceased

13,074,496 (86%)  
Fully Vaccinated

13,729,381 (90,3%)  
Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

French President Emmanuel Macron received his Chilean counterpart Sebastián Piñera on Monday for a working lunch on the political situation in the Latin American country and the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

President Sebastián Piñera announced a pension reform bill, in the midst of the processing of the fourth withdrawal of pension funds, which is currently being discussed in Congress. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The National Institute of Statistics (INE) reported that in July 2021 the Nominal Remuneration Indices (IR) and the Cost of Labor (ICMO) registered increases in twelve months of 6.5% and 6.6%, respectively. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the latest data from the Superintendency of Pensions, in July the number of requests to qualify for withdrawals reached 23,909. The figure is 52.5% higher than the 15,669 in the same period last year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The Ministry of Health (Minsal) delivered this Tuesday, a new balance of COVID-19. In its report, 273 new cases were confirmed, adding 1,641,791 since the start of the pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the latest epidemiological report published this Tuesday by the Institute of Public Health (ISP), although Gamma -of Brazil- continues to be the most frequent variant with 41%, of the sequenced samples, the "Colombian variant", with 29 %, surpassed Delta -of India- (18%) and Lambda -of Peru- (11%). ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

A new milestone in the midst of the positive figures of the pandemic in Chile would be about to materialize, since the Aysén Region is close to being the first in the country to have zero cases of COVID-19. ([Source](#))

2.

This Wednesday, the Undersecretary of Public Health, announced the vaccination calendar against the Coronavirus for minors from 6 to 12 years old, this, after the ISP approved the use of the Sinovac vaccine for this age group. ([Source](#))



# Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

4,921,410	125,378	14,997,727 (29,6%)	21,467,557 (46%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

After several years, drug traffickers imprisoned in the United States accuse former Colombian presidents of receiving illicit money to finance their campaigns. The recent accusations began after former President Pastrana claimed to have the ultimate proof against former President Samper regarding this case. ([Source](#))

2.

The Attorney General's Office opened a formal disciplinary investigation against the Minister of ICT, Karen Abudinen, to determine her responsibility in the case of the contracting of Unión Temporal Centros Poblados to connect rural areas of the country. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Congress of the Republic approves the tax reform bill in plenary sessions. The bill will raise \$15 billion pesos mainly for the extension of social programs. The tax load will be assumed to a greater extent by the private sector. ([Source](#))

2.

In August, the Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) registered a balance of -8.2%, representing a decrease of 0.7 percentage points (pps) compared to the previous month. This result was due to a drop in consumers expectations. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Health Minister Fernando Ruiz Gómez stated that by September, 12.7 million doses of vaccines, including all pharmaceuticals, are assured, which is expected to reactivate the National Vaccination Plan (PNV). ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health reported that the fourth peak could occur towards the last week of October and that, although it could have a shorter duration than the third peak, it is not yet known what mortality it could have. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Migrants are increasingly being held up in Urabá Antioquia, passing through the region on their way to the United States and Canada, which has generated a humanitarian crisis in the municipality of Necoclí. ([Source](#))

2.

Progress in the reconstruction of the island of Providence after hurricane Iota is 27%. The government had committed to complete the repairs in 100 days. The population fears further damage during the 2021 hurricane season in the Caribbean. ([Source](#))





# Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

504,257  
Cases of COVID-19

32,365  
Deceased

9,462,926 (53%)  
Fully Vaccinated

10,716,011 (61,6%)  
Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The Government plans to carry out in 2021 the popular consultation promised during the campaign. So far, the questions have not been defined, but they would be related to political and economic issues. ([Source](#))

2.

Students and workers in Ecuador announced on Monday that they will mobilize in the coming days against President Guillermo Lasso, to express their rejection of "neoliberal policies". ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Minister of Economy and Finance and the IMF representative in Ecuador, announced that the IMF and the Ecuadorian authorities reached an agreement. Ecuador would have access to financing for about USD \$800 million. However, an additional USD \$700 million would be received by December. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government presented the benefits of the elimination of the Tax on Foreign Currency Outflows (ISD) for airlines. The authorities highlighted as benefits that the regulation allows to generate a better business environment for the increase of air frequencies, increase air competitiveness, reduce export costs, and strengthen tourism. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Ecuador begins phase four of the vaccination plan, which includes the inoculation of people over 16 years of age who have not received any dose. The Ministry of Health indicated that the first doses of CanSino and AstraZeneca vaccines will be available. ([Source](#))

2.

The vaccination process, both in first and second doses, to residents in the cantons of Manta, Montecristi and Jaramijó, in Manabí, reached more than 520,000 applications, confirmed Aníbal Chica, district health director of Manta. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Ecuador is suffering a massive migratory wave: 54,000 people left the country in eight months. The economic crisis that the country is going through could be one of the reasons why people decide to leave. Since 1998, Ecuador has not experienced a new migratory wave as important as the one experienced in these two years. ([Source](#))

2.

The Oversight Commission approved the report recommending the impeachment of the Ombudsman, Freddy Carrión, who has been detained since May 16 for alleged sexual abuse. ([Source](#))



# Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

458,977	15,888	1,809,569 (25,3%)	2,286,112 (32%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The president participated in the Latin American summit on climate change called "High-Level Dialogue on Climate Action in the Americas", hosted by Argentina and held virtually. ([Source](#))

2.

Mario Abdo Benítez enacted Decree 5921 regulating Law 6677 "Special Agent of the National Anti-Drug Secretariat". ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Central Bank of Paraguay published the inflation report for the month of August, which was 0.9%, higher than the variation of 0.5% observed in the same month of the previous year. ([Source](#))

2.

The public debt will increase next year to 38% of the gross domestic product (GDP), according to the projections of the Ministry of Finance that accompany the draft General Budget of the Nation (PGN) for fiscal year 2022. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The president, Mario Abdo Benítez, published on his social networks that he and authorities of the Ministry of Health "are coordinating actions" for the arrival of more vaccines against Covid-19 to the country. ([Source](#))

2.

The President of the Republic, Mario Abdo Benítez, extended the sanitary measures established until the 28th of this month, in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Of the 11,279,800 anti-covid vaccines negotiated by the national government since October last year, Paraguay received only 1,614,390 doses, or 14% of the purchases made to advance the national vaccination plan against covid-19. ([Source](#))

2.

In addition to the draft General Budget of the Nation (PGN) 2022, the Ministry of Finance submitted to Congress two loan agreements for USD 250 million. ([Source](#))





# Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

2,156,451	198,568	8,676,441 (27.11%)	11,518,140 (35.99%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

The Constitution and Regulations Commission of Congress approved the idea proposed by the law that interprets the question of trust, a fact that would alter the balance of powers, according to specialists. ([Source](#))

2.

The political benches that voted in favor of granting confidence to the cabinet proposed to President Castillo the removal of the President of the Council of Ministers, Guido Bellido, and the Minister of Labor, Iber Maraví. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased 41.9% in the second quarter of the year, compared to the same quarter of 2020, according to a report from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics. ([Source](#))

2.

President Castillo announced the delivery of the Yanapay Bonus of \$350 soles to more than 13 million people. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

President Pedro Castillo announced that Peru will have a Russian Sputnik V vaccine production plant against COVID-19, which would become operational in 2023. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that more than 12 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines will arrive during September, a record number. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Due to the low attendance at vaccination points and thanks to the arrival of millions of doses of vaccines, the Ministry of Health decided to lower the age of the population to be vaccinated in Lima and Callao to 30 years. ([Source](#))

2.

President Castillo announced the return of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to the Fuel Price Stabilization Fund (FEPC), which will allow the price of domestic fuel to drop by S/ 11. ([Source](#))



# Uruguay – COVID Report

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>- Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

385.926	6.037	2.533.161	2.694.420
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	(71,50 %) Fully Vaccinated	(76,05%) Received at least one dose

## COVID-19

1.

The Ministry of Public Health highlighted as a humanitarian action and a gesture of solidarity the initiative to vaccinate the crews of foreign fishing boats in the port of Montevideo. ([Source](#))

2.

The partial unemployment insurance, in force until September 30, 2021, will be extended until March 31, 2022 for the most affected sectors by the pandemic. ([Source](#))

## Political Outlook

1.

Within the framework of the recent opening of borders implemented by the Uruguayan Government, the authorities asked foreigners to comply with all the requirements demanded by the country. ([Source](#))

2.

While Uruguayans were preparing to cross the border, attracted by the advantages of the exchange rate, the Argentine government decided to keep the borders closed for sanitary reasons. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Minister of Economy and Finance, Azucena Arbeleche, ratified the optimism of the economic team before senators regarding the economic recovery based on the success of the vaccination campaign. ([Source](#))

2.

The fiscal deficit stood at 5.3% of GDP for the twelve months ended July. In the last twelve months, net expenditures imputed to the Covid-19 Solidarity Fund were estimated at 1.7% of GDP. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The European Union endorsed the reinstatement of Uruguay in the list of non-essential travel origin that may be admitted without special restrictions. ([Source](#))

2.

The Uruguayan Society of Intensive Care Medicine stated that, although the coronavirus "has not been overcome", it has become one of the many causes that lead to the admission of people to intensive care. ([Source](#))