

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

5,232,358 Cases of COVID-19	113,969 Deceased	18,737,801 (41,7%) Fully Vaccinated	28,819,589 (64,1%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

National government loses primary elections in most of Argentina's provinces. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government is preparing to send the 2022 Budget Bill to Congress, which establishes spending, inflation targets and the price of the dollar within the country. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Alberto Fernández and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner will have to decide whether to accelerate Martín Guzmán's negotiations at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and sign the Extended Facilities agreement to close the debt payment. ([Source](#))

2.

According to INDEC data, inflation was 2.5% in August. Thus, it pierced the 3% monthly barrier for the first time since September 2020 and was the lowest since August last year. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Government is moving forward with the Strategic Plan for Vaccination against Covid-19 and will distribute a total of 1,417,165 doses in the 24 jurisdictions throughout the country. ([Source](#))

2.

A shipment with another 160,290 doses of vaccines against COVID-19 from the contract signed by the national government with the Pfizer laboratory for a total of 20 million doses arrived in the country. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The National Government presented the Hydrocarbons Investment Promotion Bill, which aims to increase the production and industrialization of the sector, increase the income of dollars and guarantee self-supply. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government convened the Wage Council for the end of the month to discuss an increase in the Minimum, Vital and Mobile Wage to accompany the increase in inflation forecast for this year. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

21,034,610	588,597	76,760,153 (35,98%)	139,887,121 (65,58%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

During the 13th BRICS summit, President Bolsonaro stated that his government maintains a good relationship with the leaders of other nations, in particular with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Last year, however, Bolsonaro disdained CoronaVac by promising not to buy the vaccine for the Brazilian population. ([Source](#))

2.

The president of the National Congress, Rodrigo Pacheco, rejected the Provisional Measure that changed the Internet Civil Rights Framework and made harder to delete profiles and content on social media. The Federal Supreme Court Minister Rosa Weber decided on the suspension of the measure as well. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Economy Minister admitted that the political noise in Brazil, amplified by the tension between the powers of the Republic in recent weeks, does not affect the dollar value. According to him, the balance value of the exchange would be from R\$ 3.80 to R\$ 4.20, if "everything was right". ([Source](#))

2.

The Brazilian economic activity registered high in July this year, according to data released today by the Central Bank. The Central Bank's Economic Activity Index increased by 0.60% in July 2021 compared to the previous month. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

A technical note from Fiocruz warns that it is necessary to improve the inclusion of data on vaccination against COVID-19 in Brazil, in the Information System for the Epidemiological Surveillance of Influenza. The study highlights that there are failures in filling in these data by the health teams, both from the public and the private sector. ([Source](#))

2.

The strong acceptance of the vaccine has advanced total immunization to almost 36% of Brazilians, which is already reflected in the numbers of transmission, hospitalization and deaths. Since the peak of lethality, on April 12 (3,015 deaths in the moving average) until this Wednesday, with 597, the drop was of 80.9%. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Aiming at the 2022 electoral race, the government of Bolsonaro and Caixa Econômica Federal announced the Habite Seguro program, a R\$100 million financing line for the purchase of houses with lower interest rates for police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, and municipal guards. ([Source](#))

2.

The Lower House approved the bill that establishes the new Electoral Code. The document has almost 900 articles and reformulates party and electoral legislation. Parliamentarians will continue the analysis of highlights next week. In order to enter into force by 2022, the text must be approved by the end of September by the Senate, and the House again. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

1,645,233
Cases of COVID-19

37,261
Deceased

13,260,870 (87,2%)
Fully Vaccinated

13,779,844 (90,7%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Government announces modifications to Protected Borders Plan: the opening of borders to vaccinated foreigners, the end of transit hotels and quarantines of only 5 days, among others. ([Source](#))

2.

President Piñera announces agreement between ISP (Public Health Institute) and Oxford University to make a research of Covid variants. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Job creation recovered in August: about 500 thousand jobs are missing to recover the same level before the covid crisis. ([Source](#))

2.

Almost a million and a half clients have debt of utilities for more than US\$600 million. Average debt still increasing, in electricity exceeds \$346,000 Chilean pesos. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

From September 27th, children between 6 and 12 years old will be vaccinated against COVID-19 in their schools. Parents must give written authorization. ([Source](#))

2.

A graphic shows that there is a strong reduction of deceases related to COVID-19 in Chile. “This week decreased 22%”, said Dr. Michel Serri, Infectious Disease Specialist. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

300,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrived at Chile. The country have already received a total of 36.3 million vaccines. ([Source](#))

2.

Seremi (Regional Health Office) will inform on Padre Hurtado Park’s manager to the Public Prosecutor’s Office because of a massive party that gather 10,000 young people without sanitary protocols. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

4,932,998	125,713	15,817,661 (31,3%)	21,809,845 (47%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Court decrees precautionary measure and seizure of accounts and assets of UT Centros Poblados due to the investigation related to alleged corruption in a contract to install internet infrastructure in rural schools. ([Source](#))

2.

The race for the presidency begins with 60 pre-candidates from all sectors and regions of the country. It is expected that this number will be reduced in March 2022 and the definitive candidates will remain. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) reported a 20.1% annual increase in real production in the manufacturing industry. In general, Colombian industry has grown but not the employed population. ([Source](#))

2.

The Business Confidence Indicator (BCI) closed at 61.3 points in August, which implies an improvement of 2.6 points compared to July. The highest level of confidence is held by the commerce sector, both retail and wholesale, with a level of 61.9 points. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The last Coronavirus report in Colombia, on September 14, reported 26 deaths due to COVID-19. According to the Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, this figure had not been reported since May 28, 2020. ([Source](#))

2.

Health authorities announced that Colombia will be able to participate in the "Solidarity" clinical trial, which is led by the WHO and seeks to gather safety and efficacy data on the COVID-19 vaccines that are still in the development phase. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

President Iván Duque begins an official visit to Spain -which will last until September 18- through which he intends to consolidate the country's economic reactivation, strengthen bilateral cooperation and expand the market for Colombian products. ([Source](#))

2.

Next Monday, the oral hearings related to the lawsuit filed by Nicaragua against Colombia for the alleged violation of its rights will begin at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

505,628	32,491	9,633,788 (55,4%)	10,739,435 (61,6%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The Citizen Participation Council will wait for a legal report to resolve the crisis in the Ombudsman's Office. This situation arises after Freddy Carrión was removed from his position by the National Assembly in a political trial. ([Source](#))

2.

President Guillermo Lasso will participate in the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as well as in the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), to be held in Mexico. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Oil production falls 6% in one year. This low level of production has not been seen since July 2010, without considering atypical months due to strikes or pipeline ruptures. The reduction has a relevant impact because the Treasury is 30% dependent on oil revenues. ([Source](#))

2.

President Lasso, ratified that according to the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the tax reform to be presented to the Assembly at the end of September should raise 0.7% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Analysts consider this bill aims to tax the middle class. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

With the aim of achieving herd immunity by December 2021, the Ecuadorian government began on September 13 the vaccination of children between 12 and 15 years of age. To this end, it will allocate 2.5 million vaccines for 1.3 million adolescents. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Public Health, Ximena Garzón, announced that booster doses will be applied for health workers and citizens with immunodeficiencies or weakened immune systems. President Lasso commented that this would be done as of January 2022. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The United States and Ecuador will exchange information to combat drug trafficking. On September 14, 2021, both countries signed a regional memorandum of understanding. ([Source](#))

2.

President Lasso orders officials to purge delivery of the human development voucher system without 'political clientelism'. Hundreds of people who do not need them are included in the ministry's lists. ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

459,391	16,114	1,832,045 (25,6%)	2,439,006(34,1%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1. President Mario Abdo Benitez participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Paraguayan Line No. 1 of the Yacyretá Hydroelectric Power Plant in Ayolas and emphasized that his government has promoted works so that Paraguay has the energy it deserves. ([Source](#))
2. President Abdo Benítez will make an official trip to Mexico to participate in the VI Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mauricio Claver-Carone, highlighted that Paraguay was one of the five countries in the region that increased its foreign investment in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))
2. At the end of August, the Central Administration closed with a fiscal deficit of -1.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which represents approximately US\$ 491 million. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. The senators approved a new credit of USD 150 million to be used for health expenses. This credit will be for the purchase of vaccines, the installation of oxygen plants, payment of medical contracts, and debts with pharmaceutical companies. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Health reported the arrival of some 306,900 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine donated by Spain. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez visited an electrical transformer factory in the city of Fernando de la Mora to commemorate Industry Day. ([Source](#))
2. The national secretary of tourism reported that a Paraguayan delegation headed for the cities of Salta and Jujuy in Argentina, to address issues related to regional air connectivity, in addition to the reactivation of the economy and the tourism sector. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, September 9th – Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

2,162,294	198,840	9,079,887 (28,37%)	13,286,339 (41,52%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1. President Pedro Castillo appointed Julián Palacín, a former candidate for Congress from Perú Libre, as president of the Directing Council of Indecopi, a choice that has been questioned by political and economic analysts. ([Source](#))
2. The Vice President of Peru, Dina Boluarte, said that it is very likely that President Castillo will remove the Minister of Labor, Iber Maraví, who is being questioned for alleged links to terrorism. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The Central Reserve Bank will correct up its projections for the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for this 2021, due to the rapid recovery in various sectors. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Economy highlighted the announcement of Newmont to carry out the investment of the Yanacocha Sulfuros project, considering an amount until the end of 2022 of at least \$500 million dollars. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. Over the weekend 3,300,000 Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19 arrived, the largest shipment that Peru has received. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Health reported that from Monday, September 13, vaccination of young people from the age of 25 would begin in Lima. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. The Superintendency of Banking, Insurance and AFP (SBS) authorized the Investment Credit Bank (BCI) to operate in the Peruvian market. ([Source](#))
2. The *Sendero Luminoso* terrorist group leader, Abimael Guzmán Reynoso died on September 11. He was being held serving a life sentence for being responsible for the death of more than 30,000 Peruvians. ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Wednesday September 9 - Wednesday
September 15th, 2021

387.028	6.044	2.552.507	2.712.370
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	(72,04 %) Fully Vaccinated	(76,56%) Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1. According to MSP data, seven out of ten eligible persons have scheduled or already received the third dose. There are 1,623,841 eligible persons, who have been vaccinated with the two doses of Sinovac. ([Source](#))

2. Eighteen percent of newly infected coronavirus patients are under 15 years of age, unvaccinated children and adolescents, but unlike adults, they have mild to moderate disease. ([Source](#))

Political Outlook

1. The opening of the Argentine border for Uruguayans will take at least two months. This was communicated by the government to the mayors of Salto, Paysandú and Río Negro in a meeting this Monday. ([Source](#))

2. The MSP is closely monitoring the covid outbreak at the Hospital de Clínicas; the speed of spread and the high viral loads of those infected are striking. Authorities are monitoring the evolution of the Delta variable. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. After the pandemic, analysts warn that the economy is on the way to recovering its pre-crisis pace of activity. Expectations for the last quarter of the year are moderately encouraging. ([Source](#))

2. The economic team is working on a plan to help the country's coastal border departments, due to the current exchange rate gap between Uruguay and Argentina. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. The Government is negotiating the arrival of more Pfizer vaccines to apply booster doses. The third dose will be for those who have been immunized between six and eight months and health personnel. ([Source](#))

2. As part of the fight against the pandemic, Uruguay received a donation of medical equipment and supplies from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a form of cooperation. ([Source](#))