

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, October 07th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

5,267,339	115,547	23,928,986 (53,2%)	30,265,200 (67,3%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernández met with a group of businessmen to discuss the need to attract investments and generate strategies to create genuine employment. ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernández headed the first meeting of his new Cabinet with the ministers of all national portfolios. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán met with Kristalina Georgieva in Washington with the purpose of advancing in an agreement for the renegotiation of Argentina's US\$ 44 billion debt. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report, the Argentine economy will grow by 7.5% in 2021 and 2.5% in 2022. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The government of the province of Buenos Aires started the vaccination operation to advance in the immunization against Covid-19 of children between 3 and 11 years of age. ([Source](#))

2.

In just seven days, more than 7.6 million vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 arrived in the country from different supplier laboratories. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The President of the Lower House of Representatives, Sergio Massa, announced that a bill will be introduced in the House of Representatives to convert social plans "into genuine work". ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernandez appointed economist Roberto Feletti as Secretary of Domestic Trade, replacing Paula Español. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

21,597,949
Cases of COVID-19

601,574
Deceased

100,499,968 (47,11%)
Fully Vaccinated

149,950,990 (70,29%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

After claiming that he would only get vaccinated after the last Brazilian was immunized, President Bolsonaro backtracked and said that he decided not to take the vaccine. In an interview he said saw "new studies" and that his immunity is up there. "Why am I going to get the vaccine? It would be the same thing to play R\$10 in the lottery to win R\$2. It makes no sense," affirmed Bolsonaro. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, within two months, Brazil will start helping neighboring countries to strengthen immunization after completing the vaccination of the adult population against covid-19. For Guedes, the measure is necessary to reduce inequality in the country. post-pandemic economic recovery. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes said the government would only consider extending emergency aid if a new variant of Covid-19 emerges. "If we have an increase in the disease, we will do the same as before: we will increase spending on protection for the most vulnerable. But that's not what's happening, with mass vaccinations and a safe return to work," he said. ([Source](#))

2.

The 10% reduction in the Mercosur Common External Tariff, agreed between Brazil and Argentina, should result in a relief in inflation, according to Minister of Economy. After a meeting with the foreign ministers of Brazil, and Argentina, Santiago Andrés, Guedes stated that the reduction in the import tax between the countries of the bloc will further open up the Brazilian economy. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, said today that he will "insist" that health plans provide the vaccine against covid-19. Queiroga said that he forwarded to the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) the recommendation of the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies in the Unified Health System (Conitec), but that it did not receive the approval of the agency. ([Source](#))

2.

On Thursday night, Brazil reached the mark of 600,000 deaths caused by Covid-19. Agency with the state health departments. In addition, the country accumulates over 21 million cases of the disease. Brazil recorded the first death by Covid-19 on March 12, 2020, in São Paulo. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Brazil reached, this Wednesday (6), the mark of 60% of the population over 18 years old with the complete vaccination cycle against Covid-19. This means that 95.3 million Brazilians have already taken the second dose or the single dose vaccine. The result of advances in immunization is essential for economic recovery, relieves the health system, and, most importantly, reduces the number of deaths caused by the virus. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health plans to vaccinate children against Covid in 2022 if the National Health Surveillance Agency approves the immunization. For this group, the forecast is 70 million doses. In addition to the two doses that would be applied per child, the plan is to distribute only a booster dose to the public aged 12 to 59 years, and one dose per semester for the elderly and immunosuppressed population. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

1,664,725
Cases of COVID-19

37,578
Deceased

13,527,764 (89%)
Fully Vaccinated

13,951,185 (91,8%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Opposition representatives launch constitutional accusation against President Piñera, due to his connection with the sale of shares in Dominga mining project. ([Source](#))

2.

Labor Minister Patricio Melero said that there are mitigation measures for the end of job protection law. Employees whose contracts were suspended, may access to Regresa subsidy to return to their jobs. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

IMF estimates a growth for Chile of 11% this year leading the Region, but only 2.5% next year, because of external effects. ([Source](#))

2.

Central Bank warns serious consequences because of eventual 4th withdrawal of retirement pension funds. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Chile scores the highest positive COVID-19 tests in the almost 3 months and contagions rise to 42% in two weeks. ([Source](#))

2.

Infection disease specialist, Claudia Cortés, says about increase of COVID-19 contagions “it is fundamental that people who haven’t received their 1st dose get vaccinated, because they risk to fall ill gravely”. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Pharmaceutical company Merk & Co that is developing the first oral medicine against COVID-19 affirms that it began conversations with Chilean authorities to supply this medicine. ([Source](#))

2.

Region Metropolitana double active COVID-19 cases in a month. Nevertheless, epidemiologists coincide that is unlikely a new big wave of contagions. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

4,974,400	126,692	18,815,492 (36,5%)	24,461,696 (53,6%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The Green Party (Partido Verde) is going through strong discussions due to the results of the advanced polls among party members to define the course to follow in the next presidential elections. Polling results show that the party would initially support the leftist Historical Pact movement. However, disagreement and fragmentation in the party remains. ([Source](#))

2.

Increased questioning of Congress for apparent week-long recess. Some congressmen deny it, but records indicate that the legislative sessions scheduled for the week were cancelled. The break coincides with the school vacation period that takes place in October of each year in the country. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

During his visit to the United States, President Duque highlighted that with the ProColombia team, an investment of \$2,300 million dollars in 11 projects in the national territory has been guaranteed, that also comes with a great interest of foreign direct investment in Colombia. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government announced the creation of the Transportation Infrastructure Planning Unit (UPIT), a technical entity that will be in charge of planning the country's infrastructure, responding to the road needs of the regions. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

According to figures from the Ministry of Finance, 81.5% of the Emergency Mitigation Fund (FOME) resources for the COVID-19 pandemic have been executed. The resources have been allocated to emergency health care, attention to vulnerable people and employment protection. ([Source](#))

2.

A New York Times investigation indicates that Colombia paid twice as much for doses from Moderna compared to the U.S. According to statements made by the Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, the Moderna vaccines were the most expensive of all those purchased by the country. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

According to the most recent edition of Fenalco's Bitácora Económica, September registered a good performance, which evidences that commerce continues on the road to recovery, thus closing the quarter of July, August and September as the best of the year. More than 90% of retailers believe that their sales will improve in the last quarter of the year. ([Source](#))

2.

The Vice President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, said that the Government of Nicolás Maduro will denounce before the United Nations (UN) and the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the international organization the murder of children in Tibú, Colombia. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

512,702	32,867	9,999,368 (57%)	11,563,516 (65,5%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

With 131 votes in favor, out of 132 legislators present, the vice-president of the Assembly, Bella Jiménez, was dismissed for managing public positions in exchange for money. The report of the Ethics Committee, recommended the dismissal of the now former Assemblywoman. ([Source](#))

2.

From October 18, the dialogue between the government and the National Confederation of Peasant, Indigenous and Black Organizations (FENOCIN) will be developed through six technical roundtables, in order to reach agreements. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Internal Revenue Service (SRI) reported that total tax collection from January to September 2021 amounted to USD \$10,390 million, 11% more than the same period of 2020. According to the entity, this is due to the collection and actions executed by the IRS, as well as to the economic reactivation of the country. ([Source](#))

2.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a 3.5% growth of the Ecuadorian economy for 2022 and of 2,8% for 2021. The figure is slightly higher than that projected by the Central Bank of Ecuador and the World Bank, which indicate that growth will be 3.4%. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

In Ecuador there is a resurgence of coronavirus cases, although it is "very slight", the Minister of Health, Ximena Garzón, said that there is a slight increase and that there is no peak of cases. However, she made a call to be careful. ([Source](#))

2.

Health authorities have published guidelines for the vaccination of minors. There will be two population groups: children between 6 and 11 years will receive the Sinovac vaccine with two doses; and children 5 years and older will receive the Pfizer vaccine. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Ombudsman's Office urged Banco Pichincha to respond to the problems caused to its customers due to service failures related to a cybersecurity incident. The entity asked the bank to attend each complaint and if necessary to repair the clients. ([Source](#))

2.

The President Lasso, met at the Carondelet Palace with the ambassadors of the European Union to discuss issues such as the vaccination plan, the strengthening of trade relations, the progress of the Schengen Visa, the country's participation in COP26, among others. ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, October 07th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

460,244	16,207	1,998,274 (27,9%)	2,838,640 (39,7%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez instructed the Ministry of Urbanism, Housing and Habitat (MUVH) to give greater impetus to projects in urban areas in order to increase the number of jobs and reduce poverty levels. ([Source](#))
2. The Executive Branch announced the appointment of Teresa Rivarola de Velilla as the new president of the Development Finance Agency (AFD), replacing María Fernanda Carrón. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. According to data from the Monthly Economic Activity Indicator (Imaep) published by the Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP), economic activity increased again last August, for the sixth consecutive month, and accumulated an increase of 5.7% at the end of the eighth month of 2021. ([Source](#))
2. The Central Bank of Paraguay presented the results related to foreign trade, where it was highlighted that the trade balance at the ninth month of the year recorded a surplus of US\$ 1,575.3 million, higher by US\$ 457.1 million compared to September 2020. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. President, Mario Abdo Benítez, signed a Decree updating the measures for the covid-19 pandemic, which will be in force from October 13 to November 2 throughout the country. Among the new provisions, the time restriction for circulation is eliminated. ([Source](#))
2. The Minister of Health, Julio Boba, is analyzing the implementation of a third dose for people over 50 years of age and for health personnel, as well as to start vaccinating children from six years of age onwards. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. Last weekend, municipal elections were held in the 261 districts of the 17 departments of the country for the renewal of local authorities after a period that lasted 6 years. ([Source](#))
2. The national chancellor, Euclides Acevedo and his Argentine counterpart, Santiago Cafiero, will meet to discuss again the reopening of borders between both countries. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, October 7th – Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

2,186,246	199,746	13,352,886 (41.73%)	17,223,022 (53.82%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1. President Castillo took the oath of office to the new member of the Council of Ministers, Mirtha Vasquez, and her cabinet, after the resignation of Guido Bellido. The change has generated positive reactions in public opinion. ([Source](#))
2. The ruling party Peru Libre reported that it will not give the vote of confidence to the Cabinet of Mirtha Vásquez. A position that has generated concern and warns of an internal conflict within the party. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The Government made official the appointment of Julio Velarde as president of the Central Reserve Bank (BCRP), which presages economic stability, according to political and economic analysts. ([Source](#))
2. After registering a record price of S/4.13 on September 30, the dollar has recently begun to depreciate in the exchange market. This fall would be "temporary", since there are still factors of political uncertainty in the country. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. The Ministry of Health reported that from Monday, October 11, the population from 18 years of age will be vaccinated against COVID-19 in Lima and Callao. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Health approved the vaccination protocol against COVID-19 for children and adolescents from 12 to 17 years of age. However, it aims first to close the vaccination gap for the population over 18 years of age. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. Health Minister Hernando Cevallos pointed out that it is not wise to start general school classes this year. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Health reported that the curfew arranged to stop the expansion of the COVID-19 will be from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., in order to extend the opening hours of the businesses that operate until late hours at night. ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Wednesday October 07th - Wednesday
October 13th, 2021

390.234	6.064	2.600.946	2.747.124
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	(73,41%) Fully Vaccinated	(77,54%) Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1. The Ministry of Public Health published a statement with the new measures on the use of face masks on public roads and at events that will be in force as of Wednesday 13th. ([Source](#))
2. The Executive Power is studying the epidemiological situation of the country and could define the cessation of the sanitary emergency declared in March 2020 at the beginning of November. ([Source](#))

Political Outlook

1. Presidency highlighted the role of the National Emergency System for its work during the pandemic, within the framework of the fourth edition of Risk Reduction Week. ([Source](#))
2. President Lacalle Pou affirmed that if he could take stock of the pandemic "he would do the same thing of appealing to the responsible freedom of Uruguayans". ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The Minister of Labor Pablo Mieres highlighted that in terms of the employment rate, the loss of jobs that occurred in 2020 as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic has already been recovered. ([Source](#))
2. The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for September 2021 advanced almost 3 units and was close to returning to the zone of moderate optimism, something that has not happened for more than two years. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. According to a survey, 77% of Uruguayan citizens approve of requiring the vaccine to attend different public events. ([Source](#))
2. The Harvard index in the Department of Colonia tripled in 12 days and could move to the orange zone if the trend continues in the next few days. ([Source](#))