

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

5,275,984	115,770	24,898,034 (55,4%)	31,916,195 (71%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernández announced that the Government is preparing a framework decree to create a system that will allow the beneficiaries of social plans to become employed in the private sector "without losing this right". ([Source](#))

2.

President appointed Congresswoman Gabriela Cerruti to head the Presidential Management Communication Unit and to serve as Spokesperson. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

According to INDEC data, inflation accelerated to 3.5% in September and marked its highest level in five months. Thus, in the first nine months of 2021 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) already grew more than in all of 2020. ([Source](#))

2.

The government expects the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to finally reduce the surcharges charged by the multilateral organization on its credits in order to negotiate the IMF loan to Argentina. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Government of the City of Buenos Aires has decided that the use of face masks in the city of Buenos Aires is no longer mandatory in outdoor areas. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government confirmed that the quota for the entry of passengers into the country has been eliminated. In addition, it will not be necessary to take the antigen test and an electronic affidavit will not be required for Border Neighborhood Transit. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Government published in the Official Gazette where the Secretariat of Domestic Trade froze the prices of almost 1,500 products until January 7. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government decreed that the beneficiaries of ANSeS Family Allowances will receive a new bonus in October and November. ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

21,680,488
Cases of COVID-19

604,228
Deceased

107,407,959 (50,35%)
Fully Vaccinated

152,450,710 (71,47%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Jair Bolsonaro asked Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes to speed up the search for a solution so that Auxílio Brasil, a money transfer program that will replace Bolsa Família, takes effect in November, as promised by the Executive branch. ([Source](#))

2.

Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said that the entire Brazilian population will be immunized against covid-19 by the end of this year. Queiroga recalled that Brazil has already surpassed the mark of 100 million people with the complete vaccination cycle against covid-19. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

According to the Central Bank's Financial Stability Report, the National Financial System is prepared to face all macroeconomic shocks and there are no relevant risks for the country's financial stability, not even in relation to the covid-19 pandemic. Even so, the Bank warns of uncertainty about the pace of economic growth, given the risk of dissemination of new variants of the coronavirus. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Economy released a note in which it defends the constitutional rule of spending cap, which prevents the real growth of federal spending. The note was released in the midst of a government operation so that, in practice, the limit is exceeded. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

With the advance of immunization and a contingent of more than 100 million people fully vaccinated against covid-19, Brazil registered (13) the lowest moving average of victims of the disease since April 2020. The level is the result of a drop continuous recorded since the end of the first half of this year. ([Source](#))

2.

The Coronavirus Contingency Center in São Paulo, which assists the São Paulo government in decisions related to the pandemic, agrees that this is not yet the time to remove the mandatory use of masks in the state of São Paulo. The members of the committee agree that the moment demands caution. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The Senate's Parliamentary Commission for Inquiry into the Pandemic (CPI) had a day exclusively dedicated to listening to victims of covid-19, where survivors, health workers, and victim's relatives had the opportunity to tell their stories and share their difficulties overcoming the damage made by the disease. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health affirmed that it will guarantee the complete vaccination scheme against covid-19 for all states in the country. The guarantee was given during a conciliation hearing held at the Federal Supreme Court (STF), convened by Minister Ricardo Lewandowski. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

1,672,998
Cases of COVID-19

37,623
Deceased

13,556,496 (89,2%)
Fully Vaccinated

13,971,860 (91,9%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

“Despite the sustained increase in cases and hospitalizations that have been registered in recent weeks, the Government denied that the country is entering a third wave of COVID-19 infections”. ([Source](#))

2.

“Central Bank reported that the interest rate rose 125 basis points: percentage reached 2.75%” ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

“Economists adjust to the low projection of GDP 2022 and see that the risk of Chile falling into recession is growing”. ([Source](#))

2.

“Copper could climb over US \$ 5 in 2022, but local uncertainty would not allow the dollar to decline”. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

“As projected at the beginning of September, the increase in cases was generated after the National Holidays. The call is to be vaccinated and maintain sanitary measures remains unanimous”. ([Source](#))

2.

“The unvaccinated, by majority, are the ones who are most infected with Covid-19 today, according to the latest report on incidence and severity of cases from the Ministry of Health”. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

“Silent pandemic: coronavirus caused depression and anxiety mainly in women and young people”. ([Source](#))

2.

“Pandemic and price hike: virtual platform shows you how to save 44% of your monthly food expenditure”. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

4,983,527	126,910	19,724,680 (38,8%)	24,854,307 (56,4%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The Congress approved the amendment to the Law of Guarantees, which prevented the execution of contracts with private entities during electoral campaigns. The approval was part of the General Budget of the Nation for 2022. The Government argued that it is necessary to reactivate the economy. ([Source](#))

2.

Senior U.S. government officials, including Secretary of State Blinken, will visit Colombia to work on several fronts in the relationship between the two countries. Seven working groups will be held in which one of the main topics will be migration due to the increase in migrant flows to North America. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

President Duque's visit to Brazil resulted in investment commitments for USD \$1,400 million. The figure could increase if infrastructure projects are considered. The most benefited sectors will be agriculture and energy. Duque also met with President Jair Bolsonaro to discuss cooperation instruments. ([Source](#))

2.

The results of the DANE's Economic Monitoring Indicator (ISE) showed an annual increase of 13.2% in productive activity, but with a contraction of 1.9% compared to July. While this is a good figure, banking industry analysts had expected growth of 15%. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

According to calculations and projections by the National Institute of Health (INS), Colombia will experience a fourth peak of coronavirus infections in November. In Atlántico, Antioquia and Norte de Santander there have already been peaks in cases, deaths and occupations in Intensive Care Units (ICU). ([Source](#))

2.

Over the weekend, Colombia received more than 4 million vaccines from different pharmaceutical companies. With the deliveries made in recent weeks, the daily vaccination goal is estimated at 300,000 doses. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

After attempting to enter Mexico City to participate in a political seminar and failing to reach his goal due to an Interpol red notice issued against him by Paraguay, former FARC leader Rodrigo Granda arrived in Colombia. ([Source](#))

2.

Colombia's exports of non-mining and energy goods to Venezuela, Brazil and the Dominican Republic between January and August of this year increased by 50.9% compared to the same period in 2020. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

514,087	32,937	10,032,731 (57,1%)	11,708,111 (66,4%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Lasso announces a 60-day nationwide state of emergency after a sustained increase in homicides and insecurity associated with drug trafficking. With this decision, hundreds of police and military personnel were ordered to take to the streets to reinforce security. Likewise, a specialized body was created for the legal defense of the officers of these entities. ([Source](#))

2.

After an analysis of the national figures for the last five years, it was detected that intentional deaths have almost doubled since 2016. They went from 5.81 per 100,000 inhabitants to 10.62 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2016, nationally, there were 969 crimes, while so far in 2021 there are already 1,890 cases. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The President Lasso, received in audience the Secretary of State of the U.S., Antony Blinken to discuss cooperation on security, trade and investment, migration, environment, and other issues. No statements were made on a possible trade agreement, a matter that has been on the agenda of the Ecuadorian government. ([Source](#))

2.

Before the European Union, Ecuador has proposed to reach a gross domestic product (GDP) rate of 5%, generate around 2 million new jobs, sign new investment projects for around USD \$30,000 million in the next four years and sign trade agreements. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

In Guayaquil, the incidence of COVID-19 cases remains low. In the last epidemiological report, 36 deaths per month were registered in the city, when months ago there was an average of up to 36 deaths per day, due to the coronavirus. ([Source](#))

2.

The health authorities confirmed the prohibition to issue authorizations to public events before October 30, except for activities in stadiums or other open places. People wishing to attend public events must have to present a complete vaccination certificate and PCR test. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

María Alcívar and Santiago Lasso, wife and son of the President, Guillermo Lasso, will delegate a lawyer to attend the invitation made by the Constitutional Guarantees Commission of the National Assembly, within the investigation initiated on Pandora Papers. ([Source](#))

2.

The Chinese Embassy in Ecuador described Secretary of State Blinken's statements on Chinese investments abroad as "erroneous" and pointed out that the government of that country "abuses its national power to restrict companies from other countries". ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

460,615 Cases of COVID-19	16,228 Deceased	1,998,274 (28,8%) Fully Vaccinated	2,868,610 (40,1%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1. President Mario Abdo Benítez welcomed Paraguay's election as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. ([Source](#))
2. President Mario Abdo Benítez received Congressman Freddy D'Ecclesiis at the Government Palace, who highlighted the active presence of the Government in the department of San Pedro, reflected in a series of historical works. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. The Government will extend until December 31 the reduction in tax rates for the tourism sector, hotels, restaurants, as well as companies in the events industry, in order to continue contributing to the recovery of the sector. ([Source](#))
2. The fiscal deficit is adjusted to 1.5%, but in this convergence period the Government proposed to the National Congress that it be authorized to close the year 2022 with a deficit of up to 3%, in order to continue supporting the health system and public investment. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1. The reception of 100,000 doses of vaccines against covid-19, sent by the Government of Chile in cooperation with Paraguay, took place at the National Chancellery. ([Source](#))
2. The director of the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), Héctor Castro, announced that the Ministry of Health has already approved the vaccination of children from 6 to 11 years of age against Covid-19. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. The opening of the Ayolas-Ituzaingó border crossing (Corrientes - Argentina) over the crest of the Yacyretá Hydroelectric Power Plant (CHY) could take place as of November 1. ([Source](#))
2. President Mario Abdo Benítez assured that the coming year will be key to "reinforce the post-pandemic economic recovery plan, culminate the government's administration with auspicious numbers and in the best possible way" and urged his ministers to redouble their efforts to complete emblematic works. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, October 14th – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

2,192,205	199,945	14,419,053 (45,06%)	18,152,210 (56,73%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Congress promulgated a law on the issue of trust, which the Executive Branch considers puts the balance of powers at risk, for which it will file a lawsuit of unconstitutionality. ([Source](#))

2.

Former Lima Mayor, Ricardo Belmont, was appointed as an advisor to President Castillo. Belmont is questioned for being anti-vaccination, xenophobic and sexist conducts. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Peruvian economy grew by 11.83% year-on-year in August and added its sixth consecutive monthly advance while recovering from the pandemic, driven mainly by the construction and manufacturing sectors. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Economy, Pedro Francke, announced that the Government will request legislative powers from Congress to carry out a tax reform, such as going from four tax regimes to just one, among other measures. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Minister of Health, Hernando Cevallos, reported that in November the vaccination against COVID-19 will begin for adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age. ([Source](#))

2.

Peru reached 50% of its target population immunized with two doses, since currently, the minimum age for vaccination is 18 years. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

PAHO confirmed that the international COVAX mechanism will not deliver the 13.2 million doses committed to the country by 2021, but the goal is to deliver 80% of what was agreed. ([Source](#))

2.

The US Federal Prosecutor's Office ratified his request for former President Alejandro Toledo to serve preventive detention by ensuring that the accused has not justified any special circumstances to continue bail. ([Source](#))



Uruguay – COVID Report

Wednesday October 14th - Wednesday October 20th

391.358	6.069	2.609.284 (73,65%)	2.754.024 (77,73%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

COVID-19

1. The current and last weeks' covid-19 situation in the country is causing authorities to start talking about a new endemic phase. ([Source](#))
2. The Ministry of Public Health plans to leave the mask in the background at shows for vaccinated audiences. ([Source](#))

Political Outlook

1. President Lacalle Pou showed himself this Thursday for the first time without a mask outdoors, after the MSP informed that it is not necessary to use them in public spaces. ([Source](#))
2. Minister of Tourism Viera will participate in a meeting with his Mercosur peers, where he will try to get Brazil to revert the resolution that prevents the arrival of cruise ships to Uruguay. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1. Minister of Economy Arbeleche made a presentation to the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF, where she raised the need for equal access to covid-19 vaccines for all countries. ([Source](#))
2. The government will extend the solidarity wages for two months and the unemployment insurance for citrus workers will also be extended. ([Source](#))

Other News

1. Mobility exceeded the January and February average and reached pre-pandemic levels in October for the first time since March 2020. ([Source](#))
2. The Chair of Infectious Diseases at Udelar explained that we will still have a constant presence of coronavirus in our country, but at low levels of circulation, such as the current ones. ([Source](#))