

South American Weekly Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021





Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

5,283,000 Cases of COVID-19	115,866 Deceased	25,449,297 (56,6%) Fully Vaccinated	33,204,854 (73,9%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernández decorated the former president of Uruguay, José 'Pepe' Mujica, by awarding him the Collar of the Order of the Liberator San Martín in the White Room of the Casa Rosada. ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernández will travel to Italy to participate in the G-20 Heads of State Summit and will then go to Scotland to take part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Industrial production rose 11.4% in September compared to the same month last year and accumulated an expansion of 14.5% for the first nine months of the year. ([Source](#))

2.

The “Ahora 12” program will add new products and services to encourage consumption in the country. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

The Minister of Health, Carla Vizzotti, and her counterpart of Tourism and Sports, Matías Lammens, gave a press conference on the progress of the Covid-19 Vaccination Plan and on new openings in the context of the pandemic. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Transportation has decided that urban/suburban buses and metropolitan/regional trains will not have an occupancy limit on the number of users transported, as had been the case due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The House of Representatives approved the bill on Front Food Labeling, after an extensive day of debate. ([Source](#))

2.

The Secretariat for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Sepyme) increased to \$3 million the financial assistance of the Competitiveness Support Program (PAC) for projects that improve the competitive advantages of micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs). ([Source](#))



Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

21,748,984	606,246	112,307,569 (52,65%)	153,733,428 (72,07%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

With seven votes in favor and four against, and with one minute of silence, Covid's CPI was closed this Tuesday (26), with the approval of its final report. Bolsonaro is held responsible for 10 crimes, including different attacks on preventive sanitary measures: refusing to wear masks and even taking off the mask of a child at an event promoted for his personal promotion. ([Source](#))

2.

President Jair Bolsonaro stated during an interview with Jovem Pan radio that Covid's CPI wreaks havoc on the country's economy. When answering about the commission's final report, the president also stated that it is all "just revenge". ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The federal government sent a bill to the National Congress that calls for the opening of a special credit of R\$9.4 billion for the Brazil Aid Program. In a note, the General Secretariat of the Presidency explained that the proposal reallocates the balance of Bolsa Família to the new social program. The resources are in favor of the Ministry of Citizenship. ([Source](#))

2.

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes defended that the spending cap is important for the public administration, but the federal government also needs to help the population in a vulnerable situation and that was affected by the coronavirus pandemic. He said the spending cap is a symbol of austerity, but they cannot "let the population go hungry". ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

More than 18 million Brazilians who should have already taken the second dose of the vaccine against covid-19 have not yet done so. According to the Ministry of Health, the result is worrying - even considering that, in the last week, this number fell 10%, dropping from 20 million people whose second dose of the vaccine was late, to the current 18 million. ([Source](#))

2.

Airlines will be responsible for requiring passengers traveling from Brazil to the United States to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and to carry out tests capable of detecting the presence of the new coronavirus, said the spokesperson for the American Embassy in Brazil, Tobias Bradford. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Next weekend, the 30th and 31st, the world leaders of the G20 will meet in Rome, Italy. President Jair Bolsonaro and ministers are expected to participate in the meeting, and present their priorities, divided into the areas of health, trade, climate and environment, in addition to social inclusion. ([Source](#))

2.

The Supreme Court will resume face-to-face activities on November 3 and will require the presentation of a "vaccination passport" against the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 so that the public can access the Court building. According to the rules, both the internal public and the external public must present proof of vaccination. ([Source](#))



Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

1,686,318
Cases of COVID-19

37,697
Deceased

13,612,979 (89,6%)
Fully Vaccinated

14,021,729 (92,2%)
Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

Labor Minister and fourth withdrawal: “When you want to improve retirement pensions, you put resources, you don’t remove money”. Patricio Melero also said that “populism isn’t good in any public policy”. ([Source](#))

2.

President Sebastian Piñera says that Chile have responded well facing COVID-19, but it is more recognized abroad than inside the country. He also urges to continue with the boost shot vaccination. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

Fourth withdrawal of retirement pension funds negotiates the Senate’s Constitution Commission, and the pressure grows for the Senate to vote it before the election. ([Source](#))

2.

Face to face retail sales in Region Metropolitana grew lower than August during September. The National Commerce Chamber (CNC) says that there is a deceleration since 2019. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Chile reaches ten thousand active COVID-19 cases, and this is the highest level since July. This Wednesday, Health Ministry reported 1,753 new cases, 1,288 are symptomatic. ([Source](#))

2.

Almost a third part of new contagions are asymptomatic. The rise of mild cases similar to colds or without symptoms is one of the vaccination progress effects in Chile. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Undersecretary of Public Health, Paula Daza, believes that vaccination against Covid could repeat “at least” once a year. ([Source](#))

2.

Region Metropolitana goes back to Preparation phase, because of Covid cases rise. Since December 1st, it will entail boost shot to adults over 55-year-old if they want the Mobility Pass. ([Source](#))



Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

4,994,014	127,133	20,586,698 (40,5%)	25,269,603 (57%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) approved the creation of the electoral tribunals for all matters related to the peace seats that will begin to operate as of January 13, 2022, three months before the day of the parliamentary elections. ([Source](#))

2.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, is visiting Colombia in the midst of the preliminary investigation that the Court opened against Colombia 17 years ago. His visit will be decisive in determining whether the case will move forward or be closed. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The World Bank released a report revealing income inequality in Colombia, which is the highest among all OECD countries and the second highest among 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. ([Source](#))

2.

According to the most recent Financial Opinion Survey by Fedesarrollo, 65% of analysts expect the Bank of the Republic's intervention rate to increase to 2.25%, while 25% expect it to increase even more, reaching 2.50%, and the remaining 10% expect it to remain at 2%. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Health services providers (EPS) warn that this year COVID-19 services and costs rise steeply. A study found that in the first five months of 2021, patients received 82,4% of the care provided in all of 2020. Similarly, from January through May, 83,8% of all resources used in 2020 were used. The total cost of COVID-19 service delivery in 2021 will likely be above last year ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health modified the 3-month vaccination period for people who have been infected with COVID-19. The new guideline suggests that people will be able to be vaccinated 30 days after being tested positive. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

EPM (Public Services Company of Medellín) informed that after the meeting held yesterday, the current contractors of the Hidroituango project maintain that there is no possibility of obtaining assignees of the contract to give continuity to the construction of the project, so that, for now, this option is totally discarded. ([Source](#))

2.

The creation of companies in Colombia has had a very positive performance, since between January and September 2021, 251,008 new companies were created in the country, 16.6% more than in the same period of 2020. ([Source](#))



Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

515,859	32,958	10,195,707 (57,1%)	11,748,955 (66,4%)
Cases of COVID-19	Deceased	Fully Vaccinated	Received at least one dose

Political Outlook

1.

President Guillermo Lasso again called for dialogue with all social sectors and said that the security forces will maintain control of the territory if the "challenge" persists, referring to the social unrest of the recent days. Protests are related to the increase of fuel prices. ([Source](#))

2.

At the end of the upcoming five-day national holiday, the union and teachers' union will analyze new protest actions that could include the installation of a national strike to reject the economic measures being implemented by the President of the Republic, Guillermo Lasso. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The banana producing sector requested the Attorney General's Office to initiate a preliminary investigation to determine responsibilities in an alleged alteration of documents that would have occurred during the negotiation table for the price of the banana box for 2022, which took place at the Banana Consultative Council last Friday in Guayaquil. ([Source](#))

2.

Petroecuador generated revenues of USD \$7,918 million for the Ecuadorian State, between January and September 2021, from crude oil sales in the spot market and long-term contracts. Thus, 132.5 million barrels were exported. The increase in the price of WTI oil has benefited the sale of Ecuadorian crude oil in international markets. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Health authorities expect that in about two months, herd immunity will be achieved with 85% of the population immunized. For this reason, they have increased the capacity in enclosed spaces and events. ([Source](#))

2.

According to figures from the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), between October 18 and 21, 226,669 people aged 5 to 11 years were vaccinated against the COVID-19. The figure is positive since the vaccination process in this population was allowed a few days ago. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

In the north of the province of Pichincha, two soldiers were "detained" by demonstrators participating in the day of protests this Tuesday, and more than twelve hours later they are still in the same situation, with no official information on the work being done for their release. ([Source](#))

2.

Exports recovered their performance with a non-oil supply in the main international markets. Up to August, the total trade balance recorded a favorable balance of USD \$1,814 million for Ecuador. Shrimp is the main non-mining and energy product exported by Ecuador. ([Source](#))



Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

460,894 Cases of COVID-19	16,238 Deceased	1,998,274(30,7%) Fully Vaccinated	2,959,491(41,4%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

President made several changes in the Armed Forces. These changes are due to the completion of years of service in the Armed Forces of several officers and the natural replacement of commanders. ([Source](#))

2.

President Mario Abdo Benítez ratified his commitment to democracy and respect for the National Constitution, acknowledging that on this basis he is evaluating an eventual candidacy for the presidency of the National Republican Association. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Minister of Finance pointed out that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a year-on-year growth of 14.5% in the second quarter. ([Source](#))

2.

The Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP) presented its Monetary Policy Report (IPoM) in which it released its new economic updates regarding GDP growth and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Within this framework, the parent bank maintained its growth projection at 4.5% for the end of the year, but adjusted the price market forecast from 4% to 6.7%. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

President Mario Abdo Benítez applied the second dose of the Modern vaccine against COVID-19 and urged citizens to get immunized. ([Source](#))

2.

The director of Strategic Supplies of the Ministry of Health, Derlis León, said that the decrease in COVID-19 cases would occur until December and then there would be a new upturn with the eventual third wave during the months of January, February and March of next year. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

The government of Mario Abdo Benítez announced the purchase of 2,000,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines. This signature is the result of negotiations initiated during the last visit of Foreign Minister Euclides Acevedo to Mexico City. ([Source](#))

2.

One week after the official reopening of the border with Argentina, through the Roque González de Santa Cruz International Bridge, which links the cities of Encarnación and Posadas, the Argentine ambassador in Paraguay, Domingo Peppo, said that the opening of more border crossings is being analyzed. ([Source](#))



Peru – COVID Report

Thursday, October 21st – Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

2,198,038 Cases of COVID-19	200,149 Deceased	15,214,323 (47.54%) Fully Vaccinated	18,692,818 (58.42%) Received at least one dose
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Political Outlook

1.

The president of the Council of Ministers, Mirtha Vásquez requested a Vote of Confidence from the parliamentarians. The debate in Congress will take place on Thursday, November 4, in which the approval of the order is expected. ([Source](#))

2.

President Pedro Castillo, urged the Congress of the Republic to work together on a law on the nationalization of Camisea gas. ([Source](#))

Economic Outlook

1.

The Executive sent Congress the bill requesting powers to legislate on tax matters. The proposal includes higher taxes on mining and levying Netflix, Spotify and other digital platforms. ([Source](#))

2.

The Minister of Economy and Finance, Pedro Francke, specified that nationalizing Camisea gas does not mean nationalizing private activity, given the proposal made by President Castillo. ([Source](#))

COVID-19

1.

Peru reported 200,000 deaths from COVID-19. However, the trend is decreasing due to the advance of vaccination. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health reported that the application of the third dose against COVID-19 to people who present comorbidities, and who have completed six months of having been inoculated for the second time, began. ([Source](#))

Other News

1.

Avianca resume its operations in the country and JetSmart joins the airline industry in Peru, so the sector has prepared for a commercial aviation battle. ([Source](#))

2.

The regional governor of Arequipa, Elmer Cáceres Llica, along with other officials and public servants of the Regional Government of Arequipa were arrested for alleged acts of corruption. ([Source](#))