

# South American Weekly Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021





# Argentina – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 06<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|                                |                     |                                        |                                                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 5,261,935<br>Cases of COVID-19 | 115,323<br>Deceased | 23,026,410 (51,2%)<br>Fully Vaccinated | 29,919,702 (66,6%)<br>Received at least one dose |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

## Political Outlook

1.

President Alberto Fernandez will try to ask Joe Biden for final support to formally close the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). ([Source](#))

2.

President Alberto Fernández announced an investment of more than 12 billion pesos to finance the construction and refurbishment of 72 buildings of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Conicet) in 21 provinces of the country. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

A report by the National University of Avellaneda (Undav) revealed that if all job sources are taken into account, total registered employment as of July already exceeded the level of December 2019. ([Source](#))

2.

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC), poverty affected 40.6% of the population in the first half of 2021. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The national government issued a Decree of Necessity and Urgency (DNU) to establish preventive health measures against the Covid-19 coronavirus that will be in force from this Friday until December 31. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government enabled the formal opening of the borders for tourists coming from neighboring countries, after the pilot test implemented last week. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports launched the "Previaje PAMI" program for PAMI retirees and pensioners. ([Source](#))

2.

The campaign for the legislative elections of next November 14 was opened 45 days before the date of the elections, as established in the electoral chronogram. ([Source](#))



# Brazil – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|                   |          |                     |                            |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 21,516,967        | 599,359  | 96,525,104 (45,25%) | 148,644,221 (69,68%)       |
| Cases of COVID-19 | Deceased | Fully Vaccinated    | Received at least one dose |

## Political Outlook

1.

Senator Omar Aziz, chairman of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee on the pandemic, said he expects to vote on the final report on October 20th. Aziz's intention is that the committee's rapporteur, senator Renan Calheiros, complete the document between October 15 and 16 and present it to the senators on the 19th. ([Source](#))

2.

President Jair Bolsonaro once again opposed the nationwide institution of a "vaccine passport" which is already required in some states for access to certain locations. During an event he said that his government never supports restrictive measures stating that "depending on the federal government, we will not have a Covid passport." ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Getulio Vargas Foundation Economic Uncertainty Indicator rose 14.3 points in September, to 133.9 points, the highest level since March 2021. According to an analysis by the Brazilian Institute of Economics, compared to the historical series prior to the pandemic, this would be the second highest level of uncertainty. ([Source](#))

2.

The World Bank announced that the Brazilian economy should grow 5.3% in 2021. A more optimistic estimate than the 4.5% increase that the institution projected for the country in June this year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Fiocruz will be part of an international study in phase 3, for a new drug against COVID-19. The study, which begins next week, will take place simultaneously in seven centers in Brazil, two of which are under Fiocruz's responsibility: Mato Grosso do Sul and Rio de Janeiro. The drug works by preventing virus replication and has the potential to act on several RNA viruses. ([Source](#))

2.

The Brazilian Senate approved the creation of a memorial in honor of COVID-19 victims in Brazil. According to the project, the memorial should be installed outside the Senate, remembering all Brazilians who lost their lives as a result of the disease, which has killed millions of people around the world. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

According to the minister of Tourism, Gilson Machado, domestic flights have already recovered 80% of the passenger levels that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil. In an interview with Agência Brasil, Machado said that airlines are recovering and the flow of hotel reservations towards the end of the year is intense. ([Source](#))

2.

The National Supplementary Health Agency released a statement to inform that it is taking all possible measures to investigate the evidence of violations of the legislation and is acting for a quick return to society within its attributions, in relation to the complaints disclosed about the operator Prevent Senior by the CPI of COVID-19. ([Source](#))



# Chile – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 06<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1,657,749  
Cases of COVID-19

37,506  
Deceased

13,469,250 (88,6%)  
Fully Vaccinated

13,89,753 (91,4%)  
Received at least one dose

## Political Outlook

1.

This Wednesday a new session of the Senate Constitution, Legislation and Justice committee will be held, to review the bill that would allow a fourth withdrawal of 10% of pension funds. ([Source](#))

2.

Health Minister Enrique Paris rejected the accusations against him from Unions in the sector, assuring that "it is not true" that there is a dismantling of the hospital network. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The dollar rises around the world and in Chile it climbs to new highs since July 2020, as analysts are awaiting the impact of the fourth withdrawal of pension funds. ([Source](#))

2.

The Insurance Association responds to deputies and says that the new advance on life annuities "is suicide." ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The Undersecretary of Health, Paula Daza, announced that children under the age of six will be able to leave Chile as of November 1, thus making the rules of the Safe Border plan more flexible. ([Source](#))

2.

The Maule Health Secretariat confirmed that the Delta variant forced the suspension of face-to-face classes in four schools in the region. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

According to data released by Farmex, and in relation to the previous year, the sales of the masks fell considerably, reaching an 81% decrease in September, both for the normal three-fold masks and the KN95. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Health affirms that the use of the mask will be maintained: "It is one of the most efficient measures." ([Source](#))



# Colombia – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|                   |          |                    |                            |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 4,964,454         | 126,455  | 17,494,197 (33,8%) | 24,026,791 (51,6%)         |
| Cases of COVID-19 | Deceased | Fully Vaccinated   | Received at least one dose |

## Political Outlook

1.

The Vice-President of Venezuela announced the removal of containers from the Simón Bolívar International Bridge. With this decision, the border between Colombia and Venezuela will be reopened and a gradual reactivation of trade and transit of people is expected. ([Source](#))

2.

Following the publication of the Pandora Papers, the opposition in Congress will summon the Vice President Marta Lucía Ramírez, the Director of the DIAN Lisandro Junco, and the Minister of Transportation Ángela María Orozco, for their appearance in offshore companies' documents. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) revealed that the inflation figure for September was 0.38%, an increase of 0.06% compared to the CPI for the same month last year. This represents a year-to-date inflation of 4.51%. ([Source](#))

2.

The Private Competitiveness Council published the Competitiveness Index by Cities 2021, which analyze how the 32 capitals of the country faced the pandemic. The investigation found a deterioration in several of the social indicators of the territories in Colombia. Bogotá, Tunja and Cartagena are the cities with the most competitive policies. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

President Iván Duque announced that the Colombian government, the Indian Ministry of Health and the Indian Serum Institute signed a series of commitments with a view to producing vaccines in the country. It is expected that vaccines will be packaged in Colombia in 1 year. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministries of Health and Education join forces to achieve 8 million vaccinated young people up to 24 years of age. The entities decided to issue a joint circular establishing the guidelines for a COVID-19 vaccination strategy for the educational population. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Colombian government expressed its willingness to reestablish the country's consular services in Venezuela, if security conditions are assured. President Duque clarified that Colombia did not close its services, but that they were suspended after the expulsion of the Colombian officials. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy stated that in 2021 it has paid more than COP \$1.6 billion to cover electric energy subsidies for close to 13 million households. Together with the payment of fuel gas through networks and the resources destined to Non-Interconnected Zones, the entity stated that to date the amount of subsidies reached COP \$2.1 billion. ([Source](#))



# Ecuador – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|                   |          |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 511,067           | 32,806   | 9,918,613 (56,9%) | 11,350,433 (64,3%)         |
| Cases of COVID-19 | Deceased | Fully Vaccinated  | Received at least one dose |

## Political Outlook

1.

President Guillermo Lasso has been mentioned in the Pandora Papers. Lasso admitted that he had money in tax havens but told that he got rid of them in 2017, when an Ecuadorian law established that those running for public office could not have investments abroad. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government ratified its original proposal for the 2021 proforma. President Lasso's response comes during a controversy over the deadlines for the delivery of such document, since according to the Assembly the deadline was last Friday, and therefore, the presentation of the document this Monday would be untimely. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

Monthly inflation in September 2021, compared to last August, was 0.02%, according to the results of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC). Inflation during the year has been 1.30%. ([Source](#))

2.

Leaders of the transport workers met to listen to the Government's proposals after the demands and requirements they raised months ago. At the meeting, the government delivered a document that seeks to address the requests made by drivers. These offers refer to the targeting of fuels and compensation plans according to transport modalities. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

Ecuador will not issue vaccination certificates to those who were inoculated against COVID-19 abroad. The record of having been vaccinated outside the country is valid for the control of the number of Ecuadorians immunized, but not to issue a certification. ([Source](#))

2.

Ecuadorian authorities increase the number of people allowed in workplaces and public transportation. Offices will have a capacity of 70% while transportation will have a capacity of 100% of occupancy. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Former presidential candidate Yaku Pérez filed a complaint before the Attorney General's Office to investigate the President of the Republic, Guillermo Lasso, after his name appeared in the Pandora Papers leak. ([Source](#))

2.

The blockade of the Rumichaca international bridge announced by the Association of Border Traders (Aceprof) of Ipiales began on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> at 05:00am on the Colombian side. The measure prevents exporters and importers from moving cargo through the binational viaduct. ([Source](#))



# Paraguay – COVID Report

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 06<sup>th</sup>, 2021

|                              |                    |                                       |                                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 460,061<br>Cases of COVID-19 | 16,203<br>Deceased | 1,873,691 (26,2%)<br>Fully Vaccinated | 2,766,899 (38,7%)<br>Received at least one dose |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

## Political Outlook

1.

The Executive Branch enacted the law that increases the prison sentence for trespassing on other people's properties. In a press conference, the Secretary General and Chief of the Civil Cabinet of the Presidency, Hernán Huttemann, and the Minister of Justice, Cecilia Pérez, explained the reasons for the enactment of the law. ([Source](#))

2.

Through his social networks, President Mario Abdo Benítez highlighted the historic investment his government has been making in the electricity sector, through ANDE, in order to improve electricity service for the population throughout the country. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

Julio Fernández, National Director of Customs, informed that a record collection was obtained in September. Customs revenues totaled G. 1,133 billion, equivalent to some US\$ 164 million. ([Source](#))

2.

The products in the basket increased 1% in September 2021. This brings cumulative inflation to 4.6% in the first 9 months of the year. ([Source](#))

## COVID-19

1.

The director of Health Surveillance, Sandra Irala, pointed out that Paraguay currently has a level 1 transmission level, with 20 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants. ([Source](#))

2.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) announced the shipment of a batch of 39,600 doses of Sinopharm vaccine as part of the four million vaccines still owed to Paraguay. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

The Ministry of Children and Adolescents (Minna) delivered the first welcome kits to new-borns and mothers in San Ignacio, as part of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Care Strategy. ([Source](#))

2.

President Mario Abdo Benítez carried out a day of government in the cities of San Ignacio and San Juan Bautista Misiones to promote improvements and inaugurate infrastructure works for the areas of health and education in the area. ([Source](#))



# Uruguay – COVID Report

Wednesday September 30 - Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

389.363  
Cases of COVID-19

6.059  
Deceased

2.586.659 (73,01%)  
Fully Vaccinated

2.738.609 (77,30%)  
Received at least one dose

## COVID-19

1.

Uruguay exceeds one million booster doses against covid-19. Twenty-eight percent of the population received a third vaccine since it began to be administered in the country on August 16. ([Source](#))

2.

The Ministry of Public Health opened the schedule for people over 60 years of age who are vaccinated with Pfizer or Astrazeneca and want to receive a third dose of the U.S. vaccine. ([Source](#))

## Political Outlook

1.

Uruguay has enabled a sanitary protocol for cruise ship passengers, through strict compliance with a safe descent protocol for tourists who will begin arriving at Uruguayan ports in November. ([Source](#))

2.

The Government resolved that minors entering the country accompanied by their parents and who are not vaccinated against Covid-19 will not have to undergo quarantine. ([Source](#))

## Economic Outlook

1.

The Central Bank defined an increase in the monetary policy rate to 5.25%, as a way to contain inflation, in a context of consolidation of the economic recovery. ([Source](#))

2.

Uruguay returns to the European Union's "gray list" of tax havens. The country had been removed from the list of non-cooperative countries and territories in tax matters in March 2019. ([Source](#))

## Other News

1.

Airlines will increase their activity in Uruguay as a result of the improvement of the health situation and the reopening of borders to foreigners as of November 1. ([Source](#))

2.

There are now 12 apartments in the green zone according to the Harvard Index. Uruguay is in the yellow zone, with a weekly average of 3.02 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants. ([Source](#))