

Latin America

Power Map

Who holds power in Latin America — and which way it is moving. Every day.

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Mexico +2	▲ Peru +2	▼ Uruguay -2	▲ Cuba +2	▼ Argentina -1
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A quiet mid-July Monday finds the hemisphere between shockwaves rather than in one: Venezuela still digs out from twin quakes that killed thousands under acting president Delcy Rodríguez, while a right-wing wave crests with Fujimori, De la Espriella, Paz and Kast all inbound or installed. The World Cup semifinals (Argentina-England Wednesday) and Colombia's combustible August 7 handover dominate the read.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	72	▲
3	Argentina	68	▼

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	▼
13	Venezuela	29	↔
14	Bolivia	19	↔

The Power Board

Fourteen nations, ranked by power — with today's move and the thirty-day trend.

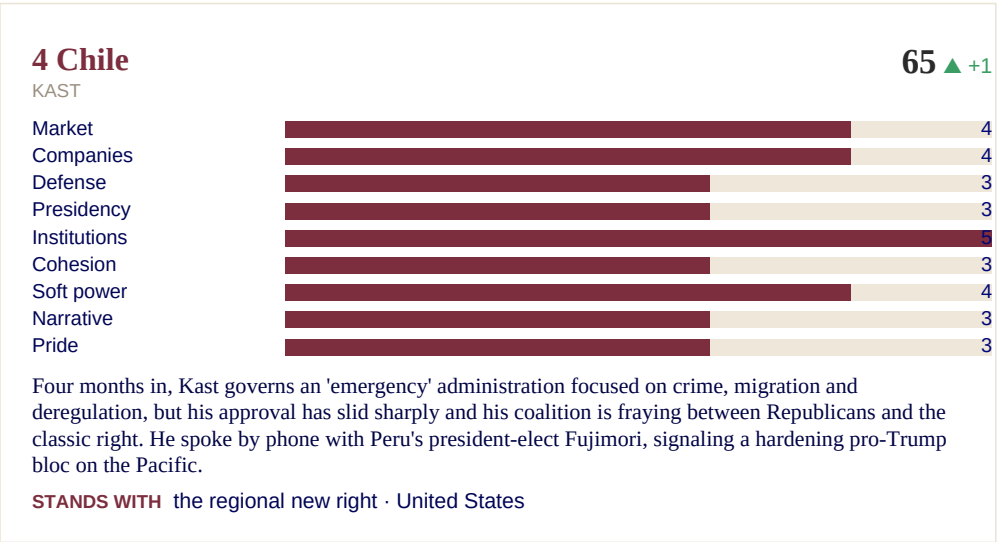
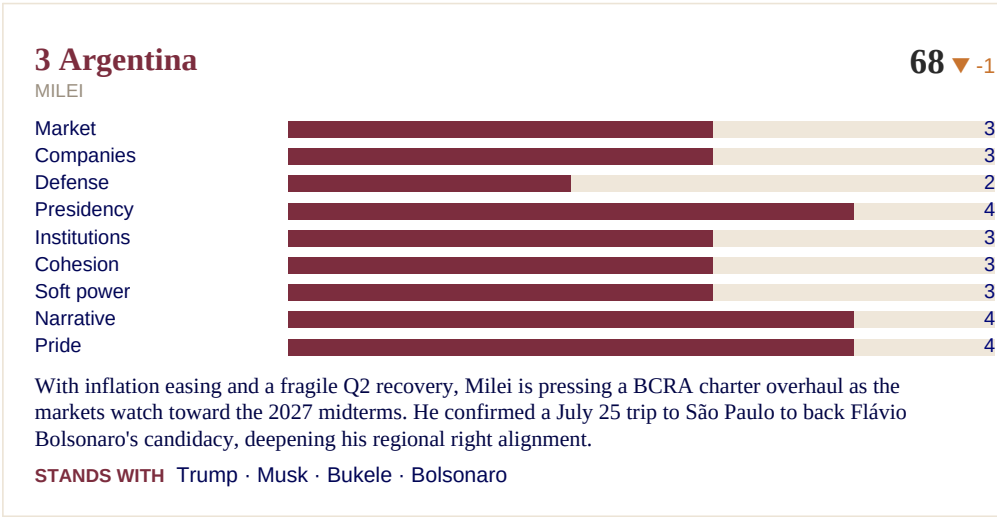
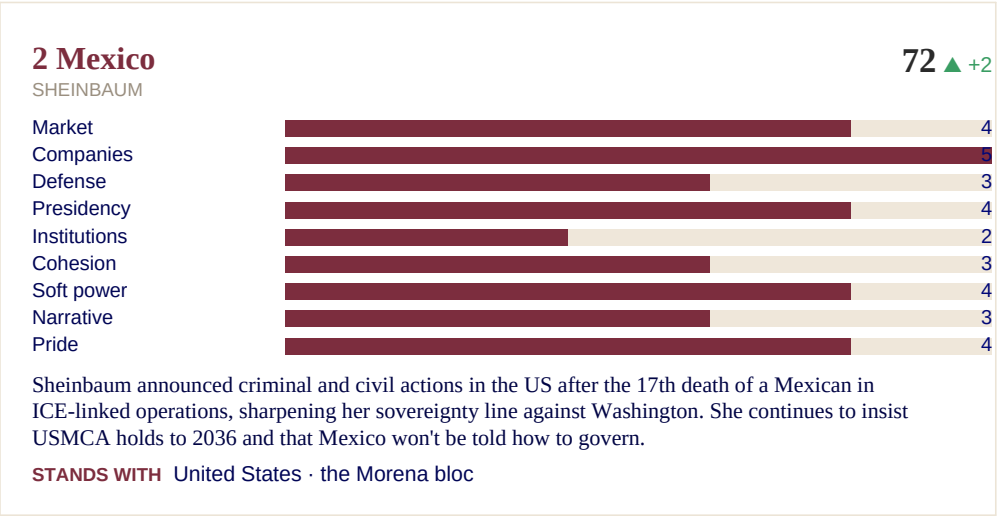
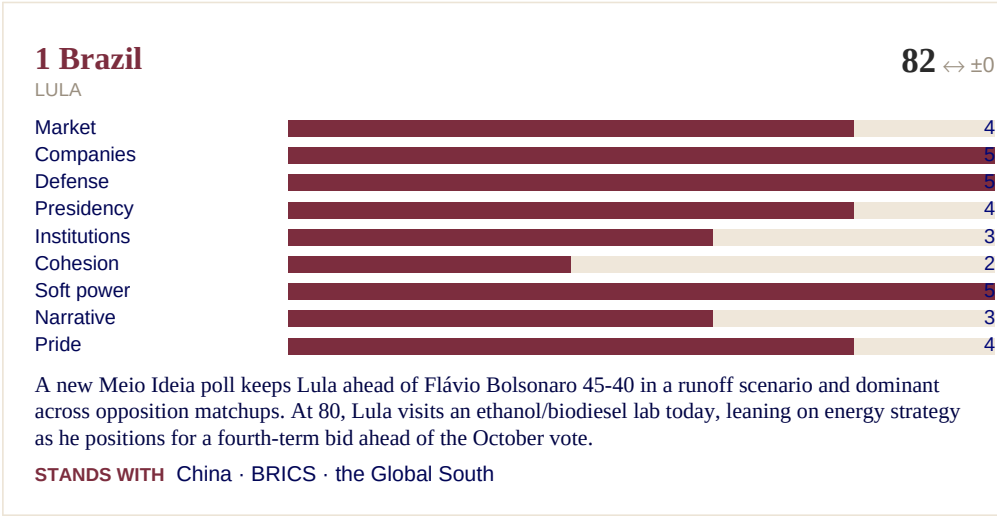
SINCE YESTERDAY No structural breaks today: no elections, coups, defaults or major data drops landed on the board over the weekend. The live threads are Colombia's suspended transition, Ecuador's recall push, and Venezuela's mounting quake toll—all developing, none decisive as of this morning.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt·Co·Def·Pres·Inst·Coh·Soft·Narr·Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA	82 ↔ ±0			Lula holds a steady ~5-point runoff lead over Flávio Bolsonaro
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			Sheinbaum escalates legal action against the US over a migrant's death in ICE custody
3	Argentina MILEI	68 ▼ -1			Milei convenes LLA legislators on his central-bank reform push
4	Chile KAST	65 ▲ +1			Kast manages intra-right friction while consolidating his security-first agenda
5	Costa Rica FERNÁNDEZ	56 ▲ +1			Fernández defends producers in the escalating trade spat with Panama
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	53 ▲ +1			The Petro–De la Espriella transition remains suspended amid fraud claims
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ▲ +2			Credential handover to president-elect Fujimori is set for July 15
8	Uruguay ORSI	46 ▼ -2			Orsi steers Mercosur's rotating presidency while his approval craters at home
9	Panama MULINO	45 ↔ ±0			Mulino courts Japanese investment while feuding with Costa Rica over trade
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ▲ +2			Díaz-Canel pushes defense-readiness messaging amid US pressure and blackouts
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ↔ ±0			The CNE weighs whether to admit two recall petitions against Noboa this week
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ▼ -1			Peña presses Mercosur's asymmetries after handing the chair to Uruguay
13	Venezuela DELCY RODRÍGUEZ	29 ↔ ±0			The June 24 twin-quake death toll climbs past 4,300 as reconstruction stalls
14	Bolivia PAZ	19 ↔ ±0			Paz governs under a 90-day state of emergency amid protests and cabinet exits

Power Index 0–100, with today's move · ■ Market · Companies · Defense · Presidency · Institutions · Cohesion · Soft power · Narrative · Pride

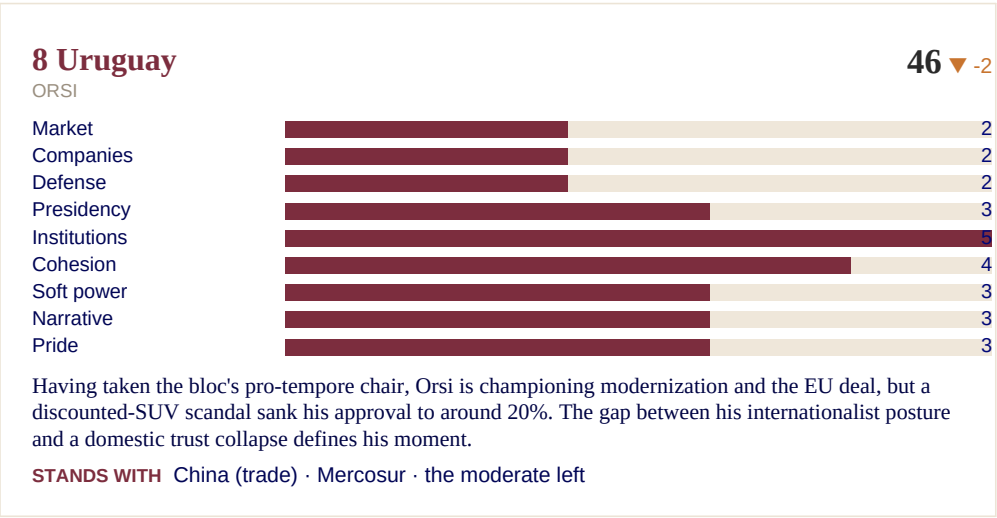
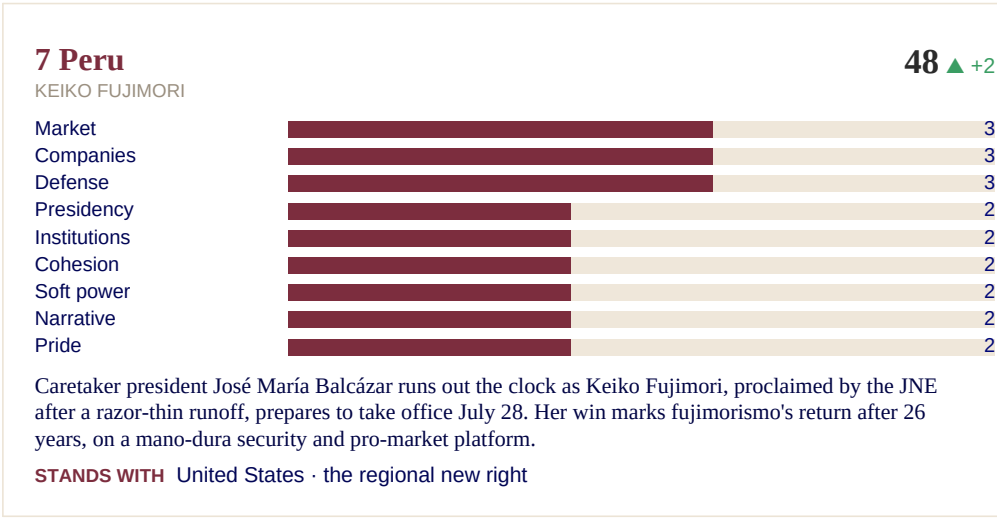
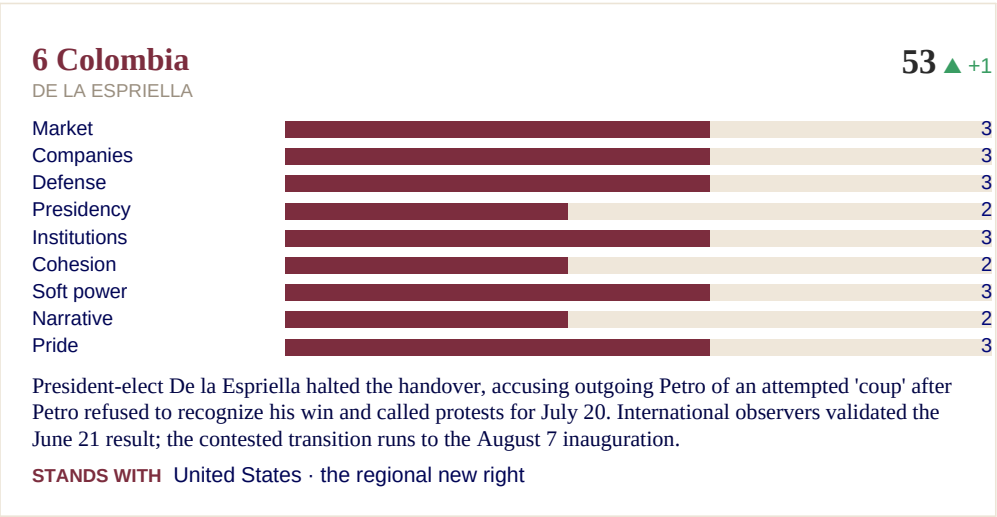
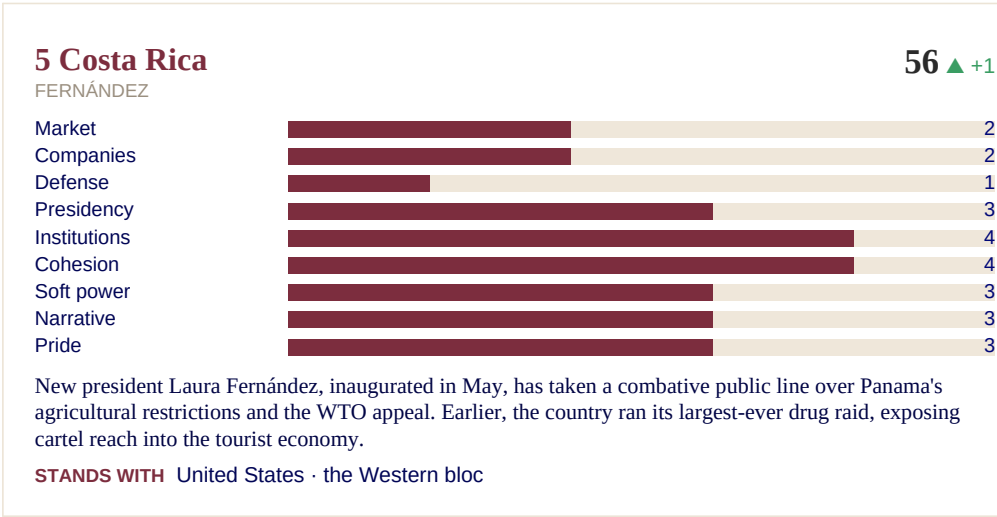
Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 1 of 4.



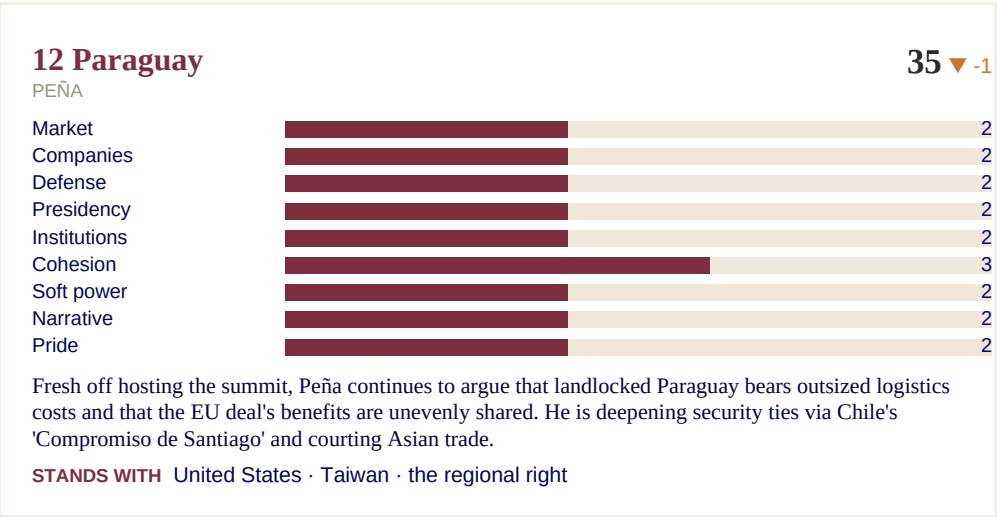
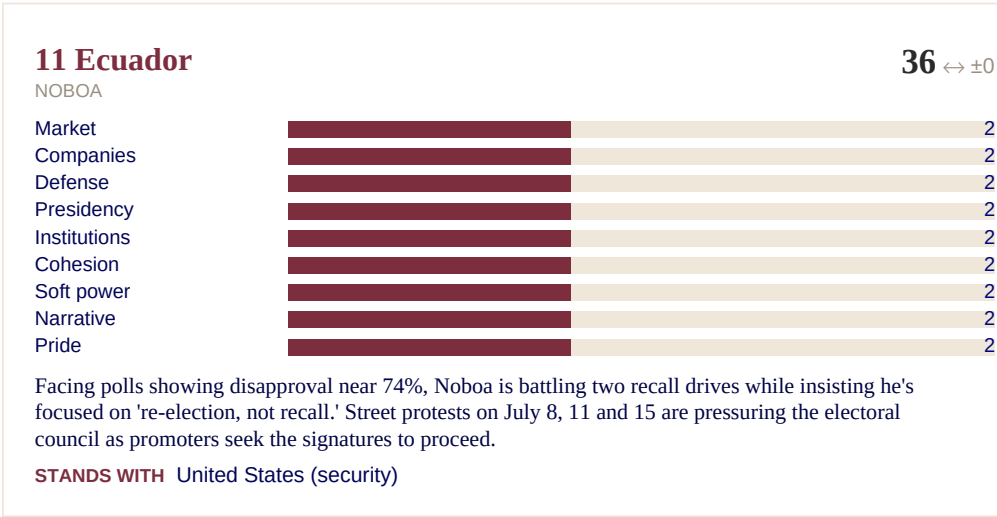
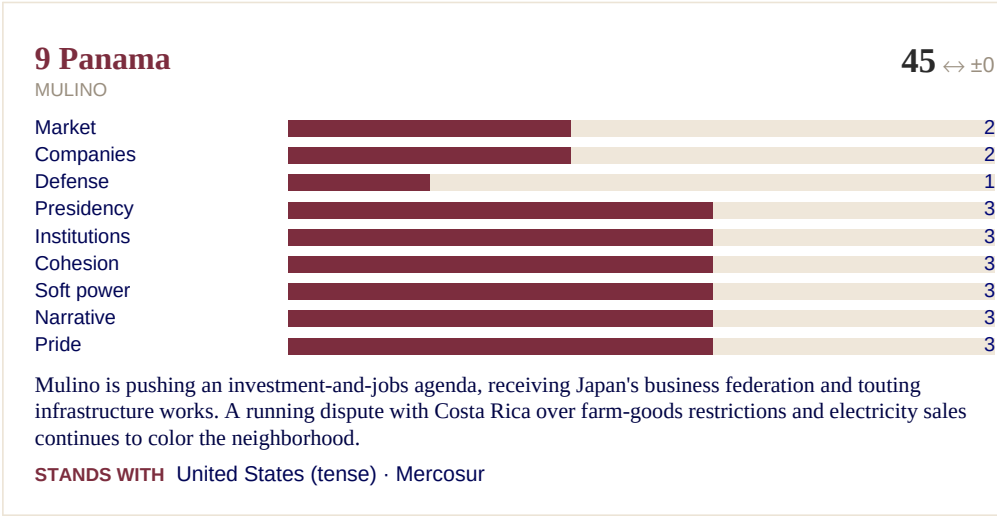
Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 2 of 4.



Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 3 of 4.



Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 4 of 4.

13 Venezuela

DELCY RODRÍGUEZ

29 ↔ ±0

Market		1
Companies		1
Defense		2
Presidency		2
Institutions		1
Cohesion		2
Soft power		2
Narrative		2
Pride		3

Acting president Delcy Rodríguez, in power since Maduro's January capture by US forces, faces criticism over a slow disaster response even as she welcomes aid from across the political spectrum, including Trump's government. Housing promises are doubted by experts given the wrecked economy and 15-year-old census data.

STANDS WITH China · Russia · Cuba

14 Bolivia

PAZ

19 ↔ ±0

Market		1
Companies		1
Defense		1
Presidency		1
Institutions		1
Cohesion		1
Soft power		1
Narrative		1
Pride		2

Roughly six months in, Rodrigo Paz confronts unrest over subsidy cuts and liberal economic measures, having declared a nationwide emergency and lost three ministers in June. His pivot west—readmitting the US DEA and cooling on Venezuela—signals a sharp break from two decades of MAS rule.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right (Paz pivot)

Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+4	Cuba	Díaz-Canel pushes defense-readiness messaging amid US pressure and blackouts
+1	Costa Rica	Fernández defends producers in the escalating trade spat with Panama

▼ LOSING POWER

-4	Colombia	The Petro–De la Espriella transition remains suspended amid fraud claims
-3	Uruguay	Orsi steers Mercosur's rotating presidency while his approval craters at home
-3	Ecuador	The CNE weighs whether to admit two recall petitions against Noboa this week
-2	Argentina	Milei convenes LLA legislators on his central-bank reform push
-2	Chile	Kast manages intra-right friction while consolidating his security-first agenda
-2	Peru	Credential handover to president-elect Fujimori is set for July 15

WHY THIS IS A MAP, NOT A LIST Power is volatile — it builds for months and can vanish in a week. So the Power Map is built to move: every score carries today's shift and a thirty-day trend, and this page tracks who is gaining and losing over the week and month.

The friends-and-rivals map

Two camps now organise the region — and the nations caught in between.

WASHINGTON · SILICON VALLEY



Milei's world

Washington · Silicon Valley

Argentina Milei

Chile Kast

Paraguay Peña

Ecuador Noboa

Costa Rica Fernández

Panama Mulino

Colombia De la Espriella

Peru Keiko Fujimori

Bolivia Paz

Patrons abroad — Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro · Israel

In play

Non-aligned · pragmatic

Mexico Sheinbaum

Uruguay Orsi

Lula's world

Beijing · BRICS

Brazil Lula

Venezuela Rodríguez

Cuba Díaz-Canel

Patrons abroad — Xi / China · Russia · BRICS

How we read power

The nine powers behind every score.

The nine powers

WHAT THE POWER INDEX IS BUILT FROM

- Market —
- Companies —
- Defense —
- Presidency —
- Institutions —
- Cohesion —
- Soft power —
- Narrative —
- Pride —

Sources & method

HOW THE NUMBERS ARE MADE

The Power Index aggregates nine structural scores—economic weight, market and currency stability, fiscal and debt position, defense strength, institutional durability, the leader's grip, alliance depth, social cohesion and diplomatic reach—into one comparable ranking held fixed outside this narrative.

Alliances and axis placement are mapped only from documented ties—summits attended, treaties and trade pacts signed, state visits, formal endorsements and voting alignments—never from inference, so a country moves between 'Milei world,' 'In play' and 'Lula world' only when the public record shifts.

The Latin America Power Map is editorial analysis from The Rio Times. It is not investment advice.

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 1 of 6.

1 · MARKETS & MONEY

#	COUNTRY	Equity	FX /USD	Policy %	Inflation %	Risk bp
1	Brazil	177,866	5.11	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,478	17.5	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,488	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	925	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,242	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	449	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.2	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	720	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	6,055	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.41	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	10.1	6.24	14.2	561
14	Cuba	—	n/a	2.25	14.7	n/a

Rio Times feed, central banks, JPMorgan EMBI

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 2 of 6.

2 · ECONOMY

#	COUNTRY	GDP \$bn	Per cap \$	Growth %	Unemp %	Reserves \$bn
1	Brazil	2,130	10,686	+1.9	6.0	367.6
2	Mexico	1,864	13,741	+0.6	2.6	256.3
3	Argentina	684	14,355	+3.5	7.4	32.7
4	Chile	344	17,735	+2.4	8.5	51.5
5	Colombia	438	8,623	+2.3	8.0	66.6
6	Panama	92	19,814	—	10.4	n/a
7	Costa Rica	103	19,162	—	6.3	20.9
8	Uruguay	80	24,549	—	7.5	18.6
9	Venezuela	109†	3,736†	+4.0†	35.6	13.3
10	Paraguay	46	7,692	+4.2	5.2	9.4
11	Peru	323	9,911	+2.8	5.9	101.0
12	Ecuador	126	7,199	+2.5	3.1	10.5
13	Bolivia	56	5,107	−3.3	3.3	0.15
14	Cuba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

IMF WEO 2025/26, ECLAC, Trading Economics

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 3 of 6.

3 · PUBLIC FINANCES & OPENNESS

#	COUNTRY	Debt %	Fiscal %	Curr acct %	S&P;	Econ free	
1	Brazil		76.5	−8.1	−3.0	BB	55.1
2	Mexico		49.7	−4.9	−0.4	BBB	61.3
3	Argentina		83.2	−0.4	−1.1	CCC+	54.2
4	Chile		41.7	−2.8	−2.3	A	73.2
5	Colombia		61.3	−5.7	−2.4	BB−	59.8
6	Panama		56.6	−3.7	+0.3	BBB−	65.5
7	Costa Rica		74.2	−3.4	−0.7	BB	68.6
8	Uruguay		70.3	−3.4	−0.5	BBB+	70.2
9	Venezuela		164†	−5.8	+2.6	n/r	27.6
10	Paraguay		45.2	−1.7	−3.5	BBB−	65.2
11	Peru		30.2	−2.4	+3.1	BBB−	65.9
12	Ecuador		50.6	−2.9	+5.8	B−	55.8
13	Bolivia		95.0	−11.6	−1.9	CCC−	44.1
14	Cuba		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/r	25.4

IMF, S&P Global, Heritage 2025

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 4 of 6.

4 · INSTITUTIONS

#	COUNTRY	Rule of law	Ctrl corr.	CPI 2024	V-Dem	Press free.	
1	Brazil		−0.45	−0.41	34	0.70	63.8
2	Mexico		−1.15	−0.94	26	0.22	45.6
3	Argentina		−0.25	−0.33	37	0.52	56.1
4	Chile		0.69	1.11	63	0.78	62.3
5	Colombia		−0.56	−0.29	39	0.56	49.8
6	Panama		−0.26	−0.55	33	0.58	66.8
7	Costa Rica		0.62	0.68	58	0.81	73.1
8	Uruguay		0.95	1.53	76	0.79	65.2
9	Venezuela		−2.20	−1.59	10	0.04	29.2
10	Paraguay		−0.58	−1.02	24	0.38	56.8
11	Peru		−0.51	−0.72	31	0.51	42.9
12	Ecuador		−0.97	−0.78	32	0.39	53.8
13	Bolivia		−1.27	−1.00	28	0.35	54.1
14	Cuba		−0.62	−0.23	41	0.06	26.0

World Bank WGI 2024, TI 2024, V-Dem 2025, RSF 2025

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 5 of 6.

5 · SOCIETY

#	COUNTRY	Gini	Poverty %	HDI	Pop (m)	Fragile St.	
1	Brazil		51.6	23.1	0.786	213.6	70.3
2	Mexico		43.5	29.6	0.789	133.0	69.0
3	Argentina		42.4	38.1	0.865	46.0	44.2
4	Chile		43.0	6.5	0.878	19.9	41.1
5	Colombia		53.9	31.8	0.788	53.9	75.6
6	Panama		49.7	21.7	0.839	4.6	47.7
7	Costa Rica		45.8	20.3	0.833	5.2	39.4
8	Uruguay		40.9	17.3	0.862	3.4	33.7
9	Venezuela		44.7†	n/a	0.709	28.6	89.0
10	Paraguay		44.4	20.1	0.756	7.1	61.5
11	Peru		40.1	27.6	0.794	34.9	72.0
12	Ecuador		45.2	28.0	0.777	18.4	68.0
13	Bolivia		42.1	37.7	0.733	12.7	69.4
14	Cuba		38.0†	n/a	0.762	10.9	59.1

World Bank, UNDP 2025, UN WPP 2024, FFP 2024

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 6 of 6.

6 · SECURITY & DEFENSE

#	COUNTRY	Homicide	Org-crime	Mil %	Firepower	Active
1	Brazil	19.3	6.77	0.97	11	376k
2	Mexico	24.9	7.57	0.62	36	387k
3	Argentina	4.5	5.00	0.37	32	108k
4	Chile	6.3	5.18	1.58	49	80k
5	Colombia	24.9	7.75	3.36	43	429k
6	Panama	11.7	6.98	—	135	16k
7	Costa Rica	17.7	5.53	—	n/a	n/a
8	Uruguay	11.2	3.22	2.31	97	24k
9	Venezuela	12.6†	6.72	—	51	109k
10	Paraguay	6.8	7.52	0.93	81	16k
11	Peru	8.6	6.40	0.91	50	120k
12	Ecuador	45.7	7.07	2.22	72	41k
13	Bolivia	4.4	4.95	1.37	82	40k
14	Cuba	4.5†	3.37	—	65	50k

UNODC, GI-TOC, SIPRI 2024, Global Firepower 2026