

Latin America Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Colombia +2	▲ Cuba +2	▼ Ecuador -1
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Latin America's political and economic axis is shifting sharply under the weight of a week of structural breaks. Colombia's far-right election victory and Chile's rightward policy assault, combined with a labor flex in Argentina and rate anxiety in Brazil, are redrawing the region's power map in real time.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	70	↔
3	Argentina	69	↔

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	↔
13	Venezuela	30	↔
14	Bolivia	20	↔

The Power Board

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

SINCE YESTERDAY Colombia pivoted hard right with the election of Trump-backed Abelardo de la Espriella, while Chile's new President Kast launched over 40 economic reforms, including a corporate tax cut to 22%. Brazil's central bank cut the Selic to 14.25% but hardened its hawkish guidance on inflation, underscoring the new risk premium in the region's largest economy.

#	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			Central bank cut Selic to 14.25% with hawkish guidance on election-year fiscal stimulus and El Niño inflation risks.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	70 ↔ ±0			Banxico slashed 2026 GDP forecast to 1.1% as data show a 0.6–0.8% contraction in Q1.
3	Argentina MILEI	69 ↔ ±0			Congress approved Milei's labor reform, a structural win for his liberalization drive.
4	Chile KAST	67 ↔ ±0			New President Kast formally launched 40+ reforms, including a corporate tax cut to 22%.
5	Costa Rica CHAVES ROBLES	56 ↔ ±0			No verified major political or economic development surfaced for the day.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▲ +2			Far-right lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella, backed by Trump, elected president, vowing iron-fist security and maximal fossil fuel exploitation.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	49 ↔ ±0			No reportable development in the latest cycle.
8	Uruguay LACALLE POU	47 ↔ ±0			No newsworthy development recorded in the last 24 hours.
9	Panama MULINO	45 ↔ ±0			No major verified development within the last 24-hour news cycle.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ▲ +2			No last-day political or economic development documented in the news feed.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ▼ -1			No significant last-day development captured in the sources.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			No verified breaking development in the last-day news flow.
13	Venezuela MADURO	30 ↔ ±0			No documented last-24-hour development in the provided news set.
14	Bolivia ARCE	20 ↔ ±0			No new sharp development appeared in the 24-hour cycle.

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

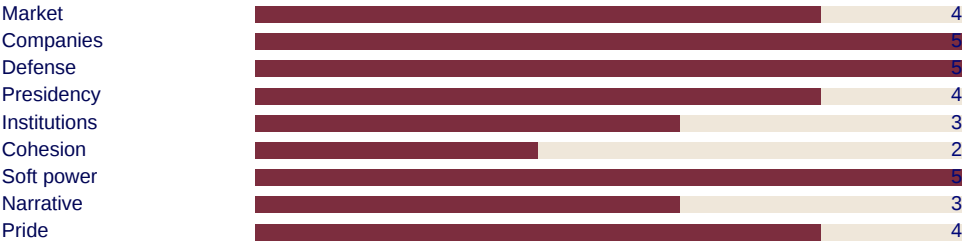
Country power profiles

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

1 Brazil

LULA

82 ↔ ±0



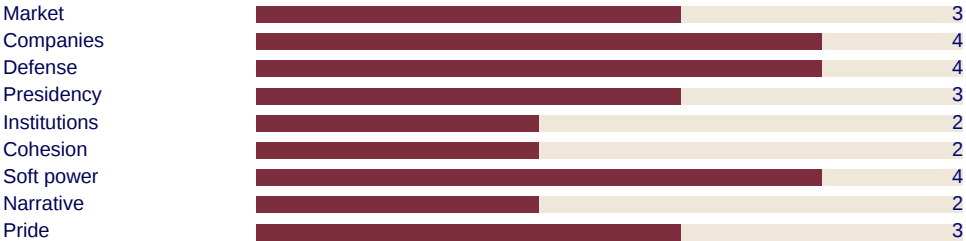
The Copom delivered a cautious 25-basis-point cut while explicitly toughening its language on price risks, signaling that fiscal expansion and climate shocks are capping further monetary easing. The move leaves President Lula's government navigating a tight channel between growth demands and market credibility.

STANDS WITH China · BRICS · the Global South

2 Mexico

SHEINBAUM

70 ↔ ±0



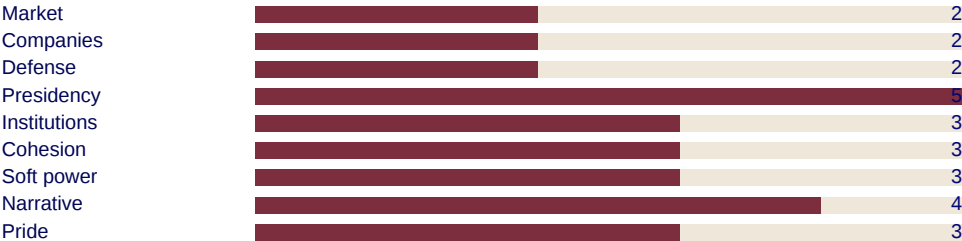
The central bank's sharp downgrade and confirmation of a quarterly contraction mark a material deterioration in the economic outlook for President Sheinbaum's administration. The slowdown raises the stakes for fiscal and trade policy just as the US renegotiation of the regional pact looms.

STANDS WITH United States · the Morena bloc

3 Argentina

MILEI

69 ↔ ±0



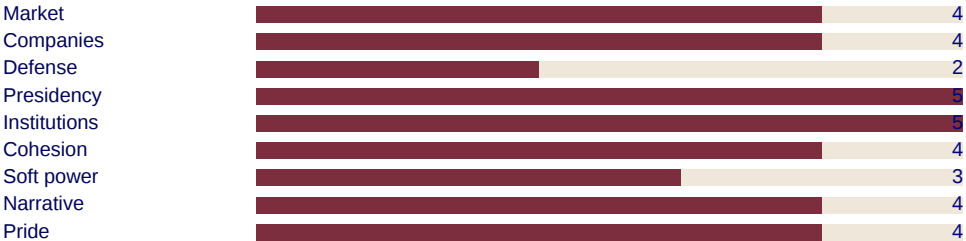
The legislative victory narrows labor rights as part of Milei's economic emergency program, directly altering the cost structure for businesses and the bargaining power of unions. It locks in a key pillar of the administration's market-friendly pivot amid ongoing stabilization efforts.

STANDS WITH Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro

4 Chile

KAST

67 ↔ ±0

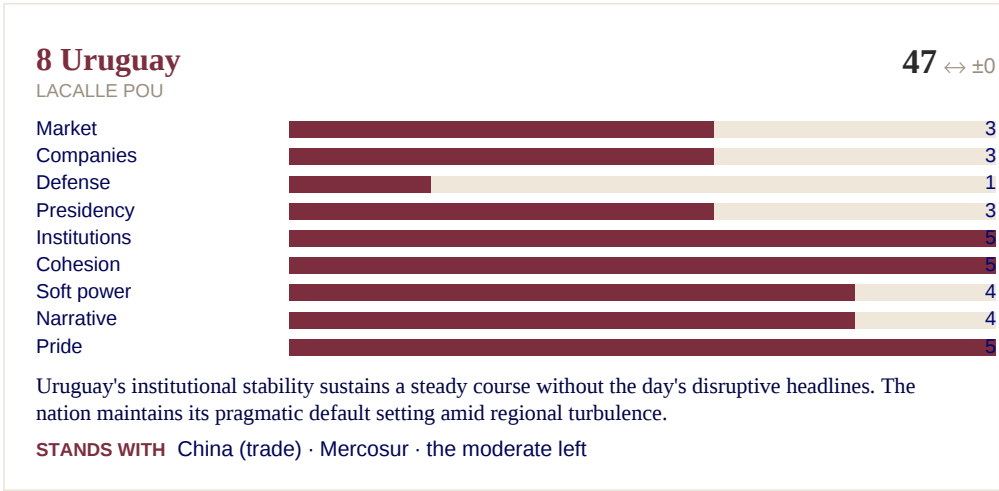
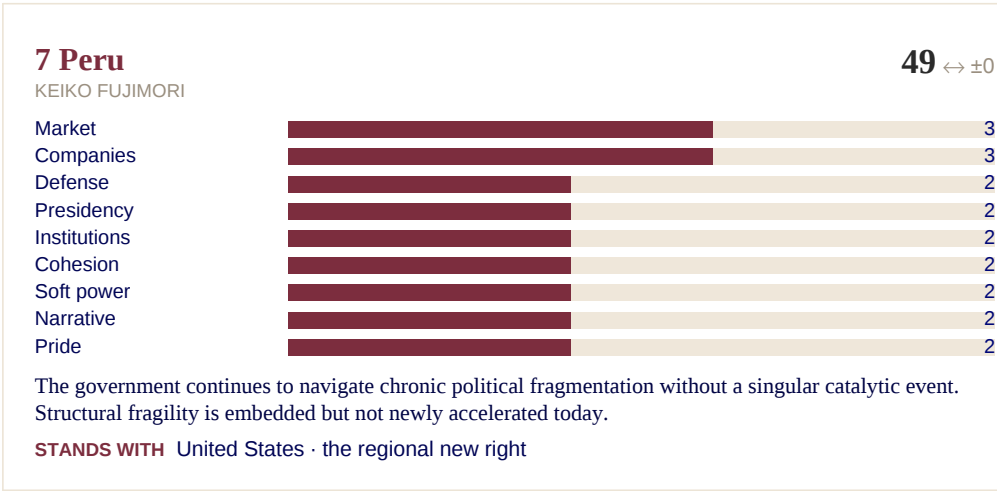
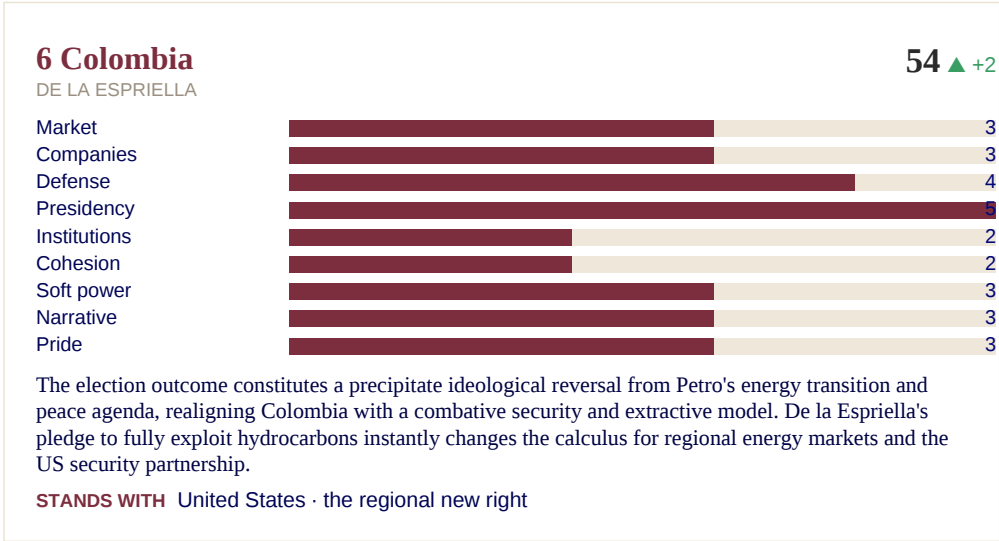
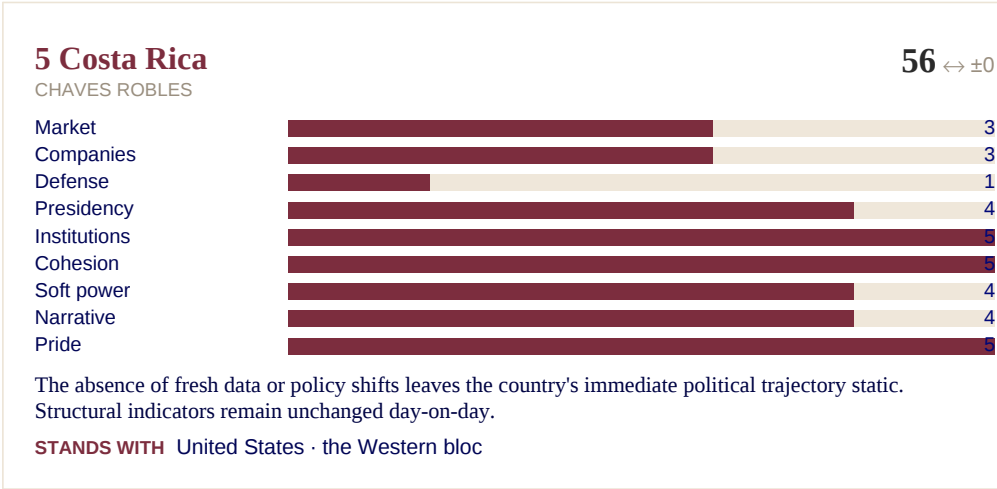


The freshly inaugurated right-wing leader is pushing a reactivation bill through the Senate that reshapes the tax and regulatory landscape, marking a definitive break from the Boric era's progressive agenda. The 22% corporate rate directly targets investment attractiveness at a moment of regional capital competition.

STANDS WITH the regional new right · United States

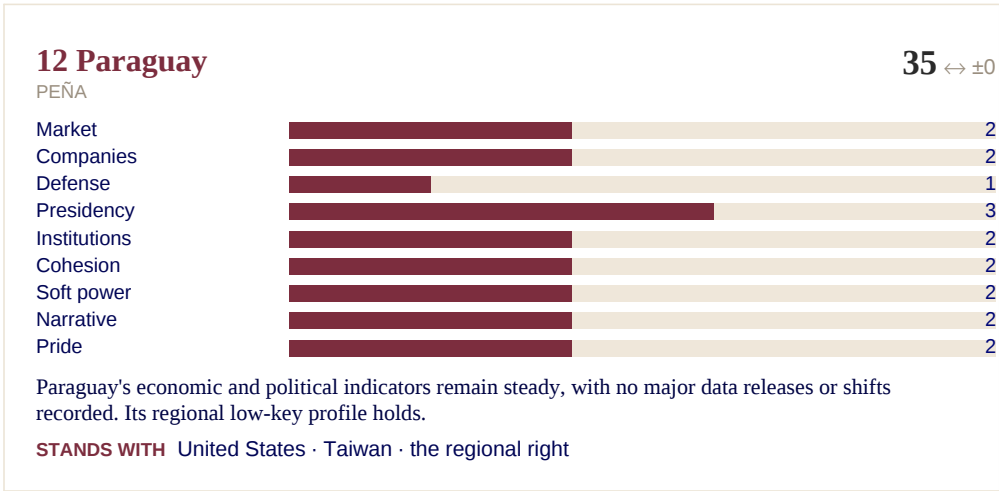
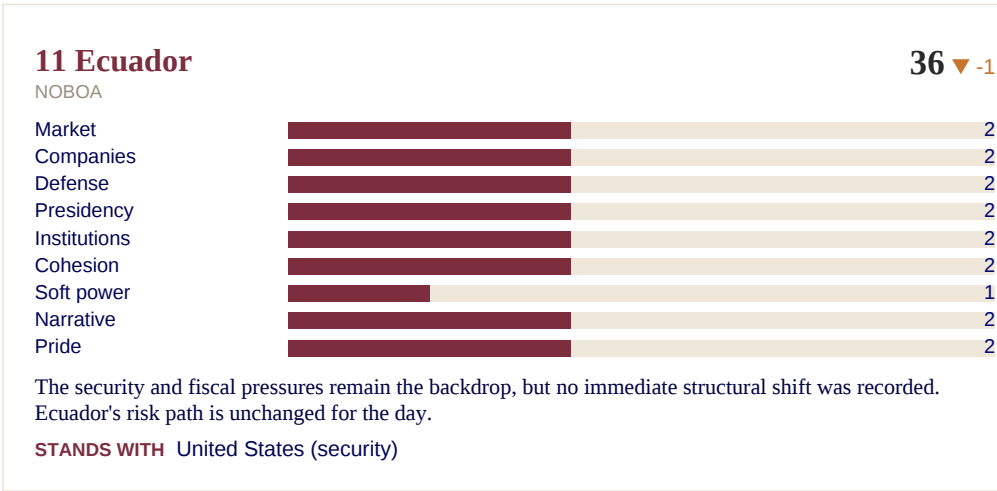
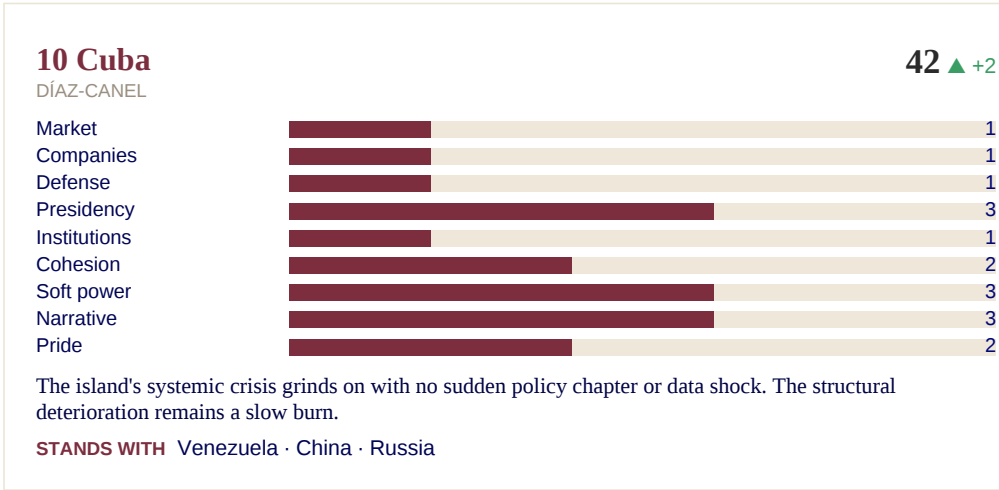
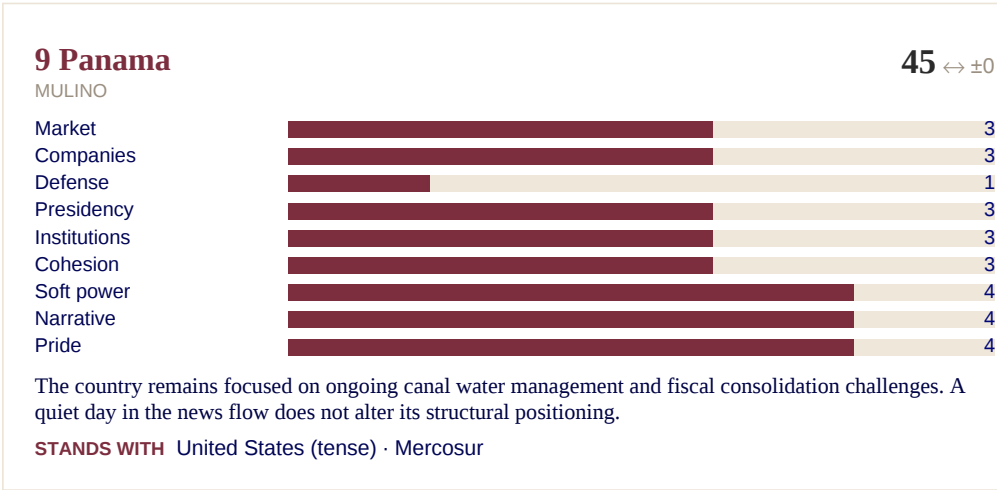
Country power profiles

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



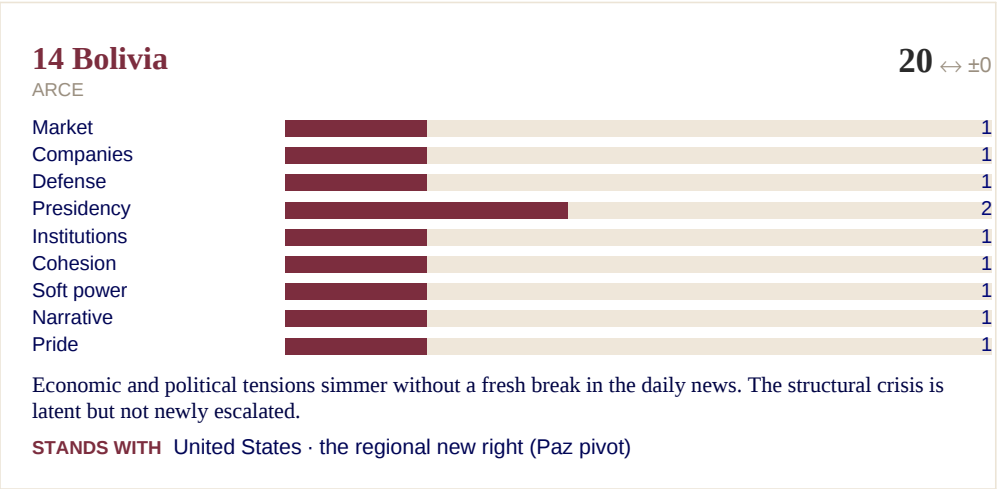
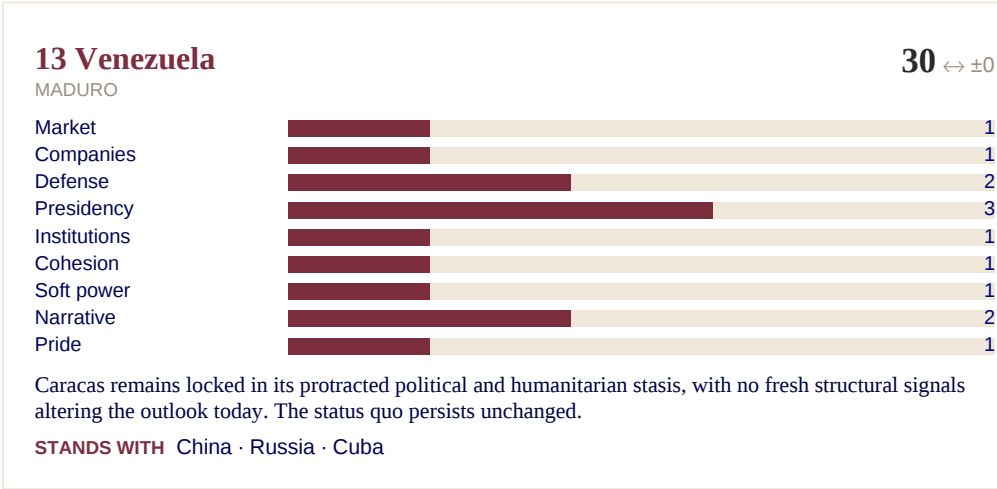
Country power profiles

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.



Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+4	Cuba	No last-day political or economic development documented in the news feed.
+2	Venezuela	No documented last-24-hour development in the provided news set.
+1	Mexico	Banxico slashed 2026 GDP forecast to 1.1% as data show a 0.6–0.8% contraction in Q1.
+1	Bolivia	No new sharp development appeared in the 24-hour cycle.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Ecuador	No significant last-day development captured in the sources.
-2	Paraguay	No verified breaking development in the last-day news flow.
-1	Argentina	Congress approved Milei's labor reform, a structural win for his liberalization drive.
-1	Costa Rica	No verified major political or economic development surfaced for the day.
-1	Peru	No reportable development in the latest cycle.
-1	Uruguay	No newsworthy development recorded in the last 24 hours.

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
the new right

BEIJING · BRICS
the old & hard left



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

How the Power Index is built from the nine structural scores.

How alliances and the axis are mapped, from documented ties only.

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	176,641	5.07	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,972	17.4	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,470	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	927	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,249	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	444	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.7	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	725	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,963	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	—	10.0	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