

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Mexico +2	▲ Argentina +2	▼ Peru -2	▼ Uruguay -2	▼ Panama -2
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The Americas are cleaving into three distinct gravitational zones: Milei’s and Kast’s market-reform axis, a handful of non-aligned pragmatists, and Lula’s struggling BRICS bloc. Today’s action centers on labor and monetary pivots in the Southern Cone, while a contested Colombian election and a rattled North American trade framework redraw the hemisphere’s fault lines.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	72	▲
3	Argentina	69	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	33	▼
13	Venezuela	31	▲
14	Bolivia	22	▲

The Power Board

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

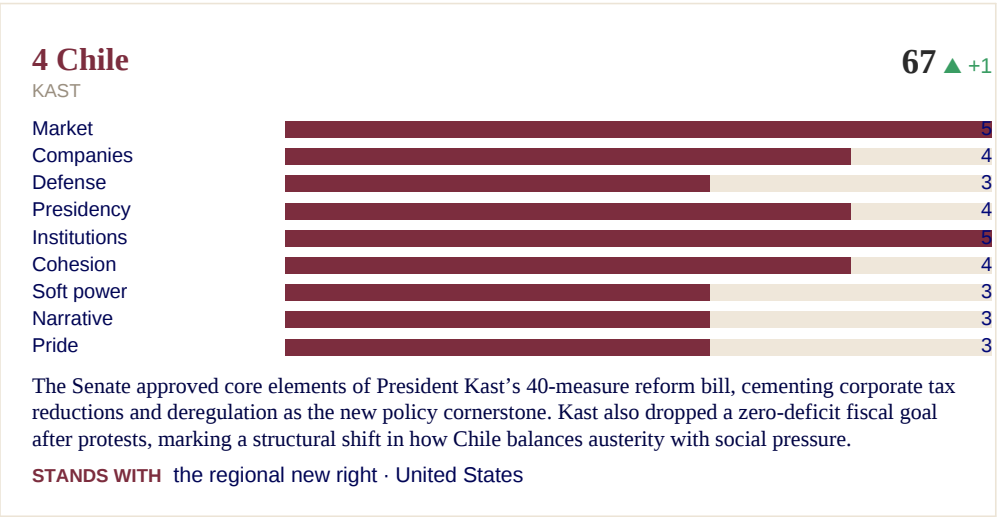
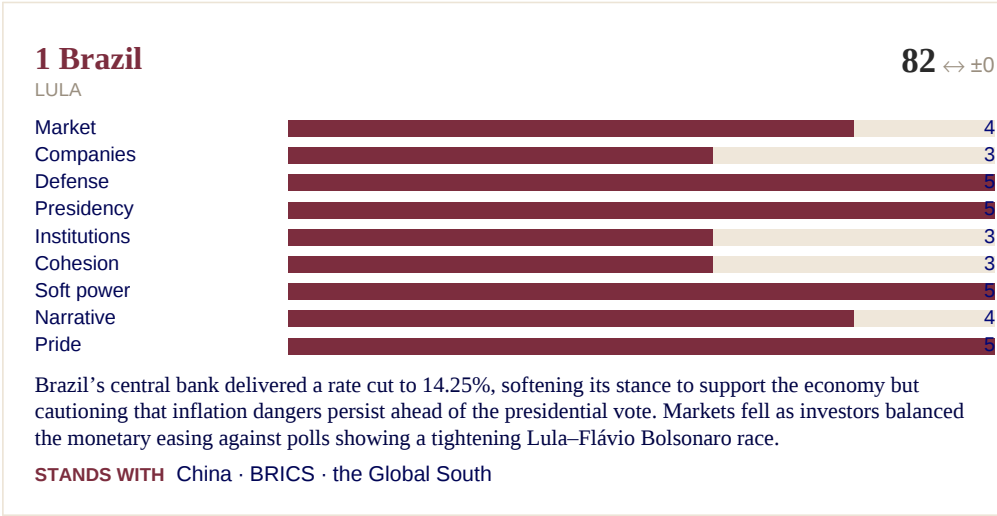
SINCE YESTERDAY Argentina's Milei signed a structural labor reform, Chile's Senate advanced Kast's sweeping economic bill, and Brazil's central bank cut the Selic to 14.25%. Colombia's presidential transition has partially broken down after a hard-right election win, and Mexico is scrambling as the reported U.S. decision not to renew the USMCA shakes the peso.

#	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			the central bank cut the Selic rate to 14.25% despite inflation warnings and election-year fiscal risks
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			the peso weakened sharply on reports the United States will not renew the T-MEC/USMCA trade pact
3	Argentina MILEI	69 ▲ +2			President Milei signed a sweeping labor reform changing contracts, strikes, and severance rules
4	Chile KAST	67 ▲ +1			Kast's wide-ranging economic reform package, including tax cuts, cleared a critical Senate hurdle
5	Costa Rica CHAVES	58 ▲ +1			no last-24-hours development found in the sources
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	53 ▼ -1			hard-right candidate Abelardo de la Espriella won the presidential runoff, but the transition has partially broken down
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ▼ -2			no development of note was recorded for Peru in the last 24 hours
8	Uruguay LACALLE POU	46 ▼ -2			no notable political or economic item appeared in the last 24 hours
9	Panama MULINO	44 ▼ -2			no new political or economic development emerged in the last 24 hours
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	41 ▼ -1			no fresh development for Cuba surfaced in the last 24 hours
11	Ecuador NOBOA	37 ↔ ±0			no new political or economic development emerged for Ecuador
12	Paraguay PEÑA	33 ▼ -1			no major political or economic news came out of Paraguay today
13	Venezuela MADURO	31 ▲ +1			no specific new event surfaced for Venezuela in the last 24 hours
14	Bolivia ARCE	22 ▲ +1			no last-24-hours development was identified in the sources

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

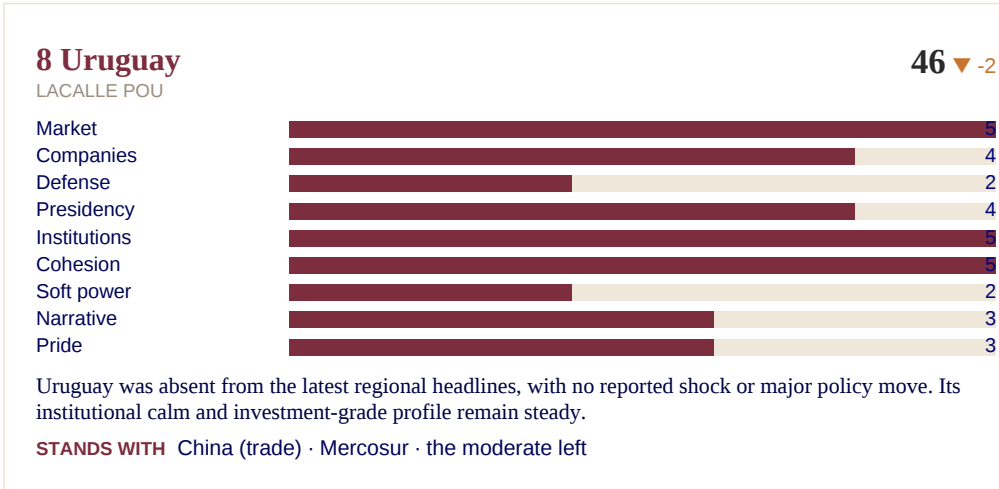
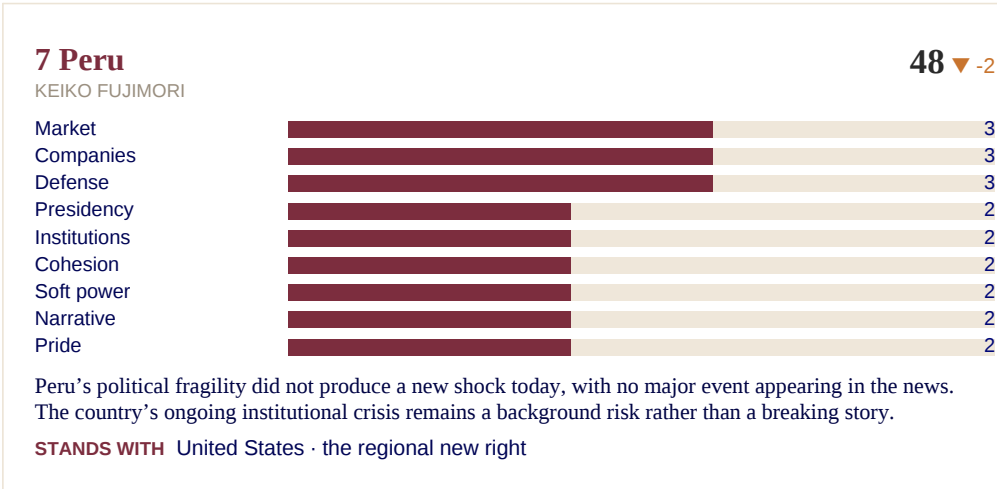
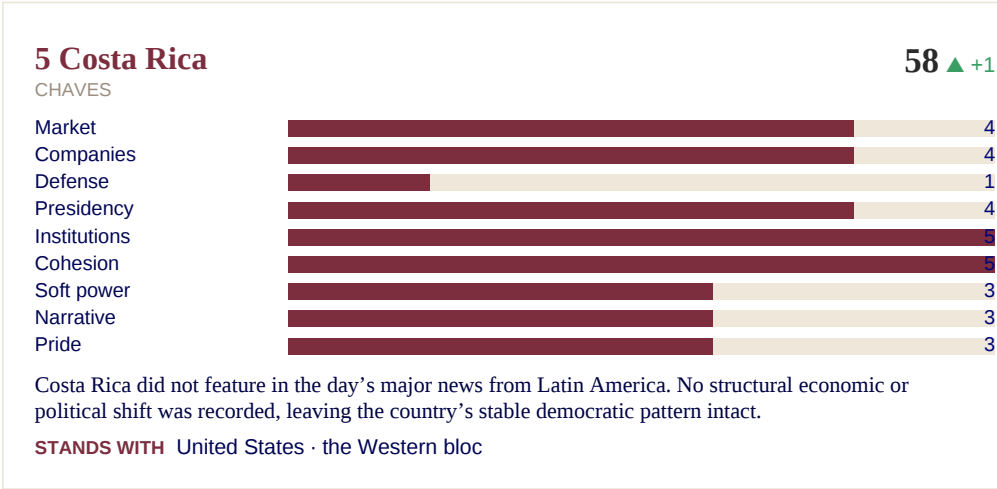
Country power profiles

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



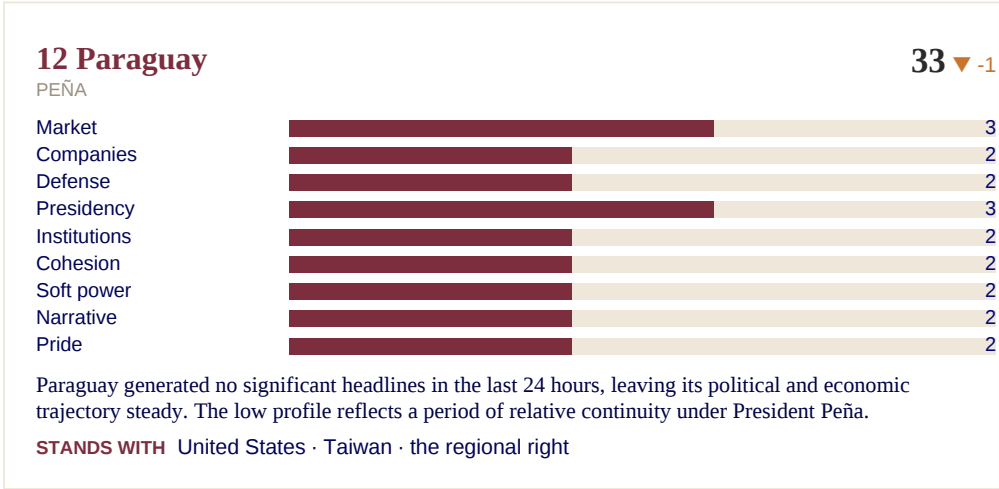
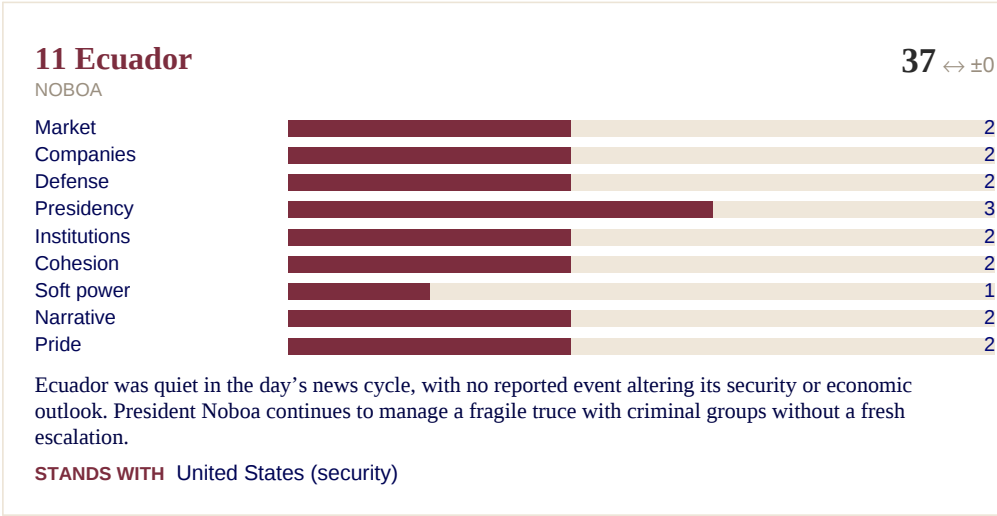
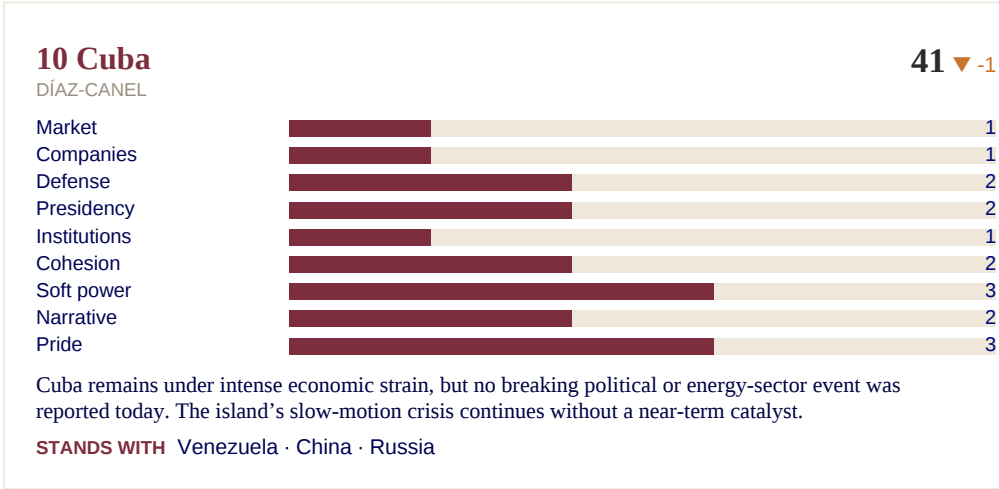
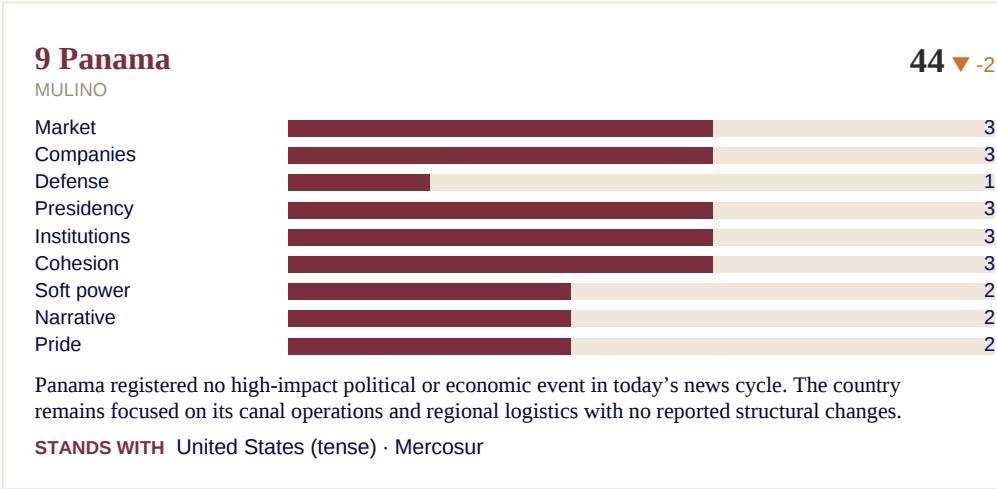
Country power profiles

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.



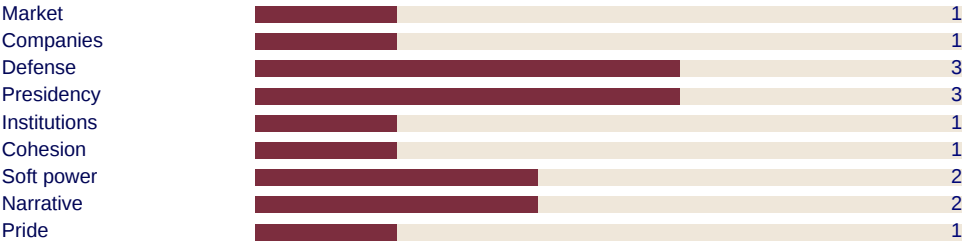
Country power profiles

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

13 Venezuela

MADURO

31 ▲ +1



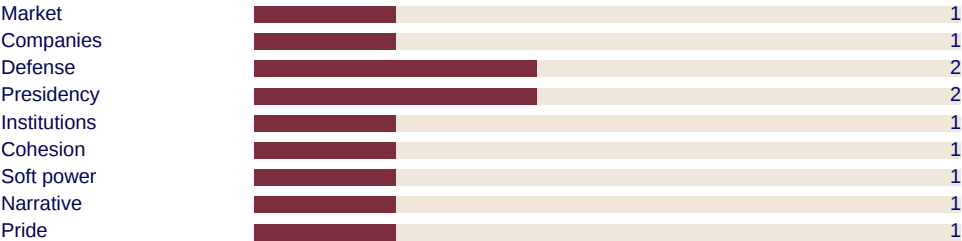
Venezuela remains locked in its chronic political deadlock and economic deterioration, but no fresh development broke today. The underlying structural crisis persists unchanged.

STANDS WITH China · Russia · Cuba

14 Bolivia

ARCE

22 ▲ +1



Bolivia did not appear in today's top regional news, leaving its economic and political trajectory unchanged. The deep fiscal and fuel-subsidy strains simmer without a new triggering event.

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

+2	Mexico	the peso weakened sharply on reports the United States will not renew the T-MEC/USMCA trade pact
+1	Costa Rica	no last-24-hours development found in the sources
+1	Bolivia	no last-24-hours development was identified in the sources

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Colombia	hard-right candidate Abelardo de la Espriella won the presidential runoff, but the transition has partially broken down
-3	Paraguay	no major political or economic news came out of Paraguay today
-2	Uruguay	no notable political or economic item appeared in the last 24 hours
-1	Argentina	President Milei signed a sweeping labor reform changing contracts, strikes, and severance rules
-1	Chile	Kast's wide-ranging economic reform package, including tax cuts, cleared a critical Senate hurdle
-1	Peru	no development of note was recorded for Peru 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	177,895	5.13	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,833	17.2	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,496	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	911	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,194	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	443	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.7	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	754	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,932	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.38	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	12.0	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