

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Argentina +2	▼ Chile -2	▲ Panama +2	▼ Venezuela -2	▼ Brazil -1
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A political tremor in Colombia dominates a day of scattered Latin American moves, as President Gustavo Petro openly disputes the election result, freezing the presidential transition and raising the specter of a constitutional crisis. Elsewhere, Brazil makes a fiscal play with oil money, Argentina sees a cabinet shake-up, Chile retreats on its deficit target, and Mexico’s Sinaloa governor steps aside—but none of those carry the structural weight of Bogotá’s standoff.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	81	▼
2	Mexico	71	▼
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.

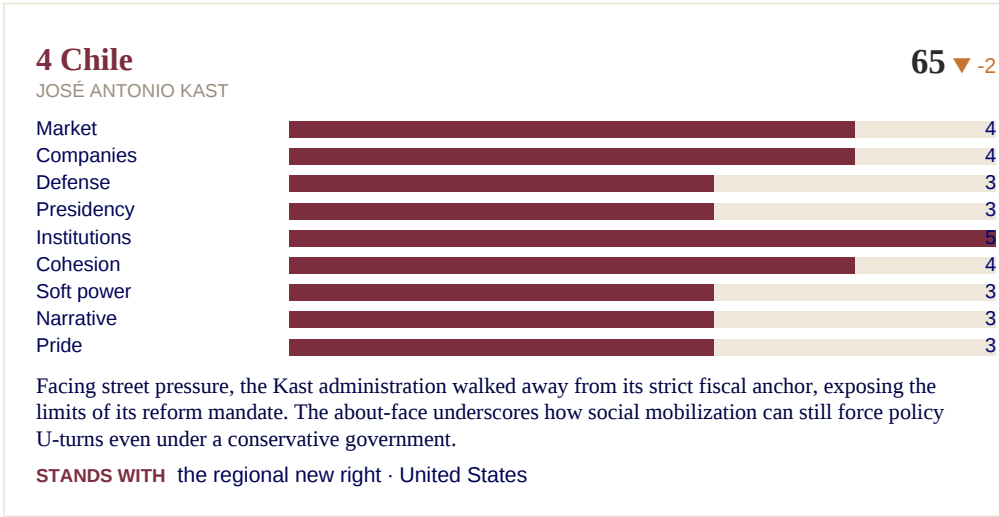
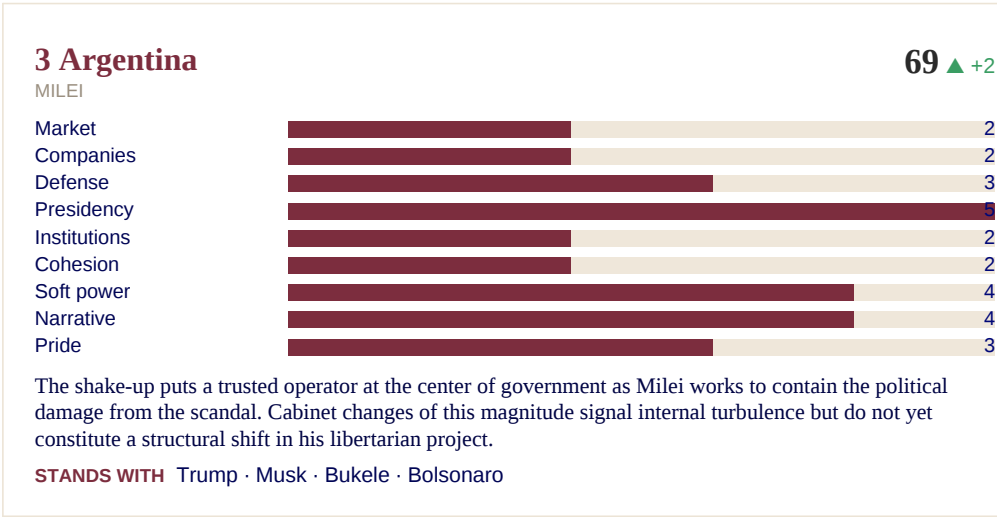
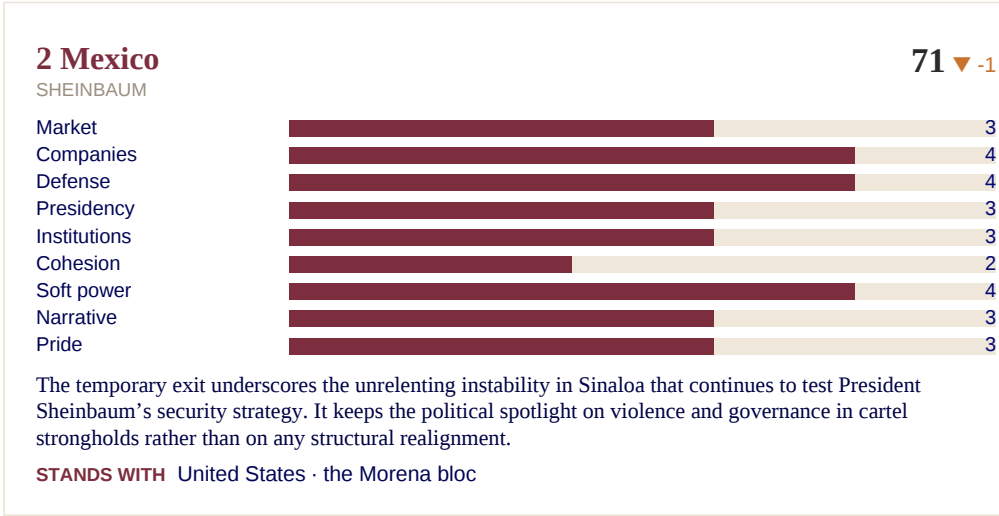
SINCE YESTERDAY The single most significant change is Colombia's breakdown of the presidential handover, which qualifies as a structural shift because it directly threatens the country's institutional continuity. For the remaining 13 nations, the day brought notable political or fiscal adjustments but nothing that fundamentally alters their structural standing in the power index.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt-Co-Def-Pres-Inst-Coh-Soft-Narr-Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA	81 ▼ -1			The government proposed using extra oil revenue to offset fuel-tax cuts, a fiscal maneuver tied to higher oil prices.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	71 ▼ -1			Sinaloa Governor Rubén Rocha announced he would temporarily resign, spotlighting persistent insecurity in a key state.
3	Argentina MILEI	69 ▲ +2			President Milei replaced his cabinet chief with Diego Santilli after a scandal.
4	Chile JOSÉ ANTONIO KAST	65 ▼ -2			The government abandoned its zero-deficit plan after protests, retreating from a hard fiscal stance.
5	Costa Rica RODRIGO CHAVES ROBLES	56 ↔ ±0			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▼ -1			The presidential transition has broken down as Petro openly disputes the election result.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	49 ▼ -1			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
8	Uruguay LUIS LACALLE POU	47 ▼ -1			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
9	Panama JOSÉ RAÚL MULINO	45 ▲ +2			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
10	Cuba MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL	41 ▼ -1			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
11	Ecuador DANIEL NOBOA	37 ▲ +1			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
13	Venezuela MADURO	30 ▼ -2			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
14	Bolivia LUIS ARCE	20 ▼ -1			No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.

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

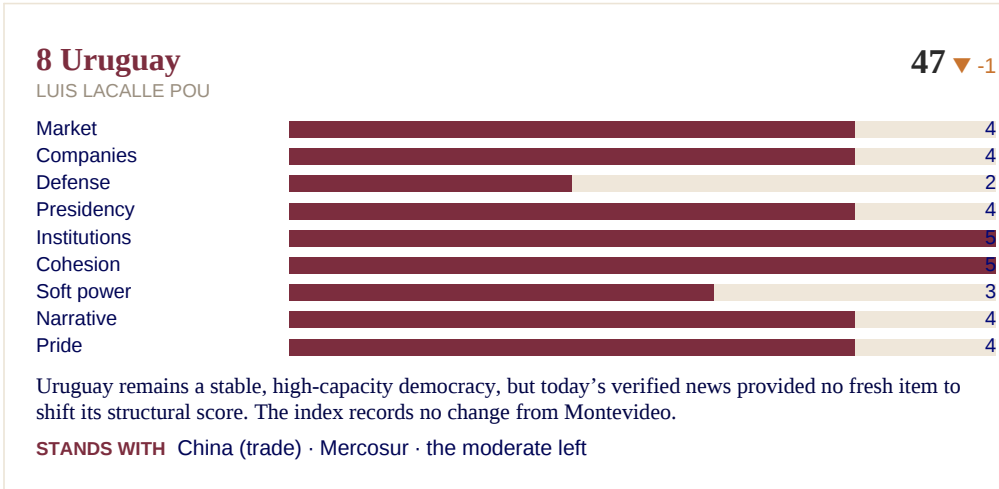
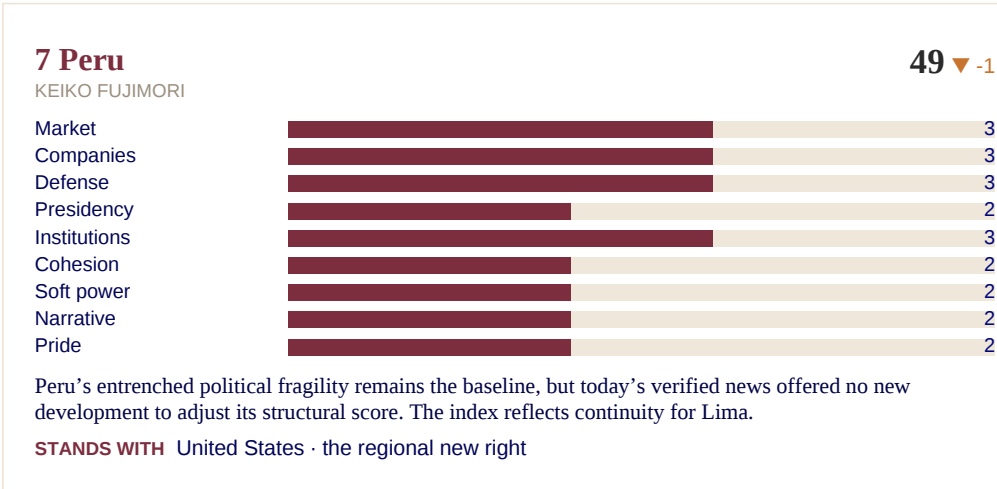
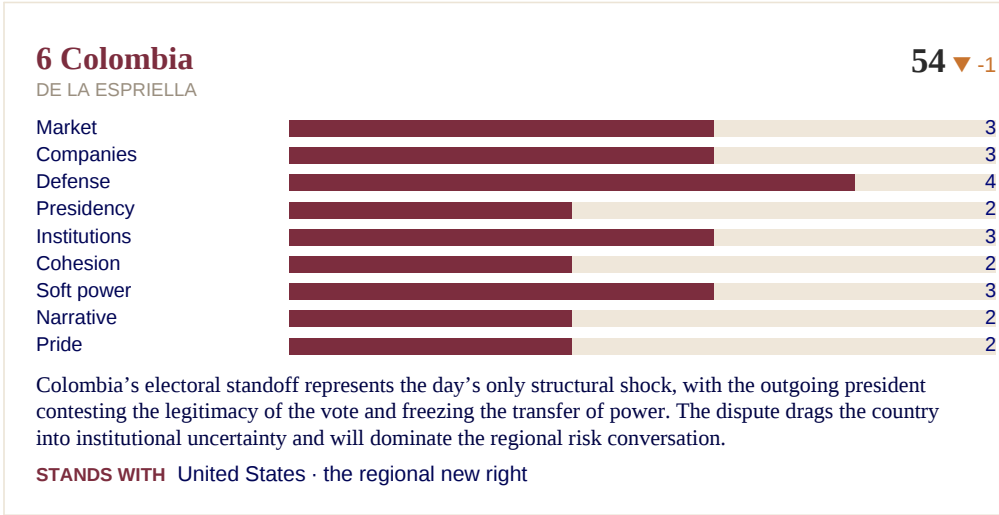
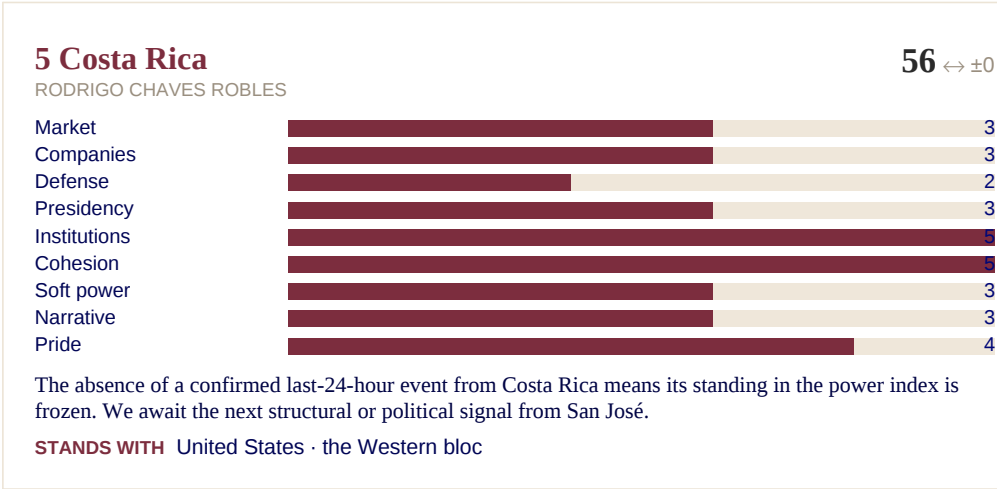
Country power profiles

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



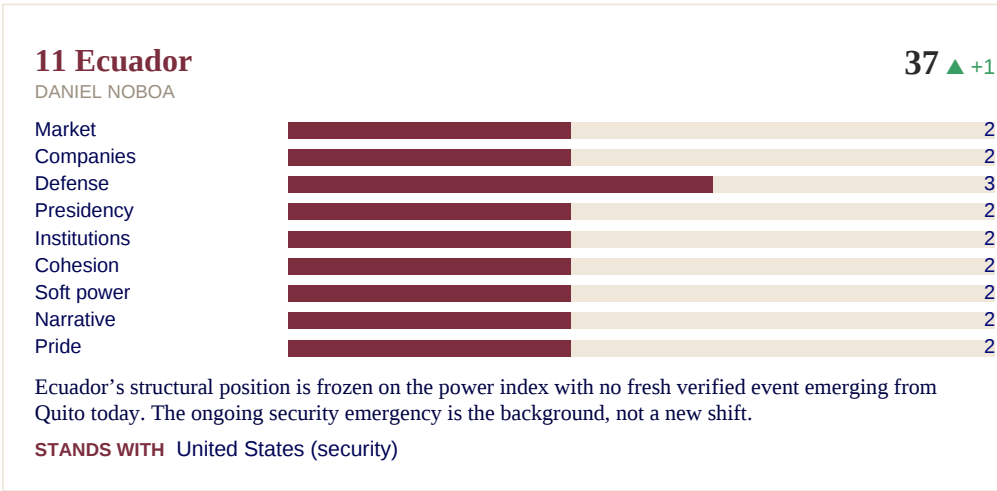
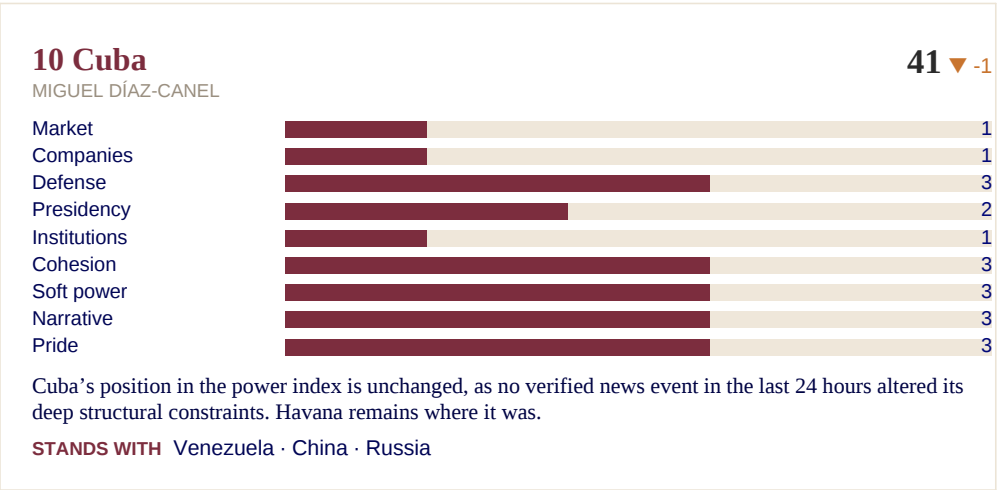
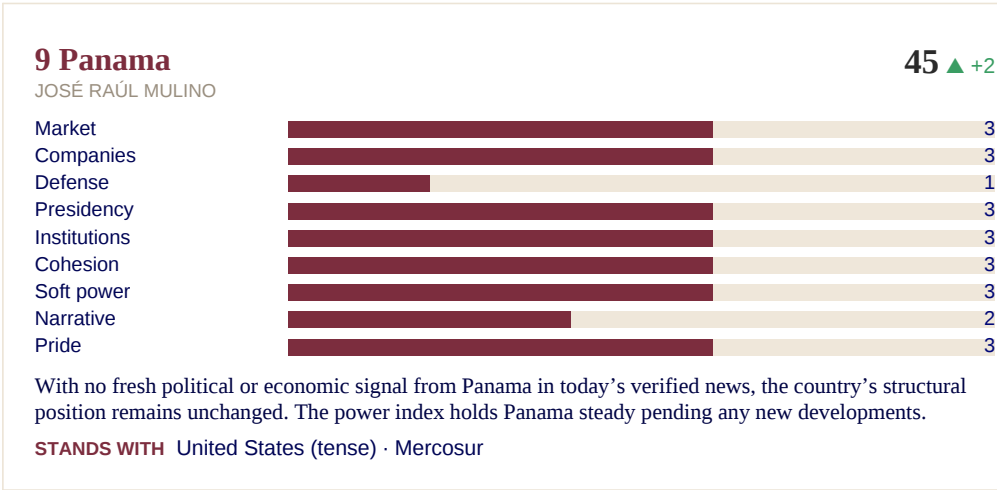
Country power profiles

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



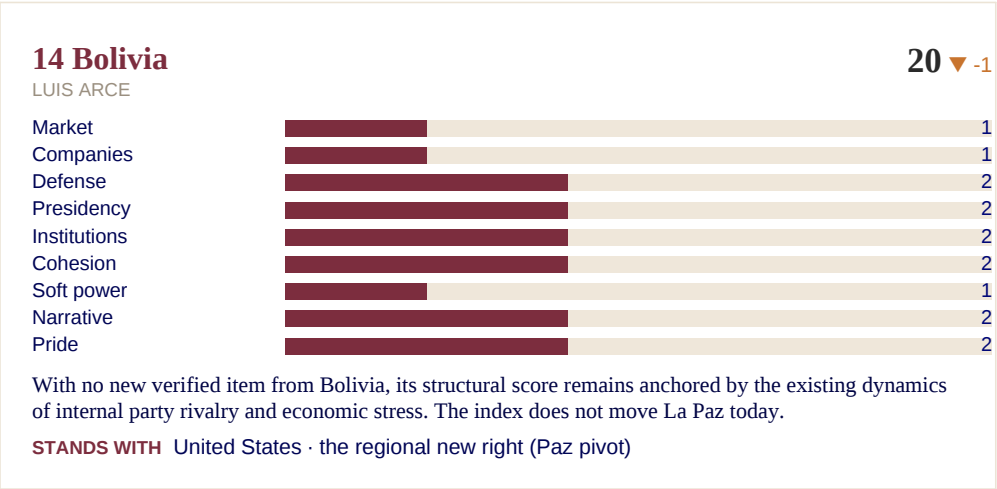
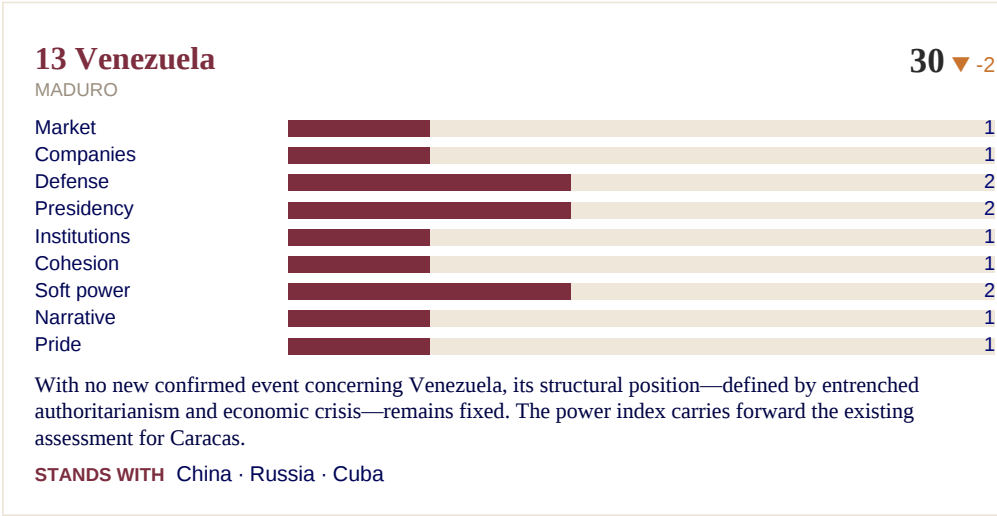
Country power profiles

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.



Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+2	Argentina	President Milei replaced his cabinet chief with Diego Santilli after a scandal.
+1	Mexico	Sinaloa Governor Rubén Rocha announced he would temporarily resign, spotlighting persistent insecurity in a key state.
+1	Ecuador	No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.
+1	Bolivia	No verifiable major development was available in the last 24 hours.

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Chile	The government abandoned its zero-deficit plan after protests, retreating from a hard fiscal stance.
-1	Brazil	The government proposed using extra oil revenue to offset fuel-tax cuts, a fiscal maneuver tied to higher oil prices.
-1	Cuba	No verifiable major development was available 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	175,546	5.11	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,396	17.2	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,500	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	915	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,181	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	441	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.7	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	756	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,919	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	—	11.8	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