

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▼ Mexico -2	▼ Colombia -2	▼ Peru -2	▼ Ecuador -2	▼ Paraguay -2
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Latin America opened the week with mostly incremental policy and regulatory moves, as a handful of countries made quiet adjustments to monetary, digital-finance, and labor rules. No dramatic electoral or macro shift reshaped the regional order on Monday, August 10, 2026.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Argentina	71	▲
3	Mexico	70	▼

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	34	▼
13	Venezuela	28	▼
14	Bolivia	20	↔

The Power Board

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

SINCE YESTERDAY Brazil tightened anti-fraud rules for crypto transfers, Mexico extended its rate pause, and Chile's pro-investment reform bill advanced in Congress. Colombia reported a large minimum-wage increase, while other countries lacked major fresh developments in the past 24 hours.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt-Co-Def-Pres-Inst-Coh-Soft-Narr-Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA DA SILVA	82 ↔ ±0			the central bank tightened anti-fraud crypto-transfer rules, allowing delays of up to 24 hours.
2	Argentina JAVIER MILEI	71 ▲ +1			labor-reform and fiscal-agenda efforts remained in focus without a fresh overnight macro shock.
3	Mexico CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM	70 ▼ -2			the central bank kept the benchmark rate at 6.50%, extending its pause.
4	Chile JOSÉ ANTONIO KAST	66 ▼ -1			a sweeping pro-investment reform bill advanced in Congress.
5	Costa Rica RODRIGO CHAVES ROBLES	56 ↔ ±0			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▼ -2			the government raised the minimum wage by about 22.7%.
7	Uruguay LUIS LACALLE POU	48 ↔ ±0			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
8	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ▼ -2			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
9	Panama JOSÉ RAÚL MULINO	45 ↔ ±0			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
10	Cuba MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ↔ ±0			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
11	Ecuador DANIEL NOBOA	36 ▼ -2			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	34 ▼ -2			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
13	Venezuela NICOLÁS MADURO	28 ▼ -2			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
14	Bolivia LUIS ARCE	20 ↔ ±0			no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.

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

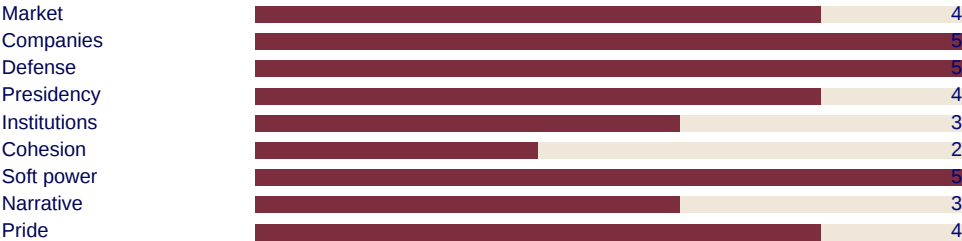
Country power profiles

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

1 Brazil

LULA DA SILVA

82 ↔ ±0



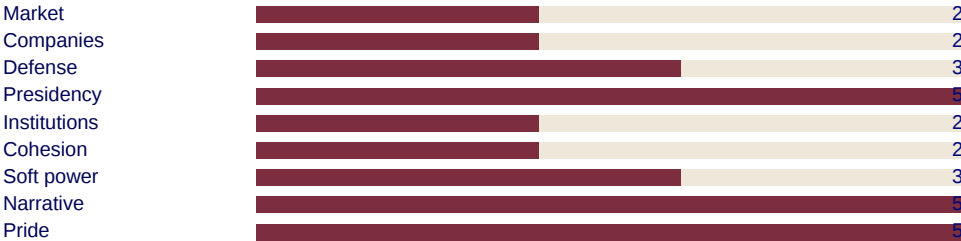
Brazil’s central bank imposed new curbs on cryptocurrency transactions, permitting transfers to be held for as long as 24 hours under expanded anti-fraud measures. The move is a regulatory tightening aimed at illicit flows, not a structural macro shift.

STANDS WITH China · BRICS · the Global South

2 Argentina

JAVIER MILEI

71 ▲ +1



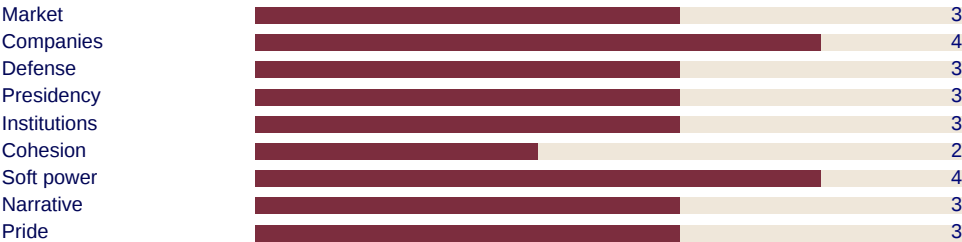
Attention stayed on Milei’s labor-reform push and market focus on fiscal consolidation, though no sudden overnight event altered the pace of change. The agenda is moving through medium-term policy channels, not a single-day structural rupture.

STANDS WITH Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro

3 Mexico

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM

70 ▼ -2



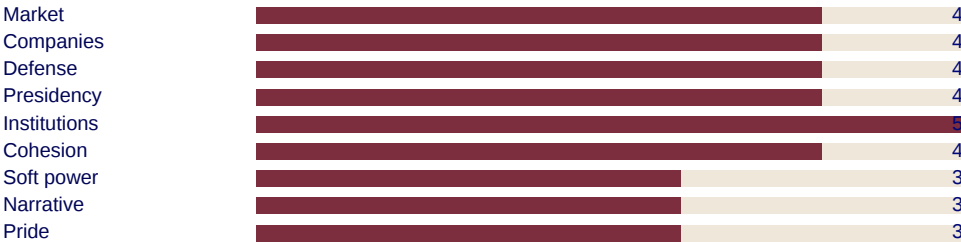
Banxico held its policy rate steady at 6.50 percent, signaling that inflation has not yet returned comfortably to target. The decision extends a cautious pause rather than marking a new monetary-policy cycle.

STANDS WITH United States · the Morena bloc

4 Chile

JOSÉ ANTONIO KAST

66 ▼ -1



Kast’s ‘Law for National Reconstruction and Economic and Social Development’ moved closer to passage in the legislature. The procedural advance strengthens his pro-investment agenda without yet enacting it into law.

STANDS WITH the regional new right · United States

Country power profiles

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

5 Costa Rica

RODRIGO CHAVES ROBLES

56 ↔ ±0

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		1
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		4
Soft power		4
Narrative		3
Pride		4

No Costa Rica-specific development was verified in the past day's news. The country's position remains unaltered by a new single event.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

6 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

54 ▼ -2

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

Colombia enacted a sharp minimum-wage increase of roughly 22.7 percent, a policy move with significant cost implications for businesses and workers. The adjustment alters the domestic wage floor but does not constitute a sudden structural realignment.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

7 Uruguay

LUIS LACALLE POU

48 ↔ ±0

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		2
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		4
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		4

No Uruguay-specific development was verified in the past day's news. Steady-state conditions prevailed without a fresh disruptive headline.

STANDS WITH China (trade) · Mercosur · the moderate left

8 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

48 ▼ -2

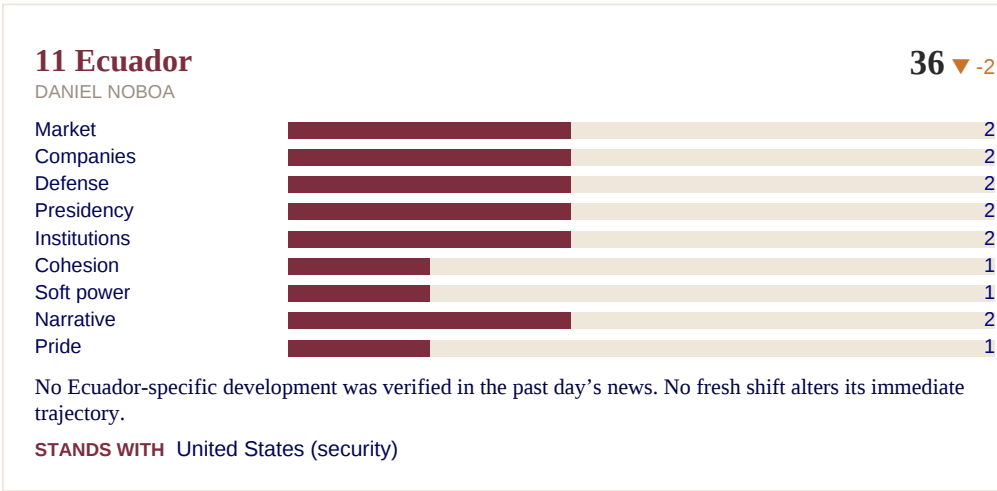
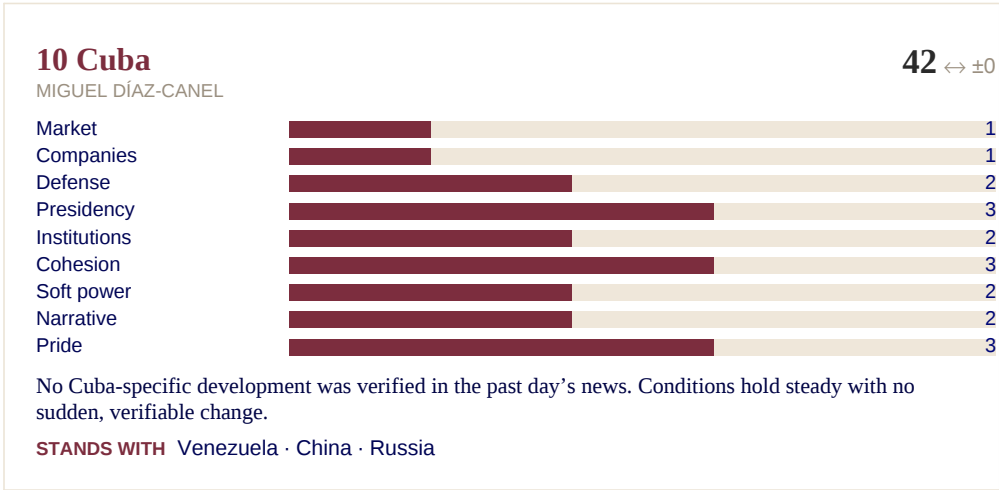
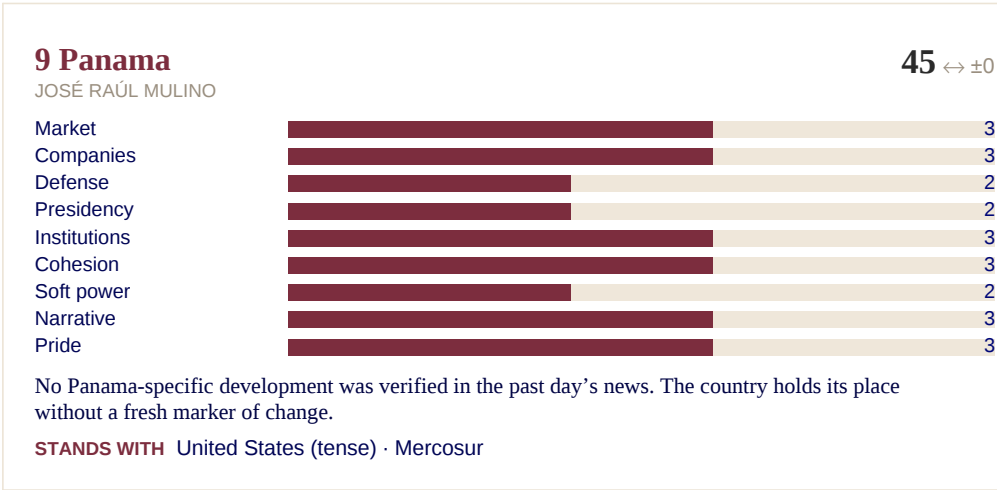
Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		3
Presidency		1
Institutions		2
Cohesion		2
Soft power		2
Narrative		2
Pride		1

No Peru-specific development was verified in the past day's news. The political and economic landscape remains as it was.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

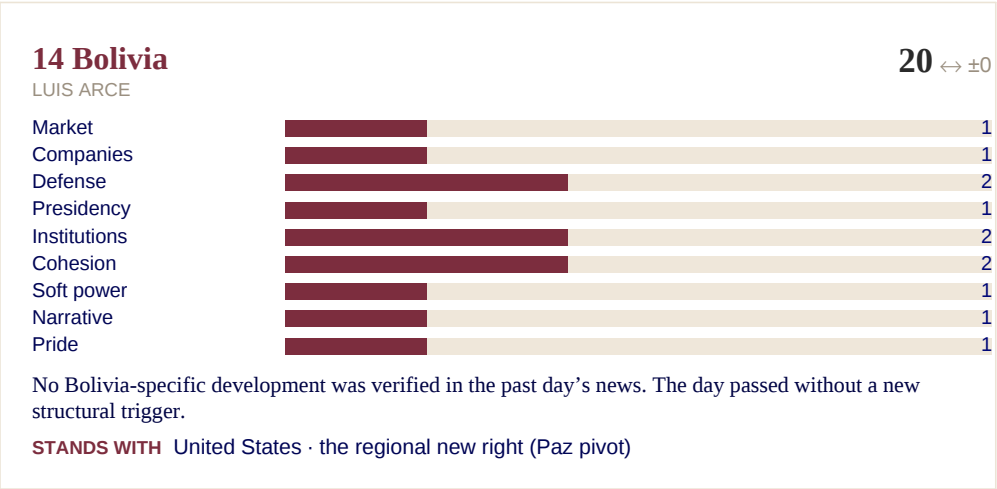
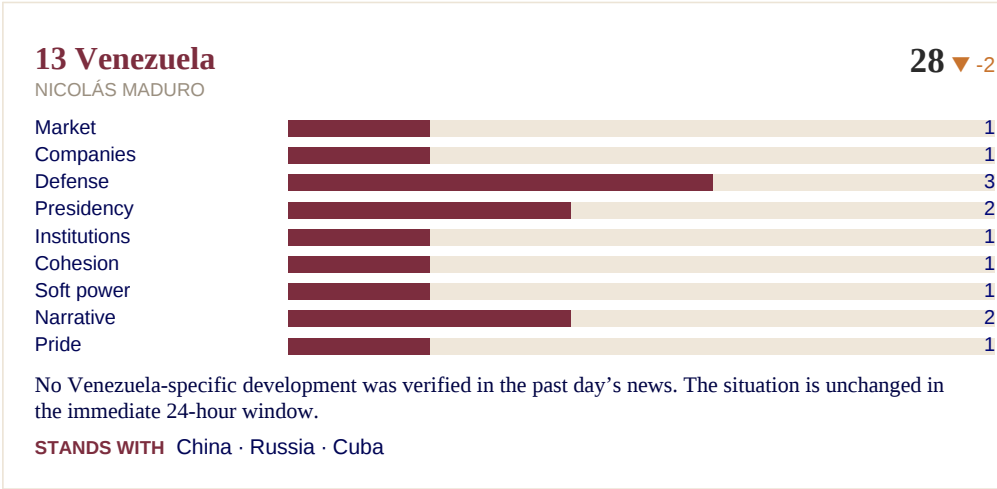
Country power profiles

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	Argentina	labor-reform and fiscal-agenda efforts remained in focus without a fresh overnight macro shock.
+1	Costa Rica	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
+1	Bolivia	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Mexico	the central bank kept the benchmark rate at 6.50%, extending its pause.
-2	Peru	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
-2	Ecuador	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
-2	Paraguay	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.
-2	Venezuela	no reliable last-24-hours political/economic item surfaced in verified results.

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	172,513	5.08	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,939	17.1	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,499	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	913	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,156	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	450	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.3	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	757	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,920	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