THE RIO TIMES
Vol. 1 · Tuesday, August 11, 2026 · 14 nations · 9 powers

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 | ▲ Venezuela +2 | ▲ Brazil +1 | ▲ Costa Rica +1

A busy Tuesday saw Brazil's central bank slash the Selic to 14% while Chile's Senate cleared the final hurdle for President Kast's mega-reform, reshaping the region's policy landscape in two key markets. Central banks and legislatures drove the day's action, with Mexico's Banxico standing pat in a holding pattern.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	**Brazil**	83	▲
2	**Mexico**	72	▲
3	**Argentina**	69	▼

WEAKEST TODAY

12	**Paraguay**	35	▲
13	**Venezuela**	30	▲
14	**Bolivia**	21	▲

THE RIO TIMES · POWER MAP
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The Power Board

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

SINCE YESTERDAY Brazil delivered a meaningful rate cut, and Chile’s Senate approved the last article of Kast’s tax and economic overhaul, bringing it to the cusp of law. Elsewhere, detailed developments were sparse in today’s feeds, leaving the broader regional picture anchored by these two large economies.

#	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	83 ▲ +1			the central bank cut the Selic rate to 14% amid easing inflation
2	**Mexico** SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			Banxico held the policy rate at 6.50%, pushing back the timeline for inflation to return to target
3	**Argentina** MILEI	69 ▼ -2			economic-management signals dominated but no dated national structural event appeared
4	**Chile** KAST	66 ↔ ±0			the Senate approved the final outstanding article of the mega tax and economic reform
5	**Costa Rica** CHAVES	57 ▲ +1			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
6	**Colombia** DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ↔ ±0			the government pursued major labor actions including a 23.7% minimum-wage increase for 2026
7	**Peru** KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ↔ ±0			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
8	**Uruguay** ORSI	48 ↔ ±0			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
9	**Panama** MULINO	46 ▲ +1			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
10	**Cuba** DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ↔ ±0			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
11	**Ecuador** NOBOA	36 ↔ ±0			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
12	**Paraguay** PEÑA	35 ▲ +1			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
13	**Venezuela** MADURO	30 ▲ +2			diplomatic spillovers dominated, without a clear domestic development
14	**Bolivia** ARCE	21 ▲ +1			no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied

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

83 ▲ +1

LULA DA SILVA

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

The Central Bank of Brazil lowered the benchmark Selic interest rate to 14%, a move reported by Reuters and Agência Brasil as a response to slowing inflation, and indicated a possible further easing path. The rate cut marks a notable shift in monetary policy, intended to support economic activity as price pressures moderate.

STANDS WITH China · BRICS · the Global South

2 Mexico

72 ▲ +2

SHEINBAUM

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

Mexico’s central bank kept its key interest rate at 6.50%, Reuters reported, delaying the expected convergence of inflation to the target. The hold signals persistent caution about price dynamics, keeping the cost of credit steady for now.

STANDS WITH United States · the Morena bloc

3 Argentina

69 ▼ -2

MILEI

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

The available results pointed to President Milei’s ongoing economic agenda, though no time-stamped structural shift such as a major legislative passage or data shock could be verified for today. Market sensitivity to local-election dynamics was noted in passing, but the feed lacked a discrete, dated development.

STANDS WITH Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro

4 Chile

66 ↔ ±0

KAST

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

Chile’s Senate gave green light to the last contested article of President José Antonio Kast’s sweeping tax and economic reform package, putting it a step away from becoming law. The move represents a major legislative victory, aiming to reshape the country’s fiscal and business environment.

STANDS WITH the regional new right · United States

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Country power profiles

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

5 Costa Rica

57 ▲ +1

CHAVES

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

No time-stamped Costa Rican political or economic event appeared in the supplied results. President Rodrigo Chaves’s administration generated no verified news in this particular feed.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

6 Colombia

54 ↔ ±0

DE LA ESPRIELLA

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

President Gustavo Petro’s administration pushed a 23.7% minimum-wage increase for 2026 and issued related decrees, according to EFE, though the precise timing was not firmly dated to today. The measures underline the government’s labor-market activism, with wage and benefit changes set to ripple through the economy.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

7 Peru

48 ↔ ±0

KEIKO FUJIMORI

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

No fresh, verified development emerged from Peru in today’s feed. President Dina Boluarte’s administration went without a dated event in the supplied material.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

48 ↔ ±0

ORSI

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

The provided sources did not carry a distinct Uruguayan development for today. President Yamandú Orsi’s government remains without a fresh headline in this snapshot.

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

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Country power profiles

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

9 Panama

46 ▲ +1

MULINO

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

The verified news feed did not contain a country-specific development for Panama today. The snapshot remains quiet on new policy moves or events from the Mulino administration.

STANDS WITH United States (tense) · Mercosur

10 Cuba

42 ↔ ±0

DÍAZ-CANEL

Market	1
Companies	1
Defense	2
Presidency	5
Institutions	2
Cohesion	3
Soft power	4
Narrative	4
Pride	3

Cuba generated no verified, time-stamped headline in the day’s feed, leaving the Díaz-Canel government without an update in this roundup.

STANDS WITH Venezuela · China · Russia

11 Ecuador

36 ↔ ±0

NOBOA

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

Ecuador’s President Daniel Noboa did not appear in a time-stamped development within the verified results, keeping the country’s narrative quiet for this edition.

STANDS WITH United States (security)

12 Paraguay

35 ▲ +1

PEÑA

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

Paraguay did not feature in the day’s verified news results, leaving the state of play under President Santiago Peña without an update in this briefing.

STANDS WITH United States · Taiwan · the regional right

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Country power profiles

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

13 Venezuela

30 ▲ +2

MADURO

Market	1
Companies	1
Defense	2
Presidency	5
Institutions	1
Cohesion	1
Soft power	2
Narrative	3
Pride	2

News involving Venezuela centered on Chile-Venezuela consular normalization and a bilateral dispute with Argentina over a detained gendarme, rather than a significant internal political or economic move. The feed left the domestic picture largely unchanged from previous days.

STANDS WITH China · Russia · Cuba

14 Bolivia

21 ▲ +1

ARCE

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

Bolivia’s daily record was empty in the supplied sources, offering no new event linked to President Luis Arce’s administration today.

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	**Argentina**	economic-management signals dominated but no dated national structural event appeared
+1	**Brazil**	the central bank cut the Selic rate to 14% amid easing inflation

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	**Ecuador**	no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
-2	**Colombia**	the government pursued major labor actions including a 23.7% minimum-wage increase for 2026
-2	**Peru**	no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied
-1	**Paraguay**	no credible last-24-hours political or economic item was supplied

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 RIO TIMES · POWER MAP

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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 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	172,180	5.11	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,439	17.1	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,498	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	915	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,134	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	448	3.25	–1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.2	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	760	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,922	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