

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	▼ Bolivia -2	▼ Brazil -1	▲ Chile +1
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Latin America's midweek pulse is set by Brazilian monetary easing and a Chilean legislative breakthrough, while the rest of the region awaits fresh signals. The day's action is concentrated in the Southern Cone, where a rate cut and a reform advance dominate the narrative.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	▼
2	Mexico	70	▼
3	Chile	67	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	↔
13	Venezuela	30	↔
14	Bolivia	19	▼

The Power Board

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

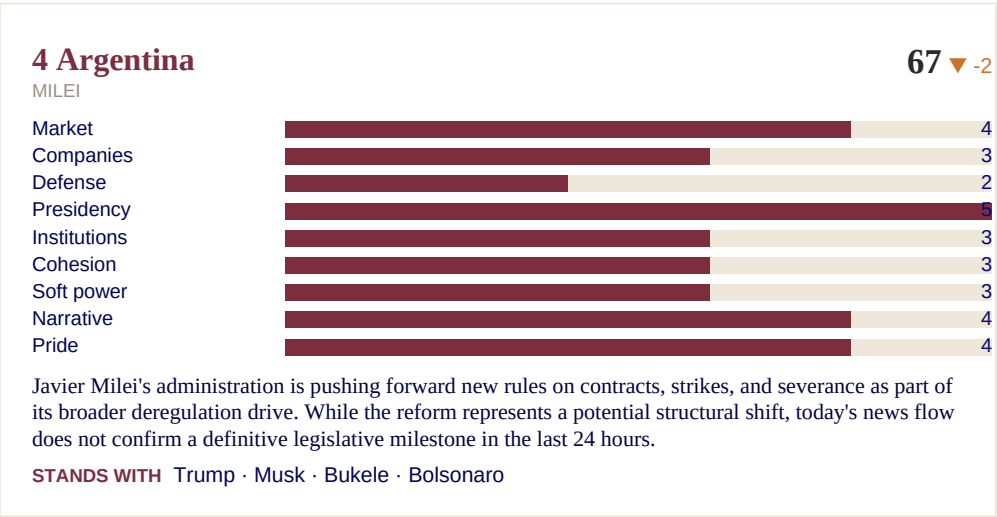
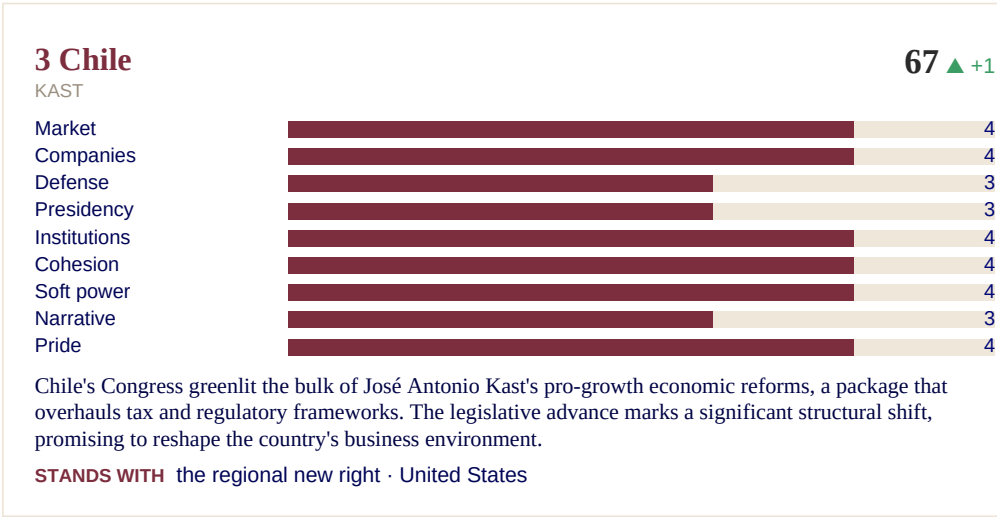
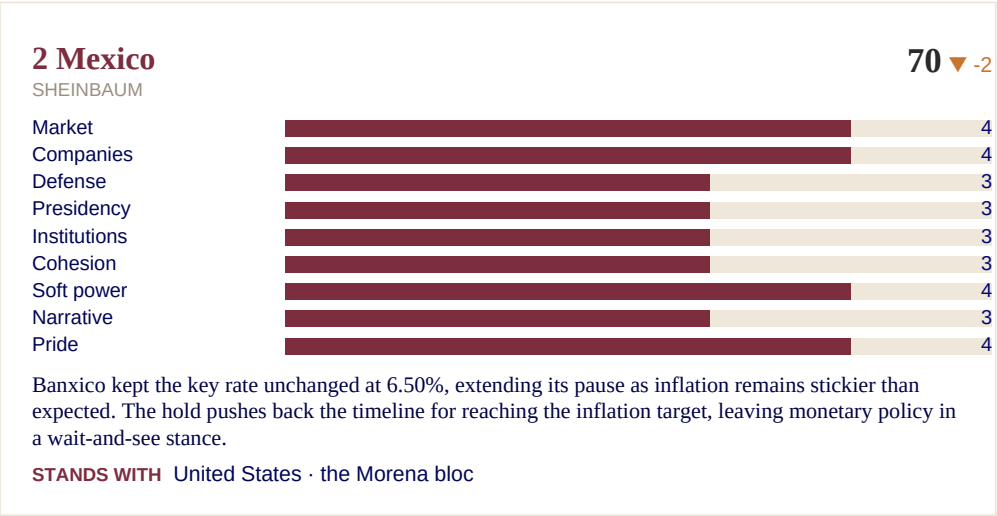
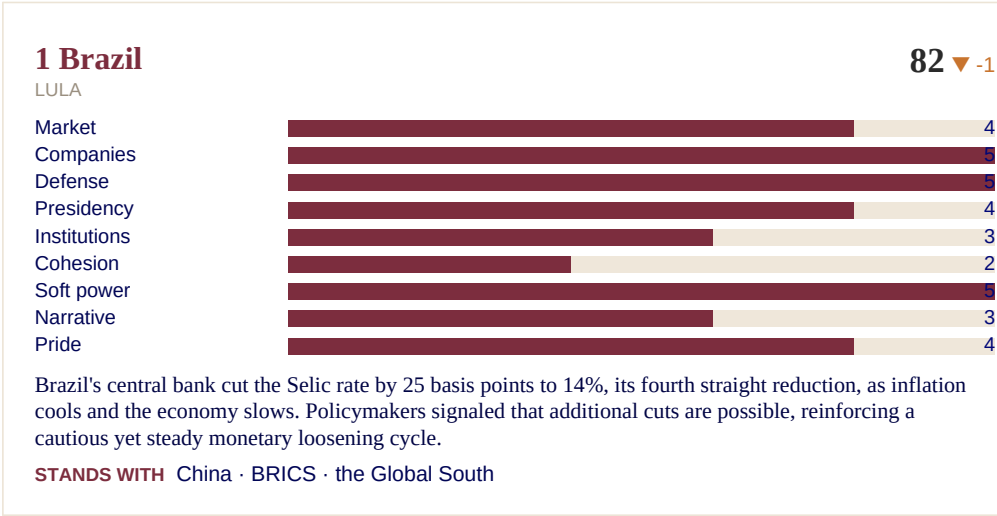
SINCE YESTERDAY Brazil's central bank delivered its fourth consecutive rate cut, lowering the benchmark to 14% and hinting at more easing ahead. Chile's Congress advanced a sweeping economic reform package, marking the most significant structural shift in the region today.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt·Co·Def·Pres·Inst·Coh·Soft·Narr·Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA	82 ▼ -1			the central bank cut the benchmark rate to 14% and signaled further easing.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	70 ▼ -2			the central bank held its benchmark rate at 6.50%, delaying the return of inflation to target.
3	Chile KAST	67 ▲ +1			Congress advanced a sweeping economic reform package after approving most remaining changes.
4	Argentina MILEI	67 ▼ -2			the government continues to roll out its labor reform agenda, though no final passage was confirmed today.
5	Costa Rica CHAVES	56 ▼ -1			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ↔ ±0			Congress sent the government's budget back to the finance ministry for reworking.
7	Uruguay ORSI	49 ▲ +1			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
8	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ↔ ±0			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
9	Panama MULINO	45 ▼ -1			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	41 ▼ -1			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ↔ ±0			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
13	Venezuela MADURO	30 ↔ ±0			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
14	Bolivia ARCE	19 ▼ -2			no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.

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

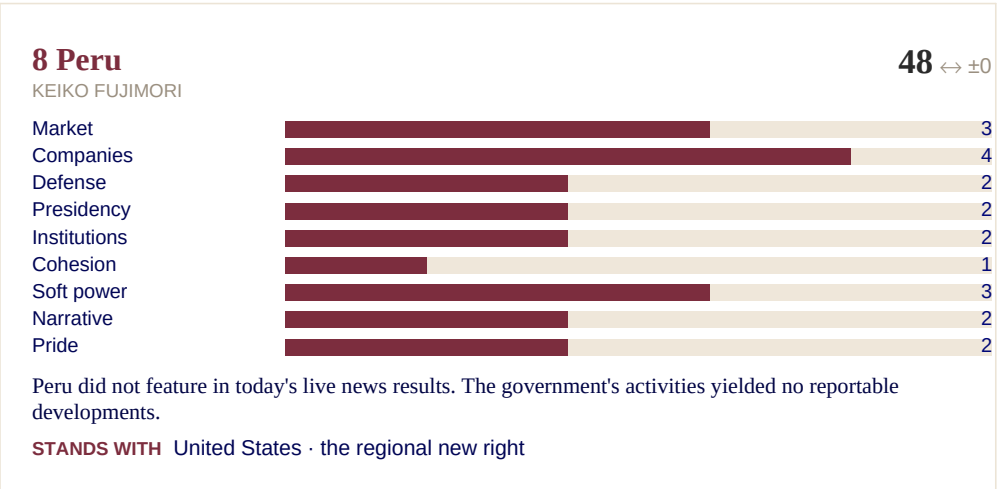
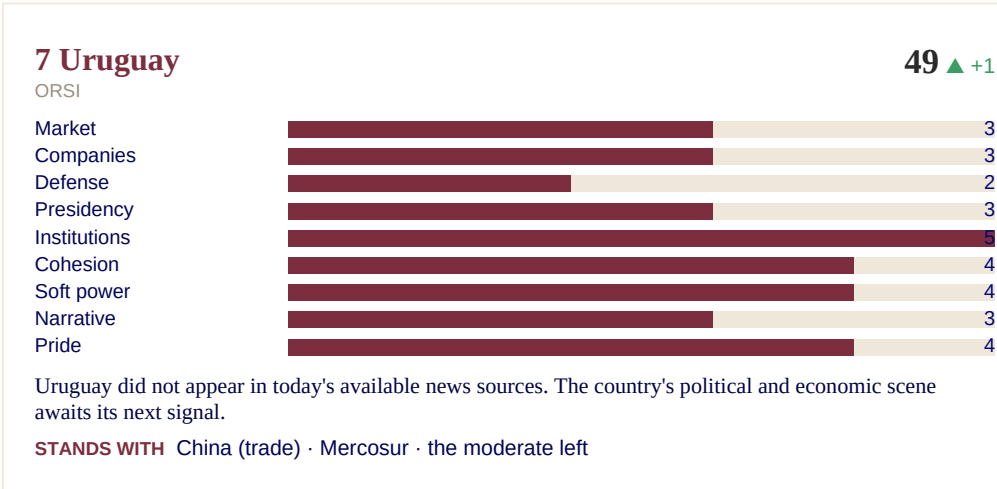
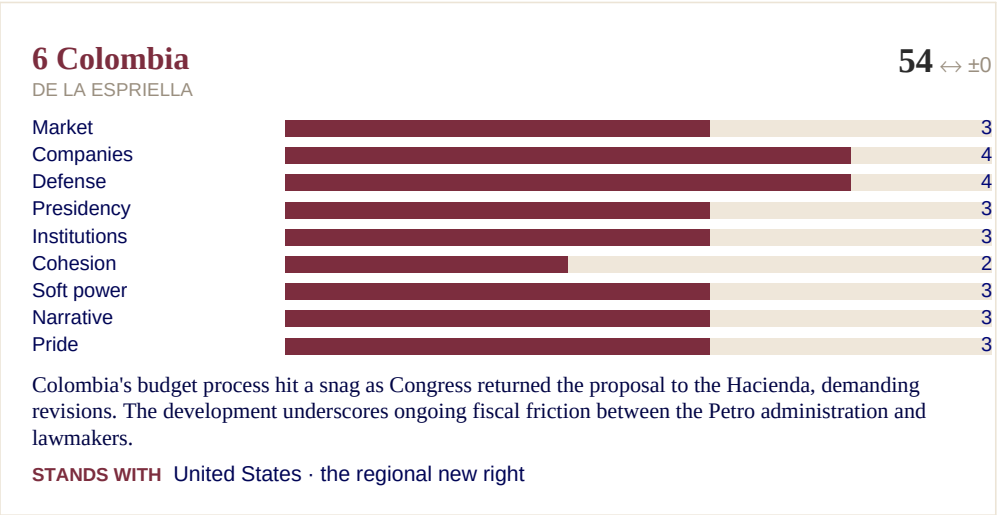
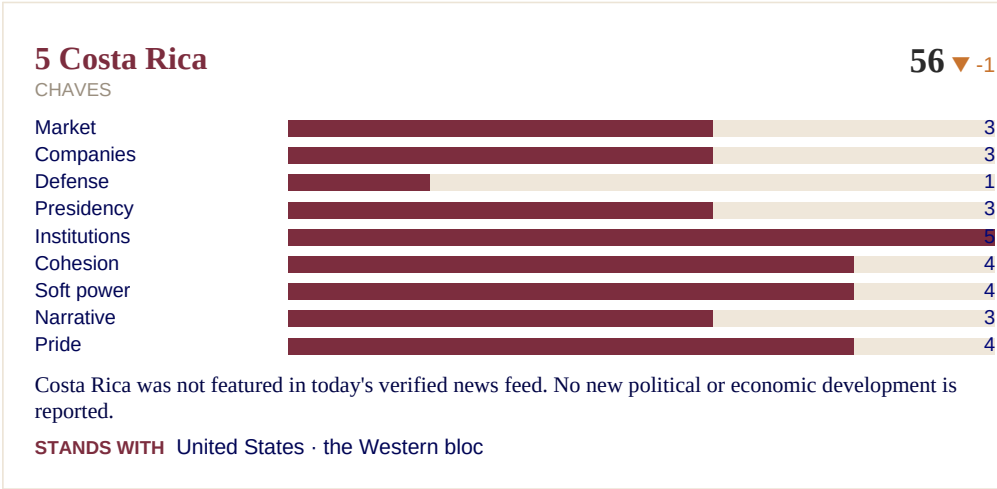
Country power profiles

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.

9 Panama

MULINO

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

45

▼ -1

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

News flow on Panama was absent from today's regional reporting. The government's agenda remains without a fresh headline in this cycle.

STANDS WITH United States (tense) · Mercosur

10 Cuba

DÍAZ-CANEL

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

41

▼ -1

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

Cuba generated no newsworthy items in the last 24 hours according to available sources. The situation remains static for now.

STANDS WITH Venezuela · China · Russia

11 Ecuador

NOBOA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

36

↔ ±0

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

Ecuador's political and security landscape generated no new, verified items today. The country remains off the daily radar.

STANDS WITH United States (security)

12 Paraguay

PEÑA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

35

↔ ±0

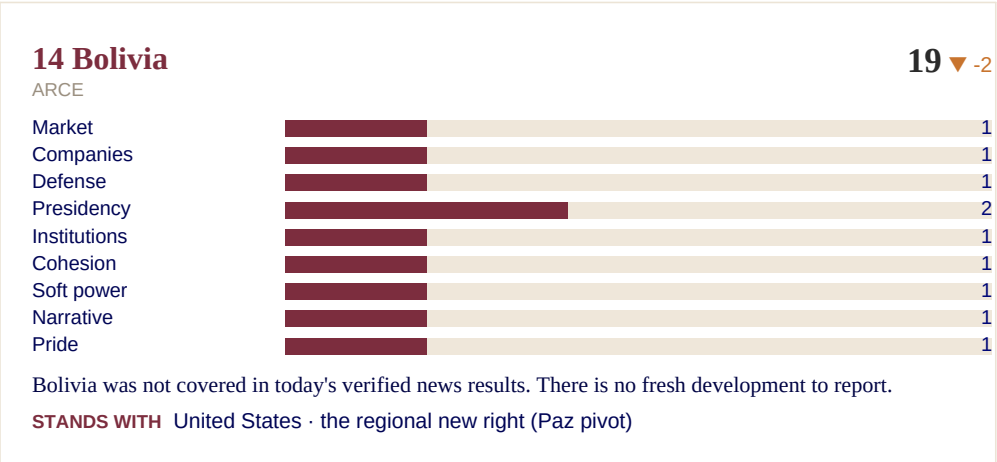
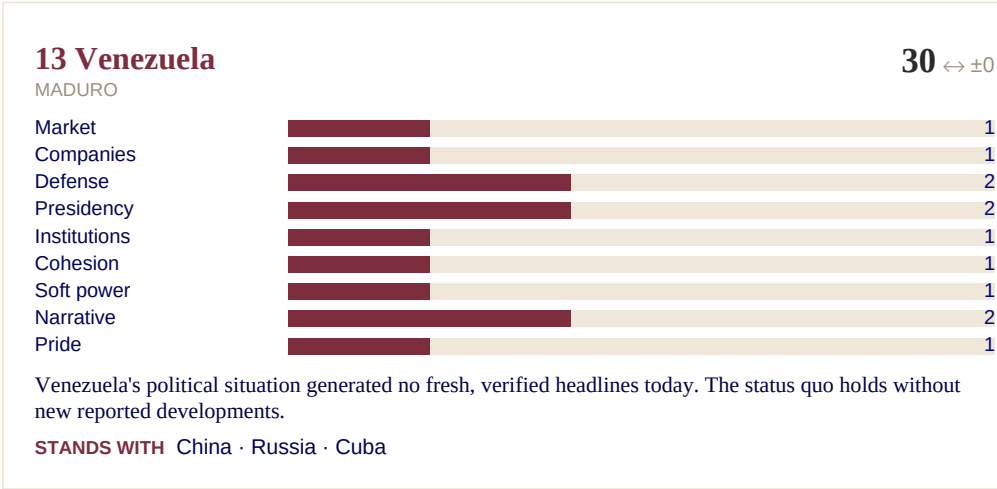
Market		2
Companies		3
Defense		1
Presidency		3
Institutions		2
Cohesion		3
Soft power		2
Narrative		2
Pride		2

Paraguay was absent from the day's verified news cycle. No newsworthy political or economic event was reported.

STANDS WITH United States · Taiwan · the regional right

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

+1	Chile	Congress advanced a sweeping economic reform package after approving most remaining changes.
+1	Uruguay	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
+1	Paraguay	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Peru	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
-2	Bolivia	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
-1	Costa Rica	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
-1	Panama	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
-1	Cuba	no verified development was found for the last 24 hours.
-1	Ecuador	no verified development was found for 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



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	167,875	5.16	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,878	17.1	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,491	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	914	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,128	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	—	763	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,925	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	—	11.7	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