

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Mexico +2	▼ Chile -2	▲ Colombia +2	▼ Peru -2	▼ Venezuela -2
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Latin America's center of gravity shifted today as Colombia inaugurated a hard-right president who promised fiscal austerity and a security crackdown, while Argentina's Milei faced a nationwide strike over labor reforms and Mexico's central bank held rates on stubborn inflation.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	72	▲
3	Argentina	66	▼

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	↔
13	Venezuela	28	▼
14	Bolivia	21	▲

The Power Board

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

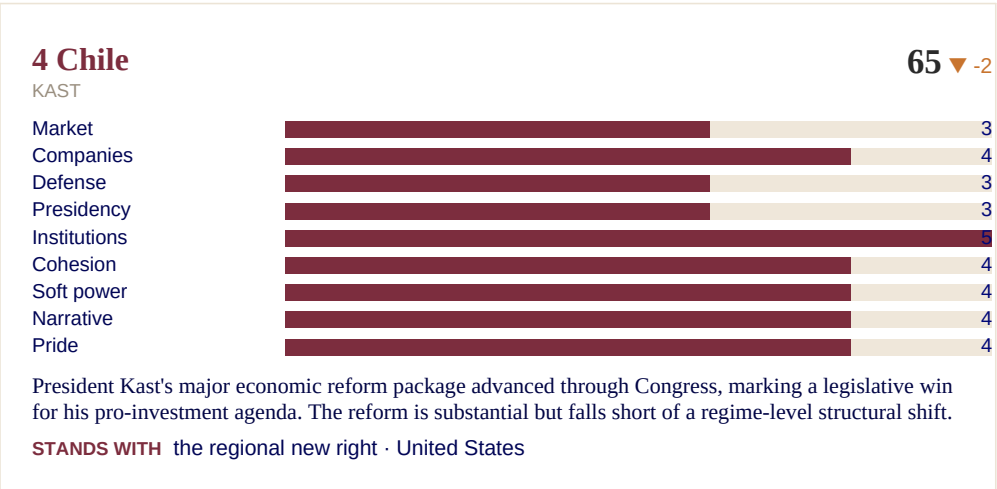
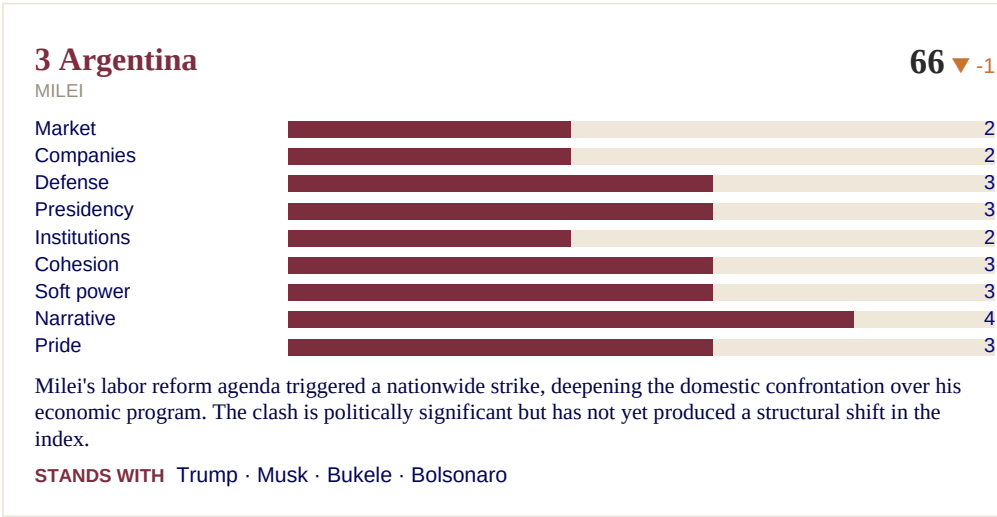
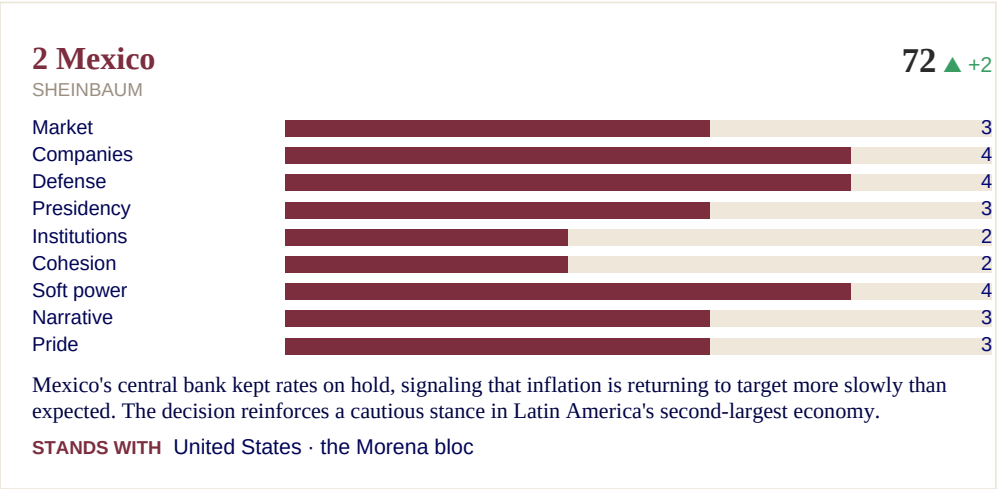
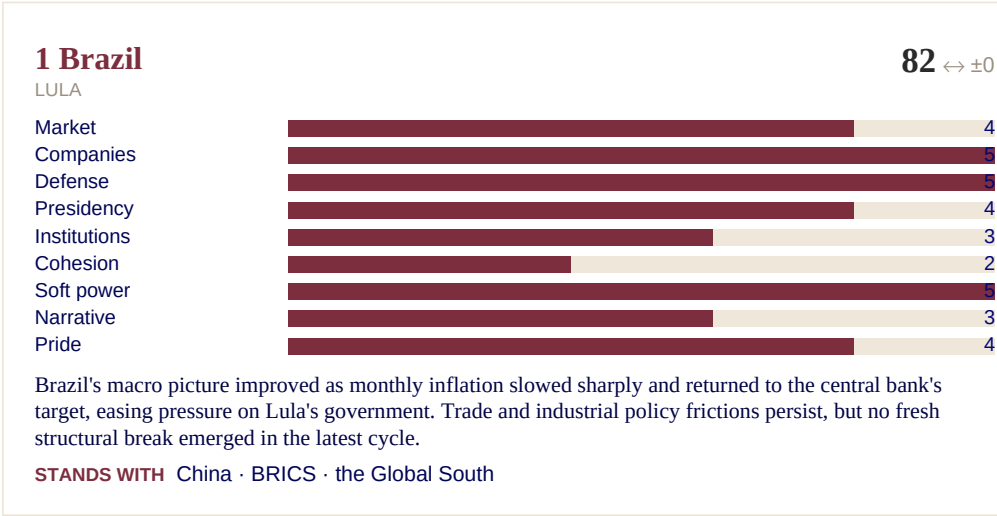
SINCE YESTERDAY The board's biggest change is Colombia's inauguration of Abelardo De La Espriella, a structural political shift that resets Bogotá's alignment. Elsewhere, Argentina's labor confrontation and Mexico's rate hold added pressure but did not alter structural scores.

#	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			inflation fell to 0.07% in July and returned to target
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			Banxico held its benchmark rate at 6.50%
3	Argentina MILEI	66 ▼ -1			a nationwide union strike confronted Milei's labor reform push
4	Chile KAST	65 ▼ -2			Kast's pro-investment economic reform bill cleared a key congressional hurdle
5	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	56 ▲ +2			a new right-wing president took office with a hard-security and austerity agenda
6	Costa Rica CHAVES	56 ↔ ±0			no Costa Rica-specific development in the last 24 hours
7	Uruguay ORSI	50 ▲ +1			no Uruguay-specific development in the last 24 hours
8	Panama MULINO	46 ▲ +1			no reliable Panama-specific development in the last 24 hours
9	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	46 ▼ -2			no Peru-specific development in the last 24 hours
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	40 ▼ -1			no Cuba-specific development in the last 24 hours
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ↔ ±0			no Ecuador-specific development in the last 24 hours
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			no Paraguay-specific development in the last 24 hours
13	Venezuela MADURO	28 ▼ -2			no Venezuela-specific development in the last 24 hours
14	Bolivia ARCE	21 ▲ +2			no Bolivia-specific development 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.

5 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

56

▲ +2

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

Colombia inaugurated Abelerdo De La Espriella as president, ushering in a hard-right administration focused on security and fiscal discipline. The transition represents a genuine structural political shift for the country.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

6 Costa Rica

CHAVES

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

56

↔ ±0

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

The supplied search set includes no Costa Rica-specific headline from the last 24 hours. No structural shift can be confirmed.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

7 Uruguay

ORSI

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

50

▲ +1

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

The provided results contain no Uruguay-specific political or economic headline from the last 24 hours. No structural shift can be confirmed.

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

8 Panama

MULINO

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

46

▲ +1

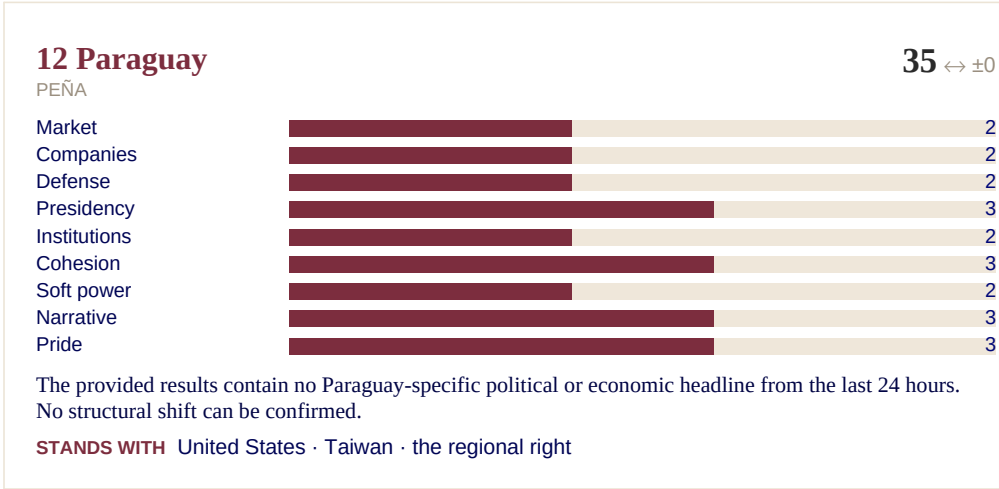
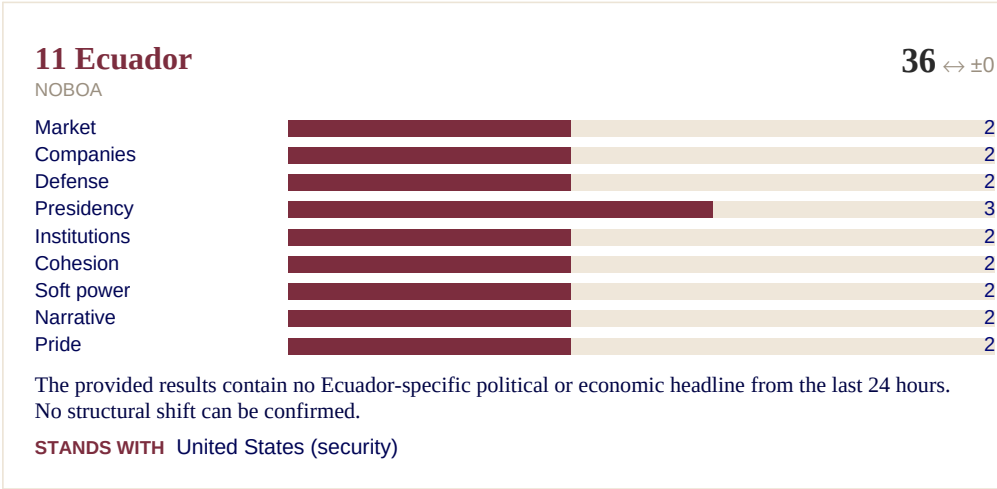
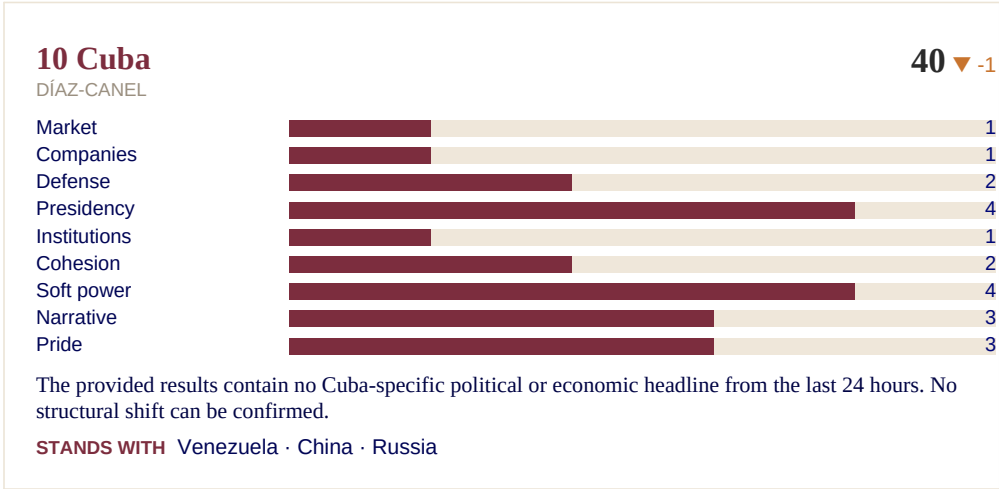
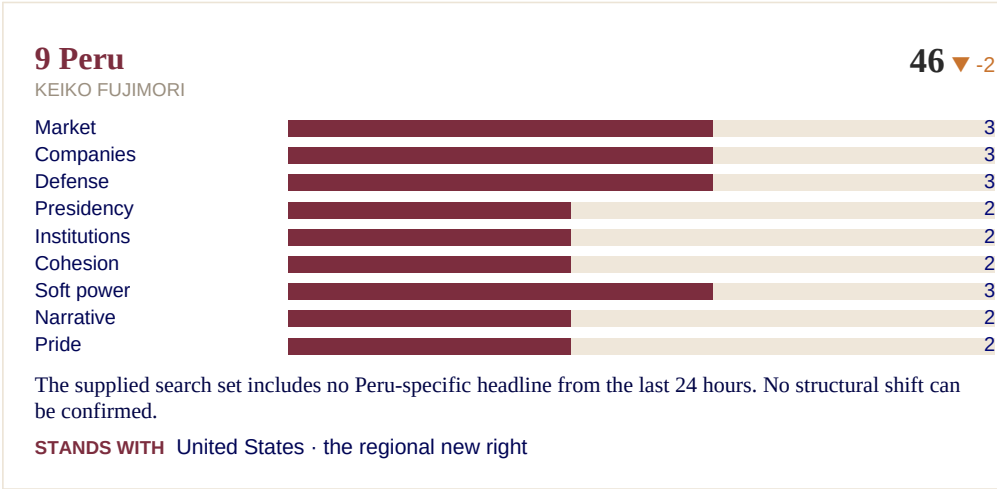
Market		2
Companies		3
Defense		1
Presidency		3
Institutions		3
Cohesion		3
Soft power		4
Narrative		3
Pride		4

The provided sources contain no Panama-specific political or economic headline from the last 24 hours. No structural shift can be confirmed.

STANDS WITH United States (tense) · Mercosur

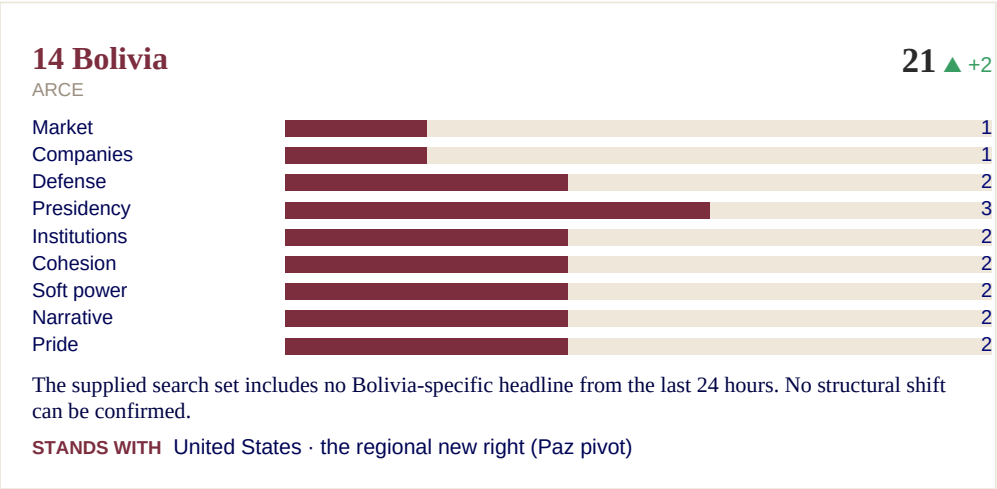
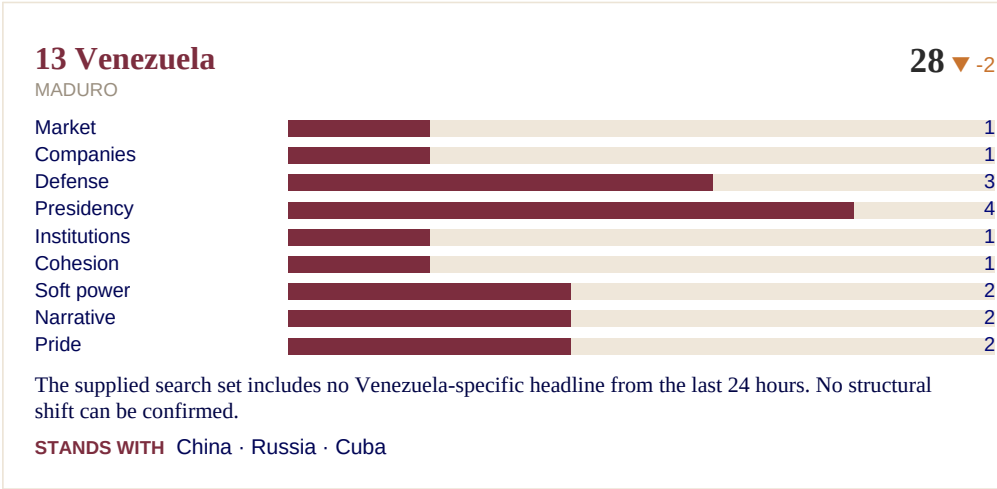
Country power profiles

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	Uruguay	no Uruguay-specific development in the last 24 hours
+3	Colombia	a new right-wing president took office with a hard-security and austerity agenda
+2	Panama	no reliable Panama-specific development in the last 24 hours
+2	Paraguay	no Paraguay-specific development in the last 24 hours

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Argentina	a nationwide union strike confronted Milei's labor reform push
-3	Venezuela	no Venezuela-specific development in the last 24 hours
-2	Chile	Kast's pro-investment economic reform bill cleared a key congressional hurdle
-2	Costa Rica	no Costa Rica-specific development in the last 24 hours
-2	Peru	no Peru-specific development in the last 24 hours
-1	Cuba	no Cuba-specific development 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	167,491	5.18	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,861	17.1	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,492	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	913	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,139	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	—	766	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,840	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.37	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