

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	▲ Peru +2	▼ Uruguay -2	▲ Cuba +2
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Latin America's power map shifted only at the margins on Friday: Milei locked in a structural labour overhaul, and Colombia installed a hardline new president promising austerity. Elsewhere, the region idled through a quiet news day with rate pauses, cooling inflation, and routine fiscal mechanics.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	70	▼
3	Argentina	68	▲

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.

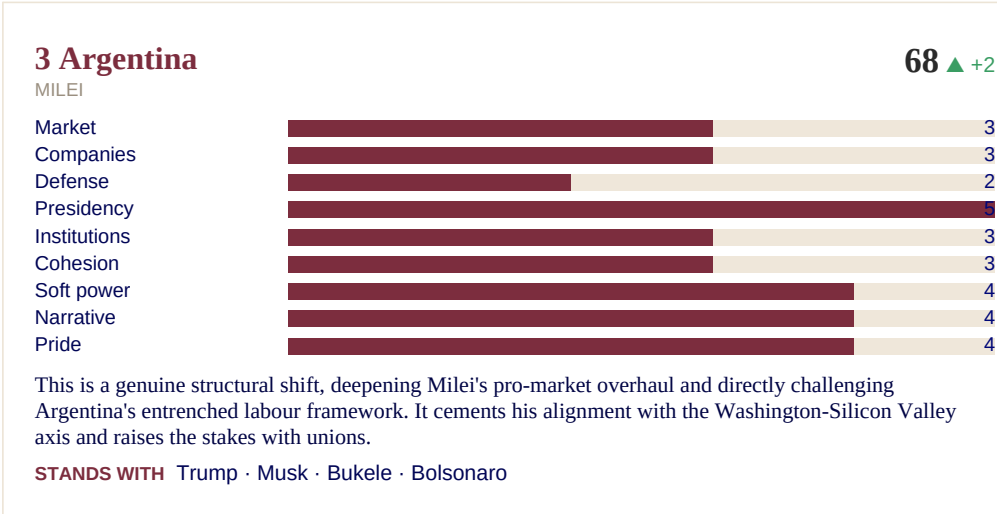
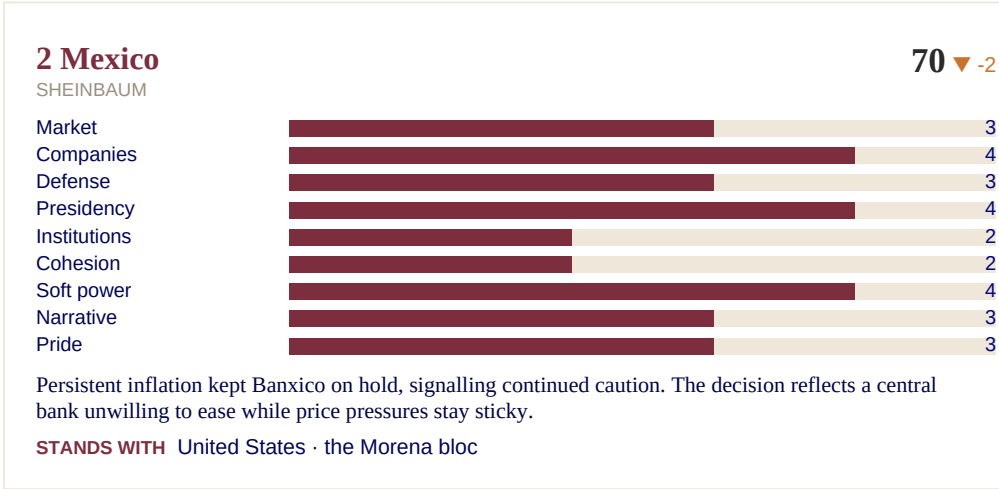
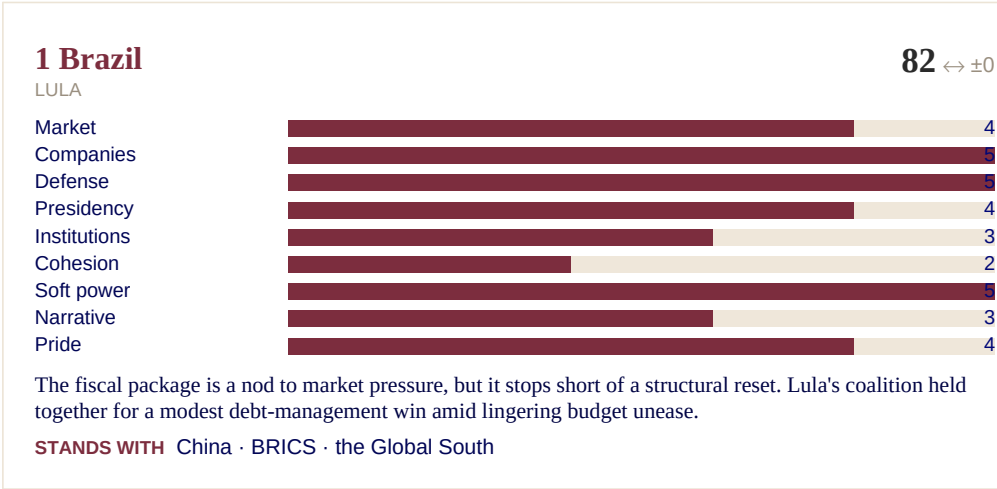
SINCE YESTERDAY Board positions held largely stable. Argentina and Colombia registered the only structural moves — a labour reform and a presidential inauguration — while Brazil's fiscal tweak and Mexico's rate hold read as maintenance rather than rupture.

#	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			Congress approved spending-control mechanisms aimed at reining in debt.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	70 ▼ -2			The central bank held its benchmark rate at 6.50%, extending its pause.
3	Argentina MILEI	68 ▲ +2			Milei signed a labour reform changing rules on contracts, strikes, and severance.
4	Chile KAST	64 ▼ -1			July CPI showed sharply cooling inflation ahead of the next rate decision.
5	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	56 ↔ ±0			New president Abelardo De La Espriella took office pledging tougher security and austerity.
6	Costa Rica CHAVES ROBLES	55 ▼ -1			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	48 ▲ +2			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
8	Uruguay ORSI	48 ▼ -2			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
9	Panama MULINO	45 ▼ -1			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ▲ +2			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	37 ▲ +1			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
13	Venezuela MADURO	30 ▲ +2			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
14	Bolivia ARCE	20 ▼ -1			No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.

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

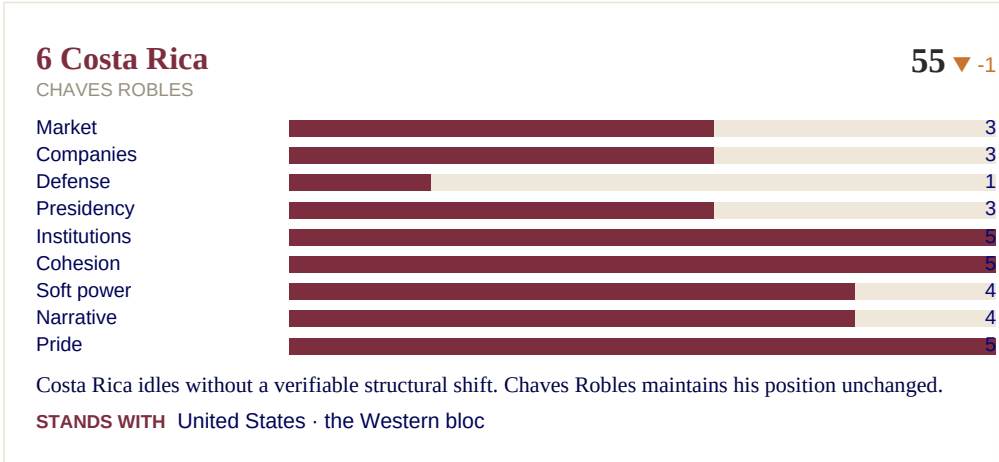
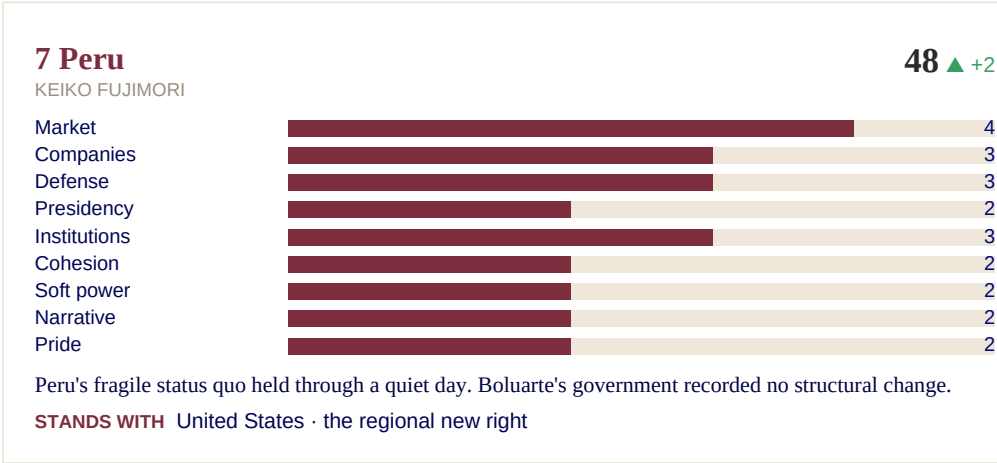
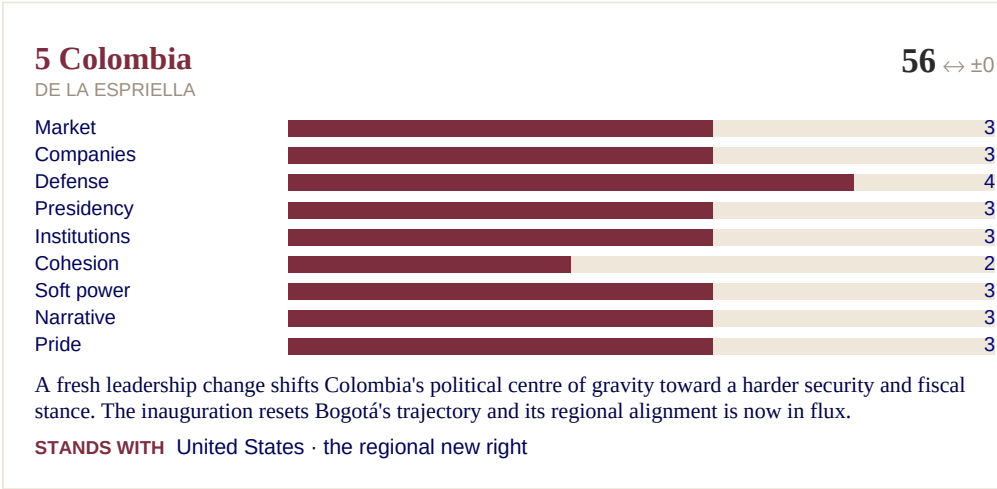
Country power profiles

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



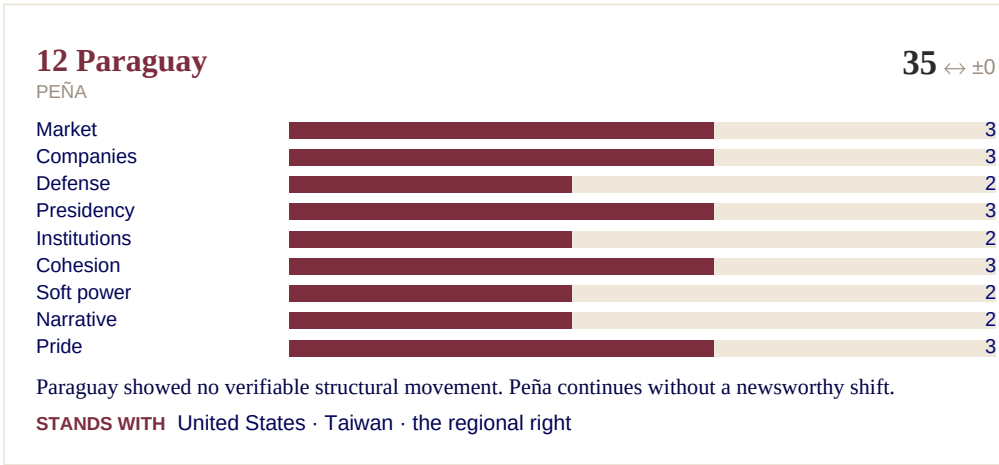
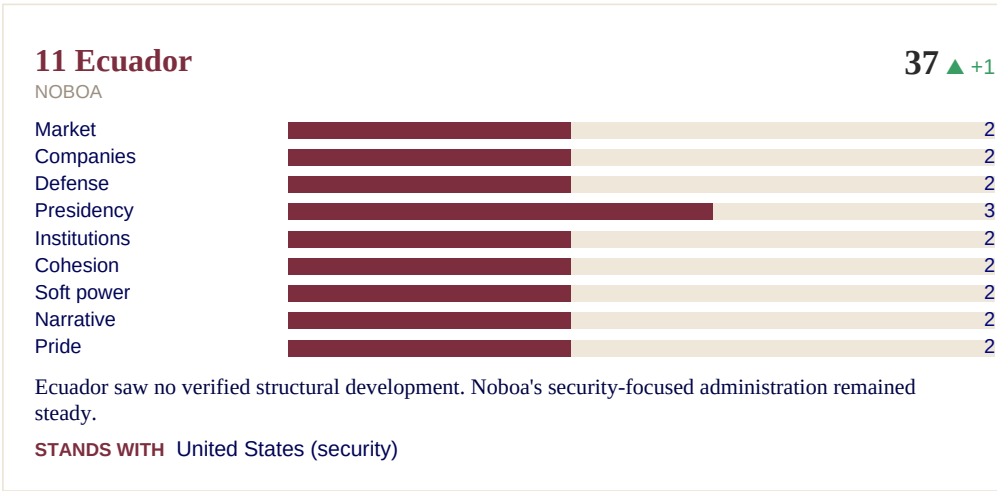
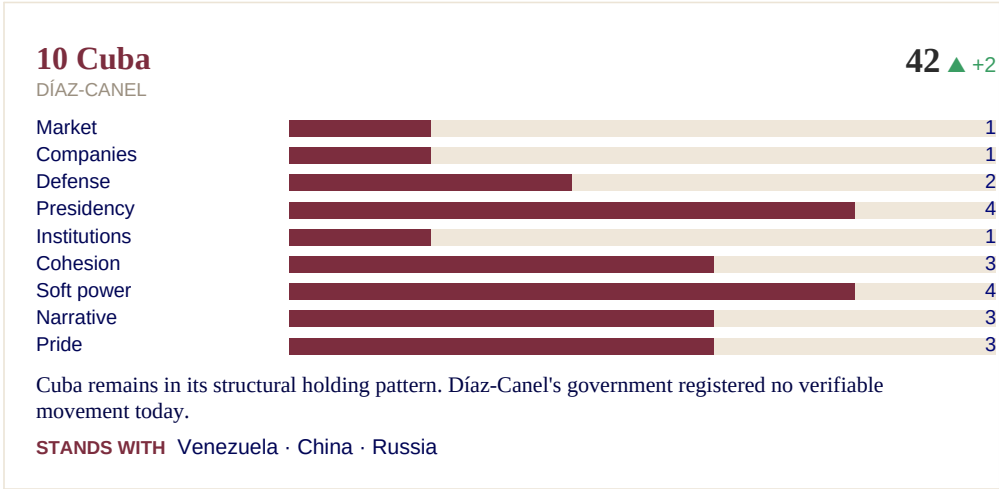
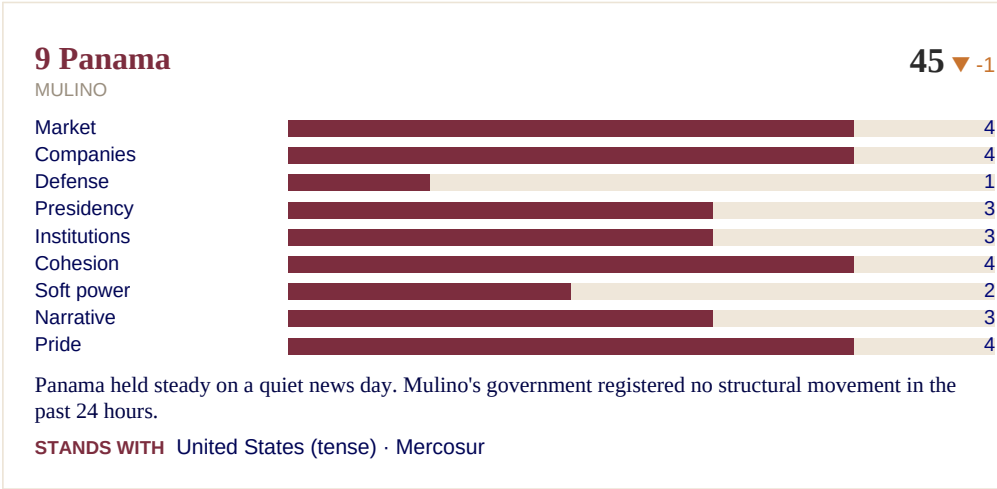
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How each nation's nine powers stack up — 2 of 4.



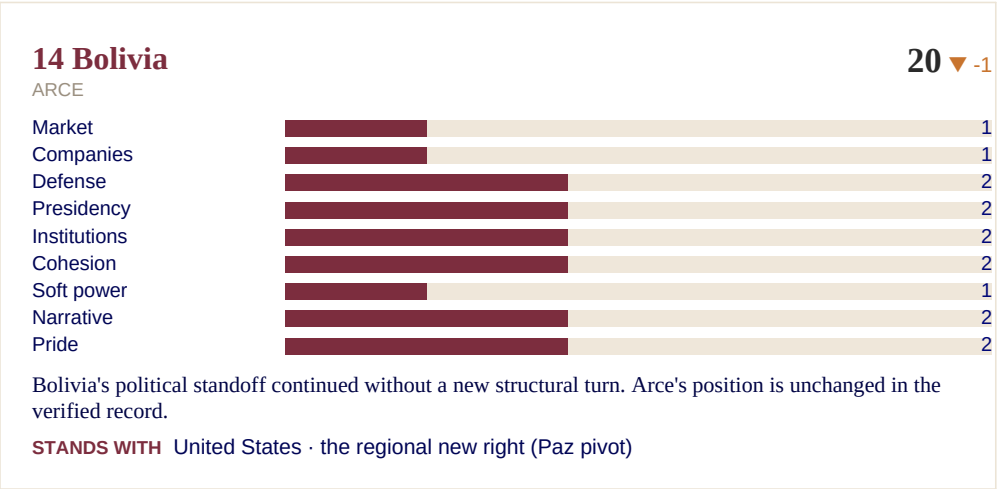
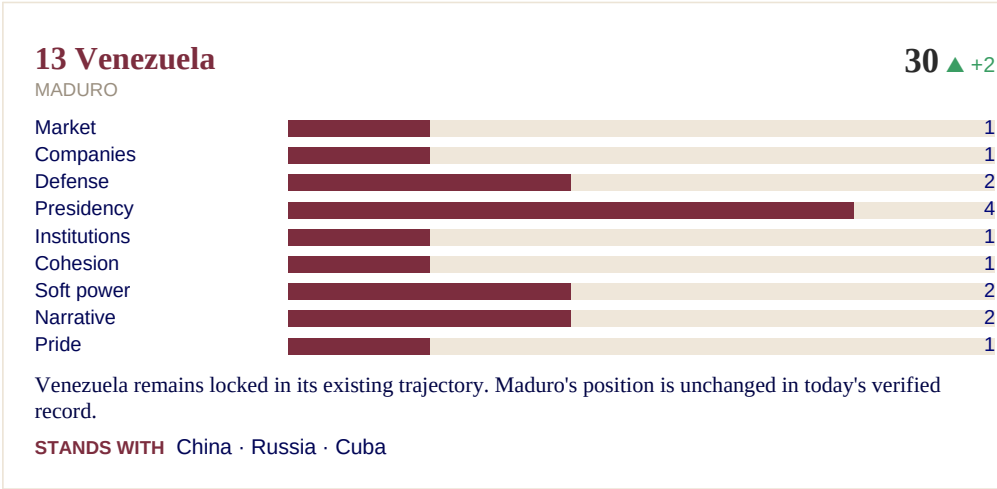
Country power profiles

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	Panama	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
+1	Argentina	Milei signed a labour reform changing rules on contracts, strikes, and severance.
+1	Colombia	New president Abelardo De La Espriella took office pledging tougher security and austerity.
+1	Ecuador	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Chile	July CPI showed sharply cooling inflation ahead of the next rate decision.
-2	Mexico	The central bank held its benchmark rate at 6.50%, extending its pause.
-2	Peru	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
-2	Venezuela	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
-1	Costa Rica	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.
-1	Bolivia	No major last-24-hours political or economic development verified.

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



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	167,101	5.19	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,336	17.0	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,492	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	914	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,117	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	447	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.3	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	770	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,935	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	—	11.6	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