

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	▼ Colombia -2	▲ Peru +2	▲ Venezuela +2
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A quiet Saturday in Latin America, with the region's most consequential signals coming from Brazil's tightening presidential race and Argentina's continued policy experimentation. Most of the hemisphere is in a holding pattern, while Mexico consolidates its diplomatic and monetary posture.

STRONGEST TODAY

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

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	34	▼
13	Venezuela	32	▲
14	Bolivia	20	↔

The Power Board

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

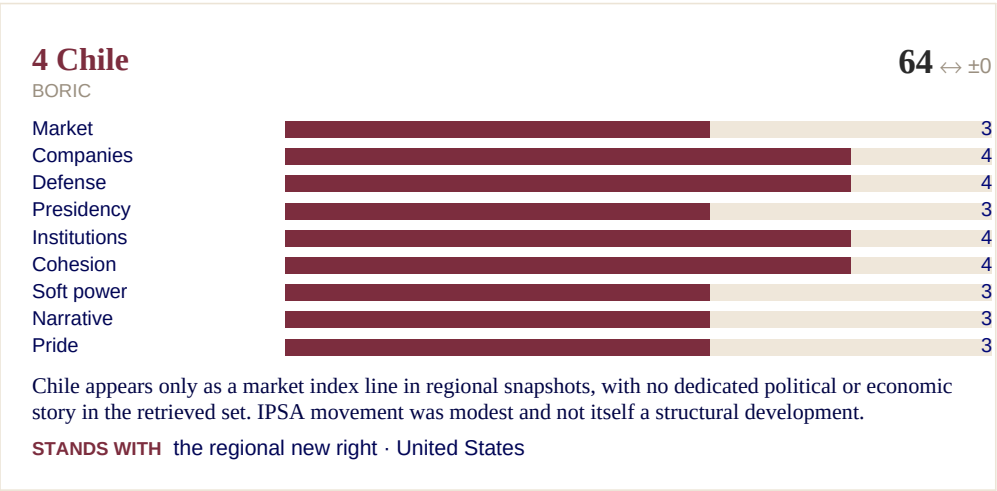
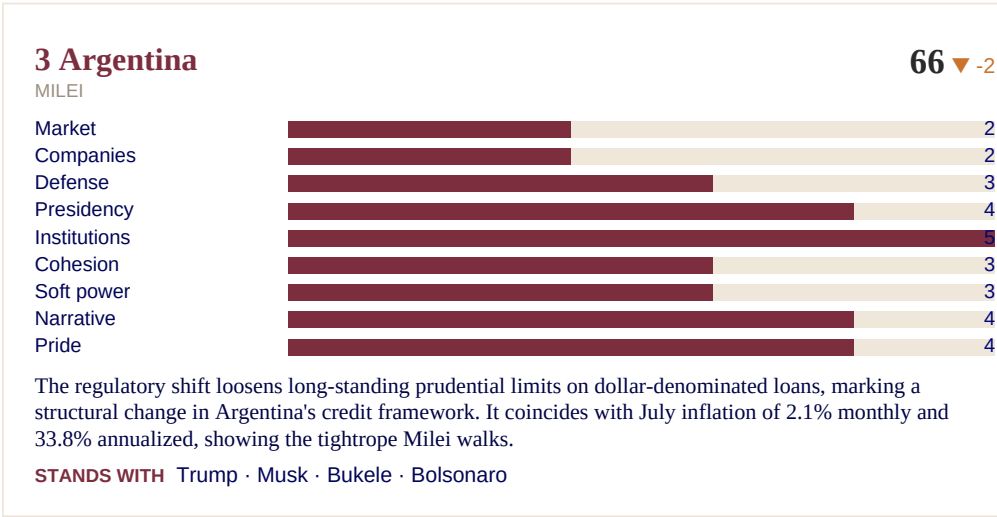
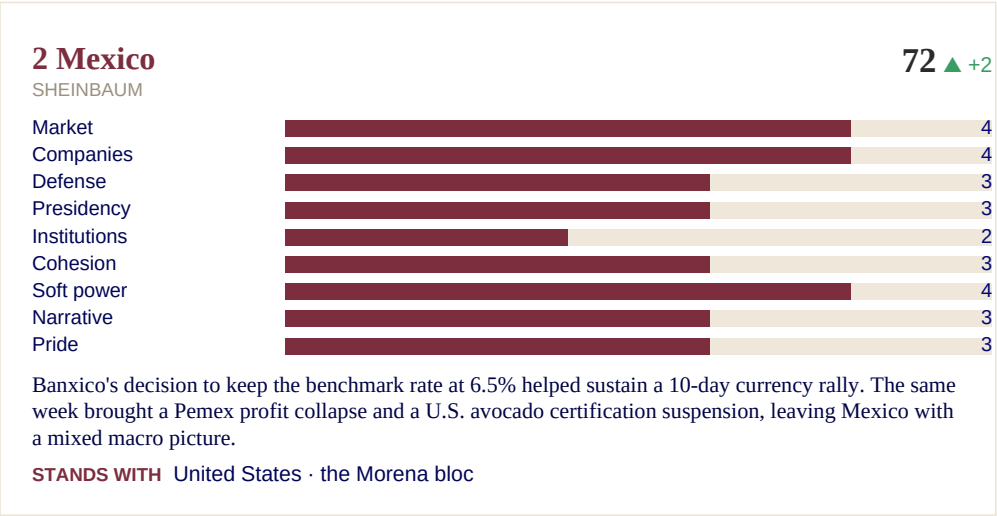
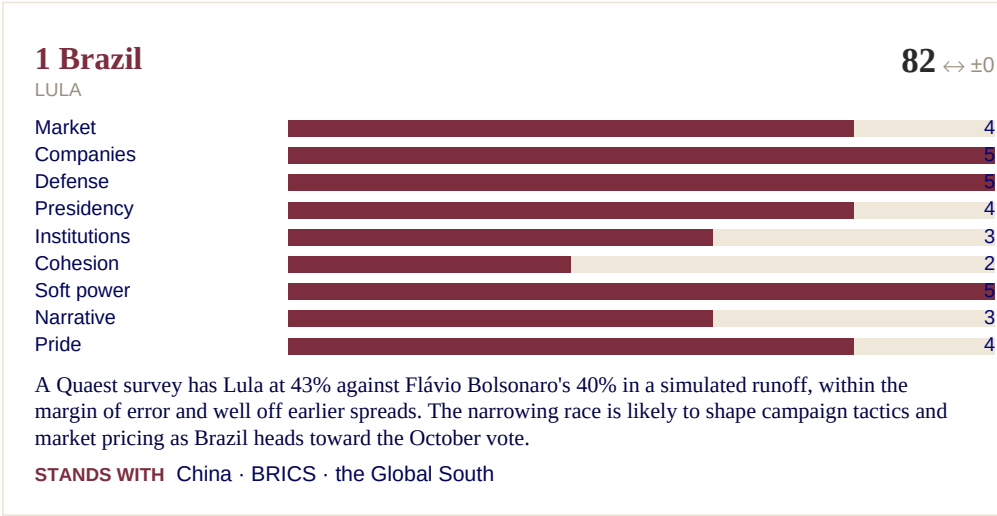
SINCE YESTERDAY The biggest moves since yesterday are a Quaest poll showing a near-tie between Lula and Flávio Bolsonaro in Brazil, and Milei's easing of dollar-lending rules in Argentina. Mexico's rate hold and diplomatic thaw with Peru also stand out.

#	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			a new poll shows the 2026 presidential race tightening to a near-tie
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			the central bank held rates and the peso extended a rally to its strongest since February
3	Argentina MILEI	66 ▼ -2			the government eased post-2001 restrictions on dollar lending to revive credit
4	Chile BORIC	64 ↔ ±0			no specific Chile development in the last day's verified news
5	Costa Rica CHAVES	55 ↔ ±0			no Costa Rica-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▼ -2			no Colombia-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	50 ▲ +2			Mexico and Peru agreed to restore diplomatic relations severed months earlier
8	Uruguay LACALLE POU	47 ▼ -1			no Uruguay-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
9	Panama MULINO	46 ▲ +1			no Panama-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	41 ▼ -1			no Cuba-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ▼ -1			no Ecuador-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
12	Paraguay PEÑA	34 ▼ -1			no Paraguay-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
13	Venezuela MADURO	32 ▲ +2			no Venezuela-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
14	Bolivia ARCE	20 ↔ ±0			no Bolivia-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage

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 Costa Rica

CHAVES

55 ↔ ±0

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

The provided snippets do not contain dedicated Costa Rica coverage for the relevant dates, leaving the country without a verified last-24-hours development.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

6 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

54 ▼ -2

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

The COLCAP index appears in the regional market snapshot but without any political or macro story attached. There is no identifiable structural shift for Colombia in the verified material.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

7 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

50 ▲ +2

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

The normalization follows the safe-passage resolution of asylum issues between the two countries, restoring a previously cut bilateral channel. It is a diplomatic shift with regional implications, though not a domestic institutional change in Peru.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

LACALLE POU

47 ▼ -1

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

No Uruguay political or economic news appears in the retrieved snippets, so nothing rises to the level of a single most important development.

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

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

3

4

2

3

3

4

3

3

3

46

▲ +1

The verified sources do not include a Panama-focused story for this window, so no single development can be credibly highlighted.

STANDS WITH United States (tense) · Mercosur

10 Cuba

DÍAZ-CANEL

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

2

2

4

4

3

4

3

3

4

41

▼ -1

No Cuba political or macroeconomic story appears in the provided material, so no daily development can be credibly named.

STANDS WITH Venezuela · China · Russia

11 Ecuador

NOBOA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

2

2

3

2

3

2

2

2

2

36

▼ -1

The verified sources include no Ecuador-focused news for this window, so the day's most important development cannot be identified.

STANDS WITH United States (security)

12 Paraguay

PEÑA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

2

2

2

3

2

3

2

2

3

34

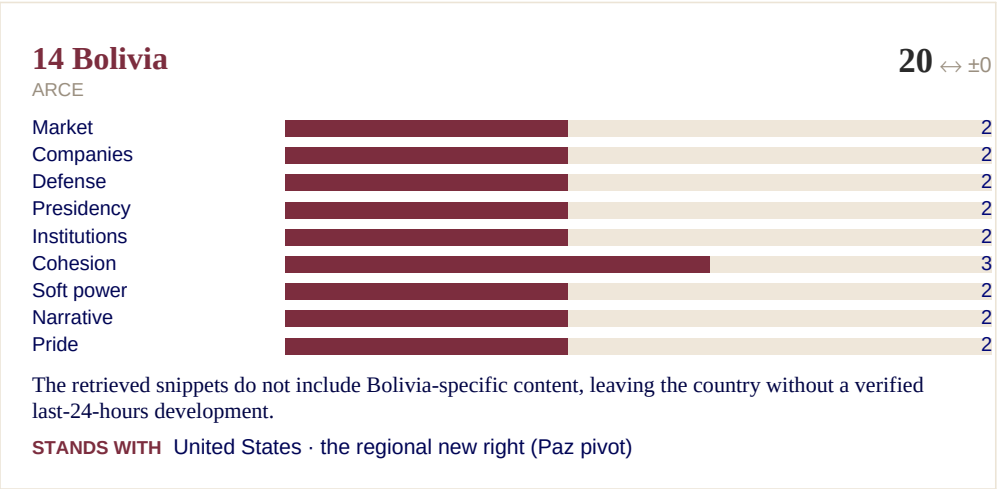
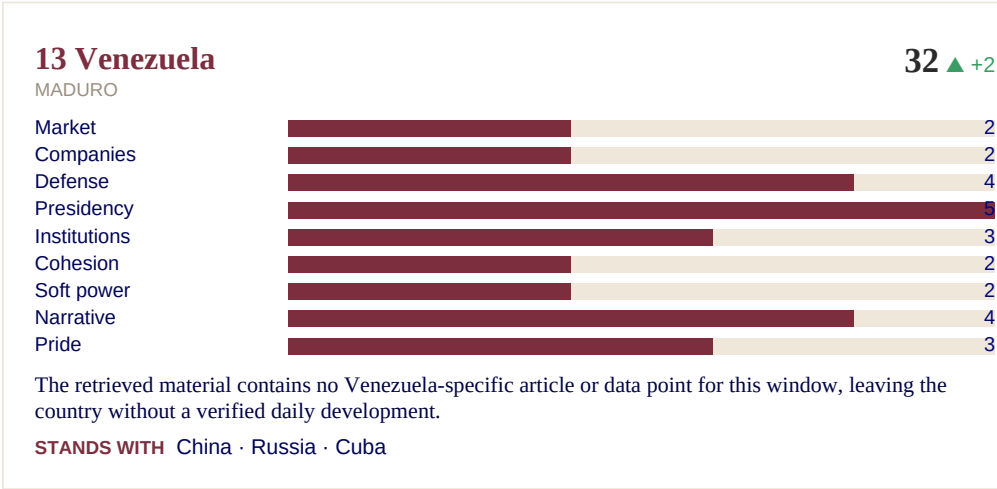
▼ -1

No Paraguay-focused source appears in the snippets for Aug 14-15, so no single development can be identified.

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

+2	Venezuela	no Venezuela-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
+1	Brazil	a new poll shows the 2026 presidential race tightening to a near-tie
+1	Mexico	the central bank held rates and the peso extended a rally to its strongest since February
+1	Peru	Mexico and Peru agreed to restore diplomatic relations severed months earlier
+1	Panama	no Panama-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Argentina	the government eased post-2001 restrictions on dollar lending to revive credit
-1	Chile	no specific Chile development in the last day's verified news
-1	Costa Rica	no Costa Rica-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
-1	Ecuador	no Ecuador-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage
-1	Paraguay	no Paraguay-specific development in the retrieved last-day coverage

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	166,934	5.21	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	64,574	17.0	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,488	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	914	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,141	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	446	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.3	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	772	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,984	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	—	11.5	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