

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▼ Colombia -2	▼ Ecuador -2	▼ Brazil -1	▼ Chile -1	▼ Costa Rica -1
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Latin America's pulse this Wednesday is set by institutional and fiscal fine-tuning rather than rupture. Colombia's constitutional court locks in a pension overhaul, while Brazil posts strong revenue and Peña pitches Paraguay as a logistics hub.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	▼
2	Mexico	72	↔
3	Argentina	67	↔

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	▼
13	Venezuela	31	▼
14	Bolivia	20	▼

The Power Board

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

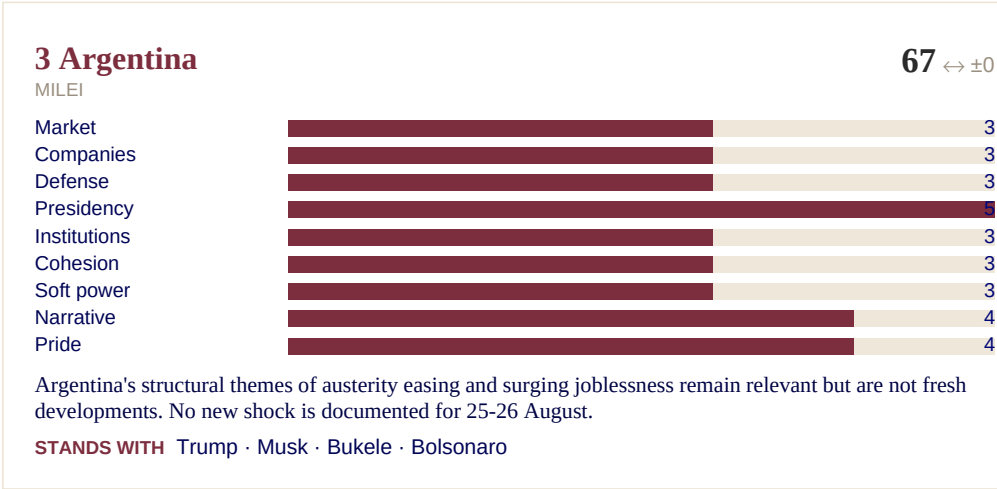
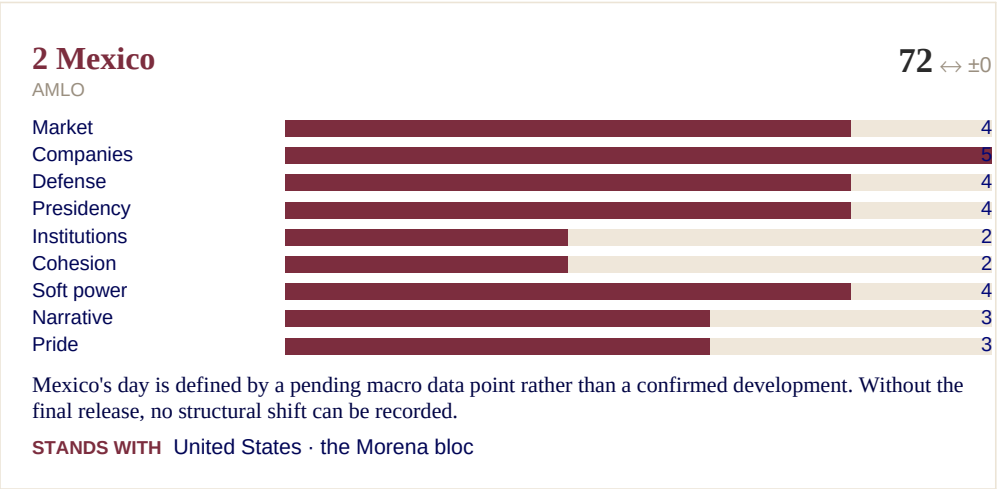
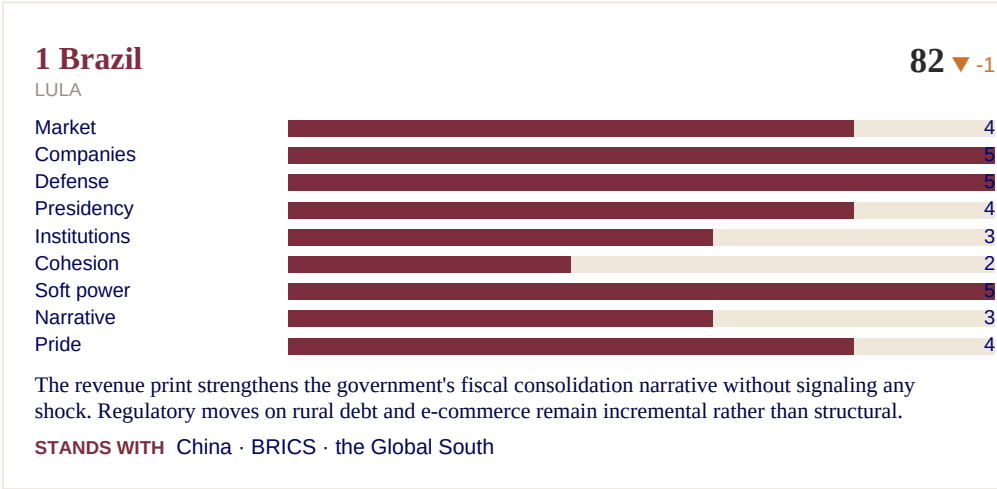
SINCE YESTERDAY The board shifted inside Colombia, where the Constitutional Court largely upheld Petro's pension reform, a structural institutional win with long-term fiscal reach. Elsewhere the day was quiet, with only incremental policy and data signals from Brazil, Panama, and Paraguay.

#	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			federal revenue rose 8.97% in July to R\$289.3 billion, a solid macro-fiscal data point
2	Mexico AMLO	72 ↔ ±0			Q2 current account data was scheduled for release but no final figure appeared in the retrieved material
3	Argentina MILEI	67 ↔ ±0			the retrieved material on Milei's policy pivot and rising unemployment dates from mid-August, not the last 24 hours
4	Chile BORIC	65 ▼ -1			no Chile-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
5	Costa Rica CHAVES	56 ▼ -1			no Costa Rica-specific development from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved snippets
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▼ -2			the Constitutional Court upheld most of Petro's pension reform while sending key provisions back to Congress
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	49 ▼ -1			no Peru-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
8	Uruguay LACALLE POU	47 ▼ -1			no Uruguay-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
9	Panama MULINO	44 ▼ -1			the government halted the legislative project to tax digital-economy services with ITBMS
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	43 ▲ +1			no Cuba-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ▼ -2			no Ecuador-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	35 ▼ -1			Peña launched a new development strategy to position Paraguay as a regional logistics leader
13	Venezuela MADURO	31 ▼ -1			no Venezuela-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
14	Bolivia ARCE	20 ▼ -1			no Bolivia-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results

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

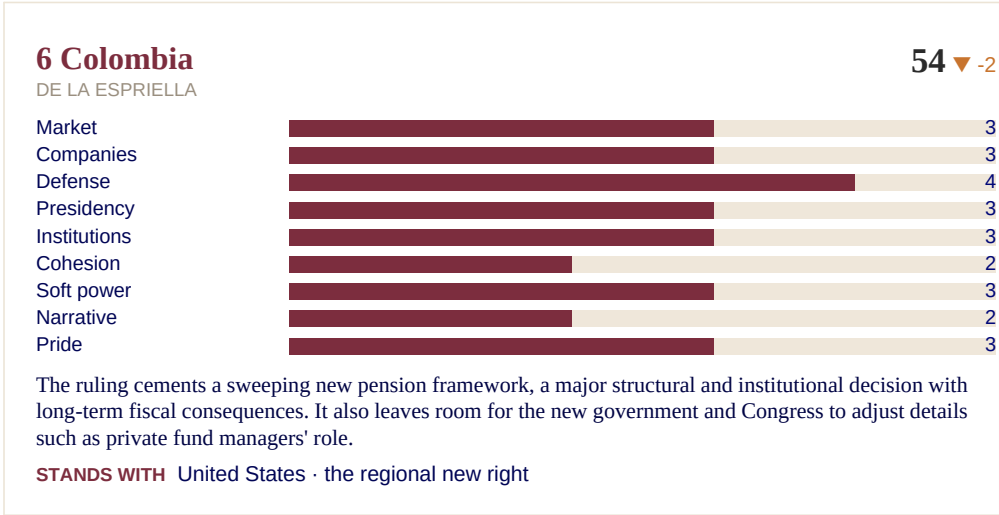
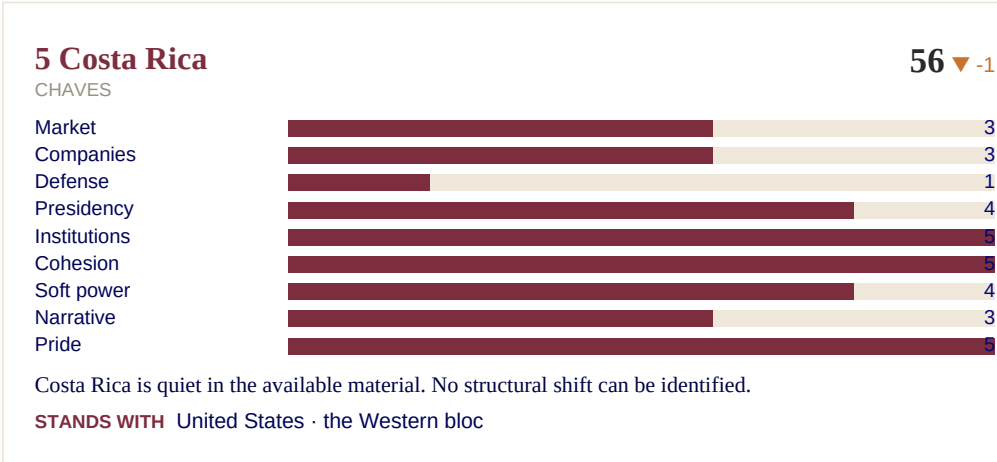
Country power profiles

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



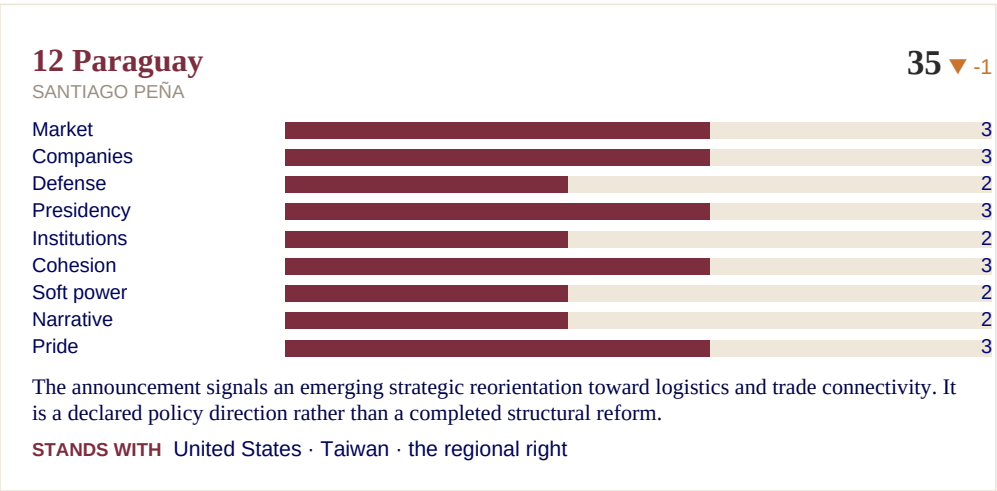
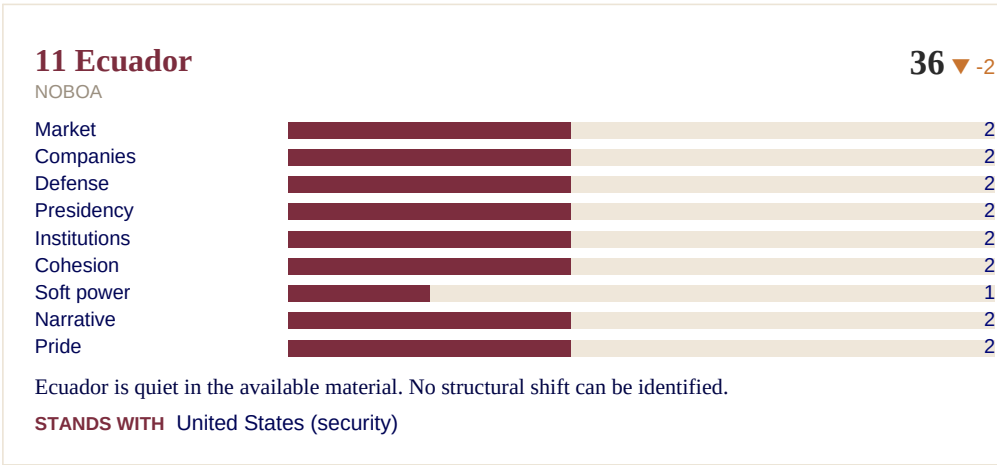
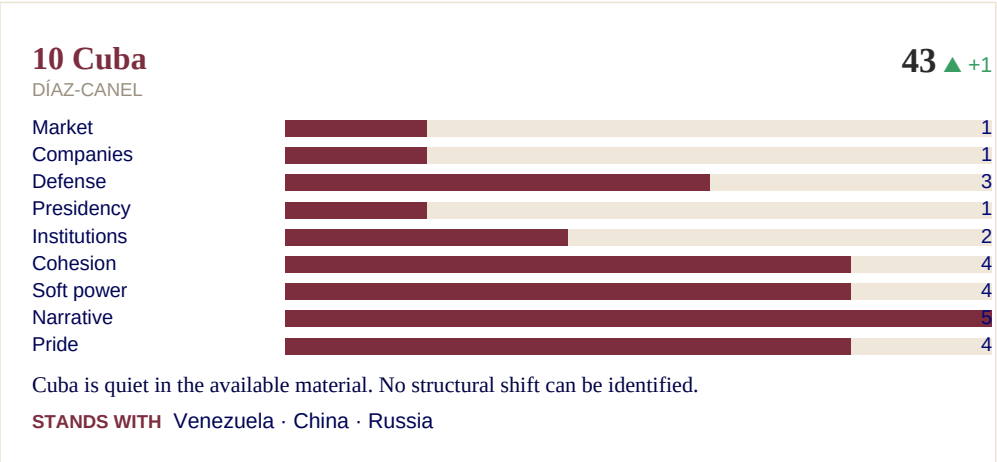
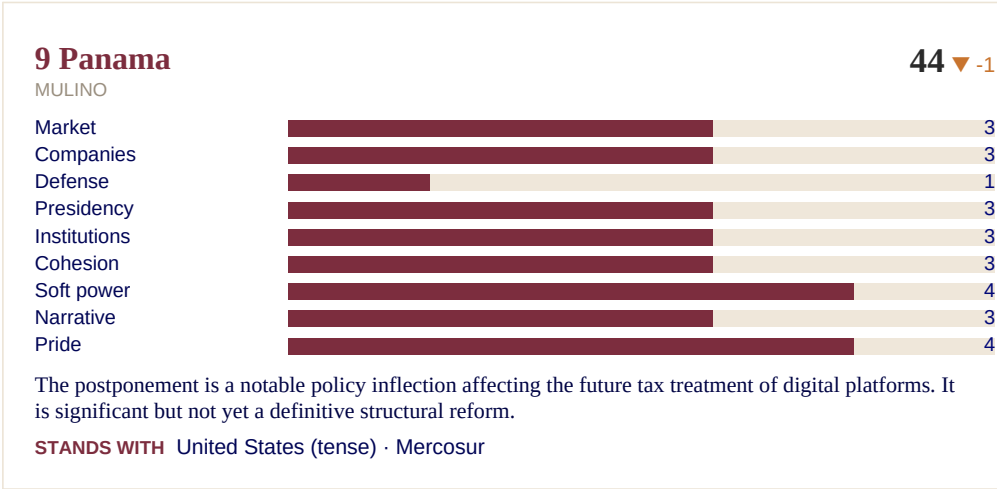
Country power profiles

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



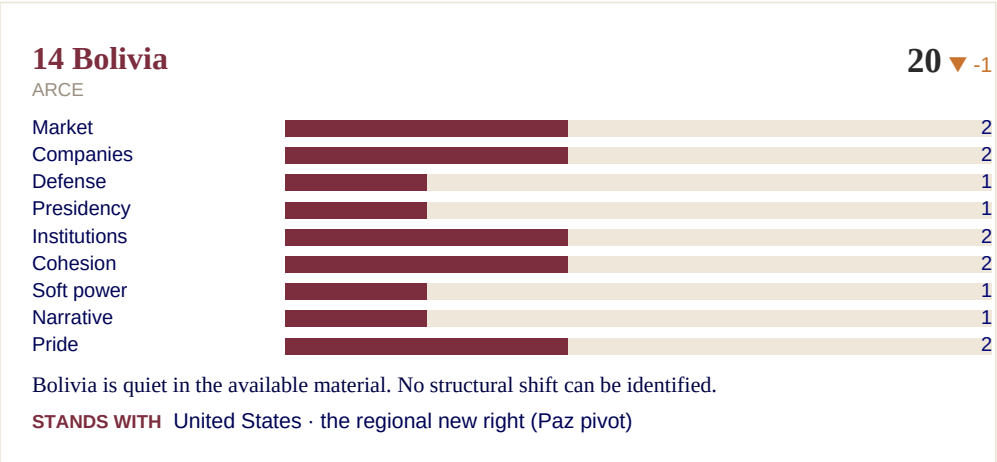
Country power profiles

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



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	Cuba	no Cuba-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
+1	Argentina	the retrieved material on Milei's policy pivot and rising unemployment dates from mid-August, not the last 24 hours
+1	Chile	no Chile-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
+1	Venezuela	no Venezuela-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results

▼ LOSING POWER

-3	Colombia	the Constitutional Court upheld most of Petro's pension reform while sending key provisions back to Congress
-3	Panama	the government halted the legislative project to tax digital-economy services with ITBMS
-3	Ecuador	no Ecuador-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
-1	Mexico	Q2 current account data was scheduled for release but no final figure appeared in the retrieved material
-1	Peru	no Peru-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results
-1	Uruguay	no Uruguay-specific item from the last 24 hours appears in the retrieved results

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	174,577	5.15	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,523	16.9	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,512	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	913	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,084	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	441	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.6	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	787	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,968	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.35	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