

Latin America Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▼ Argentina -2	▲ Colombia +2	▼ Uruguay -2	▼ Ecuador -2	▼ Venezuela -2
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Latin America's weekend pulse is uneven: Colombia posts the only true regime-level break with a new president already pushing austerity and security crackdowns, while Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Chile log policy and macro developments rather than structural shifts. Across the rest of the region, the last 24 hours are too quiet or under-reported to responsibly name a fresh event.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	74	▲
3	Argentina	67	▼

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	↔
13	Venezuela	32	▼
14	Bolivia	21	▼

The Power Board

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

SINCE YESTERDAY The board shows no newly verified structural movement beyond Colombia's presidential change, already reflected in the country rankings rather than in gaining or losing. Other reported items are trend-level or routine, so today's gaining and losing lists remain empty.

#	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			October's election is centering on competing borrowing-cost and fiscal plans.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	74 ▲ +1			Sheinbaum cited July inflation of 3.12% and quarterly GDP growth of 1.5%.
3	Argentina MILEI	67 ▼ -2			Economists are cutting growth forecasts and saying the recovery is losing momentum.
4	Chile KAST	64 ↔ ±0			Congress had already approved Kast's sweeping tax and growth reform package.
5	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	58 ▲ +2			The new president took office on 7 August and is already pushing fiscal austerity, security crackdowns, and pro-investment reforms.
6	Costa Rica FERNÁNDEZ DELGADO	56 ▲ +1			Rising security pressures, hostility toward the judiciary, and Rodrigo Chaves's growing weight around the government.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	50 ▼ -1			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
8	Uruguay ORSI	48 ▼ -2			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
9	Panama MULINO	45 ▼ -1			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ▲ +1			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	37 ▼ -2			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	35 ↔ ±0			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
13	Venezuela MADURO	32 ▼ -2			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
14	Bolivia ARCE	21 ▼ -1			No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.

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.

1 Brazil

LULA

82 ↔ ±0

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

Reuters reports investors remain worried about rising public debt and long-term interest rates as the election debate sharpens around fiscal policy. This is campaign-season positioning, not a sudden regime or market break.

STANDS WITH China · BRICS · the Global South

2 Mexico

SHEINBAUM

74 ▲ +1

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

The president said Mexico is 'going well' ahead of her Sept. 1 report, using standard macro data to frame the government's record. This is a routine economic update rather than a new policy shock.

STANDS WITH United States · the Morena bloc

3 Argentina

MILEI

67 ▼ -2

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

Fresh reporting highlights warnings that Argentina's rebound is slowing, with downgraded expectations for coming quarters. This is a deterioration in sentiment and trend, not a structural break.

STANDS WITH Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro

4 Chile

KAST

64 ↔ ±0

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

The reform passage earlier in August marks a major policy victory for the government, though no new shift occurred in the last 24 hours. The package's effects are still working through the economy.

STANDS WITH the regional new right · United States

Country power profiles

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

5 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

58▲+2

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

This is a genuine structural shift after the election produced a break with the prior administration. The early agenda signals a sharp turn toward spending discipline and a tougher security posture.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

6 Costa Rica

FERNÁNDEZ DELGADO

56▲+1

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

A recent profile highlights institutional tension, but this is not a regime change or structural break. The dynamics bear watching for further erosion of judicial independence.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

7 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

50▼-1

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

The desk lacks fresh verified material for Peru today. No structural change is recorded.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

ORSI

48▼-2

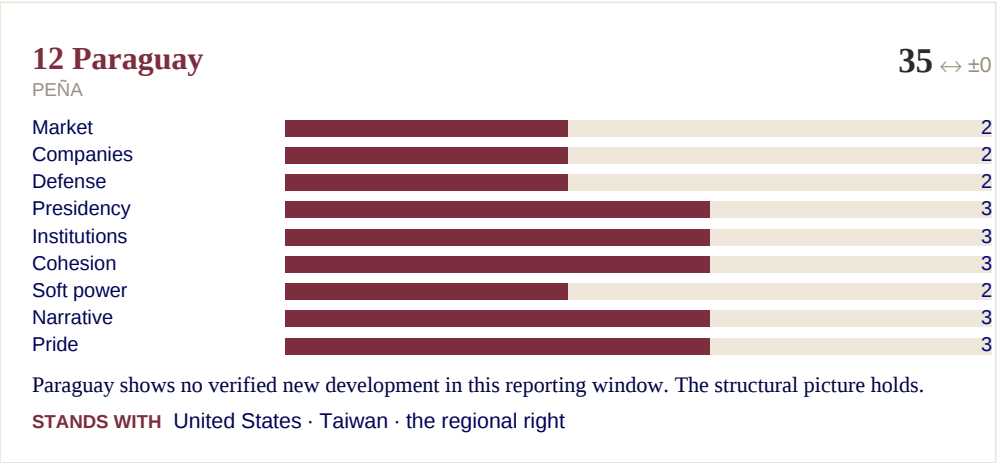
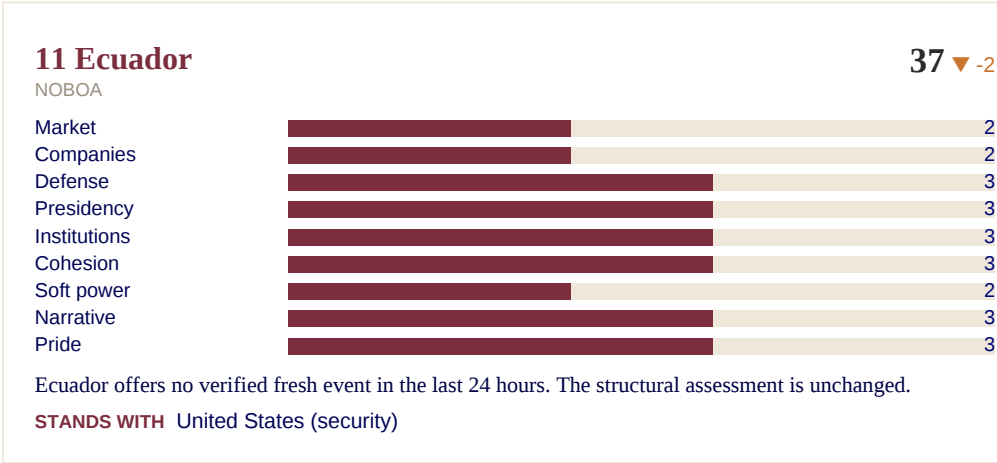
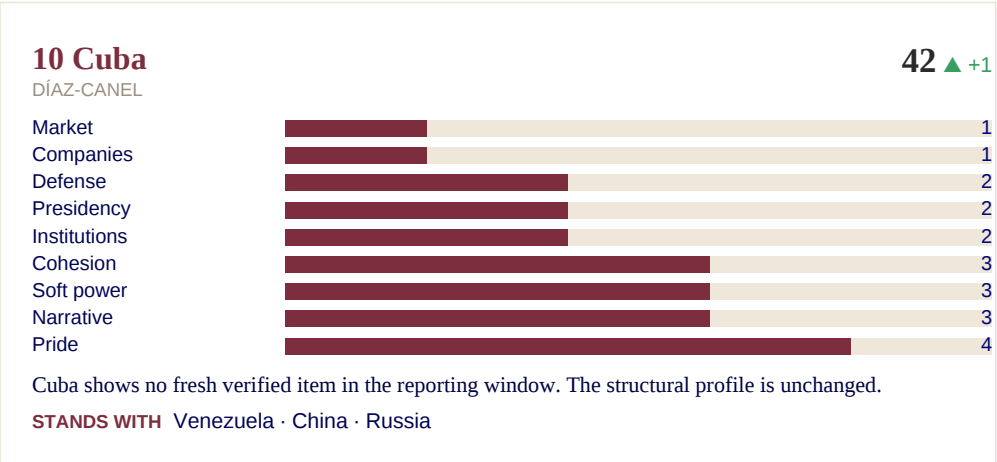
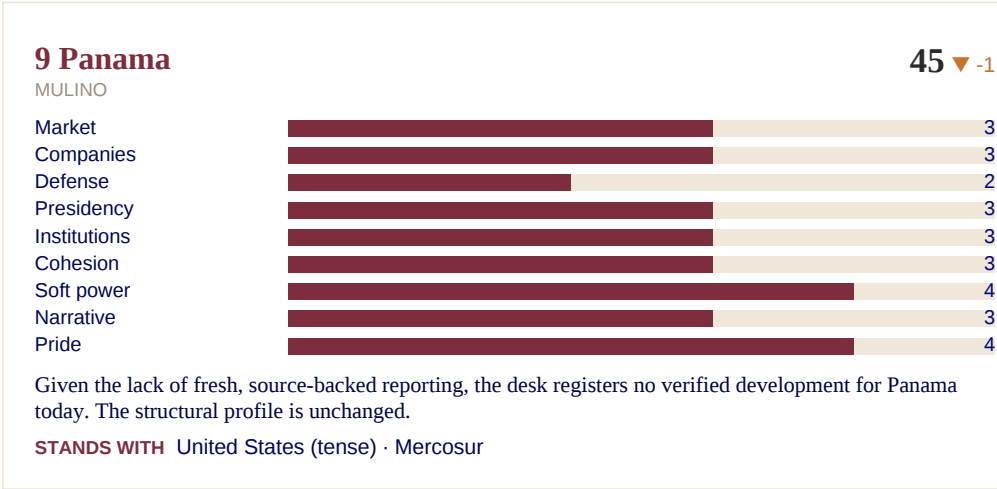
Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		2
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		4
Soft power		3
Narrative		4
Pride		4

The desk has no verified fresh event for Uruguay in this window. The country's structural position remains as previously assessed.

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

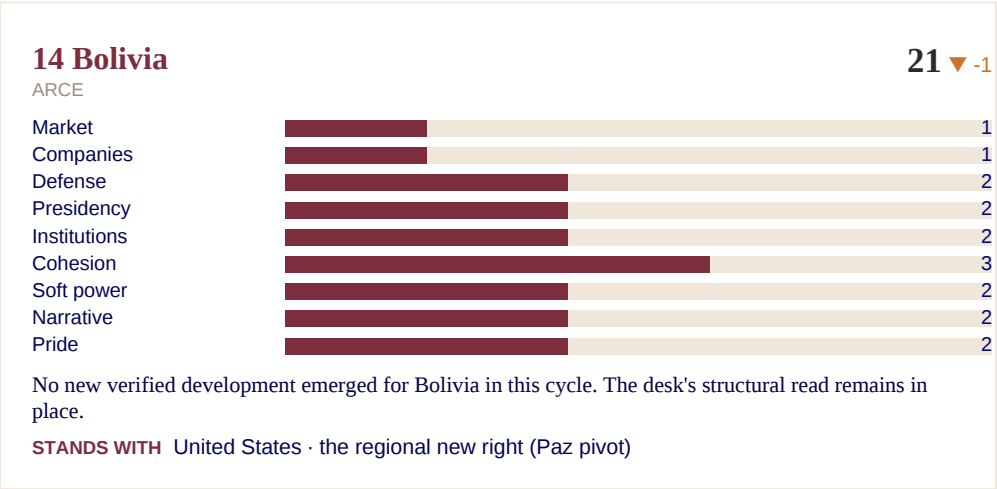
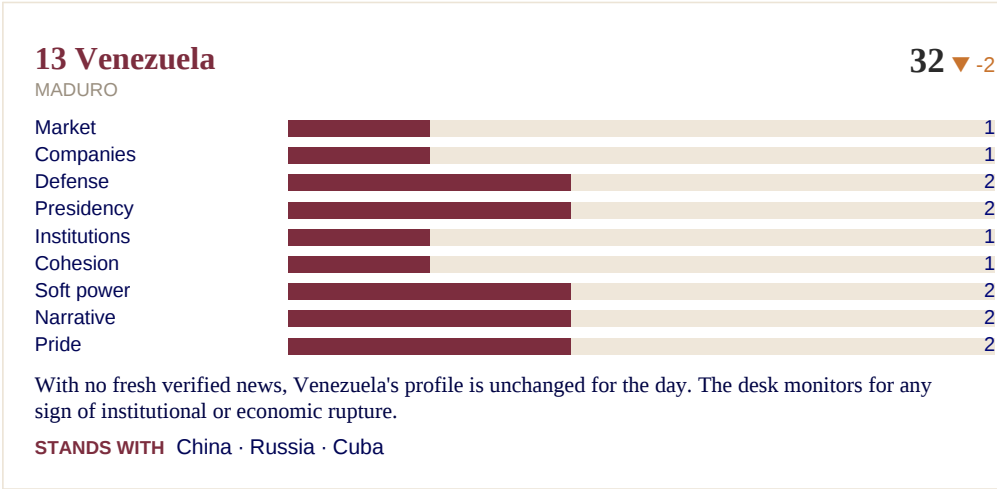
Country power profiles

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	Colombia	The new president took office on 7 August and is already pushing fiscal austerity, security crackdowns, and pro-investment reforms.
+4	Venezuela	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
+2	Argentina	Economists are cutting growth forecasts and saying the recovery is losing momentum.
+2	Cuba	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
+2	Paraguay	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
+1	Ecuador	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Chile	Congress had already approved Kast's sweeping tax and growth reform package.
-2	Panama	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.
-1	Uruguay	No reliable current 24-hour development found in the gathered material.

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	175,665	5.19	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	65,561	17.0	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,512	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	931	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,162	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	442	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.7	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	794	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,826	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	—	11.4	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