

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	▲ Chile +2	▲ Colombia +2	▲ Peru +2
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The region's main development is the U.S.-backed 'Shield of the Americas' security coalition, which nine Latin American countries have joined while Brazil remains outside for now. Beyond that, the verified record is thin, with no confirmed election results, coups, defaults, or major data releases in the past 24 hours.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	80	▼
2	Mexico	72	▲
3	Argentina	69	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	36	▲
13	Venezuela	29	▼
14	Bolivia	19	▼

The Power Board

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

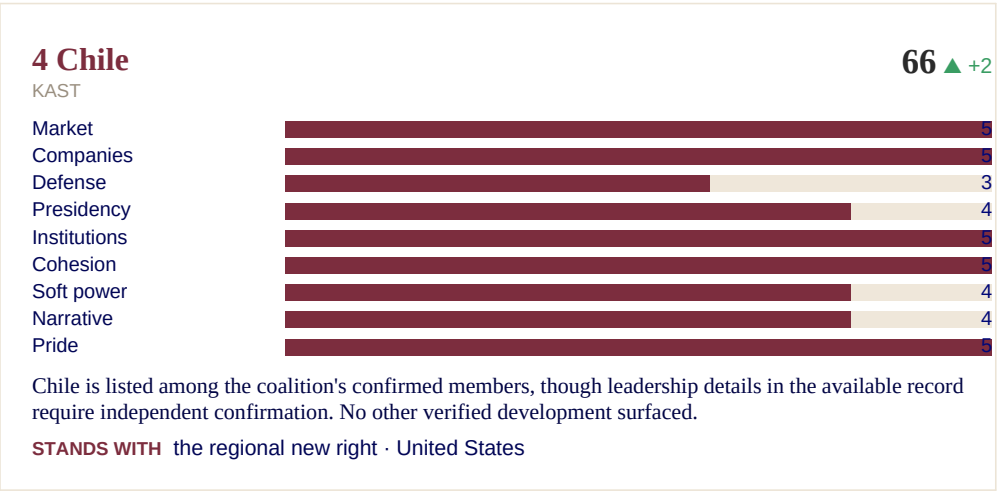
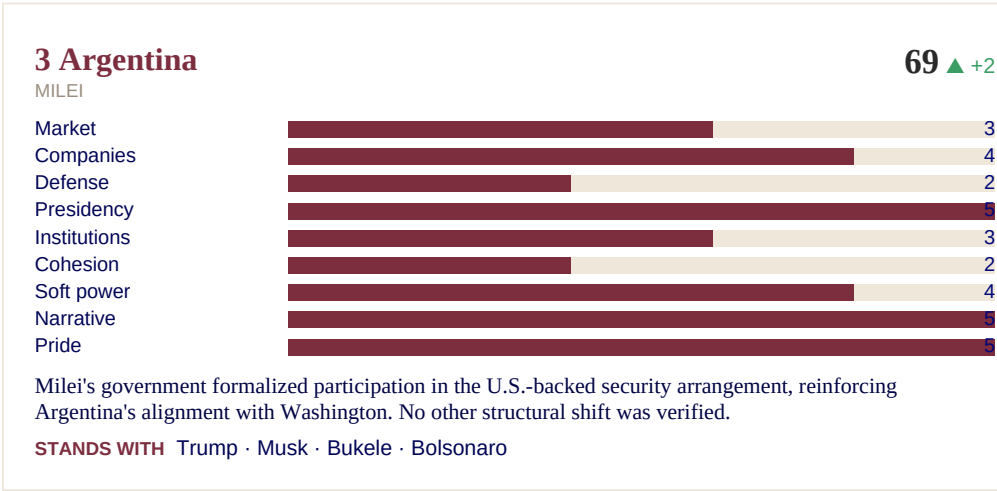
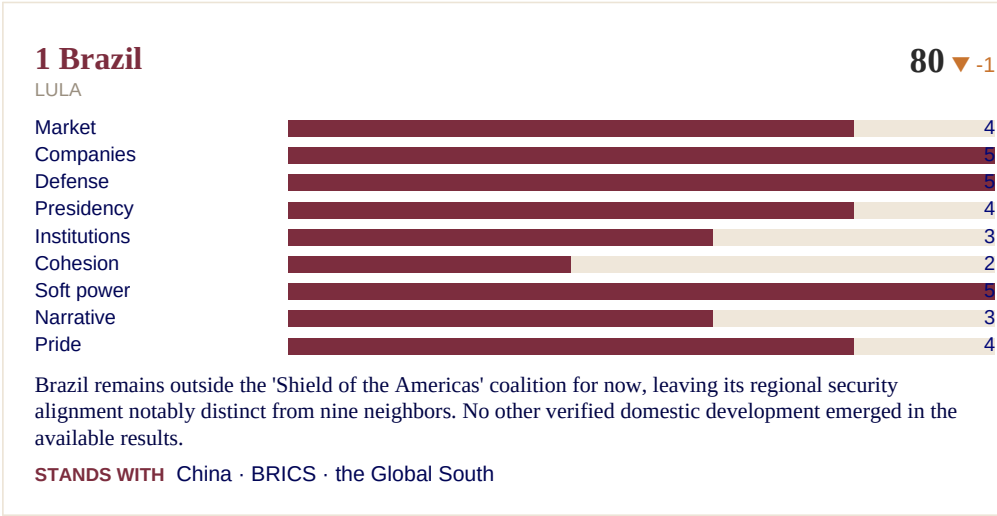
SINCE YESTERDAY Latin America's only clearly confirmed regional development is the formation of the 'Shield of the Americas' security coalition, joined by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. Brazil was reported not yet a member, and no other country-specific development was independently verified.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt·Co·Def·Pres·Inst·Coh·Soft·Narr·Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA	80 ▼ -1			Brazil was reported not yet a member of the new U.S.-backed security coalition.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	72 ▲ +2			No reliably verified development emerged in the last 24 hours.
3	Argentina MILEI	69 ▲ +2			Argentina joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
4	Chile KAST	66 ▲ +2			Chile joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
5	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	57 ▲ +2			Colombia joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
6	Costa Rica CHAVES	55 ▼ -1			Costa Rica joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	51 ▲ +2			Peru joined the coalition, reportedly announced by President Keiko Fujimori after meeting Secretary Rubio.
8	Uruguay ORSI	48 ↔ ±0			President Orsi reportedly criticized the U.S. embargo on Cuba in a U.N. address.
9	Panama MULINO	46 ↔ ±0			Panama joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	41 ▼ -2			No verified economic or political development occurred within the last 24 hours.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	38 ▲ +1			Ecuador joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	36 ▲ +1			Paraguay joined the coalition and its president called for democratic transitions in Venezuela and Cuba.
13	Venezuela MADURO	29 ▼ -1			Available results mention U.S. torture charges and debt restructuring talks, but neither is same-day verified.
14	Bolivia ARCE	19 ▼ -1			Bolivia joined the coalition, with unrest reported but no confirmed coup or governmental change.

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

57 ▲ +2

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

Petro's government joined the U.S.-backed security coalition despite its often pragmatic stance toward Washington. No other domestic shift was verified.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

6 Costa Rica

CHAVES

55 ▼ -1

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

Costa Rica is among the confirmed members of the U.S.-backed security coalition. No other verified domestic development emerged.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

7 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

51 ▲ +2

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

Peru's reported membership announcement came after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, but leadership details require independent confirmation. No confirmed structural shift was established.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

ORSI

48 ↔ ±0

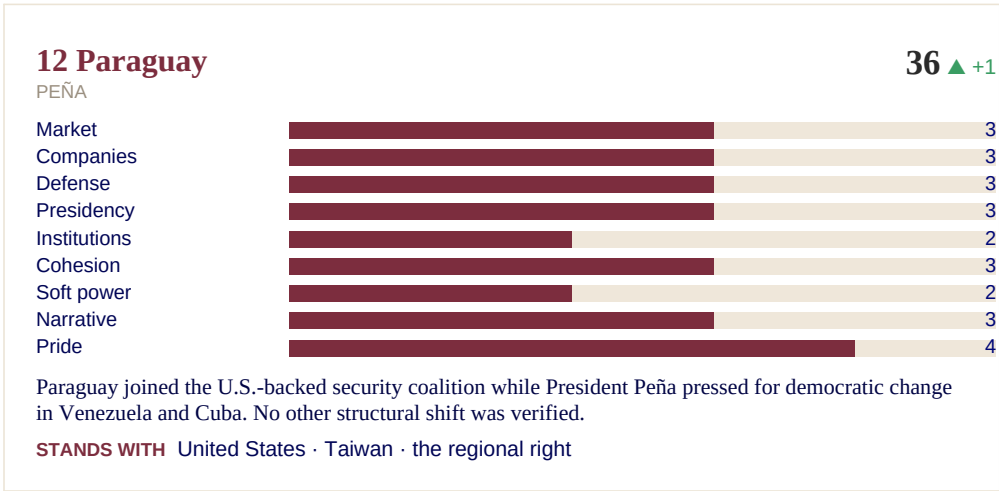
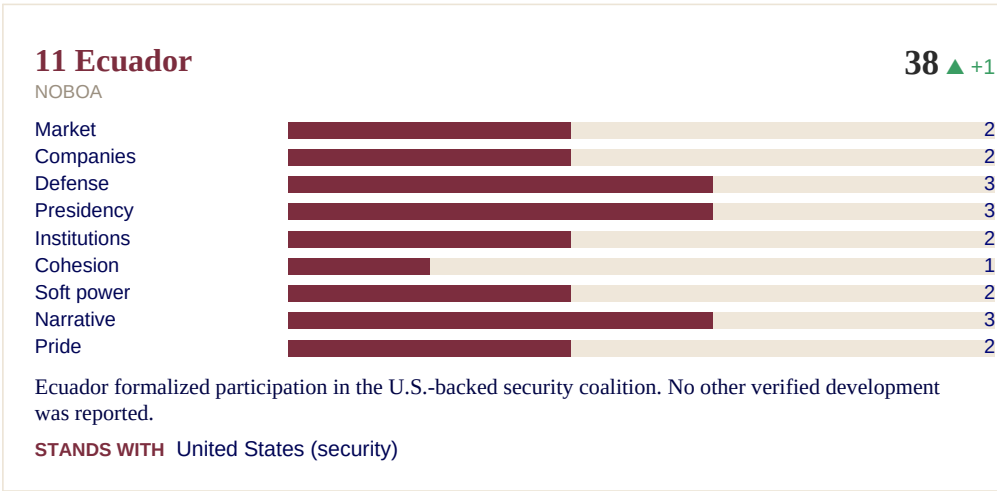
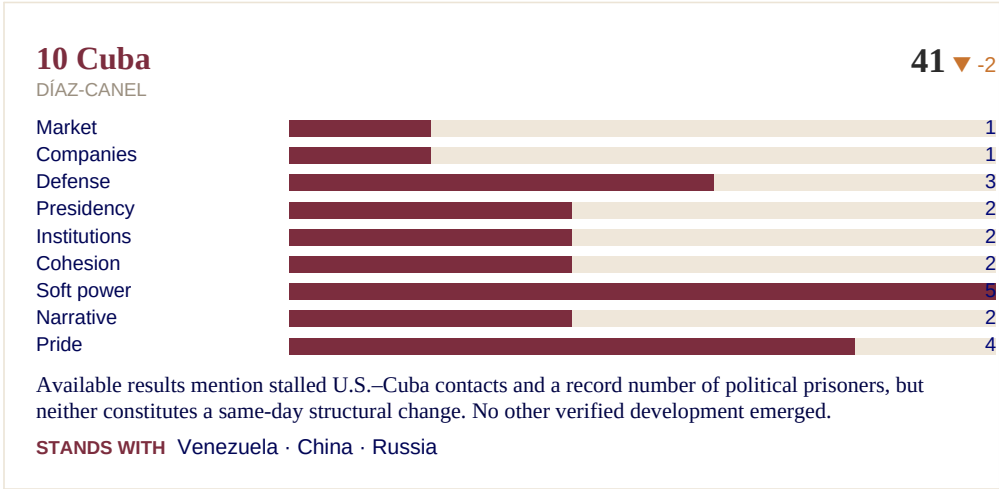
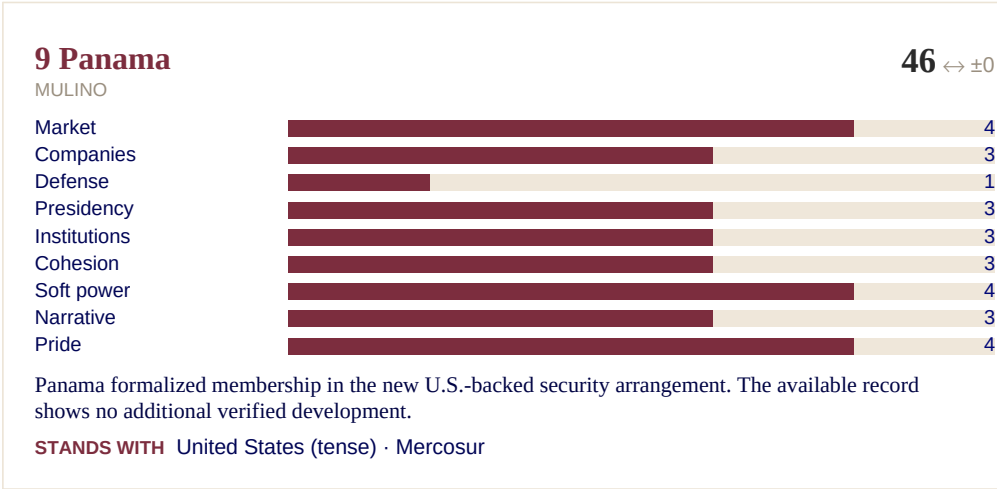
Market		4
Companies		4
Defense		3
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		5
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		5

Uruguay's president used a U.N. platform to criticize the U.S. embargo on Cuba, signaling a more critical stance toward Washington. No structural shift was verified.

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

Country power profiles

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



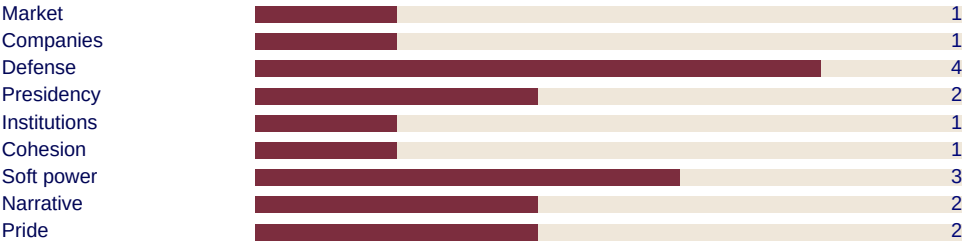
Country power profiles

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

13 Venezuela

29 ▼ -1

MADURO



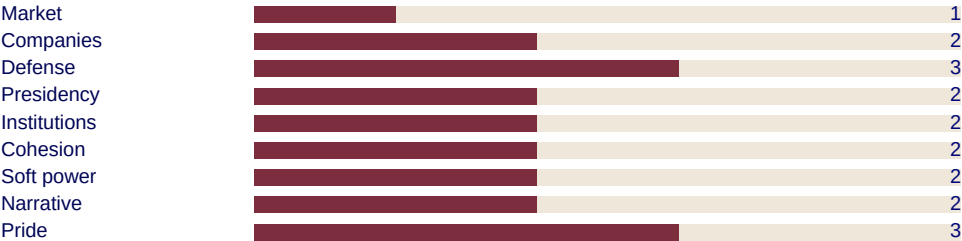
The record contains serious but insufficiently corroborated items concerning Maduro and debt restructuring. No structural shift was confirmed within the last 24 hours.

STANDS WITH China · Russia · Cuba

14 Bolivia

19 ▼ -1

ARCE



Bolivia joined the U.S.-backed security coalition amid reported unrest, though no coup or governmental change was independently confirmed. Leadership details also require authoritative confirmation.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right (Paz pivot)

Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+3	Argentina	Argentina joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
+3	Peru	Peru joined the coalition, reportedly announced by President Keiko Fujimori after meeting Secretary Rubio.
+2	Mexico	No reliably verified development emerged in the last 24 hours.
+2	Chile	Chile joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
+2	Colombia	Colombia joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.
+2	Ecuador	Ecuador joined the 'Shield of the Americas' coalition.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Brazil	Brazil was reported not yet a member of the new U.S.-backed security coalition.
-1	Cuba	No verified economic or political development occurred within the last 24 hours.
-1	Venezuela	Available results mention U.S. torture charges and debt restructuring talks, but neither is same-day verified.
-1	Bolivia	Bolivia joined the coalition, with unrest reported but no confirmed coup or governmental change.

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	206,220	5.02	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	64,852	18.2	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,516	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	977	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,220	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	451	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.2	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	875	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,722	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.43	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	11.8	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