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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
20|sept

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,569,677 confirmed cases
271,503 deaths
73.14 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

4,941,064 confirmed cases
125,895 deaths
74.77 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

507,003 confirmed cases
32,661 deaths
116.22 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

21,247,667 cases
590,955 deaths
103.89 vaccines/100 people

PERU

2,167,008 confirmed cases
199,006 deaths
70.38 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

459,650 confirmed cases
16,128 deaths
60.96 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

497,100 confirmed cases
18,659 deaths
53.64 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

387,627 confirmed cases
6,048 deaths
172.66 vaccines/100 people

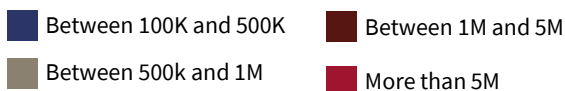
CHILE

1,647,746 confirmed cases
37,367 deaths
160.24 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

5,241,394 confirmed cases
114,518 deaths
107.07 vaccines/100 people

CASES BY COUNTRY



COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 13- SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

COVID-19 CASE EVOLUTION: THIS WEEK'S DATA

COUNTRY	CASES			DEATHS			TESTS
	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	X -MILION
ARGENTINA	5,241,394	16,860	-18.7%	114,518	1,116	25%	530,698
BOLIVIA	497,100	2,065	-12.3%	18,659	72	-4%	198,837
BRAZIL	21,247,667	241,243	108.6%	590,955	3,889	13%	267,180
CHILE	1,647,746	3,206	6.4%	37,367	114	-21%	1,100,316
COLOMBIA	4,941,064	10,815	-6.8%	125,895	248	-33%	486,125
ECUADOR	507,003	1,725	14.2%	32,661	213	120%	100,853
MEXICO	3,569,677	57,795	-30.8%	271,503	3,755	-19%	79,333
PARAGUAY	459,650	359	-11.8%	16,128	26	-89%	250,983
PERU	2,167,008	5,922	-2.1%	199,006	242	-12%	521,950
URUGUAY	387,627	926	-11.0%	6,048	8	33%	1,004,055

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 20/09/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Following electoral defeat and amidst questions about the ruling coalition's cohesion, President Fernandez changed seven cabinet ministers.

Bolivia: Sputnik V doses arrived in Cochabamba to continue the vaccination plan.

Brazil: Bolsonaro sees 53% disapproval rating.

Chile: Inflationary risks continues to raise concerns amid economic recovery.

Colombia: President Duque's diplomatic agenda focused on promoting FDI.

Ecuador: The Ministry of Health reported a decrease in Delta cases.

Mexico: CanSino Biologics seeks to bring phase 3 clinical trials of its pediatric vaccine against COVID-19 to Mexico.

Paraguay: Government advances with vaccination campaign, reaching vaccination goal ahead of schedule.

Peru: The Health Minister announced the signing of contracts for 63 million additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

Uruguay: Government officials claim that FTA with China could be the country's biggest trade shift in 70 years.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
5,241,394	114,518	5,099,157	2,506	107.07

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to local press, infections dropped 70% in one month. National Ministry of Health transferred funds to different jurisdictions of the country to strengthen provincial health systems. Health Minister Vizzotti headed a meeting with epidemiology referents to reinforce surveillance and control of outbreaks of variants of concern. Government presents normative mapping of digital health at a provincial level.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today 1.5 million doses of Sinopharm arrived in the country. Argentina has already received a total of 63 million vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Economy submitted the draft Budget for 2022. It provides for a reduction of the fiscal deficit and an increase in utility tariffs based on income. Projected growth of 4% and inflation of 33% for 2022. Following electoral defeat, government is preparing the launching of a set of economic measures to reactivate the economy, local press reported.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city of Buenos Aires lifted restrictions and relaxed COVID-19 protocols. Gastronomic establishments will be able to receive customers without capacity limits.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some days after the electoral defeat Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner sent a public letter to the President asking for changes in the cabinet. This raised questions over the coalition's cohesion. After the letter and amidst a political crisis within the coalition, President Fernandez changed seven cabinet ministers on Friday night. According to the local press, there was a clear predominance of the VP in the choice of the new ministers. The new Chief of Cabinet, current governor of the province of Tucumán, is strongly questioned by feminist sectors.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August inflation was 2.5% according to INDEC. This figure was the lowest recorded since September 2020.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
497,100	18,659	451,691	1,572	53.64

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health partners with international NGO to distribute health equipment and essential supplies throughout local COVID-19 treatment centers.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 370,000 Sputnik V doses arrived in Cochabamba to continue the vaccination plan. People were demanding a faster distribution of shots as shortages were reported in some local hospitals. PAHO delivered logistics and refrigeration equipment for the Expanded Program on Immunization (PAI) to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine conservation.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Emapa</i> state-owned local shops reopened by the government to boost the economic recovery.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Luis Arce met with Peruvian Pedro Castillo to discuss the bilateral agenda and prioritize actions amid the economic recovery phase. Meanwhile, Cuban Miguel Diaz-Canel held a private meeting with President Arce within the VI Summit CELAC framework. Bolivian President Luis Arce called for a global agreement to forgive debts for poor countries during his participation at CELAC's VI Summit.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government mentioned that poverty and extreme poverty has declined from 60.6% to 37.2% and from 38.2% to 12.9% respectively from 2005 to 2019. <i>Expocruz</i> took place in Santa Cruz bringing together more than a million visitors from around 23 countries. Forest fires increases as environmental threats surge, especially in rural zones. Nonetheless, according to the government actions have been taken jointly with local authorities to mitigate the fires.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
21,247,667	590,955	20,280,294	2,756	103.89

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adjustment in the tabulation of case numbers resulted in a spike in cases in Health Ministry data, due to a backlog of nearly 100,000 cases in Rio de Janeiro. The Ministry of Health has started conducting telephone surveys for Vigitel 2021, the Surveillance System for Risk Factors and Protection against Chronic Diseases.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health Marcelo Quiroga requested a pause in the distribution of vaccines to adolescents while alluding to adverse effects, but ANVISA found no evidence to support changing its approval of the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12-17. Under new rules issued by the Ministry of Health, adolescents without comorbidities will receive only the first dose of the vaccine. After growing concerns over vaccine efficacy, Brazil is moving away from the Chinese CoronaVac, in favor of US produced shots.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Judicial Debt PEC, which allows for the payment of federal government court-ordered debt in installments, was passed by the Committee on Constitution and Justice in the House this week and will now advance to a Special Committee before full approval. Disapproval of the Bolsonaro administration has reached 53%, with approval at a record low of 22%, harming President Bolsonaro's reelection chances in 2022, with some polls showing outright victory by former President Lula da Silva in the first round.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Monetary Policy Committee will meet this week to raise the SELIC interest rate again, with an expected 1 percentage point increase to 6.25% annually. The slow economic recovery in China, exemplified by the crisis affecting Evergrande, will continue to harm the Brazilian economy, with the Bovespa stock index falling 6.2% last week and negative long-term prospects for Brazil's main export commodities.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,647,746	37,367	1,604,353	1,935	160.24

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health experts raised concerns over the timeframe of the “State of Exception” as mobility measures and COVID-19 restrictions can be eased once it is finished.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New agreement between the Oxford University and Chilean Health Public Institute (ISP) was signed to study new COVID-19 variants. While massive vaccination for children advances in the country, Chile reports COVID-19 case rate at 0,88%.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government authorizes entry of vaccinated foreigners as of the beginning of October. Chileans and resident foreigners may enter the country through any border crossing with a sworn statement and a negative PCR for up to 72 hours before boarding. Concerns rise over the mobility increase of people and vehicles amid Chile’s National Holidays. According to the government, more than 300 thousand vehicles left the Metropolitan Region last weekend. Health experts foresee an increase in cases in the upcoming weeks.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Universal Emergency Family Income (IFE) pending payments for June and July began last week, government announced.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to present pension bill today before Congress. The proposal will enter the legislative with a message of urgency. Presidential and legislative campaign formally to begin on September 22 with the first official presidential debate.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic scenario continues to be marked by inflationary risks however signs of a positive recovery are evident as well. Discussion of the fourth pension withdrawal advances at Congress. Last Wednesday, the deadline for the entry of indications to the project ended.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,941,064	125,895	4,779,552	2,443	74.77

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Ruiz presented the main issues within the health agenda on which the Ministry will work in the coming months.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia surpassed 38 million doses administered as the government is working to meet the goal of 41 million by the end of September. Spain donated over 1.1 million doses throughout the COVAX-Facility mechanism.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duque promulgates the Tax Reform and announced new social packages and fiscal aids for vulnerable families. Duque confirms upcoming VAT-free days to encourage consumption.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duque visited the United States to discuss environmental, migratory, and economic issues. Meanwhile, Duque also ended an official visit to Spain where the government achieved investment prospects for more than COP \$9 billion with a focus on technology, energy, and infrastructure. President Duque ratifies Colombia's commitment towards renewable energy initiatives at a CAF event. Bogota will be patrolled by the Military Police after ongoing requests from business guilds and local authorities to enforce tougher measures against common crime. Report on Child Recruitment by former FARC guerrilla to be presented before Truth Commission stirs discussions across sectors. UN Human Right's Commissioner reports 52 killings of Human Rights advocates so far in 2021.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July 2021, the monthly economic indicator grew by 14.3%. President Duque met with the president of the World Tourism Organization.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
507,003	32,661	443,880	1,818	116.22

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last eight days, the Ministry of Health reported a decrease in Delta cases with only 12 new cases in the country. The Ministry of Health incorporated 1.5 million doses into the regular vaccination scheme for children against Pneumococcus, tuberculosis, measles, rubella and Hepatitis B. Primary Health Care Technicians were ratified by the Ministry of Health. The fall in new COVID-19 infections is giving way to the reconversion of Ecuador's hospitals.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will donate 336,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Peru to be applied in border zones. The Ministries of Health and Education will start coordinating the inoculation of population between 12 and 15 years old. The Health Minister reported that it is scheduled to provide a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to first-line health personnel who received the first dose in January.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Energy reported that oil production is expected to increase by January 2022.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the ECLAC meeting, President Lasso called all countries for more regional integration despite political differences. A commission in Congress initiated a request for impeachment against the former Minister of Energy. The National Assembly began the review and debate of the 2021 budget. The government confirmed the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture. A new Ombudsman was appointed
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive sent its observations regarding the draft for the Law of Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,569,677	271,503	2,924,904	2,079	73.14

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting was held between representatives of the Health Institute for Well-being (INSABI) and the UNOPS, together with directors of various Mexican pharmaceutical associations. For the first time, the IMSS is carrying out a bidding to grant a license for the use and exploitation of patents. In the last week, the health sector received nine million pieces of medical supplies for different organizations. The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) celebrated progress towards regulatory convergence between Mexico and the United States.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CanSino Biologics seeks to bring phase 3 clinical trials of its pediatric vaccine against COVID-19 to Mexico. The Under Secretary of Health announced that minors who suffer from a disease that increases their risk of contracting serious COVID-19, may be beneficiaries of the vaccine. The Secretary of Foreign Relations regretted that the COVAX platform and the WHO did not meet their goals for the equitable distribution of vaccines. The government successfully concluded vaccination in border cities with the USA.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Foreign Relations Secretariat delivered the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and southeast of Mexico. The Economy Secretariat will invest in order to locate lithium deposits throughout the country.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government presented the results of their pro tempore presidency at the VI ECLAC Summit.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Economy Secretariat, Mexico registered record level in its shipments to China. The Finance Minister stated that the country's economy is in the process of a firm recovery. President AMLO assured that high-level economic dialogue in Washington was successful.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
459,650	16,128	441,728	2,228	60.96

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll results on the preferences for nutritional labelling published. • Minister of Health signs the resolution lowering working hours to 12 hours a week for doctors who meet specific criteria.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination campaign for first doses of COVID-19 vaccines for 18- and 19-year-olds, and for adults over 50, kickstarted. • 44,460 doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines bought by the government have been received. • Over 300 children and adolescents in government shelters have been vaccinated against COVID-19. • Government reaches vaccination goal of prioritized population three months ahead of schedule.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government extended until December 31, 2021 the reduction from 2 to 0 percent of the import tariff on Capital Goods. • First concession and operation of Free Trade Zone in the Chaco region approved.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Abdo Benitez travels to CELAC summit where he openly questioned Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro. • Minister of Interior confirms that a decree on citizen security is being drafted. • Congressional anti-smuggling committee hears from senator accused of influencing Customs Office.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Affairs Minister expressed an interest of opening a permanent diplomatic mission before the World Trade Organization. • Company of Sanitary Services reaches debt payment agreement with ANDE over electricity bills. • Consumer Confidence remains in optimistic levels, according to Central Bank measurements. • Asunción authorities deny possibility of an increase in public transport tariffs after remarks made by transport guild over unpaid subsidies.

PERU

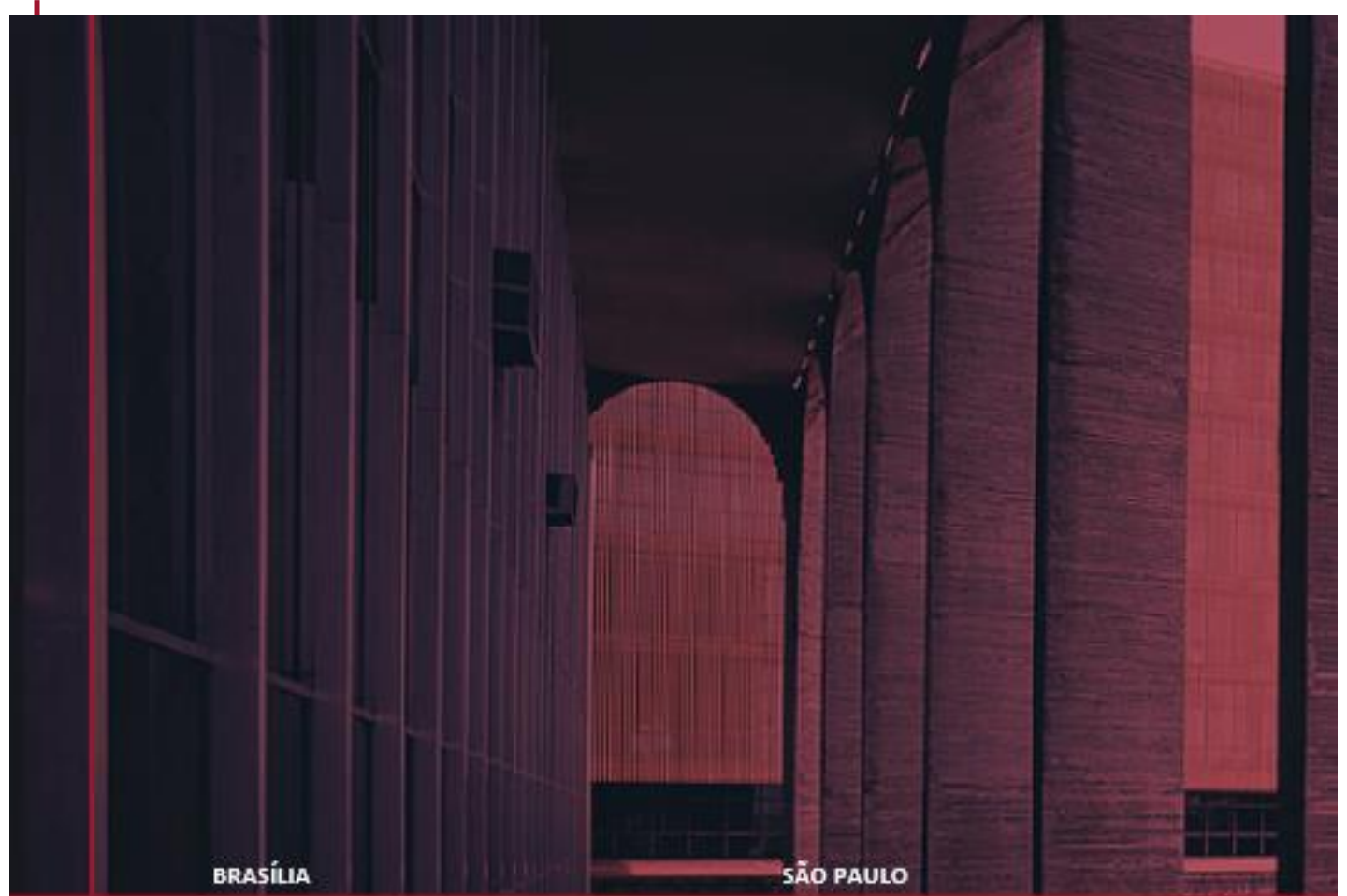
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,167,008	199,006	-	5,935	70.38

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An urgent decree was published to allow the acquisition of more molecular and genetic sequencing tests to reinforce the COVID-19 response. People with COVID-19 symptoms can now get free molecular tests in health facilities from the Ministry of Health. Health authorities reiterated that presentation of a vaccination card against COVID-19 is not a mandatory requirement, but a negative test is.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government authorized a budgetary transference to ensure the continuity of the vaccination brigades. The Minister of Health announced the signing of contracts for the purchase of an additional 8 million Sinopharm vaccines, as well as 35 million doses from Pfizer and 20 million from Moderna. The governments of Peru and Ecuador launched a binational vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in border zones.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Economy issued a decree that seeks to establish factoring as an alternative financing tool for micro and small companies.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo met with the Minister of Agriculture and other agrarian leaders. During the ECLAC meeting, President Castillo called on members to prioritize the fight against terrorism and organized crime. President Castillo held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo met with representatives of the World Bank, IMF and IDB to seek international financial support. President Castillo held a working meeting with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce of Peru.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Economy joined the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.


URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
387,627	6,048	379,986	1,734	172.66

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time in a year, nine of the country's departments are in the Green Zone of the Harvard Index, meaning they are classified with the lowest level of COVID.19 risk. • Saudi Arabia donated medical equipment and supplies to public centers across the country. • Uruguay ranks first in Latin America in palliative care coverage. • Ministry of Public Health confirmed 402 cases of Delta variant. He also confirmed its community circulation.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uruguay will acquire 500,000 extra doses of Pfizer vaccines. They are scheduled to arrive by the last quarter of 2021. • The "company-by-company" vaccination stage has begun. Companies will survey employees in need and will coordinate with Ministry of Health authorities in order to have them vaccinated at the workplace.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During CELAC summit, President Lacalle Pou engaged in a tense confrontation with Cuban President. Both leaders questioned internal political issues of the countries. • Electoral Court has so far validated 302,000 signatures out of the 675,000 required to call for a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC). • State Procurement Regulatory Agency approved strategic plan for the five-year period. One of the axes is to promote the transformation of the system into a digital one.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health officials will go on strike for 24 hours on September 29th. It is to demand a larger budget for the State Health Services Association (ASSE).
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Free Trade Agreement with China could be the most important trade shift for Uruguay in the last 70 years, according to Livestock Minister Mattos. The agreement is in the pre-feasibility analysis stage.





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