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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
4|oct

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO
3,861,960 confirmed cases
278,801 deaths
78.14 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA
4,963,243 confirmed cases
126,425 deaths
78.81 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR
510,954 confirmed cases
32,805 deaths
116.82 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL
21,478,546 cases
598,152 deaths
112.91 vaccines/100 people

PERU
2,178,939 confirmed cases
199,485 deaths
79.57 vaccines/100 people

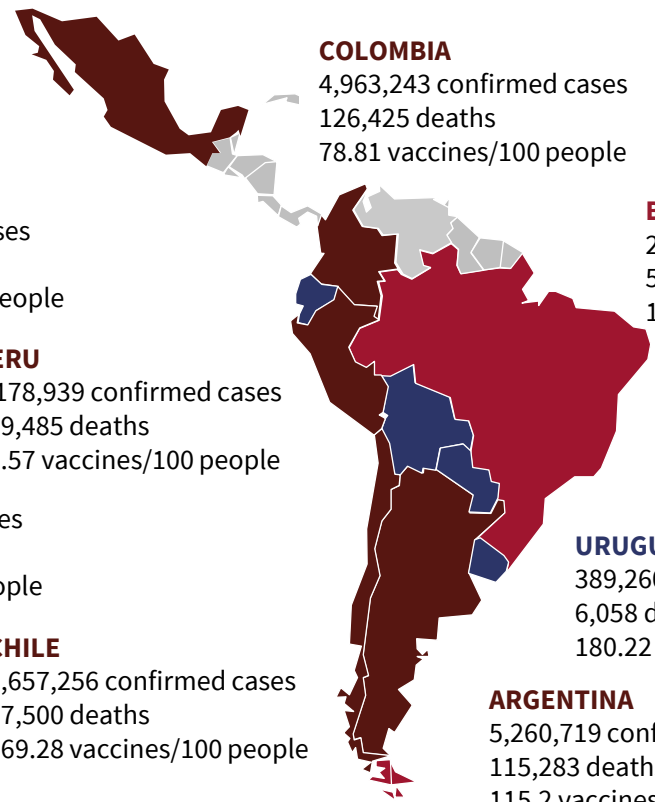
BOLIVIA
501,362 confirmed cases
18,764 deaths
56.21 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY
460,061 confirmed cases
16,203 deaths
79.57 vaccines/100 people

CHILE
1,657,256 confirmed cases
37,500 deaths
169.28 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY
389,260 confirmed cases
6,058 deaths
180.22 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA
5,260,719 confirmed cases
115,283 deaths
115.2 vaccines/100 people



CASES BY COUNTRY

Between 100K and 500K	Between 1M and 5M
Between 500k and 1M	More than 5M

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 4, 2021

COVID-19 CASE EVOLUTION: THIS WEEK'S DATA

COUNTRY	CASES			DEATHS			TESTS X -MILION
	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	
ARGENTINA	5,260,719	10,317	14.5%	115,283	421	22%	530,514
BOLIVIA	501,362	2,467	37.4%	18,764	64	56%	203,215
BRAZIL	21,478,546	126,574	21.3%	598,152	3,668	4%	297,388
CHILE	1,657,256	4,892	5.9%	37,500	55	-29%	1,141,764
COLOMBIA	4,963,243	126,145	0.0%	126,425	280	12%	498,669
ECUADOR	510,954	3,096	262.1%	32,805	85	44%	102,912
MEXICO	3,681,960	49,160	-22.1%	278,801	3,355	-15%	82,194
PARAGUAY	460,061	233	30.9%	16,203	60	300%	254,879
PERU	2,178,939	5,905	-2.0%	199,485	193	-33%	537,505
URUGUAY	389,260	758	-13.4%	6,058	6	50%	1,035,022

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 04/10/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Government relaxed meat export ban to China in order to improve its relationship with the rural sector.

Bolivia: Tensions over ongoing mobilizations take the spotlight.

Brazil: National Health Council denounces Brazilian government.

Colombia: Cooperation agreements for the health sector signed by the Ministry of Health in official visit to India.

Chile: State of Exception comes to an end.

Ecuador: For the first time, the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) purchased antiretroviral medicines through the PAHO's Strategic Fund.

Mexico: The Secretary of Health visited the Secretariat's new headquarters that will start operating this week in Acapulco, Guerrero.

Paraguay: While the government eases restrictions, the economy shows positive signs according to Central Bank authority.

Peru: Epidemiological intervention measures were carried out in Lima, where a new case of the Delta Plus variant was detected.

Uruguay: Executive announced a bill granting tax and price benefits for small and medium-sized border businesses to boost productivity in that areas.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
5,260,719	115,283	5,124,930	2,522	115.2

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta variant detection increases in the Metropolitan area of Buenos Aires although there is no significant rise in the number of cases, local press reported. • The government announced the authorization of the immunization with Sinopharm vaccine of children between 3 and 11 years of age. • World Bank approved a loan of USD 500 million for the Vaccination Plan in Argentina. It will be for the purchase of 20 million Pfizer vaccines and 20 million Moderna vaccines.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina has received more than 70 million vaccines since the beginning of the pandemic and is close to reaching 50% of the population fully immunized, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Retirement Plan was announced by the government. This plan will be for men and women who have 30 years of contributions and meet certain age and occupation requirements. • Government removed duties on incremental exports of automotive industry in 2022. • Government removed the ban on meat exports to China, although restrictions on other cuts were maintained. The aim is to attend to the demands made by the farmers and to improve their situation.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government authorized the entry of tourists from neighboring countries. Full vaccination scheme will be required. Likewise, the government defined a staggered entry scheme until the end of the year. • Government announced the public's return to mass events. It will be with a 50% capacity and will require a vaccination certificate (at least one dose).
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chamber of Deputies will deal with the food labeling bill on October 5th. Only the approval of this chamber is needed for it to become a law. • Government summoned representatives of wholesale supermarkets, self-service stores and mass consumption companies. The aim is to contain inflationary escalation and set targets until the end of the year.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
501,362	18,764	461,446	1,580	56.21

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite increase of COVID-19 cases, Ministry of Health dismisses that the country is facing a fourth-wave of infections at the moment. Oxygen plant in Chuquisaca begins operations. In an open editorial, former Minister of Industry and Trade calls on the Canadian government to speed-up the process to advance with a compulsory license for a COVID-19 vaccine.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation from the United States of 188,370 doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccines received.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tensions over indigenous protest in Santa Cruz, while government assesses demands. Former President Morales counters call October 11th’s Civic Strike. New Commander of the Armed Forces establishes that there will collaboration over legal proceedings related to the 2019 reports of excessive violence. Court extends for five more months the detention of former President Añez and former Ministers of Energy and Justice.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moody’s has lowered Bolivia’s ratings from stable to negative, based on the growing fiscal deficit, the accelerated loss of reserves and the need to secure funding in the short to medium term. Pension withdrawal for citizens over 50 years of age who meet specific criteria on their savings, scheduled to begin this week. President Arce highlights monthly growth of the Economic Activity Index. ENDE installs first service station for electric cars, the plan is to quickly expand to 11 more. National Chamber of Industries has issued a macroeconomic report, drafted from official data, establishing stagnation in the country’s financial operations. Business interest to ship goods through Ilo port to Asia highlighted in government summit.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
21,478,546	598,152	20,442,653	2,789	112.91

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Health Council presented a denunciation of human rights violations by the Brazilian government during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister of Health Marcelo Quiroga returned to Brazil after testing positive for COVID-19 and going into isolation in the United States.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health plans to distribute booster shots to the entire population in 2022, yet the funding sources for new vaccine purchases remain unclear. The North region has the lowest rate of full vaccination while the South and Southeast have the highest rates, reflecting broader socioeconomic differences in Brazil. The Ministry of Health recommended abolishing the waiting period between vaccination for COVID-19 and influenza.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The period for electoral changes to go into effect in 2022 has now closed, with the most significant change being the approval of party federations in elections. Recent protests against Bolsonaro again showed the difficulties in uniting the left and center in opposition to the President but did show the beginning of a temporary truce between presidential candidate Ciro Gomes and the Workers' Party.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives to the Spending Cap rule to constrain government spending are being discussed given the numerous exceptions made to the rule in practice. Last week, Congress approved PLN 12/2021 which allowed spending on social programs in the 2022 budget to be compensated by revenue raising proposals that have not yet been approved, specifically the Income Tax Reform. The Pandora Papers revealed offshore accounts held by Economy Minister Paulo Guedes and Central Bank President Roberto Campos Neto, which may affect the government's proposed economic reforms.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,657,256	37,500	1,612,348	1,941	169.28

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera announced the end of the State of Exception as of September 30th. Health Ministries from Uruguay and Chile sign an MoU to promote joint actions in different health agendas for the next three years.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government delivers report on COVID-19 vaccination for children. Over 300,000 doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccines were received. 70% of citizens over 50 years old have received a booster shot for COVID-29, according to the government.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magallanes, first region to enter into Advanced Opening stage in the country. As of Wednesday, mobility restrictions will be considerably eased.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera delivers a press conference amidst questionings over his involvement in the “Pandora Papers” scandal. 37% of those polled believes Gabriel Boric will be the next President, according to CADEM. Constitutional Assembly to include declaration that new charter is being drafted under an “Ecological and Climate Emergency”. Right-wing candidates’ race for the Metropolitan Region gains pace.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August’s Economic Activity Index sees strong recovery when compared to last year. President Piñera highlighted it was above expectations. Negotiations to liberalize trade with the United Arab Emirates kickstarted. Fourth pension withdrawal advances in the Chamber of Deputies despite the government’s opposition.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,963,243	126,425	4,806,054	2,452	78.81

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health meets with high-level representatives from Telangana Life Sciences to discuss joint collaboration efforts. Letter of intent for technology transfer for the production of COVID-19 vaccines signed between the Ministry of Health and India’s Serum Institute.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health delivers tally of COVID-19 vaccines received during September. Ministry of Health issues a circular to jointly promote vaccination in education centers with the goal of reaching younger populations. Government to provide strategic support 18 territorial entities to speed up their vaccination rollout.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government launches Roadmap for Hydrogen Development in Colombia's Energy Transition. Policy Document for Solidary Economy approved with an investment of COP \$ 74,000 million to be allocated between 2021 and 2025.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five-year anniversary of the plebiscite over the Peace Agreement with the FARC guerrilla and the Santos administration, marked by ongoing polarization. Among other political players, Director of Customs and Tax agency linked to “Pandora Papers” investigation. Tensions within the Liberal Party over decision from leadership to support independent Alejandro Gaviria in the presidential race. Supreme Court of Justice opens preliminary investigation against congress representatives possibly linked to corruption scandal in the Ministry of Technology.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August exports increased by 28% when compared to the same month in 2020.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think-Tank focused on Armed Conflict issued a report on pre-electoral violence.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
510,954	32,805	443,880	1,825	116.82

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health presented the initial results of the focalized emergency process for the acquisition of prioritized medicines. For the first time, the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) purchased antiretroviral medicines through the PAHO's Strategic Fund. The Ministry of Health will deploy the regular vaccination strategy for children who did not receive their vaccinations because of the pandemic. Hungary donated 20,000 vaccines against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis to the Ministry of Public Health. The government ratified its commitment to accelerate the elimination of malaria by 2025.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Health highlighted the success of the country's Vaccination Plan against COVID-19 before the OAS and the IDB. The Health Minister clarified that they will not be able to give a vaccination certificate to those who were inoculated against COVID-19 abroad.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will help organize the fourth edition of the Latin American Circular Economy Forum. The IMF announced that it will deliver USD 800 million to Ecuador to help reactivate the economy.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso announced the implementation of the Single Registry of Violence within the framework of the activation of the National System for the Eradication of Gender Violence. Indigenous communities protested over problems regarding transportation, roads, education, health and the fuel prices.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,681,960	278,801	3,035,521	2,134	78.14

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of Health made a tour of the facilities of the new headquarters that will start operating this week in Acapulco, Guerrero. Two new commissioners were appointed at the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS). The General Health Council will carry out the first National Census of Patients with Rare Diseases. The Health Secretariat announced the start date for the influenza vaccination campaign.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO reported that the “Patria” vaccine, which is being developed in Mexico, has advanced to the second phase of research. The registry of minors with comorbidities for vaccination against COVID-19 is now open.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO inaugurated the first branch of the <i>Banco del Bienestar</i>.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November, a National Public Registry of Trade Unions will be launched.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO sent to the Congress an electricity reform initiative. The Economy Secretariat announced they are working with the United States on the repositioning of production chains in strategic sectors.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of decrees that restore land, territory and water to the Yaqui tribe were published. The Health Secretariat asked the Congress for new reforms against junk food.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
460,061	16,203	443,444	2,237	64.28

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health launches cancer awareness campaign, highlighting breast and cervix cancers. Former high-level players within the health sector call to increase government expenditure to lower out-of-pocket expenditure. A proposal to increase tobacco taxes stood out.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government expects that pending 1,500,000 doses of Pfizers' COVID-19 vaccine to be received on weekly installments until the end of the year. Adolescents with comorbidities scheduled to receive their second doses this week. 39,600 doses of Sinopharm's COVID-19 vaccines shipped through the COVAX mechanism were received.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government records surplus in customs revenue in September. Electronic phytosanitary certificate enters into force between Argentina and Paraguay.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government extends sanitary restrictions until October 12th but eases measures on sport and recreational activities. Inbound travelers from MERCOSUR and associate countries are exempted to submit a negative PCR test upon arrival. Ministry of Health argues that 97% of districts have a low transmission of the virus at the moment.
	Outlook	Political
Economic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Bank economist argues that the economy is normalizing its behaviour. President Piñera confirms that economic complementarity agreement between Chile and Paraguay will be signed before the end of the year during an official visit. Eletrobras payed a standing debt from 2018 of over USD \$50 million with Itaipu. ANDE sets out to build solar plant in Paraguay.

PERU

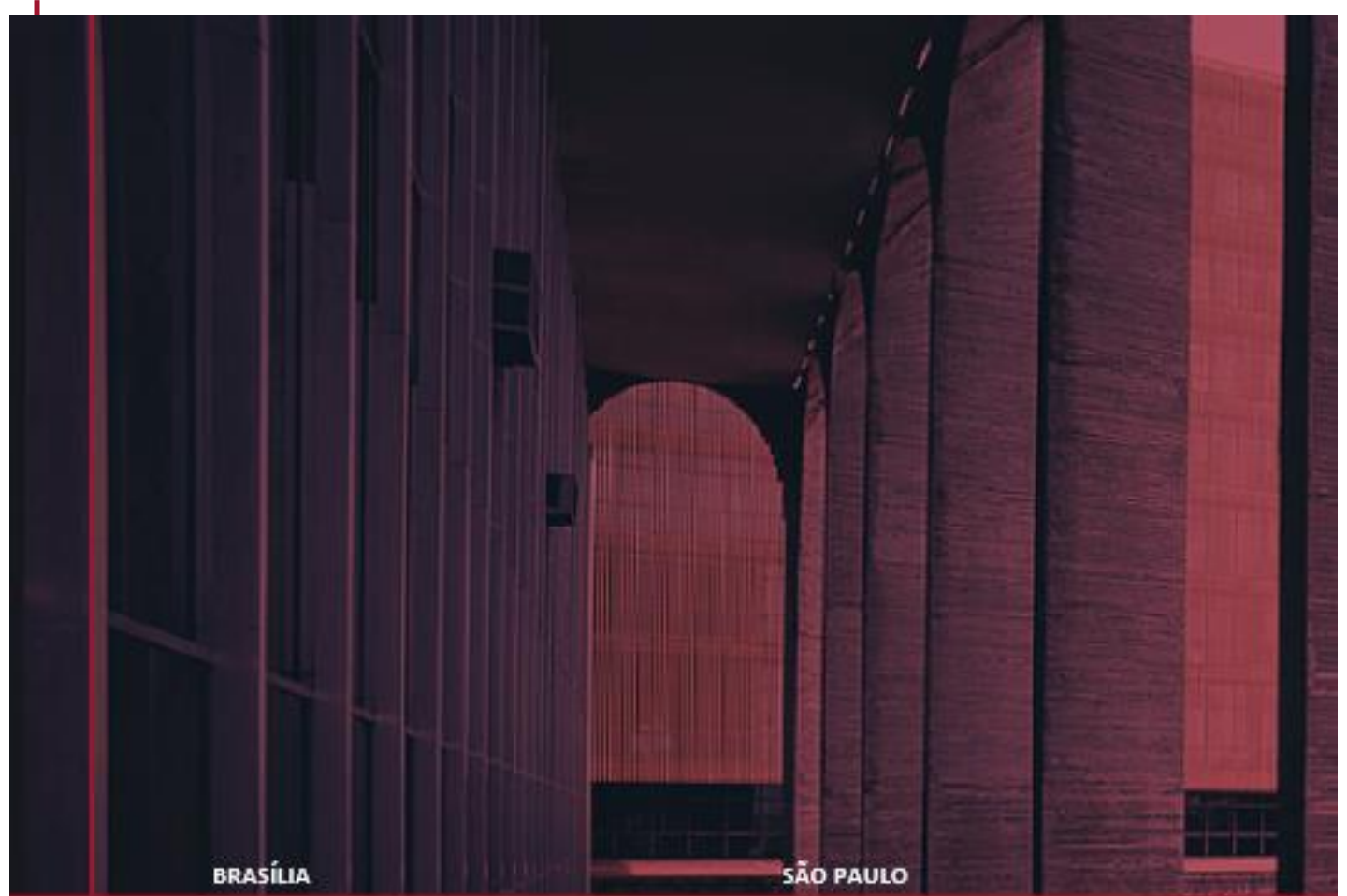
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,178,939	199,485	-	2,946	79.57

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The III National Pharmacovigilance and Technovigilance Campaign was held. A health emergency was declared in 51 districts of 15 regions due to risk of a dengue outbreak. The Ministry of Health launched the web platform <i>Renoxi Peru</i> to know the stock of medicinal oxygen. The Ministry of Health recommended that the population access molecular tests instead of others available in the market. Rapid response teams carried out epidemiological intervention measures in the area near where a new case of the Delta Plus variant was detected in Lima. INDECOPI ordered three pharmaceutical companies to sell generic drugs per unit.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health and the main telephone companies in the country agreed to collaborate on offering incentives to accelerate vaccination.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government authorized a budget transference for the execution of 91 public investment projects in education.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Superintendent of Customs and Tax Administration was ratified.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government reported that execution of public investment as of September reached a historical record in the last 20 years. President Castillo announced that the second agrarian reform will promote connectivity and technology. President Castillo stated that his government is compromised to the industrialization of lithium extraction.


URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
389,260	6,058	382,033	1,736	180.22

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No active COVID-19 cases reported in four of the country's departments. Country recorded the lowest number of infections in two months. Minister of Public Health authorized booster dose for health personnel with Pfizer.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive announced tax and price benefits for micro, small and medium-sized border businesses. It is to boost productivity in a context where exchange rate is locally disadvantageous related to other countries. Bill will be sent to parliament shortly. Ministry of Economy extended tax benefits and exemptions for the tourism sector until October 31st.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated children under 18 years of age no longer must undergo quarantine when entering the country. They will need to present a previous test with negative result. Ministry of Public Health increased to 75% the capacity of venues and events admitting vaccinated people against COVID-19.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port workers went on strike for 72 hours in Montevideo. Local team conducting pre-feasibility study of free trade agreement with China has already begun its work. The objective is to complete this analysis by the end of the year and start negotiations in 2022. The Frente Amplio, main opposition, held a Congress and called to repeal the Urgent Consideration Law.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay's Central Bank made recommendations regarding cryptocurrencies. It warned that these are not regulated in the country, which could generate problems.





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