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2021
06|Dec

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,902,015 confirmed cases
295,312 deaths
50.22% fully vaccinated

COLOMBIA

5,082,762 confirmed cases
128,821 deaths
49.10% fully vaccinated

ECUADOR

529,349 confirmed cases
33,484 deaths
64.30% fully vaccinated

BRAZIL

22,147,476 confirmed cases
615,789 deaths
64.19% fully vaccinated

PERU

2,245,146 confirmed cases
201,421 deaths
56.67% fully vaccinated

PARAGUAY

463,427 confirmed cases
16,479 deaths
37.45% fully vaccinated

BOLIVIA

544,666 confirmed cases
19,247 deaths
35.85% fully vaccinated

URUGUAY

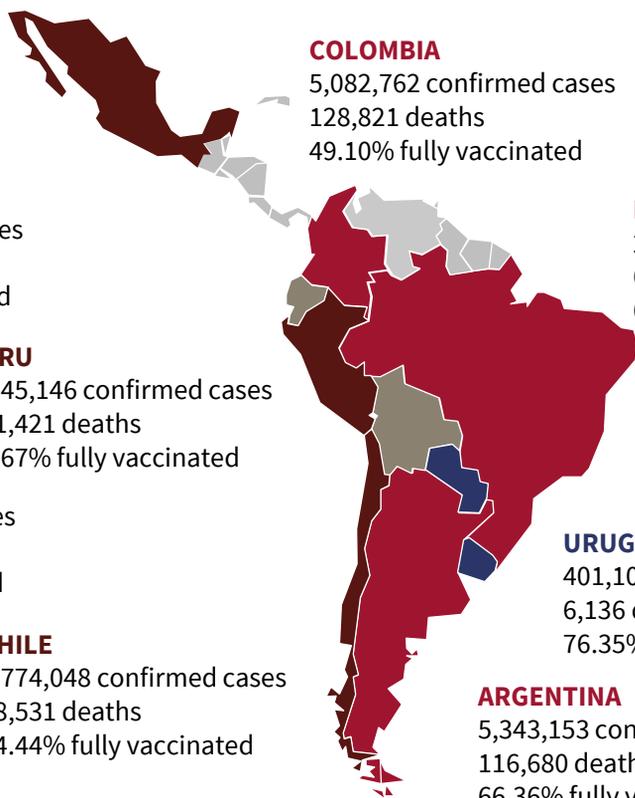
401,103 confirmed cases
6,136 deaths
76.35% fully vaccinated

CHILE

1,774,048 confirmed cases
38,531 deaths
84.44% fully vaccinated

ARGENTINA

5,343,153 confirmed cases
116,680 deaths
66.36% fully vaccinated



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

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 06, 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	5,343,153	16,705	50.5%	116,680	151	-1%	577,723
BOLIVIA	544,666	8,194	10.8%	19,247	86	-13%	217,899
BRAZIL	22,147,476	66,570	4.6%	615,789	1,475	-7%	297,023
CHILE	1,774,048	12,683	-21.0%	38,531	188	-3%	1,344,169
COLOMBIA	5,082,762	17,389	0.4%	128,821	384	12%	549,433
ECUADOR	529,349	4,917	740.5%	33,484	356	4986%	113,576
MEXICO	3,902,015	18,173	-11.3%	295,312	1,415	-1%	91,347
PARAGUAY	463,427	471	-30.0%	16,479	16	-84%	270,633
PERU	2,245,146	11,071	13.8%	201,421	313	29%	612,017
URUGUAY	401,103	1,755	-6.0%	6,136	7	-50%	1,191,394

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 06/12/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: While newly elected legislators take office this week, technical meetings with the IMF to define Argentina's debt agreement begin.

Bolivia: National healthcare system equipped to detect the new Omicron variant.

Brazil: The economy entered a recession despite lifting of sanitary restrictions.

Colombia: Border reopening between Colombia and Ecuador will begin as of December 15.

Chile: Health authorities detected first case of Omicron variant.

Ecuador: The tax reform proposed by President Lasso came into force.

Mexico: The government detected the first positive case of the Omicron variant.

Paraguay: Amid efforts to revamp vaccination against COVID-19, DINAVISA confirms that as over 20,000 doses expired, they will be incinerated.

Peru: The government announced new measures to prevent expansion of the Omicron variant

Uruguay: Approximately 20,000 signatures remain to be validated by the Electoral Court to confirm the call for a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
5,343,153	116,680	5,203,809	2,548	66.36%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First case of Omicron variant detected in traveler from South Africa. • Authorities of the Ministry of Health met with the WHO's General Director for Access to Medicines and Health Products. Among other issues, they discussed transparency in contracts and concerns about the high prices of certain drugs. • Ministry of Health and National Agency on Disability (ANDIS) signed an agreement to strengthen care for people with disabilities.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following ANMAT's evaluation, the Ministry of Health granted emergency authorization for the Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine. • Minister of Science and Technology stated that Argentine vaccine against COVID-19 would be available by the end of 2022.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings to define concrete steps for the debt negotiations with the IMF begin this week. • President Fernandez announced the creation of the Productive Plan 2030. It is to boost industry, exports and employment.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Tourism affirmed that no new restrictions are being evaluated despite the expansion of the Omicron variant.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Deputies and Senators take office this week. • Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries initiates meetings with representatives of the meat industry to define the future of meat export restrictions, local press reported.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will hold a mobilization for the "Democracy Day". The event will be attended by social movements and, according to local press, will include speeches by President Fernandez and VP Cristina Kirchner and former Brazilian President Lula Da Silva.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
544,666	19,247	498,782	1,617	35.85%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health announced a USD \$10 million budget to guarantee free treatment for people living with HIV-AIDS in the country.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 8.7 million people have been fully vaccinated in the country, according to the Ministry of Health's records. PAHO country representative Alma Morales, highlighted that Bolivia had the capacity to detect the Omicron variant due to the equipment installed at the National Institute of Health (INLASA).
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government increases smuggling controls amid concerns over the entry of illegal trade during December.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Arce received letters of credentials from new ambassadors of Peru, Sweden, Egypt, and France. The government agreed to strengthen joint actions in cross-cutting issues with the four countries, especially in health, infrastructure, technology, tourism, and trade.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Arce launched the Biofuels Forum on December 3rd in the city of Santa Cruz. International and local experts have been providing information on energy transition and the benefits of a sustainable economy moving forward. Additionally, panelists highlighted Bolivia's capacity to manufacture eco-friendly fuels as well as the need to depend less on importations. Among the projects announced during the meeting was the construction of a Renewable Diesel Plant in the department of Santa Cruz. President Luis Arce highlighted that mining royalties are on the rise due to a sustained increase in production reported in the last months.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
22,147,476	615,789	21,370,388	2,868	64.19%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil has confirmed six cases of the Omicron variant in Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, and Brasília. Brazil reached its lowest average deaths from COVID-19 since April 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic. A change to the Ministry of Health's reporting rules in May could be leading to an undercount of COVID-19 cases according to analysts from Fiocruz.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 90% of the eligible population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The State Health Secretary of Mato Grosso do Sul suggested sending vaccines to Bolivia and Paraguay, due to low vaccine availability in both countries.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Bolsonaro has sent a provisional measure to restrict the government's ability to create a COVID-19 vaccine passport to Congress, while the House is set to consider the passport on Wednesday (8).
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Judicial Debt PEC remains in limbo after returning to the House, with Speaker Arthur Lira preferring to separate the amendment into two, against the will of the Senate. Bolsonaro's 2022 electoral coalition appears likely to include the Progressives (PP) and the Republicans, providing the president with more mandated airtime and party capacity but changing his rhetoric towards the political establishment.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank is expected to raise the SELIC interest rate by 1.5% on Wednesday (8), following increasingly high inflation. Brazil entered a technical recession last week following two quarters of consecutive GDP declines, with the future of economic growth in 2022 more dependent on export-oriented sectors like agribusiness and mining.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
1,774,048	38,531	1,688,091	1,991	84.44%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health authorities detected first case of Omicron variant last Saturday.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ISP authorized vaccines for children between 3 to 5 years old.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Finance increased its public sector salary readjustment offer to 6.1% after several meetings with public associations. Luis Felipe Céspedes was appointed as the new advisor of Chile’s Central Bank. Céspedes will join the bank as of February 2022.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitutional Assembly approved adopting “institutional and democratic measures” to halt violent manifestations and strikes moving forward. Far right-wing Jose Antonio Kast visited the United States in a brief tour to meet with politicians and business leaders. Constitutional members to present policy guidelines that establishes greater fiscal, administrative, and political capacity for local governments. Former minister Sebastian Sichel announced support for right-wing candidate Jose Antonio Kast after accepting a list of commitments and proposals. Leftist Gabriel Boric tops the latest CADEM poll for the December 19 presidential runoff.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD raises Chile’s GDP growth forecast to 12% this year but estimates an economic contraction for 2022. According to the organism, this year’s growth will be driven by a strong consumption driven by to the fiscal stimulus enacted by the Chilean government, pension withdrawals, and the relaxation of mobility restrictions. A high economic activity in October opens space for the Central Bank to improve fiscal projections. Unemployment fell to 8.1% from August to October, the latest INE’s report concluded.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
5,082,762	128,821	4,923,433	2,494	49.10%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health allocated around COP \$500 billion on healthcare services for migrant population.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the calendar for the requirement of a vaccination certificate.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border reopening between Colombia and Ecuador will begin as of December 15, president Duque announced after a joint decision was taken with President Guillermo Lasso.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the culmination of the fifth 4G road in Colombia in the northern zone of Antioquia.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Councils elections took place to elect more than 10,000 young leaders. While nearly 12 million Colombians from ages 14 to 28 were enabled to vote, authorities reported a low level of participation. Barranquilla hosted the 27th edition of the World Law Congress. More than 1500 participants took part in the event, among them King Felipe VI of Spain and the president of the Organization of American States (OAS) Luis Almagro. 2022 general elections will have special software to ensure transparency, local press announced. The National Electoral Office (CNE) returns legal status to Ingrid Betancourt's political party.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third and last VAT-free day took place. While the government confirmed that the commerce sector is recovering and that sales exceeded all expectations (COP \$11.2 billion approximately), experts warned a possible increase in inflation, especially in the telecommunications and fashion sectors.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
529,349	33,484	443,880	1,858	64.30%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor Óscar Barreneche was named as the new PAHO / WHO representative in Ecuador. • Members of the National Association of Private Clinics and Hospitals of Ecuador elected their authorities for 2021 – 2023 period.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the presence of the omicron variant, the Ministry of Health decided to start administering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in December instead of January.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governments of Ecuador and Colombia postponed the opening of the shared border until December 15. • Measures that seek to delay the arrival of the Omicron variant in Ecuador came into force.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tax reform proposed by President Lasso came into force. • The Foreign Trade Committee suspended the simplifying procedures for products subject to prior import controls until February 2022. • The Minister of Labor decided to extend the deadline for setting the basic salary in 2022.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly members delivered a bill repealing the tax reform; a lawsuit of unconstitutionality will also be filed. • The government defended the 2022 Budget against objections from the National Assembly.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Labor assured that the draft for the labor reform is ready, but they are yet to present it to the National Assembly. • The Constitutional Court prohibited extractive activities in the Río Magdalena mining project.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OECD gave President Lasso a study on public integrity in Ecuador. • Women's organizations demand the approval of the interruption of pregnancy in case of sexual abuse.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
3,902,015	295,312	3,260,084	2,257	50.22%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government detected the first positive sample for the Omicron variant. COFEPRIS issued an authorization for emergency use of an injectable combination to treat COVID-19. The results of the National Health and Nutrition Survey (Ensanut) 2020 were presented. New directors of BIRMEX and ISSSTE were appointed. INSABI and UNOPS announced the consolidated purchase results for 2021 and the national supply actions for 2022.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Health Secretariat reported that 134 million doses against COVID-19 have been supplied so far in the 32 states. President AMLO announced the government will start to administer the booster vaccine for adults over 65 years old.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 22% increase to the minimum wage for 2022 was approved. The Senate approved the appointment of Victoria Rodríguez Ceja as a member of the Governing Board of Banco de Mexico.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexico chaired the III Ministerial Forum Meeting of the ECLAC – China. High-level representatives of Mexico and the US met within the framework of the Bilateral Executive Committee for the Border Administration. The federal government will seek to dialogue with opposition political parties. The consultation to revoke the mandate will take place on April 10, if the necessary signatures are gathered.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governments of Mexico and the United States announced the "Sowing Opportunities" program.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
463,427	16,479	446,234	2,271	37.45%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns over setbacks on diagnosing and controlling HIV raised by Health Authority on the matter. Health Surveillance Director calls on citizens to carry on with the already outlined sanitary measures to mitigate Omicron variant. Paraguay receives top-level certificate from PAHO on eradicating measles and rubella.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 22,000 doses of AZ vaccines expired and will be incinerated by DINAVISA. Health brigades carry out vaccination against COVID-19 in commercial areas in Asuncion. COVID-19 vaccination strategies to be intensified in Alto Parana, Central, Itapua, and Caaguazu departments. Alto Parana has recently raised concerns due to low vaccination rates and high number of cases.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government pushes to maintain Itaipu's energy tariff ahead of meeting with Brazilian counterparts.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitary Measures extended until December 10th without significant modifications. Proposal to request vaccination card and testing to enter large events is being discussed between private guilds and the government. Sanitary protocol to enter the country updated after alarms over Omicron variant.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress sanctioned the 2022 National Budget.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November's fiscal deficit reached -2.1% despite the 18.5% increase in tax revenue. State-owned PETROPAR will reduce fuel prices as of December 10th. Paraguay receives fifth payment from Argentina over energy transfer. Ministry of Public Works annuls bid to dredge Parana river after the awarding process was rejected by the National Directorate of Public Procurement.

PERU

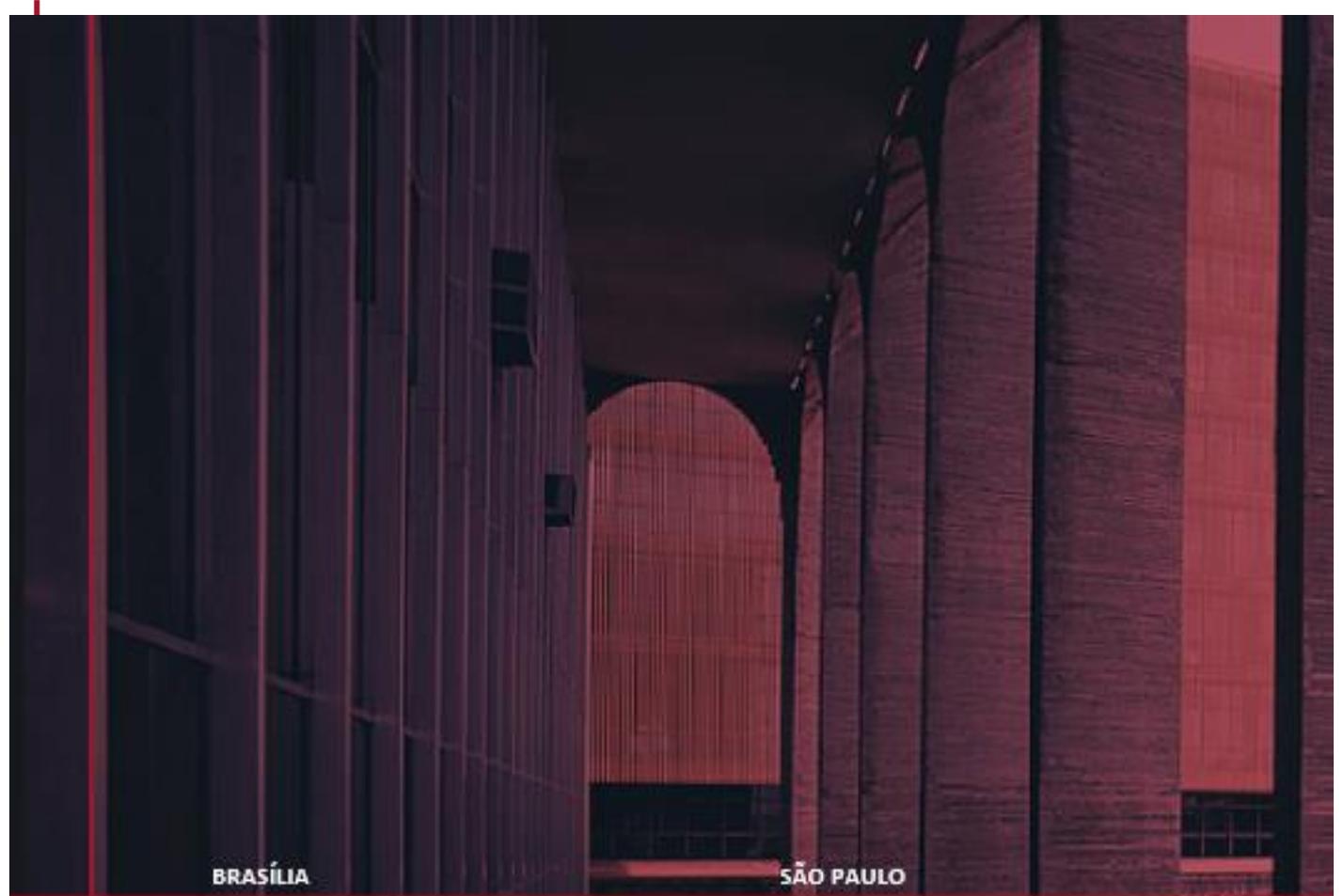
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
2,245,146	201,421	-	5,990	56.67%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health issued an epidemiological alert for the risk of importation of cases of the omicron variant. The Ministry of Health has carried out about 24,000 molecular tests in fourteen prioritized regions since October. The National Center for the Supply of Strategic Health Resources distributed 624 126 kilos of medical supplies during November. A new Antiretroviral Treatment Center was inaugurated.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions for those who are not fully vaccinated have been pushed forward to begin on December 10th.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New measures to prevent expansion of the omicron variant of COVID-19 were announced.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Economy led technical meetings with regional governors to collect their concerns over budget. Minister of Foreign Trade and health authorities are working on a new mechanism to streamline health control in foreign trade.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo reaffirmed his commitment to decentralization and joint work with regional governments. President Castillo will hold various meetings with the leaders of political parties with parliamentary representation. The Peruvian government and the OAS signed a Joint Declaration in favor of democracy, human rights, security and development.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo stated his government's decision to avoid shortages and price rises. The IMF affirmed that there is room to increase progressivity of the mining tax regime.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo spoke with the Secretary General of the OAS on governance and the fight against corruption. The government declared four regions in a state of emergency to serve those affected by the earthquake.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
401,103	6,136	392,880	1,758	76.35%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this week the country registered the highest COVID-19 positivity rate recorded in 141 days, local press reported. • Delegation of the Ministry of Public Health expressed its willingness to work on new proposals to positively impact international health at the extraordinary meeting of the World Health Assembly. • Ministry of Public Health promotes free tests for HIV detection.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uruguay completed UD S\$442 million public bond issue in the Japanese market. The issuance was made at historically low rates.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Lacalle Pou ruled out the implementation of restrictive measures in the context of Omicron's variable expansion, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electoral Court surpassed 650,000 validated signatures. Approximately 20,000 signatures remain to be validated to confirm the call for a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC), local press remarked. • Turnout of more than 100,000 people at the internal voting to define the new President of <i>Frente Amplio</i>, the main opposition party of the country. Results are not yet available.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to INE, unemployment dropped in October to 8%. Labor Minister assured that the 90 000 jobs lost during 2020 have already been recovered. • International Monetary Fund praised Uruguay's actions in response to the pandemic.



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