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2021
25|oct

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO
3,783,327 confirmed cases
286,346 deaths
41% fully vaccinated

COLOMBIA
4,991,050 confirmed cases
127,067 deaths
40% fully vaccinated

BRAZIL
21,729,763 confirmed cases
605,682 deaths
54% fully vaccinated

ECUADOR
515,606 confirmed cases
32,952 deaths
56% fully vaccinated

PERU
2,195,859 confirmed cases
200,052 deaths
44% fully vaccinated

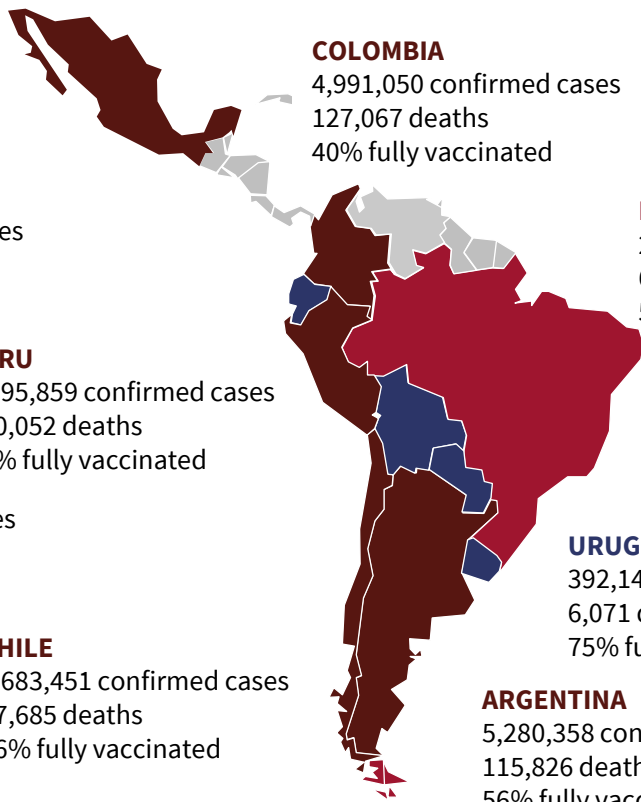
PARAGUAY
460,723 confirmed cases
16,231 deaths
30% fully vaccinated

BOLIVIA
509,919 confirmed cases
18,901 deaths
29% fully vaccinated

CHILE
1,683,451 confirmed cases
37,685 deaths
76% fully vaccinated

URUGUAY
392,148 confirmed cases
6,071 deaths
75% fully vaccinated

ARGENTINA
5,280,358 confirmed cases
115,826 deaths
56% 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

OCTOBER 19 - OCTOBER 25, 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	5,280,358	6,895	-4.1%	115,826	122	-43%	542,310
BOLIVIA	509,919	2,785	-18.1%	18,901	24	-71%	211,833
BRAZIL	21,729,763	77,853	12.5%	605,682	1,161	-6%	297,268
CHILE	1,683,451	10,453	8.7%	37,685	62	19%	1,200,353
COLOMBIA	4,991,050	8,475	-8.4%	127,067	181	-22%	514,114
ECUADOR	515,606	2,580	94.4%	32,952	53	-16%	106,324
MEXICO	3,783,327	24,858	-29.4%	286,346	1,869	-22%	85,808
PARAGUAY	460,723	170	-51.4%	16,231	3	-86%	259,743
PERU	2,195,859	5,463	-10.9%	200,052	170	-19%	560,316
URUGUAY	392,148	981	-13.1%	6,071	2	-60%	1,079,999

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 25/10/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: The government unilaterally issues a resolution to freeze the prices of 1,500 food and consumer goods for 90 days.

Bolivia: Ministry of Health and PAHO announced joint actions to boost digital transformation.

Brazil: Pandemic CPI will vote on report this week, recommending charges against Bolsonaro.

Colombia: Inovio Pharma signed a non-biding memorandum with the Colombian government.

Chile: Ministry of Health, ECLAC, and PAHO presented the Healthy Aging 2021-2030 agenda in the Americas.

Ecuador: President Lasso fixed values for the sale of extra gasoline and diesel.

Mexico: Mexican and US authorities discussed an action plan for the development of the south of the country.

Paraguay: Kristalina Georgieva, from the IMF, addressed the economic recovery of the second half of 2021 and highlighted the good work done by Paraguay.

Peru: The National Health Institute confirmed the presence of Delta variant in all the country's regions.

Uruguay: Campaign in favor of the repeal of the Urgent Consideration Law's articles was officially launched.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
5,280,358	115,826	5,146,819	2,532	56%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers of Health from all provinces discussed strategies to promote and accelerate vaccination. They focused especially on vaccinations for teenagers and children. One in four new cases of COVID-19 is among children or teenagers, local press reported. The distribution service of the Specialty Drug Bank was launched. This new modality allows delivery at destination of the medication requested for patients suffering from neoplasms by the different jurisdictions.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the framework of vaccine production supported by PAHO, a meeting was held between Argentine and Brazilian authorities to exchange information about technology transfer in the production of COVID-19 vaccines. The Minister of Science stated that a national vaccine against COVID-19 is planned to be developed between 2022 and 2023.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without agreement with the industry, the government unilaterally issued a resolution to freeze the prices of 1,500 food and consumer goods for 90 days. It is to contain inflation. The Secretary of Commerce announced that controls will be in place to ensure compliance with the rule.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government removed some capacity restrictions on public buses, subways and trains.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After attacks by Mapuche indigenous groups in Rio Negro, the governor of the province asked federal authorities for help. The National government explained that "it is not its responsibility" to provide security in the region, although it has sent some troops. This statement caused controversy between the government and the opposition. Next Tuesday, October 26th, the Chamber of Deputies will deal with the food labeling bill. Such bill has already been approved by the Senate.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
509,919	18,901	472,555	1,591	29%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health and PAHO announced joint actions to boost digital transformation on the health sector by reinforcing Bolivia's National Information System (SNIS).
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over one million Pfizer doses arrived last week in the country. According to authorities, this new batch will be used for vaccinating people between 16 and 17 years. President Arce received the second Sputnik V vaccine shot last week. People over 18 years to receive booster shots, government announced.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government lowered telecommunications and internet rates for people with disabilities. Savings will increase up to 80%, authorities stated.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivian minister Rogelio Mayta visited Russia to meet with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Both leaders coincided on the importance of solving US-Cuba tensions and questioned internal affairs interference in the region. Also, they addressed issues on COVID-19, bilateral trade, and the necessity to consolidate integration processes in Latam such as the CELAC.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ammonia and Urea plant, recently reopened by the government produces approximately 1,500 tons of fertilizer per day generating profits of USD \$22 million per month, President Arce announced. Economic projections place Bolivia at the third position amongst the countries of the region with the faster growth in the first semester of 2021. The country grew by 9.4%.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
21,729,763	605,682	20,907,224	2,823	54%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pandemic CPI released its report, accusing President Bolsonaro of nine different crimes related to his management of the pandemic, while voting on the report will occur this week. Health spending is up 11% between January and August of 2021, despite the massive decrease in COVID-19 cases.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71.8% of Brazil's population have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 51% are fully vaccinated. President Bolsonaro's livestream comparing vaccination to the AIDS virus was removed by Facebook and Instagram for spreading misinformation. Pfizer began a study on vaccination in immunosuppressed people, including a trial population in Brazil.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Judicial Debt PEC (23/2021) was approved by the Special Committee and will now be considered by the House of Representatives floor, with pressure for approval to open up space for the Brazil Aid program. New party affiliations for Sérgio Moro (Podemos) and Senate President Rodrigo Pacheco (PSD) demonstrate the political maneuvering ahead of third-way candidacies in the 2022 elections.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning on Monday (25th) the Joint Budget Committee (CMO) will receive amendments to the 2022 budget bill. The Brazil Aid program will have a temporary minimum floor of BRL 400, generating BRL \$51.1 billion in additional costs in 2022, violating the spending cap and resulting in resignations from key members of the Ministry of Economy. The Monetary Policy Committee (COPOM) is expected to shift to more aggressive interest rate hikes of around 1.5 pp in response to the new fiscal context with the broken spending cap.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
1,683,451	37,685	1,632,077	1,949	76%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chilean Ministry of Health, ECLAC, and PAHO presented the Healthy Aging 2021-2030 agenda in the Americas. Congress announced the publication of the Palliative Care Law. President Piñera opened the process to begin the construction of the new National Cancer Institute.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chilean authorities met with the European Medicine Agency to present an overview of how vaccine rollout is advancing in the country.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government confirmed payment date of October's Emergency Family Income (IFE). President Piñera appointed Mario Marcel as the president of Chile's Central Bank for a second period.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While right-wing Kast extends his lead according to Cadem's latest poll, the majority of Chileans (around 33%) believe leftist Gabriel Boric will be the next President of the country. Members of the Constituent Assembly officially started drafting the content of the new constitution last Monday, October 18.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State commission Cochilco published its latest weekly report explaining the sudden decline in copper prices reported in the last weeks. Prices started to decrease after having reached record-high levels during the first half of the year. National Economic Office (FNE) calls for measures to prevent the flow of commercial information between competitors and avoid further collisions. Investments in the industrial sector to experience a great boom this year, but a sharp drop in 2022, local press announced. Unemployment rate fell by more than 50% in recent weeks according to an official survey. Meanwhile, the government continue enforcing social aids for vulnerable families amid the economic reactivation.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
4,991,050	127,067	4,834,893	2,463	40%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health participated in the meeting “Diabetes, a high-cost disease”. Experts mentioned the outstanding efforts to provide non-covid services amid the pandemic and the necessity to prioritize related measures.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia has applied around 45 million doses and 20 million people have been fully vaccinated. According to the government the goal is to have at least 70% of the population immunized by the end of 2021. Inovio Pharma signed a non-biding memorandum of understanding with the Colombian government to boost efforts to tackle the COVID-19 crisis.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amid the ACM Congress, the government announced the opening of new phosphate and gold auctions for the first half of 2022. Government launched the mission of experts to draft a long-run roadmap in artificial intelligence.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duque’s government along with the participation of the military and police forces captured on Saturday drug lord know as Otoniel. This may be considered as Duque’s most important security triumph. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Colombia for the first time since Joe Biden took office. Both leaders addressed a variety of issues, including the Venezuelan migration crisis, COVID-19, and human rights accountability. Carmen Ligia was appointed as the new Minister of Technology.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite 2020 was one of the hardest years amid pandemic, the country presented historic agricultural export figures.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
515,606	32,952	443,880	1,831	56%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Transparency Commission asked the Minister of Health to send information on the supply of medicines to the health sector.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health announced that any certificate of vaccination against COVID-19 applied abroad is valid. Around 110 thousand health workers will receive a third dose of the Astra Zeneca vaccine against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso decided fixed values for the sale of extra gasoline and diesel.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso received US Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken, to address issues related to trade, regional security, climate change and migration. The Constitutional Guarantees Commission will summon President Lasso for the second time regarding the “Pandora Papers” case.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with members of the German Government to address cooperation in renewable energy matters.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade union organizations delivered a bill for a new Organic Labor Code to the National Assembly. Indigenous communities filed a lawsuit against the Government's oil policy in the Amazon. A draft Law on Cybersecurity entered the National Assembly.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
3,783,327	286,346	3,145,535	2,191	41%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Under Secretary of Health reported that if the downward trend in cases of COVID-19 continues, the country would reach a minimum point in upcoming weeks. The Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) launched a Health Fair promote preventive actions against breast cancer. The Health Secretariat decided to delay the influenza vaccination campaign for November.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO stated that the WHO acts inefficiently in the certification process of vaccines against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination began for minors with comorbidities. The government received 9 million COVID-19 vaccines from 4 different pharmaceuticals this past week.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexican and US authorities discussed an action plan for the development of the south of the country. President AMLO presented a support plan for the state of Guerrero. President AMLO stated that his administration is going to continue to combat tax fraud.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The House of Representatives approved part of the draft Economic Package for 2022.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mexican Stock Exchange fell 0.21%. The government expects to achieve an investment of USD 25 billion between 2022 and 2024 from US companies in the southeast of the country.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenpeace asked the government of Mexico to change its energy policy. Inflation in the country exceeded 6% in the first half of October. President AMLO reported that the country now exceeds the employment level prior to the pandemic. Mexico and the United States will undertake joint work on environmental matters.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
460,723	16,231	444,229	2,240	30%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health reduced the hourly load to 12 hours per week, in five hospitals in the country for both permanent and temporary positions.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health reported the arrival of a total of 225,810 vaccines from the Pfizer platform, via Covax mechanism. The government of Mario Abdo Benítez announced the purchase of some 2,000,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines. Paraguay is 1,039,000 vaccines away from reaching 80% of the population over 18 years of age vaccinated against COVID-19.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate of Health Surveillance announced that currently in Paraguay there is a plateau in terms of the number of infections and deaths from COVID-19, reporting in total 460,679 infected people and 16,229 deaths.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Abdo Benítez will evaluate at the end of this year the possibility of leading his political formation, the National Republican Association (ANR). The voting machines received good perception and acceptance by the citizens and the different electoral agents in the last municipal elections. Paraguay will have a permanent representation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), promoted by the National Foreign Ministry
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of the fuel marketing sector said that there are currently no conditions for a new rise in the price of fuels and that the scenario is one of stabilization of costs. The managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), highlighted the work done by Paraguay to face the COVID-19 pandemic and stressed the signs of economic recovery.

PERU

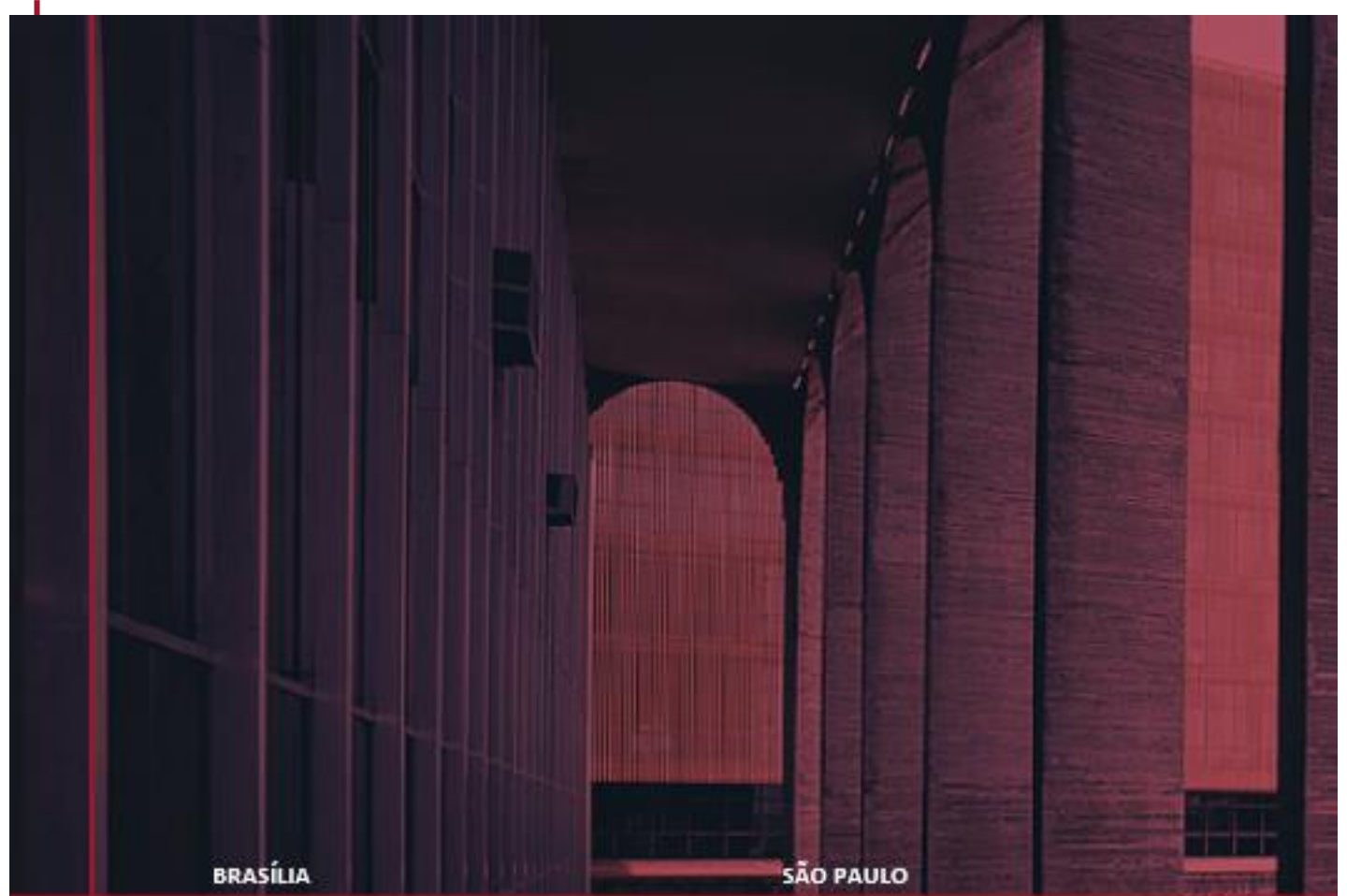
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
2,195,859	200,052	-	5,959	44%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Health Institute confirmed the presence of Delta variant in all of the country's regions and is responsible of 84% of the cases. A new molecular biology laboratory for the detection of COVID-19 was inaugurated. The country exceeded the threshold of 200,000 deaths from coronavirus. The Ministry of Health will carry out a national campaign of molecular tests to detect lesions of cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Directorate of Medicines, Supplies and Drugs reported that in Peru there have been no cases of myocarditis as a result of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Minister of Health reported that Peru is close to 60% of its target population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Ministry of Health warned on the abundance of fake news regarding COVID-19 vaccination.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government mandated a curfew throughout the country and other capacity restrictions due to COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Council for Labor and Employment Promotion will be reactivated. President Castillo ratified that in his country there is "full openness to attract investments".
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government presented a constitutional reform that abolishes moral incapacity as a cause to remove the president from office and limits the reasons for initiating a motion of censure against cabinet ministers.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo announced the expansion of the number of regions in which natural gas from the country's deposits will be channeled for domestic and industrial use.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
392,148	6,071	384,363	1,740	75%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country surpassed 1,600 active cases for the first time in a month. COVID-19 Intensive Care Center occupancy exceeded 20 patients for first time in 66 days, local press remarked. According to a study by a specialized working group, the Delta variable was detected in 100% of the COVID-19 cases registered in October , local press reported. On Breast Cancer Day, Minister of Health announced women who must undergo a radical mastectomy will have access to free breast implants and specific studies. The State Health Services Administration (ASSE) increased its investment in medicines by 16%.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health urged to ensure that children are up to date with their vaccination's schemes in view of the upcoming border opening.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced it will extend the Labor Opportunity Program until the end of January. Solidarity wages will be extended, and two months of partial unemployment insurance will be added.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguayan government requested relaxation of Brazilian measures to allow cruise ships to enter the country. Government prepares for the opening of borders to foreign tourism as of November 1st.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government introduced strategies to foster education in prisons and improve social reintegration of convicts. Campaign for the repeal of the Urgent Consideration Law was launched. Politicians, social actors and artists who support the cause participated in the event, local press reported. Next Tuesday, October 26, the House of Representatives will vote on the final approval or rejection of the accountability bill.



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