

WEEKLY REPORT



12/11/20

POLITICS

BRAZIL FACES US\$7 BILLION HOLE IN 2021 BUDGET FROM EMERGENCY AID, INFLATION – SOURCE

Brazil faces a R\$35 billion (US\$7 billion) hole in its 2021 budget due to emergency aid payments being held over to next year and welfare benefits indexed to a higher inflation rate than anticipated, a source on the government's economic team said. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S UPDATED CLIMATE PLAN SEEN LACKING CREDIBILITY AS FORESTS SHRINK

The Climate Observatory, a network of nearly 60 NGOs, has put together a proposal for an updated plan for Brazil compatible with the Paris climate agreement goals. It calls for an 81% net reduction in emissions by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL LAUNCHES FIVE-YEAR ANTI-CORRUPTION PLAN

The Brazilian government on Wednesday, December 9th, launched the 2020-2025 Anti-corruption Plan to fight graft. President Jair Bolsonaro signed the document at a ceremony at government headquarters attended by the Federal Comptroller General Wagner Rosario, and other top officials. [Read more.](#)

U.S. ASSESSES REOPENING TRAVEL WITH BRAZIL AND EUROPE DESPITE SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES

The White House has held multiple discussions on reopening travel to the U.S. from the U.K. and other European countries and Brazil, notwithstanding a surge in coronavirus cases, according to people familiar with the matter. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO DISMISSES TOURISM MINISTER; EMBRATUR PRESIDENT COULD TAKE OVER

The official notice of the dismissal was published in the Federal Gazette on the morning of December 10th. The Minister's position was among those expected to be included in the cabinet reshuffle initially scheduled for February. The most widely quoted to take his place is the current president of EMBRATUR (Brazilian Tourist Board), Gilson Machado. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL COURT RULING THROWS OPEN RACES FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

A decision by Brazil's Supreme Court (STF), barring the current leaders of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies from re-election in February, has thrown open the race to replace them and cleared the way for a frenzied final few weeks of legislation this year. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN LEFT-WING PARTIES PDT AND PSB DISPLAY STRENGTH, MAY BECOME ALTERNATIVES TO PT

The 2020 municipal election left a scenario of left-wing desolation, which saw the political center conquer the vast majority of capital cities and grow in the number of city halls in the country. [Read more.](#)

SURVEY: BOLSONARO LEADS IN SIMULATED 2022 BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

The municipal elections are barely over, and the presidential race is already on the political world's radar. A survey conducted by the Paraná Institute shows that if the election were held today, President Jair Bolsonaro would lead in the three first-round scenarios tested and in the five second-round simulations made. [Read more.](#)

BIDEN WIN RAISES PRESSURE ON BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TO PROTECT AMAZON

The election of Joe Biden as U.S. president will raise pressure on Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to step up the country's effort to curb growing deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

ANVISA REDUCES THE PRICE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE MEDICINE BY R \$ 9.2 MILLION

The drug Zolgensma, known as the most expensive medicine in the world, and which in Brazil costs about R \$ 12 million, can have a significant price reduction. Publication by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) this Tuesday (8/12), that the factory value of the product in Brazil should not cost more than R \$ 2.8 million, a reduction of 76.7%. This is the first step for the drug to be available in the Unified Health System (SUS). [Read more.](#)

ANVISA EXPLAINS PRICING OF LUXTURNA AND ZOLGENSMA DRUGS: UNDERSTAND

The Anvisa clarifies that the criteria used in setting the maximum price of medicines Luxturna and Zolgensma were approved on the 6th Special Meeting of the Chamber of Drug Market Regulation (CMED), which occurred on 4/12. Both drugs are owned by the company Novartis Biociência SA and are intended for rare genetic diseases. The Technical-Executive Committee of CMED, by unanimous decision, authorized the maximum prices for the marketing of the respective drugs, which since then can be sold in the country. The interested company was informed about the content of the decision by means of an electronic message, with a copy of the price approval opinion attached. The electronic message was sent on 7/12. It is important to note that the decision of the CMED collegiate is effective immediately after publication and acknowledgment to the company, in accordance with each and every administrative act. Therefore, the marketing of the medicines Luxturna and Zolgensma is free, regardless of the submission of a reconsideration request by the interested company. [Read more.](#)

REVERSE DRUG LOGISTICS BEGINS TO TAKE EFFECT IN THE COUNTRY

In December 2020, federal decree No. 10,388 came into force, which instituted the system of reverse logistics for medicines with the participation of manufacturers, importers, distributors, and traders of these products, as determined by the National Solid Waste Policy (PNRS). The standard includes expired home medicines that are no longer used for human use, and do not include those discarded by public and private health service providers, such as hospitals, laboratories, health units, offices, medical and dental clinics, among others. The system will be implemented in two stages. The first, with the creation of a monitoring group, formed by entities representing the business sector and the structuring of a tool for the provision of information; while the second, scheduled for September 2021, will count on the qualification of service providers to operate in this system, the elaboration of a communication plan and the installation of points for receiving medicines in drugstores and pharmacies. [Read more.](#)

PROVISION OF NEW DRUGS IN SUS GOES BEYOND THE TERM PROVIDED FOR IN A DECREE

The process for a new medication or treatment to be available in the Unified Health System (SUS), from the acceptance of its incorporation until the effective availability to the patient,

must take 180 days. This is the term provided for in Article 25 of Presidential Decree No. 7,646 / 2011, which is sometimes not respected. In some part of this procedure, medicines are blocked, preventing them from reaching their main objective: improving quality and even saving patients' lives. Taking the frontline of this cause, non-governmental organizations Multiple Friends for Sclerosis (AME) and Chronicles of Daily Life (CDD) launched the campaign "The rule is clear", with the objective of proposing a dialogue between the medical community and patients, health professionals and public managers, in order to promote and stimulate the population's interest in the political sphere of health and public administration. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO TURNS TO MILITARY ALLIES TO SET BRAZIL'S CORONAVIRUS VACCINE POLICY

Brazil's leader Jair Bolsonaro is moving to assert control of the nation's independent health regulator, ANVISA, a move some health experts fear will politicize the agency and give the president, one of the world's most prominent coronavirus skeptics, free rein over vaccine approvals. [Read more.](#)

IN A LETTER, ANVISA WORKERS SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT BOW TO POLITICAL PRESSURE

Anvisa (National Health Surveillance Agency) employees released an open letter in defense of the agency, which is in the middle of a political dispute caused by the race to obtain vaccines against Covid-19. In the letter, employees reaffirm "the technical and independent nature of the work and activities carried out by the agency's employees in promoting and protecting the population's health." They say they are used to delicate situations, but they assure that "the technical work is above any pressure". [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO GOVERNOR EXPECTS ANVISA APPROVAL OF CORONAVAC BY JANUARY 15TH

The Butantan Institute will forward the third phase of vaccine trials results to the agency on December 15th. This is the last stage before the immunizer is approved. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BUTANTAN ANNOUNCES PLAN TO EXPORT CORONAVAC TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

The Butantan Institute is negotiating the potential export of the CoronaVac, a vaccine against Covid-19 produced in partnership with the Chinese Sinovac laboratory, to Latin American countries. Dimas Covas, the institute's director, visited Argentina last week. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE: PFIZER'S PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS COOLING CHALLENGE IN BRAZIL: DRY ICE

Approved on an emergency basis in Canada and the United Kingdom, Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine in partnership with the German biotechnology company BioNTech is trying to enter the Brazilian market through a commitment to sell 70 million doses to be delivered in 2021. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL AIMS TO VACCINATE ENTIRE POPULATION AGAINST COVID-19 IN 2021

In the last few days, the government has given multiple different timeframes for when vaccinations could begin. Originally slated for March, Pazuello then said the campaign could begin in January or February. Later, he said some vaccinations could even be administered later this month. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY EXPECTS TO CONTROL WHO HAS ALREADY TAKEN COVID VACCINE BY APP AND DIGITAL WALLET

With the approach of vaccination against covid-19 in Brazil - although at the national level there is no date set in the first half of next year - the importance of controlling those who have already been immunized in a scenario of still low doses grows. For this, the Ministry of Health intends to carry out this monitoring through an application and a digital vaccination card. To Estadão, the ministry reminded this week that each dose applied will be registered in this

portfolio, whose identification is linked to the citizen's CPF or to the National Health Card (CNS). The folder says that the type of vaccine, the batch of manufacture and the date on which the dose was applied will be registered. The data can be accessed through the Connect SUS application. [Read more.](#)

NUMBER OF DOCTORS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 20 YEARS, BUT QUALITY STILL CHALLENGES HEALTH SERVICES

The number of doctors in the country has more than doubled in the last 20 years, as shown by Medical Demography in Brazil, a survey carried out jointly by USP and the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM), released this Tuesday afternoon. This significant increase in the number of professionals, however, has not translated into a gain in quality in health services for the Brazilian population. To have an idea, in 2000 the country had 239 thousand doctors. The number jumped to 320,000 in 2010 and now to 500,000. This number indicates that we have, in Brazil, 2.4 doctors per thousand inhabitants, a high rate, comparable to that of countries such as the United Kingdom (2.8 per thousand), the United States (2.6) and Japan (2.4). However, Brazilian doctors are highly concentrated in large cities. There are about 350 thousand professionals in the south and southeast regions alone. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS BRAZIL IS EXPERIENCING 'TAIL END' OF PANDEMIC DESPITE DEATH SURGE

The statement came at a time when 22 of the 27 states are experiencing a surge in coronavirus deaths, according to the media outlet consortium. It is the first time that this number of states have simultaneously shown an upward trend in deaths from the disease since the consortium began monitoring them on July 9th. Since the start of the pandemic, 179,032 people have died as a result of Covid-19 in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO GOVERNMENT SAYS COVID CONTAGION HIGHER IN DECEMBER THAN FIRST PEAK

The São Paulo government said on Thursday, December 10th, that the chance of infection by Covid-19 is higher than at the first peak of the pandemic in July. [Read more.](#)

EIGHT CAPITALS HAVE OVER 80% ICU CAPACITY FOR COVID-19

Florianópolis, a holiday destination during the summer season, started this week with almost all public ICU beds occupied: 98.51%. In Rio de Janeiro, also a holiday destination, the percentage reached 92%. This week, there are eight Brazilian capitals with over 80% capacity in public ICU beds for Covid-19, according to Folha's survey with state governments and city halls in all states. There were six capital cities with severe coronavirus patients occupying more than 80% of the beds in mid-November. [Read more.](#)

WITH NO RESTRICTIONS ON CELEBRATIONS IN BRAZIL, INFECTOLOGISTS EXPECT 'TIME BOMB' IN JANUARY

Although some Brazilian states are now announcing restrictions to the Christmas and New Year celebrations in order to contain the novel coronavirus pandemic, the measure is still facing resistance from the federal government and its supporters, which on Friday, December 4th, popularized the hashtag #VaiTerNatalSim (#YesThereWillBeChristmas). [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN HEALTH SECRETARIES URGE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE ALL COVID-19 VACCINES

The Secretaries argue that the worsening pandemic worldwide should increase demand and cause shortages, "leading to restrictions on the number of suppliers resulting in delays in access to a vaccine for priority risk groups." [Read more.](#)