

WEEKLY REPORT



12/18/20

POLITICS

BOLSONARO APPROVAL AT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 2018

President Jair Bolsonaro's approval rating remained stable at the highest level since he was elected in 2018 even as the government phases out popular monthly stipends, according to a Datafolha poll released by Folha de S. Paulo. Roughly 37% of citizens rate the president as good or great, which is unchanged from August and up from 32% in June. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SUPREME COURT DECIDES COVID-19 VACCINE CAN BE COMPULSORY

The Federal Supreme Court (STF) justices decided on Thursday that vaccination against Covid-19 can be made compulsory in the country. By ten votes to one, the STF considered that vaccination is mandatory "but not forced," because, according to the Court's perspective, the individual decision of each individual should not override the collective health of the country as a whole. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT STATES NO ONE CAN FORCE VACCINATION, CONFIRMS HE WILL NOT TAKE VACCINE

The President's statement comes after the Federal Supreme Court (STF) decided to authorize sanctions and restrictive measures to anyone refusing to be vaccinated. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO RECOGNIZES BIDEN VICTORY, REACHES OUT TO PRESIDENT-ELECT

In an interview with Brazil's TV Band, Bolsonaro said that with the vote now confirmed by the U.S. Electoral College, he would no longer discuss the election. A fervent ideological ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, the Brazilian leader had voiced concerns about widespread fraud in the November vote. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL RISKS LOSING UN VOTING RIGHT OVER UNPAID PAST DEBT

The UN is under financial strain due to late payments from several countries, including the U.S., but no major G-20 economy has found itself at risk of losing its vote so often. Brazil averted a similar scenario last year by paying at the last minute. [Read more.](#)

TAX REFORM IN BRAZIL STALLED IN THE MIDST OF POLITICAL DISPUTE AND "FISCAL ABYSS"

Brazil is heading into a "fiscal abyss" and a serious crisis next year, following the decision to postpone parliamentary debate on a bill extending emergency aid spending, lower house speaker Rodrigo Maia said on Friday. Senator Marcio Bittar said that he would no longer present his proposal for debate until next year due to its "complexity." [Read more.](#)

GUEDES CONFIDENT BRAZIL CAN HELP VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND MAINTAIN SPENDING CAP

The Brazilian government has the financial tools to support some of the country's most vulnerable people next year without threatening the spending cap, its most important fiscal anchor, Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said on Friday, December 11th. In public testimony to

Congress, Guedes noted that this year's emergency income transfers to the poor, made during the coronavirus pandemic, will end on December 31st, but ways could be found to extend help without breaking its fiscal rules. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN SENATOR PROPOSES EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY AID TO MARCH 2021

Senator Alessandro Vieira submitted a proposal to extend the emergency aid, scheduled to end this year, and to prolong the state of calamity until March next year. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ECONOMY GROWS 0.86% IN OCTOBER, LOWEST RESULT SINCE MAY

Brazil's economy grew 0.86 percent in October compared to September, marking the sixth consecutive month of growth, but the lowest result since May, indicating an economic slowdown, the Central Bank of Brazil said on Monday, December 14th. The bank's Economic Activity Index (IBC-Br), considered a preview of gross domestic product (GDP), fell 2.61 percent in October year on year. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN ANALYSTS RAISE 2020 INFLATION FORECAST TO 4.35%

Brazil's financial market raised its inflation forecast for 2020 from 4.21 to 4.35 percent, the 18th consecutive weekly increase, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday, December 15th. Financial analysts maintained their 2021 inflation forecast at 3.34 percent, according to the bank's weekly survey of leading financial institutions in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVERNMENT PROPOSES R\$1,088 MINIMUM WAGE IN 2021, COVERING INFLATION ESTIMATE

The federal government has forwarded to Congress its projection of R\$1,088 for the minimum wage in 2021, with no real increase over projected inflation. The monthly wage floor in 2020 is R\$1,045. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

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PATENT LAW IS UNDER REVIEW BY THE GOVERNMENT

In effect since 1996 and the subject of legal challenges, Brazilian patent law is about to change. An interministerial task force, coordinated by the Casa Civil, is expected to propose sending a bill to Congress with two significant changes to the Industrial Property Law, Valor Econômico said on Tuesday (15). One of them intends to end Anvisa's prior consent requirement for the granting of pharmaceutical patents. The other refers to the "bonus" given to patents granted more than ten years after the initial application. The reform, according to its supporters, will provide a billion-dollar economy in the budget of the Unified Health System (SUS). However, part of the government fears that the changes will discourage innovation. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL AGAIN RECORDS OVER ONE THOUSAND DAILY DEATHS FROM COVID-19 (DECEMBER 17TH)

Brazil has again recorded over one thousand daily deaths from Covid-19: 1,054 – the highest daily record in three months since September 15th. The figure is also related to the fact that the state of São Paulo disclosed on Thursday, December 17th, both Wednesday and Thursday's accumulated records, after experiencing problems to access the Ministry of Health's system. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVERNMENT PLANS COVID-19 VACCINATION INCLUDING ALL APPROVED VACCINES

Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello estimates that the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 in Brazil may kick off in mid-February if laboratories apply for definitive registration with health regulator ANVISA still in December. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL 'S GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE CORONAVAC; BUTANTAN AWAITS MINISTRY LETTER OF INTENT

The Butantan Institute is waiting for a letter in which the Ministry of Health will express its irrevocable and irreversible intention to purchase the CoronaVac vaccine, developed by the institute and the Chinese Sinovac laboratory. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF R\$20 BILLION FOR VACCINE PURCHASE

On Monday night, December 14th, President Jair Bolsonaro confirmed that he will grant R\$20 (US\$3.9) billion through a Provisional Measure (a presidential decree having the force of a statute) for the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines. [Read more.](#)

MASS INOCULATION AGAINST COVID-19 IN BRAZIL "ONLY POSSIBLE" IN MARCH WITH THE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

The AstraZeneca vaccine was Brazil's main bet, with a R\$1.9 billion (US\$371.6 million) deal in June securing raw materials and the transfer of production technology to Fiocruz. Despite long being the world frontrunner, AstraZeneca's shot has been overtaken by Pfizer's. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN ON IMPORTANCE OF GETTING VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

Officials have designed an app that can be downloaded to smartphones for easy consultation as part of the campaign. "You can download the application for free," said Secretary of Health Surveillance Arnaldo Medeiros, adding "what we want is an immunized Brazil." [Read more.](#)



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