

# WEEKLY REPORT



04/10/21

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## POLITICS

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ORDERS SENATE PRESIDENT TO INSTALL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Supreme Court Justice ordered Senate President Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG) to install a CPI (Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry) of the Covid-19 pandemic government response. The justice affirmed that the necessary requirements for opening the commission are present and that the head of the Senate cannot be omitted in this regard. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO ACCUSES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE OF "POLITICAL ACTIVISM" AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday responded harshly to a Supreme Court Justice who ordered the Senate to create a Parliamentary Inquiry Committee (CPI) to investigate the government's management of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bolsonaro accused him of using "political activism" against his government. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO'S NEW JUSTICE MINISTER REPLACES BRAZIL FEDERAL POLICE CHIEFS**

Brazil's new justice minister on Tuesday replaced the heads of the federal police and federal highway police with candidates backed by President Jair Bolsonaro, amid concerns the right-wing leader seeks more direct influence over law enforcement. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO ASKS BRAZIL MILITARY ABOUT TROOPS TO QUELL POSSIBLE UNREST**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Wednesday that he had asked the armed forces if they had troops available to control possible social unrest from the COVID-19 crisis, adding to fears that he is pushing the military into a political role. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL SHOULD KEEP SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY WITHOUT BREACHING THE CAP, SAYS IMF**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reiterated on Wednesday that Brazil should maintain support for the economy during this critical phase of the covid-19 pandemic, but without disrespecting the spending cap, a fiscal policy that the entity considers important for the country to preserve advances in economic fundamentals achieved in the last 20 years. [Read more.](#)

### **ECONOMICS VERSUS POLITICS: WHO WILL WIN BRAZIL'S BUDGET IMPASSE?**

Bolsonaro has agreed to follow Economic Minister Guedes' advice and partially veto this year's budget bill to cut mandatory Social Security spending proposed by the legislature. However, in line with legislators and his government's political wing, Bolsonaro intends to keep resources for construction and funds earmarked by members of parliament. Therefore, the cut's size will hardly be what the Ministry of Economic is defending, said four people with knowledge of the matter who requested anonymity because the discussions are not public. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL TO DROP TO 13TH POSITION AMONG WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMIES IN 2021 – AUSTIN RATING**

Brazil is expected to drop from 12th position in the list of the world's largest economies in 2021. Latin America's largest economy and the No. 2 economy in all of the Americas is a giant with more than 210 million people but has struggled for several years. A survey by the risk rating agency Austin Rating, based on new projections from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the global economy, shows that the country will be overtaken by Australia and will end next year as the 13th largest economic power in the world. [Read more.](#)

### **DON'T GIVE UP ON BRAZIL, SAYS SENATE PRESIDENT AT AN EVENT WITH INVESTORS**

On Monday (5), the president of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), asked investors to not abandon their positive expectations of the country. The senator participated in a meeting that Itaú organized in parallel to an International Monetary Fund event called "Spring Meetings." The meeting promoted by the bank often receives the same participants from the IMF event. "I want to say to all those in Brazil and outside Brazil who see our country as a country with high expectations for the future to not give up on those expectations," said Pacheco. [Read more.](#)

### **NEW PANDEMIC WAVE GENERATES GREATER UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BRAZIL, GUEDES TELLS IMF**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is holding its regular Spring Meeting, which occurs in early April each year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Brazilian minister will not attend the meeting but sent a speech to the International Monetary and Financial Committee, in which he expresses the economic team's views on several topics. According to Guedes, the Brazilian government provided an adequate and coordinated response to the pandemic's economic crisis last year. Now the challenge is to pursue structural reforms to sustain a period of "strong recovery," stressed the minister. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S CENTRAL BANK DIRECTOR DOES NOT SEE STAGFLATION SCENARIO FOR BRAZIL**

Central Bank Economic Policy Director Fabio Kanczuk on Friday said he does not see a stagflation scenario in Brazil, which would combine an economic stagnation scenario with rising inflation. "We are acting to bring inflation to the center of the inflation target over the relevant horizon," he emphasized over an online event organized by Goldman Sachs. [Read more.](#)

### **SURVEY SHOWS THAT 19 MILLION PEOPLE WENT HUNGRY IN BRAZIL AT THE END OF 2020**

The study makes it clear that hunger rates are higher in rural than in urban areas. Serious food insecurity reached 12% of households in rural areas, against 8.5% in urban areas, with greater vulnerability for less access to drinking water. [Read more.](#)

### **FOR VICE-PRESIDENT MOURÃO, BRAZIL WILL ONLY GET MONEY IF IT PROVES IT HAS REDUCED DEFORESTATION**

As president of the National Council for the Legal Amazon, a body established in February last year at the height of the worst forest fires in recent decades in the country, vice-president Hamilton Mourão is skeptical that the U.S. government and the European Union will be able to provide resources to Brazil while the country does not demonstrate, with figures, its commitment to reducing deforestation. [Read more.](#)

### **LACK OF U.S. TRUST IN BRAZIL HOLDS UP AMAZON DEAL**

A lack of trust is creating a stalemate in negotiations between the United States and Brazil over preserving the Amazon. Representatives of President Joe Biden's administration want the government of President Jair Bolsonaro to present concrete results towards the goal of zero illegal deforestation by 2030, before distributing financial resources. The Brazilian government wants the money on the table immediately. [Read more.](#)

## **BOLSONARO SANCTIONS LAW PLEDGING TO OPEN THE GAS MARKET AND MAKE ENERGY CHEAPER**

President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday, April 8th, sanctioned the New Gas Law, which ends the Petrobras monopoly and modifies the legal and regulatory framework to promote competition in the country and attract investments of around R\$60 billion to triple natural gas production in ten years to integrate it into national power generation. The new law comes into effect almost two years after the launch of the program pledging a “cheap energy shock” with the end of Petrobras’ monopoly over natural gas – a project championed by Ministers Bento Albuquerque (Mines and Energy) and Paulo Guedes (Economy). [Read more.](#)

## **OVER 70% OF INDUSTRIAL FIRMS STRUGGLE TO GET RAW MATERIALS**

Brazil’s scarcity of supplies and raw materials for production has affected 73 percent of companies in the general industry (extraction and manufacturing) and 72 percent of construction firms in February. The figures were published Friday (Apr. 9) by Brazil’s National Confederation Industry (CNI) as part of a study surveying 1,782 companies. [Read more.](#)

# HEALTH

## **ANALYSIS: BREAKING PATENTS FOR VACCINES WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT IN BRAZIL AND COULD POSE CHALLENGES**

Government and domestic private laboratory authorities involved in the production of vaccines against Covid-19 agree that the strategy to break patents of immunizers and medicines would have little impact on vaccination in the country. The alignment was expressed yesterday in a virtual public hearing held by the Senate. [Read more.](#)

## **COVID-19: WE’RE FAR FROM THE END, SAYS ANVISA HEAD**

Antônio Barra Torres, director-president of Brazil’s national sanitary authority Anvisa, said Thursday (Apr. 8) that the situation regarding the pandemic is far from its end. “The understanding we have here at the agency—it’s not really cheerful, I must say—is that the situation we’re experiencing is far from an end. There is no conviction among us that the worst phase is behind us. We’ve had a number of signs of even more challenging possibilities coming in the short and medium runs.” [Read more.](#)

## **BOLSONARO SAYS HE WILL TRY TO ENABLE THE PRODUCTION OF RUSSIAN VACCINE IN BRAZIL**

After calling Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday afternoon, President Jair Bolsonaro said that his government intends to address the obstacles to importing the Sputnik V vaccine and will also try to enable the production of the vaccine in the country. A team from Brazilian Health Regulator Anvisa will visit the Russian laboratory facilities responsible for producing the immunizer for an inspection. [Read more.](#)

## **IS BRAZIL VACCINATING TOO LITTLE OR TOO SLOW? FIVE DATA FROM THE GLOBAL RANKINGS**

As 4,000 deaths per day are currently unavoidable, criticism of Jair Bolsonaro’s government has focused on Brazil’s vaccination performance. After all, does Brazil vaccinate too little or too slow? If the comparison considers only the total number of doses that each country applied, Brazil appears in fifth place in the global ranking of official data compiled by Oxford University. This is to be expected for the world’s sixth-most populous country, with 212 million inhabitants. But when the comparison of total doses applied considers the population size of each country, Brazil is ranked 73rd out of 166 nations and territories. [Read more.](#)

## **COVID-19 VACCINE: 10.2% OF BRAZILIANS HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE**

According to a survey conducted by VEJA, 21,335,474 Brazilians had been administered the first shot against the disease by Wednesday, April 7. Of these, 6,048,379 have completed the immunization scheme after receiving the second dose, which corresponds to 2.9% of the population. [Read more.](#)

### **VACCINATION IN BRAZIL: 2 STATES HAVE NOT YET ADMINISTERED HALF OF AVAILABLE DOSES**

As expected in a country of continental dimensions and 27 administrative divisions, different paces depend on each state, just as the number of cases and deaths from the disease has variations from one region to another, the number of vaccinations also greatly oscillates. According to their populations, all states and the Federal District are supplied by the Ministry of Health the equal and proportional amounts of doses. Yet, the speed of administration varies considerably among them. [Read more.](#)

### **IN BRAZIL, THE RISK OF DEATH IN ICUS IS ALMOST TWICE AS HIGH IN PUBLIC THAN IN PRIVATE HEALTHCARE**

The mortality of patients with Covid admitted to private ICUs was 30%, while in public ICUs, it was 53%, as shown by data from the Brazilian ICUs platform. For the platform's coordinator, Ederlon Rezende, Advisory Board member and former president of the Brazilian Intensive Care Medicine Association (Amib), some reasons help understand the difference. [Read more.](#)

### **21 CAPITAL CITIES IN BRAZIL HAVE A 90% ICU OCCUPANCY RATE**

Curfews, lockdowns, more ICU beds, and mega-holidays are failing to stop the high demand for ICUs for Covid-19 patients in the country. Data from Monday (5) show 21 capitals with more than 90% of public ICU beds occupied with critical cases of the disease, a record since the beginning of the Folha survey in May 2020. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL HAS MORE THAN A THOUSAND CITIES WITH DIFFICULTIES IN SUPPLYING OXYGEN**

Health managers from at least 1,068 municipalities reported in a survey, concern about the stock of oxygen cylinders and even a risk of shortages in the coming days if the Covid-19 case curve remains high and there are new obstacles. The data are the balance made by Conasems, a council that brings together municipal health secretaries, and obtained by Folha. [Read more.](#)

### **EVEN AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING, BOLSONARO DEFENDS KEEPING CHURCHES AND TEMPLES OPEN**

After the Federal Supreme Court (STF) gave the go-ahead for mayors and governors to ban services during the pandemic, President Jair Bolsonaro once again defended the opening of churches and temples, even though the country recorded more than 4,000 deaths on Thursday, April 8th. [Read more.](#)