

WEEKLY REPORT



04/17/21

POLITICS

BRAZIL'S SENATE LAUNCHES AN INVESTIGATION INTO PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO'S HANDLING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The President of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), authorized the creation of the commission that will investigate Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic official this Tuesday (13th). Pacheco decided to unite two requirements presented by senators, creating a single commission that, in addition to investigating the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro, will also deal with transfers of federal funds to states and municipalities. [Read more.](#)

CALLS TO IMPEACH BOLSONARO ARE RISING, BUT HIS GRIP ON BRAZIL REMAINS STRONG

As Brazil navigates some of the deadliest days in its history, a movement is growing to hold Bolsonaro accountable for the carnage he has done little to mitigate. The Brazilian supreme court last week ordered the Senate to open an investigation into his erratic conduct during the pandemic. Prominent politicians and columnists have repeatedly called for his removal. More than 110 impeachment requests have been filed against him — dozens in April alone — and he has been accused of crimes against humanity in the International Criminal Court. [Read more.](#)

CONCERNED WITH CPI, BOLSONARO ASKS FOR SUPPORT, CRITICIZES GOVERNORS AND MAYORS

Pressed because of the imminent installation of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee (CPI) of Covid-19, President Jair Bolsonaro used social networks on the morning of Monday April 12, to ask for unity and support for his government. The head of the Executive reinforced his defense in favor of "freedom" and criticized again restrictive measures adopted by governors and mayors during the pandemic. "More and more the population is being left without jobs, income, and means of survival.... Chaos is knocking at the door of Brazilians. Ask what each one of us can do for Brazil and its freedom and... get ready," he wrote, without further details. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO WARNS THAT BRAZIL IS "A POWDER KEG" DUE TO CONFINEMENTS

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro warned Wednesday that the country "is a powder keg" because of the restrictive measures adopted by governors and mayors to try to curb the out-of-control covid-19 pandemic. "Brazil is on edge. I am waiting for the people to give a signal," said the president, who said that because of the policy of "closing everything" very soon, the country would have severe social problems. [Read more.](#)

"ONLY GOD CAN REMOVE ME FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR," SAYS BOLSONARO

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday that only God can remove him from the presidential chair and said there is something "very wrong" in Brazil, when commenting on Federal Supreme Court (STF) justice Cármen Lúcia's ruling granting 5 days for Chamber president Arthur Lira (PP-AL), to explain why he has failed to analyze impeachment requests against the head of the executive. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SUPREME COURT CONFIRMS DECISION TO INVALIDATE LULA CONVICTIONS

By 8 votes to 3, Brazil's Supreme Court decided on Thursday (15) to annul the condemnations of former President Lula (PT) and return the PT's political rights. Justices Edson Fachin, Ricardo Lewandowski, Gilmar Mendes, Rosa Weber, Alexandre de Moraes, Dias Toffoli, Cármen Lúcia and Luís Roberto Barroso voted in this regard. [Read more.](#)

LULA WILLING TO RUN AGAINST BOLSONARO IN 2022 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In statements made on Thursday, April 15th, to Argentine radio station C5N, when asked about the possibility of running for election once again, Lula said that "if necessary and if I must be a candidate in 2022 to win the elections against a fascist who is called Bolsonaro" he will do so. These statements come after Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the ruling of one of its Justices, which annulled the convictions handed down in the Curitiba lower court against the ex-president, who thus regains all his political rights. [Read more.](#)

FOCUS ON PANDEMIC IN BRAZIL LEAVES ECONOMIC REFORMS IN THE BACKGROUND

Amid the confusion that has made Brazil the country with the most deaths and daily coronavirus infections, discussions of the economic reforms that the country needs have moved into the background. But it is not for lack of wanting. President Jair Bolsonaro intended to discuss with legislators in March a reform of the tax code and the privatization of some state companies. But with an average of nearly 4,000 deaths per day and the maximum pressure on the health care system, it is difficult to think about what comes next. [Read more.](#)

MARKET PROJECTS A SLOWER GDP RECOVERY IN BRAZIL FOR THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE WEEK

The readjustment of expectations happened as the cases of Covid-19 were increasing in the country, starting at the end of February. At the beginning of the year, the projection of growth reached 3.50%, but, after the greater restrictions of governors and mayors to try to decrease the contagion of the new coronavirus, projections began to decrease. Despite the lower optimism, there is a bet on recovery, since in 2020 the Brazilian economy retreated 4.1% after the initial shock of the Covid-19 on economic activities. [Read more.](#)

J.P. MORGAN CUTS BRAZIL'S 2021 AND 2022 GDP PROJECTION

J.P. Morgan revised its projections for the Brazilian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 3.2% to 2.9% in 2021 and from 2.4% to 2.2% in 2022. According to the bank's team, the impact on activity of the second wave of the covid-19 in the country should occur later, but with more force than previously projected. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL IS THE ONLY MAJOR ECONOMY WHERE GROWTH IS SLOWING – OECD

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) composite leading indicators for March point to "slowing growth" in Brazil. It is the only major economy to show a slowdown, while in all the others, the situation varies between "constant growth" or "increase in expansion". In contrast to the global trend, the country's composite indicators, which signal early turning points in the economic cycle, declined 0.32 point in March. [Read more.](#)

OECD RECOMMENDS BRAZIL STOP DEFORESTATION

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recommended on Wednesday that the Brazilian government put an end to deforestation, as one of the "new priorities" on a list of reforms for the country. This is one more signal for Jair Bolsonaro's government to review its environmental policy, condemned in the international scene. European countries, starting with France, and now more and more the United States with President Biden, will only accept the OECD to start initiate negotiations for the country to join the organization if Brasilia takes concrete actions for the protection of biodiversity. [Read more.](#)

U.S. AMBASSADOR SAYS BRAZIL WILL HAVE TO PRESERVE THE AMAZON TO ENTER OECD

In front of a select virtual audience with important businesspeople and former ministers of different governments, the American ambassador to Brazil, Todd Chapman, was clear: the preservation of the Amazon is a fundamental issue for the negotiations between Brazil and the United States on several fronts. On a crucial point, he stated that this would be a defining factor for the country's likely entry into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a move coveted by Jair Bolsonaro's government since 2019, and for which Brazil got formal support from Donald Trump's government in early 2020. With the arrival of Democrat Joe Biden to the White House, Brazil will have to show results. [Read more.](#)

U.S. SENATORS URGE BIDEN NOT TO RELEASE MONEY TO BRAZIL

A group of 15 senators from the U.S. Democratic Party on Friday, April 16th, urged President Joe Biden not to grant Brazil monetary aid because of Jair Bolsonaro's track record on environment. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL MUST CUT DEFORESTATION 15-20% A YEAR TO REACH 2030 GOAL, SAYS VICE PRESIDENT

Brazil needs to cut illegal deforestation by between 15% and 20% every year to eliminate it by 2030, Vice President Hamilton Mourão said on Friday, referring to a goal set by President Jair Bolsonaro in a letter to U.S. President Joe Biden this week. Bolsonaro is set to attend a U.S. climate summit hosted by Biden next week amid international pressure to slash deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, which surged to a 12-year high in 2020 as an area 14 times the size of New York City was destroyed, government data show. Brazil and the United States have been negotiating since February on a possible deal to cooperate on tackling deforestation. The talks have reached an impasse with Brazil asking for money upfront and the U.S. wanting certain results first. [Read more.](#)

PETROBRAS APPROVES ARMY OFFICER PROPOSED BY BOLSONARO AS NEW PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of Brazil's Petrobras approved on Friday as the new president of the state-owned oil company retired Army general Joaquim Silva e Luna proposed for the position by President Jair Bolsonaro. In a statement sent to the financial market, Petrobras informed that its Board of Directors, in a meeting held today, "elected Joaquim Silva e Luna to the position of president of the company". [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

QUEIROGA ADMITS BRAZIL WON'T HAVE LARGE SUPPLY OF VACCINES UNTIL SECOND HALF OF YEAR

Although he states that his "number 1 goal" at the Ministry of Health will be to speed up vaccination against Covid-19, the new leader of the ministry, Marcelo Queiroga, admits that Brazil will face difficulties in vaccine supply until the second half of the year. "Beginning in the second half of the year, we will be able to have more doses available. The biggest country vaccinating its population is the United States. After they manage to vaccinate their population, we will have more doses, we expect." [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S GOVERNORS CALL ON UN FOR 'HUMANITARIAN AID' TO BUY VACCINES AND INTUBATION KITS

On Friday, April 16th, governors requested "humanitarian aid" from the United Nations (UN) for the purchase of vaccines against Covid-19 and of medicines and sedatives for patient intubation. Organized in the Governors' Forum, they met by videoconference with the UN's Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SUPREME COURT GIVES HEALTH REGULATOR DEADLINE TO DECIDE ON SPUTNIK V IMPORT

Supreme Court (STF) Justice Ricardo Lewandowski ordered the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA) to analyze the Sputnik V exceptional request for import permission, by the end of April. Should the agency fail to decide on the issue within this period, the magistrate stated that the state of Maranhão, which filed the lawsuit, will be automatically authorized to import the Russian vaccine, and distribute it to the population. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: 4 STATES ACCOUNTED FOR 40% OF LAST WEEK'S CASES IN BRAZIL

Over last week (between April 9th and 15th), Brazil registered 555,390 new Covid-19 cases and 26,161 deaths, according to a survey conducted by VEJA based on data published by the Ministry of Health. Of these, about 41% were reported in four states: São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Ceará, and Rio Grande do Sul. [Read more.](#)

STUDY ATTRIBUTES BRAZIL'S FAILURE IN THE PANDEMIC LARGELY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Research published in Science magazine states that "dangerous combination of inaction and irregularities" on the part of the Bolsonaro administration was mainly to blame for the rapid spread of Covid-19 and the chaotic scenario in the country. [Read more.](#)

PANDEMIC LEVELS MAY REMAIN CRITICAL THROUGHOUT APRIL: FIOCRUZ

The high transmission levels of COVID-19 in Brazil last week indicates that the pandemic figures may remain high throughout this month. The alert was released today (Apr. 16) by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), in the report COVID-19 Observatory. Researchers argue that the restrictive measures adopted in some states and municipalities have produced spots of "localized success," which may result in the reduction in severe cases of the disease in the coming weeks. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CONCLUDES VACCINATION OF ENTIRE CITY IN UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL EXPERIMENT

The mass vaccination against Covid-19 of the entire adult population of the same city concluded this Sunday in Brazil as part of an unprecedented project that seeks to analyze the capacity of Coronavac to reduce the infection rate of the coronavirus. [Read more.](#)

IS BRAZIL A THREAT TO GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY? WHAT SCIENCE MAGAZINE SAYS

Renowned cardiologist and researcher Eric J. Topol highlighted two publications of the prestigious scientific journal documenting the emergence of the Manaus variant in the country, analyzing its high transmissibility and potential increase in lethality. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIANS LOST ALMOST 2 YEARS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY IN PANDEMIC, AND 2021 SHOULD BE WORSE, SAYS HARVARD DEMOGRAPHER

Brazilians lost nearly 2 years of life expectancy in 2020 because of the covid-19 pandemic. On average, babies born in Brazil in 2020 will live 1.94 years less than would be expected without the current health scenario in the country. That is, 74.8 years instead of the previously projected 76.7 years of life. [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO ANNOUNCES TRANSITION PHASE; FREES COMMERCE AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

On Friday, April 16th, the São Paulo government announced the beginning of a new phase of the São Paulo Plan. Called the transition phase, it consists in the gradual reopening of activities that were banned under the red phase, such as commerce and services. [Read more.](#)