

WEEKLY REPORT



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POLITICS

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO ASKS SENATE TO IMPEACH A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro raised the stakes in his battle with the country's Supreme Court on Friday, sending the Senate a request for the impeachment of one of its justices, according to the request seen by Reuters. Bolsonaro is seeking to impeach Justice Alexandre de Moraes after he opened an investigation into the president for allegedly leaking to the media a secret federal police report of a hacking that backed up his views that Brazil's electronic voting system was vulnerable to fraud. Moraes has also begun investigating Bolsonaro for his attacks on the Supreme Electoral Court, which has maintained that the electronic system is safe and can be audited. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS BRAZILIANS ARE "APPALLED BY THE REPRESSION OF FREEDOMS" BY JUDICIARY

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Thursday (19) that the country's citizens are "appalled by the repression of freedoms," referring to judicial actions against politicians such as the surprise arrest of former congressman and national leader of the Brazilian Workers' Party (PTB) Roberto Jefferson. "Freedom has no price," it is "more important than life itself," and "now we see the population being frightened by the suppression of freedoms decided by a few," he said in a clear allusion to the Brazilian Supreme Court (STF). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVT WEIGHS SUING PAPER OVER ARTICLE ON ELECTION THREATS: DEFENSE MINISTER

The Brazilian government is considering suing national newspaper Estado de S. Paulo for a July 22 article that stated that Defense Minister Walter Souza Braga Netto had threatened the 2022 election, Braga Netto told lawmakers in Brasilia on Tuesday. The article, which cited anonymous sources, said that Braga Netto had told the head of Brazil's lower house that the election would not take place if it was not conducted via printed ballot, a measure pushed by right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro. Both Braga Netto and House Speaker Arthur Lira denied the report. [Read more.](#)

RODRIGO PACHECO: CONGRESS NOT TO ALLOW POLITICAL SETBACKS

The president of Brazil's National Congress, Senator Rodrigo Pacheco, said the institution will not allow setbacks to impact the democratic strides made in Brazil. In a Monday (Aug. 16) post on social media, Pacheco also stated that dialog between branches is key, and argued for the search of a consensus. "Closing doors, destroying bridges, arbitrarily acting on one's own reasoning are a disservice to the country. At this moment of crisis, therefore, it is more than ever recommended that we seek consensus and respect of differences. Patriots are those who unite Brazil, not those who want to divide it. And the democratic advances seen have the strict surveillance of Congress, which will not allow setbacks," he declared. [Read more.](#)

TWO BRAZILIAN LEFT-WING PARTIES CONSIDER ALLIANCE FOR 2022 ELECTIONS TO CONFRONT BOLSONARO

The small Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL) is negotiating an unprecedented alliance with former President Lula da Silva's large Workers' Party (PT) to support Lula in 2022, hoping to sweep Jair Bolsonaro off the stage. The price the PSOL would have to pay could be the absence of a clearly left-leaning economic policy should Lula da Silva become president. [Read more.](#)

LULA DA SILVA SAYS HE NEVER WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL AS MUCH AS HE DOES NOW

Former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Tuesday (17) that he never wanted to be president of Brazil much as he does now. "I am not a candidate yet. But I am in line. I'm going to confess to you that I never had as much desire to be president as I have now at 75 years old," assured the socialist leader in a message on his social networks. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO BLOCKS CRITICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, SAYS RIGHTS GROUP

Brazil's far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, is blocking social media followers who criticize him, violating their rights of freedom of speech and access to information, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday. The rights group said it had identified 176 accounts that were blocked by Bolsonaro, including those of journalists, members of congress and social media influencers with more than a million followers. Social media has been a key means of public communication for Bolsonaro, helping him win office in 2018 and interact with supporters. He has 6.9 million followers on his Twitter (TWTR.N) account, 14.2 million on Facebook (FB.O) and 18.6 million on Facebook's Instagram photo-sharing app. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S GUEDES SAYS POLITICAL CONFLICT MARS ECONOMY

Brazil's Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said on Friday that political conflict is contaminating the economy and overshadowing positive news on economic growth and the prospect of a much smaller primary budget deficit next year. Guedes spoke to investors as the country's political climate became even more tense after far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's request to the Senate on Friday to impeach a Supreme Court judge. Critics have accused Bolsonaro of sowing doubts about Brazil's voting system so he can question next year's election results if he loses. The political clashes are worsening, Guedes said. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYS TAX REFORM UNLIKELY TO PASS

The deputy speaker of Brazil's lower house of Congress, Marcelo Ramos, said an income tax reform that introduces a 20% tax on company dividends is unlikely to pass because most Brazilians oppose it, even businesses. He lamented in an interview on Wednesday that Brazil has abandoned its fiscal austerity policies due to President Jair Bolsonaro's focus on increasing spending to win re-election next year. "Everyone is against the bill. The airlines, agribusiness, industry, the financial market, civil construction. There is no way it can pass the chamber," he said. Ramos said it would have to be rewritten to build consensus. [Read more.](#)

POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY CREATES CHALLENGES FOR BRAZIL'S BOOMING IPO INDUSTRY

The Brazilian capital market is going through the hottest IPO phase in its history. This year alone, there have been more than 40 initial public offerings (IPOs) through August, with deal volume reaching a new record of more than R\$60 (US\$11.6) billion. Considering the follow-ups, stock offerings have already exceeded R\$100 billion this year. It is an unprecedented moment with an impact on the market. With the reduced participation of foreign investors in initial offerings, domestic investment funds have taken the lead in the IPO window on the demand side. [Read more.](#)

IN THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM, BRAZILIAN STOCKS ARE A BUYING OPPORTUNITY, SAYS J.P. MORGAN

The recent decline in the Ibovespa, which has posted double-digit losses since its peak in June, has made local equities even cheaper than their peers. With the global scenario still risk-averse

and multiples at excessively low levels, J.P. Morgan believes Brazilian equities represent a good buying opportunity in the short and medium-term. [Read more.](#)

MARKET SEES HIGHER INFLATION AND LOWER GDP GROWTH IN BRAZIL IN 2021 – FOCUS REPORT

The median forecast of economists in the market for the National Wide Consumer Price Index (IPCA) in 2021 rose for the 19th consecutive week, from 6.88% to 7.05% high, according to the Focus Report, the Central Bank (BC) released on Monday with estimates collected by the end of last week. For 2022, the inflation forecast also increased for the fourth consecutive week, rising from 3.84% to 3.90% increase. [Read more.](#)

THREE OUT OF FOUR BRAZILIANS BELIEVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY WON'T HAPPEN UNTIL AFTER 2023 – IPSOS POLL

Optimistic by nature, Brazilians are less confident about the future this time around. This is reflected in the expectation of economic recovery. According to an exclusive survey by market research firm Ipsos, 76% of Brazilians believe that the country will only economically overcome the effects of the pandemic in two or more years. For 37%, the recovery in Brazil will occur between two and three years from now, while 39% of the population are even more pessimistic and believe that the recovery will occur in three years. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S LOWER-CARBON OIL PROJECTS CAN LURE MAJORS, LIFT SALES -OFFICIAL

Rising calls to cut carbon emissions and to reduce global warming could generate more offshore partnerships and increase the output of cleaner oil for Brazil, the production chief of state-controlled Petrobras said in an interview. Brazil oil officials are in Houston at an offshore oil conference shopping for partners to develop deep water oilfields that will be auctioned in December. The fields will employ lower-carbon technology that can help oil majors meet demand for lower greenhouse emissions, officials said. [Read more.](#)

CANNABIS FIRMS CATCH A WHIFF OF OPPORTUNITY IN BRAZIL

International cannabis companies are showing interest in Brazil, both its large consumer market for medicinal products and a proposal that could legalize planting of the crop. Major producers like Colombia's Clever Leaves (CLVR.O) and Canada's Canopy Growth (WEED.TO) are developing and selling medicinal cannabis products to a Brazilian consumer segment estimated at 10 million to 13 million people. This results from a 2019 regulatory change allowing the import, sale, and manufacturing of such products. But permission for cultivation of hemp and cannabis in Brazil would be a bigger prize. If granted, the industry could blossom in four to five years, based on the experience of other countries such as Colombia. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SOY GROUP CHIEF A TARGET IN POLITICAL CONSPIRACY PROBE - DOCUMENTS

Antonio Galvan, head of soybean grower lobby Aprosoja, is part of a group of 10 people under investigation for their alleged role in a conspiracy against Brazilian institutions including the Supreme Court, according to court records seen by Reuters. According to authorities, the people under investigation have "incited the population through social networks to practice criminal and violent acts" on the eve of the Sept. 7 national holiday, when Brazilians observe Independence Day. Supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro have called for protests at the Supreme Court that day, and officials fear they might try to force their way in to occupy the building. [Read more.](#)

MERCOSUR: ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS BRAZIL SHOULD NOT BE PRISONER OF ARRANGEMENT THAT DECREASES TRADE

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes on Thursday defended the reduction of Mercosur's Common External Tariff (TEC). "In the world, the average tariff is 4%, and Brazil has a tariff of 12% or 13%," he said in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting. Since the beginning of the Bolsonaro government, there has been the view that it is necessary to conclude an agreement

with Argentina and modernize Mercosur, otherwise "this instrument does not make sense for us," the minister said. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL IN TALKS WITH ARGENTINA FOR GAS PIPELINE FROM VACA MUERTA - BOLSONARO

Brazil is negotiating with Argentina on the construction of a billion-dollar pipeline from the Vaca Muerta shale gas reserves, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday. Speaking to supporters on social media, he said the gas pipeline from Argentina was one of the options his government is looking at to reduce the price of gas in Brazil. "We are in negotiations with Argentina. Gas from Vaca Muerta. It will happen one day, because it is not easy to start importing gas, you need pipelines," Bolsonaro said in his weekly live broadcast. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

ACCORDING TO SENATOR, BILL ABOUT COMPULSORY LICENSING OF PATENTS CAN BE VETOED

The bill passed by the Senate was sent to Presidency, and it is now up to President Jair Bolsonaro to approve or veto the text, reported the newspaper. The bill's rapporteur, Senator Nelsinho Trad (PSD-MS), admits that a presidential veto is the most likely scenario, but says it will have a great chance of being overturned in the Chamber and the Federal Senate, where the bill had significant support. The Ministry of Health, Itamaraty and the Ministry of Economy reported that they do not comment on bills. The Government Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic also did not respond about the possibility of veto. [Read more.](#)

ARTICULATION TO OVERTURN BOLSONARO'S VETO TO A BILL THAT OBLIGES HEALTH PLANS TO PROVIDE ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY AT HOME

The Congress session that will analyze (and may overturn) Jair Bolsonaro's veto of the bill that forces health plans to cover the expenses of clients with home and oral cancer drugs against cancer should be scheduled soon, highlighted the Blog. Lauro Jardim from the O Globo newspaper this Wednesday (18th). The author of the bill, Senator Reguffe, has already spoken personally with the president of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco, who is in favor of overturning the veto. The bill had been approved unanimously last month, that is, it had the vote of 81 senators. [Read more.](#)

VALUE OF CANCER DRUG LEADS PATIENTS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LITIGATE IN COURT

In just three days, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (16, 17 and 8/18), seven federal appeals requesting the suspension of injunctions determining the cost of the drug pembrolizumab to patients with serious types of cancer were filed in the Court Federal Regional of the 4th Region (TRF4). In the previous week, seven other grievances had been brought before the Court. The drug costs around R\$ 17,000, which leads the Union and the States to try to suspend first-degree decisions favorable to patients. The National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies in the Unified Health System (Conitec/SUS) decided to incorporate pembrolizumab into the SUS cancer care only in cases of non-surgical and metastatic advanced melanoma. When appealing in court, the Union claims that the plaintiffs need to prove their status through expertise before receiving the medication. The issue has divided the judges of the Court. Some magistrates understand that if the medicine was prescribed by SUS physicians who work in Cacons (hospitals accredited by the SUS as highly complex oncology care units) it is implied that the prescription is valid, regardless of expertise. Others, when analyzing the patients' documentation, give reason to the appeal and determine the performance of the expertise, suspending the injunction. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMEN DISCUSS ACCESS TO GENE THERAPY DURING HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

In a deliberative meeting held at the Commission on Social Security and Family (CSSF) of the Chamber of Deputies, this Wednesday (18), lawmakers debated access to gene therapy in the Unified Health System (SUS). The discussion took place during the analysis of Bill 1531/2021, which intends to guarantee spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) patients the right to receive gene therapy in the Unified Health System. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMAN HIRAN GONÇALVES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANALYZING BILL THAT CREATES THE RISK SHARING AGREEMENT NEW HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Congressman Hiran Gonçalves (PP-RR) was appointed rapporteur of Bill 667/2021, which intends to create the Risk Sharing Agreement for the incorporation of new technologies in health. Sponsored by deputy Eduardo da Fonte (PP-PE), the bill is being analyzed by the Social Security and Family Commission (CSSF) of the Chamber of Deputies. [Read more.](#)

THIRD DOSE OF VACCINE SHOULD START FOR THE ELDERLY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, SAYS MINISTER

The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, said on Wednesday (18), that the application of a 3rd dose of the vaccine against covid-19 starts with the elderly and health professionals if this strategy is approved by the federal government. The debate over the application of a booster injection has gained momentum in Brazil. Other countries - such as Israel, Chile, and Uruguay - already apply doses in some groups, reported the newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo. "We have already ordered a study to verify the strategy of the 3rd dose in those who took Coronavac. Why in those who took Coronavac? Because in relation to other immunizing agents, we already have scientific data to support this conduct", said Queiroga. [Read more.](#)

CORONAVAC USE IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN BRAZIL REJECTED

Brazil's drug regulator Anvisa rejected the request by Butantan Institute for the use of the CoronaVac vaccine in children and adolescents aged three through 17. At an extraordinary Wednesday (Aug. 18) meeting, agency directors argued the data submitted by Butantan are not enough for a conclusion on the shot's efficiency and safety in this age group. The São Paulo-based institute is tasked with the production of CoronaVac in Brazil. "The immunogenicity data leave uncertainties regarding how long the protection provided by the inoculation lasts," Anvisa stated in a note. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: SÃO PAULO RESTRICTIONS ON BUSINESS HOURS AND CAPACITY END

The restrictions on hours and public in establishments such as restaurants, bars, stores, beauty salons in the state of São Paulo, came to an end on Tuesday (17). The change was determined by Governor João Doria (PSDB). Some cities in the state, however, such as those in the ABC region, decided not to release all activities because of the spread of the Delta variant. The state has 70% of the population vaccinated with the first dose and 30% with the second dose. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: GERMANY REMOVES BRAZIL AND URUGUAY FROM HIGHEST RISK CATEGORY

With the withdrawal of two South American countries, there will no longer be a nation on the list of countries that the German government considers the highest risk. According to an official German government document, Germany has decided to remove Brazil and Uruguay from the list of countries with the highest risk category for coronavirus infections. The decision will take effect next Sunday, August 22. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL HAS 870 COVID DEATHS IN 24 HOURS, LOWEST FRIDAY TOLL SINCE JAN 1 - MINISTRY

Brazil has had 33,887 new cases of the novel coronavirus reported in the past 24 hours, and 870 deaths from COVID-19, the health ministry said on Friday. The South American country has now registered 20,528,099 cases since the pandemic began, while the official death toll

has risen to 573,511, according to ministry data, in the world's third worst outbreak outside the United States and India and its second deadliest after the United States. [Read more](#).



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