

WEEKLY REPORT



01/08/21

POLITICS

BOLSONARO WARNS U.S.-LIKE POLITICAL CRISIS COULD HAPPEN IN BRAZIL

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday the lack of trust in the vote count in the U.S. election led to Wednesday's mob attack on Congress and warned that the same could happen in his country. The far-right leader repeated claims of widespread fraud in the Nov. 3 vote and said Brazil's electronic voting system, internationally praised for its efficiency and speed in counting ballots, can be manipulated. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO REAFFIRMS TRUMP TIES, CITES BASELESS VOTE FRAUD CLAIMS

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday reiterated baseless allegations of U.S. election fraud and continued to back President Donald Trump, as the American leader's supporters invaded the U.S. Capitol building. Bolsonaro, a far-right former army captain, has long admired Trump, and was one of the last global leaders to recognize President-elect Joe Biden's election victory. On Wednesday, Bolsonaro said he had followed the storming of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters seeking to overturn the president's election defeat. The breach forced lawmakers to evacuate and Congress to postpone a session that would have certified Biden's victory. [Read more.](#)

WORLD BANK SEES GROWTH FLAGGING IN BOLSONARO'S 'BROKE' BRAZIL

Brazil's economy is likely to grow 3% in 2021 and less next year, the World Bank said on Tuesday, as stimulus fades and the country struggles to recover output lost in the pandemic. The World Bank's forecast for Brazil's 2021 gross domestic product (GDP) is 0.8 percentage point higher than its June estimate, but not enough to offset a likely 4.5% drop in 2020 amid the world's worst COVID-19 death toll outside the United States. Pressed by supporters outside the presidential palace on Tuesday asking for economic relief, Bolsonaro scowled. "Brazil is broke, boss," he said. "I can't do anything." [Read more.](#)

CNI SURVEY: FEAR OF JOB LOSS GROWS IN BRAZIL IN DECEMBER 2020

Fear of losing jobs rose in December among Brazilian workers, mainly among young people and women, the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) said Thursday, January 7th. The CNI's Fear of Unemployment Index stood at 57.1 points in the 12th month of 2020, significantly above the historical average (50.2 points) and one point above December 2019. Brazilian women were more afraid of losing their jobs than men, with the indicators registering 64.2 points compared to 49.4 units, respectively. [Read more.](#)

WITH END OF EMERGENCY BRAZIL SHOULD REDUCE EMPLOYMENT COSTS OVER R\$60 BILLION

The emergency aid, paid to over 66 million Brazilians last year, represented an expanded employment cost of R\$326 billion, according to an unprecedented study by Santander bank. The Emergency Benefit for Preservation of Employment and Income (BEM), which enabled the reduction of working hours and wages in order to preserve jobs, also contributed to this result.

According to the Ministry of Economy, the BEM served ten million workers and 1.5 million companies. [Read more.](#)

WORLD BANK RAISES LATIN AMERICA'S GDP GROWTH PROJECTION FOR 2021 TO 3.7%

The World Bank (WB) reported on Tuesday, January 5th, that it projects an economic growth of 3.7% in Latin America and the Caribbean this year, improving its earlier estimate of 2.8% growth for the region, which has been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. "Regional economic activity is expected to grow by 3.7% in 2021, as initiatives to mitigate the pandemic become more flexible, vaccines are distributed, prices of the main commodities are stabilized and external conditions improve," the multilateral body said when disclosing its global economic outlook. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL STOCKS AT RECORD HIGH, BUT LATAM FX SUBDUED BY VIRUS WOES

Brazilian stocks hit a record high on Friday on expectations of increased stimulus and accommodative monetary policy, while Latin American currencies eyed weekly losses in the wake of record-high coronavirus infection rates. The Bovespa index rose 1.8% to a record high, while MSCI's index of Latam stocks rose 0.4% to a 10-month high, and was set to add 2.5% this week. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S REAL LEADS LATIN AMERICAN FX LOSSES ON VIRUS FEARS

Brazil's real led losses across Latin American currencies on Tuesday January 5th, as a mix of weak economic data and coronavirus fears weighed and most other units weakened as a risk rally petered out. The real sank 1.2% after dropping nearly 2% on Monday. The country posted a negative trade balance in December. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: EVANGELICALS' INFLUENCE GROWS OVER BRAZILIAN SOCIAL CUSTOMS AND COURT SEAT

The National Association of Evangelical Jurists (ANAJURE) began to be conceived in 2007, during Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's (PT) second term, and finally got off the ground in 2012, founded by three Northeastern attorneys in ex-President Dilma Rousseff's (PT) second year. But it is in the Jair Bolsonaro government that its influence has resounded loudly in Brasília. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL'S FIOCRUZ SEEKS ASTRAZENECA EMERGENCY USE, IN STEP TOWARD VACCINE ROLLOUT

Brazil's state-run Fiocruz institute has sought an emergency use authorisation for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine it plans to import, federal health regulator Anvisa said on Friday, providing hope that immunizations could begin this month. The authorization Fiocruz is seeking is for a 2 million dose, off-the-shelf shipment of AstraZeneca vaccines imported from India's Serum Institute, Anvisa said. As part of the federal government's deal with AstraZeneca, the company will later send active ingredients to Brazil for Fiocruz to fill-and-finish the vaccine, and eventually produce it entirely. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CORONAVAC PRODUCER FILES FOR EMERGENCY USE

The Brazilian production partner for a coronavirus vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech filed on Friday for emergency use authorization with health regulator Anvisa, the day after announcing results from a late-stage trial. The Chinese vaccine is the first with an emergency use request filed in Brazil, where more than 200,000 have died of COVID-19 - the worst death toll outside the United States. Anvisa will evaluate the request and reach a conclusion within 10 days, the regulator said in a statement. [Read more.](#)

SINOVAC VACCINE 78% EFFECTIVE IN BRAZIL TRIAL, EXPERTS CALL FOR MORE DETAILS

A coronavirus vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech was 78% effective in a late-stage Brazilian trial with no severe COVID-19 cases, researchers said on Thursday, although a lack of data details stirred calls for more transparency. The trial results, closely watched by developing countries counting on the vaccine to begin mass inoculations to help end a raging pandemic, was below preliminary findings from Turkish researchers and lacked detailed data provided on U.S. and European vaccines. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SNAPS UP LOCAL OUTPUT OF CHINESE VACCINE FOR NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION

Brazil's government has signed a deal with Sao Paulo's Butantan Institute to buy the full output this year of a Chinese COVID-19 vaccine it is producing, the institute said, after announcing strong efficacy trial data. Earlier in the day, Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello said the government was closing a deal for up to 100 million doses of the vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech, called CoronaVac, for use in the national immunization program. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO BLASTS BRAZIL'S SYRINGE MAKERS OVER SOARING PRICES

President Jair Bolsonaro accused syringe makers on Wednesday of pushing up their prices after the government failed to buy hundreds of millions of syringes via auction for its COVID-19 vaccination drive, leading it to requisition surplus supplies. "Prices soared after the Health Ministry expressed an interest in buying syringes," Bolsonaro wrote on social media, adding that the government had suspended buying until prices return to normal. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SEES NO LIMIT ON BUYING VACCINES FROM INDIA, EYES MID-JANUARY DELIVERY

Brazil's government said on Tuesday that India is not restricting the export of coronavirus vaccines made there, which the South American country aims to buy and import within weeks. In a joint statement, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and Health Ministry said talks between Brazil's Fiocruz biomedical center and the Serum Institute of India to ship finished doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine are well advanced, with delivery expected in mid-January. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL READY TO BEGIN COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN JAN, HEALTH MINISTER SAYS

Brazil is ready to begin vaccinating its population against COVID-19 this month, Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello said on Wednesday, adding the country has assured a total of 354 million vaccine doses for 2021. Pazuello, who is under pressure for a slow rollout, added that President Jair Bolsonaro had on Wednesday signed a series of executive orders to streamline vaccine operations. He also said the government was in talks with Pfizer to overcome issues over purchasing its vaccine. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL PASSES 200,000 COVID-19 DEATHS AS CASES HIT DAILY RECORD

Brazil's COVID-19 death toll passed 200,000 on Thursday, the health ministry said, as daily new cases accelerated to a record of 87,843 after year-end holidays in the country with the world's second-deadliest outbreak. Experts warn Brazil has still not seen the height of cases resulting from people celebrating Christmas and New Year's with friends and family. Others, including President Jair Bolsonaro, booked their regular beach vacations at the height of summer in the southern hemisphere. [Read more.](#)

NEW COVID-19 CASE SURGE LEADS TO REOPENING OF FIELD HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT BRAZIL

The new surge in Covid-19 infections has prompted governments to reopen or extend the operation period of field hospitals throughout the country, as a means to unburden and prevent the collapse of the healthcare network. The total death toll from the virus in Brazil is now close to 200,000. The emergency structures served a significant share of demand in the first semester of 2020, but were also connected to suspected embezzlement and planning

shortcomings. Patient care in temporary centers was reinstated in capitals such as Fortaleza, Teresina and Belém. [Read more.](#)

'YOU WAKE UP WELL': AMAZON VILLAGERS TAKE VINE TEA TO TREAT COVID

In the middle of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest, far from the laboratories of the world's major pharmaceutical companies, the Kayapó indigenous people of Para state are using a drink made from vines to help them ward off the worst effects of COVID-19. As incursions into the Amazon by illegal loggers and miners have increased during the pandemic, potentially exposing forest-dwelling tribes to the virus, the Kayapó say their natural treatment is helping to keep them safe. The skin of the vine - the name of which the community is keeping secret - is boiled and strained into a tea which is drunk three times a day, for five days, explained Po Yre, a 23-year-old member of the Kayapó community from Pykany village. "The medicine is very strong. When you take it, you get weak, sometimes with red eyes and a headache. But, the next day, it works. You wake up well," said Po Yre, who took the remedy after he tested positive for COVID-19 in July. [Read more.](#)



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