

# WEEKLY REPORT



05/08/21

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## POLITICS

### **COVID CPI: FORMER HEALTH MINISTER SAYS BOLSONARO IGNORED WARNINGS ABOUT SEVERITY OF COVID-19**

Luiz Henrique Mandetta was the first witness heard by the Senate committee, which will also take testimony from oncologist Nelson Teich, his successor, who resigned after a month in office due to disagreements with Bolsonaro. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID CPI: FORMER HEALTH MINISTER NELSON TEICH CONFIRMS BOLSONARO'S PRESSURES ON CHLOROQUINE**

Teich, an oncologist who succeeded physician and congressman Luiz Henrique Mandetta, was the second of the four health portfolio holders that the government has had since the outbreak of the pandemic in the country in February 2020. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID CPI: BRAZIL'S MINISTER OF HEALTH TRIES TO JUSTIFY BOLSONARO'S BELIEFS**

Brazil's Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, was questioned by the senators, mostly from the opposition, about Bolsonaro's statements minimizing the impact of the pandemic and about the president's criticism of face masks and measures restricting the movement of people. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID CPI: 'SOLUTION FOR THE PANDEMIC IS THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN,' SAYS QUEIROGA**

After the depositions of the first two Ministers of Health of Jair Bolsonaro's government, the Pandemic CPI on Thursday heard the current holder of the portfolio, Marcelo Queiroga, and the President-Director of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA), Antonio Barra Torres. In his statement, Queiroga said that "the solution to the pandemic is the vaccination campaign" and stressed that the development of vaccines is "a response from science" to the crisis. In reference to the high numbers of cases and deaths from Covid-19 in the country at the time he took office, the minister stressed that he took office in a closed ceremony because "there was nothing to celebrate." Queiroga pointed out that he is heading a "technical" ministry and stressed the meetings with the WHO (World Health Organization) and the "partnerships" with municipal and state health secretariats that have occurred during his administration. [Read more.](#)

### **ANALYSIS: SEVEN REASONS WHY BOLSONARO SHOULD NOT BE IMPEACHED AFTER COVID CPI**

There are several reasons why the ex-Army captain has nothing to fear, although his opponents control the main committee posts: chair Omar Aziz (MDB-AM), vice chair Randolfe Rodrigues (Rede-AP), and rapporteur Renan Calheiros (MDB-AL), respectively. [Read more.](#)

### **IN A NEW ATTACK, BOLSONARO SUGGESTS THAT CHINA IS WAGING A BIOLOGICAL WAR WITH COVID**

In a new attack on China, President Jair Bolsonaro suggested on Wednesday (5) that the Asian country benefited economically from the pandemic and said that Covid might have been created in a laboratory—echoing a thesis that cannot be supported by a WHO investigation into the possible origins of the virus. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO WARNS THAT HE MAY ACT BY DECREE AGAINST COVID RESTRICTIONS**

Bolsonaro alluded to demonstrations held last weekend by his supporters against those measures and said that "the people are going to the streets" and "are willing to give their lives for freedom", a claim to which the Government will not be indifferent. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL AMONG WORLD LEADERS IN INFLATION PERSISTENCE – STUDY ALERTS**

History shows that inflationary persistence tends to follow current inflation. Since late 2020, inflation in Brazil has risen, and while so far inflation persistence has not kept up, things can quickly change. "The Central Bank should stop saying that inflation is temporary." according to Credit Suisse study. [Read more.](#)

### **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL FELL 2.4% IN MARCH, SAYS IBGE**

Brazilian industrial production registered a fall of 2.4% in March when compared to February, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) reported Wednesday, May 5. In comparison with the same month a year ago, however, production rose 10.5%. The expectations in a Reuters poll of economists were for a 3.5% drop in the monthly variation and a high of 7.6% annually. [Read more.](#)

### **MARKET PROJECTS GREATER GROWTH FOR BRAZIL THIS YEAR AND HIGHER SELIC IN 2022**

The market is now expecting stronger economic growth this year and a higher basic interest rate in 2022, according to the Focus survey released by the Central Bank on Monday. The weekly survey showed that the expectation now for Gross Domestic Product expansion in 2021 stands at 3.14%, 0.05 percentage points higher than the preceding week. On the other hand, economic growth projection for 2022 fell 0.03 points, to 2.31%. The basic interest rate scenario for the SELIC at the end of this year remained at 5.50%, but for 2022 it rose to 6.25%, from 6.13% in previous median projections. [Read more.](#)

### **DEFORESTATION: BRITISH AND EUROPEAN SUPERMARKETS THREATEN TO BOYCOTT BRAZIL**

Large British and European supermarkets and food producers on Wednesday, May 5th, threatened to boycott Brazilian products because of a bill which, they claim, would lead to further deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. [Read more.](#)

### **DEFORESTATION IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON BREAKS RECORD IN APRIL**

The Brazilian Amazon lost 580.55 kilometers of forest in April, a new record for the month and the largest devastated area for that period in the last six years since the measurement began, according to deforestation alerts released this Friday, May 7. According to monthly data captured by the Real-Time Legal Amazon Deforestation Detection System (Deter) and disclosed by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE), this is an area 42% larger than that destroyed in April 2020. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ADVOCATES CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGEOVER TO PRINTED BALLOTS FOR 2022 ELECTIONS**

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday that there will be no election in 2022 in Brazil if Congress passes a constitutional amendment validating the printed ballot unless ballots are printed. He added harsh criticism of the president of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE), Justice Luis Roberto Barroso, who defends electronic voting. [Read more.](#)

**LULA MAKES THE ROUNDS IN BRASILIA IN PREPARATION FOR 2022 ELECTIONS**

Ex-president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) traveled to Brasília for the first time since he resumed his political rights and launched an offensive for the 2022 elections by meeting with several allies of President Jair Bolsonaro (no party). [Read more.](#)

**FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS CHINA AMONG COUNTRIES PRIORITIZED BY BRAZIL**

Brazil's Foreign Minister Carlos França today (May 6) said that Brazil intends to expand and diversify economic and commercial ties with China. During a hearing of the Senate's Foreign Relations Commission, the chancellor added that the relations with the Asian country are among the Brazilian government's priorities. In the beginning of his address, the foreign minister said that China is among the countries prioritized by Brazil, adding that, in addition to being its biggest trade partner, it is among Brazil's five top foreign investors. [Read more.](#)

# HEALTH

**SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS RULE THAT ALLOWS EXTENSION OF PATENTS**

By 9 to 2, the Supreme Federal Court (STF) decided on Thursday (6) to overturn a rule that allows the extension of the term of patents granted by the National Institute of Industrial Property (Inpi). The court resumed the trial of an action by the Attorney General's Office (PGR) challenging the Industrial Property Law, in force since 1996. In practice, the Court's understanding leads to a reduction in the term of patents, affecting the industry as a whole, especially giant markets, such as the pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnology sectors. [Read more.](#)

**BRAZIL TO WORK BY WTO CONSENSUS ON COMPULSORY LICENSE OF COVID VACCINE PATENTS**

After the United States announced its support for the suspension of patents on vaccines against covid-19, the Brazilian government issued a note stating that it will seek a consensus solution with the member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The government of Jair Bolsonaro is against the patent break of immunizers. In a public hearing in the Senate on September 7, Foreign Minister Carlos Alberto Franco França reiterated that the measure - defended by several countries to speed up the production of vaccines - does not benefit Brazil. [Read more.](#)

**"DO NOT PESTER" THOSE WHO USE CHLOROQUINE AND IVERMECTIN AGAINST COVID-19, SAYS JAIR BOLSONARO**

In a Facebook post on Friday, President Jair Bolsonaro once again advocated the use of drugs with no scientific confirmation to treat Covid-19 and said to those who oppose their use to "stop pestering." [Read more.](#)

**COVID-19: BRAZIL SEEKS SURPLUS ASTRA/ZENECA VACCINES FROM U.S. AND U.K.**

These countries were selected because both are in advanced immunization stages and have a vaccine approved by ANVISA. Both Washington and London seek to curb the Chinese vaccine diplomacy and expand their number of partner countries. [Read more.](#)

**BUTANTAN MAY DELAY VACCINE DELIVERIES DUE TO AN API SHORTAGE**

The Butantan Institute may delay delivery of the CoronaVac vaccine to the Ministry of Health, due to a shortage of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) imported from China. The Institute's president Dimas Covas blamed president Jair Bolsonaro's government stance toward the Asian country for this delay. [Read more.](#)

**BUTANTAN HAS BOTTLED ALL AVAILABLE CORONAVAC RAW MATERIAL, EXPECTS NEW SHIPMENT BY MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

The Butantan Institute has bottled all its available active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) for the CoronaVac, a vaccine against Covid-19 from Chinese Sinovac laboratory and is now waiting for the arrival of a new lot, expected to be delivered by May 18th, said Butantan's president Dimas Covas. [Read more.](#)

**BRAZIL NEARS 420,000 COVID FATALITIES DESPITE DROP IN DEATHS (MAY 7)**

According to the bulletin released this Friday by the Ministry of Health, the Latin American giant registered 2,165 new deaths from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of victims to 419,114 in almost 14 months of the pandemic. [Read more.](#)



**CONSULTORES**  

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Relações Governamentais