

# WEEKLY REPORT



10/16/21

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## POLITICS

### **U.S. LAWMAKERS URGE BIDEN TO REVIEW TIES WITH BRAZIL OVER BOLSONARO**

A total of 63 U.S. congressmen on Thursday urged President Joe Biden to pressure his Brazilian counterpart, Jair Bolsonaro, with a review of bilateral relations to prevent him from further eroding democratic institutions in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

### **AIRLINES PLAN TO RESUME FLIGHTS AFTER U.S. OFFICIALLY REOPENS TO VACCINATED BRAZILIANS**

On Thursday, October 15, the White House announced the end of restrictions on the entry of most foreigners, including Brazilians, starting November 8. The barrier had been in force due to the worsening of the Covid-19 pandemic in North America, which ranks first in the number of deaths from the disease worldwide. Airlines operating flights from Brazil to the United States are planning to resume travel between the two countries. [Read more.](#)

### **MEXICO SET TO IMPOSE VISA REQUIREMENTS ON BRAZILIAN VISITORS**

Mexico is slated to impose visa requirements for Brazilian visitors amid efforts to slow a wave of U.S.-bound migration from Brazil, according to a document from Mexico's interior ministry. Mexico has not required visas for Brazilians since 2004, giving migrants an easier path to enter the country and proceed north to the United States, where they have been arrested at the southern border in record numbers this year. [Read more.](#)

### **PRESSURE TO DEVALUE BRAZIL REAL TO EASE IN 2022, CENBANK OFFICIAL SAYS**

Brazil central bank monetary policy director Bruno Serra said on Friday the bank expects pressures to devalue the real to ease next year and discussed forex intervention. Serra said the bank has been intervening in the forex market since the end of September, having already sold \$3.5 billion. The main reason for the real devaluation currently, according to Serra, is the risk to fiscal sustainability. [Read more.](#)

### **COMMODITIES ACCOUNT FOR 70% OF BRAZILIAN EXPORTS**

The price hike resulting from the several pandemic shocks contributed to the growth of commodities as never before in Brazilian shipments. From January to September this year, commodities reached a milestone for the period – 69.7% of total exports. In the same months of 2020, it was 67.5%. The level this year is almost ten percentage points above that of 2019, 60.6% – about the average of the last ten years, considering the same nine months. The data seen by Valor are from the Foreign Trade Indicator (Icomex), collected by Fundação Getulio Vargas's Brazilian Institute of Economics (FGV/Ibre) based on official data. The Icomex survey with further details will be released next Monday. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SANCTIONS US\$110 MILLION CUT IN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE FUNDING**

President Jair Bolsonaro yesterday sanctioned the law promoting a cut of some R\$600 (US\$110) million in supplementary credit that was intended for the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovations (MCTI). Supplementary credit bill 16/2021 was passed last week by the National

Congress. Originally, it allocated R\$690 million to the Ministry of Science and Technology for initiatives by the National Nuclear Energy Commission and the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FNDCT). [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SENDS TO CONGRESS EXTENSION OF MERCOSUR-COLOMBIA TRADE AGREEMENT**

President Jair Bolsonaro sent today (14) to Congress the additional protocol that extends the agreement between Mercosur and Colombia. The text provides for the liberalization of trade in services and must be approved by Congress to enter into force. The agreement's extension was submitted days before Colombian President Iván Duque's visit to Brazil on the 19th. Last week, representatives of the two countries had signed a memorandum to increase bilateral trade. [Read more.](#)

### **IN U.S. SPEECH, ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS BRAZIL IS EXPERIENCING ITS "GREATEST REDUCTION IN POVERTY"**

Guedes attributed this achievement to the payment of emergency aid – about R\$300 (US\$54.4) billion in 2020 – to help the most vulnerable. The benefit was resumed in April this year, at lower amounts. "Brazil spent twice as much as the average of emerging countries on social assistance. It was the biggest impact on poverty we have ever had," said Guedes during an Atlantic Council event in Washington, DC. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FALLS 0.15% IN AUGUST**

Brazil's economic activity fell by 0.15% in August compared to the 0.23% acceleration recorded in July, ending a streak of four consecutive monthly rises, the Central Bank reported Friday (15). The so-called Economic Activity Index (IBC-Br), which the monetary authority measures monthly in an attempt to advance the trend of the gross domestic product (GDP), reached 139.23 points in August, which was 0.19 % below pre-pandemic levels, since in February 2020, the indicator stood at 139.35 points. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZILIANS HAVE PAID US\$363 BILLION IN TAXES ALREADY THIS YEAR**

Brazilians have paid R\$2 trillion (US\$363 billion) in taxes since the beginning of this year. The amount, estimated by the São Paulo Commercial Association's (ACSP) Taxometer, was reached on Wednesday, October 13. [Read more.](#)

### **ANALYSIS: WHAT LED BRAZIL BOLSONARO TO TARGET PRIVATIZATION OF STATE-OWNED OIL GIANT PETROBRAS?**

While Brazil is suffering from a price hike that is damaging the government's popularity, President Jair Bolsonaro surprised by asserting that he will discuss with his economic team a plan to privatize state-owned Petrobras, Brazil's flagship oil company. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID-19: BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS HE WON'T GET VACCINATED, "FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS ABOVE EVERYTHING"**

The Brazilian president is taking a similar stance as the governors of Texas and Florida, who say that vaccines must never be imposed against an individual's will. Texas Governor Greg Abbott says that "they must remain voluntary and never be forced". [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL PANDEMIC PROBE TO RECOMMEND BOLSONARO FACE 11 CRIMINAL CHARGES, SENATOR SAYS**

A Brazilian Senate probe into the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic will recommend in its final report due next week that President Jair Bolsonaro face 11 criminal charges, the senator leading the inquiry said on Friday, though it remains highly unlikely that he will face a trial on any such charges. Renan Calheiros said during a radio interview that the investigation launched in April has collected evidence to show that Bolsonaro should be formally charged with genocide against the country's indigenous population, malfeasance, irregular use

of public funds, violation of sanitary measures, incitement to crime and forgery of private documents, among other crimes. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S SENATE COVID CPI MEMBERS SPLIT OVER GENOCIDE ACCUSATION AGAINST BOLSONARO**

A part of the Brazilian Senate parliamentary inquiry committee (CPI) investigating the government's management of the pandemic is ready to accuse the president, Jair Bolsonaro, of genocide for the oblivion to which he relegated indigenous people and communities during the most challenging stages of the health crisis. The rapporteur of the CPI, Senator Renan Calheiros, supports this thesis. A few days ago, he already anticipated that Bolsonaro would be accused of up to eleven charges, among them crimes against public health and humanity. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S WATER CRISIS: INMET FORECASTS BELOW-AVERAGE RAINFALL THROUGH DECEMBER FOR SEVERAL KEY REGIONS**

The rainfall pattern in the South, Southeast and Midwest should remain below average from October to December, according to the National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) forecast. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S POPULATION COULD DROP FROM 213 TO 180 MILLION BY 2100 – IPEA STUDY**

By 2100, Brazil's population is expected fall below 180 million, according to the study "Population Projections by Age and Sex for Brazil to 2100" by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea). [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH**

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### **CADE CHARGES CMED ON CEILING PRICES FOR HOSPITALS**

In a contribution made to the public consultation on the review of drug pricing rules, the Administrative Council for Economic Defense (Cade) presented to the Ministry of Economy a technical note that incisively addresses the need for a position by the Market Regulation Chamber of Medicines (CMED) regarding ceiling prices in the hospital market. There is a suggestion for the inter-ministerial body to clarify whether hospitals can charge reimbursements for medicines above the Factory Price (PF); whether hospitals can charge Maximum Consumer Price (PMC) for drugs with common packaging; and whether hospitals must demonstrate the use of common packaging. [Read more.](#)

### **INDIA ASKS G20 TO REVOKE PATENTS ON ANTI-COVID VACCINES**

The Indian government asked this Tuesday (12) that the G20 renounce the intellectual property rights (IPR) of anti-Covid immunizations, for humanitarian reasons, to ensure "equal access to vaccines". The statement was given by the Minister of Commerce of India, Piyush Goyal, during a speech at the G20 in Sorrento, Italy, according to the newspaper "Hindustan Times". According to the publication, the Indian politician also called on the group of the 20 largest economies in the world to dismantle new trade barriers, such as the differentiation of vaccines or Covid passports, to guarantee the provision of essential services. [Read more.](#)

### **PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR AND DRUG PATENTS**

The sanitary crisis that has been established in the world as a result of the covid-19 pandemic has required innovative responses from Brazilian institutions and has unlocked agendas stagnated by historical conflicts of interest. In this scenario, the Supreme Court (STF) demonstrated the necessary dynamism to respond to the most diverse challenges. Among the adversities that presented themselves, the debate on the accessibility of medicines gained

prominence, intensely mobilizing market and civil society forces around the limits of the pharmaceutical patent monopoly in Brazil. The fundamental point of the issue is that the existence of drug patents defines an incentive regime for market actors. [Read more.](#)

### **STF OVERTURNS LAW THAT AUTHORIZES SALE OF APPETITE SUPPRESSANTS SUCH AS SIBUTRAMINE**

The Supreme Court (STF) overturned on Thursday, 14, the law that allowed the sale of four drugs used in weight loss treatments. By 7 votes to 3, the ministers judged as the irregular provision that allowed the distribution in the country of substances such as sibutramine, amfepramone, femproporex and mazindol - generally prescribed for dieters. According to the decision, it is up to the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) to take a stand on the matter. The law that released these remedies was approved by Congress and sanctioned by the then President of the Chamber, Rodrigo Maia (without party-RJ), in 2017. At the time, Maia temporarily assumed the seat of President of the Republic in the absence of Michel Temer. The measure allowed for sale upon presentation of a medical prescription. [Read more.](#)

### **DOCTORS WARN OF BRUTAL FALL, DURING THE PANDEMIC, OF EXAMS AND SURGERIES BEYOND COVID**

In addition to the terrible mark of 600,000 lives lost, Covid's pandemic also takes a toll on patients with other health complications. In recent months, there have been drastic reductions in health procedures in various areas, reaching a drop of 2.8 million elective surgeries in the country. And, for behavioral factors, tests — such as those made to detect tumors — even dropped to 90%. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO GOVERNMENT FINALIZES RULES TO KNOCK DOWN MASKS, BUT DECISION WILL BE UP TO MUNICIPALITIES**

A study to make the use of masks in Brazil more flexible, which is being finalized by the Ministry of Health, should provide that the decision on the waiver of the protective accessory against Covid will be up to each municipality. From the report, the folder will establish parameters based on rates of transmission, vaccination, and demand for ICU beds (Intensive Care Unit) to recommend the removal of the mandatory use of the item. [Read more.](#)

### **GOVERNMENT REDUCES INTERVAL FROM 12 TO 8 WEEKS BETWEEN DOSES OF ASTRAZENECA VACCINE AGAINST COVID**

The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, announced this Friday (15) the reduction of the interval between doses of the vaccine against Covid-19 by AstraZeneca. The deadline to be respected between the first and second doses, which was 12 weeks, is now 8 weeks, according to the minister. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BUTANTAN INSTITUTE AUTHORIZED TO INITIATE HUMAN TRIALS OF ANTI-COVID SERUM**

The Butantan Institute, a branch of the São Paulo state government, on Friday, October 15, was authorized by the Brazilian health regulatory Agency (ANVISA) to initiate complementary human trials of its anti-Covid serum. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL SÃO PAULO DECIDES TO RETAIN MANDATORY MASKS IN THE CITY UNTIL END NOVEMBER**

In a note last week, the National Council of Health Secretaries (Conass) defended the mandatory use of masks all over Brazil, remembering that the number of cases went up again in other countries after the measure was loosened. [Read more.](#)

### **ECONOMY MINISTER: BRAZIL WILL HELP NEIGHBORS AFTER COMPLETING DOMESTIC VACCINATION**

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said Wednesday that Brazil will help immunize neighboring countries in two months, after finishing its own vaccination campaign. [Read more.](#)