

WEEKLY REPORT



09/04/21

POLITICS

BRAZIL PRESIDENT BOLSONARO SAYS BIDEN GOVT IS LEFTIST, "OBSESSED WITH ENVIRONMENT"

Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro said on Monday the government of U.S. President Joe Biden "tends to the left" and is obsessed about the environment. Bolsonaro said the Brazilian government has recently had contacts with the U.S. government regarding Latin America and said the U.S. supports democracies in the region. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SUPREME COURT WEIGHS LANDMARK CASE ON INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

Brazil's Supreme Court on Wednesday heard arguments for and against a cut-off date for land claims that indigenous people say are vital for their survival, while the government advocated for legal certainty for farmers in the agricultural powerhouse. The top court weighed whether a state government applied an overly narrow interpretation of indigenous rights by only recognizing tribal lands occupied by native communities at the time Brazil's constitution was ratified in 1988. The case is expected to drag out for days and set a precedent that would affect hundreds of native land claims. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO PROMOTES "TIME FRAME" THESIS, SAYS CREATING INDIGENOUS RESERVES IS DETRIMENTAL TO AGRIBUSINESS

Signaling support for agribusiness, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro drew attention to the Federal Supreme Court's (STF) judgment on the "marco temporal" ("time frame") issue for the demarcation of indigenous lands. In an alarmist tone, the president said during a ceremony at the Planalto Palace on Thursday, September 2, that rural properties could be "destroyed" to be converted into indigenous reserves, and thus the country would lose its leading role in food production. [Read more.](#)

NEARLY 30% OF BRAZIL'S GOLD EXPORTS ARE ILLEGAL, REPORT SAYS

Roughly 28% of Brazilian gold exports in 2019 and 2020 likely came from illegal mines, a report by public prosecutors and the Federal University of Minas Gerais found, pointing to widespread forging of documents and lack of effective law enforcement. The report from federal prosecutors and the Federal University of Minas Gerais found indications of illegality related to 48.9 tons of gold in the two-year period. Wildcat miners in Brazil often extract gold from areas where no mining is allowed, such as protected nature reserves or indigenous land. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO HIRE MORE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENTS IN BID TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES

Brazil Environment Minister Joaquim Pereira Leite said on Tuesday that the government would contract an additional 700 enforcement agents to combat destruction of the Amazon rainforest, including wildfires. Pereira Leite said the government had also made good on right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro's pledge to double the environmental enforcement and firefighting budgets. Bolsonaro made that promise at an Earth Day summit convened by U.S. President Joe Biden in April. Those moves are the first signs of a concrete policy shift under Bolsonaro to step up environmental protection, as Brazil faces international criticism for soaring destruction of the Amazon rainforest under his administration. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CONGRESS PASSES BASIC INCOME TAX REFORM TEXT

After an agreement between Chamber of Deputies president Arthur Lira and deputies who were still resisting the bill, the full membership approved the Income Tax reform bill on Wednesday, September 1. The plenary is yet to vote on rider amendments, suggestions for changes to the approved basic text made by individual deputies. After approval by the Chamber, the bill needs to be approved by the Senate before heading to President Jair Bolsonaro for enactment into law. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S GDP STALLS, AND ECONOMY SHOWS SIGNS OF PROLONGED CRISIS

Brazil's second-quarter GDP, announced by the IBGE, shows an economy that is not growing. Its recovery has been undermined by the water crisis (which affects production costs) and politics (which undermines investor confidence). [Read more.](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT SLIDES TO 14.1% IN 2ND QUARTER

Unemployment declined 0.6 percentage points in the moving quarter ending in June this year compared to the first quarter and closed out June at 14.1 percent. Despite the reduction, the country has 14.4 million people seeking employment. The figures can be found in the Continuous PNAD (National Household Sample Survey) and were made public today (Aug. 31) by the government's statistics agency IBGE. [Read more.](#)

DROUGHT MAY FORCE BRAZIL TO RATION POWER, SAYS VICE PRESIDENT MOURAO

Brazilian Vice President Hamilton Mourao said on Wednesday a severe drought could lead to energy rationing in Brazil, contradicting other officials who have said that such a step would not be necessary. Brazil, one of the world's agricultural superpowers, is suffering from one of its worst droughts in a century. The lack of rainfall has emptied hydroelectric reservoirs, fanned inflation, and hurt farmers. The government has given incentives to use less energy but says rationing is not expected. "There may have to be some rationing," Mourao told reporters in Brasilia, although he said the government had taken necessary measures to prevent blackouts. [Read more.](#)

ELECTRICITY BILLS WILL INCREASE 6.78% IN BRAZIL WITH NEW ENERGY TARIFF

The current Brazilian water crisis enters a new level this Wednesday (1st) when a new tariff becomes effective. It will remain in effect until April 2022 and will increase the electricity bill by 6.78%. The social tariff for low-income citizens will not be affected. Called "Hydric Scarcity," the banner advertised by the National Electric Energy Agency tries to combat the increase in costs resulting from the prolonged shortage of water, passing them on to the consumer, and avoiding rationing. [Read more.](#)

FEAR OF STAGFLATION INCREASES SIGNIFICANTLY IN BRAZIL

Disappointment with recent indicators of the Brazilian economy has caused the market to rethink its forecasts. With local economic activity weaker than expected and inflation exceeding estimates, stagflation is being discussed among investors and economists. The current of Brazilian economists talking about stagflation in 2022 is growing, especially after the semi-disappointing GDP updates. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL WILL HIT RECORD FOR STOCK OFFERINGS THIS YEAR, SAYS BANK OF AMERICA

According to Bank of America Corp., stock offerings by Brazilian companies will likely reach more than R\$159 (US\$31) billion this year, which should surpass 2020 as the strongest ever. Through August 30, the total raised stands at R\$126 billion, a 40% increase over the same period in 2020, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Initial public offerings (IPOs) have already reached a record high. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO REVOKES THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW WITH VETOES

President Jair Bolsonaro yesterday revoked the National Security Law, a remnant of Brazil's military dictatorship (1964-85) used against critics of him or his government. He also vetoed five pieces of legislation on crimes against the democratic rule of law that replaced it— including one about the military and one about false news. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO, VETOES, AND BRAZILIAN POLITICS

As the Brazilian elections grow closer, Bolsonaro seems to be following in Trump's footsteps yet again by attacking the democratic traditions of Brazil, accusing electronic voting of wide – spread fraud etc. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS HE WILL BE ARRESTED, KILLED OR DECLARED WINNER

Brazilian far-right President Jair Bolsonaro on Saturday said he sees three alternatives for his future: winning the 2022 presidential elections, death, or prison. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SANCTIONS BILL TO BREAK VACCINE PATENT; NOT TO BE IMMEDIATELY ENFORCED

President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday, September 2, sanctioned the bill allowing the temporary breaking of patents on vaccines against Covid-19, medicines, and diagnostic tests. In the same statement in which he announced the sanction, the Presidential Palace said that patent breaking will not be enforced at this time. [Read more.](#)

INPI PUBLISHES PROCEDURES AFTER EXTINGUISHING THE PRIOR CONSENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PATENTS BY ANVISA

The Law 14,195, published on August 27, 2021, established the end of the prior consent of the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) for the products of patent applications and pharmaceutical processes. Art. 57, item XXVI, of the new Law revoked art. 229-C of Law 9,279/1996. Thus, the INPI communicates that the flow of patent applications between the INPI and ANVISA has been extinct since August 27, 2021. [Read more.](#)

PROVISIONAL MEASURE SETS DEADLINE FOR UPDATING HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE

President Jair Bolsonaro issued a provisional measure (MP) that amends the law on health plans (Law 9.656/98) to establish a maximum period for the analysis of new procedures and treatments that may be included in the plan's coverage list. "The goal is to speed up the process of incorporating new treatments into health plans, applying parameters similar to those adopted by the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies in the Unified Health System (Conitec), which are already consolidated in the country", informed the General Secretariat of the Presidency, in note. According to the folder, the MP provides that the process of updating the list of health procedures and events by the National Agency for Supplementary Health (ANS), through which new treatments are included in the mandatory coverage, must be completed within the period of 120 days, which can be extended for another 60 calendar days. If the ANS does not manifest itself conclusively within this period, the drug, health product or procedure will automatically be included in the coverage list until the agency decides. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS AGAINST THE RISK SHARING BILL

The Department of Management and Incorporation of Health Technologies of the Ministry of Health (DGITS) took a stand against PL 667/2021, which amends Law 8.080/1990 to regulate the risk-sharing agreement between the government and the pharmaceutical industry. The document concludes that, in the Brazilian scenario, there are still insufficient conditions for the implementation of this type of access model. Since the finding, in August 2020, that the attempt

to share risk with Biogen, a pharmaceutical company that markets the only treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) available in the SUS, has failed, the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Strategic Inputs (SCTIE) has left the subject in the background. Novartis, manufacturer of the two gene therapies registered in Brazil, also had no progress in the conversations with the current administration of the secretariat. [Read more.](#)

INCOME TAX BILL CAN END TAX BENEFIT FOR DRUGS

The Pharmaceutical Products Industry Union (Sindusfarma) did not welcome the approval of the Income Tax bill, on Wednesday (1), by the Chamber of Deputies. This is because, to compensate for the reduction in the IR rate, the project plans to end the PIS/Cofins exemption for health products – which includes 18,000 drug presentations. According to the organization's president, Nelson Mussolini, if the text, as it stands, also passes the Senate, there will be a 12% increase in continuous-use medications sold in pharmacies. According to Economic Value these drugs are used to treat hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and AIDS, among others. [Read more.](#)

SENATE TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION ON THE BLUE NOVEMBER CAMPAIGN

The plenary of the Federal Senate approved, in a deliberative session held this Wednesday (1), the application 1771/2021, which requests the holding of a special session designed to honor the November Blue campaign to raise awareness about male diseases. [Read more.](#)

TWENTY BRAZIL STATES HAVE BED OCCUPANCY BELOW 50%

Brazil's Ministry of Health reported that, for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic of the novel coronavirus, 20 of the 27 Brazilian states have a bed occupancy rate for COVID-19 below 50 percent. The number includes both clinical beds and intensive care. The occupancy index, the ministry declared, is considered normal and comes because of the progress of vaccination in the country. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL HAS 40% OF POPULATION COMPLETELY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

A report released this Friday (Sep. 3) by Brazil's Ministry of Health shows that 40 percent of the Brazilian population (64 million people) aged 18 and older have completed the vaccination cycle against COVID-19. Approximately 132 million have received the first dose. The number accounts for 83.4 percent of the target public of 160 million adults in the country. The progress of the vaccination campaign brings positive results, the ministry stated, including the reduction in the occupancy rate of COVID-19 beds, hospital wards, and ICUs, which has sunk below 50 percent and within normal standards across 19 Brazilian states. The moving averages of cases and deaths are also on the wane and saw a slash of 61 and 60 percent in the last two months, respectively. [Read more.](#)

MAJORITY OF VACCINATED BRAZILIANS STILL AWAITING SECOND DOSE

Brazil is currently the third country with the largest discrepancy between people who completed the vaccination schedule against Covid and those who are partially immunized, among the 130 that provide data. Only Costa Rica and Taiwan have bigger gaps. Although the country is in the intermediate group of vaccination coverage for the first dose, with 62% inoculated, and has recommended an extra dose for people over 70 years of age, only 28% here have full immunization. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN VIPER VENOM MAY BECOME TOOL IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID, STUDY SHOWS

Brazilian researchers have found that a molecule in the venom of a type of snake inhibited coronavirus reproduction in monkey cells, a possible first step toward a drug to combat the virus causing COVID-19. A study published in the scientific journal *Molecules* this month found that the molecule produced by the jararacussu pit viper inhibited the virus's ability to multiply in monkey cells by 75%. "We were able to show this component of snake venom was able to

inhibit a very important protein from the virus," said Rafael Guido, a University of Sao Paulo professor, and an author of the study. [Read more.](#)

CORONAVIRUS: DELTA VARIANT NOW PREDOMINANT IN SÃO PAULO CITY

The Delta variant (lineage B.1.617.2, sublineages AY) of the novel coronavirus has become prevalent in São Paulo, the country's most populous city. A study conducted in a collaboration between the Butantan Institute and the city of São Paulo found that, of the samples where identifying the lineage is possible, 69.7 percent stem from the Delta variant and 28.4 percent from the Gama variant. The sequencing refers to epidemiological week 33 (August 15–21), conducted by Butantan, Brazil's main producer of immuno-biologicals. [Read more.](#)

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COVID-19: BRAZIL REPORTS 26,280, 764 DEATHS IN 24H

The total number of lives lost to COVID-19 across Brazil since the beginning of the pandemic has risen to 581,914. In 24 hours, 764 deaths were caused by complications linked to the disease. There are also 3,553 fatalities under investigation. This happens when diagnoses depend on test results concluded only after the patient dies. People infected since the pandemic started now total 20,830,495. From Wednesday to Thursday, 26,280 new positive diagnoses were confirmed. [Read more.](#)



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