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LEGISLATIVO

FORTALECEMOS
LAS DEMOCRACIAS
DE AMÉRICA LATINA

STRENGTHENING
DEMOCRACIES
IN LATIN AMERICA

NOVEMBER 2020

Image of power Power of an image

REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RATINGS IN LATIN AMERICA
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020



Executive Summary

Recent months have confirmed that the increase in popularity of the presidents in the region, recorded between March and April, was momentary. Since then, public support has dropped back to resemble pre-pandemic levels. The economic fallout and bleak long-term forecasts are among the main reasons, on top of resumed social and political unrest which has led to cabinet crises in some countries. Here are some of the main points and trends:

Brazil and Peru: the exceptions. On the one hand, Bolsonaro stands out as the only president whose popularity has actually risen, continuing his upward trend from July. On the other, the backing for President Martin Vizcarra which had remained considerable despite his many setbacks, was not enough to spare him being ousted yesterday by Congress.

Governments losing support. The September-October data signal a sustained downward trend in levels of support for the presidents of

Argentina, Peru and Guatemala. Meanwhile, the leaders of Colombia and Ecuador whose popularity had stabilized in the previous two months, were also revealed to be losing support.

Neither better nor worse. Public support for the presidents of five countries plateaued in the July-August period: Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Pre-pandemic comparison. While the popularity of the presidents rose sharply between March and April, their return to pre-pandemic levels has been more gradual. Of the 13 presidents looked at, seven of them remain above their pre-pandemic levels, while two, those of Argentina and Ecuador, have fallen beneath them.

Levels of support. Only four presidents enjoy over 50% backing, two of whom are in their first year in office: Luis Lacalle Pou (Uruguay) and Luis Abinader (Dominican Republic).

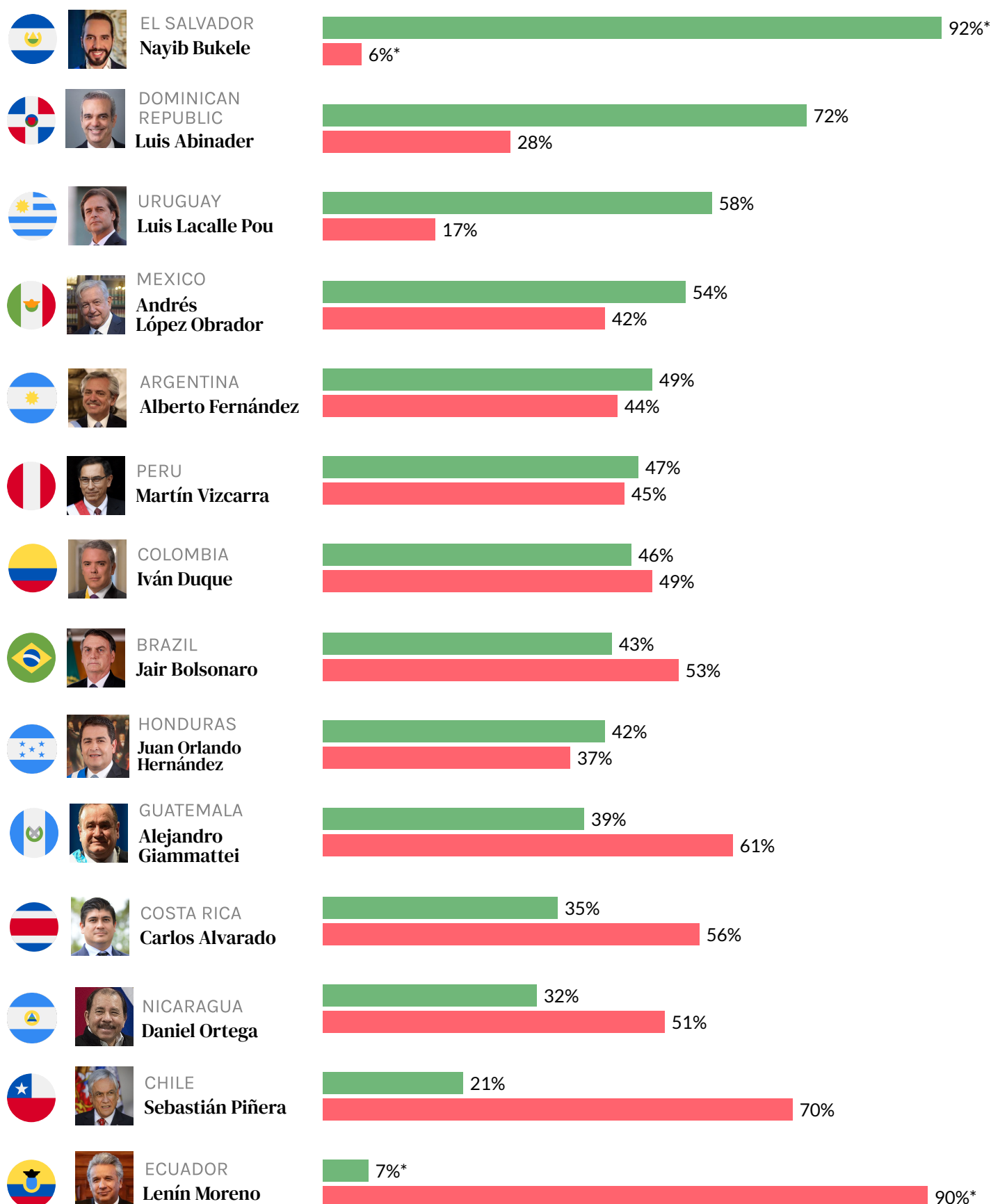
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Ranking of presidential image

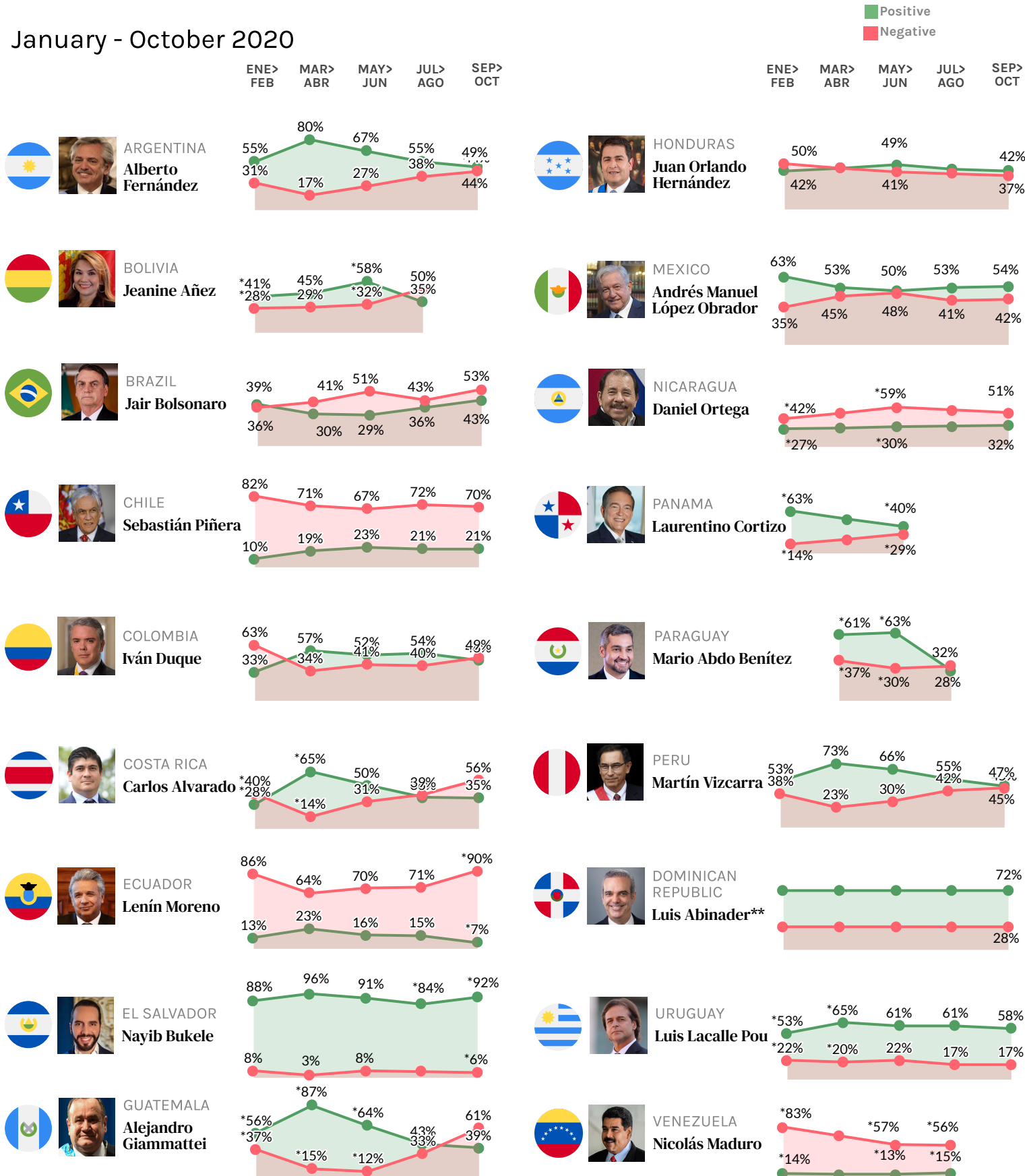
September- October 2020

Positive
Negative



Governments with support levels of 50% or more: dropping from 9 to 4 since May

January - October 2020



Source: Author's own elaboration based on a compilation of public opinion surveys carried out between Jan and October. The empty points correspond to periods when no data is available. *Based on a single data source. (**) He took office on 08/16/2020. To see the sources [click here](#).

Strong loss of public support in the Andean countries

September - October 2020

In Peru, the level of popularity of President Martín Vizcarra, forged in a discourse that appealed to honesty and criticized traditional politics, proved insufficient to prevent Congress from dismissing him on November 9, amid allegations of irregularities in his issuing of public contracts. Meanwhile, the leaders of Colombia and Ecuador whose popularity had stabilized in the previous two months, were also revealed to be losing support.

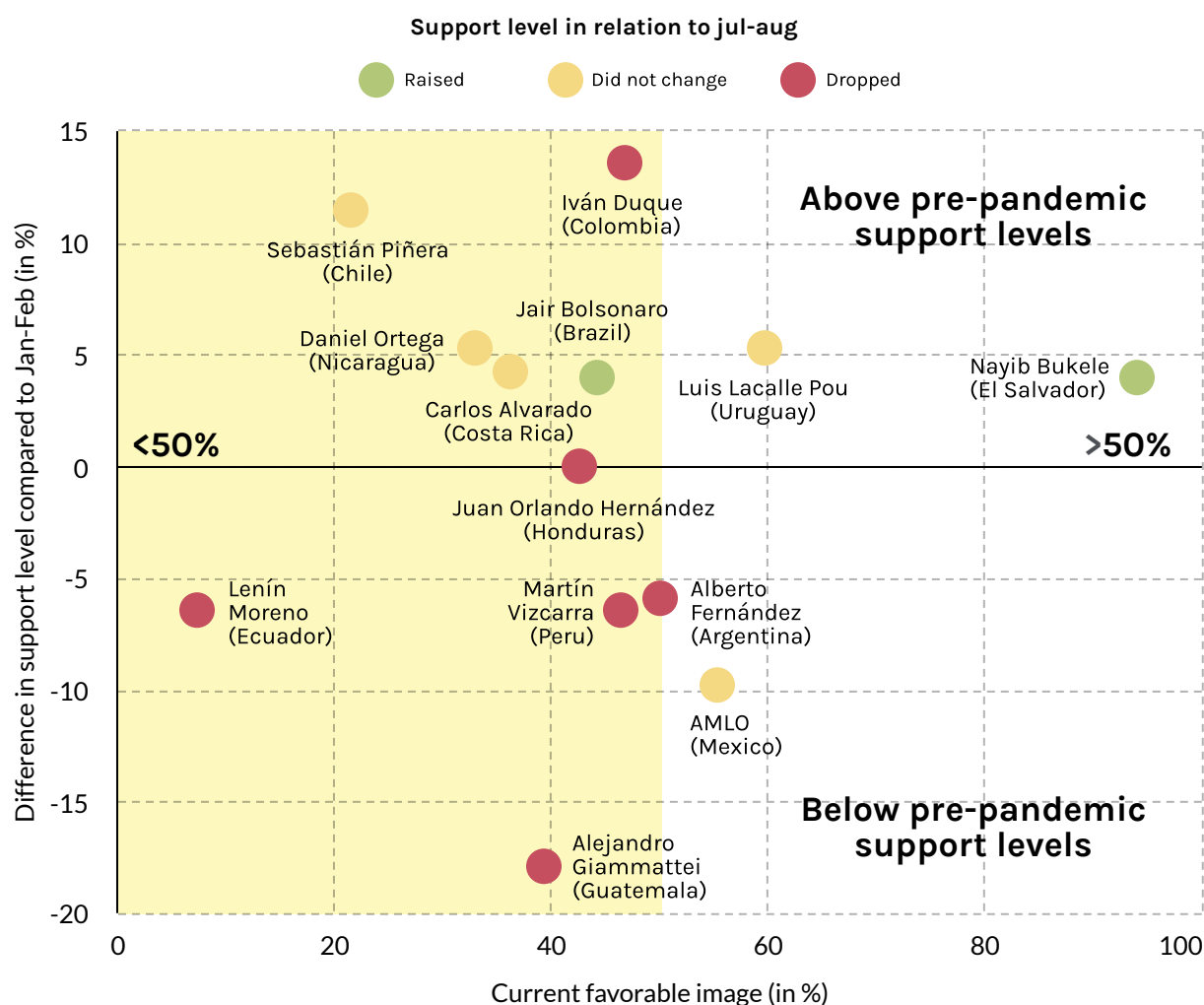


Five countries drop beneath pre-pandemic support levels

January- October 2020

In contrast to the growth in support for governments recorded between March and April, which was sudden, the return to pre-pandemic levels is occurring more gradually. **Of the 13 cases presented in the graph, seven are still above those levels, one is unchanged and five have dropped below.**

Between September and October, two countries dipped beneath their pre-pandemic levels: **Argentina and Ecuador**



On average, only 1 in 4 approve of the work of the parliaments

July - October 2020



An overview of the region



BRAZIL



At its highest point, Bolsonaro is the outlier for the September-October period

Bolsonaro's image is 15% above his lowest point recorded this year. Despite the country's 160,000 deaths from COVID-19, allegations of corruption involving his family and the devastating fires in the Amazon, the president's popularity is close to the 46% that saw him win the first round of the elections in 2018. Some analyses attribute the rebound to the emergency subsidies handed out to over 60 million people, to a lower than expected fall in GDP and to a slight economic recovery.



PERU



Congress removes President Martín Vizcarra

Against the odds, the impeachment process brought by several legislative blocs following his alleged irregular awarding of public contracts, resulted this November 9 in the president's removal from office, with barely 6 months to go before the next presidential elections. His predecessor, Pedro Kuczynski was removed in the same manner in 2018. Right from the start of his term, Vizcarra's relationship with Congress had been fraught, to the point where he dissolved it last year and called for fresh legislative elections. The new-look Congress had taken office in March with a fragmented composition and without representation of the ruling party.



COLOMBIA



Protests resurface and the government is strongly criticised for its security policy

The president's approval levels continue their downward spiral begun in May, with peaks of rejection of up to 70% in Bogotá. The last two months were marked by new acts of police brutality and protests in which at least 13 people lost their lives. At the same time, the Supreme Court urged the government to apologize for the excesses committed during the 2019 protests. In this context, the debate on the need to restructure the security forces, now dependent on the Ministry of Defense, and to reinforce their civilian character was once again revived.

An overview of the region



BOLIVIA



Movement Towards Socialism triumphs in Bolivia

On October 18, the Bolivian opposition candidate for the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), Luis Arce, was elected president for the period 2020-2025 with 55% of the votes. MAS will also have a majority in the Plurinational Assembly. Añez, who in November completed a year as interim president, had dropped out of the presidential race a month before the elections given her poor poll ratings. Her candidacy was criticized after Añez herself declared that it would be "dishonest" to run for office. The new president took office on November 8.



CHILE



Referendum: Chileans give a resounding yes to new constitution

On October 25, 78% of the population voted in favor of drafting a new constitution. The revision of the constitutional text is part of the Peace Agreement signed in Congress a year ago amid the social unrest at the time. The result puts pressure on the ruling coalition and has forced the president to call for unity ahead of another upcoming vote to elect the members of the body charged with redrafting the new constitution. The following days were marked by protests and the resignation of the Minister of the Interior, after Congress approved the beginning of a trial against him.



ARGENTINA



Argentina: Support for the government is already below the pre-pandemic level

In addition to the challenges posed by the pandemic, in Argentina, in particular, there are those arising from the collapse of the economy, which in the second quarter registered a 19% year on year contraction and with a highly volatile exchange rate. This has deepened public pessimism around the economy, with unemployment and poverty among the main public concerns. After a record-long quarantine that has been unable to prevent an exponential growth in Covid-19 infections and deaths, there has also been criticism of the government's public health management.

Methodological notes

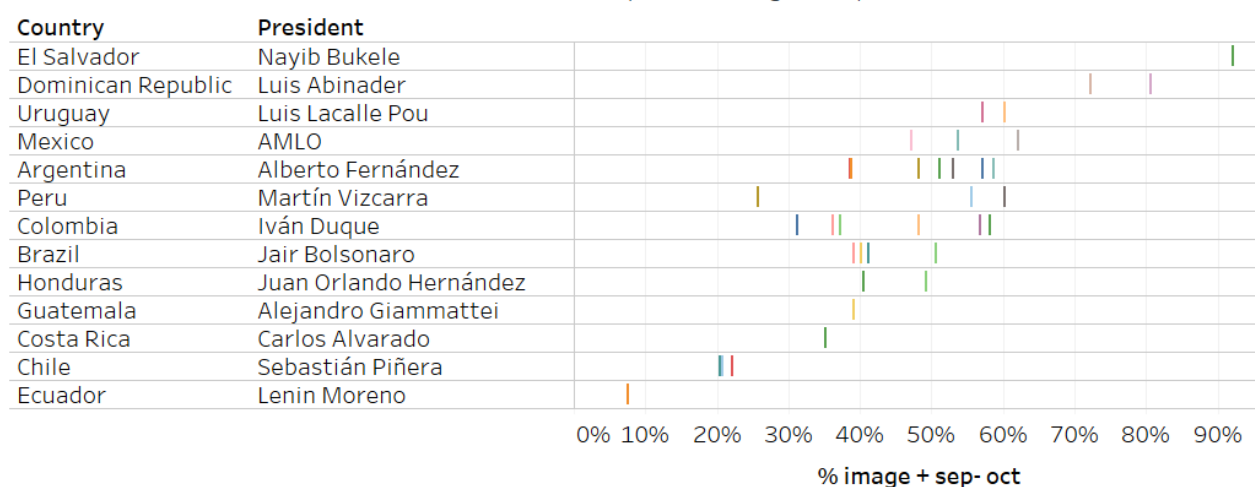
September - October 2020

This monitoring of presidential image is based on simple average calculations of approval rating surveys developed in each country between September and October 2020. The different data sources are not weighted according to the methodology used, the sample size or the surveyor. It includes measurements of the level of approval of the president, level of approval of the government's handling of COVID-19, presidential image and level of approval of the administration. The averages for the September - October period have been compared with those of the previous quarters, using the same methodology.

While the goal is to average multiple data sources, compliance is conditioned by the availability of information. For this reason, all cases where figures are based on a single data source per period have been clearly identified.

In some cases, a considerable level of dispersion has been detected between one measurement and another. For more information, Tables 1 and 2 - also available in an interactive version - gather the data sources collected in the period from September to October.

Chart 1. Variation in the measurement of Presidents' positive images - September-October 2020



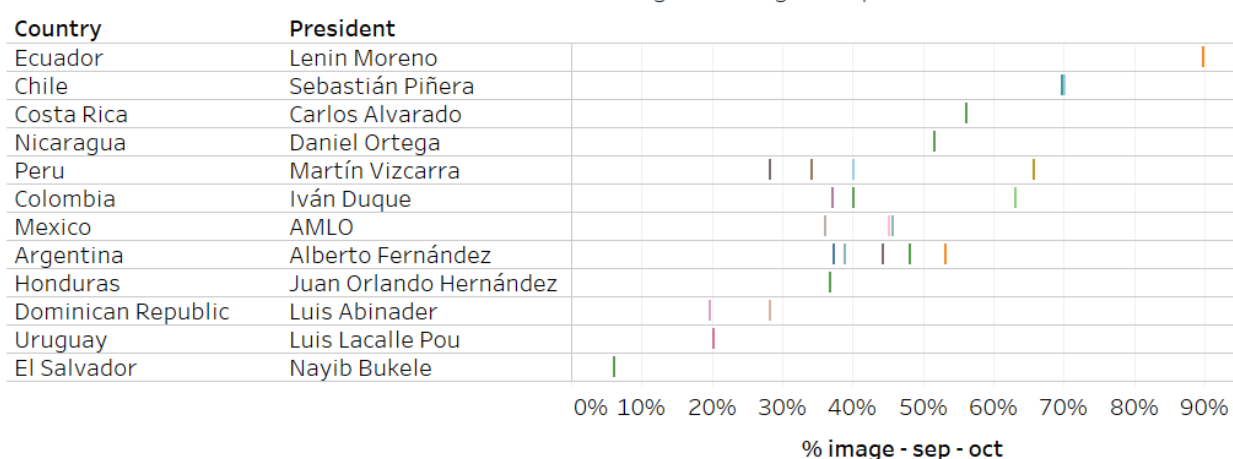
Sources

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Analogías | ■ CNT/MDA | ■ IPSOS | ■ Ricardo Rouvier Asociados |
| ■ Cadem | ■ Consulta Mitofsky | ■ Management & Fit | ■ Synopsis |
| ■ CEDATOS | ■ Datexco | ■ Opción Consultores | |
| ■ Centro Nacional de Consultoría | ■ Datum | ■ Opinaia | |
| ■ CID Gallup | ■ El Financiero | ■ Paradigma | |
| ■ CIT | ■ IEP | ■ ProDatos | |

Methodological notes

September - October 2020

Chart 2. Variation in the measurement of Presidents' negative images - September-October 2020



Sources

- Analogías
- Cadem
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- CIT
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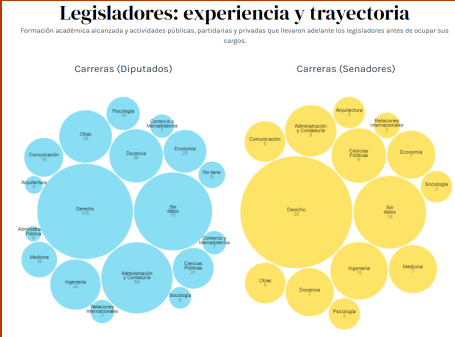
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SEPTIEMBRE 2020

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DL y EITI: ganadores del Anti-Corruption Challenge del FMI

[VER MÁS](#)



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[IR AL SITIO](#)



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