

Food Security Monitor for the Americas

Full Report on the Agrifood Sector in the Americas during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Previous editions available at: <https://iica.int/en/monitor>

3,577,785

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Americas



Countries



Highest number of cases in the Americas:

- USA (2,011,341)
- BRA (772,416)
- PER (208,823)
- CHL (154,092)
- MEX (129,184)

Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX>. Data as at 11 June 2020 (14:00 CST).

***This monitor is a dynamic, constantly updated tool created by IICA to analyze and forecast the impact of the world health crisis on food security in the Americas.*

Covid-19 in the Americas

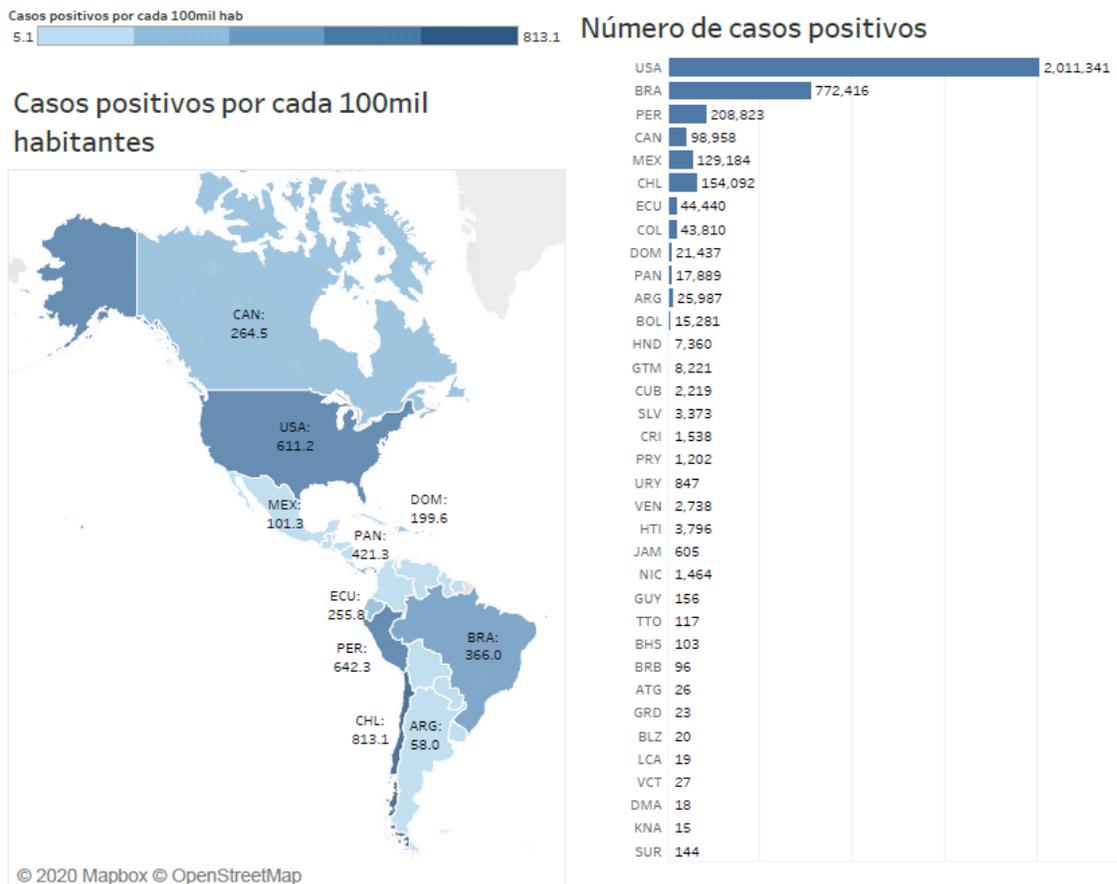
To date, the United States remains the country with the greatest number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the hemisphere (and the world), with more than 2 million cases, followed by Brazil, which has more than 770,000 cases (the second-highest number of cases worldwide) and Peru with 208,000 cases. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the number of confirmed cases is on the rise; the region now has more than 1.4 million cases.

In recent days, Chile has registered a higher growth rate, reaching 154,000 cases, which is equivalent to 813 confirmed cases for every 100,000 inhabitants. This figure is even higher than the 611 confirmed cases for every 100,000 inhabitants recorded in the United States.

With respect to the total number of confirmed deaths from Covid-19 for every 100,000 inhabitants, Ecuador has the highest mortality rate, with 21 deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Brazil with 19 deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants, Peru with 18 and Chile with 14.

The United States is the country with the highest number of deaths (more than 113,000, or 35 for every 100,000 inhabitants).

COVID-19 en las Américas (al 11 de junio)



Fuente: Elaborado con datos de Johns Hopkins University y Naciones Unidas. Datos al 11 de junio 2020 (1 pm CST).

Analysis and scenarios

The latest from the IICA Blog:

The cocoa agro-production chain and the state of emergency in Peru

The **global demand** for cocoa and international **prices** for this product are slowly **rising** despite worldwide uncertainty. In this regard, organizations of cocoa producers are undertaking considerable efforts to **meet their trade commitments** and adequately service their customers despite the delays and difficulties faced. However, **greater support from the State** by means of a long-term policy for economic and productive recovery will be necessary.

Road closures have greatly impacted cocoa producers, especially given the fact that the cocoa harvesting season is now in full swing. Consequently, farmer families and organizations **will require not only economic support from the State**, but also **accessibility facilities** to guarantee the sustainability of this agro-production chain. This will be greatly important at all levels of the chain, from the smallest to the largest cooperatives and associations.

Find out the details this week in a presentation by **Lourdes A. Lares Acero**, who holds a *Licentiate degree in Anthropology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)* and a *Master's degree in Amazon Studies from the National University of San Marcos (UNMSM)*. <https://bit.ly/3fgTjVu>

Rural tourism: an opportunity to strengthen agriculture amidst Covid-19

For **family farmers** and **small-scale agro-industries**, **rural tourism** can represent a valuable economic strategy by creating a **short marketing circuit**. Through visits to agricultural farms, this type of tourism can foster *in situ* consumption of products as well as encourage visitors to purchase those products at a later date. It can also contribute to boosting local pride among peasant and indigenous communities, who will become more aware of their role in supporting agricultural systems and preserving landscapes and biodiversity.

As a result of growing social and health concerns regarding international travel, tourists are **likely** to show a **renewed interest in visiting rural areas**. This, in turn, can contribute to the development of agribusinesses associated with tourism (traditional gastronomy, herbalism, craft workshops, cheese shops), providing a means of diversifying sources of income and creating new jobs in these communities.

Find out the details this week in a presentation by **Daniel De Jesús Contreras** of the *Autonomous University of Mexico State (UAEM)*, who specializes in enhancing tourists' appreciation for the food heritage of rural areas <https://bit.ly/37n7WDL>

Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

Production	
<p>* Measures related to the agrifood production sector, and information on impact channels and areas affected in the countries of the Americas (products grown or harvested during this time of year).</p>	
<p>Brazil: about one third of family farmers in São Paulo applied for emergency aid</p> <p>According to Globo Rural magazine, a survey conducted by the Coordination Unit for Integral Technical Assistance (CATI) found that, during the month of May, 32% of family farmers in São Paulo applied to receive the federal government’s emergency aid for the pandemic.</p> <p>According to the survey, 59% of farmers reported a drop in income since the start of the pandemic. https://glo.bo/37pVcMS</p>	<p>El Salvador: farmers' associations report US\$1.5 million in losses due to rainfall</p> <p>The Salvadoran Chamber of Small and Medium-Sized Agricultural Producers (CAMPO) estimates that the passage of Tropical Storm Amanda resulted in farmers (especially family farmers) losing approximately \$1.5 million in investments allocated for the first crops of corn and beans.</p> <p>Preliminary government data indicate losses of \$22 million throughout the entire agricultural chain; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) is still assessing the extent of the damage in the eastern region. https://bit.ly/37kRIAw</p>
<p>United States: growing concern over the spread of COVID-19 among fruit and vegetable packers</p> <p>According to a report by Reuters, outbreaks of the coronavirus are emerging at U.S. fruit and vegetable farms, as well as in packing plants in the country’s main production areas.</p> <p>In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration said the government could use the Defense Production Act to keep fruit and vegetable lines moving. The act would give companies some liability protection if workers fall sick. https://reut.rs/3hdohQ5</p>	<p>Mexico: agriculture is the only sector expected to generate jobs</p> <p>According to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), certain surveys on employment indicate that the hiring rate within the agriculture and fisheries sector will increase by 1% during the third quarter of 2020.</p> <p>Data from the Mexican Social Security Institute published by El Economista indicate that, as at April 2020, a total of 697,914 persons worked in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and hunting sector, which has experienced an annual growth of 4.18%. https://bit.ly/30JRuwj</p>

Peru: agriculture sector grew by 2.2% during the first four months of the year

According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI), despite the impact of the coronavirus on the economy, the agriculture sector experienced an inter-annual growth of 2.2%, thanks to production increases of 2.3% and 2% achieved by the agriculture and livestock subsectors, respectively.

The growth of the agriculture sector was driven by increased production of paprika, quinoa, blueberries, potatoes, olives and grapes. On the other hand, greater production of chicken, raw (unpasteurized) cow's milk, chicken eggs and pork contributed to the livestock sector's growth.

During the month of April, the agriculture sector grew by 0.6%

<https://bit.ly/3feMEuH>

Dominican Republic: the economy declined by 7.5% during the first four months of the year

The Central Bank has reported that during the first fourth months of the year there was a -7.5% interannual variation in economic activity, as measured by the Monthly Economic Activity Index. During the January to April 2020 period, activities that saw the greatest decline in terms of real value added were Hotels, Bars and Restaurants (34.1%), Construction (24.5%) and Mining (11.4%).

On the other hand, the agriculture sector enjoyed 5.2% interannual growth over the same period.

<https://bit.ly/3hkZMk3>

Trade

* Trade-related measures taken by the countries, description of the impact on products usually exported during this time of year, problems in trade logistics and global supply chains.

WTO report studies trade developments in the world's poorest countries

Currently, 32 WTO members are ranked among the world's 50 least developed countries (LDCs), which are now being hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, due to decreased income from exports and waning demand in markets.

<https://bit.ly/3dXSK2w>

Nicaragua: private sector asks Government to establish 14 economic and sanitary measures

Nicaragua's Consejo Superior de la Empresa Privada – COSEP (Superior Council for Private Enterprise) presented a package of proposals to mitigate the impact of the health crisis on employment and production in the country.

The measures address public health, social welfare and protection; economic and production protection; as well as administrative and labor-related issues.

<https://bit.ly/3hfFAjo>

Peru: MINCETUR assists exporters by issuing certificates of origin

The Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR) is assisting exporters and facilitating trade amidst Covid-19, by issuing the certificates of origin that are required to access preferential tariff treatment under existing trade agreements.

The Directorate of MINCETUR's Unit of Origin is accepting scans of signed certificates of origin, to enable exporters to access preferential treatment under the framework of some current trade agreements. <https://bit.ly/2AUQ07n>

E-learning is the way to go during Covid-19

Numerous online courses are allowing users to boost their export development skills and giving small operators the chance to realize their dreams of owning their own businesses, through the use of online learning. Realizing that e-commerce is gradually becoming the new normal, they are engaging in new and innovative forms of learning that allows them to keep the entrepreneurial spirit alive during Covid-19.

<https://bit.ly/2AUQjix>

Mexico is no longer the major trading partner of the United States

Mexico is no longer the major trading partner of the United States, as the Covid-19 pandemic has drastically reduced the value of Mexico's exports to the United States. The following article provides further details:

<https://bit.ly/3hmd4fQ>

Costa Rica increases sanitary border controls

Covid-19 cases in Costa Rica are trending upward, prompting the country to tighten sanitary controls in agricultural areas on its border with Nicaragua, as a means of mitigating the effects of the pandemic on pineapple and cassava production.

<https://bit.ly/37jToF2>

Supply

*Measures taken by Ministries of Agriculture in different countries regarding food security.

Digitalizing agriculture: the key to Latin America's progress and food security. A conversation with Nobel Prize winner, Michael Kremer.

Michael Kremer, 2019 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, stressed that providing digital extension services to small farmers in Latin America will be key to overcoming the effects of Covid-19.

The globally recognized expert for his work to combat and alleviate poverty had a discussion with Manuel Otero, Director General of the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the "Opportunities for Digital Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Prompt Response to COVID-19".

Kremer noted that, "Digital agriculture is an effective means of enabling Governments to support farmers during the pandemic, while also laying the groundwork for a valuable system for the long-term". <https://bit.ly/2XQtLsi>

IICA launches virtual forums to engage rural youth in developing a new agriculture sector

Enhancing the involvement of Latin American and Caribbean rural youth in the political, economic and productive spheres, in efforts to rebuild in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, is the aim of a series of virtual forums, organized by IICA, beginning on June 12.

The forums will engage youth throughout the region, as part of IICA's actions to assist in toppling barriers that are restricting this sector's access to education, technology, employment, production resources, land ownerships and health services, to name a few.

<https://bit.ly/2z2nqjO>

Specialists analyze new plant improvement techniques in Mexico.

Specialists agreed on the importance of new plant improvement techniques in fueling the transformation of food production systems, with the introduction, knowledge and use of agrobiodiversity techniques, as well as the implementation of more sustainable, climate-resilient strategies.

They emphasized the fact that research and innovation in the development of plant varieties could prevent the loss of crops due to pests and diseases, which is a critical concern in the context of the pandemic. <https://bit.ly/3dTatrX>

Sunflower and barley exports from Argentina are on the decline

Data from the Rosario Stock Exchange indicates that sunflower and barley exports plummeted during the first four months of the year. The volume of sunflower exports declined significantly, by 31% (592,786 tons), representing a 27% reduction in value (294.3 million dollars). The fall-off in volume in the barley industry was 22% (1,516,215 tons), which is a 31% decline in value (339.5 million dollars). <https://bit.ly/3frM3Gr>

Why has the Coronavirus almost tripled Peru's ginger exports?

The Peruvian Government reported on Wednesday that the country almost tripled its ginger exports during the first four months of the year. Ginger consumption has been on the rise, given its use as a natural remedy for respiratory illnesses. Peru is the world's fourth largest global exporter of ginger, following on the heels of China, Thailand and India. In 2019, it sold 23,400 tons internationally, valuing 41.5 million dollars. <https://bit.ly/3cSPFzw>