

Session 5 - Latin American Politics - Democracy Index 2022

Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index [\(https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/\)](https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/) Latin America 2022

	Overall score	Global Rank	Regional rank	I Electoral process and pluralism	II Functioning of government	III Political participation	IV Political culture	V Civil liberties	Regime type
Argentina	6.85	50	6	9.17	5.00	7.78	4.38	7.94	Flawed democracy
Bolivia	4.51	100	18	4.75	4.29	6.67	1.25	5.59	Hybrid regime
Brazil	6.78	51	7	9.58	5.00	6.67	5.00	7.65	Flawed democracy
Chile	8.22	19	2	9.58	8.21	6.67	7.50	9.12	Full democracy
Colombia	6.72	53	8	9.17	6.07	6.67	3.75	7.94	Flawed democracy
Costa Rica	8.29	17	1	9.58	7.50	7.78	6.88	9.71	Full democracy
Cuba	2.65	139	20	0.00	3.21	3.33	3.75	2.94	Authoritarian
Dominican Republic	6.39	65	9	9.17	5.36	7.22	3.13	7.06	Flawed democracy
Ecuador	5.69	81	13	8.75	5.00	6.67	1.88	6.18	Hybrid regime
El Salvador	5.06	93	16	8.33	3.57	5.56	3.13	4.71	Hybrid regime
Guatemala	4.68	98	17	6.92	3.93	3.89	2.50	6.18	Hybrid regime
Guyana	6.34	67	10	6.92	6.07	6.67	5.00	7.06	Flawed democracy
Haiti	2.81	135	19	0.00	0.00	2.78	6.25	5.00	Authoritarian
Honduras	5.15	91	15	8.75	3.93	5.00	2.50	5.59	Hybrid regime
Jamaica	7.13	42	3	8.75	7.14	5.00	6.25	8.53	Flawed democracy
Mexico	5.25	89	14	6.92	4.64	7.22	1.88	5.59	Hybrid regime
Nicaragua	2.50	143	21	0.00	2.14	3.33	4.38	2.65	Authoritarian
Panama	6.91	49	5	9.58	6.07	7.22	3.75	7.94	Flawed democracy
Paraguay	5.89	77	12	8.75	5.36	6.11	1.88	7.35	Hybrid regime
Peru	5.92	75	11	8.75	5.71	5.56	3.13	6.47	Hybrid regime
Suriname	6.95	48	4	9.58	6.43	6.11	5.00	7.65	Flawed democracy
Uruguay	8.91	11	1	10.00	8.93	7.78	8.13	9.71	Full democracy
Venezuela	2.23	147	22	0.00	1.07	5.56	1.88	2.65	Authoritarian
Regional score	5.79			7.19	5.07	5.97	4.11	6.61	

Source: EIU.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean experiences its fourth consecutive year of decline in 2022, its average score falling to 5.79, down from 5.83 in 2021. The decline in the region's overall score occurs despite a broad-based increase in scores related to the lifting of pandemic-related restrictions that had affected civil liberties; however, these improvements are offset by a sharp deterioration in scores in a handful of countries in 2022.

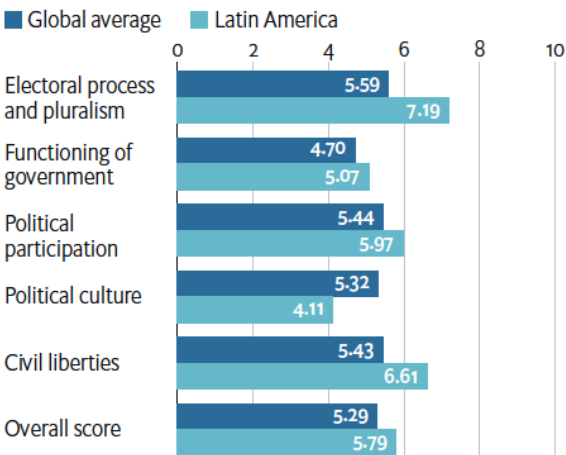
The countries driving the 2022 decline are Haiti (-0.68), El Salvador (-0.66) and Mexico (-0.32). Countries recording more modest declines include Peru (-0.17) and Brazil (-0.08). Peru's declining score knocks it down to a "hybrid regime" from a "flawed democracy". On a positive note, Chile regains its status as a "full democracy", as covid-19 restrictions were lifted. Of the 24 countries measured, the scores for 13 decrease compared with 2021, nine increase and two are unchanged.

Latin America and the Caribbean remains the region with the highest average score outside of North America and western Europe. The region's score is bolstered by having some of the world's strongest democracies, such as Uruguay, Costa Rica and Chile, but they account for only 4% of the region's total population; meanwhile 45% of the region's population live in a country that is either a hybrid or an

Latin America:

Democracy Index 2022 by category

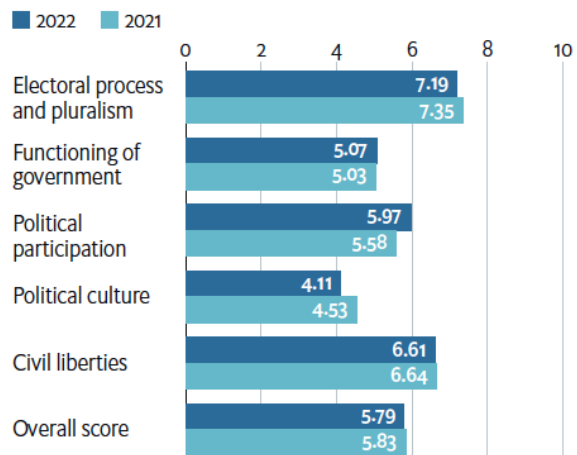
(Index score out of 10, 10 being best)



Source: EIU.

Change in category scores 2021-22

(Index score out of 10, 10 being best)



authoritarian regime. Moreover, 62% of Latin Americans reside in a country whose score declined in 2022.

Dividing Latin America and the Caribbean into its constituent sub-regions (South America and Central America and the Caribbean) reveals a growing bifurcation in the quality of democracy in the two sub-regions. South America experienced a sharp decline in its score in 2021, largely owing to the impact of the pandemic, but in 2022 the region's score increased as restrictions were lifted. Central America and the Caribbean, on the other hand, has recorded a consistent decline in its score starting in 2018, owing largely to developments in Mexico and Nicaragua, with the latter turning into an autocracy in 2018 and the former being downgraded to a hybrid regime in 2021.

Summary from Reader - See Map from Glossary

Differences between Earlier Pink Tide and Recent Pink/Gray Tide

1. Mexico and Colombia (2nd & 3rd largest countries) have moved left, categorized as 'Social Democracies'
2. International economic environment from pandemic and China and U.S. downturn has put a lid on raw material prices, foreign investment, and international lending has reduced domestic social spending.
3. Increased domestic environmentalism has raised anti-extraction policies
4. Pink tide came from electoral coalitions, while gray tide rose from popular protest movements -- environmentalists, indigenous, women, labor unions, students, etc. -- which become thorn in side of leaders (e.g. Brazil) once elected.
5. Emergence of China as economic player:
 - first trading partner for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Bolivia
 - major creditor of Venezuela
 - major investor in infrastructure, mining, and land