

# COUNTRY FACT SHEET 2021



## Bolivia



### AREA

1,098,581 Km<sup>2</sup>.



### POPULATION

**(LAST OFFICIAL CENSUS 2012)**

10,059,856 people<sup>1</sup>.



### POPULATION IN 2020

**(INE PROJECTIONS)**

11,800,000 people.



### COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION

**(ACCORDING TO THE 2012 OFFICIAL CENSUS)**

According to the latest official census, the Bolivian population is made up as follows: 59% Indigenous, 30% other, 10% White and 1% Black.



### ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION (EAP)

by June 2021, the EAP reached 4,344,000 people.



### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) 2020

38,090 million dollars at current prices, which represented a drop of 2,810 million dollars compared to 2019.



### GDP FIRST SEMESTER 2021

showed an accumulated variation of 9.36% compared to the same period of the last administration, which places Bolivia as one of the three countries with the highest growth in the region.

<sup>1</sup> The statistical information listed here has been constructed mainly with updated information from the Bolivian National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Integrated Productive Information System.

<sup>2</sup> Source: *CEPAL - Naciones Unidas*

# Overview of the socio-economic situation

<sup>1</sup> Source: *CEPAL - Naciones Unidas*

## EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Rate (ER), which represents the percentage of the population over 14 years of age who is working, was 66.3% in the second quarter of 2021, with a significant increase of 10.5 percentage points compared to the same quarter of the previous year (55.8%).

The participation of women in the labor market was 64.6%, a figure lower than that of men, who reached 79.2%.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

In the second quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate in the urban area of Bolivia reached 7.6%, which makes it the second lowest in the region.

## ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE POPULATION (EIP)

By November 2020, the Economically Inactive Population showed a downward trend in relation to the peak reached in May 2020 (2,413,000), amounting to 1,812,000 people, 9% less than that observed in the same month of 2019. In the first quarter of 2021, the EIP amounted to 1,755,000 people.

## POVERTY

According to the 2020 Annual Report Panorama Social de América Latina (Latin American Social Outlook 2020)<sup>1</sup>, prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), in 2020 moderate poverty increased in Bolivia from 31.1% to 37.5%, and extreme poverty from 12.1% to 14.7% as a consequence of the global health crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Highlights of the 2021 situation

One year after the resounding victory of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) in the presidential elections, and of their retaking of power after the brutal coup d'état perpetrated by the fascist right and its imperialist allies, the National Confederation of Native Indigenous Peasant Women of Bolivia "Bartolina Sisa" highlighted the achievements made in economic and social matters, and the recovery of the country after the difficult moments experienced by the Bolivian population and aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

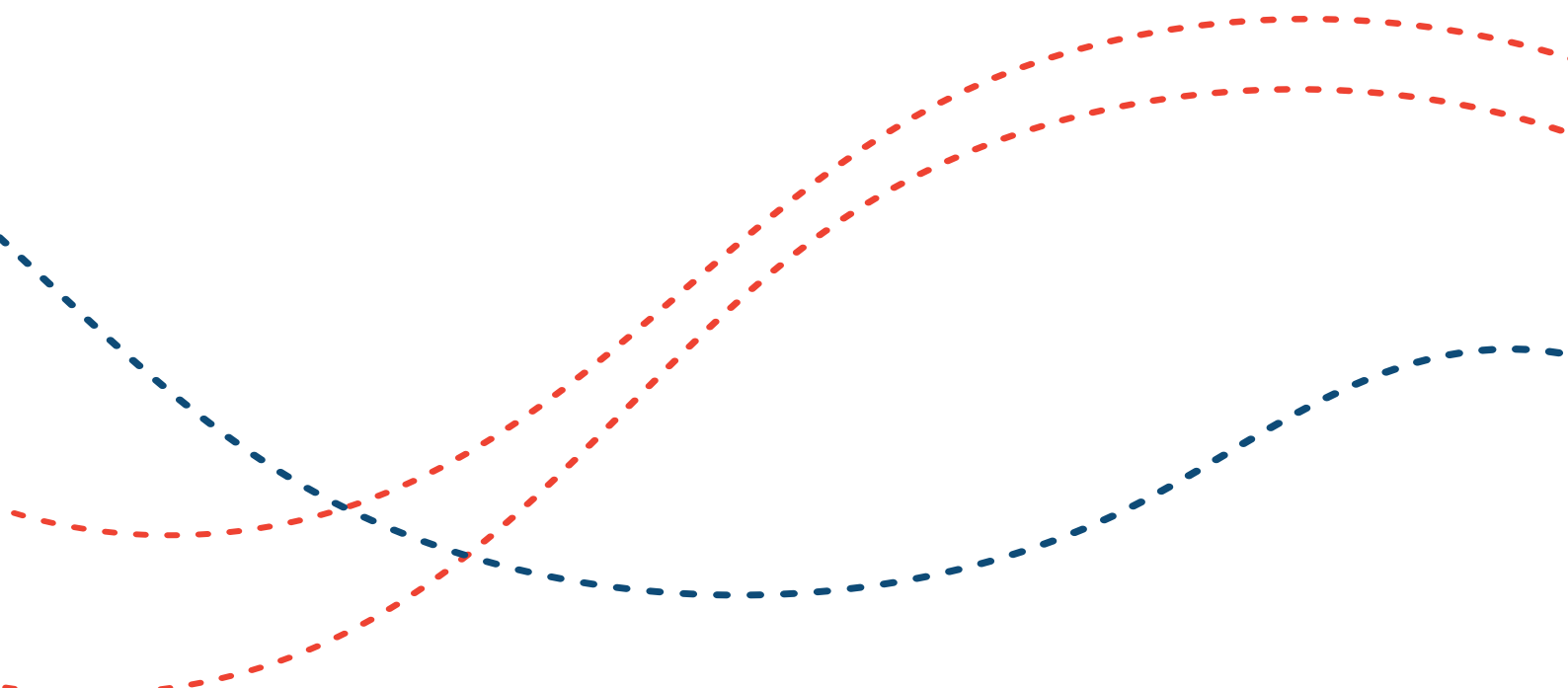
The Central Obrera Boliviana (COB) has also publicly celebrated the achievements of the new government, and highlighted the importance of the unity of the people to face the attacks that continue to be generated from the same actors that launched the coup in 2019.

The Andean country is currently addressing the need to improve public policies to continue protecting the vulnerable population, working tirelessly to improve access to public services.

In addition, President Luis Arce reported that the government reactivated public investment in the Department of Santa Cruz. The budget invested was of around 748 million dollars to support the productive and infrastructure sectors.

In the first quarter, the mining sector showed a growth of 53.4%. Mineral exports in July reached 438 million dollars. The construction sector has played a fundamental role in the country's economic rebound. In May 2021 it grew by 32%, mainly due to the increase in iron imports and cement production.

Compared to June 2020, public investment has increased by 111%, which amounts to 1,676 million dollars. The estimate for the year in terms of public investment is calculated at 4,011 million dollars, as has been reflected in the General State Budget.



## Actions and complaints from (national and international) trade unions and from other social sectors

During 2020, human rights organizations warned against the resurgence of political persecution against unions in Bolivia. The agreement reached after the negotiations for the end of the general strike that demanded new elections generated political persecution against union leaders.

The general strike that took place in Bolivia and which included the closure of highways demanded earnestness in the electoral process, which was postponed several times in 2020. The complaints from trade unionism and other social sectors were made against the de facto government that launched an unprecedented political persecution in their desperate attempts to remain illegitimately in power.

In October 2021 the COB and the popular organizations that make up the Pact of Unity denounced destabilizing actions organized by the right in the country, and supported the Government of President Luis Arce. In response to the attacks from the right-wing coup in Bolivia, social organizations declared a state of emergency.

Different social organizations, as well as the Bolivian trade union movement, have denounced recent attempts to destabilize the country by opposition groups through the call for a strike on November 8, 2021. These actions are denounced as desperate attempts to interfere with the economic reactivation and with the reconstruction of the national production that is being carried out successfully in the new MAS presidential term.

### UNION PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES

**1** The Central Obrera Boliviana (COB) together with the Ministry of Labor inaugurated the Technical Standards Bureau to debate bills and other legal regulations in favor of workers. The COB presented a total of 16 regulation projects. Among the projects are the General Labor Law, the Labor Stability Law, the Return-to-work regulation, the Law against Labor Harassment, among others.

**2** Also, 4 commissions were formed to analyze the workers' petitions. The work groups are economy, society, production and regulations.

**3** The COB proposed an increase of 5% in the basic salary and the same amount in the national minimum.

**4** On August 27, the Summit for Economic and Productive Reconstruction, from proposal to management was held in Oruro with the participation of Bolivian unionism. It was a key space to collect proposals from social organizations regarding the economic reactivation of the Department of Oruro and of the entire country.



# OBSERVATORIO LABORAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS



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