

South America's Economic Pulse: Health Crises, Global Events, and Local Re

Global Health Economics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In March 2024, a study by the Federation of Industries of the State of Minas Gerais (Fiemg) projected that the combined impact of Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya in Brazil could lead to a deduction of approximately how much from the Brazilian economy in 2024, considering both GDP losses and healthcare expenditures?

- A) R\$ 5.2 billion
- B) R\$ 15.1 billion
- C) R\$ 20.3 billion**
- D) R\$ 3 billion

2. Argentina's economic crisis has severely impacted its health sector. Between December 2023 and December 2024, deep budget cuts led to the closure of specific health departments. Which of the following was NOT among the departments reportedly affected by these cuts?

- A) HIV/AIDS
- B) Epidemiology
- C) Mental Health Services**
- D) Sexual Health

3. In April 2024, Colombia's National Superintendency of Health intervened in two of the country's largest health insurance providers, Entidades Promotoras de Salud (EPS). These interventions placed nearly half of Colombia's health system users under government control. Which two EPSs were intervened?

- A) EPS Sura and EPS Compensar
- B) EPS Sanitas and Nueva EPS**
- C) EPS Salud Total and EPS Coomeva
- D) EPS AXA Colpatria and EPS Cruz Blanca

4. A report by PAHO in July 2025 estimated that noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health conditions will cost South America over US\$7.3 trillion between 2020 and 2050. Which country was projected to incur the highest individual cost during this period?

- A) Argentina
- B) Colombia
- C) Brazil**
- D) Peru

5. The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe economic impact on Latin America and the Caribbean, with the region experiencing its sharpest contraction in a century. In 2020, the region's GDP contracted by approximately what percentage?

- A) 5.2%
- B) 7.0%
- C) 9.1%**
- D) 11.5%

6. According to a report from the World Bank and Pan American Health Organization published in October 2025, a hypothetical health emergency that reduces primary health care delivery by 25-50% for one to five years in Latin America and the Caribbean could lead to significant economic losses. What is the estimated range of these economic losses?

- A) \$700 million - \$3.7 billion
- B) \$7 billion - \$37 billion**
- C) \$70 billion - \$370 billion
- D) \$700 billion - \$3.7 trillion

7. In Bolivia, the devaluation of the boliviano and a dollar shortage have drastically increased the cost of medical equipment. A heart surgeon noted that the price of essential products like cardiac valves and oxygenator kits has approximately doubled. What is a significant consequence of this economic pressure on the healthcare system in Bolivia?

- A) Increased government funding for medical imports.
- B) Surgeries becoming unaffordable, leading to postponements and worse outcomes.**
- C) A surplus of imported medical supplies due to lower demand.
- D) The government establishing a new fixed exchange rate for medical goods.

8. As of October 2024, Venezuela's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2024 was the least funded globally. What percentage of the required funding had been secured by late October?

- A) 56%
- B) 35%
- C) 17%**
- D) 7%

9. In Chile, while the economy is projected to resume growth, investment and growth rates have been declining for years. Permitting processes for new projects have become more complicated, uncertain, and lengthier due to increased safeguards for various concerns. Which of the following is NOT explicitly mentioned as a safeguard leading to these complexities?

- A) Environmental standards
- B) Health and safety regulations
- C) Social concerns

D) Worker unionization demands

10. In Peru, economic activity contracted by 0.6% in 2023, the first setback since 1998 (excluding the pandemic). This contraction was attributed to political and social unrest, weather anomalies, high inflation, and weak confidence. Which primary activity was heavily affected by these factors?

- A) Services
- B) Manufacturing
- C) Construction

D) Fishing