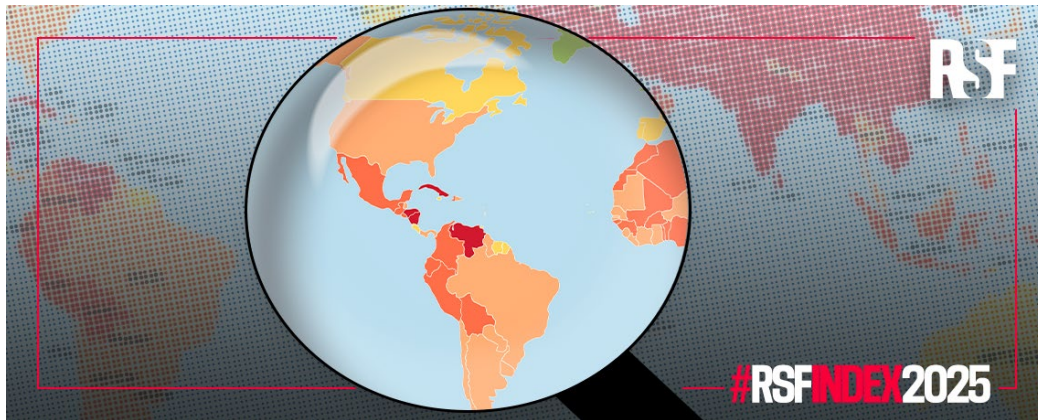
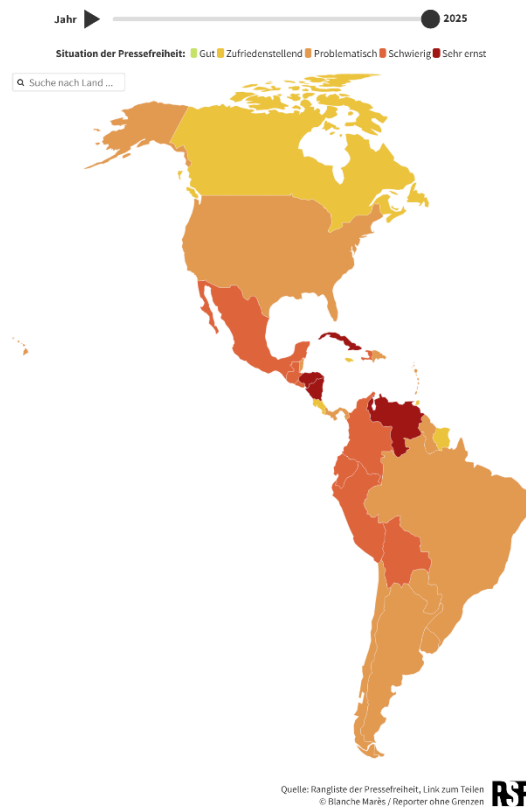


The Americas:

The media's economic fragility deepens cracks in democracy



Journalism across the Americas faces persistent structural and economic challenges, including media concentration, weak public outlets and precarious labour conditions. The crisis has deepened in recent years with the collapse of the media's traditional business models. As ad revenue shifts to giant tech platforms and news consumption habits change, newsrooms shrink and editorial independence disintegrates. In the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, 22 of the region's 28 countries saw their economic indicators drop.



The impact of this decline is profound. Financial strain has pushed some outlets to serve political or commercial interests in exchange for funding, while others depend on official press releases due to limited resources to carry out proper reporting. In hostile environments, self-censorship becomes a means of survival. As journalism's public service role is degraded, propaganda and disinformation fill the void — threatening the region's democracies.

The US debacle: media closures, news deserts and disinformation

In the [United States](#) (57), Donald Trump's second term as president has led to an alarming deterioration in press freedom, indicative of an authoritarian shift in government. His administration has weaponised institutions, cut support for independent media, and sidelined reporters. With trust in the media plummeting, reporters face increasing hostility. At the same time, local news outlets are disappearing, turning vast swaths of the country into "news deserts." Trump also terminated federal funding for the US Agency for Global Media, which distributes resources to vital international media organisations, affecting audiences and outlets worldwide.

Mounting pressure on journalists as authoritarianism rises

South of the US, authoritarian tendencies account for several of the region's steepest declines. In [Argentina](#) (87), President Javier Milei has stigmatised journalists, dismantled public media and weaponised state advertising. The country has dropped 47 places in two years. Press freedom has also sharply declined in [Peru](#) (130), which has dropped 53 places since 2022 due to the legal harassment of journalists, disinformation campaigns and increasing pressure on independent outlets. [El Salvador](#) (135) has continued its descent, down 61 places since 2020. Under President Nayib Bukele, press freedom is undermined by propaganda and systematic attacks on outlets that criticise the authorities.

Mixed trends in Latin America's three largest countries

[Brazil](#) (63) continues its recovery from the hostile climate of the Bolsonaro era, climbing 47 places since 2022. The nation's outlets are less vulnerable to pressure and intimidation, and Brazil stands out as one of the few countries in the region that boosted its economic indicator. [Mexico](#) (124), the region's deadliest country for journalists, dropped three places, partly due to the increasingly fragile sustainability of the media ecosystem — the country's economic indicator had the fourth biggest drop in the region. [Colombia](#) (115), meanwhile, maintained a stable overall score. The government's stance on press freedom remains

inconsistent, alternating between policies that promote local, community-based and alternative outlets to improve media plurality and very confrontational rhetoric from President Petro toward mainstream media. At the same time, journalists still face persistent security threats.

No room for journalism: Nicaragua comes in last

At the most extreme end of the spectrum, [Nicaragua](#) (172) is now the worst-ranked country in Latin America — even below [Cuba](#) (165). The Ortega-Murillo regime has dismantled the independent media, revoked journalists' citizenship, and forced hundreds of news professionals into exile. [Venezuela](#) (160) remains one of the worst-performing countries, with widespread censorship and judicial persecution against reporters. In [Haiti](#) (111), the state's collapse and gang violence have turned journalism into a life-threatening profession.