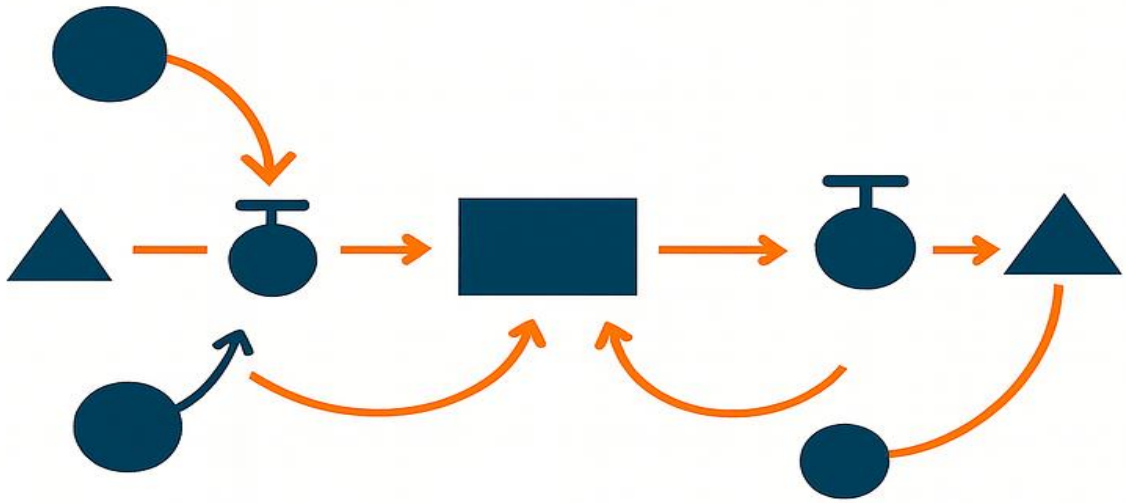
CEJA

Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas
Justice Studies Center of the Americas

I INDEX OF JUDICIAL CONGESTION IN THE AMERICAS:

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF JUDICIARIES

2025



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Introduction

This new index developed by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) addresses an issue that should be a priority on the judicial reform agenda in Latin America: judicial congestion. The study examines the situation in 13 countries in the region, identifies regional trends, presents specific findings by country and offers concrete recommendations to address the challenges identified.

We believe that judicial congestion should be a priority for judiciaries for at least four fundamental reasons. First, because it is a key indicator for measuring efficiency in the administration of justice. Efficiency reflects the institutional capacity to resolve disputes in a timely and quality manner, thus fulfilling the essential purpose of judicial entities: to provide fair, independent and timely responses.

Secondly, judicial congestion leads to opaque decision-making. When the backlog of cases exceeds response capacity, the predictability of the system decreases, effective controls are weakened and the risks of corruption and lack of institutional diligence in the handling of cases increase.

Third, judicial congestion affects citizens unequally. While all judicial system users require timely responses, those in poverty, women and those living in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged. These people often do not have access to or knowledge of alternative mechanisms, so they rely exclusively on traditional judicial systems to resolve disputes that directly impact their daily lives.

Fourth, judicial congestion is a structural problem that jeopardizes public confidence in and the legitimacy of justice institutions. In the current regional and global context -which is marked by threats to judicial independence-, it is essential that judiciaries strengthen their efficiency in resolving cases while guaranteeing the substantive quality of their decisions.

From this perspective, this study analyzes the judicial resolution and congestion rates in the judiciaries of Latin America. This publication consists of four chapters. Chapter I presents the conceptual and methodological framework, identifies the key indicators, sets out the quantitative and longitudinal approach adopted, and details the technical criteria used for the comparative analysis. The scope and limitations of the study are also established in this section, as well as the structural relationship between the two indicators.

Chapters II and III constitute the core of the report, presenting a comparative analysis of rates of judicial resolution and congestion in the region. Chapter II examines the evolution of and trends in the judicial resolution rate at the regional and national levels and presents a regional comparative index. Chapter III applies the same analytical logic to study the judicial congestion rate, which yielded the respective index. Chapter IV examines the relationship between the two indicators through the year 2025 and looks ahead to 2030, identifying critical scenarios and persistent challenges.

The report ends with a set of conclusions that summarize key findings and offer recommendations addressed to the judiciary, ministries of justice, academia and civil society aimed at improving resolution capacity and reducing judicial congestion in a sustainable manner.

This index presents several key findings that are meant to inform new reflections and the adoption of concrete measures. We have identified two central findings. First, judicial congestion is not an isolated phenomenon. Rather, it is deeply linked to a traditional judicial organizational culture that must be overhauled in order to move towards management models aligned with the principles of modern public administration.

CEJA has insisted for more than two decades on the need for judiciaries to critically review and redesign their bureaucratic structures, excessive formalisms and ingrained practices that hinder more agile and efficient case processing. In the current global and regional context, where technology and artificial intelligence play a strategic role in judicial processing, the adoption of such structures will be more effective and sustainable if it is part of a broader process of cultural change aimed at a more efficient and transparent judicial management and focused on the priority needs of users.

Second, the study shows that the judicial reforms undertaken in Latin America in the last 20 years - regardless of their organic or procedural nature, scope, orientation or depth - have had a limited or temporary impact on the reduction of judicial congestion. This finding should lead to deep reflection on the causes of its persistence as a structural problem. On the one hand, this could be due to the fact that these reforms did not explicitly prioritize judicial celerity as one of their central objectives. On the other, one could argue that the processes of change advanced in the past were not sustained over time and ended up yielding, totally or partially, to entrenched practices and structural deficiencies that reproduce or maintain the high levels of case accumulation. Looking to the future and beyond the need for a new cycle of judicial reforms, it is essential to move towards a profound judicial cultural change and the adoption of innovative strategies aimed at addressing judicial congestion in a sustainable manner.

We conclude this introduction by restating our belief that the efforts made will contribute to generating new perspectives and renewing commitments to the improvement of judicial systems in the Americas.

This study was developed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals with extensive experience as well as young interns from different countries in the region in the context of CEJA's training program. We trust that this index will inspire new generations of professionals, decision-makers and students from various disciplines to investigate, question and propose - with rigor and creativity - new knowledge, ideas and pathways to strengthening access to justice in our societies.

Nataly Ponce Chauca

Executive Director
Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA)

Chapter I: Conceptual and methodological framework

Judicial congestion is one of the main challenges facing justice systems in the Americas. This phenomenon is manifested in the excessive accumulation of pending proceedings that are not resolved within reasonable timeframes, generating delays that directly affect timely access to justice. From a technical perspective, judicial congestion reflects deficits in both the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system, showing a limited or inadequate use of available resources, as well as the inability to provide effective responses within the legally established deadlines -or even beyond them- within the timeframe expected by citizens.

The judicial congestion rate is directly related to the judicial resolution rate. A low resolution rate tends to increase congestion. The interaction between both indicators -congestion and resolution- is key for monitoring the management capacity of judicial systems and for guiding public policy decisions designed to improve their performance, both in terms of efficiency and effective access to justice.

As such, this study analyzes these two indicators in an integrated manner: the rate of judicial resolution and the rate of judicial congestion. The first allows one to evaluate the annual performance of the judicial systems, while the second allows one evaluate their cumulative response capacity in the face of the workload. Analyzing both indicators allows us to measure the volume of pending cases, identify backlog patterns and detect opportunities for improvement in judicial management.

What do we mean by judicial resolution and judicial congestion?

For the purposes of this study, the *judicial resolution rate* is defined as the indicator that measures the response capacity of the judicial system in a given period. It is calculated as the ratio of the number of cases resolved and the number of cases received during the same year, and allows us to evaluate whether the system manages to resolve an equal or greater number of cases with respect to those received during the same period. It is a key tool for analyzing the annual operating performance of the courts.

Table 1. Formula used to calculate the judicial resolution rate

Judicial resolution rate (RR)
Ratio of cases resolved to cases filed, both referring to the same year.
$Judicial\ Resolution\ Rate = \frac{Cases\ resolved\ _{Year\ N}}{Cases\ filed\ _{Year\ N}}$
$Cases\ filed\ _{Year\ N}$ ∴ *represents the number of new cases admitted in the year analyzed.*
$Cases\ resolved\ _{Year\ N}$ ∴ *represents the number of cases that have been resolved in the year under analysis.*

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

For its part, the *judicial congestion rate* measures the level of accumulation of work of the judicial bodies in a given period. It is calculated as the ratio of the cases admitted during the year plus the cases pending at the beginning of the period divided by the total number of cases resolved in the same year. This indicator allows us to estimate the extent to which the judicial system is able to respond to its total workload and is an essential tool for identifying structural or cyclical bottlenecks and for guiding strategies to promote speed and efficiency in the administration of justice.

Table 2. Formula used to calculate the congestion rate

Judicial congestion rate (CR)

Ratio of the number of cases registered during the year plus those pending at the beginning of the period divided by the number of cases resolved during the year.

$$Judicial\ Congestion\ Rate = \frac{(Cases\ filed\ _{Year\ \mathrm{N}} + Cases\ pending\ _{Year\ \mathrm{N}-1})}{Cases\ resolved\ _{Year\ \mathrm{N}}}$$

$Cases\ filed\ _{Year\ N}$:. represents the number of new cases admitted in the year analyzed.

$Cases\ pending\ _{Year\ N-1}$:. represents the number of cases pending at the beginning of the year analyzed.

$Cases\ resolved\ _{Year\ N}$:. represents the number of cases that have been resolved in the year analyzed.

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Unit of study: Judiciaries

The unit of analysis of this study is the judiciaries of Latin American countries. The information search and compilation process covered 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; however, only 13 of them had updated, accessible and sufficiently comparable data to be included in the comparative analysis. These 13 countries comprise the sample on which the indicators of judicial resolution and congestion presented in this report are based.

Table 3. Judiciaries analyzed in the index

1	Brazil
2	Bolivia
3	Chile
4	Colombia
5	Costa Rica
6	Ecuador
7	El Salvador
8	Nicaragua
9	Panama
10	Peru
11	Puerto Rico
12	Dominican Republic
13	Uruguay

Quantitative approach and longitudinal design

This report uses a quantitative approach and has a longitudinal design, allowing us to analyze the evolution of resolution and judicial congestion rates over the period 2018-2024.

The quantitative approach is based on the processing and analysis of statistics from the region's judiciaries. This methodology makes it possible to measure judicial performance in an objective and comparable manner through standardized numerical indicators in order to facilitate the identification of patterns, variations and trends over time.

The longitudinal design is reflected in the period under study (2018-2024). This timeframe was selected in order to include years before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic based on the hypothesis that the public health crisis had a significant impact on the functioning of the judiciary. This approach highlights variations and structural and cyclical trends in the indicators analyzed.

Methodology for data collection and analysis

The methodological strategy implemented by CEJA for this study combined various sources of information: formal requests addressed to the judiciaries, review of official statistics published on institutional web portals, and analysis of complementary technical literature.

The statistical data were collected mainly by sending official requests to the judiciaries for data on the number of cases filed, cases pending at the beginning of each year and cases resolved during the period 2018-2024. In those cases where no direct institutional response was received, the information was gathered from publicly available primary sources such as official statistical reports published on the websites of the respective judiciaries.

Likewise, officials from ten of the judiciaries included in the study validated the data obtained. In the remaining three countries (Brazil, Nicaragua and El Salvador), only official sources available online were used. All of the information was organized in a centralized database and subjected to a process of cross-checking and internal validation to ensure the consistency, integrity and reliability of the data. On this basis, the rates of judicial resolution and congestion were calculated by applying methodologies previously developed by CEJA and supported by specialized technical literature. This approach ensures methodological rigor in the results presented.

Technical criteria for data analysis and interpretation

Judicial resolution rate (RR)

For the analysis and interpretation of the data, this study adopts a technical classification based on three interpretative ranges of the judicial resolution rate (RR), which allows us to evaluate the performance of the judiciaries according to their capacity to resolve the cases filed annually.

An RR equal to or greater than 1.00 is interpreted as an optimal situation. This means that the judicial system resolves at least as many cases as those it receives and may even be able to reduce the accumulated stock of unresolved cases.

An RR between 0.90 and 0.99 indicates an intermediate or improvable situation: although almost as many cases are resolved as are admitted, a moderate backlog persists.

An RR below 0.90 indicates a critical situation in which the system resolves considerably fewer cases than it receives, generating a progressive accumulation of pending cases.

Table 4. Criteria used for the analysis and interpretation of the judicial resolution rate

Resolution rate (RR) ranges	*Description of annual performance*	*Technical interpretation*
RR ≥ 1.0	*At least as many cases are resolved as are admitted or even more.*	***Optimal situation:*** *- If RR = 1: equilibrium is maintained without additional accumulation. - If RR > 1: the stock of pending cases is reduced, which could translate into less congestion in the following period.*
0.90 ≤ RR ≤ 0.99	*Almost as many cases are solved as are admitted, but they do not break even.*	***Room for improvement****: there is moderate accumulation, although performance is close to the optimum level.*
RR < 0.90	*Significantly fewer cases are resolved than are admitted each year.*	***Critical situation****: an increasing accumulation of unresolved cases is generated, with a negative impact on the congestion rate if this trend persists.*

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Judicial congestion rate (CR)

For the analysis of the judicial congestion rate (CR), this study adopts a technical classification based on four interpretative ranges. These allow for the evaluation of the level of accumulation of cases in the judiciaries in relation to their effective capacity for resolution.

A CR equal to 1 indicates that the system has resolved 100% of its annual load without generating accumulation. This situation is classified as "no congestion."

A CR between 1.01 and 1.5 reflects "acceptable congestion" because, although there is lag, it remains manageable.

A CR between 1.51 and 2.0 reflects "congestion at risk" characterized by a worrisome increase in the volume of pending cases.

A CR above 2.0 is interpreted as a "critical congestion" scenario in which the system resolves less than half of its load, seriously compromising its operational capacity to manage its workload with an impact on effective access to justice.

It should be noted that, by mathematical construction, the CR cannot be less than 1 since it measures the total load of the system (new admissions plus pending cases).

Table 5. Criteria used for the analysis and interpretation of the congestion rate

CR range	*Technical Interpretation*	*Classification / Operational Impact*
CR = 1.00	*The system resolves all of its annual load (cases entered plus pending). No additional backlog of cases is generated.*	***No congestion:*** *Optimal performance. The entire workload is processed with no backlog.*
1.00 < CR ≤ 1.50	*There is a moderate backlog, but the system maintains its responsiveness within reasonable margins.*	***Acceptable congestion:*** *The impact is low to medium. If this range is maintained on a sustained basis, it may reflect effectiveness in managing the backlog.*
1.51 < CR ≤ 2.00	*There has been a significant increase in the number of pending cases, which may affect the efficiency of the system in the short and medium term.*	***Risk of congestion:*** *The impact is medium-high. It is necessary to evaluate internal processes and/or strengthen resources to avoid a worsening of the situation.*
CR > 2.00	*The system resolves less than half of its annual load. Significant volumes of cases accumulate, compromising the operability of the system.*	***Critical congestion:*** *High impact. This is indicative of structural overload. If the CR exceeds 3.00, it is considered a critical situation with serious risk to access to justice.*

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Relationship between the indicators

The congestion rate (CR) has an inverse relationship with the resolution rate (RR): as the CR increases, the RR tends to decrease. In other words, when judicial systems manage to resolve a greater proportion of the cases that come in each year, the backlog of pending cases is reduced and, with it, congestion. For this reason, it is essential that institutional strategies be geared towards a sustained increase in RR as a key mechanism for containing and reducing CR and, consequently, improving the performance of the system in terms of timely access and efficiency in the administration of justice.

Scope and limits of the study

This study analyzes aggregated data at the national level for the region's judiciaries. As such, it does not include breakdowns by subject matter, complexity of cases, hierarchy of jurisdictional bodies or subnational territorial distribution. Nor does it examine the relationship between the rate of court cases per 100,000 inhabitants or other relevant levels of analysis at the country level. The authors are confident that the results presented here will contribute to and encourage future research that delves deeper into these aspects, which are fundamental for a more comprehensive understanding of the behavior of judicial resolution and congestion in the different jurisdictional structures.

Likewise, the study does not address the quality of judicial decisions. For a more complete analysis of judicial performance, the evaluation of productivity must be combined with considerations of quality in order to assess not only the quantity of cases resolved, but also the substantive resolution of judicial responses.

Chapter II: Regional Comparative Analysis of Court Resolution Rates

This chapter presents the main results of the analysis of the judicial resolution rate (RR) at the regional level and by country. The evolution of the indicator in the period 2018-2024 is examined, identifying patterns, variations and relevant trends in the performance of the judiciaries. It also includes a regional comparative index that makes it possible to visualize the relative positioning of each country according to its annual judicial resolution rate, offering a reference tool for the assessment and monitoring of this indicator of judicial institutional performance.

Evolution of the Regional Judicial Resolution Rate

The evolution of the regional judicial resolution rate between 2018 and 2024 presents a sustained trend in the intermediate or improvable range, given that in all years analyzed the rate remained below the 0.99 threshold. This suggests that although the region's judiciaries manage to resolve a significant volume of cases in relation to new annual entries, they do not reach the optimal level of resolution (RR equal to or greater than 1) that would allow them to adequately manage the backlog of pending cases.

Figure 1. Evolution of the Regional Judicial Resolution Rate (2018-2024)

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

A worrying aspect is the decreasing trend registered between 2020 and 2021 where the regional RR is approaching the 0.90 threshold, which represents a critical scenario. This drop coincides with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely affected case management capacity in the judiciaries. Between 2022 and 2024, a gradual recovery of the resolution rate can be observed, reflecting institutional efforts to reactivate the management of the judicial burden. However, this improvement does not show an upward trend, but rather a leveling out at around 0.92, suggesting that the measures taken have not been sufficient to return to pre-pandemic performance levels.

The causes of the state of the regional resolution rate are diverse in nature. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may have had a significant impact on the operation of judicial systems, this effect should be considered temporary and would not be sufficient to account for the persistently low resolution rates. In this regard, structural factors should be considered, such as the possible sustained increase in the number of cases and insufficient institutional resources -human, technological and financial- to manage them in a timely and efficient manner.

This is in addition to the current form of organization and management of judicial offices, an element that CEJA has repeatedly identified as a critical factor in improving the efficiency of justice systems. Although several judiciaries have promoted decongestion plans, these are based on temporary approaches and do not structurally address the limitations that restrict the resolution capacity in a sustainable manner.

In summary, the regional analysis shows a performance that, although not at critical levels, remains below the optimal threshold for judicial resolution. This situation underscores the need to strengthen the capacities of judiciaries to increase efficiency in the resolution of cases. From this perspective, it is important to consider that several countries have resolution rates that are dangerously close to the lower range, which could translate into an increase in the backlog of cases requiring timely corrective measures.

Country trends

The evolution of the judicial resolution rate by country between 2018 and 2024 shows significant disparities in Latin America. While some countries have managed to maintain a certain level of stability in their performance, others show marked variations over time. This heterogeneity suggests that institutional conditions, available resources and judicial management strategies vary considerably across jurisdictions.

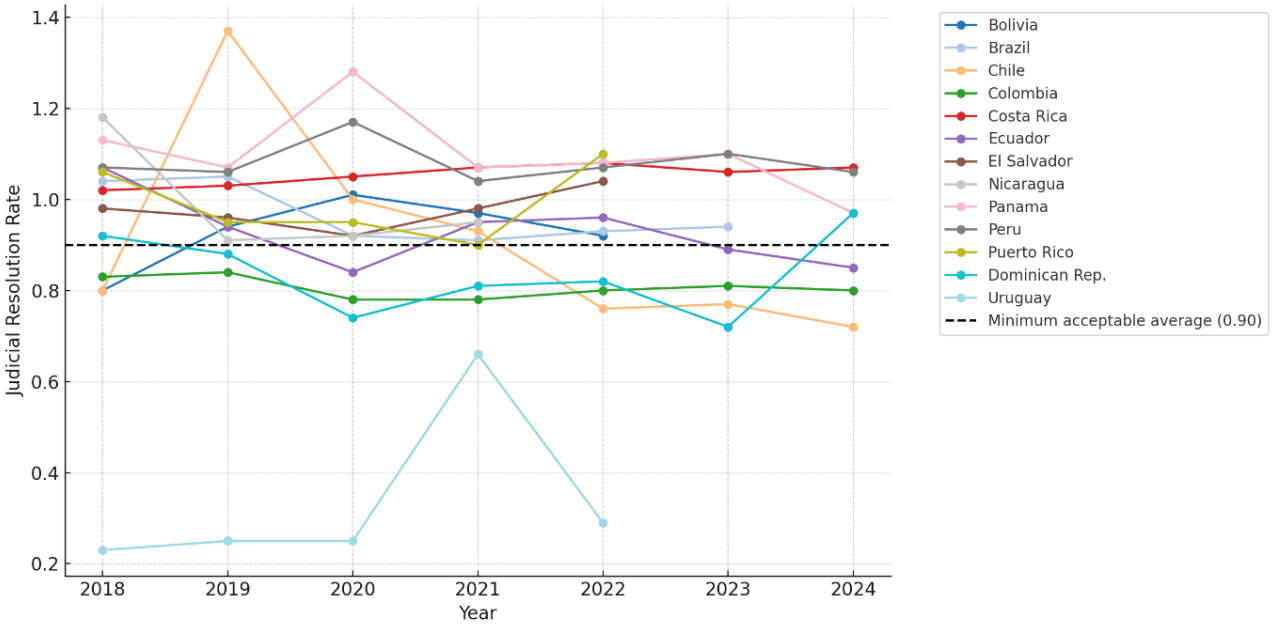
On the other hand, some countries show a critical situation of concern, with resolution rates persistently below the minimum acceptable threshold (0.90), or even below 0.80 in some cases. This is the case of Uruguay, which has a rate that remained critically low throughout the period analyzed, and of countries such as the Dominican Republic and Colombia, which show difficulties in improving their performance.

Chile, which had a very high score in 2019 (1.37), showed a sustained drop in recent years, reaching 0.72 in 2024, which is evidence of a worrying regression. By contrast, Brazil has shown a pattern of recovery after the impact of the pandemic but has not yet achieved sustained performance above the optimal level.

Other countries show more encouraging trends, with performance levels close to or above equilibrium (RR ≥ 1.00). Costa Rica, Panama and Peru have managed to maintain or even improve their RRs in recent years, which could reflect institutional reforms, improvements in case management or strengthening of the operational capacities of these agencies.

In general, these findings underscore the need to delve deeper into specific national contexts to identify structural, institutional or case management factors that could be influencing the observed levels of judicial resolution. Understanding these causes is key to designing differentiated and effective strategies to optimize court resolution rates in each country.

Figure 2. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate by country (2018-2024)



Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Evolution of the judicial resolution rate by country

The evolution of the judicial resolution rate (RR) for each country for the period 2018-2024 is presented below. It is important to note that the data available do not cover all the years of the period analyzed in some cases. This is due to the lack of updated or accessible public statistical data. This limitation underscores the need for the region's judiciaries to strengthen their systems for generating, systematizing and periodically publishing statistical information on their performance, particularly on judicial resolution rates.

Table 6. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in the countries covered by the study (2018-2024)

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bolivia	0.80	0.94	1.01	0.97	0.92	ND	ND
Brazil	1.04	1.05	0.92	0.91	0.93	0.94	ND
Chile	0.80	1.37	1.00	0.93	0.76	0.77	0.72
Colombia	0.83	0.84	0.78	0.78	0.80	0.81	0.80
Costa Rica	1.02	1.03	1.05	1.07	1.08	1.06	1.07
Ecuador	1.07	0.94	0.84	0.95	0.96	0.89	0.85
El Salvador	0.98	0.96	0.92	0.98	1.04	ND	ND
Nicaragua	1.18	0.91	0.92	0.95	ND	ND	ND
Panama	1.13	1.07	1.28	1.07	1.08	1.10	0.97
Peru	1.07	1.06	1.17	1.04	1.07	1.10	1.06
Puerto Rico	1.06	0.95	0.95	0.90	1.10	ND	ND
Dominican Republic	0.92	0.88	0.74	0.81	0.82	0.72	0.97
Uruguay	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.66	0.29	ND	ND

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Figure 3. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Bolivia

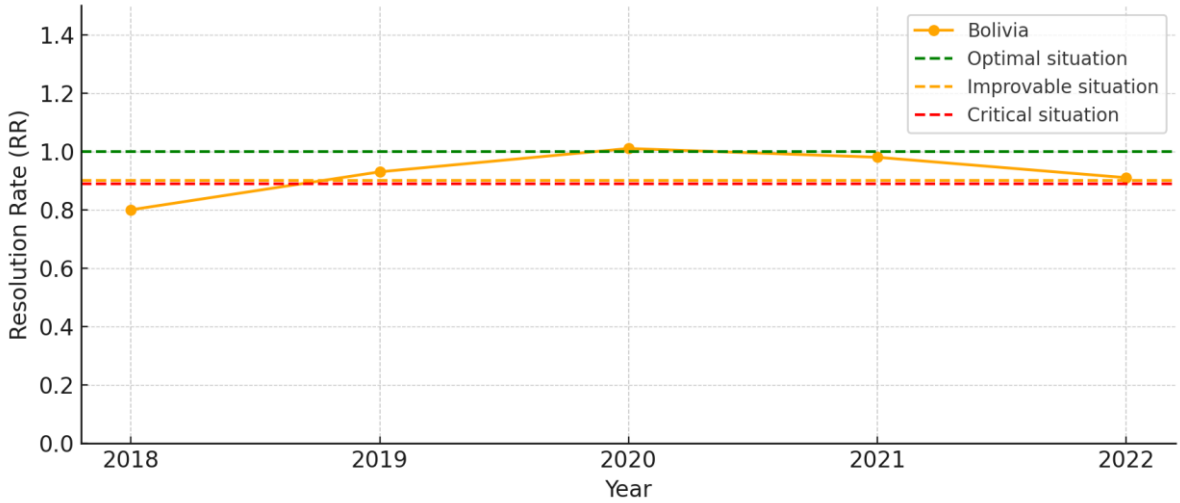


Figure 4. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Brazil

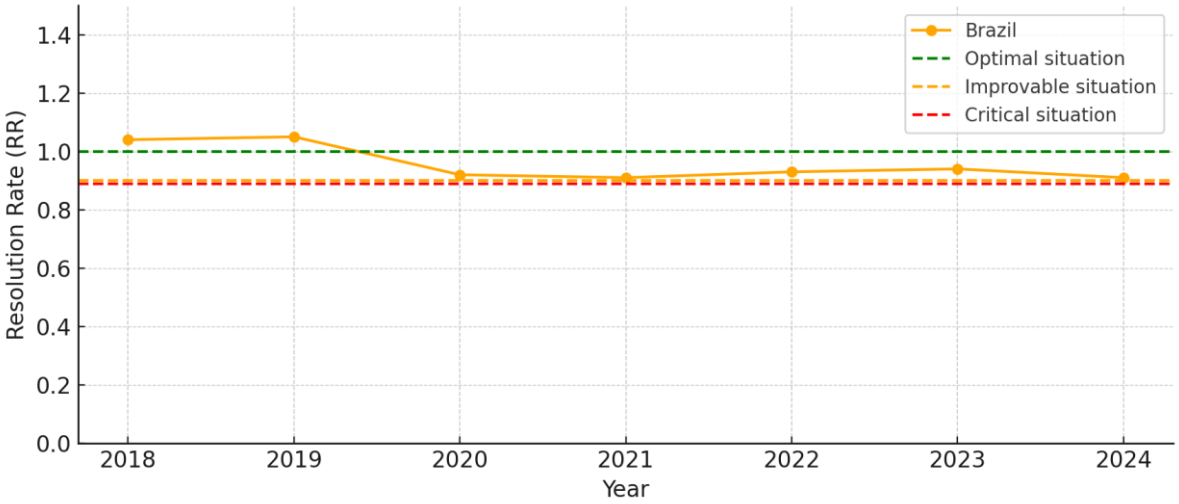


Figure 5. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Chile

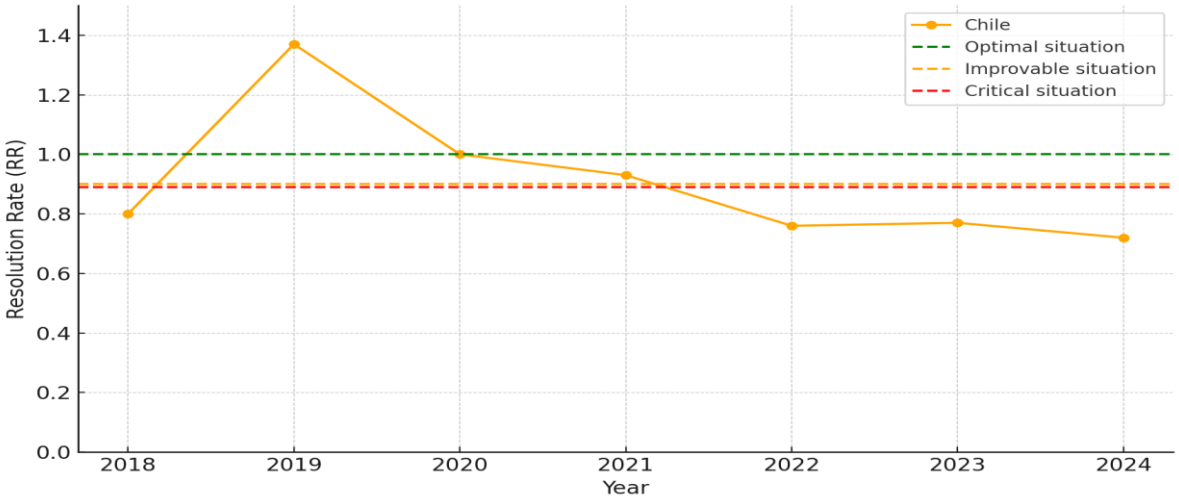


Figure 6. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Colombia

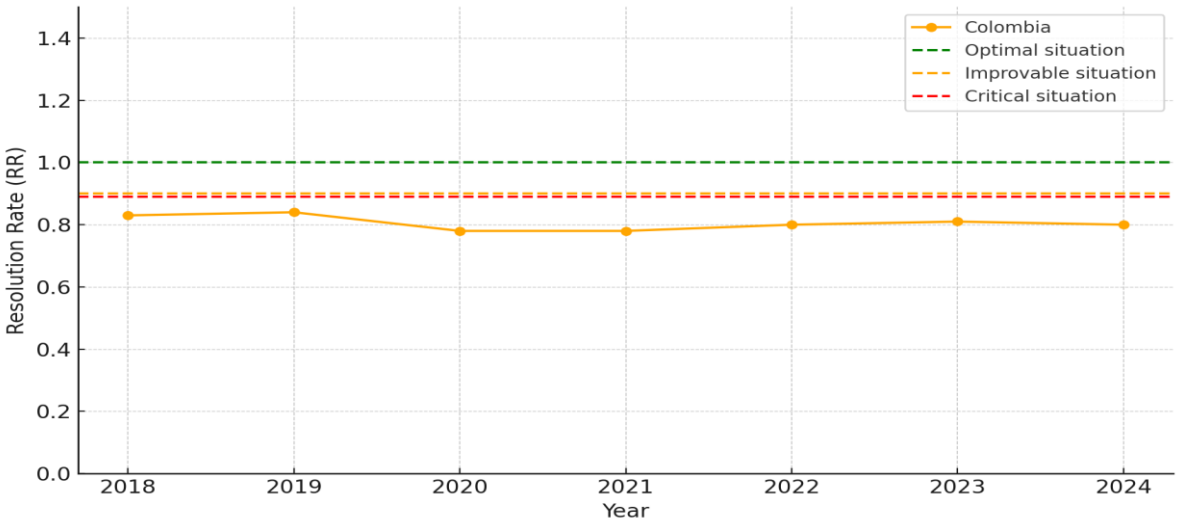


Figure 7. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Costa Rica

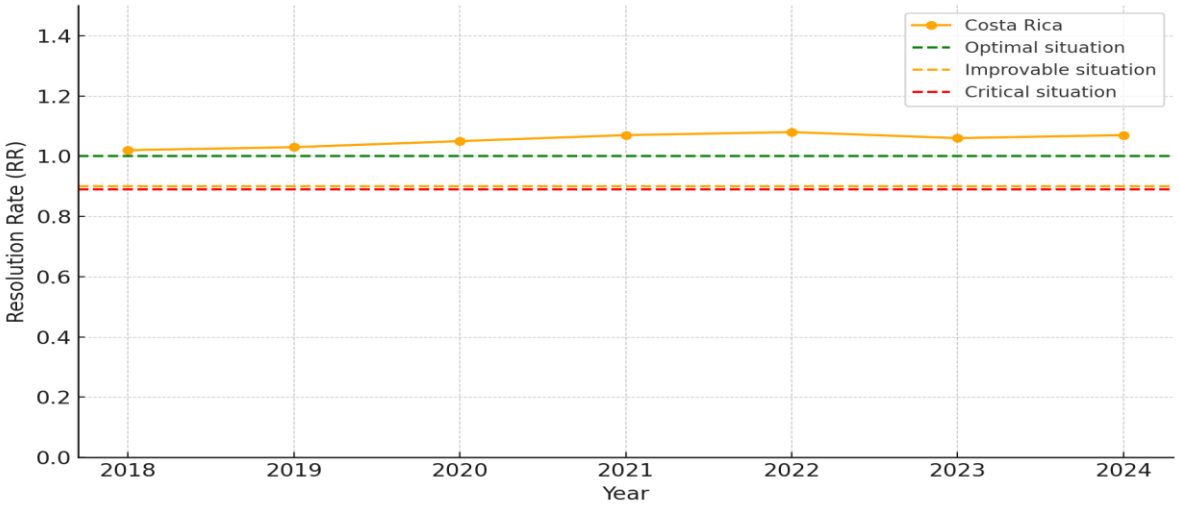


Figure 8. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Ecuador

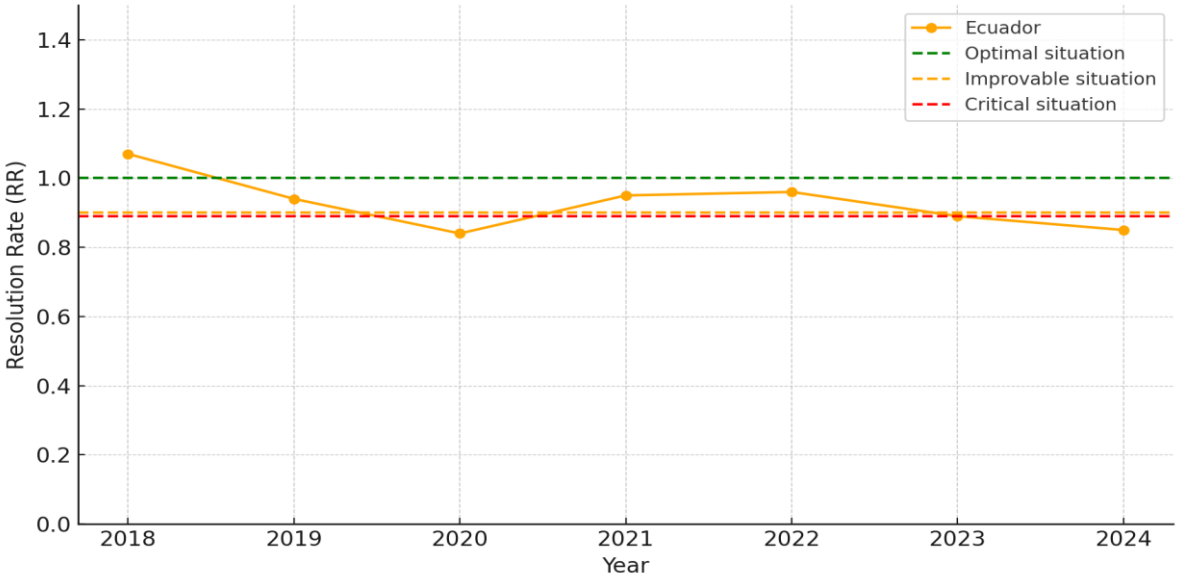


Figure 9. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in El Salvador

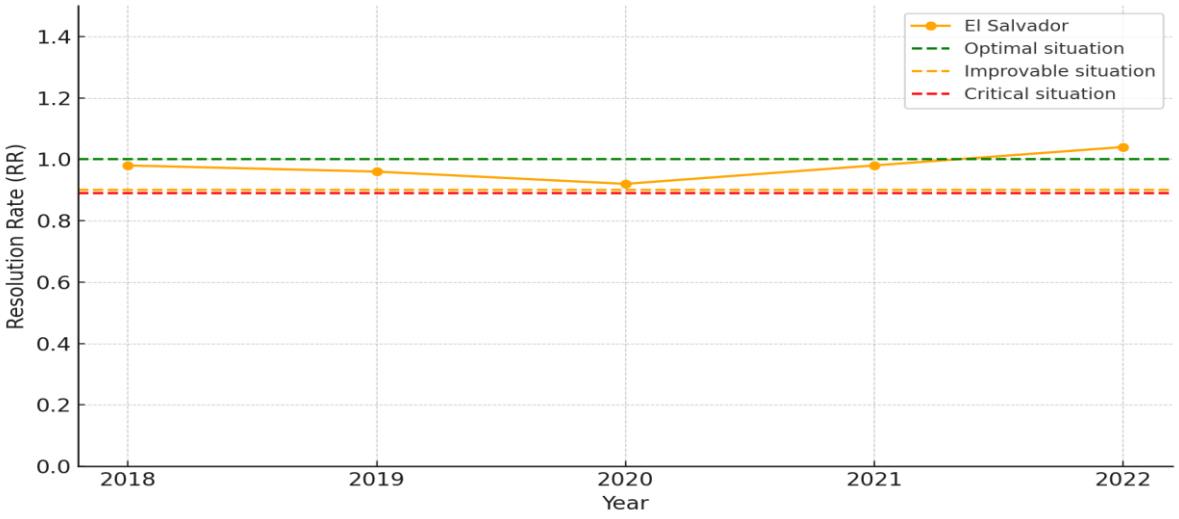


Figure 10. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Nicaragua

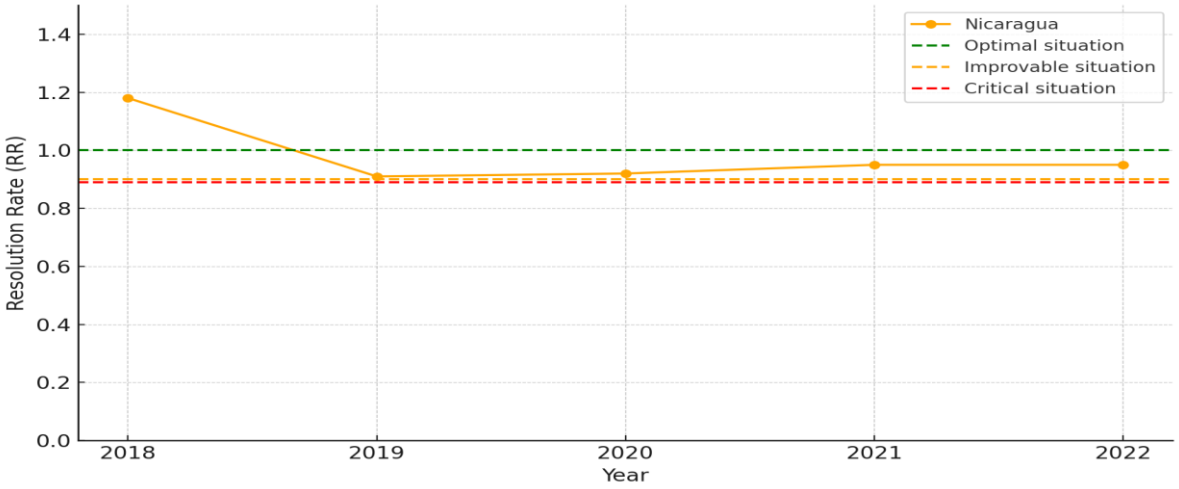


Figure 11. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Panama

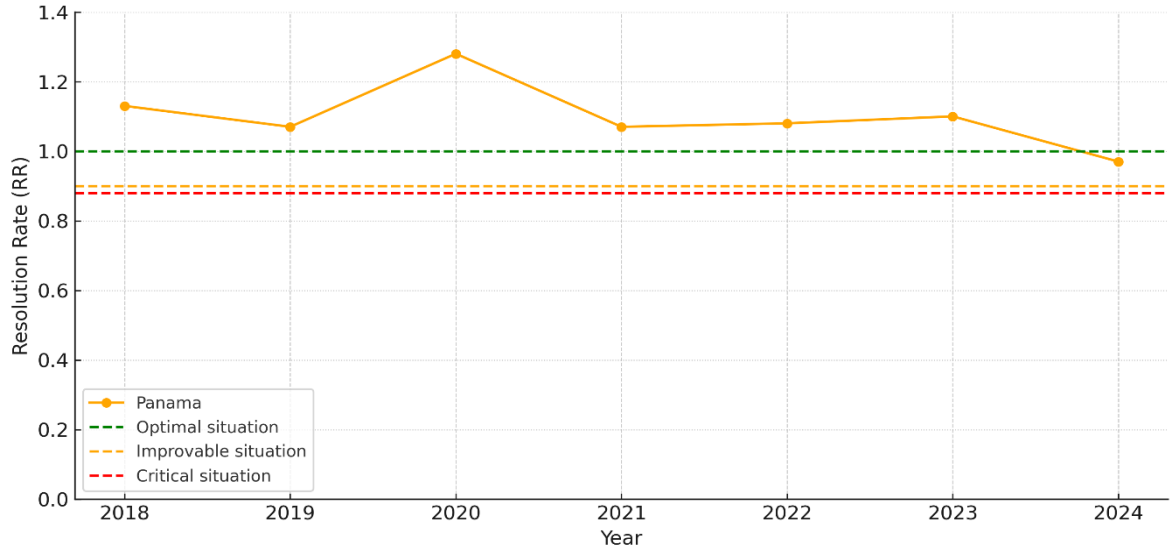


Figure 12. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Puerto Rico

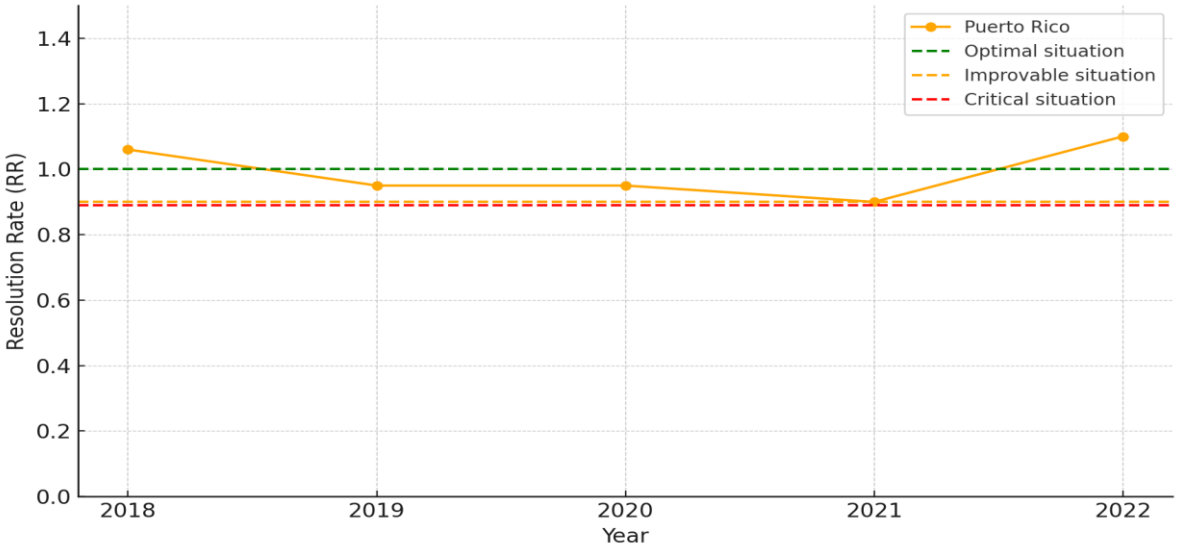


Figure 13. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Peru

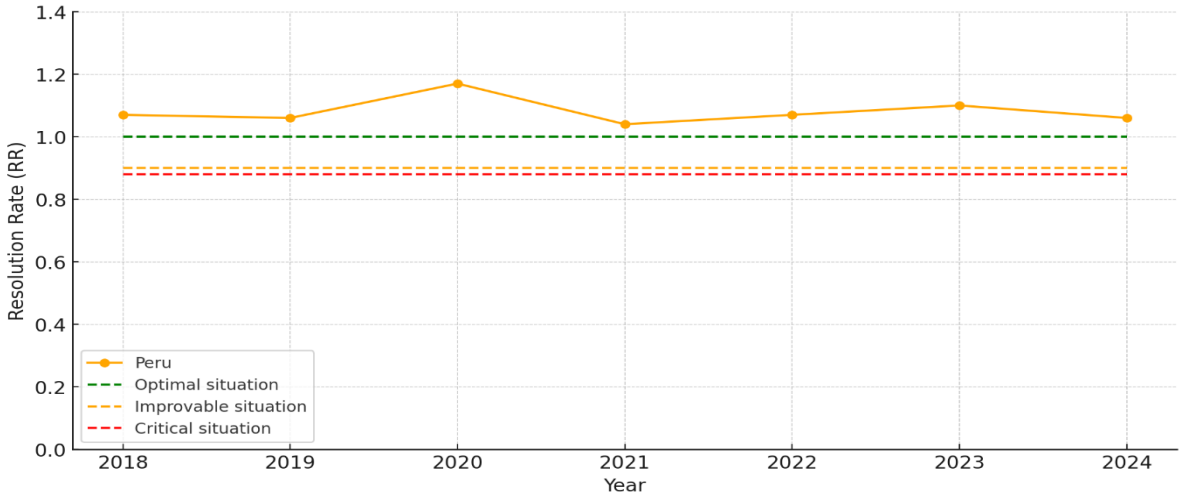


Figure 14. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in the Dominican Republic

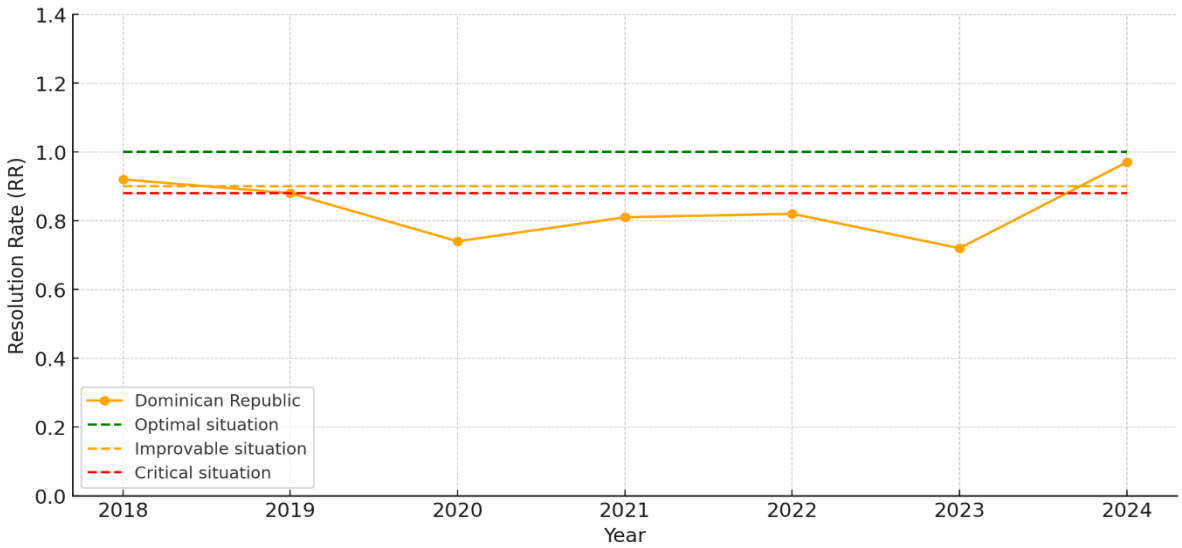
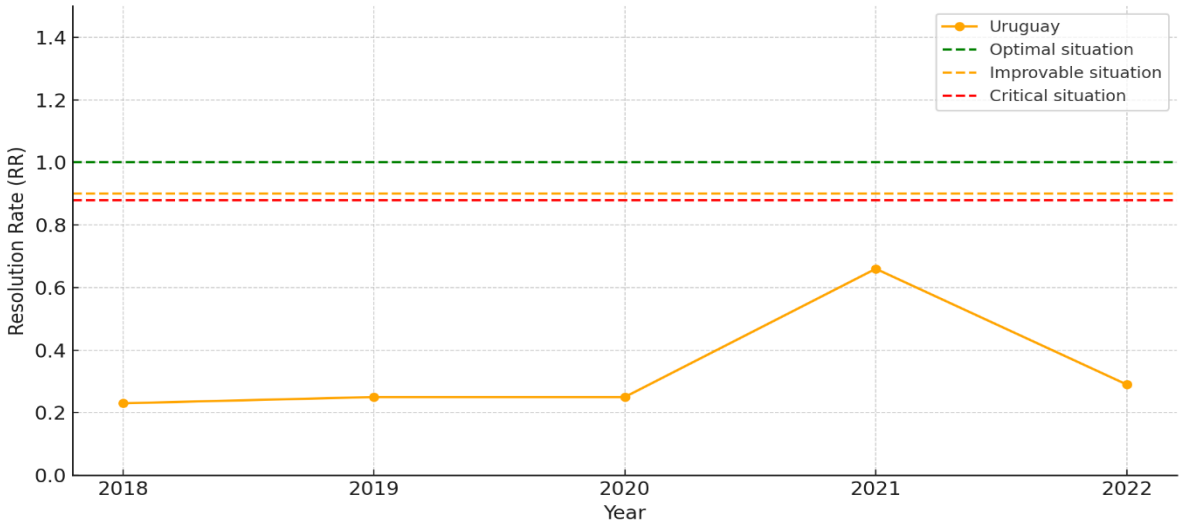


Figure 15. Evolution of the judicial resolution rate in Uruguay



Regional Comparative Index of the Judicial Resolution Rate

This index covers 2022 through 2024, which is the time range for which comparable information was available. The following analysis focuses on the positioning of the countries according to their judicial resolution rate in the year 2024[1].

Table 7. Regional comparative index of the judicial resolution rate 2024

Country	Resolution Rate 2021	Resolution Rate 2022	Var. 2022 vs 2021	Resolution Rate 2023	Resolution Rate 2024	Var. 2024 vs 2023	Ranking 2024
Costa Rica	1.07	1.08	▲	1.06	1.07	▲	1st
Peru	1.04	1.07	▲	1.10	1.06	▼	2nd
Dominican Republic	0.81	0.82	▲	0.72	0.97	▲	3rd
Panama	1.07	1.08	▲	1.10	0.97	▼	3rd
Brazil	0.91	0.93	▲	0.94	0.94	▬	4th
Ecuador	0.95	0.96	▲	0.89	0.85	▼	5th
Colombia	0.78	0.80	▲	0.81	0.80	▼	6th
Chile	0.93	0.76	▼	0.77	0.72	▼	7th
Puerto Rico	0.90	1.10	▲				
El Salvador	0.98	1.04	▲				
Bolivia	0.97	0.92	▼				
Uruguay	0.66	0.29	▼				

(*) Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Bolivia and Uruguay only have data up to 2022, so it was not possible to include them in the 2024 index.

(**) In the case of Brazil, a projection of its 2023 data has been made to estimate its performance in 2024.

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Among the countries studied, seven have the highest rates of judicial resolution in 2024: Costa Rica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Panama, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile. Costa Rica stands out in particular, with a rate of 1.07, as it is the only country that is above the optimal threshold for judicial resolution (RR ≥ 1), an indicator that reflects the system's capacity to resolve at least as many cases as those that enter in a year. Peru (1.06) also had a value above 1, although it shows a slight decrease with respect to 2023 (1.10). The Dominican Republic and Panama, both of which have a RR of 0.97, are in the intermediate range and show a significant improvement with respect to 2023 (0.72 and 1.10, respectively), although in the case of Panama it is a sharp drop, which moves it away from the optimum range achieved the previous year.

[1] Only countries with available data for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 are included.

Brazil (0.94) presents an intermediate range. Ecuador (0.85) and Colombia (0.80) have rates below the intermediate threshold and are in a critical range, with values that also decrease in relation to 2023, which represents a worrisome setback. Finally, Chile (0.72) shows the lowest rate in this group of countries, with a decreasing trend with respect to the previous year (0.77), placing it in the critical zone.

Overall, the Regional Comparative Index of Resolution Rates for the year 2024 reflects that most of the judiciaries of the leading group of countries do not reach the optimal level of resolution (RR ≥ 1) and face difficulties in sustaining or improving their year-on-year efficiency, as evidenced in the cases of Panama, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile. Furthermore, it is worrying that only Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic have posted a positive variation in their RR between 2023 and 2024, which shows a limited trend of sustained improvement at the regional level.

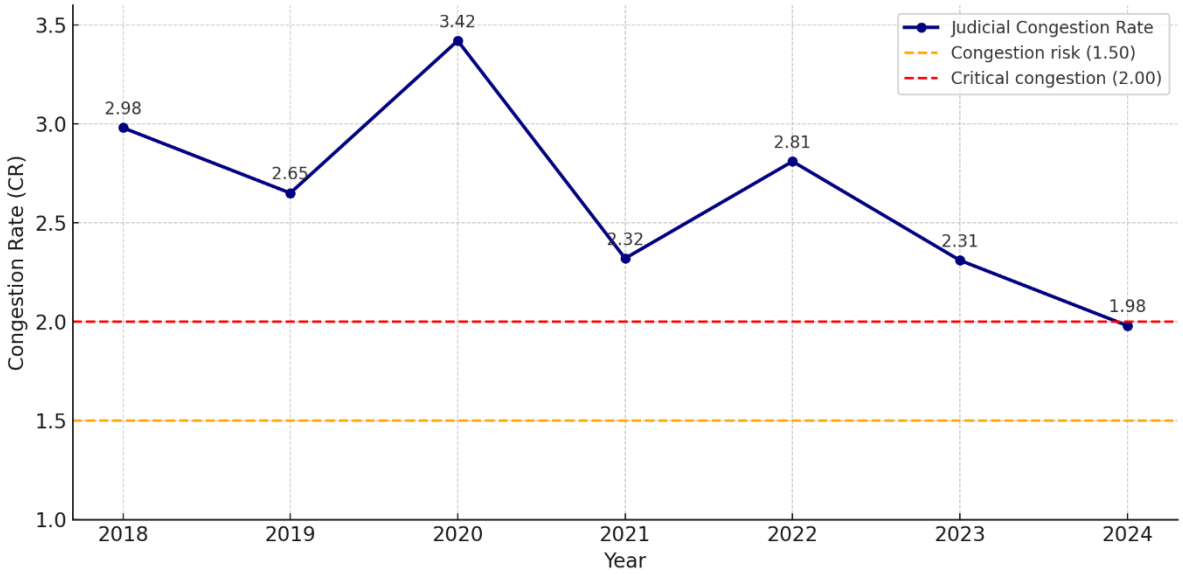
Chapter III: Regional Comparative Analysis of Court Congestion Rates

This chapter presents the main findings related to the judicial congestion rate (CR), a central indicator of this study due to its importance for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the judiciary. Its evolution between 2018 and 2024 is analyzed, incorporating both a regional perspective and a disaggregated analysis by country, paying special attention to the dynamics, variations and trends in the performance of the judiciaries. It also includes a regional comparative index that makes it possible to visualize the relative position of each country according to its level of judicial congestion. The aim is to contribute to the assessment and improvement of institutional performance in a key structural aspect of judicial efficiency.

Evolution of the Regional Judicial Congestion Rate

The evolution of the regional congestion rate between 2018 and 2024 evidences a serious situation. In all years of the period analyzed, the regional rate remained above the 2.0 threshold, a level that corresponds to critical congestion. Persistent and severe backlogs of unresolved cases are observed. This serious deficit may affect public confidence in judicial systems and weaken their institutional legitimacy in the region.

Figure 16. Evolution of the Regional Congestion Rate (2018-2024)



Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

The most critical point of the regional congestion rate is recorded in 2020 and can be attributed to the impact of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. Starting in 2022, there is a downward trend in the regional congestion rate, which dropped from 2.81 in 2022 to 1.98 in 2024. This suggests a potentially favorable future scenario; however, the improvement is not sufficient to reverse the

diagnosis of critical congestion that persists in the period analyzed. In no year did the regional rate fall within the acceptable congestion threshold (between 1.00 and 1.50), indicating that the strategies implemented have had a limited and uneven impact over time.

As has been pointed out in the analysis of the judicial resolution rate, judicial congestion in the region is due to a multiplicity of interrelated factors. Based on CEJA's specialized experience in this area, we can state this is fundamentally a structural problem related to the organizational design of the judiciaries and the limitations in their institutional capacities to efficiently manage the workload.

While it is true that the region's judiciaries have budgetary restrictions that affect their operational capacity in the face of the high volume of cases filed annually, it is also evident that, over the last two decades, the judicial bodies have experienced sustained budgetary increases. However, this has not led to a substantial improvement in judicial celerity, which suggests that the problem lies not only in the availability of resources, but also in the efficiency of their allocation and the effectiveness of the judicial management models implemented.

The organization of judicial offices and work processes to meet the workload is still traditional in most of the judiciaries. In the last 20 years, judicial reforms have been promoted in several countries with the purpose of streamlining and modernizing judicial offices. One of the most significant changes has been the replacement of written processes by oral ones; however, the traditional judicial culture, coupled with judicial organization models that have not reversed the traditional practices of judicial management. This would explain why the backlog is currently not only of written files, but also of court hearings that have been suspended or rescheduled. Addressing the bureaucratic, formal judicial culture and optimizing the efficiency of work processes and the professionalization of judicial management is key to reversing the complex situation of judicial congestion in the region.

The organization of judicial offices and the work processes for managing the judicial load continue to follow traditional models in most of the region's judiciaries. In the last 20 years, a number of countries have promoted important procedural reforms aimed at modernizing the administration of justice and streamlining its operation. One of the most significant transformations has been the replacement of written procedures by oral systems. However, the persistence of a bureaucratic and formalistic judicial culture, together with organizational schemes that have failed to reverse inefficient management practices, has limited the impact of these reforms.

As a result, the backlog of cases is no longer expressed only in physical files pending resolution, but also in court hearings that are systematically postponed or suspended. Overcoming this situation requires decisively confronting the cultural factors that perpetuate judicial inefficiency, as well as advancing in the modernization of work processes, incorporating professional management tools and results-oriented administration principles. This institutional change is essential to structurally address the phenomenon of judicial congestion in Latin America.

Country trends

The evolution of the judicial congestion rate by country between 2018 and 2024 presents a divergent trend. While some countries show relative stability or even sustained improvements in their congestion levels, others exhibit persistently high rates, remaining in the critical congestion range (CR > 2.0), which evidences serious difficulties in managing the judicial workload.

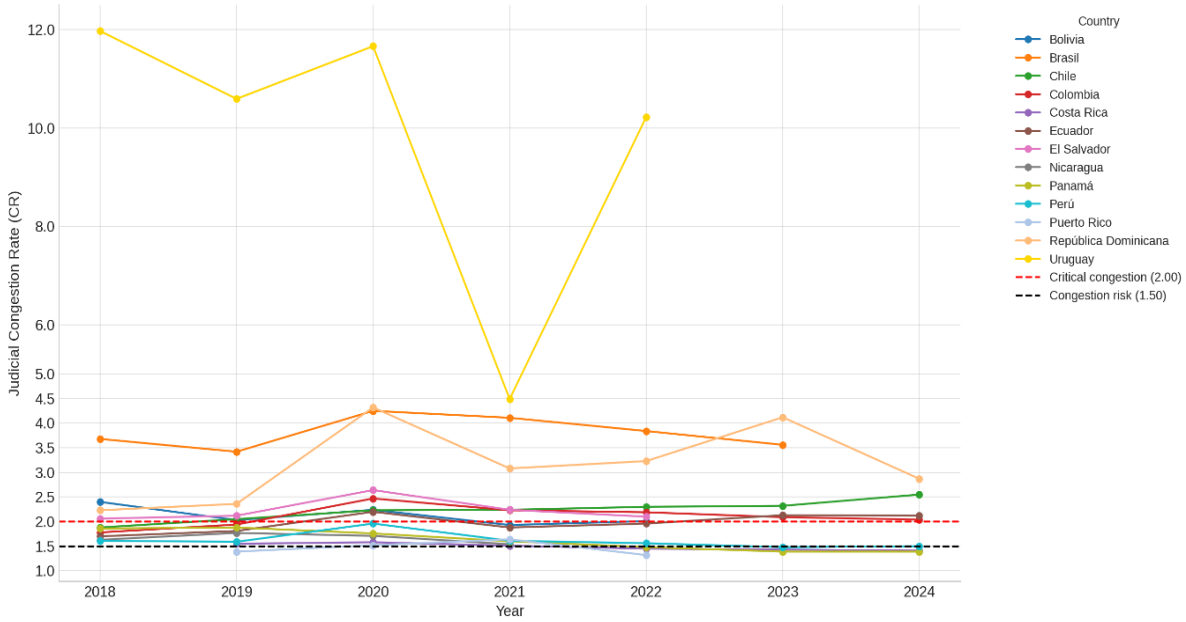
The most critical countries in terms of judicial congestion are Uruguay, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, whose rates have remained above the acceptable threshold. The situation of Uruguay is particularly worrisome, with levels reaching 11.6 in 2020, reflecting a severe accumulation of unsolved cases.

Costa Rica and Peru show more controlled and relatively stable rates of judicial congestion. These countries are close to the acceptable congestion threshold (between 1.00 and 1.50). In the case of Chile, its congestion rate shows a moderate upward trend. In 2018 it had a judicial congestion rate of 1.88 -slightly above the acceptable threshold (1.50)- and in 2024 it reaches a value of 2.55, placing it in the critical congestion range.

Panama, on the other hand, showed a positive performance. Its judicial congestion rate decreased steadily from 1.86 in 2018 to stabilize at 1.39 in the years 2023 and 2024. This downward trend placed the country within the "acceptable congestion" range according to the technical criteria adopted in this study.

Taken together, these findings confirm the need for a deeper analysis to understand the underlying causes of the heterogeneity of judicial congestion, as well as the urgency of promoting reforms aimed at reducing it at the regional level.

Figure 17. Evolution of the congestion rate by country (2018-2024)



Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Evolution of the judicial congestion rate by country

The evolution of the judicial congestion rate (CR) in each country of the study during the period 2018-2024 is presented below. In some cases, the lack of data for all years responds to the absence of updated and accessible public statistical information, which highlights the need to strengthen the systems for the production, systematization and periodic publication of judicial data that allow for the analysis of judicial congestion.

Table 8. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in the countries included in the study (2018-2024)

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bolivia	2.40	2.03	2.24	1.93	2.01	ND	ND
Brazil	3.68	3.42	4.25	4.11	3.84	3.56	ND
Chile	1.88	2.05	2.23	2.24	2.30	2.32	2.55
Colombia	1.78	1.94	2.47	2.23	2.19	2.09	2.04
Costa Rica	ND	1.55	1.58	1.51	1.45	1.43	1.41
Ecuador	1.70	1.81	2.20	1.88	1.96	2.13	2.12
El Salvador	2.06	2.12	2.64	2.24	2.10	ND	ND
Nicaragua	1.63	1.77	1.71	1.54	ND	ND	ND
Panama	1.86	1.88	1.76	1.60	1.48	1.39	1.39
Peru	1.61	1.59	1.96	1.61	1.56	1.48	1.50
Puerto Rico	ND	1.39	1.52	1.64	1.32	ND	ND
Dominican Republic	2.23	2.36	4.32	3.08	3.23	4.12	2.87
Uruguay	11.97	10.59	11.66	4.49	10.22	ND	ND

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Figure 18. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Bolivia

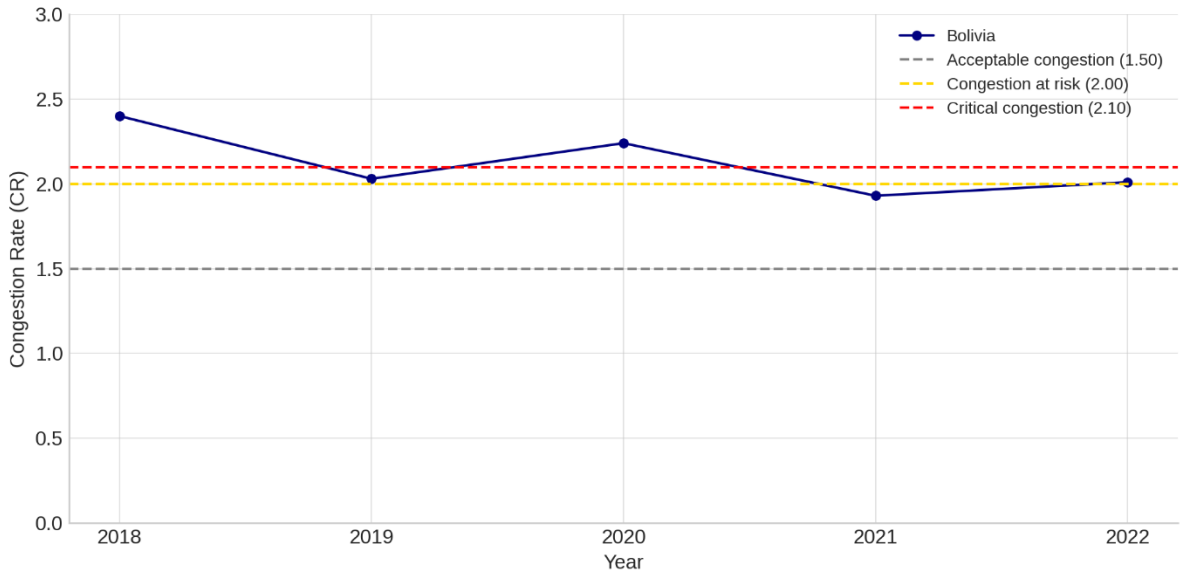


Figure 19. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Brazil

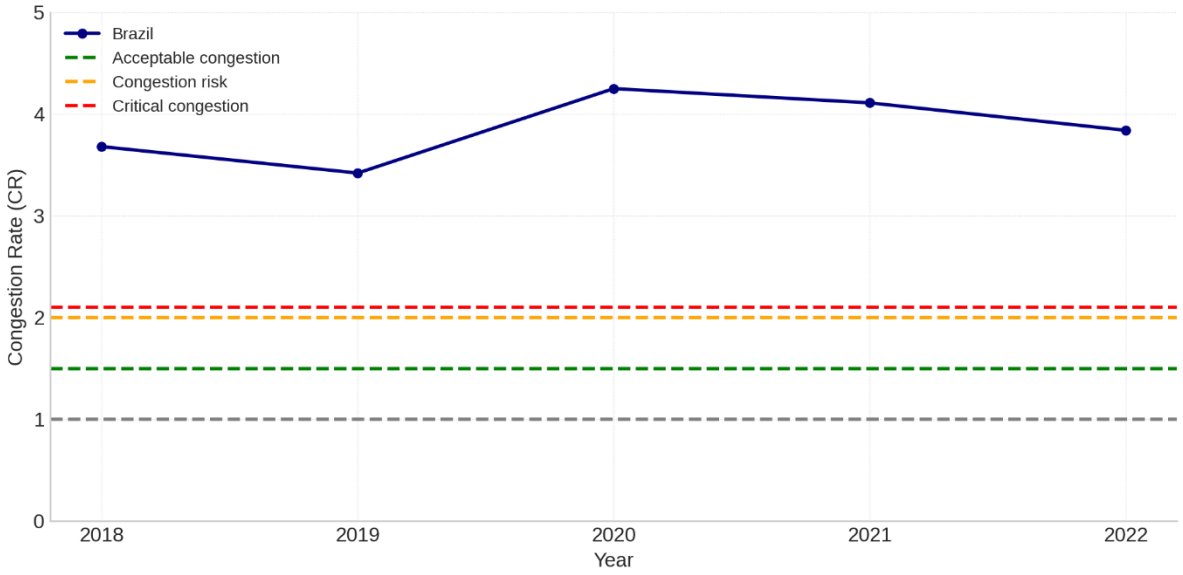


Figure 20. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Chile

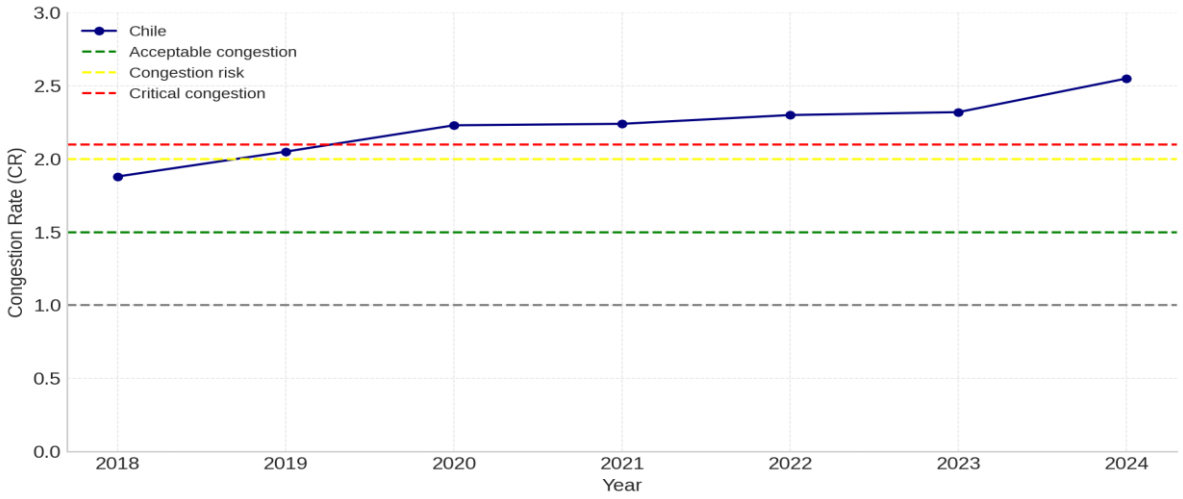


Figure 21. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Colombia

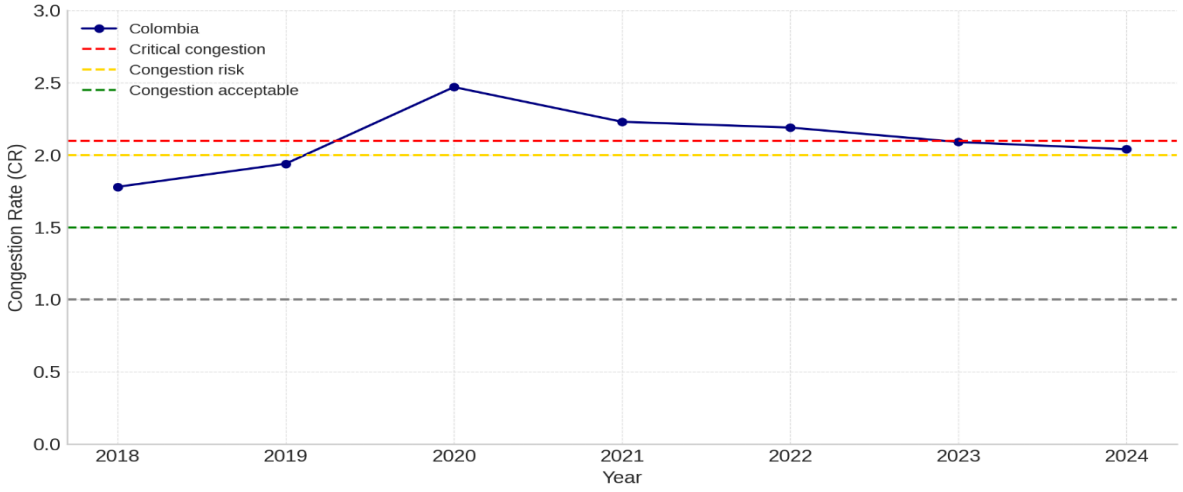


Figure 22. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Costa Rica

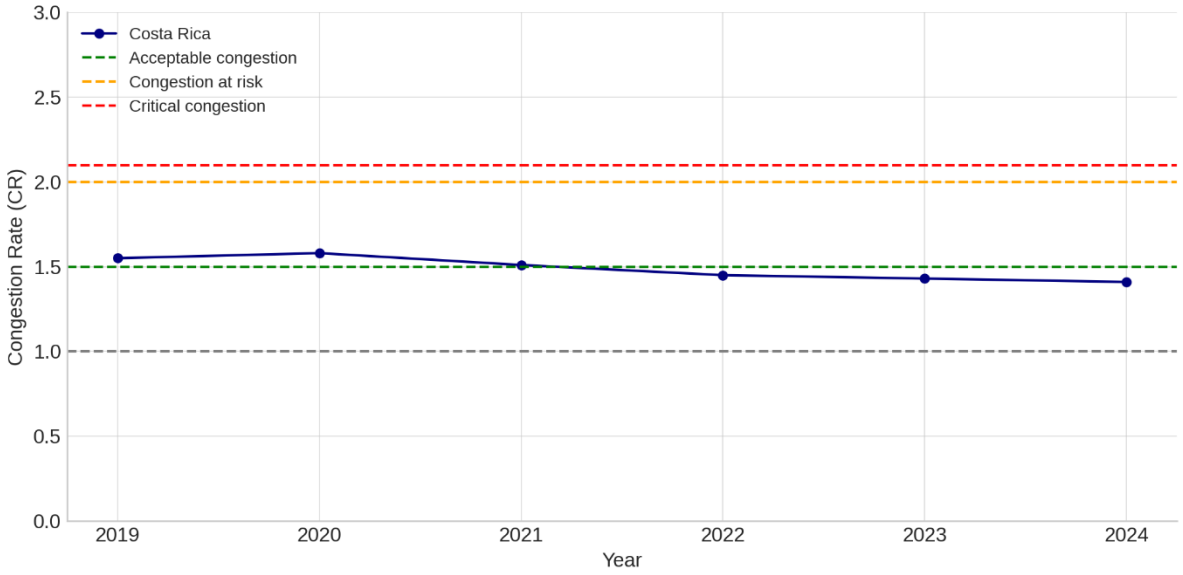


Figure 23. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Ecuador

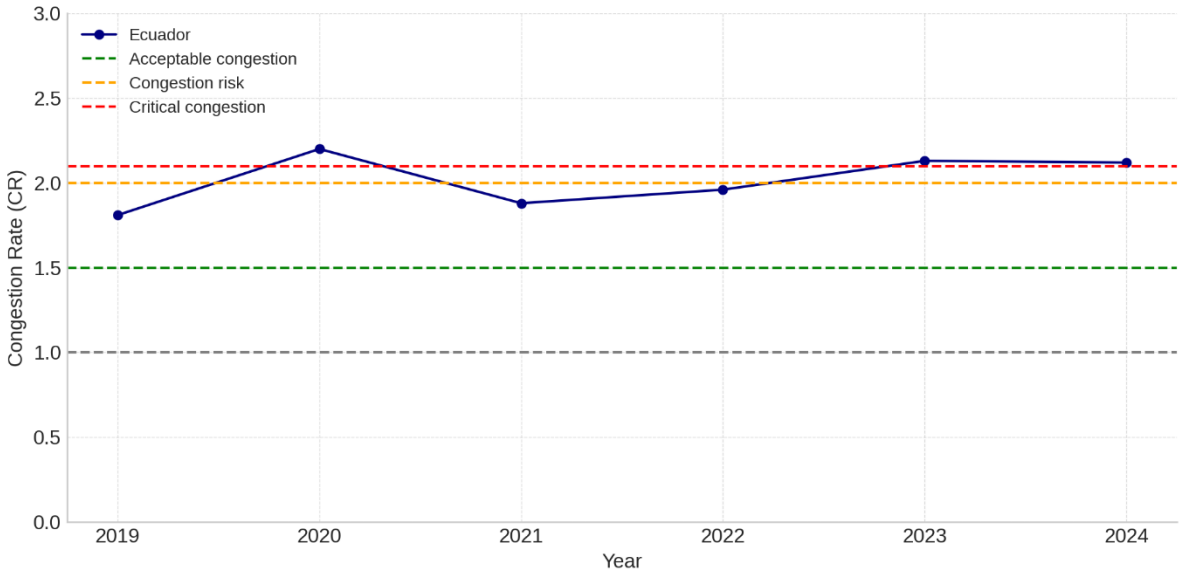


Figure 24. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in El Salvador

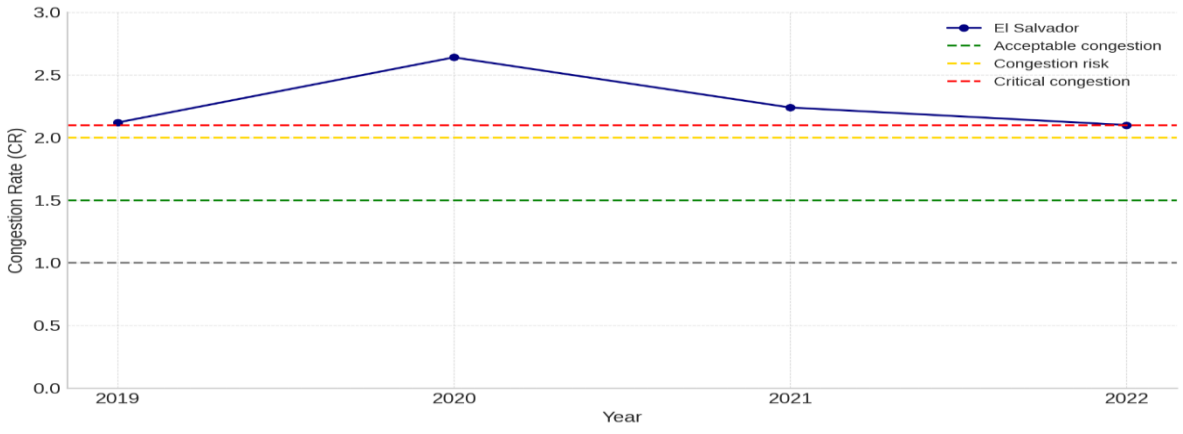


Figure 25. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Nicaragua

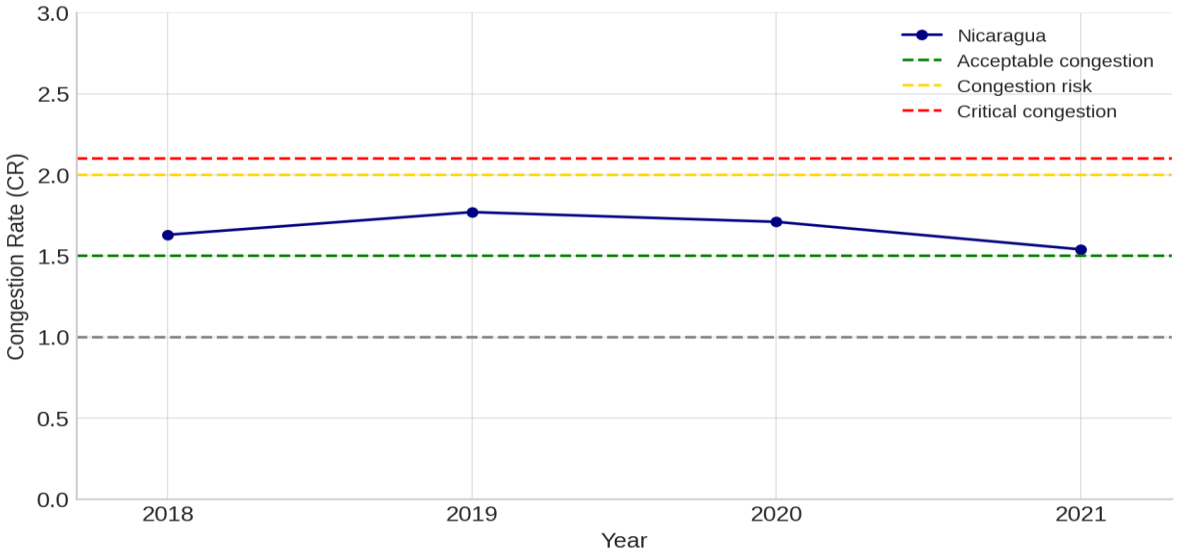


Figure 26. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Panama

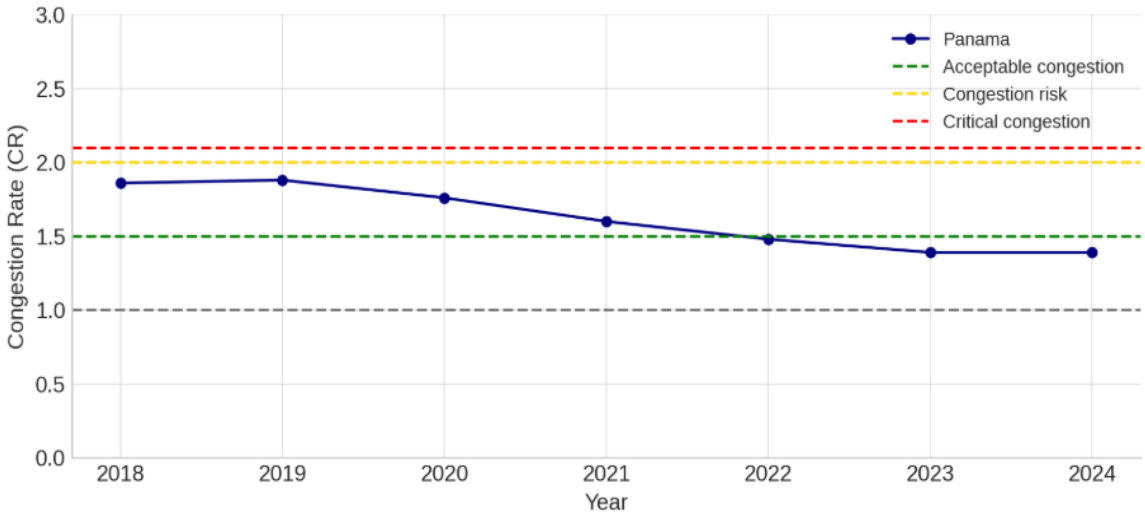


Figure 27. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Peru

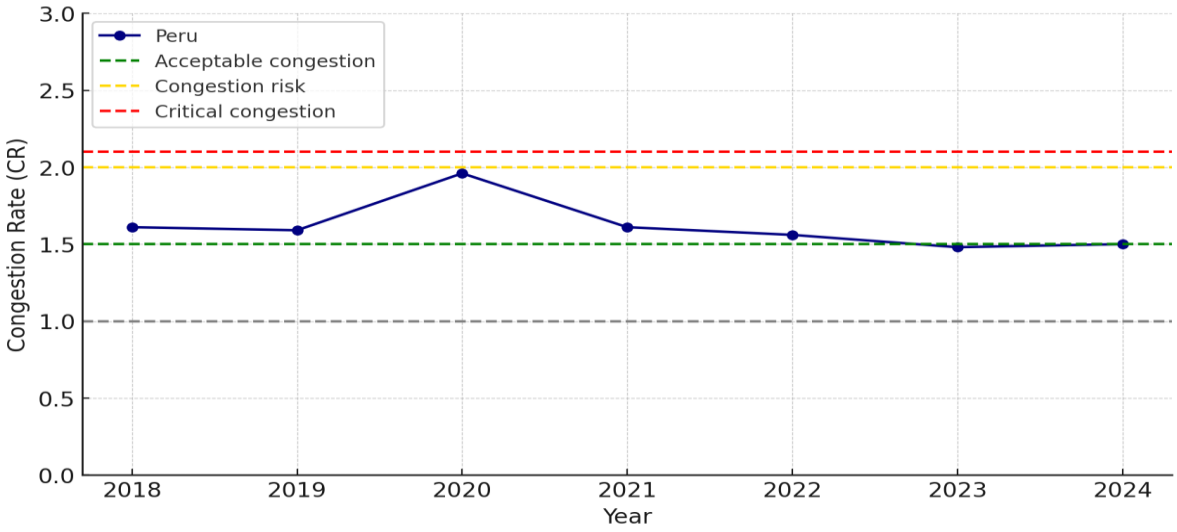


Figure 28. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Puerto Rico

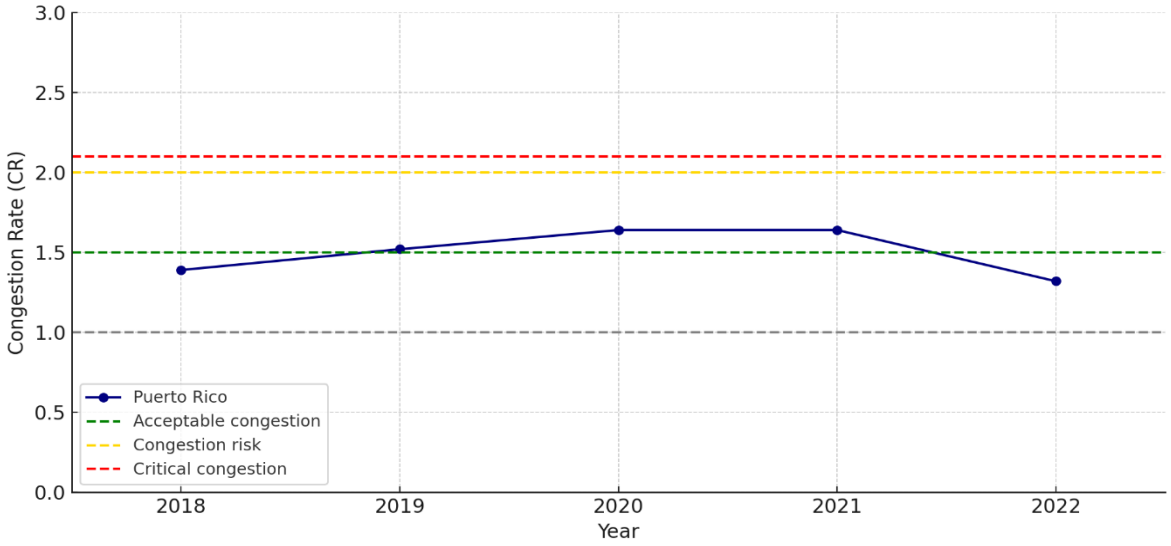


Figure 29. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in the Dominican Republic

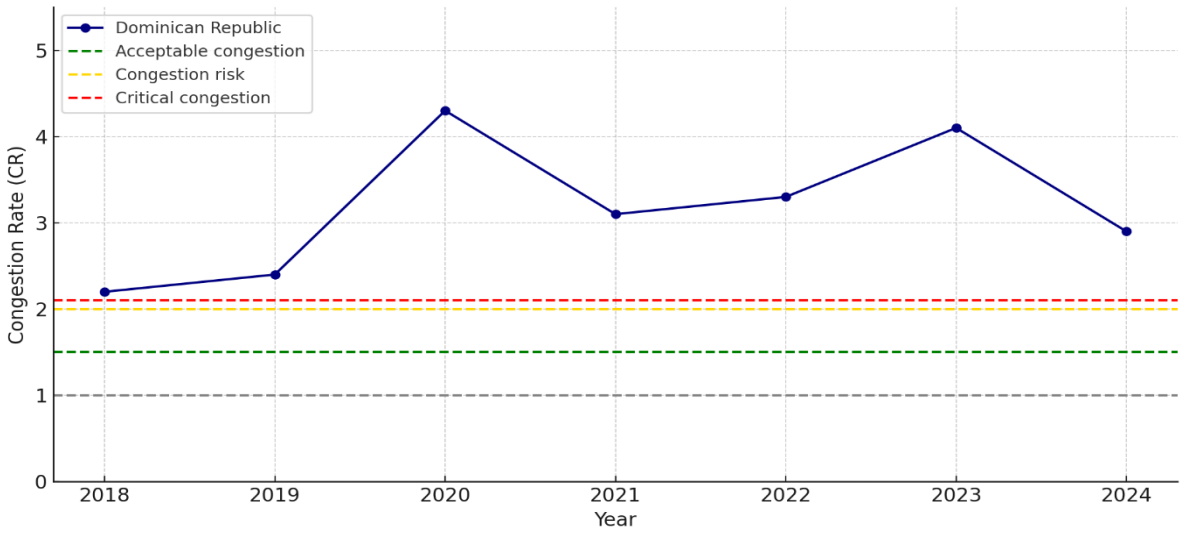
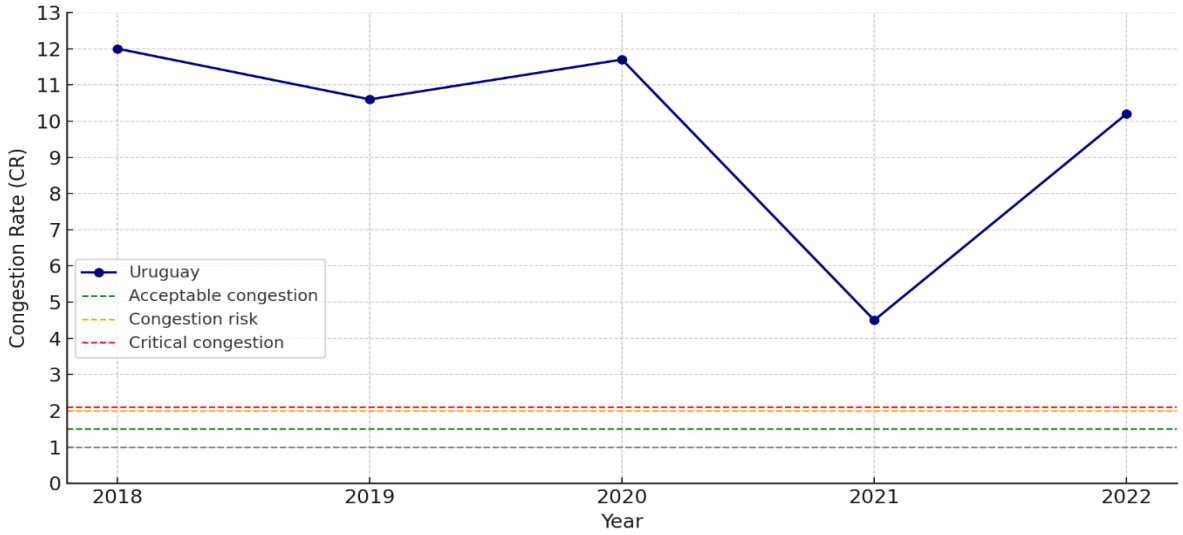


Figure 30. Evolution of the judicial congestion rate in Uruguay



Regional Comparative Index of the Judicial Congestion Rate

The formulation of this index covers the period 2022-2024, corresponding to the time range with available and comparable data. The following analysis focuses on the positioning of the countries according to their judicial congestion rate in the year 2024[2].

Table 9. Regional congestion rate comparative index 2024

Country	Congestion Rate 2021	Congestion Rate 2022	Var. 2022 vs 2021	Congestion Rate 2023	Congestion Rate 2024	Var. 2024 vs 2023	Ranking 2024
Brazil	4.11	3.84	▲	3.56	3.56	▬	1st
Dominican Republic	3.08	3.23	▼	4.12	2.87	▲	2nd
Chile	2.24	2.30	▼	2.32	2.55	▼	3rd
Ecuador	1.88	1.96	▼	2.13	2.12	▲	4th
Colombia	2.23	2.19	▲	2.09	2.04	▲	5th
Peru	1.61	1.56	▲	1.48	1.50	▼	6th
Costa Rica	1.51	1.45	▲	1.43	1.41	▲	7th
Panama	1.60	1.48	▲	1.39	1.39	▬	8th
Uruguay	4.49	10.22	▼				
El Salvador	2.24	2.10	▲				
Bolivia	1.93	2.01	▼				
Puerto Rico	1.64	1.32	▲				

(*) Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Bolivia and Uruguay only have data up to 2022, so it was not possible to include them in the 2024 index.

(**) In the case of Brazil, a projection of its 2023 data has been made to estimate its performance in 2024.

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

In 2024, eight countries had the highest rates of judicial congestion: Brazil (3.56), Dominican Republic (2.87), Chile (2.55), Ecuador (2.12), Colombia (2.04), Peru (1.50), Costa Rica (1.41) and Panama (1.39). The first five countries are in the critical congestion range, with the reduction observed in the Dominican Republic, whose CR dropped from 4.12 in 2023 to 2.87 in 2024. Peru is in the at-risk congestion range, while Costa Rica and Panama are in the acceptable congestion range.

As noted earlier in this report, the situation in Uruguay is of concern. Although it does not have data available for 2024, in 2022 it had a judicial congestion rate of 10.22, which would place it in a highly critical condition. El Salvador (2.10 in 2022) and Bolivia (2.01 in 2022) also presented critical levels in that year, in contrast to Puerto Rico, which presented an acceptable congestion situation with a rate of 1.32 in 2022.

[2] Only countries with available data for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 are included.

In terms of evolution between 2023 and 2024, two countries recorded setbacks in their judicial congestion rates: Chile, with an increase from 2.32 to 2.55, and Peru, whose rate increased from 1.48 to 1.50. The rest of the countries analyzed showed improvements in their indicators with the exception of Panama, which maintained a constant rate of 1.39.

In short, the Regional Comparative Index of Judicial Congestion Rates for the year 2024 shows unequal progress in judicial congestion among the countries evaluated. Although some have shown significant improvements, critical conditions persist in several judiciaries, and the setbacks observed in some countries in recent years are particularly worrisome. Overall, the results underscore the need to strengthen institutional capacities to address the problem of judicial congestion in the region in a comprehensive and sustained manner.

Chapter IV: Relationship between Judicial Resolution and Judicial Congestion through 2025 and Looking Ahead to 2030

Based on the judicial resolution rates (RR) and judicial congestion rates (CR) analyzed in the previous chapters, this chapter examines the relationship between both indicators through the year 2025. It also looks at judicial congestion in Latin America through the year 2030. The purpose of this chapter is to highlight the urgent need to adopt measures to prevent and mitigate future critical scenarios of judicial congestion in the region.

Relationship between Resolution and Congestion Rates through 2025

The relationship between the judicial resolution rates (RR) and judicial congestion rates (CR) through 2025 is established by crossing the data for the year 2024, under the assumption of continuity of the trends observed in both indicators.

The analysis of the relationship between RRs and CRs projected to the year 2025 focuses on the eight countries included in the judicial resolution and congestion indices developed in the previous chapters.

To facilitate the interpretation of the following graphs, the metrics used to analyze the relationship between RR and CR projected to 2025 and 2030 are detailed below.

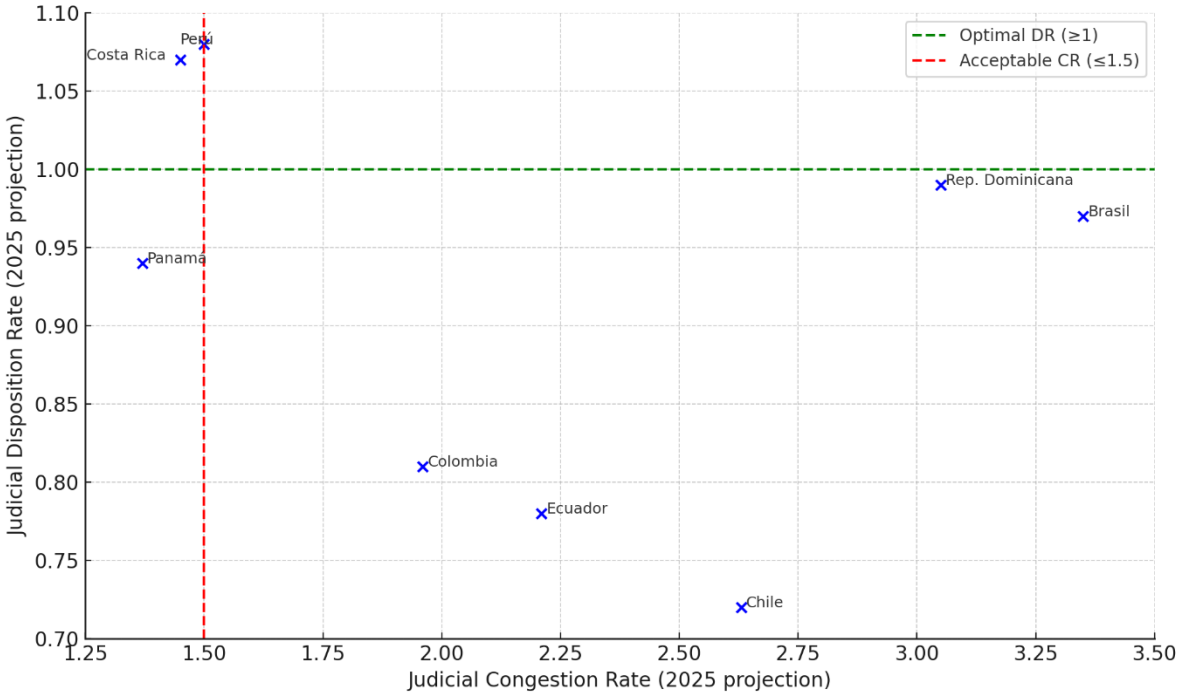
Table 10. Metrics used to analyze the relationship between RR and CR at 2025 and 2030

***Horizontal green line (RR ≥ 1)**: **optimal RR**. Indicates the optimal threshold of judicial resolution, i.e., that the system resolves at least as many cases as those entered in the corresponding year. Values above this line imply sufficient resolution capacity to avoid a backlog of cases.*
***Vertical red line (CR ≤ 1.5)**: **acceptable CR**. Establishes an acceptable threshold for judicial congestion. Values equal to or less than 1.5 suggest that a controlled caseload is maintained in relation to its resolution capacity.*
***Period and countries:** the relationship between RR and CR analyzes the year 2024. Each point represents a country ranked according to its simultaneous performance in both dimensions (RR and CR).*

Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

The figure below shows that none of the countries analyzed reached both an optimal resolution rate and an acceptable level of judicial congestion in the projection at the end of 2025. If there are no significant changes that alter the trends observed until 2024, by the end of the year, the judiciaries evaluated would face serious difficulties to achieve efficiency in the resolution (optimal RR) and an adequate control of the procedural burden (low CR).

Figure 31. Projected resolution and congestion rates to 2025



Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

The analysis of the projection to 2025 indicates that Costa Rica would present an optimal RR (above 1) but accompanied by levels of judicial congestion (CR) slightly above the acceptable threshold. The case of Peru would be similar, although with a more marked tendency towards a risk scenario. Panama is close to the optimal threshold in terms of RR (around 1) and within the acceptable range of congestion, reflecting a moderately balanced performance.

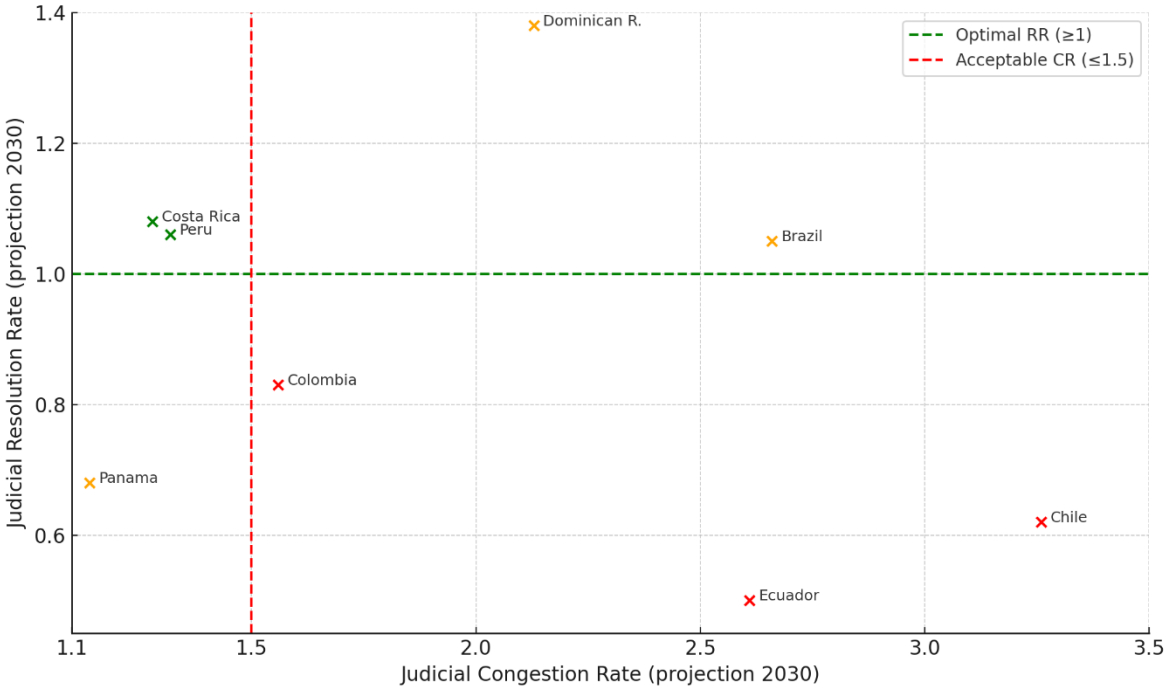
Brazil and the Dominican Republic are expected to have RRs close to or just above 1 but would face critical congestion levels (CR significantly above 1.5). Finally, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile present RRs below 1 -indicative of a backlog of cases- and high CRs, placing them in a combined situation of low resolution capacity and high procedural backlog.

Overall, the analysis of the relationship between the RR and the CR projected to the year 2025 suggests that the judicial systems of the region face serious difficulties in simultaneously achieving resolution efficiency (high RR) and an adequate control of the procedural burden (low CR). While some countries could achieve acceptable performances on one of the two indicators, the balance between judicial resolution and decongestion capacity continues to be a structural problem in most cases.

Judicial Congestion and Resolution through 2030

Judicial congestion and resolution rates projected through 2030 reveal a concerning outlook for the Latin American region if current trends continue. Although some of the judiciaries analyzed could present gradual progress -particularly in their resolution rates (RR)-, most of them do not project a sustainable balance between their resolution capacity and the effective control of case congestion. As such, if no measures are taken in the short term, judicial congestion will persist in a generalized manner. Most critically, some systems would not even be able to handle the volume of the new annual inflows, which would deepen the structural backlog of pending cases.

Figure 32. Projected resolution and congestion rates through 2030



Developed by the authors using their own data, CEJA 2025.

Looking forward to the year 2030, only Costa Rica would be located in a sustained equilibrium zone, with an RR close to 1.07 and an estimated CR of 1.29. Peru is expected to be close to the equilibrium zone, although with a risk of increased congestion, with a projected RR of 1.06 and a CR of 1.34. In the case of Panama, a situation of moderate congestion and a resolution capacity below the optimal threshold is projected, with an estimated RR of 0.68 and a CR of 1.15.

Colombia would be located in a critical zone, because although its CR would be close to the acceptable threshold (1.55), its resolution capacity would be insufficient, with a projected RR of 0.83. This combination suggests a persistent backlog of cases and a significant risk of judicial delay. Although the Dominican Republic would show considerable progress in its RR (1.38), it would still suffer from structural congestion, with a projected CR of 2.13.

In the case of Brazil, a positive resolution rate is projected (RR estimated at 1.05); however, like the Dominican Republic, it has a high congestion rate (CR projected at 2.65), which indicates an adequate resolution capacity, but accompanied by a structural backlog of cases.

The 2030 outlook for Ecuador reflects a worrisome situation, with a projected RR of 0.51 and an estimated CR of 2.63, both outside the desirable ranges. Chile presents a challenging scenario with significant risks, with an estimated RR of 0.62 and a CR of 3.25, which could generate tensions in the operational capacity of the judicial system to adequately manage the caseload.

In short, the prospective analysis of RR and CR suggests that, if current trends continue, by 2030 in Latin America only a minority of countries would be able to guarantee access to justice in reasonable time, while the majority would present judicial systems with critical levels of congestion, which would seriously affect their legitimacy and institutional trust. This projection reinforces the need to urgently implement preventive and corrective measures to address judicial congestion more effectively, both in the short and medium term.

Conclusions

1. **Technical analysis of judicial resolution and congestion and interdependence**
   This study analyzes the rates of judicial resolution rates (RR) and judicial congestion rates (CR) in 13 Latin American judiciaries. The research shows the structural interdependence between the two indicators and their importance for evaluating the performance of judicial systems in terms of efficiency and speed. The study is based on a technical, quantitative and longitudinal approach and proposes comparable standards at the regional level.

2. **Limited judicial resolution at the regional level**
   In the period under evaluation, the rates of judicial resolution (RR) in Latin American judiciaries show limited improvements, with the regional judicial resolution rate remaining in an intermediate range (RR < 1), which shows the limited capacity of the judiciaries to prevent and contain judicial congestion.

3. **Impact of the pandemic on judicial resolution**
   The COVID-19 pandemic had a measurable negative impact on judicial resolution (RR) rates in Latin America between 2020 and 2021. Although there is a subsequent trend towards recovery, the levels necessary to reverse the accumulation of cases were not reached until 2024. Countries such as Costa Rica and Peru have acceptable rates of judicial resolution, above 1 (RR > 1), while countries such as Colombia, Chile and the Dominican Republic have worryingly low levels and downward trends.

4. **Judicial congestion as a structural problem in Latin America**
   Judicial congestion is critical and structural in Latin America. During the period evaluated, the regional congestion rate (CR) remained consistently high (CR > 2), which evidences the sustained accumulation of unresolved cases in several judiciaries. This situation reflects the fact that, despite the judicial reforms implemented in recent decades, there are still deficiencies in management models and a bureaucratic organizational culture that hinder the adoption of more efficient models aimed at reducing procedural backlogs.

5. **Heterogeneity in judicial congestion in Latin America**
   Although there is a critical trend at the regional level, judicial congestion varies in each country evaluated. While countries such as Panama, Costa Rica and Peru show downward trends in judicial congestion rates, other countries such as Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and Colombia face greater difficulties and challenges in efficiently managing the backlog of cases. This divergence would reflect different institutional capacities, levels of investment and degrees of implementation of judicial reforms aimed at reducing the judicial backlog.

6. **Serious gap between judicial resolution and decongestion by 2025**
   In the projection to the year 2025, and assuming continuity of the trends observed in previous years, no country manages to combine an optimal Resolution Rate (RR) (≥1) with an acceptable Congestion Rate (CR) (≤1.5). This evidences a persistent systemic imbalance between the capacity to resolve and control the backlog of cases that compromises the adequate performance and efficiency of the judiciary in Latin America.

7. **Critical outlook to 2030 with occasional exceptions**
   Looking forward to the year 2030, if current trends continue, only Costa Rica would have a sustainable balance between resolution rates and judicial congestion. The current complex situation of most Latin American countries would be maintained or worsen, facing challenges to reverse the backlog of cases in the judiciary.

8. **Urgent need for structural transformation**
   The findings and projections presented in this study lead to the conclusion that, without a profound transformation in judicial management, professionalization and change in the institutional culture of Latin American judiciaries, judicial congestion will continue to be a structural barrier to effective access to justice, undermining institutional trust and legitimacy.

Recommendations

General recommendations

1. **Promote judicial reforms aimed at the efficiency and transparency of the judiciary.**

   It is recommended that the judiciaries, ministries of justice, academic institutions and civil society in the Americas promote judicial reforms in terms of regulations, organization and procedures that prioritize judicial efficiency, speed and accountability. These reforms must be based on information systems with homologous and reliable data, and incorporate planning and follow-up mechanisms based on goals, indicators and incentive systems to reduce judicial congestion in the judiciaries.

2. **Promote judicial reforms that reinvigorate Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR)**

   It is recommended that the judiciary, ministries of justice, academic institutions and civil society in the Americas promote Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR) with a public policy approach and an emphasis on mediation and extrajudicial conciliation.[3] ADR strengthens voluntariness, encourages participation of the parties, reduces costs and increases the speed of dispute resolution.

3. **Strengthen judicial planning and management with a focus on results and efficiency**

   It is recommended that the judiciaries incorporate performance goals based on the monitoring of indicators that include the resolution rate (RR) and the judicial congestion rate (CR), integrating these parameters in the institutional strategic plans.

4. **Implement models for efficient management of the judicial office**

   It is recommended that the judiciaries implement judicial management models that optimize the use of human, technological and logistical resources. These models should include redesigning processes, improving workflows and identifying and overcoming bottlenecks in order to increase efficiency and reduce levels of judicial congestion.

5. **Promoting institutional cultural transformation**

   It is recommended that the judiciaries reinforce a judicial organizational culture focused on service to users, the appropriate use of judicial time and resources, and the strategic use of technology.

[3] For more information, see the recent publication of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas "Regional Public Policy Proposal to Promote ADR in Latin America" (2025).

6. **Deepening the national analysis of judicial resolution and congestion with differentiated studies aimed at improving management**

   It is recommended that the judiciary, ministries of justice, academic institutions and civil society develop specific studies that analyze in depth the situation of resolution (RR) and judicial congestion (CR) in each country, considering criteria such as subject matter, complexity of cases, hierarchy of jurisdictional bodies and subnational territorial distribution. These studies should identify the structural and managerial causes of low levels of resolution or high congestion, as well as document good practices, institutional innovations and successful experiences aimed at improving judicial efficiency and speed.

Recommendations for improving judicial resolution

7. **Review judicial performance and performance evaluation systems.**

   It is recommended that the judiciaries review and update their performance evaluation systems for magistrates, judges and judicial bodies, incorporating or strengthening objective indicators such as resolution rates by case load and complexity, among other technical criteria. These mechanisms should be aimed at measuring judicial production in a comprehensive manner, promoting efficiency, accountability and continuous improvement in the management and quality of jurisdictional work.

8. **Optimize the organization of human, material and technological resources.**
   It is recommended that the judiciaries strategically align the allocation of judges, administrative support staff, physical infrastructure and technological resources according to the volume and type of cases in each jurisdiction. This redistribution should be guided by the efficiency of the judicial bodies, together with other appropriate criteria to guarantee adequate service to users.

Recommendations for judicial congestion control

9. **Design and implement comprehensive programs for the reduction of judicial congestion.**

   It is recommended that the judiciary design and implement programs especially aimed at reducing judicial congestion, incorporating technical and differentiated strategies. These programs should include, among others, the following components:

   - **Strengthening the admissibility control of cases:** Establish mechanisms to ensure adequate, agile and timely management of the admissibility of proceedings in order to optimize the allocation of judicial resources. This should not operate as an exclusionary filter, but rather as a tool to promote more efficient, equitable and people-centered access to justice.

- **Optimization of the prioritization and assignment of causes:** Revise the technical criteria for prioritizing and assigning cases, incorporating variables such as the type of dispute, procedural status, urgency, social impact or vulnerability of the parties. This review should be aimed at maximizing the operational capacity of the courts, with a focus on economies of scale and efficient handling of large volumes of cases.
- **Process automation, digitalization and use of artificial intelligence:** Promote the development of technological tools to automate routine processes, digitize files and use solutions based on artificial intelligence to support judicial management, case prioritization, predictive analysis and informed decision-making, with guarantees of transparency and jurisdictional control.

Training and cooperation recommendations

10. **Provision of specialized training on judicial congestion**

    It is recommended that the judiciary design and implement training programs focused on understanding, analyzing and reducing judicial congestion. These programs should include content on caseload management, planning, data analysis and efficient organizational models. We suggest the specialized regional program on judicial congestion offered by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA), which develops concepts, good practices, comparative approaches and tools applicable to national contexts.

11. **Promote regional cooperation among judiciaries**

    It is recommended that judiciaries promote the exchange of best practices, management models and lessons learned in the area of judicial resolution and congestion. Likewise, we recommend promoting convergence towards comparable and aligned judicial resolution and congestion rate standards in the region based on the metrics proposed in this study. The Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) can play a key role in this process by providing technical assistance, generating comparative evidence and facilitating opportunities for horizontal cooperation between countries.

12. **Request specialized technical assistance from CEJA**

    It is recommended that judiciaries, ministries of justice and other competent agencies turn to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) for specialized technical assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of strategies aimed at reducing judicial congestion. CEJA can provide technical assistance for the preparation of national diagnoses, the design of improvement programs, capacity building and the facilitation of evidence-based comparative experiences.

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Annex 1: Statistical information provided by judiciaries

Bolivia

- Ministry of Justice of Bolivia (2023). Statistics of cases filed, pending and terminated of the Bolivian Judiciary, period 2017-2022. Information requested by CEJA.

Colombia

- Statistical Development and Analysis Unit of the Judiciary of Colombia. (2025). Statistical report on cases filed, pending and terminated, period 2018-2024 of the Judiciary of Colombia. Information requested by CEJA.

Costa Rica

- Planning Directorate of the Judiciary of Costa Rica. (2025). Statistical report on cases filed, pending and terminated by the Judiciary of Costa Rica, period 2018-2024. Information requested by CEJA.

Ecuador

- Judiciary Council of Ecuador. (2025). Statistical report on cases admitted, pending and terminated, period 2018-2024. Information requested by CEJA.

Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico Office of Statistics, Data Science and Judicial Planning. (2023). Statistical report on cases filed, pending and terminated, period 2018-2022. Information requested by CEJA.

Uruguay

- Department of Statistics of the Judiciary of Uruguay. (2023). Statistical report on cases filed, pending and terminated by the Judiciary of Uruguay, period 2017-2022. Information requested by CEJA.

Panama

- Judicial Statistics Center of the Judiciary. (2025). Information requested by CEJA.

Dominican Republic

- Data Intelligence Division of the Judiciary of the Dominican Republic. (2025). Judicial statistics of cases filed, pending and terminated, period 2018-2024. Information requested by CEJA.

Annex 2: Institutional websites and official documents provided by judiciaries

Brazil

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Chile

- Judiciary of Chile. (2018-2024). Statistics of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Tribunals. Source: https://numeros.pjud.cl/Descargas.

El Salvador

- Supreme Court of El Salvador. (2018). Statistical Bulletin. Directorate of Institutional Planning, Information and Statistics Unit. Source: https://transparencia.oj.gob.sv/es/documentos/158
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Nicaragua:

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- Supreme Court of Nicaragua. (2019). Statistical Yearbook. Source: https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/pjupload/die/pdf/ANUARIO_2019.pdf
- Supreme Court of Nicaragua. (2020). Statistical Yearbook. Source: https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/pjupload/die/pdf/ANUARIO_2020.pdf
- Supreme Court of Nicaragua. (2021). Statistical Yearbook. Source: https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/pjupload/die/pdf/2021_anuario_estadisticos.pdf

Peru

- Judiciary of Peru. (2018). Institutional Statistical Bulletin N°04-2018 January-December. Source: https://portalestadistico.pj.gob.pe/publicaciones-permanentes/
- Judiciary of Peru. (2019). Institutional Statistical Bulletin N°04-2019 January-December. Source: https://portalestadistico.pj.gob.pe/publicaciones-permanentes/
- Judiciary of Peru. (2020). Institutional Statistical Bulletin N°04-2020 January-December. Source: https://portalestadistico.pj.gob.pe/publicaciones-permanentes/
- Judiciary of Peru. (2021). Institutional Statistical Bulletin N°04-2021 January-December. Source: https://portalestadistico.pj.gob.pe/publicaciones-permanentes/
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