

Geopolitics

BBVA Research Big Data Geopolitics Monitor

Big Data Unit

EU & Ukraine Draft 12-Point Peace Plan. Ukraine approves record defence Budget. Maritime Tensions with U.S. on the Caribbean

Europe and Ukraine Draft 12-Point Peace Plan to End Russia Conflict: EU countries and Ukraine are drafting a 12-point peace plan to end the war with Russia, based on maintaining current frontlines. The proposal includes an immediate ceasefire, return of deported Ukrainian children, prisoner exchanges, and negotiations on the governance of occupied territories—without legal recognition of Russian claims. Ukraine would receive security guarantees, EU accession support, and post-war reconstruction funding. Sanctions on Russia would be gradually lifted, but \$300 billion in frozen assets would only be returned if Moscow contributes to Ukraine's recovery. The US would oversee implementation via a peace board chaired by President Trump.

Ukraine approves wartime-record defence budget amid Russia conflict. Ukraine's parliament has passed an amendment raising its 2025 defence spending by 325 billion hryvnias (approx. US\$7.7 billion), bringing the total to about 2.96 trillion hryvnias (roughly US\$70.9 billion). The increase marks a second budget rise this year and comes as the war with Russia enters its fourth year. The funding will come partly via a loan backed by G7 countries and by utilising frozen Russian sovereign assets.

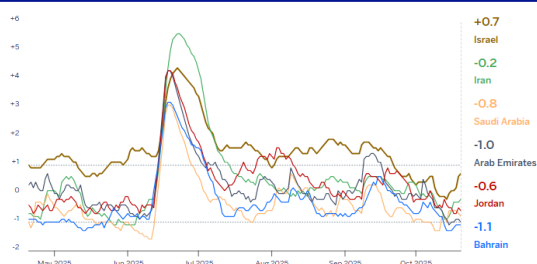
Caribbean Maritime Operations Tensions remain high in Venezuela and rise in Colombia. Tensions have risen between the United States and two key Latin American nations following US military operations targeting suspected drug-trafficking vessels in international waters near Venezuela. The incident reportedly resulted in multiple casualties, including a Colombian national, prompting Colombian President Gustavo Petro to express strong concerns about the nature and consequences of the strikes. President Donald Trump, whose administration authorized the operations, responded critically, warning of potential trade and diplomatic implications.

The BBVA Monitor: Fragile Middle East ceasefire lifts Geopolitical Risk, though contained

- **Geopolitical risk indicators** rose in **Israel** and **Iran** over the last week, reflecting the fragile ceasefire and unresolved security and military issues, as well as uncertainty surrounding the second phase of the peace plan (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). In **Latin America**, geopolitical risk increased following US maritime operations near Venezuela, which triggered diplomatic friction with Colombia and Venezuela (see Fig. 4).
- **Bilateral tension indicators** with **Russia** remain in the high-risk zone, though gradually decreasing amid ongoing efforts to draft a 12-point peace plan between the EU and Ukraine. Uncertainty persists, however, as Russia has rejected key elements of the proposal (see Fig. 2).
- Regarding **protest indicators**, the intense large-scale mobilisation in **Morocco** has subsided somewhat. After a brief pause, demonstrations have resumed, although with smaller and more contained gatherings (see Fig. 3 and Fig. 5).

FIG 1. GEOPOLITICAL RISK INDEX

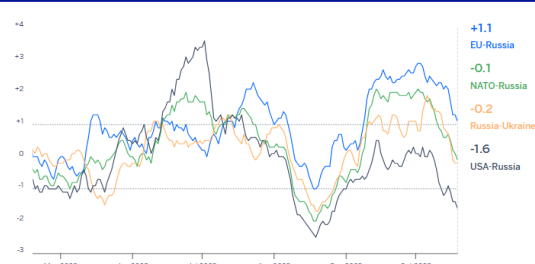
(Local media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



Source: BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Positive (negative) values indicate greater (lower) risk relative to the mean of period 2021-nowadays

FIG 2. BILATERAL TENSIONS INDEX WITH RUSSIA

(Local media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



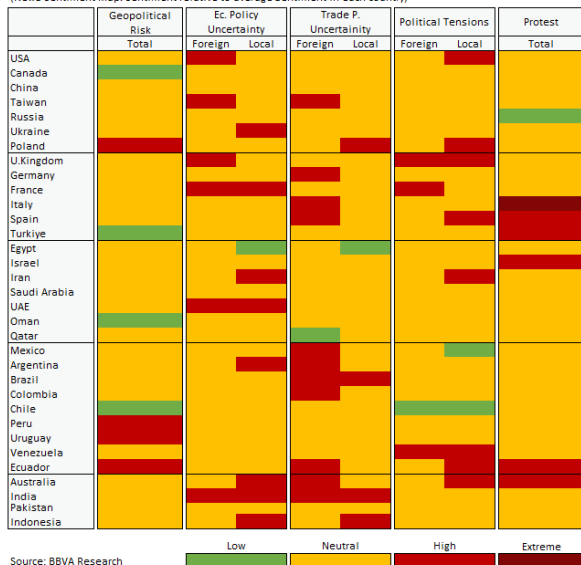
Source: BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Positive (negative) values indicate greater (lower) interest relative to the mean of period 2021-nowadays

FIG 3. BBVA RESEARCH GEOPOLITICS MONITOR "SIGNAL" CHANGES

(Signals in Geopolitical Risk, Political Tensions, Economic Policy Uncertainties, Protest and Conflict according to Standard Dev)

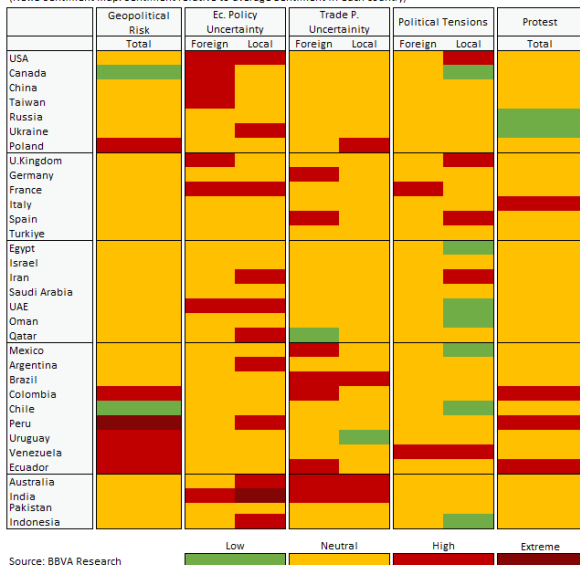
Summary of signals (October 13th, 2025)

(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)



Summary of signals (October 20th, 2025)

(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)



Source: BBVA Research and <http://www.gdelt.org/>

FIG 4. GEOPOLITICAL RISK INDEX LATAM

(Local media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)

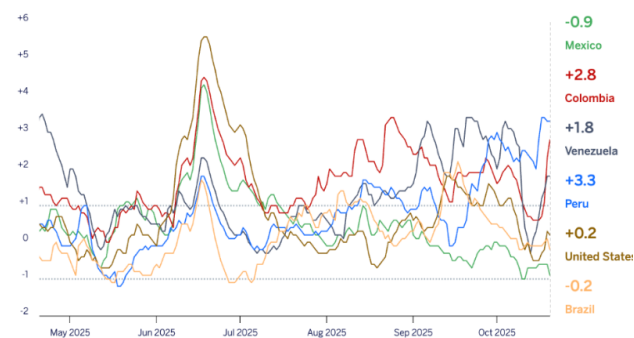


FIG 5. PROTEST INDEX IN NORTH AFRICA

(Total media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)

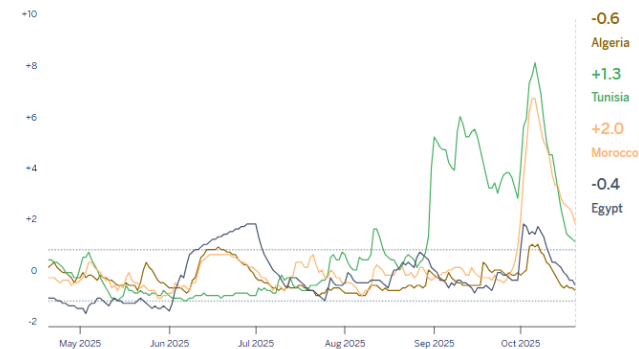
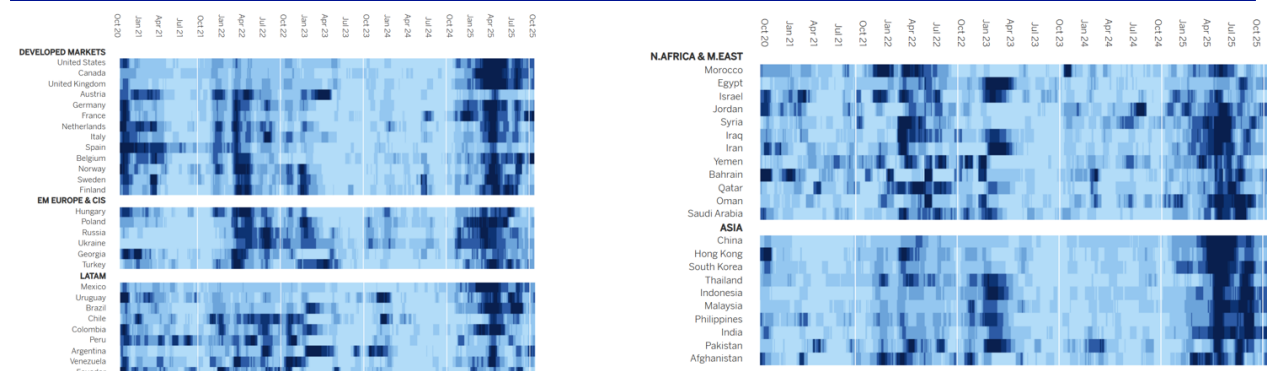


FIG 6. BBVA RESEARCH ECONOMIC POLICY UNCERTAINTY INDEX BY COUNTRY

(28-day weighted moving average, normalized by its own country history. National media sources)



Methodological annex: indicators' construction

We have developed a daily tracker with weekly updates to monitor protest and conflict indicators for every country in the world from 2019 to present day. To construct this, we use a rich 'big database' of international events (GDELT), created by Leetaru and Schrodtt (2013). GDELT is an open-source database that extracts and parses digital news monitoring world events covered by news media from nearly every corner of the world, whether broadcast, printed, or published on the web, in over 100 languages, every moment of every day, updated every 15 minutes. Thus, it contains a comprehensive and high-resolution catalog of geo-referenced events and themes.

Using different dictionaries, several thousands of taxonomies and themes are identified in the news pieces to classify the information. The algorithms used by GDELT also identify emotions, organizations, locations, news sources, and events across the world as well as their average sentiment using Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques and the lexicon approach.

The included indicators are:

- ☐ Geopolitical Risk: or sentiment (weighted by coverage) of the country's geopolitical risk perception.
- ☐ Political Tensions: or sentiment (weighted by coverage) of the country's political tensions.
- ☐ Economic Policy Uncertainty or sentiment (weighted by coverage) about the country's economic policy uncertainty, also disaggregated by media origin.
- ☐ Protests or coverage regarding social protests or unrest in the country.
- ☐ Conflict or coverage of armed conflicts, which go beyond verbal protests.
- ☐ Bilateral Tensions or the sentiment (weighted by coverage) between a specific pair of countries that appear together in the news article (plus NATO and EU).

The indicators track the evolution of tensions and are normalized by their country's history since 2019, thus they are all expressed in terms of standard deviations from their historical patterns. Indicators usually lie within the range [-1,1]. Therefore, when the values exceed one (the upper boundary of the range), this means escalating tensions. While it's possible to observe simultaneous tensions arising in multiple countries (for example, due to geopolitical events affecting several nations, as seen in some of our heatmaps), using these indicators for direct quantitative comparisons of risk levels between countries is not recommended.

We apply a weighted moving average of 28 days (to include four complete weeks with the same number of days of the weeks) to reduce the noise of daily information and identify signals more clearly. The weights have been calculated using a discrete geometric distribution such that it puts more weight on recent data and less on past data (see Graph 1). Aggregating by weeks, the weight of the most recent week has a weight of 68%, the past week 22%, the previous 7%, and the fourth 3%. The weight of the 28 days can be seen in the following image. In such a way, the indicators reflect what has been happening in the last few days.

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