

Geopolitics

# BBVA Research Big Data Geopolitics Monitor

Big Data Unit  
11 November 2024

## Trump is actively assembling the New Administration after his victory. ECB warns on Tariff Wars effects

**New Trump Administration:** Donald Trump is actively assembling his new administration:

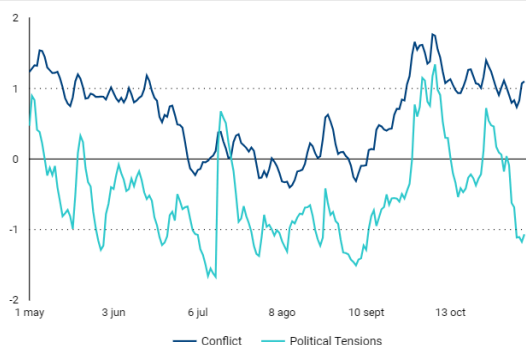
- **White House Chief of Staff: Susie Wiles** will be the first time a woman will hold this position. Wiles, a seasoned political strategist, played a pivotal role in Trump’s campaign and is trusted to lead his administration. ([The Times](#))
- **National Security Adviser: Mike Waltz** has previously advocated for strong military actions and may influence a more confrontational stance toward adversaries like Russia, Iran, and China ([Telegraph](#)).
- **Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Tom Homan**, former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Homan has pledged to intensify efforts to deport migrant criminals, and plans to deploy additional agents to cities like New York that do not cooperate with federal immigration authorities ([New York Post](#)).
- **Ambassador to the United Nations: Elise Stefanik** is expected to bring a critical perspective on international aid and defense funding, particularly concerning Ukraine ([Vox](#)).
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Lee Zeldin** will lead the EPA. His appointment suggests potential rollbacks of environmental regulations implemented during the previous administration ([Vox](#)).

**The ECB warns on negative effects of Tariffs:** The European Central Bank (ECB) has expressed significant concerns regarding potential trade tariffs proposed by the US President-elect Donald Trump. These tariffs include a universal 10% levy on all imports and a 60% tariff on imports from China, aimed at reducing the US trade deficit([Reuters](#)).

### The BBVA Monitor: social unrest increased in Spain after the Dana phenomenon

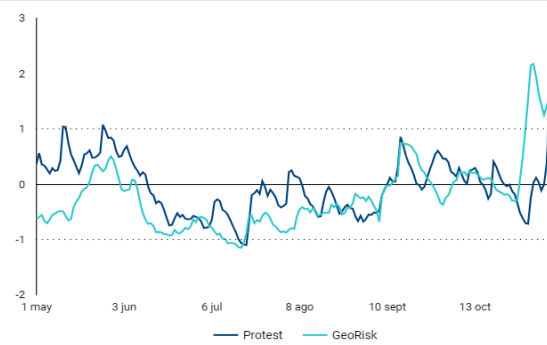
- While **political tensions indicator** eased in the **US** after the elections, the **conflict** indicator remains high and has increased over the last week (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). In **Ukraine and Russia**, conflict indicators also remain in the high risk area (Fig. 3).
- In **Spain**, following the DANA phenomenon and the public’s reaction to the political management of the flooding, **social unrest** and **geopolitical risk** indicators rose to the high risk area (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).
- In **Venezuela**, the **political tensions** indicator has risen again to the high-risk level (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).

Fig1. **POLITICAL TENSION & CONFLICT: US**  
(28-day weighted moving avg, normalized by its own history)



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

Fig2. **GEOPOLITICAL RISK & UNREST: SPAIN**  
(28-day weighted moving avg, normalized by its own history)



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

\*The selection of news has been enriched by the BBVA Research Geo Assistant developed with Chat-GPT.

Fig3. **BBVA RESEARCH GEOPOLITICS MONITOR "SIGNAL" CHANGES**

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

**BBVA Research Geopolitics Monitor main "Signal" changes after the Hamas-Israel Conflict**

Summary of Signals After Hamas-Israel Conflict (October 29th, 2024)  
(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)



Source: BBVA Research

Summary of Signals After Hamas-Israel Conflict November 12th, 2024)  
(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)

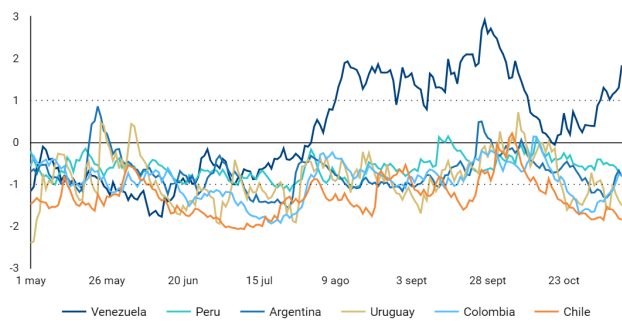


Source: BBVA Research

Source: BBVA Research and [www.qdelt.org](http://www.qdelt.org).

Fig4. **POLITICAL TENSIONS INDEX: LATIN AMERICA**

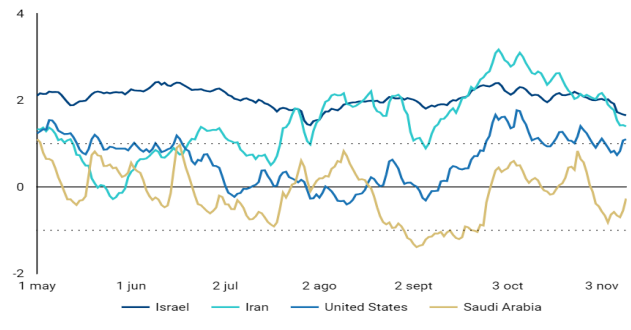
(28-day weighted moving avg, normalized by its own history)



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

Fig5. **CONFLICT INDEX: ISRAEL, IRAN, US, SA**

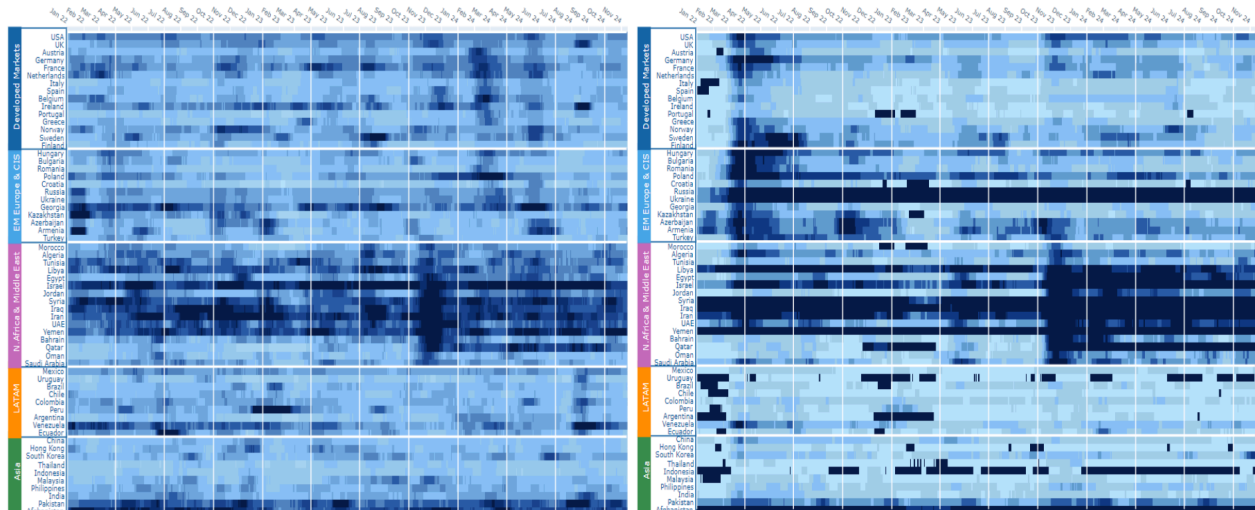
(28-day weighted moving avg, normalized by its own history)



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

Fig6. **BBVA RESEARCH PROTEST AND CONFLICT HEAT MAPS**

(Evolution of Protest and Conflict over time by regions)



Source: BBVA Research and [www.qdelt.org](http://www.qdelt.org).

## 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 Schrodt (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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