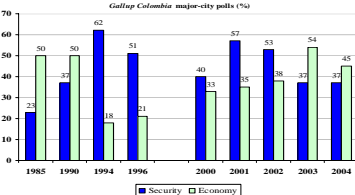


• The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes by violence in Colombia decreased by 42% (from 199,168 to 114,916) during Jan-Oct 2004 compared to Jan-Oct 2003.¹



• The number of people wounded (*herido*) and killed (*muerto*) by anti-personnel land mines (MAP) and abandoned explosives (MASE) in Colombia decreased during Jan-Oct 2004 compared to Jan-Oct 2003. The number wounded decreased 6% (from 463 to 433) and the number killed decreased 6% (from 146 to 137).¹



Economy Now Most Serious Problem: According to *Gallop Colombia*, economic issues (unemployment, the economy, the cost of living) have overtaken security (45% to 37%) as the public's main problem. Lower classes place greater focus on the economy as its top concern (49% vs. 35% security), while the upper-middle and upper classes' top concern remains security (46% vs. 33% for the economy).²

Source: ¹ Programa Presidencial de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Internacional Humanitario, "Indicadores Comparados sobre la situación de Derechos Humanos en Colombia Octubre de 2004", 25 Nov 2004, <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/observatorio/indicadores/2004/octubre/indicadoresoctubre.pdf>; ² US Dept of State, Office of Research, Opinion Analysis Report M-144-04, 19 Nov 04.

Overall Crime Reduction Results

	Jan-Oct 03 ¹	Jan-Oct 04 ¹	% CHG
Homicides	19663	17130	-13%
Massacre Events	75	42	-44%
Massacre Victims	417	234	-44%
Kidnappings (Total)	2003	1159	-42%
Extortive Kidnappings	1329	588	-56%
Illegal Road Blocks	73	28	-62%
Road Block Kidnappings	289	81	-72%
Highway Robberies	1305	762	-42%
Bank Robberies	151	83	-45%
Residential Robberies	13713	12414	-10%
Commercial Robberies	10939	9675	-12%
Personal Theft	26902	23431	-13%
Motorcycle Thefts	9000	7431	-17%
Vehicle Thefts	11840	8993	-24%
Civilians Assassinated by Terrorists & Violent Criminals	892	795	-11%

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 9 Nov 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_octubre_2004.pdf

Colombia Progress Info Sheet Dec 2004 Update

Counter Narcotics Results

Seizures	Jan-Oct 03 ¹	Jan-Oct 04 ¹	% CHG
Cocaine (Kg)	92600	132300	+43%
Heroin (Kg)	368	633	+72%
Marijuana (Kg)	104029	132958	+28%
Traffickers	39412	57249	+45%
Drug Labs	1228	1690	+38%
Weapons	291	1038	+257%
Ammo (rnds)	5116	32043	+526%
Vehicles	504	1106	+119%
Boats	141	365	+159%
Airplanes destroyed	5	17	+240%
Poppy Sprayed (ha)	2530	3053	+21%

• 450 peasants from the municipalities in Sotara in Cauca and Isnos in Huila have traded in their poppy crops to grow tree tomatoes for the Colombian Massif Fruit Company, Frutimacizo. The project has received US\$2.55M to plant 750 hectares of tree tomatoes as part of the alternative development strategy that complements the military aspects of Plan Colombia. One peasant in Isnos expressed his satisfaction with being able to get away from the poppy crops.²

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 9 Nov 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_octubre_2004.pdf; ² *Call El Pais*, 21 Nov 04.

Counter Terrorism Results

Terrorists	Jan-Oct 03 ¹	Jan-Oct 04 ¹	% CHG
Captured	8659	9651	+11%
KIA	1900	2155	+13%
Demob/Deserters	1934	2489	+29%
Firearms Seized	5399	7581	+40%
Grenades Seized	6931	10898	+57%
Boats Seized	51	69	+35%
Terrorist Attacks on:			
Oil Pipelines ²	69 ²	58 ²	-16%
Trade Unionists Killed ³	44 ³	30 ³	-32%
Local Councilmen Killed ³	63 ³	16 ³	-75%
Indigenous Natives Killed ³	143 ³	72 ³	-50%
Electric Pylons	307	112	-64%
Commo Towers	19	2	-90%
Towns	5	1	-80%
Bridges	30	6	-80%
All Terrorist Attacks	1125	657	-42%

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 9 Nov 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_octubre_2004.pdf; ² [Jan-Sep periods only] Ecopetrol, Security Unit Report, "Atentados Terroristas" 4 Oct 04, www.ecopetrol.com.co; ³ Programa Presidencial de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Internacional Humanitario, "Indicadores Comparados sobre la situación de Derechos Humanos en Colombia Octubre de 2004", 25 Nov 2004, <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/observatorio/indicadores/2004/octubre/indicadoresoctubre.pdf>

Economic & Results [US\$1 ≈ 2500 COL pesos]



• Colombian Navy has launched a new armored riverine vessel equipped with a helicopter pad and a modern propulsion system that needs no propeller. Built at a cost of approximately \$4 million, it is equipped with radars and grenade launchers and can carry 100 men. ¹

• COLMOD budget and troop strength will continue to increase in 2005. 16,000 more troops will be recruited next year, for a total increase of 95,000 troops since President Uribe took office. A total of 5,184 peasant soldiers will be recruited to form 144 new detachments; these will cover 158 additional municipalities. At the end of 2005, fighting strength (soldiers and police officers) will be 374,125 troops, 34% more than the 278,796 that existed in July 2002. The central defense budget approved by the Congress for 2005 (US\$3.68B) represents a 7% increase over 2004, and a 13.3% increase over the 2003 budget. Next year, 3 new mobile brigades will also be created, making 15 created during the Uribe administration to date. One new high mountain battalion will be created, for a total of 7, and 8 new police mobile squadrons will be formed, complementing the 46 that already exist. 12,000 radios will be purchased to replace the ones in counter-guerrilla units, and 8,006 radios will be purchased to equip the mobile brigades created this year and the detachments of peasant soldiers. There will also be a significant purchase of ammunition, grenades, machine guns, telescopic sights, mortars, night vision equipment, and grenade launchers. US\$13.36M will be allocated for maintenance and repair of UH-60 (Black Hawk) and MI-17 helicopters. ^{2,3}

• The President's Office has cut operating and investment expenses by 26% over the past 2 years, and payroll is down by 16%. The budget for the Office went from US\$382.7M in 2002 to US\$321.6M in 2003 to US\$239.3M in 2004. ⁴

• Colombia's unemployment rate in the third quarter dipped to 12.8%, 1.5% lower than a year ago. This means 323,000 fewer unemployed than in Oct 2003. ⁵

• Colombia has a trade surplus of US\$493M, with overseas sales up by 37% in August. Exports rose by 20% in the first eight months of 2004 while imports grew 17%. The US remains the primary destination for Colombian products at 40% of the total, followed by the Andean Community (18%). Exports to Venezuela jumped 134% Jan-Aug totaling \$906M. ⁶ [Note: *USEMB-Bogotá, Econ Section, 7 Dec 04, states trade surplus Jan-July was US\$333.4M, and exports to VEN Jan-July were US\$731M, an increase of 124% (personal communication)*]

• Tax collection has increased 21% during the first 10 months of 2004. In August 2002 (when Uribe took office) there were 395,000 taxpayers in Colombia, whereas by October 2004 that number was 682,000. ⁷

• DAS is establishing 300 special shock troops, organized into 12 comandos, to go after guerrilla leaders. The troops were selected in a rigorous competition among 700 detectives. The cost of setting up the program with training, infrastructure, weapons and intelligence equipment is US\$5M. DAS plans 8 additional commando groups by the end of 2005, costing another US\$2M. The groups will have MP 5 submachine guns, 12 gauge shotguns, .40-cal pistols, bulletproof vests, night visors, GPS equipment, and sharpshooter rifles. One aim is to take prisoners alive because their information is valuable. ⁸

Source: ¹ Bogotá *Caracol Television*, 29 Nov 04; ² Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 29 Oct 04; ³ MSG AMEMBASSY BOGOTA, DTG: 041907Z NOV 04; ⁴ Bogotá *Portafolio*, 29 Oct 04; ⁵ Bogotá *Portafolio*, 1 Nov 04; ⁶ Bogotá *Portafolio*, 4 Nov 04; ⁷ GOC News *SNE*, 30 Nov 04; ⁸ Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 5 Nov 04.