

Editorial

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A retrospective analysis of the relationship between economy and health

There is no dichotomy, neither classical, nor neoclassical, nor Keynesian, much less associated with any current of the known economic school, on the *trade-off* between health and economy. Health, from economic theory, is considered a pure public good, a service available to society; its use by some does not imply the exclusion of said good for others who can use it. From a practical perspective, this implies possible access restrictions that may arise at some point. Two examples of countries that favored economics over health under the premise of having robust health systems with the best equipment in Science, Technology and Innovation, and greater spending on Research and Development, were the United States and the United Kingdom, who now suffer the consequences of certain decisions made at the time. Table 1 and Figure 1 summarize some of the indicators for a number of selected countries.

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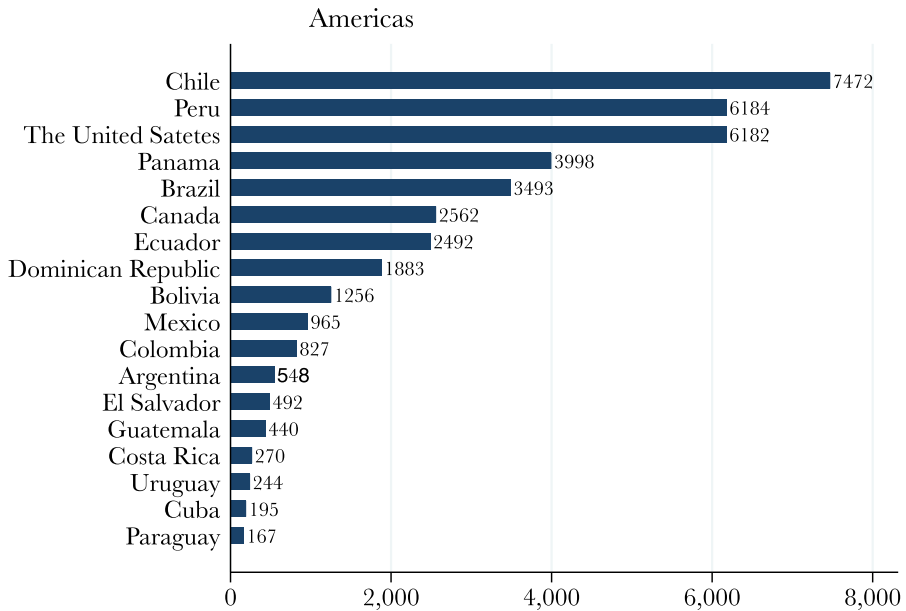
Table 1. Coronavirus cases and deaths per million inhabitants selected countries

Country	Cases	Deaths	GDP*
United States	6141	346	-4.8
Spain	5210	580	-5.2
Sweden	5043	483	0.1
United Kingdom	4325	612	-2.0
Italy	3914	567	-5.3
Brazil	3899	197	-1.5
Colombia	921	30	-2.4

* First quarter of 2020.

Source: World Reports (2020).

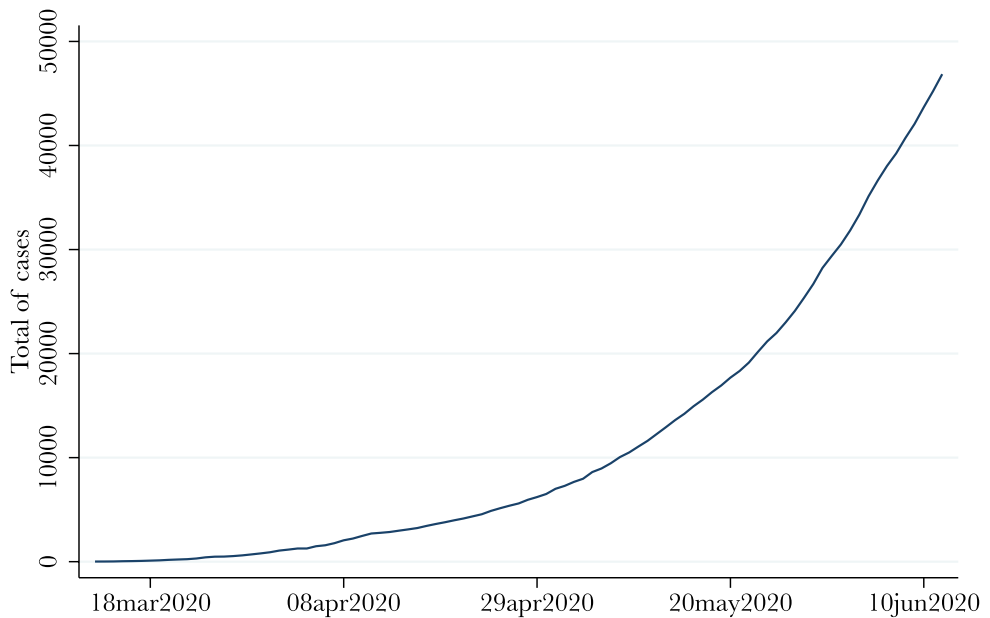
Figure 1. Coronavirus cases per million inhabitants



Source: own elaboration based on World Reports (2020).

At the beginning of the declaration of the pandemic, Colombia took a long time to make the decision for having the economy as fundamental variable and favoring a few interests as the evidence has shown in recent years. For those who continue to propose providing a series of structural conditions to the Colombian health system to launch the economy, the invitation is to review in detail and without pro-business biases, under the monetary illusion of keeping jobs (Colombia is an obvious case of informality), the damage caused by having a large number of infected population (figure 2). The cost-benefit analysis equation shows that the costs assumed by companies are much higher by having infected workers and by assuming the financial risk of having workers working without the proper biosecurity elements.

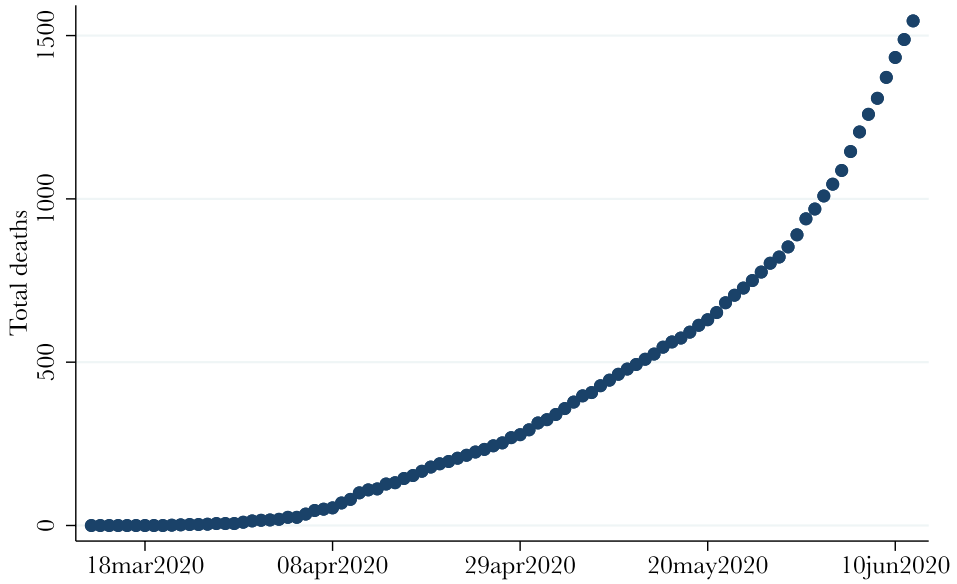
Figure 2. Total number of coronavirus cases in Colombia (March-June 2020)



Source: own elaboration based on World Reports (2020).

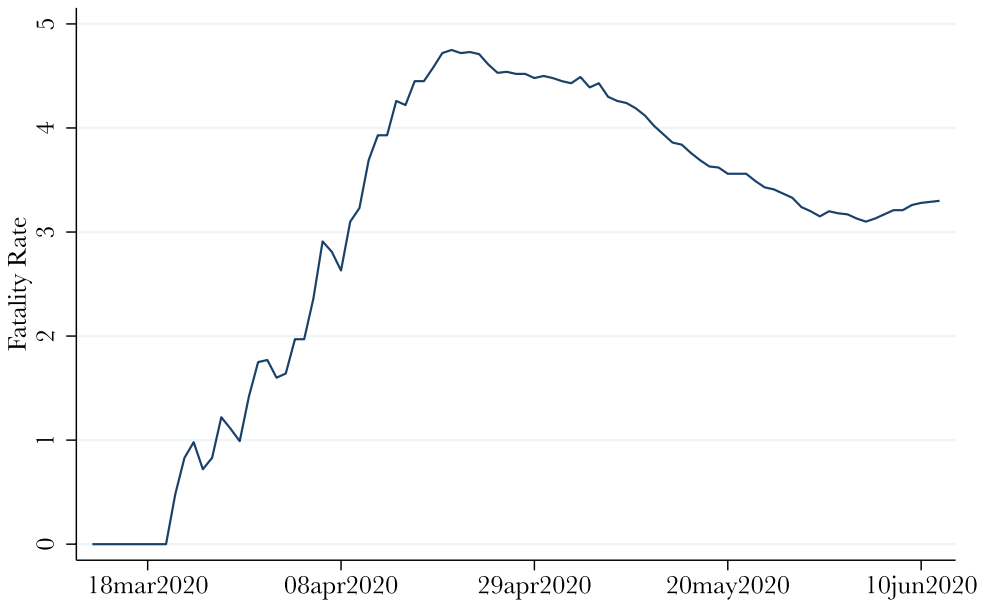
The data trend shows an increasing and significant relationship between the cases and the total deaths due to the coronavirus for the Colombian case, from its beginning to mid-June 2020 (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total deaths of coronavirus in Colombia (March-June 2020)



Source: own elaboration based on World Reports (2020).

Figure 4. Evolution of the coronavirus fatality rate in Colombia (March-June 2020)



Source: own elaboration based on World Reports (2020).

This is reflected in the indicator of the case fatality rate for the analysis period (Figure 4). As can be seen, the trend both at the beginning and at the end was upward. Several facts explain the trend variations. Measures without adequate rigor for certain sectors to return to work without complying with biosecurity measures help explain these trends. The day without VAT, as well as the lack of public awareness of the seriousness of the situation, that is, full commitment of the community, is the weak link in the chain, as are many of the measures taken. What definitely helps slow down the outbreak is using behavioral science appropriately and using science and its plausible results as a source of information. This suggests having a level of education in accordance with the information received and its critical analysis.

This new issue of the journal *Revista CIFE: Lecturas de Economía Social* brings a new series of research on various related topics. The research work of Sossa and Navarro (2020) determines the relationship between growth, economic complexity and CO₂ emissions for the Colombian case, for which an ANFIS model is used and as robustness analysis. In addition, traditional time series techniques (FMOLS, DOLS and CCR) are used, resulting in a novelty to determine these new relationships.

The article by Gámez, Aguirre and Sánchez (2020) analyzes the management of SMEs and entrepreneurship; it shows that in general the good performance in achieving benefits for the development of business activity in the Bogota industry is obtained by the interrelation of several criteria, among which are productivity levels.

Gómez's (2020) research entitled "Effects of the productive structure on the economic growth of cities in the central region of Mexico during the period 1998-2013" reveals that smaller cities specialize in low value-added sectors, while the larger ones have maintained their specialization in modern industrial sectors and in high value-added services with a tendency to diversify. In this work, the *productive diversification* variable plays a primary role in these results for the sample of cities studied.

On the other hand, Laverde and Bautista (2020) analyze the effects and impacts of electronic invoicing on the accounting professional, the results of which argue that the accounting profession is revitalized due to the automation of information and that, in the short and medium-term, this generates more technical work according to the researchers.

Vaca and Vaca (2020) analyze the distribution of income in Mexico and its evolution throughout the 21st century. In their document they affirm that the social spending strategies implemented by the Mexican Government have not been entirely effective in achieving the desired objectives.

Finally, the work by Cabrapan (2020) proposes the conceptualization of sexual-affective economies to expand the restricted universe to that of the market economy to which the sex market is usually reduced, for which the oil context of Argentine Patagonia is used to determine the different dynamics of a poorly analyzed market.

We hope this new edition will be a contribution to new ways of approaching recent research.

