

# When will Venezuelans Regain Access to the Internet and Power Grid?

March 12, 2019

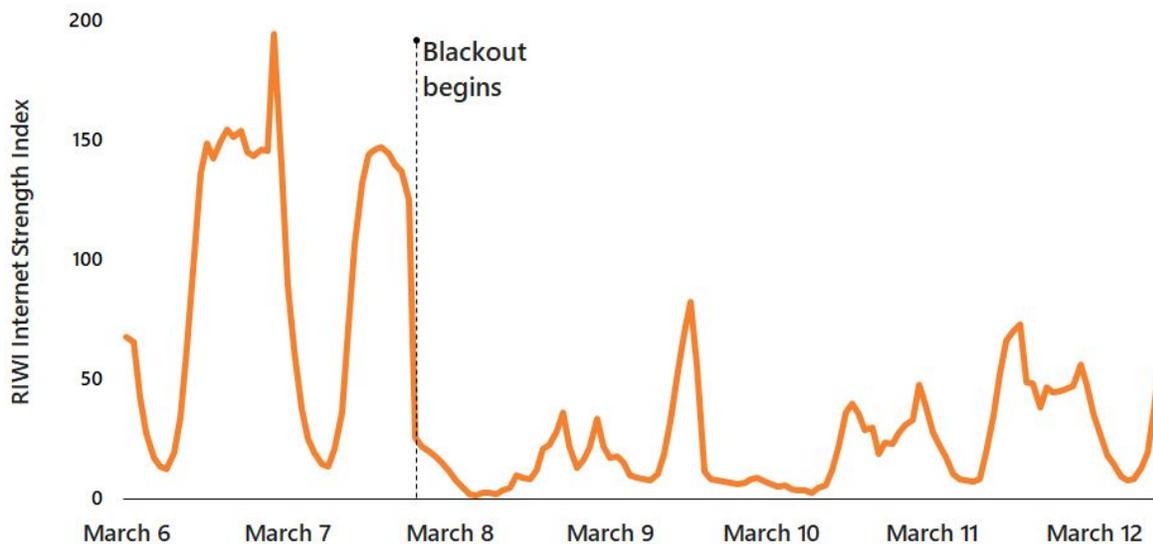
**Update April 5, 2019:** RIWI tracking indicates that Internet outbound traffic in Venezuela is now at about 52 percent of peak operating levels.

Amid the political, social, and economic crisis, an outage in Venezuela’s largest power plant has left millions of Venezuelans without power since Thursday, March 7th. It is difficult to gather reliable, up-to-date data about precisely how much power there is, where the power is or isn’t coming back, and how quickly it will be restored. RIWI’s real-time data on Web outbound traffic from Venezuela suggests that the country continues to suffer from a major disruption, with a small improvement on March 11 and 12.

## Internet outbound traffic data at one-quarter of pre-blackout strength (March 12)

RIWI has data on outbound traffic of Web activity from Venezuela on an hourly basis since March 6. The March 6 data provide a baseline for what normal Internet outbound traffic in the country looks like, so we can get a sense of how quickly such traffic is coming back. This provides a possible proxy for power availability in real-time.<sup>1</sup>

## Venezuela Internet outbound traffic



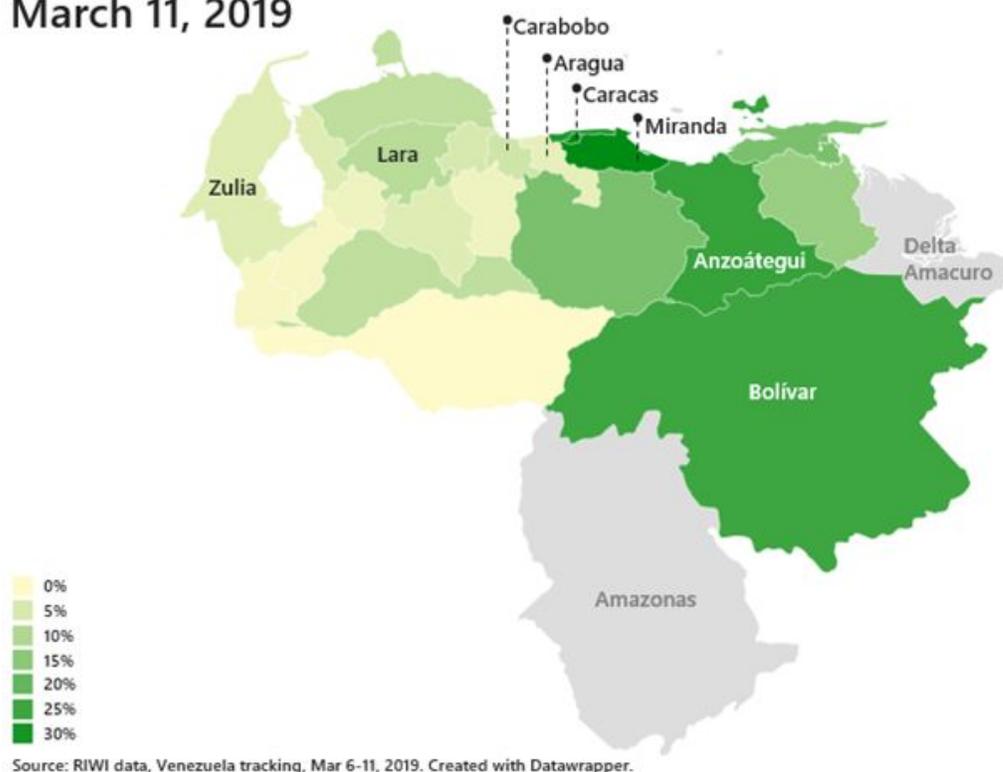
Note: RIWI’s Internet Strength Index is based on RIWI data on Internet outbound traffic. The value of 100 on the Strength Index represents the average Internet outbound traffic over 24 hours March 6.

<sup>1</sup> Our data provide a similar signal to that of the IP Observatory which has been using different methods to observe the availability of the Venezuelan Internet space.

The data show normal daily Internet outbound traffic before March 7, with daytime surges and nighttime calm periods. There is then an abrupt drop in Internet outbound traffic on March 7th, in line with the outage. Internet outbound traffic did not completely stop after March 7th, according to these data, suggesting the blackout has been partial. We see surges in daytime activity some days after March 7, and by March 12 the Internet outbound traffic is at a quarter of its pre-blackout activity.

### Internet recovery slow and uneven

## Percent of pre-blackout Internet strength in Venezuela, March 11, 2019



How quickly is Internet outbound traffic coming back on by region relative to pre-blackout? We find evidence that Venezuela’s Internet outbound traffic starting to come back, but is still weak compared to baseline activity pre-March 7. Comparing March 11 data to the pre-blackout data, the eastern states show 20-30% of their pre-blackout outbound traffic. The Western states continue to operate below 10 percent of their pre-blackout outbound traffic.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Note: Data from Amazonas, Delta Amacuro and Dependencias Federal are insufficient and have not been included in the map.



To access ongoing real-time data from Venezuela, or to learn more about RIWI's Web-disruption trackers in all countries, please contact:

Danielle Goldfarb, Head, Global Research, RIWI Corp.

1-888-505-RIWI (7494) | [www.riwi.com](http://www.riwi.com)

[daniellegoldfarb@riwi.com](mailto:daniellegoldfarb@riwi.com)

### **About RIWI Technology**

RIWI is a global trend-tracking and prediction company that is a leader in data quality, privacy, and security (see [here](#) for more information). The technology is used extensively and under long-term agreements by the US State Department and other G7 government agencies, the World Bank, UN agencies, academics at Universities such as Harvard and Oxford, and by global financial institutions.

RIWI emerged to solve a public policy challenge. A government agency found existing methods to track the public's response to pandemics unreliable, lagging reality, and not globally comparable. RIWI's technology responded with a highly reliable signal, available in real-time, that can be compared across countries simultaneously. Since then, RIWI's proprietary technology has continued to track epidemics including Zika and Ebola, and has been extended far beyond to track a broad range of social and economic issues, including Web disruption, in all countries.

For more on RIWI's award-winning technology and its applications, see: <https://riwi.com>.