



1. Types of tax

From a domestic perspective, taxation on donation and inheritance is regulated at state and municipal levels. Rates might vary depending on the location where the transaction is concluded.

As a general rule, the (law of the place) principle should regulate transactions involving real states' rights, but Brazilian courts should keep exclusive jurisdiction to conduct the estate proceedings and to distribute the deceased's assets located in Brazil.

The Brazilian system does not discriminate against national and foreign property owners who are members of different religions or nationalities or any foreigners who do not reside in Brazil.

1.1. Inheritance tax

There is no inheritance tax in Brazil.

1.2. Gift tax

There is no gift tax in Brazil.

1.3. Real estate transfer tax

There is no real estate transfer tax in Brazil.

1.4. Endowment tax

There is no endowment tax in Brazil.

1.5. Transfer duty

State tax on *causa mortis* wealth transfer (referred to as ITCMD)

Heritage rights should be exempted from income taxation in the country of residence. However, state tax on *causa mortis* wealth transfer (referred to as ITCMD) should be enforceable to surviving family members residing in Brazil, or to the donee. The ITCMD is a state tax on transfers of goods on death-related inventories or donations, which is payable on movable and immovable property (e.g., real estate or cash lump sums). Nevertheless, it is important to mention that the maximum applicable rate is capped at 8%.

On the other hand, while alive, the owner may freely gift his or her Brazilian property to anyone. The transfer of real estate between people or land is subject to the Imposto de Transmissão de Bens Imóveis por Ato Oneroso *Inter Vivos* (referred to as ITBI), which is a municipal tax levied on transfers of real estate and rights to real estate. The rates that should apply on such taxation vary from city to city in Brazil and the ITBI should be calculated based on the good's value. However, the rates must respect the principle of non-confiscation, stipulating non-abusive rates (e.g., the rate in Rio de Janeiro is from 0.5% to 2% of the real estate value).

In this sense, the property may be given freely by the owner to anyone, prior to his or her death, provided that it fulfills the following assumptions:

- ▶ All taxes involved are duly paid.
- ▶ The transfer is made by a notary public if it involves real estate (under Brazilian law, ownership of real estate is only obtained after registration of the deed with the Real Estate Registry).
- ▶ The gift made between ascendants and descendants or spouses is construed as an advance payment of inheritance.
- ▶ The person who made the gift has separated some properties or income sufficient for his or her subsistence.

Tax assessment

The procedures, deadlines and rates vary between the Brazilian states and cities. For a general overview, we have listed below information about São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

In São Paulo, ITCMD should levy:

- ▶ *Causa mortis* transfers: tax should be paid within 30 days after the decision that ratifies the calculation or after the order that determines its payment, since this term does not exceed 180 days from the start of the succession process.
- ▶ Gift transfers: tax should be collected before the conclusion of the act or contract. In the case of sharing or division of common property, when due, the tax is paid within 15 days of decision *res judicata* or prior to the issuance of the notary registration.
- ▶ Transfers made in accordance to judicial order, due to court decision or outside the state: tax should be paid within 30 days from the term signature date, the decision *res judicata* or the conclusion of the act or contract.

In Rio de Janeiro, ITCMD should levy:

- ▶ *Causa mortis* transfers: tax should be paid within 60 days after the decision that ratifies the calculation.
- ▶ Temporary succession: six months after the sentence has been handed down to determine their openness.
- ▶ In the donation of property or rights relating to it, if its donation instrument is drawn up in another state, the ITCMD must be paid before the presentation to the public registry jurisdiction within the territory of Rio de Janeiro.

In São Paulo, ITBI should levy:

- ▶ Before the conclusion of the act or contract, if it is a public instrument.
- ▶ Within 10 days if the act or contract is affected by a private instrument or in the transmission made by a court decision, as of the *res judicata* of this decision, or as of the date of the calculation homologation, whichever happens first.

In Rio de Janeiro, ITBI should levy:

- ▶ Within 30 days from the date specified in the instrument for the actual payment of the total price of the asset, under penalty of fines and other penalties.

Determination of the tax basis

The tax legislation of the 27 federal states (including the Federal District) contains specific provisions on the valuation of assets transferred as well as on tax rates to apply. Reference needs to be made to the local cantonal rules in any particular case.

1.6. Net wealth tax

There is no net wealth tax in Brazil.



2. Who is liable?

2.1. Residency

For ITCMD and ITBI please refer to the answers above.

2.2. Domicile

For ITCMD and ITBI please refer to the answers above.

3. Rates

The rates vary depending on each of the 27 states.

4. Exemptions and reliefs

State legislations should be observed regarding the possibility of tax exemption. In some cases, there may be no tax incidence (ITCMD) depending on the value of the property to be transferred or even the conditions under which the will is transmitted and who is the beneficiary.

5. Filing procedures

The filing procedures vary depending on each of the 27 states and cities.

6. Assessments and valuations

These vary depending on each of the 27 states and cities.

7. Trusts, foundations and private purpose funds

A trust is an arrangement whereby ownership of private assets and rights (cash, liquid assets, real estate properties and movable rights) is transferred from an original owner (grantor) to a third party (trustee), who assumes full responsibility of managing those assets under the exclusive best interest of persons (beneficiaries or cestui que trust) expressly indicated by the grantor or by the trustee in the trust deed.

The wealth given in trust is protected by mandatory fiduciary obligations to be performed by the trustee (management and loyalty). Moreover, it does not include the trustee's personal wealth, and therefore, is not subject to his, her or its private judicial demands in the case of insolvency.

Depending on the trust deed conditions, the wealth given in trust may be returned to the grantor upon revocation (revocable trust) or be subject to distribution to its beneficiaries upon death or in the case that the trustee decides to discontinue its activities (irrevocable trust). In the first case, the grantor may be subject to capital gains tax (CGT) if the total amount is returned in excess of the original amount. If that is the case, tax impacts may arise in the country where the beneficiaries are domiciled.



The concept of trusts does not exist in Brazilian civil and tax legislation. However, the Brazilian regulation does not restrict local individuals from the possibility of constituting or participating in offshore structures, even when constituted under the jurisdiction of tax havens, as long as the capital invested and the corresponding share participation are duly declared with the relevant Brazilian authorities (Brazilian Revenue Services (RFB) and Brazilian Central Bank (BACEN)).

There is still a gray area on the tax impacts to resident taxpayers who participate or get nominated to benefit from offshore structures, especially in relation to trust arrangements incorporated offshore. To this extent, even the performance of tax reporting obligations (i.e., annual income tax and BACEN returns) is unclear.

Beneficiary taxation

If the trust deed foresees that the wealth given in trust should be distributed to surviving family members upon the death of the grantor (revocable trust), the benefits received by the implementation of such conditions may trigger CGT at 15% to resident taxpayers in the case that the benefit is paid in excess of the value-to-date amount recorded in the Brazilian tax return and estate tax (ITCMD) on the gross benefit.

In relation to the irrevocable trust, the wealth distribution to beneficiaries upon the death of the grantor should be deemed a donation from abroad and taxed accordingly.

It is important to note that taxation on donations is regulated by the Brazilian Federal Constitution. According to Article 155, I, Section 10, only complementary law should provide for the incidence of tax on donations when the donor resides outside of the country. In that specific case, the donations (if any) will be made by an offshore trust.

However, whenever due, the responsible party for collecting the ITCMD is the donee (resident taxpayer). The payment should be made on the date the donation is received. Late payment or non-compliance will trigger fines of 20% on the balance due in the case of insufficient compliance.

8. Grants

Grantor taxation

The constitution of an offshore trust may defer taxation to resident taxpayers on an ongoing basis, but it does not discharge them from income taxation at the time they effectively appraise an economic benefit from it. Ordinary income tax rates should apply.

Accordingly, local liability should be calculated via “Carnê-Leão” at up to 27.5% on a cash basis regime. It constitutes a personal liability to calculate and collect the resulting tax balance to the Brazilian authorities. Payment should be made by the last working day of the month following the month in which the income was received through a special tax voucher called DARF under code 190.

Non-resident taxpayers are subject to income taxation on Brazilian-sourced income at a flat rate of 25%. Under such a condition, benefits from an offshore trust should be primarily exempted from income taxation in the country.

Corporate taxation

Corporate taxation impacts associated with offshore structures should be analyzed by a tax professional with experience in the legislation of the country in which the trust arose.



9. Life insurance

Life insurance is a contract between a person (the insured) and an insurance company. The insured agrees to pay periodic values (the premium) and in return, the insurer guarantees the payment of compensation to persons appointed by the insured in the insurance proposal. This compensation is paid only in the case of the death of the insured. The person who is nominated for this value is called the beneficiary.

The right to receive payment arising from life insurance is not part of the assets that comprise the heritage of the insured, by express provision of the Brazilian Civil Code (Article 794).

Also, there are no income taxes on the life insurance premium received in Brazil.

10. Civil law on succession

This is not applicable in Brazil.

11. Estate tax treaties

Brazil has not concluded any estate tax treaties in connection with inheritance tax with other countries.



Contacts

São Paulo

Ernst & Young Terco
Condomínio São Luiz
Avenida Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek, 1830
Torre I – 5-10 and 13, Torre II – Floors 5-7 and 10
Itaim Bibi
São Paulo
04543-900
Brazil

Washington Coelho

washington.coelho@br.ey.com
+5 511 2573 3446

Marcos Hirashima

marcos.hirashima@br.ey.com
+5 511 2573 3590

Tatiana Ponte

tatiana.ponte@br.ey.com
+5 511 2573 3288

Frederico H. God

frederico.h.god@br.ey.com
+55 11 2573 3232