

Fires in the Amazon



September 5, 2019

An aerial photograph showing a massive forest fire. A thick plume of white and grey smoke billows upwards from the burning area, which is visible as a dark, smoky haze. The surrounding forest is a mix of green and brown, indicating areas already affected by the fire. A single yellow line marks a path or boundary on the left side of the frame.

https://youtu.be/wnUWCEhw7_k

The Amazon in Brazil is on fire - how bad is it?

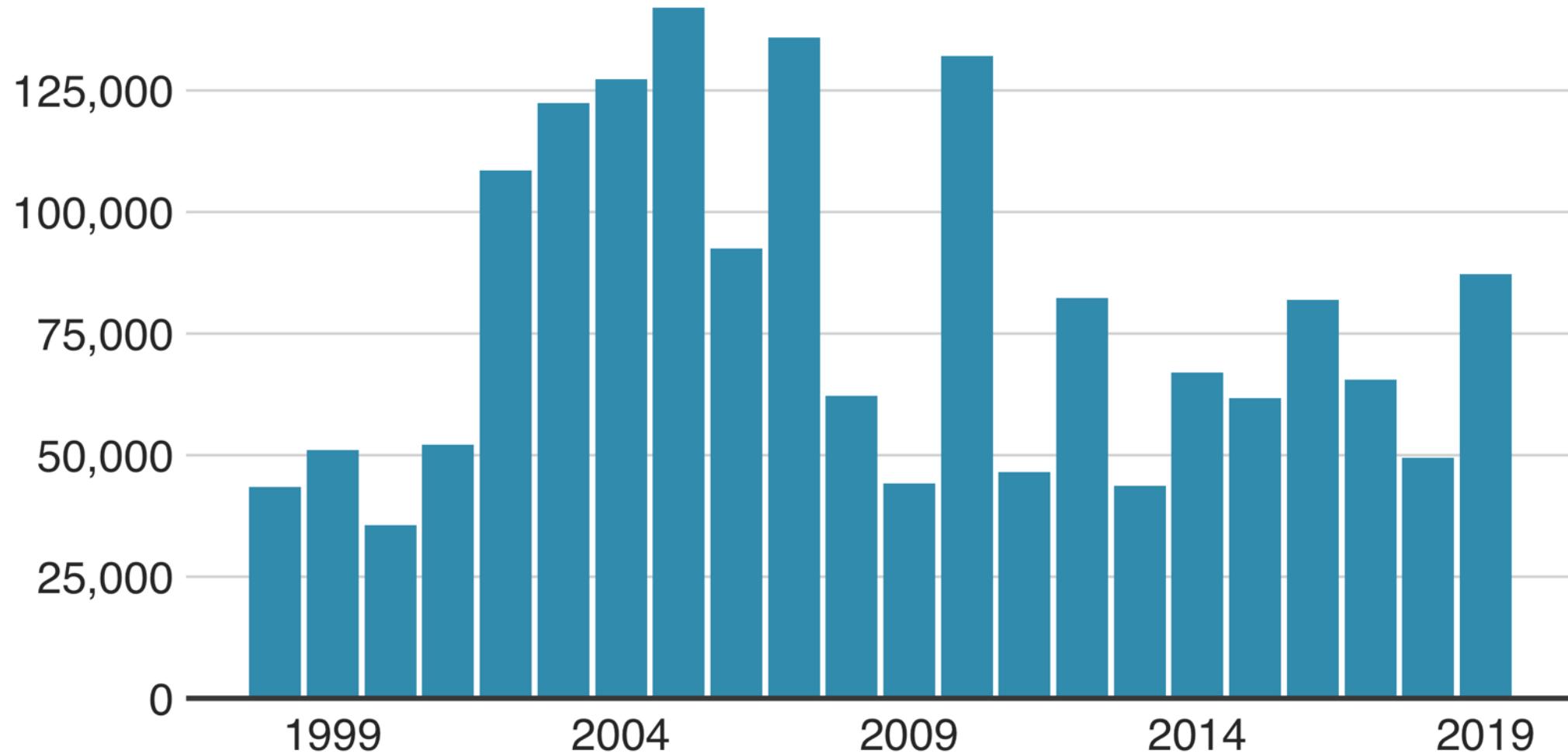
By The Visual and Data Journalism Team
BBC News

⌚ 30 August 2019



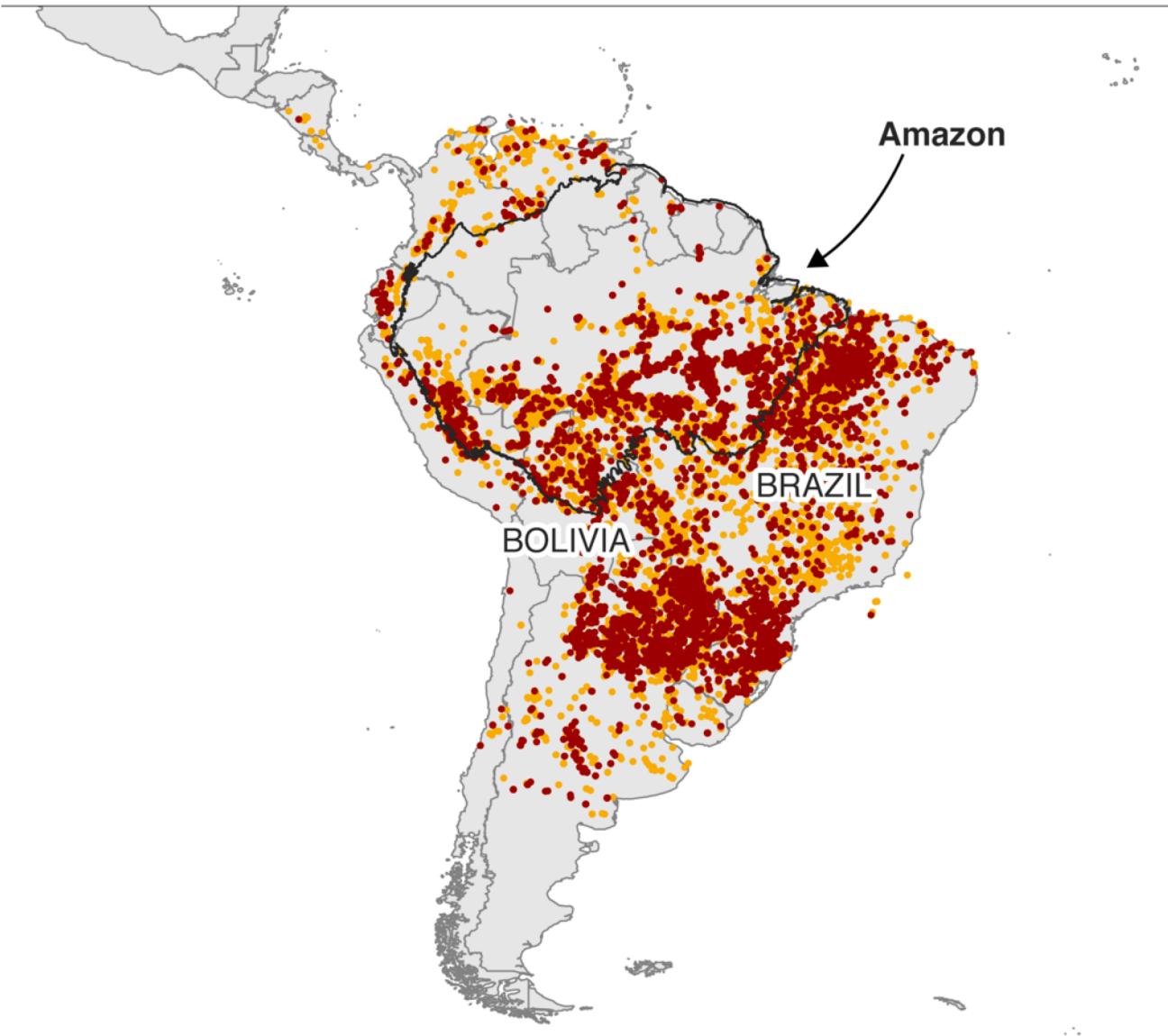
This year has seen the highest number of fires in Brazil since 2010

Total number of fires, 1 January - 29 August (1998-2019)



Thousands of fires burning in the Amazon

Fires active: ● in the past seven days ● in the past 48 hours



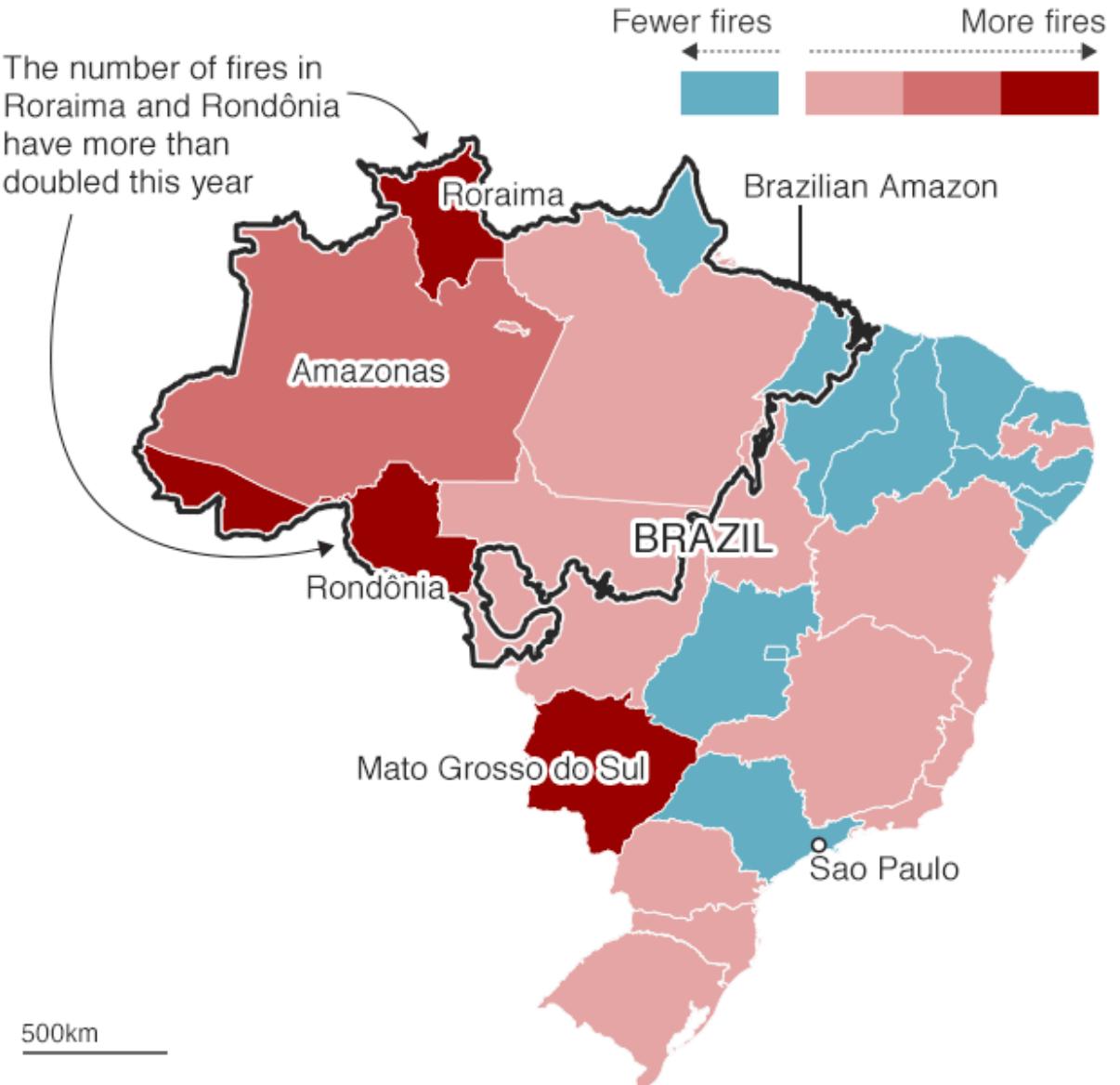
Note: Data correct to Friday 30 August, 11.00 GMT

Source: MODIS

BBC

More fires in the Brazilian Amazon this year

Percentage change in number of fires by state so far in 2019
compared with average over same period in 2015-2018



Slash and burn

- The act of cutting trees down and burning the remains to help fertilize the soil
- Typically a means to increase cattle grazing land
- Encouraged by new Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro to stimulate the economy



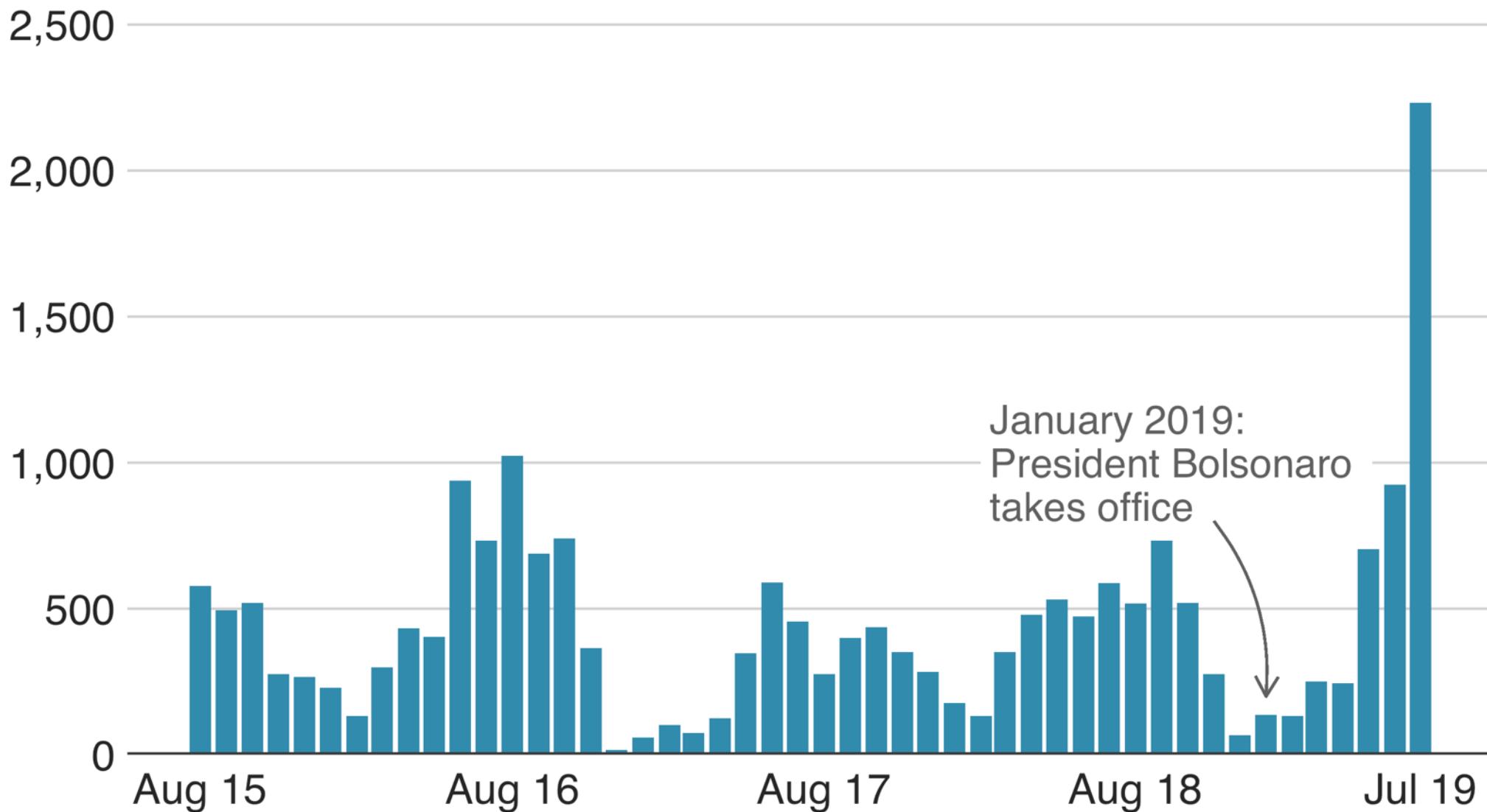
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Destruction in the Amazon

Monthly deforestation in sq km



Brazil is not the only country in the Amazon region experiencing a high number of fires

Total number of fires between 1 January - 29 August (2019)

