[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Brazil** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt) [Template:IPA-pt](/wiki/Template:IPA-pt) [[1]](#cite_note-1)), officially the **Federative Republic of Brazil** ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt), [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio)[[2]](#cite_note-2)), is the largest country in both [South America](/wiki/South_America) and [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America). As the world's fifth-largest country by both [area](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_total_area) and [population](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population), it is the largest country to have [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language) as an [official language](/wiki/List_of_territorial_entities_where_Portuguese_is_an_official_language)–and the only one in the Americas.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Brazil has a [coastline](/wiki/Coastline_of_Brazil) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[5]](#cite_note-5) It borders all other South American countries except Ecuador and Chile and covers 47.3% of the continent's land area.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Its [Amazon River basin](/wiki/Amazon_River_basin) includes a [vast tropical forest](/wiki/Amazon_rainforest), home to diverse [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife_of_Brazil), a variety of [ecological systems](/wiki/Environment_of_Brazil), and extensive natural resources spanning numerous [protected habitats](/wiki/Protected_areas_of_Brazil).[[5]](#cite_note-5) This unique environmental heritage makes Brazil one of 17 [megadiverse countries](/wiki/Megadiverse_countries), and is the subject of significant global interest and debate regarding deforestation and environmental protection.

Brazil was inhabited by [numerous tribal nations](/wiki/Indigenous_Brazilian) prior to the landing in 1500 of explorer [Pedro Álvares Cabral](/wiki/Pedro_Álvares_Cabral), who claimed the area for the [Portuguese Empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire). Brazil remained a [Portuguese colony](/wiki/Colonial_Brazil) until 1808, when the capital of the empire was [transferred from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Transfer_of_the_Portuguese_Court_to_Brazil). In 1815, the colony was elevated to the rank of kingdom upon the formation of the [United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Portugal,_Brazil_and_the_Algarves). [Independence](/wiki/Brazilian_Independence) was achieved in 1822 with the creation of the [Empire of Brazil](/wiki/Empire_of_Brazil), a unitary state governed under a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system. The ratification of the first constitution in 1824 led to the formation of a bicameral legislature, now called the [National Congress](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Brazil). The country [became a presidential republic](/wiki/Proclamation_of_the_Republic_(Brazil)) in 1889 following a military *coup d'état*. An authoritarian [military junta](/wiki/Brazilian_military_dictatorship) came to power [in 1964](/wiki/1964_Brazilian_coup_d'état) and ruled until 1985, after which civilian governance resumed. Brazil's current [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil), formulated in 1988, defines it as a [democratic](/wiki/Democracy) [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic).[[7]](#cite_note-7) The federation is composed of the union of the [Federal District](/wiki/Federal_District_(Brazil)), the 26 [states](/wiki/States_of_Brazil), and the 5,570 [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Brazil).

[Brazil's economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Brazil) is the world's ninth-[largest by nominal GDP](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)) and seventh-[largest by GDP (PPP)](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) A member of the [BRICS](/wiki/BRICS) group, Brazil until 2010 had one of the world's fastest growing major economies, with its economic reforms giving the country new international recognition and influence.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Brazil's [national development bank](/wiki/Brazilian_Development_Bank) plays an important role for the country's economic growth.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Brazil is a founding member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the [G20](/wiki/G-20_major_economies), [BRICS](/wiki/BRICS), [Unasul](/wiki/Union_of_South_American_Nations), [Mercosul](/wiki/Mercosur), [Organization of American States](/wiki/Organization_of_American_States), [Organization of Ibero-American States](/wiki/Organization_of_Ibero-American_States), [CPLP](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries), and the [Latin Union](/wiki/Latin_Union). Brazil is a [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power) in Latin America and a [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power) in international affairs,[[12]](#cite_note-12) with some analysts identifying it as an [emerging global power](/wiki/Emerging_power).[[13]](#cite_note-13) One of the world's major [breadbaskets](/wiki/Breadbasket), Brazil has been the largest [producer of coffee](/wiki/Coffee_production_in_Brazil) for the last 150 years.<ref name=Neilson102/>

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Pre-Cabraline era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 2.3 Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 2.4 Foreign policy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 2.5 Law enforcement and crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 2.6 Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 3 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 3.1 Components and energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 3.2 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 4 Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 4.1 Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 4.2 Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 4.3 Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 4.4 Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 4.5 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 4.6 Media and communication{{anchor|Media}}[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
* 5 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
  + 5.1 Race and ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
  + 5.2 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
  + 5.3 Urbanization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
  + 5.4 Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
* 6 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 6.1 Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 6.2 Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
  + 6.3 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 6.4 Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
  + 6.5 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
  + 6.6 National holidays[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
* 7 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
* 8 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
* 9 Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]
* 10 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]
* 11 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) One explanation for the country's name comes from the old Gaelic (Irish) tradition of a mythical island to the West called [Hy-Brasil or Brasil](/wiki/Brasil_(mythical_island)). Portuguese sailors would have heard of this tradition. It is likely that the word "Brazil" comes from the Portuguese word for [brazilwood](/wiki/Brazilwood), a tree that once grew plentifully along the Brazilian coast.[[14]](#cite_note-14) In Portuguese, brazilwood is called *pau-brasil*, with the word *brasil* commonly given the etymology "red like an ember", formed from Latin *brasa* ("ember") and the suffix *-il* (from *-iculum* or *-ilium*).[[15]](#cite_note-15) As brazilwood produces a deep red dye, it was highly valued by the European cloth industry and was the earliest commercially exploited product from Brazil.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Throughout the 16th century, massive amounts of brazilwood were harvested by [indigenous peoples](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Brazil) (mostly [Tupi](/wiki/Tupi_people)) along the Brazilian coast, who sold the timber to European traders (mostly Portuguese, but also French) in return for assorted European consumer goods.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The official Portuguese name of the land, in original Portuguese records, was the "Land of the Holy Cross" (*Terra da Santa Cruz*),[[18]](#cite_note-18) but European sailors and merchants commonly called it simply the "Land of Brazil" (*Terra do Brasil*) on account of the brazilwood trade.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The popular appellation eclipsed and eventually supplanted the official Portuguese name. Early sailors sometimes also called it the "Land of Parrots" (*Terra di Papaga*).[[20]](#cite_note-20) In the [Guarani language](/wiki/Guarani_language), an official language of [Paraguay](/wiki/Paraguay), Brazil is called "Pindorama". This was the name the indigenous population gave to the region, meaning "land of the palm trees".[[21]](#cite_note-21)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Pre-Cabraline era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Cromlech.jpg)[Megaliths](/wiki/Megalith) in the [Solstice Archaeological Park](/wiki/Amazon_Stonehenge), in [Amapá](/wiki/Amapá), erected between 500 and 2000 years ago, probably to carry out [astronomical](/wiki/Astronomical) observations. One of the earliest human remains found in the [Americas](/wiki/Americas), [Luzia Woman](/wiki/Luzia_Woman), were found in the area of [Pedro Leopoldo](/wiki/Pedro_Leopoldo), [Minas Gerais](/wiki/Minas_Gerais) and provide evidence of human habitation going back at least 11,000 years.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The earliest [pottery](/wiki/Pottery) ever found in the Western Hemisphere was excavated in the [Amazon basin](/wiki/Amazon_basin) of Brazil and [radiocarbon dated](/wiki/Radiocarbon_dating) to 8,000 years ago (6000 BC). The pottery was found near [Santarém](/wiki/Santarém,_Pará) and provides evidence that the tropical forest region supported a complex prehistoric culture.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[148]](#cite_note-148)[[149]](#cite_note-149) Judges and other judicial officials are appointed after passing entry exams.<ref name=embassy/> For most of its democratic history, Brazil has had a multi-party system, proportional representation. Voting is compulsory for the literate between 18 and 70 years old and optional for illiterates and those between 16 and 18 or beyond 70.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Together with several smaller parties, four political parties stand out: [Workers' Party](/wiki/Workers'_Party_(Brazil)) (PT), [Brazilian Social Democracy Party](/wiki/Brazilian_Social_Democracy_Party) (PSDB), [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party](/wiki/Brazilian_Democratic_Movement_Party) (PMDB) and [Democrats](/wiki/Democrats_(Brazil)) (DEM). Fifteen political parties are represented in Congress. It is common for politicians to switch parties, and thus the proportion of congressional seats held by particular parties changes regularly.[[150]](#cite_note-150) Almost all governmental and administrative functions are exercised by authorities and agencies affiliated to the Executive.

### Law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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Brazilian law is based on [Roman](/wiki/Roman_law)-[Germanic](/wiki/Germania)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification) traditions[[151]](#cite_note-151) and [civil law](/wiki/Civil_law_(legal_system)) concepts prevail over common law practice. Most of Brazilian law is codified, although non-codified statutes also represent a substantial part, playing a complementary role. Court decisions set out interpretive guidelines; however, they are seldom binding on other specific cases. Doctrinal works and the works of academic jurists have strong influence in law creation and in law cases.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Supremo_Brasil.jpg)[Supreme Federal Court of Brazil](/wiki/Supreme_Federal_Court_of_Brazil) serves primarily as the Constitutional Court of the country.

The legal system is based on the Federal Constitution, which was promulgated on 5 October 1988, and is the fundamental law of Brazil. All other legislation and court decisions must conform to its rules.[[152]](#cite_note-152) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), there have been 53 amendments. States have their own constitutions, which must not contradict the Federal Constitution.[[153]](#cite_note-153) Municipalities and the Federal District have "organic laws" ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), which act in a similar way to constitutions.[[154]](#cite_note-154) Legislative entities are the main source of statutes, although in certain matters judiciary and executive bodies may enact legal norms.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Jurisdiction is administered by the judiciary entities, although in rare situations the [Federal Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil) allows the Federal Senate to pass on legal judgments.[[7]](#cite_note-7) There are also specialized military, labor, and electoral courts.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The highest court is the [Supreme Federal Court](/wiki/Supreme_Federal_Court).

This system has been criticized over the last few decades for the slow pace of decision-making. Lawsuits on appeal may take several years to resolve, and in some cases more than a decade elapses before definitive rulings.[[155]](#cite_note-155) Nevertheless, the Supreme Federal Tribunal was the first court in the world to transmit its sessions on television, and also via [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube).[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157) More recently, in December 2009, the Supreme Court adopted [Twitter](/wiki/Twitter) to display items on the day planner of the ministers, to inform the daily actions of the Court and the most important decisions made by them.[[158]](#cite_note-158)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:US_Navy_100316-N-9116F-001_A_Brazilian_U.N._peacekeeper_walks_with_Haitian_children_during_a_patrol_in_Cite_Soleil.jpg)[Brazilian Army](/wiki/Brazilian_Army) participating in [UN peacekeeping](/wiki/UN_peacekeeping) mission in [Haiti](/wiki/Haiti). [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Sao_Paulo_at_sea_(11522051596).jpg)[NAe *São Paulo*](/wiki/Brazilian_aircraft_carrier_São_Paulo_(A12)), aircraft carrier of the [Brazilian Navy](/wiki/Brazilian_Navy). The armed forces of Brazil are the [second largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_military_and_paramilitary_personnel) in Latin America by active personnel and the largest in terms of military equipment.[[159]](#cite_note-159) It consists of the [Brazilian Army](/wiki/Brazilian_Army) (including the [Army Aviation Command](/wiki/Brazilian_Army_Aviation_Command)), the [Brazilian Navy](/wiki/Brazilian_Navy) (including the [Marine Corps](/wiki/Brazilian_Marine_Corps) and [Naval Aviation](/wiki/Brazilian_Naval_Aviation)), and the [Brazilian Air Force](/wiki/Brazilian_Air_Force). Brazil's [conscription](/wiki/Conscription) policy gives it one of the world's largest military forces, estimated at more than 1.6 million [reservist](/wiki/Military_Reserve) annually.[[160]](#cite_note-160) Numbering close to 236,000 active personnel,[[161]](#cite_note-161) the Brazilian Army has the largest number of armored vehicles in [South America](/wiki/South_America), including armored transports and [tanks](/wiki/Battle_tank)[[162]](#cite_note-162) It is also unique in Latin America for its large, elite forces specializing in unconventional missions, the [Brazilian Special Operations Command](/wiki/Brazilian_Special_Operations_Command),[[163]](#cite_note-163)[[164]](#cite_note-164)[[165]](#cite_note-165) and the versatile Strategic Rapid Action Force, made up of highly mobilized and prepared (Special Operations Brigade, [Infantry Brigade Parachutist](/wiki/Parachute_Infantry_Brigade_(Brazil)),[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[167]](#cite_note-167) 1st Jungle Infantry Battalion (Airmobile)[[168]](#cite_note-168) and 12th Brigade Light Infantry (Airmobile)[[169]](#cite_note-169) to act anywhere in the country, in short time, the external aggression hypothesis.[[170]](#cite_note-170) The states' [Military Police](/wiki/Military_Police_(Brazil)) and the [Military Firefighters Corps](/wiki/Military_Firefighters_Corps) are described as an ancillary forces of the Army by the constitution, but are under the control of each state's governor.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The Navy once operated some of the most powerful warships in the world with the two [Template:Sclass-](/wiki/Template:Sclass-) [dreadnoughts](/wiki/Dreadnought), which sparked a [South American dreadnought race](/wiki/South_American_dreadnought_race) between Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Today, it is a [green water](/wiki/Green-water_navy) force and has a group of specialized elite in retaking ships and naval facilities, [GRUMEC](/wiki/GRUMEC), unit specially trained to protect Brazilian oil platforms along its coast.[[172]](#cite_note-172) It's the only navy in Latin America that operates an [aircraft carrier](/wiki/Aircraft_carrier), [NAe São Paulo](/wiki/Brazilian_aircraft_carrier_São_Paulo_(A12)),[[173]](#cite_note-173) and one of the ten navies of the world to operate this type of ship.[[162]](#cite_note-162)The Air Force, it is the largest in Latin America has about 700 manned aircraft in service and effective about 67 thousand military.[[174]](#cite_note-174) Brazil has not been invaded since 1865 during the [Paraguayan War](/wiki/Paraguayan_War).[[175]](#cite_note-175) Additionally, Brazil has no contested territorial disputes with any of its neighbours[[176]](#cite_note-176) and neither does it have rivalries, like Chile and Bolivia have with each other.[[177]](#cite_note-177)[[178]](#cite_note-178) The Brazilian military has also three times intervened militarily to overthrow the [Brazilian government](/wiki/Government_of_Brazil).[[179]](#cite_note-179) It has built a tradition of participating in UN [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) missions such as in [Haiti](/wiki/Haiti) and [East Timor](/wiki/East_Timor).[[180]](#cite_note-180)

### Foreign policy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|Diplomatic missions of Brazil](/wiki/File:Diplomatic_missions_of_Brazil.png)[Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:LegendTemplate:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) Brazil's international relations are based on Article 4 of the [Federal Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil), which establishes [non-intervention](/wiki/Non-interventionism), [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination), [international cooperation](/wiki/Internationalism_(politics)) and the [peaceful settlement of conflicts](/wiki/Peacebuilding) as the guiding principles of Brazil's relationship with other countries and multilateral organizations.[[181]](#cite_note-181) According to the Constitution, the [President](/wiki/President_of_Brazil) has ultimate authority over foreign policy, while the [Congress](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Brazil) is tasked with reviewing and considering all diplomatic nominations and [international treaties](/wiki/Treaty), as well as legislation relating to Brazilian foreign policy.[[182]](#cite_note-182) Brazil's foreign policy is a by-product of the country's unique position as a [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power) in [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America), a leader among [developing countries](/wiki/Developing_countries), and an emerging [world power](/wiki/World_power).[[183]](#cite_note-183) Brazilian foreign policy has generally been based on the principles of [multilateralism](/wiki/Multilateralism), peaceful dispute settlement, and non-intervention in the affairs of other countries.[[184]](#cite_note-184) An increasingly well-developed tool of Brazil's foreign policy is providing aid as a donor to other developing countries.[[185]](#cite_note-185) Brazil does not just use its growing economic strength to provide financial aid, but it also provides high levels of expertise and most importantly of all, a quiet non-confrontational diplomacy to improve governance levels.[[185]](#cite_note-185) Total aid is estimated to be around $1 billion per year that includes:[[185]](#cite_note-185)\* technical cooperation of around $480 million ($30 million in 2010 provided directly by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC))

* an estimated $450 million for in-kind expertise provided by Brazilian institutions specialising in technical cooperation

In addition, Brazil manages a peacekeeping mission in [Haiti](/wiki/Haiti_Earthquake) ($350 million) and makes in-kind contributions to the [World Food Programme](/wiki/World_Food_Programme) ($300 million).[[185]](#cite_note-185) This is in addition to humanitarian assistance and contributions to multilateral development agencies. The scale of this aid places it on par with China and India.<ref name=ODI1/> The Brazilian South-South aid has been described as a "global model in waiting."[[186]](#cite_note-186)

### Law enforcement and crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Helicopter of the](/wiki/File:Helicóptero_PF.jpg) [Federal Police Department](/wiki/Federal_Police_Department). In Brazil, the [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil) establishes five different police agencies for law enforcement: [Federal Police Department](/wiki/Federal_Police_Department), [Federal Highway Police](/wiki/Federal_Highway_Police), [Federal Railroad Police](/wiki/Federal_Railroad_Police), [Military Police](/wiki/Military_Police_(Brazil)) and [Civil Police](/wiki/Civil_Police_(Brazil)). Of these, the first three are affiliated with federal authorities and the last two are subordinate to state governments. All police forces are the responsibility of the executive branch of any of the federal or estadual powers.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The [National Public Security Force](/wiki/National_Public_Security_Force) also can act in public disorder situations arising anywhere in the country.[[187]](#cite_note-187) The country still has above-average levels of violent crime and particularly high levels of gun violence and homicide. In 2012, the [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) (WHO) estimated the number of 32 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, one of the [highest rates of intentional homicide of the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_intentional_homicide_rate).[[188]](#cite_note-188) The number considered tolerable by the WHO is about 10 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.[[189]](#cite_note-189) However, there are differences between the crime rates in the [Brazilian states](/wiki/States_of_Brazil). While in [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo_(state)) the homicide rate registered in 2013 was 10.8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, in [Alagoas](/wiki/Alagoas) it was 64.7 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Brazil also has high levels of incarceration and the third largest prison population in the world (behind only [China](/wiki/China) and the [United States](/wiki/United_States)), with an estimated total of approximately 700,000 prisoners around the country (June 2014), an increase of about 300% compared to the index registered in 1992.[[191]](#cite_note-191) The high number of prisoners eventually overloaded the Brazilian prison system, leading to a shortfall of about two hundred thousand accommodations.[[192]](#cite_note-192)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

|  |
| --- |
| [Template:Brazil Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Brazil_Labelled_Map)  [States of Brazil](/wiki/States_of_Brazil) and [Regions of Brazil](/wiki/Regions_of_Brazil) |

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Brazil is a federation composed of 26 [States](/wiki/Federated_state), one [Federal district](/wiki/Federal_District_(Brazil)) (which contains the capital city, [Brasília](/wiki/Brasília)) and [Municipalities](/wiki/Municipality).[[7]](#cite_note-7) States have autonomous administrations, collect their own taxes and receive a share of taxes collected by the Federal government. They have a governor and a unicameral legislative body elected directly by their voters. They also have independent Courts of Law for common justice. Despite this, states have much less autonomy to create their own laws than in the United States. For example, criminal and civil laws can be voted by only the federal bicameral Congress and are uniform throughout the country.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The states and the federal district may be grouped into regions: [Northern](/wiki/Northern_Region,_Brazil), [Northeast](/wiki/Northeast_Region,_Brazil), [Central-West](/wiki/Central-West_Region,_Brazil), [Southeast](/wiki/Southeast_Region,_Brazil) and [Southern](/wiki/Southern_Region,_Brazil). The Brazilian regions are merely geographical, not political or administrative divisions, and they do not have any specific form of government. Although defined by law, Brazilian regions are useful mainly for statistical purposes, and also to define the distribution of federal funds in development projects.

Municipalities, as the states, have autonomous administrations, collect their own taxes and receive a share of taxes collected by the Union and state government.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Each has a mayor and an elected legislative body, but no separate Court of Law. Indeed, a Court of Law organized by the state can encompass many municipalities in a single justice administrative division called [*comarca*](/wiki/Comarca) (county). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Double image](/wiki/Template:Double_image)

Brazil is the largest national economy in [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America), the [world's eight largest economy](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)) at market exchange rates and the [seventh largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) in [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) (PPP), according to the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) and the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank). Brazil has a [mixed economy](/wiki/Mixed_economy) with abundant natural resources. After rapid growth in preceding decades, the country [entered an ongoing recession in 2014](/wiki/2014–2016_Brazilian_economic_recession) amid a political corruption scandal and nationwide protests.

Its current GDP (PPP) per capita is $15,153 in 2014<ref name=imf>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> putting Brazil in the 77th position according to IMF data. Active in [agricultural](/wiki/Agriculture), [mining](/wiki/Mining), [manufacturing](/wiki/Manufacturing) and [service sectors](/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_the_economy) Brazil has a labor force of over a 107 million (ranking 6th worldwide) and unemployment of 6.2% (ranking 64th worldwide).[[193]](#cite_note-193) The country has been expanding its presence in international financial and [commodities markets](/wiki/Commodity_market), and is one of a group of four emerging economies called the [BRIC countries](/wiki/BRIC).[[194]](#cite_note-194) Brazil has been the world's largest [producer of coffee](/wiki/Coffee_production_in_Brazil) for the last 150 years.<ref name=Neilson102>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> It has become the fourth largest car market in the world.[[195]](#cite_note-195) Major export products include [aircraft](/wiki/Fixed-wing_aircraft), [electrical equipment](/wiki/Electrical_equipment), [automobiles](/wiki/Automobile), [ethanol](/wiki/Ethanol_fuel), [textiles](/wiki/Textile), [footwear](/wiki/Footwear), [iron ore](/wiki/Iron_ore), [steel](/wiki/Steel), [coffee](/wiki/Coffee), [orange juice](/wiki/Orange_juice), [soybeans](/wiki/Soybean) and [corned beef](/wiki/Corned_beef).[[196]](#cite_note-196) In total, Brazil ranks 23rd worldwide in [value of exports](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_exports). [thumb|](/wiki/File:Arroz_097.jpg)[Combine harvester](/wiki/Combine_harvester) n a rice plantation in [Santa Catarina](/wiki/Santa_Catarina_(state)). Brazil is the third largest exporter of agricultural products in the world.[[197]](#cite_note-197)

Brazil pegged its currency, the [real](/wiki/Brazilian_real), to the U.S. dollar in 1994. However, after the [East Asian financial crisis](/wiki/1997_Asian_financial_crisis), the [Russian default](/wiki/1998_Russian_financial_crisis) in 1998[[198]](#cite_note-198) and the series of adverse financial events that followed it, the [Central Bank of Brazil](/wiki/Central_Bank_of_Brazil) temporarily changed its [monetary policy](/wiki/Monetary_policy) to a managed-float[[199]](#cite_note-199) scheme while undergoing a [currency crisis](/wiki/Currency_crisis), until definitively changing the exchange regime to [free-float](/wiki/Free-float) in January 1999.[[200]](#cite_note-200) Brazil received an International Monetary Fund rescue package in mid-2002 of $30.4 billion,[[201]](#cite_note-201) then a record sum. Brazil's central bank paid back the IMF loan in 2005, although it was not due to be repaid until 2006.[[202]](#cite_note-202) One of the issues the Central Bank of Brazil recently dealt with was an excess of speculative short-term capital inflows to the country, which may have contributed to a fall in the value of the U.S. dollar against the real during that period.[[203]](#cite_note-203) Nonetheless, [foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) (FDI), related to long-term, less speculative investment in production, is estimated to be $193.8 billion for 2007.[[204]](#cite_note-204) Inflation monitoring and control currently plays a major part in the Central bank's role of setting out short-term [interest rates](/wiki/Interest_rate) as a monetary policy measure.[[205]](#cite_note-205)[thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Central_Bank_of_Brazil.jpg)[Central Bank of Brazil](/wiki/Central_Bank_of_Brazil), in [Brasília](/wiki/Brasília)

Between 1993 and 2010, 7012 [mergers & acquisitions](/wiki/Mergers_and_acquisitions) with a total known value of $707 billion with the involvement of Brazilian firms have been announced.[[206]](#cite_note-206) The year 2010 was a new record in terms of value with 115 billion USD of transactions. The largest transaction with involvement of Brazilian companies has been: [Cia Vale do Rio Doce](/wiki/Vale_(mining_company)) acquired [Inco](/wiki/Vale_Inco) in a tender offer valued at US$18.9 billion.

Corruption costs Brazil almost $41 billion a year alone, with 69.9% of the country's firms identifying the issue as a major constraint in successfully penetrating the global market.[[207]](#cite_note-207) Local government corruption is so prevalent that voters perceive it as a problem only if it surpasses certain levels, and only if a local media e.g. a radio station is present to divulge the findings of corruption charges.[[208]](#cite_note-208) Initiatives, like this exposure, strengthen awareness which is indicated by the Transparency International's [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index); ranking Brazil 69th out of 178 countries in 2012.[[209]](#cite_note-209)The [purchasing power](/wiki/Purchasing_power) in Brazil is eroded by the so-called [Brazil cost](/wiki/Brazil_cost).[[210]](#cite_note-210)

### Components and energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|P-51, an](/wiki/File:Oil_platform_P-51_(Brazil)-2.jpg) [oil platform](/wiki/Oil_platform) of [Petrobras](/wiki/Petrobras).

Brazil's diversified economy includes agriculture, industry, and a wide range of services.[[211]](#cite_note-211) [Agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Brazil) and allied sectors like [forestry](/wiki/Forestry), [logging](/wiki/Logging) and [fishing](/wiki/Fishing) accounted for 5.1% of the [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) in 2007.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Brazil is one of the [largest producer](/wiki/List_of_largest_producing_countries_of_agricultural_commodities) of oranges, coffee, sugar cane, cassava and sisal, soybeans and papayas.[[213]](#cite_note-213) The [industry](/wiki/Industry_in_Brazil) — from [automobiles](/wiki/Automobile), [steel](/wiki/Steel) and [petrochemicals](/wiki/Petrochemical) to [computers](/wiki/Computer), [aircraft](/wiki/Aircraft), and [consumer durables](/wiki/Durable_good)— accounted for 30.8% of the gross domestic product.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Industry is highly concentrated in metropolitan São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, [Campinas](/wiki/Campinas), [Porto Alegre](/wiki/Porto_Alegre), and [Belo Horizonte](/wiki/Belo_Horizonte).[[214]](#cite_note-214) Brazil is the world's [tenth largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_total_primary_energy_consumption_and_production) energy consumer with much of its energy coming from [renewable sources](/wiki/Renewable_energy), particularly [hydroelectricity](/wiki/Hydroelectricity) and [ethanol](/wiki/Ethanol); the [Itaipu Dam](/wiki/Itaipu_Dam) is the world's largest [hydroelectric plant](/wiki/Hydroelectricity) by energy generation.[[215]](#cite_note-215) The first car with an ethanol engine was produced in 1978 and the first airplane engine running on ethanol in 2005.[[216]](#cite_note-216) Recent oil discoveries in the [Pre-salt layer](/wiki/Pre-salt_layer) have opened the door for a large increase in oil production.[[217]](#cite_note-217) The governmental agencies responsible for the energy policy are the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the National Council for Energy Policy, the [National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels](/wiki/National_Agency_of_Petroleum,_Natural_Gas_and_Biofuels_(Brazil)), and the [National Agency of Electricity](/wiki/Brazilian_Electricity_Regulatory_Agency).[[218]](#cite_note-218)[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

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Tourism in Brazil is a growing sector and key to the economy of several regions of the country. The country had 5 million visitors in 2010, ranking in terms of international tourist arrivals as the second destination in [South America](/wiki/South_America), and third in [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America) after [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico) and [Argentina](/wiki/Argentina). Revenues from international tourists reached [Template:USD](/wiki/Template:USD) billion in 2010, showing a recovery from the [2008–2009 economic crisis](/wiki/Late-2000s_recession).<ref name=UNWTO2011>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Historical records of 5.4 million visitors and [Template:USD](/wiki/Template:USD) billion in receipts were reached in 2011.<ref name=MT1\_2011>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=MT2\_2011>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Natural areas are its most popular tourism product, a combination of [ecotourism](/wiki/Ecotourism) with [leisure](/wiki/Leisure) and [recreation](/wiki/Recreation), mainly sun and beach, and [adventure travel](/wiki/Adventure_travel), as well as [cultural tourism](/wiki/Cultural_tourism). Among the most popular destinations are the [Amazon Rainforest](/wiki/Amazon_Rainforest), [beaches](/wiki/Beach) and [dunes](/wiki/Dune) in the [Northeast Region](/wiki/Northeast_Region,_Brazil), the [Pantanal](/wiki/Pantanal) in the [Center-West Region](/wiki/Center-West_Region,_Brazil), beaches at [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro_(state)) and [Santa Catarina](/wiki/Santa_Catarina_(state)), cultural tourism in [Minas Gerais](/wiki/Minas_Gerais) and business trips to [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo) city.[[219]](#cite_note-219) In terms of the 2015 [Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index](/wiki/Travel_and_Tourism_Competitiveness_Report) (TTCI), which is a measurement of the factors that make it attractive to develop business in the travel and tourism industry of individual countries, Brazil ranked in the 28st place at the world's level, third in the [Americas](/wiki/Americas), after [Canada](/wiki/Canada) and [United States](/wiki/United_States).[[220]](#cite_note-220)<ref name=TTCI2013>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) *See Table 4, pp. 18–19 and Country/Economy Profile: Brazil, pp. 116–117.*</ref> Brazil's main competitive advantages are its natural resources, which ranked 1st on this criteria out of all countries considered, and ranked 23rd for its cultural resources, due to its many [World Heritage sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_site). The TTCI report notes Brazil's main weaknesses: its ground transport infrastructure remains underdeveloped (ranked 116th), with the quality of roads ranking in 105th place; and the country continues to suffer from a lack of price competitiveness (ranked 114th), due in part to high ticket taxes and airport charges, as well as high prices and high taxation. Safety and security have improved significantly: 75th in 2011, up from 128th in 2008.<ref name=TTCI2013/> [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Bonito_scan.jpg)[Snorkeling](/wiki/Snorkeling) in the city of [Bonito](/wiki/Bonito,_Mato_Grosso_do_Sul), [Mato Grosso do Sul](/wiki/Mato_Grosso_do_Sul). The rivers in the region are known for their [crystal](/wiki/Crystal) clear waters.

According to the [World Tourism Organization](/wiki/World_Tourism_Organization) (WTO), international travel to Brazil accelerated in 2000, particularly during 2004 and 2005. However, in 2006 a slow-down took place, and international arrivals had almost no growth in 2007–08.[[221]](#cite_note-221)[[222]](#cite_note-222)[[223]](#cite_note-223) In spite of this trend, revenues from international tourism continued to rise, from [USD](/wiki/USD) 4 billion in 2005 to 5 billion in 2007, despite 330 000 fewer arrivals. This favorable trend is the result of the strong devaluation of the US dollar against the [Brazilian Real](/wiki/Brazilian_Real), which began in 2004, but which makes Brazil a more expensive international destination.[[224]](#cite_note-224) This trend changed in 2009, when both visitors and revenues fell as a result of the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession) of 2008–09.<ref name=WTO2010>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) *Click on the link "UNWTO Tourism Highlights" to access the pdf report.*</ref> By 2010, the industry had recovered, and arrivals grew above 2006 levels to 5.2 million international visitors, and receipts from these visitors reached USD 6 billion.<ref name=UNWTO2011/> In 2011 the historical record was reached with 5.4 million visitors and [Template:USD](/wiki/Template:USD) billion in receipts.<ref name=MT1\_2011/><ref name=MT2\_2011/>

Despite continuing record-breaking international tourism revenues, the number of Brazilian tourists travelling overseas has been growing steadily since 2003, resulting in a net negative [foreign exchange](/wiki/Foreign_exchange_market) balance, as more money is spent abroad by Brazilians than comes in as receipts from international tourists visiting Brazil. Tourism expenditures abroad grew from USD 5.8 billion in 2006, to USD 8.2 billion in 2007, a 42% increase, representing a net deficit of USD 3.3 billion in 2007, as compared to USD 1.5 billion in 2006, a 125% increase from the previous year.[[225]](#cite_note-225) This trend is caused by Brazilians taking advantage of the stronger [Real](/wiki/Brazilian_real) to travel and making relatively cheaper expenditures abroad.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Brazilians traveling overseas in 2006 represented 4% of the country's population.[[226]](#cite_note-226) In 2005, tourism contributed with 3.2% of the country's revenues from exports of goods and services, and represented 7% of direct and indirect employment in the Brazilian economy.[[227]](#cite_note-227) In 2006 direct employment in the sector reached 1.9 million people.[[228]](#cite_note-228) Domestic tourism is a fundamental market segment for the industry, as 51 million people traveled throughout the country in 2005,[[229]](#cite_note-229) and direct revenues from Brazilian tourists reached USD 22 billion,[[230]](#cite_note-230) 5.6 times more receipts than international tourists in 2005.

In 2005, [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro), [Foz do Iguaçu](/wiki/Foz_do_Iguaçu), [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), [Florianópolis](/wiki/Florianópolis) and [Salvador](/wiki/Salvador,_Bahia) were the most visited cities by international tourists for leisure trips. The most popular destinations for business trips were [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) and [Porto Alegre](/wiki/Porto_Alegre).[[231]](#cite_note-231) In 2006 Rio de Janeiro and [Fortaleza](/wiki/Fortaleza) were the most popular destinations for business trips. [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Lnls.jpg)[National Synchrotron Light Laboratory](/wiki/Laboratório_Nacional_de_Luz_Síncrotron) in [Campinas](/wiki/Campinas), [state of São Paulo](/wiki/State_of_São_Paulo), the only [particle accelerator](/wiki/Particle_accelerator) in [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America). [thumb|left|Control room of](/wiki/File:CLA_Control_Center.png) [Brazilian Space Agency](/wiki/Brazilian_Space_Agency) at the [Alcântara Launch Center](/wiki/Alcântara_Launch_Center). Technological research in Brazil is largely carried out in public universities and research institutes, with the majority of funding for basic research coming from various government agencies.[[232]](#cite_note-232) Brazil's most esteemed technological hubs are the [Oswaldo Cruz Institute](/wiki/Fundação_Oswaldo_Cruz), the [Butantan Institute](/wiki/Instituto_Butantan), the Air Force's [Aerospace Technical Center](/wiki/Brazilian_General_Command_for_Aerospace_Technology), the [Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation](/wiki/Empresa_Brasileira_de_Pesquisa_Agropecuária) and the [INPE](/wiki/National_Institute_for_Space_Research).[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[234]](#cite_note-234) The [Brazilian Space Agency](/wiki/Brazilian_Space_Agency) has the most advanced space program in Latin America, with significant resources to launch vehicles, and manufacture of [satellite](/wiki/Artificial_satellite).[[235]](#cite_note-235) Owner of relative technological sophistication, the country develops [submarines](/wiki/Submarine), aircraft, as well as being involved in space research, having a Vehicle Launch Center Light and being the only country in the [Southern Hemisphere](/wiki/Southern_Hemisphere) the integrate team building [International Space Station](/wiki/International_Space_Station) (ISS).[[236]](#cite_note-236) The country is also a pioneer in the search for oil in deep water, from where extracts 73% of its reserves. [Uranium](/wiki/Uranium) is enriched at the [Resende Nuclear Fuel Factory](/wiki/Resende_Nuclear_Fuel_Factory), mostly for research purposes (as Brazil obtains 88% from its electricity from [hydroelectricity](/wiki/Hydroelectricity)[[237]](#cite_note-237)) and the country's first nuclear submarine will be delivered in 2015 (by France).[[238]](#cite_note-238) Brazil is one of the three countries in Latin America[[239]](#cite_note-239) with an operational [Synchrotron](/wiki/Synchrotron) Laboratory, a research facility on physics, chemistry, material science and life sciences. And Brazil is the only Latin American country to have a [semiconductor](/wiki/Semiconductor) company with its own [fabrication plant](/wiki/Semiconductor_fabrication_plant), the [CEITEC](/wiki/CEITEC).[[240]](#cite_note-240) According to the Global Information Technology Report 2009-2010 of the World Economic Forum, Brazil is the 61 world's largest developer of information technology.[[241]](#cite_note-241) Brazil also has a large number of outstanding scientific personalities. Among the most renowned Brazilian inventors are priests [Bartolomeu de Gusmão](/wiki/Bartolomeu_de_Gusmão), [Landell de Moura](/wiki/Landell_de_Moura) and Francisco João de Azevedo, besides [Alberto Santos-Dumont](/wiki/Alberto_Santos-Dumont),[[242]](#cite_note-242) [Evaristo Conrado Engelberg](/wiki/Evaristo_Conrado_Engelberg),[[243]](#cite_note-243) [Manuel Dias de Abreu](/wiki/Manuel_Dias_de_Abreu),[[244]](#cite_note-244) [Andreas Pavel](/wiki/Andreas_Pavel)[[245]](#cite_note-245) e Nélio José Nicolai.[[246]](#cite_note-246) Brazilian science is represented by the likes of [César Lattes](/wiki/César_Lattes) (Brazilian [physicist](/wiki/Physicist) Pathfinder of [*Pi Meson*](/wiki/Pion)),[[247]](#cite_note-247) [Mário Schenberg](/wiki/Mário_Schenberg) (considered the greatest theoretical physicist of Brazil),[[248]](#cite_note-248) [José Leite Lopes](/wiki/José_Leite_Lopes) (only Brazilian physicist holder of *UNESCO Science Prize*),[[249]](#cite_note-249) [Artur Ávila](/wiki/Artur_Ávila) (the first Latin American winner of [Fields Medal](/wiki/Fields_Medal))[[250]](#cite_note-250) and [Fritz Müller](/wiki/Fritz_Müller) (pioneer in factual support the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin).[[251]](#cite_note-251)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|Terminal 3 of the](/wiki/File:Terminal_3_de_Guarulhos.jpg) [São Paulo–Guarulhos International Airport](/wiki/São_Paulo–Guarulhos_International_Airport), the [busiest airport in the country](/wiki/List_of_the_busiest_airports_in_Brazil). [thumb|](/wiki/File:BR116_Viaduto_em_Fortaleza.jpg)[BR-116](/wiki/BR-116) in [Fortaleza](/wiki/Fortaleza), [Ceará](/wiki/Ceará), the longest [highway](/wiki/Brazilian_Highway_System) in the country, with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of extension.[[252]](#cite_note-252) [thumb|Port of](/wiki/File:Itajai_Aerial.jpg) [Itajaí](/wiki/Itajaí), [Santa Catarina](/wiki/Santa_Catarina_(state)), one of the main ports of the country [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Brazilian roads are the primary carriers of freight and passenger traffic. The road system totaled 1.98 million km (1.23 million mi) in 2002. The total of paved roads increased from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (22,056 mi) in 1967 to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (114,425 mi) in 2002.[[253]](#cite_note-253) The first investments in road infrastructure have given up in the 1920s, the government of [Washington Luis](/wiki/Washington_Luis), being pursued in the governments of [Getúlio Vargas](/wiki/Getúlio_Vargas) and [Eurico Gaspar Dutra](/wiki/Eurico_Gaspar_Dutra).[[254]](#cite_note-254) President [Juscelino Kubitschek](/wiki/Juscelino_Kubitschek) (1956–61), who designed and built the capital [Brasília](/wiki/Brasília), was another supporter of highways. Kubitschek was responsible for the installation of major car manufacturers in the country ([Volkswagen](/wiki/Volkswagen), [Ford](/wiki/Ford_Motor_Company) and [General Motors](/wiki/General_Motors) arrived in Brazil during his rule) and one of the points used to attract them was, of course, support for the construction of highways. With the implementation of [Fiat](/wiki/Fiat) in 1976 ending an automobile market closed loop, from the end of the 1990s the country has received large foreign direct investments installing in its territory other major car manufacturers and utilities, such as [Iveco](/wiki/Iveco), [Renault](/wiki/Renault), [Peugeot](/wiki/Peugeot), [Citroen](/wiki/Citroen), [Honda](/wiki/Honda), [Mitsubishi](/wiki/Mitsubishi), [Mercedes-Benz](/wiki/Mercedes-Benz), [BMW](/wiki/BMW), [Hyundai](/wiki/Hyundai), [Toyota](/wiki/Toyota) among others.[[255]](#cite_note-255) Brazil is the seventh most important country in the [auto industry](/wiki/Auto_industry).[[256]](#cite_note-256) Brazil's [railway](/wiki/Rail_transport) system has been declining since 1945, when emphasis shifted to [highway](/wiki/Highway) construction. The total length of railway track was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 2002, as compared with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1970. Most of the railway system belonged to the Federal Railroad Corporation RFFSA, which was privatized in 2007.[[257]](#cite_note-257) The [São Paulo Metro](/wiki/São_Paulo_Metro) was the first underground transit system in Brazil. The other metro systems are in [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro), [Porto Alegre](/wiki/Porto_Alegre), [Recife](/wiki/Recife), [Belo Horizonte](/wiki/Belo_Horizonte), [Brasília](/wiki/Brasília), [Teresina](/wiki/Teresina) and [Fortaleza](/wiki/Fortaleza).

The country has an extensive rail network of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in length, the tenth largest network in the world.[[258]](#cite_note-258) Currently, the Brazilian government, unlike the past, seeks to encourage this mode of transport; an example of this incentive is the project of the [Rio–São Paulo high-speed rail](/wiki/Rio–São_Paulo_high-speed_rail), that will connect the two main cities of the country to carry passengers.

There are about 2,500 [airports](/wiki/Airport) in Brazil, including landing fields: the second largest number in the world, after the United States.[[259]](#cite_note-259) [São Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport](/wiki/São_Paulo-Guarulhos_International_Airport), near São Paulo, is the largest and busiest airport with nearly 20 million passengers annually, while handling the vast majority of commercial traffic for the country.[[260]](#cite_note-260) For freight transport [waterways](/wiki/Waterways) are of importance, e.g. the [industrial zones of Manaus](/wiki/Free_Economic_Zone_of_Manaus) can be reached only by means of the Solimões- Amazonas waterway ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) minimum depth). The country also has [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of waterways.[[258]](#cite_note-258) Coastal shipping links widely separated parts of the country. Bolivia and Paraguay have been given free [ports](/wiki/Port) at [Santos](/wiki/Santos,_São_Paulo). Of the 36 deep-water ports, Santos, Itajaí, Rio Grande, Paranaguá, Rio de Janeiro, Sepetiba, Vitória, Suape, Manaus and São Francisco do Sul are the most important.[[261]](#cite_note-261) Bulk carriers have to wait up to 18 days before being serviced, container ships 36,3 hours on average.[[262]](#cite_note-262)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Estação_de_tratamento_de_água_de_Coronel_Fabriciano_MG.jpg)[Water treatment plant](/wiki/Water_treatment_plant) in [Coronel Fabriciano](/wiki/Coronel_Fabriciano), [Minas Gerais](/wiki/Minas_Gerais). Among the achievements in the water supply and sanitation sector is an increase in access to water piped on premises from 79% to 92% between 1990 and 2010; an increase in access to [Improved sanitation](/wiki/Improved_sanitation) from 68% to 79% in the same period;[[263]](#cite_note-263)a functioning national system to finance water and sanitation infrastructure; a high level of cost recovery compared to most other developing countries; as well as a number of notable technical and financial innovations such as [Condominial sewerage](/wiki/Condominial_sewerage) and an output-based subsidy for treated wastewater called [PRODES](/wiki/PRODES).

Among the challenges is the still high number of poor Brazilians living in urban slums ([Favela](/wiki/Favela)) and in rural areas without access to piped water or sanitation; water scarcity in the Northeast of Brazil; [water pollution](/wiki/Water_pollution), especially in the South-East of the country; the low share of collected [wastewater](/wiki/Wastewater_treatment) that is being treated (35% in 2000); and long-standing tensions between the federal, state and municipal governments about their respective roles in the sector.

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Hospital_Albert_Einstein.jpg) [Albert Einstein Hospital](/wiki/Albert_Einstein_Hospital) in [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo) is one of the most well-known health units in Brazil.

The Brazilian public health system, the National Health System (SUS), is managed and provided by all levels of [government](/wiki/Forms_of_government).[[264]](#cite_note-264) The public health services are universal and available to all citizens of the country for free. Nevertheless, millions of affluent Brazilians have private health care coverage.[[265]](#cite_note-265) According to the [Brazilian Government](/wiki/Government_of_Brazil), the most serious health problems are:[[266]](#cite_note-266)\* Childhood mortality: about 2.51% of childhood mortality, reaching 3.77% in the northeast region.

* Motherhood mortality: about 73.1 deaths per 100,000 born children in 2002.
* Mortality by non-transmissible illness: 151.7 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants caused by heart and circulatory diseases, along with 72.7 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants caused by cancer.
* Mortality caused by external causes (transportation, violence and suicide): 71.7 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (14.9% of all deaths in the country), reaching 82.3 deaths in the southeast region.

In 2002, Brazil accounted for 40% of [malaria](/wiki/Malaria) cases in the Americas.[[267]](#cite_note-267) Nearly 99% are concentrated in the Legal Amazon Region, which is home to not more than 12% of the population.[[267]](#cite_note-267)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Aerial view of the main campus f the](/wiki/File:Unicamp.jpg) [University of Campinas](/wiki/University_of_Campinas), [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo_(state)), in the late 1990s The [Federal Constitution](/wiki/Constitution) and the Law of Guidelines and Bases of National Education determine that the [Federal Government](/wiki/Federal_Government), [States](/wiki/Federated_state), [Federal District](/wiki/Federal_District) and [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities) must manage and organize their respective education systems. Each of these public educational systems is responsible for its own maintenance, which manages funds as well as the mechanisms and funding sources. The constitution reserves 25% of the state budget and 18% of federal taxes and municipal taxes for education.[[268]](#cite_note-268) According to the [IBGE](/wiki/Brazilian_Institute_of_Geography_and_Statistics), in 2011, the literacy rate of the population was 90.4%, meaning that 13 million (9.6% of population) people are still illiterate in the country; functional illiteracy has reached 21.6% of the population.[[269]](#cite_note-269) Illiteracy is highest in the Northeast, where 19.9% of the population is illiterate.[[270]](#cite_note-270) Higher education starts with undergraduate or sequential [courses](/wiki/Course_(education)), which may offer different options of specialization in academic or professional careers. Depending on the choice, students can improve their educational background with courses of post-graduate studies or broad sense. To attend a higher education institution is required, by Law of Guidelines and Bases of Education, completing all levels of education suited to the needs of all students of teaching [kindergarten](/wiki/Kindergarten), [elementary](/wiki/Elementary_school) and medium, provided the student does not hold any disability, whether physical, [mental](/wiki/Mind), [visual](/wiki/Visual) or [hearing](/wiki/Hearing_(sense)).

### Media and communication{{anchor|Media}}[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|President](/wiki/File:Jornal_Nacional_3.jpg) [Dilma Rousseff](/wiki/Dilma_Rousseff) at [*Jornal Nacional*](/wiki/Jornal_Nacional) news program. [Rede Globo](/wiki/Rede_Globo) is the second largest commercial television network of the world.[[271]](#cite_note-271)

The Brazilian press has its beginnings in 1808 with the arrival of the [Portuguese royal family](/wiki/House_of_Braganza#Realm_in_Brazil) to Brazil, hitherto forbidden any activity of the press – was the publication of newspapers or books. The Brazilian press was officially born in [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) on 13 May 1808, with the creation of the Royal Printing, National Press by the [Prince Regent](/wiki/Prince_Regent) [Dom João](/wiki/João_VI_of_Portugal).[[272]](#cite_note-272) The *Gazeta do Rio de Janeiro*, the first newspaper published in the country, began to circulate on 10 September 1808.[[273]](#cite_note-273) [Largest newspapers](/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_the_world_by_circulation) nowadays are *Folha de S.Paulo* (from the state of São Paulo), *Super Notícia* (Minas Gerais 296.799), *O Globo* (RJ 277.876) and *O Estado de S. Paulo* (SP 235.217).[[274]](#cite_note-274) Radio broadcasting began on 7 September 1922, with a speech by then President Pessoa, and was formalized on 20 April 1923 with the creation of "Radio Society of Rio de Janeiro."[[275]](#cite_note-275) Television in Brazil began officially on 18 September 1950, with the founding of [TV Tupi](/wiki/TV_Tupi) by [Assis Chateaubriand](/wiki/Assis_Chateaubriand).[[276]](#cite_note-276) Since then television has grown in the country, creating large public networks such as Globo, SBT, Record and Bandeirantes. Today it is the most important factor in popular culture of Brazilian society, indicated by research showing that as much as 67%[[277]](#cite_note-277)[[278]](#cite_note-278) of the general population follow the same daily [soap opera](/wiki/Soap_opera) broadcast. Digital Television, using the [SBTVD](/wiki/SBTVD) standard (based on the Japanese standard [ISDB-T](/wiki/ISDB-T)), was adopted 29 June 2006 and launched on 2 November 2007.[[279]](#cite_note-279) In May 2010, Brazil launched [TV Brasil Internacional](/wiki/TV_Brasil_Internacional), an international [television station](/wiki/Television_station), initially broadcasting to 49 countries.[[280]](#cite_note-280)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|300px|Population density of Brazilian municipalities.](/wiki/File:ARCHELLA_E_THERY_Img_05.png)

The population of Brazil, as recorded by the 2008 PNAD, was approximately 190 million[[281]](#cite_note-281) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), with a ratio of men to women of 0.95:1[[282]](#cite_note-282) and 83.75% of the population defined as urban.[[283]](#cite_note-283) The population is heavily concentrated in the Southeastern (79.8 million inhabitants) and Northeastern (53.5 million inhabitants) regions, while the two most extensive regions, the Center-West and the North, which together make up 64.12% of the Brazilian territory, have a total of only 29.1 million inhabitants.

The first census in Brazil was carried out in 1872 and recorded a population of 9,930,478.[[284]](#cite_note-284) From 1880 to 1930, 4 million Europeans arrived.[[285]](#cite_note-285) Brazil's population increased significantly between 1940 and 1970, because of a decline in the [mortality rate](/wiki/Mortality_rate), even though the [birth rate](/wiki/Birth_rate) underwent a slight decline. In the 1940s the annual [population growth rate](/wiki/Population_growth) was 2.4%, rising to 3.0% in the 1950s and remaining at 2.9% in the 1960s, as life expectancy rose from 44 to 54 years[[286]](#cite_note-286) and to 72.6 years in 2007.[[287]](#cite_note-287)It has been steadily falling since the 1960s, from 3.04% per year between 1950 and 1960 to 1.05% in 2008 and is expected to fall to a negative value of –0.29% by 2050[[288]](#cite_note-288) thus completing the [demographic transition](/wiki/Demographic_transition).[[289]](#cite_note-289) In 2008, the illiteracy rate was 11.48%[[290]](#cite_note-290) and among the [youth](/wiki/Youth_in_Brazil) (ages 15–19) 1.74%. It was highest (20.30%) in the Northeast, which had a large proportion of rural poor.[[291]](#cite_note-291) Illiteracy was high (24.18%) among the rural population and lower (9.05%) among the urban population.[[292]](#cite_note-292)

### Race and ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) According to the [National Research by Household Sample](/wiki/Brazilian_Institute_of_Geography_and_Statistics) (PNAD) of 2008, 48.43% of the population (about 92 million) described themselves as [White](/wiki/White_Brazilian); 43.80% (about 83 million) as [Pardo](/wiki/Brown_(racial_classification)#Pardos_in_Brazil) ([brown](/wiki/Brown_people)), 6.84% (about 13 million) as [Black](/wiki/Black_Brazilian); 0.58% (about 1.1 million) as [Asian](/wiki/Asian_Brazilian); and 0.28% (about 536 thousand) as [Amerindian](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Brazil) (officially called *indígena*, Indigenous), while 0.07% (about 130 thousand) did not declare their race.[[293]](#cite_note-293) In 2007, the [National Indian Foundation](/wiki/Fundação_Nacional_do_Índio) estimated that Brazil has 67 different uncontacted tribes, up from their estimate of 40 in 2005. Brazil is believed to have the largest number of [uncontacted peoples](/wiki/Uncontacted_peoples) in the world.[[294]](#cite_note-294)[Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart) Since the arrival of the Portuguese in 1500, considerable [miscegenation](/wiki/Miscegenation) between Amerindians, Europeans, and Africans has taken place in all regions of the country (with European ancestry being dominant nationwide according to the vast majority of all autosomal studies undertaken covering the entire population, accounting for between 65% to 77%).[[295]](#cite_note-295)[[296]](#cite_note-296)[[297]](#cite_note-297)[[298]](#cite_note-298) Brazilian society is more [markedly divided](/wiki/Social_issues_in_Brazil) by [social class](/wiki/Social_class) lines, although a high [income disparity](/wiki/Income_inequality_in_Brazil) is found [between race groups](/wiki/Social_apartheid_in_Brazil), so [racism](/wiki/Racism) and [classism](/wiki/Class_discrimination) can be conflated. Socially significant closeness to one racial group [is taken in account](/wiki/Race_in_Brazil) more in the basis of appearance ([phenotypes](/wiki/Phenotype)) rather than ancestry, to the extent that full [siblings](/wiki/Sibling) can pertain to different "racial" groups.[[299]](#cite_note-299) [Socioeconomic](/wiki/Socioeconomic_status) factors are also significant, because a minority of [*pardos*](/wiki/Pardo) are likely to start declaring themselves White or Black if socially upward.[[300]](#cite_note-300) Skin color and facial features do not line quite well with ancestry (usually, Afro-Brazilians are evenly mixed and European ancestry is dominant in Whites and *pardos* with a significant non-European contribution, but the individual variation is great).[[298]](#cite_note-298)[[301]](#cite_note-301)[[302]](#cite_note-302)[[303]](#cite_note-303) The brown population (officially called [*pardo*](/wiki/Pardo) in Portuguese, also colloquially [*moreno*](/wiki/Wikt:moreno))[[304]](#cite_note-304)[[305]](#cite_note-305) is a broad category that includes [*caboclos*](/wiki/Caboclo) (assimilated Amerindians in general, and descendants of Whites and Natives), [*mulatos*](/wiki/Mulatto) (descendants of primarily Whites and Afro-Brazilians) and [*cafuzos*](/wiki/Zambo) (descendants of Afro-Brazilians and Natives).[[304]](#cite_note-304)[[305]](#cite_note-305)[[306]](#cite_note-306)[[307]](#cite_note-307)[[308]](#cite_note-308) People of considerable Amerindian ancestry form the majority of the population in the Northern, Northeastern and Center-Western regions.[[309]](#cite_note-309) Higher percents of Blacks, mulattoes and tri-racials can be found in the eastern coast of the Northeastern region from Bahia to Paraíba[[308]](#cite_note-308)[[310]](#cite_note-310) and also in northern Maranhão,[[311]](#cite_note-311)[[312]](#cite_note-312) southern Minas Gerais[[313]](#cite_note-313) and in eastern Rio de Janeiro.[[308]](#cite_note-308)[[313]](#cite_note-313) From the 19th century, Brazil opened its borders to [immigration](/wiki/Immigration_to_Brazil). About five million people from over 60 countries migrated to Brazil between 1808 and 1972, most of them of [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Brazilian), [Italian](/wiki/Italian_Brazilian), [Spanish](/wiki/Brazilians_of_Spanish_descent), [German](/wiki/German_Brazilian), [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_Brazilian), [Polish](/wiki/Polish_Brazilian), [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish_Brazilian), [Russian](/wiki/Russians_in_Brazil), [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Brazilian), [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_Brazilian), and [Arab](/wiki/Arab_Brazilian) origin.[[314]](#cite_note-314)[[315]](#cite_note-315)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Basilica_of_the_National_Shrine_of_Our_Lady_of_Aparecida,_2007.jpg)[Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida](/wiki/Basilica_of_the_National_Shrine_of_Our_Lady_of_Aparecida) in [Aparecida do Norte](/wiki/Aparecida_do_Norte), [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo_(state)), is the second largest [Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Brazil) church in the world.

Religion in Brazil formed from the meeting of the Catholic Church with the religious traditions of enslaved African peoples and indigenous peoples.[[316]](#cite_note-316) This confluence of faiths during the Portuguese colonization of Brazil led to the development of a diverse array of syncretistic practices within the overarching umbrella of Brazilian Catholic Church, characterized by traditional Portuguese festivities,[[317]](#cite_note-317) and in some instances, [Allan Kardec's](/wiki/Allan_Kardec) [Spiritism](/wiki/Spiritism) (a religion which incorporates elements of [spiritualism](/wiki/Spiritualism) and Christianity). Religious pluralism increased during the 20th century,[[318]](#cite_note-318) and the Protestant community has grown to include over 22% of the population.[[319]](#cite_note-319) The most common Protestant denominations are [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostalism) and [Evangelical](/wiki/Evangelicalism) ones. Other Protestant branches with a notable presence in the country include the [Baptists](/wiki/Baptists), [Seventh-day Adventists](/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church), [Lutherans](/wiki/Lutheranism) and the [Reformed tradition](/wiki/Calvinism).[[320]](#cite_note-320) [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism) is the country's predominant faith. Brazil has the world's largest Catholic population.[[321]](#cite_note-321) According to the 2000 Demographic Census (the PNAD survey does not inquire about religion), 73.57% of the population followed [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Brazil); 15.41% [Protestantism](/wiki/Protestantism_in_Brazil); 1.33% Kardecist spiritism; 1.22% other Christian denominations; 0.31% Afro-Brazilian religions; 0.13% [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism); 0.05% [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism); 0.02% [Islam](/wiki/Islam_in_Brazil); 0.01% Amerindian religions; 0.59% other religions, undeclared or undetermined; while 7.35% have no religion.[[322]](#cite_note-322) However, in the last ten years Protestantism, particularly Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism, has spread in Brazil, while the proportion of Catholics has dropped significantly.[[323]](#cite_note-323) After Protestantism, individuals professing no religion are also a significant group, exceeding 7% of the population as of the 2000 census. The cities of [Boa Vista](/wiki/Boa_Vista,_Roraima), [Salvador](/wiki/Salvador,_Bahia), and [Porto Velho](/wiki/Porto_Velho) have the greatest proportion of [Irreligious](/wiki/Irreligion) residents in Brazil. [Teresina](/wiki/Teresina), [Fortaleza](/wiki/Fortaleza), and [Florianópolis](/wiki/Florianópolis) were the most Roman Catholic in the country.[[324]](#cite_note-324) [Greater Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Greater_Rio_de_Janeiro), not including the [city proper](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro), is the most irreligious and least Roman Catholic Brazilian periphery, while [Greater Porto Alegre](/wiki/Greater_Porto_Alegre) and Greater [Fortaleza](/wiki/Fortaleza) are on the opposite sides of the lists, respectively.[[324]](#cite_note-324)

### Urbanization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) According to IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) urban areas already concentrate 84.35% of the population, while the Southeast region remains the most populated one, with over 80 million inhabitants.[[325]](#cite_note-325)The largest metropolitan areas in Brazil are São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte — all in the Southeastern Region — with 19.5, 11.5, and 5.1 million inhabitants respectively.[[326]](#cite_note-326) The majority of state capitals are the largest cities in their states, except for [Vitória](/wiki/Vitória,_Brazil), the capital of [Espírito Santo](/wiki/Espírito_Santo), and [Florianópolis](/wiki/Florianópolis), the capital of Santa Catarina. There are also non-capital metropolitan areas in the states of São Paulo ([Campinas](/wiki/Campinas), [Santos](/wiki/Santos,_São_Paulo) and the [Paraíba Valley](/wiki/Paraíba_Valley)), [Minas Gerais](/wiki/Minas_Gerais) ([Steel Valley](/wiki/Vale_do_Aço_metropolitan_area)), Rio Grande do Sul ([Sinos Valley](/wiki/Porto_Alegre)) and Santa Catarina ([Itajaí Valley](/wiki/Vale_do_Itajaí)).[[327]](#cite_note-327)[Template:Largest metropolitan areas of Brazil](/wiki/Template:Largest_metropolitan_areas_of_Brazil)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:MLP.jpg)[Museum of the Portuguese Language](/wiki/Museum_of_the_Portuguese_Language) in [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), Brazil.

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese[[328]](#cite_note-328) (Article 13 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Brazil), which almost all of the population speaks and is virtually the only language used in newspapers, radio, television, and for business and administrative purposes. The most famous exception to this is a strong [sign language law](/wiki/Recognition_of_sign_languages) that was passed by the [National Congress of Brazil](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Brazil). Legally recognized in 2002,[[329]](#cite_note-329) the law was [regulated](/wiki/Regulation) in 2005.[[330]](#cite_note-330) The law mandates the use of the [Brazilian Sign Language](/wiki/Brazilian_Sign_Language), more commonly known by its Portuguese [acronym](/wiki/Acronym) LIBRAS, in education and government services. The language must be taught as a part of the [education](/wiki/School_of_education) and [speech and language pathology](/wiki/Speech_and_language_pathology) curricula. LIBRAS teachers, instructors and translators are recognized professionals. Schools and health services must provide access ("[inclusion](/wiki/Inclusion_(education))") to [deaf people](/wiki/Deaf_community).[[331]](#cite_note-331) [Brazilian Portuguese](/wiki/Brazilian_Portuguese) has had its own development, mostly similar to 16th-century Central and Southern dialects of European Portuguese[[332]](#cite_note-332) (despite a very substantial number of Portuguese colonial settlers, and [more recent immigrants](/wiki/Portuguese_Brazilian), coming from [Northern regions](/wiki/Northern_Portugal), and in minor degree Portuguese [Macaronesia](/wiki/Macaronesia)), with a few influences from the [Amerindian](/wiki/Indigenous_languages_of_the_Americas) and [African languages](/wiki/Languages_of_Africa), especially [West African](/wiki/West_Africa) and [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_languages) restricted to the vocabulary only.[[333]](#cite_note-333) As a result,[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) the language is somewhat different, mostly in phonology, from the language of Portugal and other [Portuguese-speaking countries](/wiki/Portuguese-speaking_countries) (the dialects of the other countries, partly because of the more recent end of [Portuguese colonialism](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) in these regions, have a closer connection to contemporary [European Portuguese](/wiki/European_Portuguese)). These differences are comparable to those between [American](/wiki/American_English) and [British English](/wiki/British_English).[[333]](#cite_note-333) Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking nation in the Americas, making the language an important part of Brazilian national identity and giving it a national culture distinct from those of its Spanish-speaking neighbors.[[334]](#cite_note-334)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:PomerodeSouthGate.jpg)[Pomerode](/wiki/Pomerode), [Santa Catarina](/wiki/Santa_Catarina_(state)), is one of the municipalities with a cooficial language. In this region, [Hunsrückisch](/wiki/Hunsrückisch_dialect) and [Pomeranian](/wiki/Pomeranian_language), German dialects, are two of the minor languages.

In 1990, the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries) (CPLP), which included representatives from all countries with Portuguese as the official language, reached an [agreement on the reform of the Portuguese orthography](/wiki/Portuguese_Language_Orthographic_Agreement_of_1990) to unify the two standards then in use by Brazil on one side and the remaining lusophone countries on the other. This spelling reform went into effect in Brazil on 1 January 2009. In Portugal, the reform was signed into law by the President on 21 July 2008 allowing for a 6-year adaptation period, during which both orthographies will co-exist. The remaining CPLP countries are free to establish their own transition timetables.[[335]](#cite_note-335) Minority languages are spoken throughout the nation. One hundred and eighty [Amerindian languages](/wiki/Indigenous_languages_of_the_Americas) are spoken in remote areas and a significant number of other languages are spoken by immigrants and their descendants.[[333]](#cite_note-333) In the municipality of [São Gabriel da Cachoeira](/wiki/São_Gabriel_da_Cachoeira), [Nheengatu](/wiki/Nheengatu_language) (a currently endangered South American [creole language](/wiki/Creole_language) – or an 'anti-creole', according to some linguists – with mostly Indigenous Brazilian languages lexicon and Portuguese-based grammar that, together with its southern relative [língua geral paulista](/wiki/Língua_geral_paulista), once was a major [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca) in Brazil[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed), being replaced by Portuguese only after governmental prohibition led by [major political changes](/wiki/Suppression_of_the_Society_of_Jesus#Portugal))[Template:Overly detailed inline](/wiki/Template:Overly_detailed_inline), [Baniwa](/wiki/Baniwa_language) and Tucano languages had been granted co-official status with Portuguese.[[336]](#cite_note-336) There are significant communities of German (mostly the [Brazilian Hunsrückisch](/wiki/Riograndenser_Hunsrückisch), a High German language dialect) and Italian (mostly the [Talian](/wiki/Talian_dialect), a [Venetian](/wiki/Venetian_language) dialect) origins in the Southern and Southeastern regions, whose ancestors' native languages were carried along to Brazil, and which, still alive there, are influenced by the Portuguese language.[[337]](#cite_note-337)[[338]](#cite_note-338) Talian is officially a historic patrimony of [Rio Grande do Sul](/wiki/Rio_Grande_do_Sul),[[339]](#cite_note-339) and two German dialects possess co-official status in a few municipalities.[[340]](#cite_note-340) Learning at least one second language (generally English or Spanish) is mandatory for all the 12 grades of the mandatory [education system](/wiki/Education_in_Brazil) ([primary](/wiki/Primary_education) and [secondary education](/wiki/Secondary_education), there called *ensino fundamental* and *ensino médio* respectively). Brazil is the first country in South America to offer [Esperanto](/wiki/Esperanto) to secondary students.[[341]](#cite_note-341)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|Interior of the](/wiki/File:Salvador-SFranciscoChurch2.jpg) [São Francisco Church and Convent](/wiki/São_Francisco_Church_and_Convent) in [Salvador, Bahia](/wiki/Salvador,_Bahia), one of the richest expressions of [Brazilian baroque](/wiki/Baroque_in_Brazil). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The core culture of Brazil is derived from [Portuguese culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Portugal), because of its strong colonial ties with the [Portuguese empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire).[[342]](#cite_note-342) Among other influences, the Portuguese introduced the [Portuguese language](/wiki/Portuguese_language), [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Catholic_Church) and [colonial architectural styles](/wiki/Manueline). The culture was, however, also strongly influenced by [African](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_of_Africa), [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Brazil) and non-Portuguese European cultures and traditions.[[343]](#cite_note-343) Some aspects of Brazilian culture were influenced by the contributions of [Italian](/wiki/Italian_Brazilian), [German](/wiki/German_Brazilian) and other European as well [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_Brazilian), [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish_Brazilian) and [Arab](/wiki/Arab_Brazilian) immigrants who arrived in large numbers in the South and Southeast of Brazil.[[344]](#cite_note-344) The indigenous Amerindians influenced Brazil's language and [cuisine](/wiki/Brazilian_cuisine); and the Africans influenced language, cuisine, [music](/wiki/Music_of_Brazil), dance and religion.[[345]](#cite_note-345) [Brazilian art](/wiki/Brazilian_art) has developed since the 16th century into different styles that range from [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque_in_Brazil) (the dominant style in Brazil until the early 19th century)[[346]](#cite_note-346)[[347]](#cite_note-347) to [Romanticism](/wiki/Brazilian_academic_art), [Modernism](/wiki/Modern_art), [Expressionism](/wiki/Expressionism), [Cubism](/wiki/Cubism), [Surrealism](/wiki/Surrealism) and [Abstractionism](/wiki/Abstract_art). [Brazilian cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_Brazil) dates back to the birth of the medium in the late 19th century and has gained a new level of international acclaim since the 1960s.[[348]](#cite_note-348)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Men playing](/wiki/File:Capoeira-three-berimbau-one-pandeiro.jpg) [berimbau](/wiki/Berimbau) and [pandeiro](/wiki/Pandeiro) in a [capoeira](/wiki/Capoeira) circle. The music of Brazil was formed mainly from the fusion of European and African elements.[[349]](#cite_note-349) Until the nineteenth century, Portugal was the gateway to most of the influences that built Brazilian music, although many of these elements were not of Portuguese origin, but generally European. The first was José Maurício Nunes Garcia, author of sacred pieces with influence of Viennese classicism.[[350]](#cite_note-350) The major contribution of the African element was the rhythmic diversity and some dances and instruments that had a bigger role in the development of popular music and folk, flourishing especially in the twentieth century.[[349]](#cite_note-349) Popular music since the late eighteenth century began to show signs of forming a characteristically Brazilian sound, with [samba](/wiki/Samba) considered the most typical and on the UNESCO cultural heritage list.[[351]](#cite_note-351) [Maracatu](/wiki/Maracatu) and [Afoxê](/wiki/Afoxê) are two [Afro-Brazilian](/wiki/Afro-Brazilian) music traditions that have been popularized by their appearance in the annual [Brazilian Carnivals](/wiki/Brazilian_Carnival).[[352]](#cite_note-352) The sport of [capoeira](/wiki/Capoeira) is usually played with its own music referred to as [capoeira music](/wiki/Capoeira_music), which is usually considered to be a call-and-response type of folk music.[[353]](#cite_note-353) [Choro](/wiki/Choro) is a very popular music instrumental style. Its origins are in 19th-century Rio de Janeiro. In spite of the name, the style often has a fast and happy rhythm, characterized by virtuosity, improvisation, subtle [modulations](/wiki/Modulation_(music)) and full of [syncopation](/wiki/Syncopation) and [counterpoint](/wiki/Counterpoint).[[354]](#cite_note-354) [Bossa nova](/wiki/Bossa_nova) is also a well-known style of Brazilian music developed and popularized in the 1950s and 1960s.[[355]](#cite_note-355) The phrase "bossa nova" means literally "new trend".[[356]](#cite_note-356) A lyrical fusion of samba and [jazz](/wiki/Jazz), bossa nova acquired a large following starting in the 1960s.[[357]](#cite_note-357)[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Machado_de_Assis_aos_57_anos.jpg)[Machado de Assis](/wiki/Machado_de_Assis), poet and novelist, founder of the [Brazilian Academy of Letters](/wiki/Academia_Brasileira_de_Letras). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Brazilian literature](/wiki/Brazilian_literature) dates back to the 16th century, to the writings of the first Portuguese explorers in Brazil, such as [Pêro Vaz de Caminha](/wiki/Pêro_Vaz_de_Caminha), filled with descriptions of [fauna](/wiki/Fauna), [flora](/wiki/Flora) and commentary about the indigenous population that fascinated European readers.[[358]](#cite_note-358) Brazil produced significant works in [Romanticism](/wiki/Romanticism) — novelists like [Joaquim Manuel de Macedo](/wiki/Joaquim_Manuel_de_Macedo) and [José de Alencar](/wiki/José_de_Alencar) wrote novels about love and pain. Alencar, in his long career, also treated indigenous people as heroes in the [Indigenist](/wiki/Indianism_(arts)) novels [*O Guarani*](/wiki/The_Guarani), [*Iracema*](/wiki/Iracema) and [*Ubirajara*](/wiki/Ubirajara).[[359]](#cite_note-359) [Machado de Assis](/wiki/Machado_de_Assis), one of his contemporaries, wrote in virtually all genres and continues to gain international prestige from critics worldwide.[[360]](#cite_note-360)[[361]](#cite_note-361)[[362]](#cite_note-362) The [Brazilian Modernism](/wiki/Brazilian_literature#Modernism), evidenced by the [Week of Modern Art](/wiki/Week_of_Modern_Art) in 1922, was concerned with a nationalist avant-garde literature,[[363]](#cite_note-363) while [Post-Modernism](/wiki/Brazilian_literature#Post-Modernism) brought a generation of distinct poets like [João Cabral de Melo Neto](/wiki/João_Cabral_de_Melo_Neto), [Carlos Drummond de Andrade](/wiki/Carlos_Drummond_de_Andrade), [Vinicius de Moraes](/wiki/Vinicius_de_Moraes), [Cora Coralina](/wiki/Cora_Coralina), [Graciliano Ramos](/wiki/Graciliano_Ramos), [Cecília Meireles](/wiki/Cecília_Meireles), and internationally known writers dealing with universal and regional subjects like [Jorge Amado](/wiki/Jorge_Amado), [João Guimarães Rosa](/wiki/João_Guimarães_Rosa), [Clarice Lispector](/wiki/Clarice_Lispector) and [Manuel Bandeira](/wiki/Manuel_Bandeira).[[364]](#cite_note-364)[[365]](#cite_note-365)[[366]](#cite_note-366)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Brazilian cuisine varies greatly by region, reflecting the country's varying mix of indigenous and immigrant populations. This has created a national cuisine marked by the preservation of regional differences.[[367]](#cite_note-367) Examples are [Feijoada](/wiki/Feijoada), considered the country's national dish;[[368]](#cite_note-368) and regional foods such as [vatapá](/wiki/Vatapá), [moqueca](/wiki/Moqueca), [polenta](/wiki/Polenta) and [acarajé](/wiki/Acarajé).[[369]](#cite_note-369)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Brigadeiro.jpg)[Brigadeiro](/wiki/Brigadeiro) is a typical sweet of [Brazilian cuisine](/wiki/Brazilian_cuisine).

The national beverage is [coffee](/wiki/Coffee) and [cachaça](/wiki/Cachaça) is Brazil's native [liquor](/wiki/Distilled_beverage). Cachaça is distilled from [sugar cane](/wiki/Sugarcane) and is the main ingredient in the national cocktail, [Caipirinha](/wiki/Caipirinha).[[370]](#cite_note-370) An average meal consists mostly of [rice and beans](/wiki/Rice_and_beans) with [beef](/wiki/Beef) and [salad](/wiki/Salad).[[371]](#cite_note-371) Often, it's mixed with cassava flour ([farofa](/wiki/Farofa)). Fried potatoes, fried cassava, fried banana, fried meat and fried cheese are very often eaten in lunch and served in most typical restaurants.[[372]](#cite_note-372) Popular snacks are [pastel](/wiki/Pastel_(food)) (a pastry); [coxinha](/wiki/Coxinha) (chicken croquete); [pão de queijo](/wiki/Pão_de_queijo) (cheese bread and cassava flour / [tapioca](/wiki/Tapioca)); [pamonha](/wiki/Pamonha) (corn and milk paste); [esfirra](/wiki/Sfiha) (Lebanese pastry); [kibbeh](/wiki/Kibbeh) (from Arabic cuisine); [empanada](/wiki/Empanada) (pastry) and [empada](/wiki/Empada), little salt pies filled with shrimps or heart of palm.

Brazil has a variety of candies such as [brigadeiros](/wiki/Brigadeiro) (chocolate fudge balls), [cocada](/wiki/Cocada) (a coconut sweet), [beijinhos](/wiki/Beijinho) (coconut truffles and clove) and romeu e julieta (cheese with a guava jam known as [goiabada](/wiki/Goiabada)). Peanuts are used to make [paçoca](/wiki/Paçoca), [rapadura](/wiki/Rapadura) and [pé-de-moleque](/wiki/Pé-de-moleque). Local common fruits like [açaí](/wiki/Açaí), [cupuaçu](/wiki/Cupuaçu), [mango](/wiki/Mango), [papaya](/wiki/Papaya), [cocoa](/wiki/Cocoa_bean), [cashew](/wiki/Cashew), [guava](/wiki/Guava), [orange](/wiki/Orange_(fruit)), [passionfruit](/wiki/Passionfruit), [pineapple](/wiki/Pineapple), and [hog plum](/wiki/Spondias) are turned in [juices](/wiki/Juice) and used to make [chocolates](/wiki/Chocolate), [popsicles](/wiki/Popsicle) and [ice cream](/wiki/Ice_cream).[[373]](#cite_note-373)

### Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|thumb|](/wiki/File:Palacio_festivais.jpg)[Gramado Film Festival](/wiki/Festival_de_Gramado)

The Brazilian film industry began in the late 19th century, during the early days of the [Belle Époque](/wiki/Belle_Époque). While there were national film productions during the early 20th century, American films such as *Rio the Magnificent* were made in [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) to promote tourism in the city.[[374]](#cite_note-374) The films [*Limite*](/wiki/Limite) (1931) and [*Ganga Bruta*](/wiki/Ganga_Bruta) (1933), the latter being produced by [Adhemar Gonzaga](/wiki/Adhemar_Gonzaga) through the prolific studio Cinédia, were poorly received at release and failed at the box office, but are acclaimed nowadays and placed among the finest Brazilian films of all time.[[375]](#cite_note-375) The 1941 unfinished film [*It's All True*](/wiki/It's_All_True_(film)) was divided in four segments, two of which were filmed in Brazil and directed by [Orson Welles](/wiki/Orson_Welles); it was originally produced as part of the United States' [Good Neighbor Policy](/wiki/Good_Neighbor_Policy) during Getúlio Vargas' Estado Novo government.

During the 1960s the [Cinema Novo](/wiki/Cinema_Novo) movement rose to prominence with directors such as [Glauber Rocha](/wiki/Glauber_Rocha), [Nelson Pereira dos Santos](/wiki/Nelson_Pereira_dos_Santos), [Paulo Cesar Saraceni](/wiki/Paulo_Cesar_Saraceni) and [Arnaldo Jabor](/wiki/Arnaldo_Jabor). Rocha's films [*Deus e o Diabo na Terra do Sol*](/wiki/Deus_e_o_Diabo_na_Terra_do_Sol) (1964) and [*Terra em Transe*](/wiki/Terra_em_Transe) (1967) are considered to be some of the greatest and most influential in Brazilian film history.[[376]](#cite_note-376) During the 1990s Brazil saw a surge of critical and commercial success with films such as [*O Quatrilho*](/wiki/O_Quatrilho) (1995), [*O Que É Isso, Companheiro?*](/wiki/O_Que_É_Isso,_Companheiro?) (1997) and [*Central do Brasil*](/wiki/Central_do_Brasil) (1998), all of which were nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Foreign_Language_Film), the latter receiving a [Best Actress](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Actress) nomination for [Fernanda Montenegro](/wiki/Fernanda_Montenegro). The 2002 crime film [*City of God*](/wiki/City_of_God_(2002_film)), directed by [Fernando Meirelles](/wiki/Fernando_Meirelles), was critically acclaimed, scoring 90% on [Rotten Tomatoes](/wiki/Rotten_Tomatoes),[[377]](#cite_note-377) being placed in [Roger Ebert's](/wiki/Roger_Ebert) Best Films of the Decade list[[378]](#cite_note-378) and receiving four [Academy Award](/wiki/Academy_Award) nominations in 2004, including [Best Director](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Director). Notable film festivals in Brazil include the [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo_International_Film_Festival) and [Rio de Janeiro International Film Festivals](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro_International_Film_Festival) and the [Gramado Festival](/wiki/Festival_de_Gramado).

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[thumb|left|Stamp for the victory of the](/wiki/File:Selo_da_Copa_de_1970_3_cruzeiros.jpg) [Brazilian team](/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) at the [1970 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1970_FIFA_World_Cup) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The most popular sport in Brazil is [football](/wiki/Association_football).[[379]](#cite_note-379) The [Brazilian men's national team](/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) is ranked among the best in the world according to the [FIFA World Rankings](/wiki/FIFA_World_Rankings), and has won the [World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) tournament a record five times.[[380]](#cite_note-380)[[381]](#cite_note-381) [Volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball), [basketball](/wiki/Basketball), [auto racing](/wiki/Auto_racing), and [martial arts](/wiki/Martial_arts) also attract large audiences. The [Brazil men's national volleyball team](/wiki/Brazil_men's_national_volleyball_team), for example, currently holds the titles of the [World League](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_World_League), [World Grand Champions Cup](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_World_Grand_Champions_Cup), [World Championship](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_Men's_World_Championship) and the [World Cup](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_World_Cup).

Some sport variations have their origins in Brazil: [beach football](/wiki/Beach_soccer),[[382]](#cite_note-382) [futsal](/wiki/Futsal) (indoor football)[[383]](#cite_note-383) and [footvolley](/wiki/Footvolley) emerged in Brazil as variations of football. In martial arts, Brazilians developed [Capoeira](/wiki/Capoeira),[[384]](#cite_note-384) [Vale tudo](/wiki/Vale_tudo),[[385]](#cite_note-385) and [Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu](/wiki/Brazilian_Jiu-Jitsu).[[386]](#cite_note-386)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Ayrton_Senna_with_toy_car_cropped_no_wm.jpg)[Senna](/wiki/Ayrton_Senna), one of the biggest names in [F1's](/wiki/Formula_One) history.

In auto racing, three Brazilian drivers have won the [Formula One](/wiki/Formula_One) world championship eight times.[[387]](#cite_note-387)[[388]](#cite_note-388)[[389]](#cite_note-389) Brazil has hosted several high-profile international sporting events, like the [1950 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1950_FIFA_World_Cup)[[390]](#cite_note-390) and recently has hosted the [2014 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup).[[391]](#cite_note-391) The [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo) circuit, [Autódromo José Carlos Pace](/wiki/Autódromo_José_Carlos_Pace), hosts the annual [Grand Prix of Brazil](/wiki/Brazilian_Grand_Prix).[[392]](#cite_note-392) São Paulo organized the [IV Pan American Games](/wiki/1963_Pan_American_Games) in 1963, and Rio de Janeiro hosted the [XV Pan American Games](/wiki/2007_Pan_American_Games) in 2007.[[393]](#cite_note-393) On 2 October 2009, Rio de Janeiro was selected to host the [2016 Olympic Games](/wiki/2016_Summer_Olympics) and [2016 Paralympic Games](/wiki/2016_Summer_Paralympics), making it the first South American city to host the games[[394]](#cite_note-394) and second in Latin America after [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City). Furthermore, the country hosted the [FIBA Basketball World Cups](/wiki/FIBA_Basketball_World_Cup) in [1954](/wiki/1954_FIBA_World_Championship) and [1963](/wiki/1963_FIBA_World_Championship). At the 1963 event, the [Brazil national basketball team](/wiki/Brazil_national_basketball_team) won one of its two world championship titles.[[395]](#cite_note-395)

### National holidays[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Local name** | **Name** | **Observation** |
| 1 January | Confraternização Mundial | [New Year's Day](/wiki/New_Year's_Day) | Beginning of the calendar year |
| 21 April | Tiradentes | [Tiradentes](/wiki/Tiradentes) | In honor of the martyr of the [Minas Conspiracy](/wiki/Minas_Conspiracy) |
| 1 May | Dia do Trabalhador | [Labor Day](/wiki/Labor_Day) | Tribute to all [workers](/wiki/Workers) |
| 7 September | Independência | [Independence of Brazil](/wiki/Independence_of_Brazil) | Proclamation of Independence against [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) |
| 12 October | Nossa Senhora Aparecida | Nossa Senhora Aparecida | [Patroness](/wiki/Patroness) of Brazil |
| 2 November | Finados | [Souls](/wiki/Souls) | Day of remembrance for the dead |
| 15 November | Proclamação da República | Proclamation of the Republic | Transformation [Empire](/wiki/Empire) in [Republic](/wiki/Republic) |
| 25 December | Natal | Christmas | Traditional Christmas celebration |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

* [Index of Brazil-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Brazil-related_articles)
* [List of Brazilians](/wiki/List_of_Brazilians)
* [Outline of Brazil](/wiki/Outline_of_Brazil)

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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Official Tourist Guide of Brazil](http://www.visitbrasil.com/index.html?__locale=en)
* [Brazilian Federal Government](http://www.brasil.gov.br/?set_language=en)
* [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics](http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/)
* [Brazil](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/brazil.htm) at *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
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