



# Brazil



**Background** After more than three centuries under Portuguese rule, Brazil gained its independence in 1822. By far the largest and most populous country in South America, Brazil underwent more than a half century of populist and military government until 1985, when the military regime peacefully ceded power to civilian rulers.

**Capital** name: Brasília

**Government type** federal presidential republic

**Area** total : 8,515,770 sq km  
land: 8,358,140 sq km  
water: 157,630 sq km

**Climate** mostly tropical, but temperate in south

**Natural resources** alumina, bauxite, beryllium, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, niobium, phosphates, platinum, tantalum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber

**Population** total: 220,051,512

**Population growth rate** 0.61% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** mixed 45.3%, White 43.5%, Black 10.2%, Indigenous 0.6%, Asian 0.4% (2022 est.)

**Religions** Roman Catholic 52.8%, Protestant 26.7% (Evangelical 25.5%, other Protestant 1.2%), African-American cultist/Umbanda 1.8%, other 3%, agnostic/atheist 0.6%, none 13.6%, unspecified 1.4% (2023 est.)

**Languages** Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language); less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and many minor Amerindian languages

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Luiz Inácio LULA da Silva (since 1 January 2023)

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**Legislative branch** summary: bicameral National Congress consists of the Federal Senate (81 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies (513 seats)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro VIOTTI (since 30 June 2023)

<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley BAGLEY (since 5 February 2023)
<b>Economic overview</b>	industrial-led economic growth model; recovering from 2014-2016 recession when COVID-19 hit; industry limited by Amazon rainforest but increasing deforestation; new macroeconomic structural reforms; high income inequality; left UNASUR to join PROSUR
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$4.016 trillion (2023 est.) \$3.902 trillion (2022 est.) \$3.788 trillion (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$18,600 (2023 est.) \$18,100 (2022 est.) \$17,700 (2021 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$389.626 billion (2023 est.) \$380.619 billion (2022 est.) \$315.494 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 26%, US 11%, Argentina 5%, Netherlands 3%, Spain 3% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	soybeans, crude petroleum, iron ore, refined petroleum, corn (2022)
<b>Imports</b>	\$346.639 billion (2023 est.) \$376.084 billion (2022 est.) \$306.087 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 24%, US 18%, Germany 5%, Argentina 5%, India 4% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, fertilizers, vehicle parts/accessories, crude petroleum, pesticides (2022)