



BRAZIL



INTRODUCTION

Following 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.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Jair BOLSONARO

Head of Government

President Jair BOLSONARO

Government Type

federal presidential republic

Capital

Brasilia

Legislature

bicameral National Congress or Congresso Nacional consists of the Federal Senate or Senado Federal (81 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara dos Deputados (513 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

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

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

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

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2.989 trillion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$14,100 (2020 est.)

Industries - textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other machinery and equipment

Agricultural products - sugarcane, soybeans, maize, milk, cassava, oranges, poultry, rice, beef, cotton

Exports \$239.2 billion (2020 est.)

soybeans, crude petroleum, iron, corn, wood pulp products (2019)

partners: China 28%, US 13% (2019)

Imports \$227.4 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, vehicle parts, crude petroleum, integrated circuits, pesticides (2019)

partners: China 21%, US 18%, Germany 6%, Argentina 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

213.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.65% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

White 47.7%, Mulatto (mixed White and Black) 43.1%, Black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, Indigenous 0.4% (2010 est.)

Language

Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language); note: less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages

Religion

Roman Catholic 64.6%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2%, other Christian 0.7%, Spiritist 2.2%, other 1.4%, none 8%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

