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.)
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.)

as of October 2021