

Brazil

Brazil is the world's sixth most populous country, the largest country in South America and one of the world's major agricultural producers and exporters. Brazil is the world's second leading exporter of soybean, soy meal, and soy oil. It is also the world's largest exporter of coffee and orange juice, and a major exporter of poultry and sugar.

Country Statistics

Total population: 174,468,580

Density: 53 people per sq mi

Urban population: 81%

Rural population: 19%

The total land area: 3,300,171 sq mi

Arable Land: 6%

Gross domestic product (GDP): \$1.34 trillion

GDP per capita: \$7,400

Agriculture share of GDP: 9%

Industry share of GDP: 32%

Services share of GDP: 59%

General Economy

Brazil continued the transition from a state-dominated and protected economy to a free-market system in 2000. Deregulation, trade liberalization and privatization have accelerated over the past year as the government aims to achieve long term economic stability.

In early 1999, Brazil was forced to float the Real as a result of fiscal and balance of payments weaknesses. The Brazilian government responded with an economic program in the hopes of curbing domestic and foreign investor panic. The response entailed a combination of tighter fiscal policy, tighter monetary policy with an inflation target, and external financial support. External support came from the IMF in the form of a lending program and a consultation mechanism on inflation targets.

Agriculture

With a wide range of climate zones, Brazil has a diversified agriculture ranging from tropical- to temperate-zone products.

Brazil, a global agricultural powerhouse because of its rich natural resources, ranks first in the world in the production of citrus fruits, frozen concentrated orange juice, sugarcane, and coffee. It is second in output of soybeans and products, and third in tobacco and poultry. Brazil is among the top 5 countries in corn and rice production, and among the top 10 beef producers. It is self-sustaining in most agricultural products. Brazil offers considerable competition to the United States in soybean, tobacco, poultry and beef product exports. In fact, Brazil will soon surpass the United States as the world's leader in soybean production and exports.

Principal crops, 2000 production (million metric tons)

Corn	39.5	Soybeans	37.5	Oranges	22.7
Sugar	20.1	Rice	10.8	Coffee, green	1.8

Livestock products, 2000 production (million metric tons)

Milk	22.1	Beef and veal	6.4	Chicken	5.7
Pork	1.9	Eggs	1.6		

Agricultural exports, 2000 (\$U.S. billion)

Soybeans and products	4.1	Coffee	1.6	Meats and products	1.6
Frozen orange juice	1.1	Sugar and products	1.3	Tobacco	0.8

Agricultural imports, 2000 (\$U.S. billion)

Wheat	0.8	Dairy products	0.4	Cotton	0.3
Fruits and nuts	0.2	Corn	0.2	Malt	0.2

Manufacturing

Brazil is a major steel producer and car manufacturer with Fiat, Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen as the largest firms. Leading industries (in terms of employment) are food and metal processing, automobiles, chemicals and textiles. Chemicals, foodstuffs, metals, vehicles and engineering are the leading industries in terms of sales.

Foreign Trade

Exports, 2001: \$57.8 billion

Commodities: manufactures, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos

Partners: U.S. (24.4%), Argentina (11.2%), Germany (8.7%), Japan (5.5%), Italy (3.9%), Netherlands

Imports, 2001: \$57.7 billion

Commodities: machinery and equipment, chemical products, oil, electricity, autos and auto parts

Partners: U.S. (23.2%), Argentina (11.2%), Germany (8.7%), Japan (5.5%), Italy (3.9%)

Transportation

Highways	1.98 million km	Waterways	50,000 km
Paved	.184 million km		