

BRAZIL: BASIC FACTS



GOVERNMENT

Official name:

conventional long form: Federative Republic of Brazil

conventional short form: Brazil

local long form: Republica Federativa do Brasil

local short form: Brasil

Capitol: Brasilia

Language: Portuguese

Executive branch: President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
Vice President Jose Alencar

Legislative branch: *Bicameral National congress*

81 seats; 3 members from each state and federal district elected according to the principle of majority to serve eight-year terms.

Chamber of Deputies

513 seats; members are elected by proportional representation to serve four-year terms.

Judicial branch: *Supreme Federal Tribunal*

11 ministers are appointed for life by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Divisions:

26 states (estados) and 1 federal district* (distrito federal); Acre, Alagoas, Amapa, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceara, Distrito Federal*, Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Paraiba, Parana, Pernambuco, Piaui, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins.

Independence: 7 September 1822 (from Portugal)

Flag:



Description: 27 white five-pointed stars, one for each state and the Federal District, arranged in the same pattern as the night sky over Brazil; the globe has a white equatorial band with the motto *ORDEM E PROGRESSO* (Order and Progress).

Diplomatic representation in the U.S.

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GEOGRAPHY

Area: *total:* 8,511,965 sq km
land: 8,456,510 sq km
water: 55,455 sq km

Borders: *total:* 14,691 km

Argentina 1,224 km; Bolivia 3,400 km; Colombia 1,643 km; French Guiana 673 km; Guyana 1,119 km; Paraguay 1,290 km; Peru 1,560 km; Suriname 597 km; Uruguay 985 km; Venezuela 2,200 km.

PEOPLE

Population: 196,342,592

Median age: *total:* 28.3 years
male: 27.5 years
female: 29 years

Growth rate: 1.288%

Life expectancy at birth: *total:* 71.71 years
male: 68.15 years
female: 75.45 years

Ethnic groups:

White 53.7%; mulatto (mixed white and black) 38.5%; black 6.2%; other (includes Japanese, Arab, Amerindian) 0.9%; unspecified 0.7%

Religions:

Roman Catholic (nominal) 73.6%; Protestant 15.4%; Spiritualist 1.3%; Bantu/voodoo 0.3%; other 1.8%; unspecified 0.2%; none 7.4%

Source: The Central Intelligence Agency

Updated: September 2008