



Federative Republic of Brazil

Following more than three centuries under Portuguese rule, Brazil gained its independence in 1822, maintaining a monarchical system of government until the abolition of slavery in 1888 and the subsequent proclamation of a republic by the military in 1889. Brazilian coffee exporters politically dominated the country until populist leader Getulio Vargas rose to power in 1930. 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. Brazil continues to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of its interior. Having successfully weathered a period of global financial difficulty in the late 20th century, Brazil was seen as one of the world's strongest emerging markets and a contributor to global growth. The awarding of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games, the first ever to be held in South America, was seen as symbolic of the country's rise. However, since about 2013, Brazil has been plagued by a shrinking economy, growing unemployment, and rising inflation. Political scandal resulted in the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff in May 2016; her vice president, Michel Temer, is currently acting president. (From CIA Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html>)

Physical Geography

Official Name: Federative Republic of Brazil

Region: South America

Size in Square Kilometers: 8,515,770 sq. km

Bordering Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

5. How would you describe your country's physical features and climate?

Physical Features: mostly flat to rolling lowlands in north; some plains, hills, mountains, and narrow coastal belt

Climate: mostly tropical, but temperate in south

Cultural Geography

Population: 204,259,812 (July 2015 est.)

Ethnic Groups: White 47.7%, Mulatto (mixed white and black) 43.1%, Black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, Indigenous 0.4% (2010 est.)

Official Language: Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)

Other Languages Spoken: Less Common languages such as Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages

Capital: Brasilia

Other Major Cities: Florianopolis, Vitoria Minas Gerais Vale do Aco, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul , Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo , Rio de Janeiro , Minas Gerais , Pernambuco , Parana , Rio Grande do Sul, and Espirito Santo

Quality of Life: Above Average

Political Geography

Founded: September 7, 1822

Type of Government: Federal Presidential Republic

Country Leaders:

President: Dilma Rousseff

Vice President: Michele Temer

Country's Military: 235,000 Active Military Personnel (2014)

Allies: India, China, Russia (BRIC union from 01.09.2009), Colombia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, US, Portugal, Spain

Enemies: Brazil is the country that has no strong enemies, but has rivals such as Argentina.

Economic Geography

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$1.773 trillion (2015 est.)

Agricultural and Industrial Capacity: coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, cocoa, citrus; beef textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other machinery and equipment

Currency: Real (R\$) (BRL)

Major Exports and Imports:

Exports: transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, automobiles

Imports: machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, automotive parts, electronics

Biggest Trading Partners:

Exports: China 18.6%, US 12.7%, Argentina 6.7%, Netherlands 5.3% (2015)

Imports: China 17.9%, US 15.6%, Germany 6.1%, Argentina 6% (2015)
