



Embratur

## 4. Living and Working in Brazil

This fact sheet allows you to see where the Brazilian people live and work.

### 4.1 What is life like in Brazil?

Most Brazilians live in cities – 138 million, as opposed to 32 million who live outside the cities. The biggest cities are in the South East, with São Paulo having a population of over 19 million people and Rio de Janeiro over 11 million. The new capital, Brasília, has only two million people. One of the most famous images of Rio de Janeiro is the statue of Christ the Redeemer. It is 30 metres (nearly 100 feet) high and so is one of the tallest statues in the world. The statue represents Jesus standing with outstretched arms and is one of the most famous symbols of this city. The statue was originally conceived in 1921, construction started in mid-1926 and it was completed in 1931.

The countryside still has small farms with farmers keeping herds of cattle and pigs in addition to growing a range of crops. However, farming does take place on a much larger scale with the following crops being produced in large amounts: coffee, sugar cane, cassava, bananas, sisal, rice, oranges, cocoa, soya beans, black pepper, maize, and nuts (see the photograph gallery).



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CHRIST THE REDEEMER STATUE

Just as in the UK, the cities of Brazil have busy shopping areas, offices and factories. In the city centres there are cafes and fast food outlets as well as supermarkets and department stores.

In some of the towns there are old buildings like the ones in Portugal where the early settlers came from (see the photograph gallery).

However, the overall impression of the large cities is one of modern design. Use the link at the end of the fact sheet to see buildings in the modern capital city of Brasília.



Nelson Lafraia

SHOPPING IN RIO



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BRASÍLIA



Dalmo Próspero

OLD STYLE BUILDINGS

## 4.2 Favelas

Many Brazilians live in tall blocks of flats or apartments in the large cities along the coast.



Laura Barbi

APARTMENT BLOCKS IN BRASÍLIA



Erika Tambke

BLOCKS OF HIGH-RISE APARTMENTS

For many years many people have moved to the cities from the countryside and smaller towns to find work. Some people have not been able to afford to buy or rent permanent housing so they have had to live in areas of poor quality housing built from cheap materials – shantytowns. These shantytowns are known as ‘favelas’.

Rio de Janeiro has an estimated 752 favelas, with more than one million people living in them while São Paulo also has a large number. The first favela appeared in Rio de Janeiro about a hundred years ago and they have multiplied over the past century. They are self-built on land without permission, using cheap materials that can be found locally. They do not have numbered streets and things such as sanitation, electricity, telephone services and plumbing are limited. In recent years favelas have been troubled by drug-related crime and gang warfare. The Brazilian government has pledged £850 million to improve conditions in Rio de Janeiro's shantytowns and counter the grip of the drugs gangs.



Erika Tambke

FAVELAS IN RIO



Erika Tambke

GUARARAPES FAVELA IN RIO



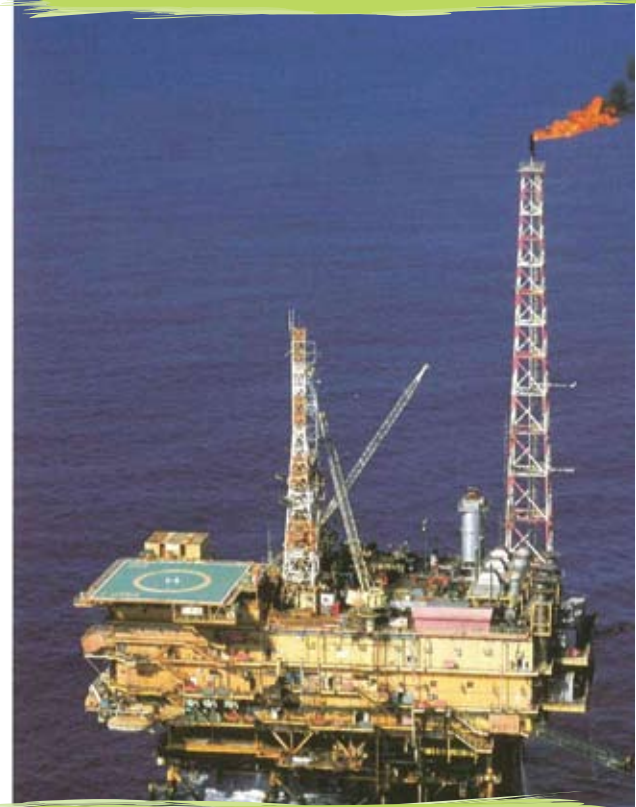
Erika Tambke

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

### 4.3 How do people earn a living?

Brazil's industries are growing rapidly and so are the services that people need such as shops, hospitals and schools. Automobiles, steel, petrochemicals, computers, aircraft, and everyday consumer items are some of the products that are manufactured in Brazil. The country now produces its own oil, existing hydroelectric power provides 92% of the nation's electricity, and there are extensive mineral deposits (e.g. iron ore), in the country. Major export products include aircraft, coffee, automobiles, soya, iron ore, orange juice, steel, ethanol, textiles, footwear, corned beef and electrical equipment.

In the future it is thought that Brazil could become an oil superpower, with massive oil reserves having been discovered recently. See the link at the end of the fact sheet.



OIL RIG

## 4.4 Biofuels

Recent years have seen the development of ethanol as a biofuel for use in vehicles instead of petrol. About thirty years ago the government encouraged car makers to move away from petrol and develop vehicles that could run on ethanol instead. Today around 90% of all new cars sold in Brazil are flex-fuel vehicles, a Brazilian invention that can run on either petrol or ethanol. Because of a government subsidy the innovative cars cost no more than conventional vehicles.

Ethanol already accounts for about 40% of the fuel used in cars in Brazil, putting it way ahead of any other nation, and ethanol is expected to overtake petrol in Brazil by 2020. The ethanol produced in Brazil from sugar cane is regarded as very environmentally friendly, taking relatively little energy to grow and convert to fuel. The US makes ethanol from maize, which is more expensive and estimated by scientists to be less environmentally friendly.

In 2009 a motorcycle that can run on sugar cane ethanol, petrol or a mixture of both went on sale in Brazil. Called the “Mix”, it is a version of the small motorcycle popular with couriers in the large cities, and it is claimed to be more powerful when running on a mixture of petrol and ethanol. The mixture has also proved to be economical for these vehicles.



José Medeiros

SUGAR CANE



José Medeiros

ETHANOL PLANT

## 4.5 Soya production

Recent years have seen a great increase in the production of soya in Brazil. When Brazilian government scientists discovered that the acidic soils of the savannah could be made fertile with phosphorus and lime, farmers were soon exploiting this area and developing the growth of soybeans on a massive scale.



José Medeiros

SOYA



José Medeiros

SOYA

Soya, a native of East Asia, has been called a “miracle bean” owing to its high protein content. It has been popular with vegetarians for many years and is now valued as a quick, cheap and safe animal feed. Farmers who are developing large areas of the countryside for soya production are then forced to transport their produce a long way to the Atlantic ports.

One of these is Highway BR163 which links Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso, with the Amazon River port of Santarém in the northern state of Pará – see photographs below. This is used as a main route for the movement of the soya crop for export. This raises concerns about the potential deforestation of the Amazon rainforest.



José Medeiros

NEW HIGHWAYS



José Medeiros

TRUCK ON A NEW HIGHWAY



## SEE THESE LINKS!

See the links below for more information

### Favelas

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7975767.stm>

### Brasilia

<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/3416/>

### Oil discovery off coast of Brazil

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/apr/16/oil.brazil>

# PHOTO GALLERY



Nelson Lafraia

*city housing*



Dalmo Próspero

*old colonial style buildings*



José Medeiros

*collecting the sugar cane*



Nelson Lafraia

*pig farming*



Embratur

*Brasilia*



Nelson Lafraia

*fruit and vegetable in the market*