

# Year 11 Geography

## Summative Assignment 1: World Population

Country: Brazil  
By Hannah Mo Greig

### Introduction

Brazil a federal republic with 26 states and a federal district. Brazil is 8.5 million square Km and is the largest country by area in South America. Brazil is also the largest country by population in South America, having 185 540 728 inhabitants in February 2008. Today only 0.2% of Brazil's total population are indigenous.

### Population Composition

Brazil's sex ratio is relatively even with 0.98 men to every woman. However, at birth there are 1.05 males to every female born. Roman Catholics make up approximately 74% of the Brazilian population.

Brazil's age and gender population from 1990 and 2008 are shown in the pyramids below.

The pyramid for 2008 shows that Brazil is a growing population, due to people living longer and having fewer children. For example from 1990 to

2008 the amount of women living between 45 and 49 almost doubled this indicates that the population is living longer due to the improvements of health care, education and various other components. Although the population has grown substantially since 1990 the birth rate has remained the same.

### Population Distribution

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world with 80 percent of its population living in cities and towns. It is one of the most urbanized and industrialized countries in Latin America. Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro are among the ten largest cities in the world.

Sao Paulo, with its 18 million people, is the world's third largest city, after Mexico City and Tokyo. However, parts of Brazil's Amazon region, which has some of the world's most extensive wilderness areas, are sparsely inhabited by indigenous peoples who are still in the process of coming into contact with the modern world.

Brazil also stands out for its regional and social disparities and is noted for having one of the most unequal income distributions of any country. In the rural Northeast there is poverty similar to that found in some African and Asian countries. Although increased urbanization has accompanied economic development it also has created serious social problems in the cities. Even the wealthiest cities contain numerous shantytowns called favelas.

In Rio the favelas are sited on the city's steep hillsides and ravines. The very poorest people live in makeshift building without running water, electricity or sewage systems. This situation dates back to the 1970's when cities such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte began increasing dramatically in size as people poured in from the surrounding countryside. Poorer families sold their land to rich landowners who created huge soya bean and coffee plantations.

At the same time, many plantation workers were replaced by machines. Farming families in the northeast migrated for the cities after their crops were ravaged by severe droughts. To date many of the cities services would collapse without a workforce from the favelas. Authorities have been working alongside favela dwellers to improve their living conditions. Since 1995 the Favela-Bairro project has been adding facilities such as street lighting, community centres, sewage and waste disposal systems.

### Population Density

Brazils population density is 21.2 per square km. According to the population density map the areas in the east of Brazil are most populated. This could be because the eastern side of Brazil is by the ocean, which makes it easier to trade and have business.

## Four Key Indicators

According to the CIA World Factbook the infant mortality rate in total is 23.33 deaths to each 1,000 live births. This would mean that the health care, education and technology are very low, and there is low access to clean water and sanitation.

In Brazil the HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate is 0.7% (CIA, World Factbook, 2003) compared to Australia's rate of 0.1%. This is a large difference, most probably due to the lack of education and access to protection, contraception and health care.

Brazil's literacy rate (15 years and over) for their total population is 88.6% compared to Australia's 99.9%. For a developing country the literacy rate is relatively high, due to good government funding for education.

On average per annum Brazil exports \$200 billion (US\$, 2008) to other countries and imports an average of \$176 billion (US\$, 2008). This is a gain of \$24 billion US dollars, going into their economy. This indicates that the work force in Brazil is economically stable, in areas of agriculture, transport equipment, iron ore and cars.

## Positive and Negative impacts of Population on Regions

### Transport and Communications

Brazilians have a complicated transport system, which links different parts of their vast country. Most Brazilians travel by road, despite the distances involved. Buses are cheap and comfortable even though journeys between some cities can take days. As urbanization has increased more Brazilians own their own cars, and many cities are frequently clogged with traffic and the air quality is poor. With over three million vehicles on the roads on weekdays, Sao Paulo's city authorities struggle to keep the traffic moving. Traffic jams are longer than in any city in the developed world and on average residents spend nearly three hours travelling between

home and work.

If the urban population continues to grow rapidly there will be a negative effect on the country as there will be more pollution and more traffic jams.

### Exports and Imports

With Brazil importing an average of \$176 billion US dollars and getting an average \$200 billion dollars per annum on exports, Brazil is gaining \$24 billion US dollars. This is an indication on how the country's work force is economically sound in areas of agriculture, transport equipment, iron ore and cars. This is a positive impact as it means that more money is circulating Brazil's workforce lessening its chances of an economic recession.

### Factors contributing to maintain the population

If Brazil had an anti-natalist policy it would decrease the amount of infant mortality rates because it would reduce the amount of people and that would impact on the health care in a positive way meaning there would be more money in the health system. The government would also be able to improve the education system and families would be able to send all their children to school. With more people having a better education the work place would be improved therefore booting the economy.

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