Brazil by the Numbers

Rankings, Ratings, and Sundry Facts

0  Brazil’s dependence on energy imports is exactly zero. In 2006, Brazil achieved energy independence based on domestic oil drilling and ethanol production.

1  Brazil is the most populous country in Latin America, with 188 million people. More people speak Portuguese as their first language in South America than Spanish.

1.1  Brazil is 1.1 times the size of the continental United States.

2.7  Billion dollars were remitted from the United States to Brazil in 2005.

6  Sixth highest Gross Domestic Product per capita in Latin America of $5,176.55 as of 2006.

7  Only seven percent of Brazilians view crime as the country’s chief challenge—despite international media attention on crime—ranking behind unemployment (20 percent) and health (14 percent).

9  Ninth-largest economy in the world measured by Purchasing Power Parity.

9.6  Brazil’s unemployment rate of 9.6 percent is the eighth highest in Latin America as of 2006.

19  Percentage of Brazilians with a favorable opinion of President Bush, compared with 28 percent with a favorable opinion of Fidel Castro, and 17 percent with a favorable opinion of Hugo Chavez.

19.2  Percentage of Brazilian exports that go to the United States, Brazil’s top trading partner as of 2005.

31  Percentage of Brazilians who live below the poverty line, the fifteenth-highest in Latin America.

40  Percent share of ethanol that has replaced Brazil’s non-diesel gasoline consumption.

54  Cent-per-gallon tariff that is levied on Brazilian ethanol imported into the United States.

76  Percentage of Brazilians who have at least a “fair” opinion of President Lula de Silva.

70  Percent share of global ethanol production by Brazil and the United States together. Brazil is the world’s leading ethanol exporter.

70  Percentage of vehicles sold in Brazil that are flex-fuel models using ethanol or gasoline.

600,000–1.2 M  Estimated number of Brazilians in the United States.