

Population Trends Brazil

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Brazil, the world's fifth largest country in land area, also ranks fifth in total population size, with 156.7 million persons in 1993. Among the 45 countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region, Brazil ranks number one in population and land area, with its population size greatly exceeding that of its neighbors and accounting for one-third of the region's population (figure 1). Brazil's population more than tripled in size since 1950, but fertility decline reduced the average annual growth rate from a peak of over 2.9 percent in the 1950's to 1.4 percent in the early 1990's. The absolute population increase peaked in the late 1980's and is now declining. Currently, Brazil is adding about 2.3 million people to its population each year.

Figure 1.
Total Population in Latin America and the Caribbean: 1993
(Population in millions)

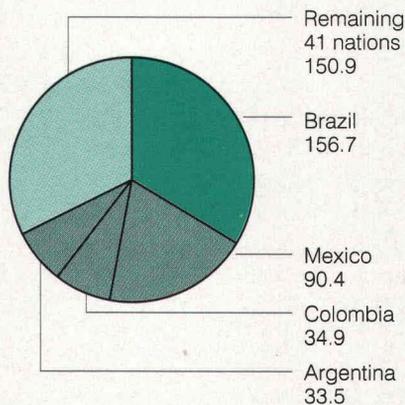
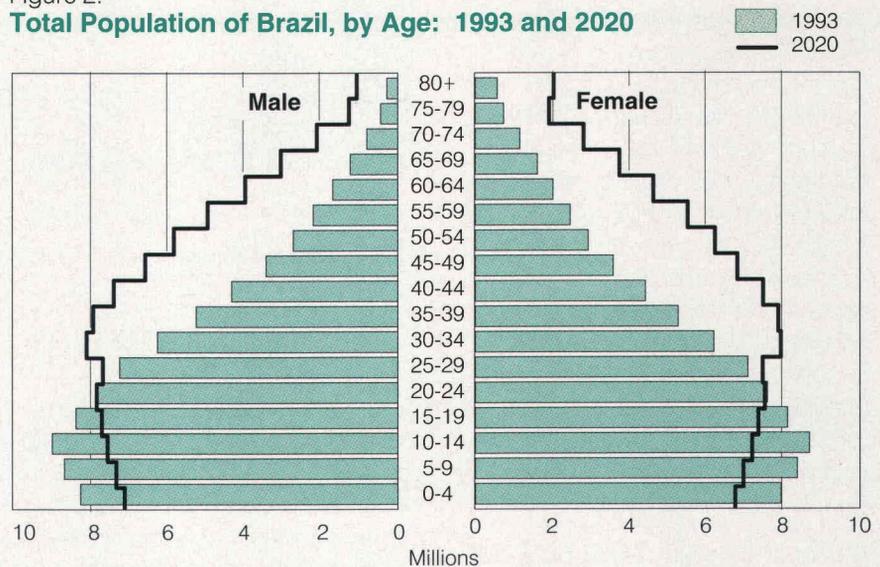


Figure 2.
Total Population of Brazil, by Age: 1993 and 2020



Fertility estimates show a rapid decline: from 6.0 births per woman in 1960 to 2.6 in 1990. This decline has resulted in large part from increased use of modern contraceptive methods (Adams et al., 1992).

The declines in fertility over the last three decades have actually reduced the size of young age cohorts, and in about 30 years the population under age 30 will take on a "rectangular" look typical of developed countries rather than the broad base typical of many developing countries (figure 2).

Mortality has been reduced in Brazil, as evidenced by the rise in life expectancy at birth from about 53 years in 1960 to 61 years in 1980. By 1993, life expectancy at birth in Brazil is projected as 63 years.

However, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a growing problem in Brazil and is expected to have an impact on future levels of life expectancy. Through September 1991, nearly 22,000 cases of AIDS had been reported to the Brazil Ministry of Health (1991). Between 1990 and 2000, life expectancy at birth in Brazil is projected to decline by 4 years for males and by about 3 years for females as a consequence of AIDS.

Comparisons of 1993 mortality estimates for Latin America and the Caribbean countries show that Brazil ranks relatively well (11th out of 45 countries) in terms of life expectancy at birth. In terms of the infant mortality rate (IMR), however, it ranks poorly (43rd) among the countries in the region. Still, the

IMR declined from 116 in 1960, to 82 in 1980, and to 62 in 1993.

Contraceptive Prevalence

Knowledge of contraceptive methods is widespread in Brazil. Eighty-three percent of currently married women¹ ages 15 to 44 years know at least five methods. Ninety-five percent know two or more modern methods.

Overall, nearly two-thirds of women in union in 1986 were using some method of contraception (figure 3). Only 9 percent were using the less reliable traditional methods. Among modern methods, by far the most commonly used are the pill (25 percent of women in union) and female sterilization (27 percent). Method use varies considerably by age of women. As may be expected, the nonreversible method (sterilization) is used mostly by women over age 30 while the pill (which can be used for spacing births) is used in greater proportions by women under age 30.

Among the regions of Brazil, the Northeast has the lowest contraceptive use (55 percent modern and 6 percent traditional) and the highest level of fertility (with a

¹Data for Brazil refer to "women in union" representing married women and women in consensual unions.

Figure 3.
Family Planning Use, by Method: 1986

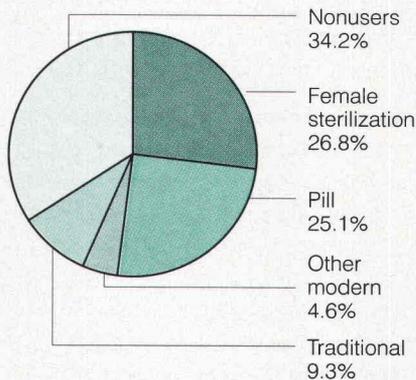
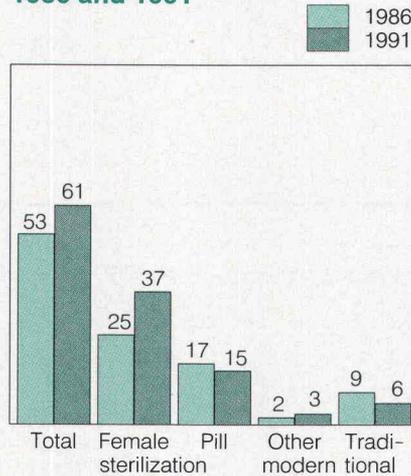


Figure 4.
Percent of Women in Union Using Contraception, by Method, for Northeast Region: 1986 and 1991

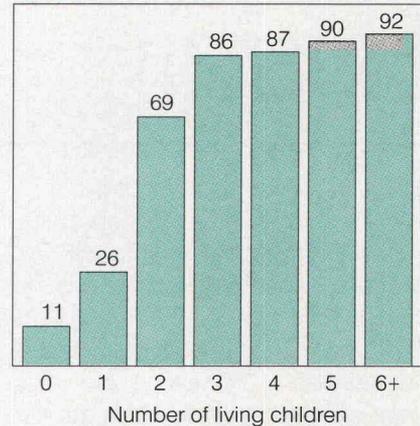


Note: Data refer to women ages 15-44 years.

reported 1991 total fertility rate of 3.7 per woman). This region encompasses a population of 42 million persons, 29 percent of the total country. If the Northeast region were a separate country, it would be the 25th most populous in the world. In 1991, an additional Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) was conducted which covered only this region. Contraceptive prevalence data for women 15 to 44 years from the 1991 DHS show an increase in female sterilization in the Northeast during the 1986-91 period from 25 to 37 percent and a slight decline in the percent using the pill (figure 4).

One indication of the demand for fertility limitation is the percent of currently married women who want no more children (figure 5). As the number of living children increases, the percent wanting no more children also increases. Nearly 7 of every 10 women with 2 living children want no additional children, while about 9 of every 10 women with 3 or more children do not want any more.

Figure 5.
Percent of Women in Union Who Want No More Children, by Number of Living Children: 1986



Comparative data from 25 countries participating in the first phase of the DHS indicate that among married women, Brazil ranked third lowest on unmet need for contraception, with 13 percent² (Westoff and Ochoa, 1991).

While the percent of married women with unmet need for contraception in Brazil may be comparatively lower than other countries studied, the absolute number of women with unmet need is considerable. Due to Brazil's large population size, the level of unmet need still implies that about 2.6 million women in union ages 15 to 44 years have an unmet need for contraception.

Substantial differences in unmet need for family planning are present between the regions of Brazil (figure 6). In 1986, by far the greatest unmet need (24 percent) was found in the higher fertility Northeast

²Unmet need is defined as nonuse of contraception among women who would like to regulate their fertility. Thailand's unmet need (11 percent) and Sri Lanka's (12 percent) were lower than Brazil's, while Colombia ranked essentially the same as Brazil, with unmet need of 14 percent.

region of the country. This high percentage implies that roughly half (or about 1.3 million) of all women in union ages 15 to 44 years with an unmet need for contraception are in the Northeast region. The regions with lower fertility (Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and South) are also those with the lowest levels of unmet need (ranging from 6 to 9 percent).

Literacy

Literacy has increased substantially in Brazil over the past four decades, with the percent literate rising from 49 percent in 1950 to 81 percent in 1990. The increase has been even more pronounced for women, with the gap between women and men declining from almost 11 percentage points in 1950 to under 3 points in 1990 (figure 7). By 1987, female literacy rates for women under age 30 years exceeded those of men in the same age group.

Urbanization

Brazil has experienced rapid urbanization, with the percent urban rising from 36 percent in 1950 to about 68 percent in 1980 and projected to exceed 86 percent by 2020. The cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro rank as the third and ninth most populous urban agglomerations in the world (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991).

Population Composition

Although fertility has declined in recent years, Brazil's population remains relatively young, with 32 percent under the age of 15 years. This compares with 22 percent under age 15 years in the United States. In absolute terms, while the U.S. has over 100 million more persons than Brazil, the population under age 15 years in these two countries are similar. (There are only 6 million more persons under the age of 15 in the U.S. than in Brazil.)

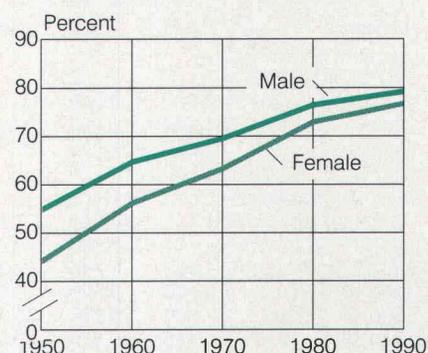
As a consequence of past and expected further fertility decline, between 1993 and 2020 Brazil's population under age 15 will decline by 16 percent while the population 65 years and over will more than double, and the working age population (ages 15 to 64 years) will increase by 38 percent.

The number of women in the child-bearing ages (15 to 49 years) will continue to increase during the 1993 to 2020 period, from an estimated 42 million women in 1993 to 52 million in 2020, an increase of 24 percent.

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Figure 7.
Percent Literate, Ages 15 Years and Over, by Sex: 1950 to 1990



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Figure 6.
Unmet Need for Family Planning Among Women in Union, by Region: 1986

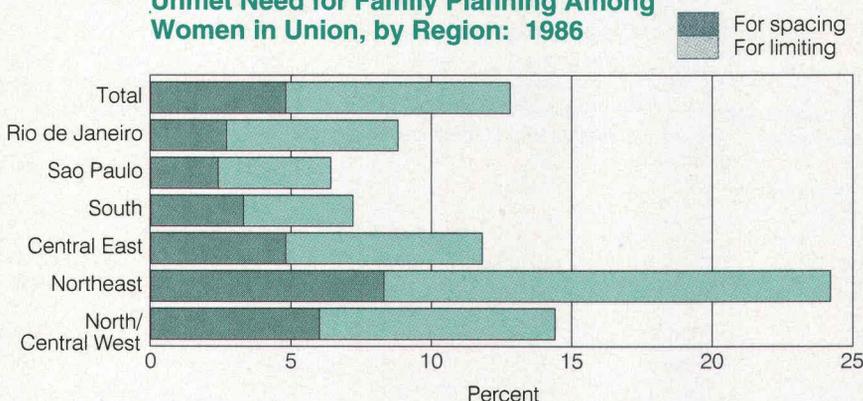


Table 1.
**Population Indicators for Brazil:
 1980 to 2020**
 (Population in thousands)

Indicator	1980	1990	1993	2000	2020
POPULATION					
Total country ..	122,830	150,062	156,664	169,543	197,466
Urban	81,313	112,396	120,318	136,652	171,006
Rural	41,517	37,666	36,346	32,891	26,460
Male, total country					
All ages	61,165	74,696	77,878	83,685	97,020
0 to 14	24,717	26,285	25,895	24,539	21,896
6 to 12	11,183	12,444	12,340	11,442	10,352
13 to 18	8,608	9,885	10,264	10,460	9,150
15 to 44	27,869	36,789	39,204	43,362	46,420
15 to 49	30,188	39,850	42,624	47,620	52,964
15 to 64	34,721	45,945	49,225	55,626	67,645
65+	1,726	2,466	2,758	3,521	7,478
Female, total country					
All ages	61,665	75,366	78,787	85,858	100,446
0 to 14	23,853	25,389	25,004	23,683	20,931
6 to 12	10,776	12,029	11,920	11,078	9,900
13 to 18	8,350	9,578	9,953	10,122	8,775
15 to 44	27,704	36,259	38,698	43,226	45,676
15 to 49	30,158	39,466	42,282	47,806	52,495
15 to 64	35,350	46,340	49,701	56,954	68,909
65+	2,462	3,637	4,082	5,221	10,606
Women in union					
15 to 49	17,578	23,664	25,618	29,535	34,175
15 to 19	965	1,130	1,169	1,221	1,060
20 to 24	2,908	3,700	3,828	4,154	3,795
25 to 29	3,557	4,786	5,125	5,523	5,404
30 to 34	3,261	4,529	4,949	5,651	6,340
35 to 39	2,721	3,917	4,294	5,171	6,414
40 to 44	2,292	3,153	3,514	4,315	5,951
45 to 49	1,874	2,450	2,739	3,500	5,210
DEPENDENCY RATIO					
Both sexes	75.3	62.6	58.4	50.6	44.6
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)					
Both sexes	61.3	64.1	62.7	60.9	75.5
Male	58.2	61.1	58.3	57.1	72.8
Female	64.6	67.4	67.3	64.8	78.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 births)					
Both sexes	81.7	68.3	61.7	47.8	17.6
Male	88.5	74.1	66.2	50.9	18.5
Female	74.5	62.3	57.0	44.5	16.6
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE					
(per woman)	4.1	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.8

Note: Dependency ratio is the number of persons under age 15 and age 65 and over per 100 persons ages 15 to 64 years.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, International Data Base.

Table 2.
**Contraceptive Prevalence Among Women in
 Union 15 to 44 Years of Age, by Method: 1986**

	Total	Pill	Female Steril- ization	Other modern	Tradi- tional
Percent current users					
Total, 15 to 44	65.8	25.2	26.9	4.6	9.3
15 to 19	47.6	40.3	1.0	2.7	3.6
20 to 24	54.1	37.0	5.4	3.5	8.2
25 to 29	67.9	35.9	19.2	6.4	6.5
30 to 34	73.8	21.9	36.6	5.1	10.2
35 to 39	68.9	13.0	41.6	3.8	10.5
40 to 44	66.5	11.2	38.4	3.5	13.3
Percent distribution of users					
Total, 15 to 44	100	38	41	7	14
15 to 19	100	85	2	6	8
20 to 24	100	68	10	6	15
25 to 29	100	53	28	9	10
30 to 34	100	30	50	7	14
35 to 39	100	19	60	6	15
40 to 44	100	17	58	5	20
CHILDLESS WOMEN: 1986					
Percent of women in union					
aged 40 to 44	4.6				
AVERAGE DURATION OF POSTPARTUM INFECUNDABILITY: 1986					
Number of months					
	5.6				

Source: BEMFAM & IRD, 1987, tables 3.3 and 4.5; and Stover, John et al., 1991, table 3.

Table 3.
Fertility Rates
 (Per 1,000 women)

Age	1980	1990	1993	2000	2020
15 to 19	76	51	47	39	31
20 to 24	204	143	136	119	103
25 to 29	207	156	152	143	135
30 to 34	164	98	92	79	68
35 to 39	109	52	47	35	23
40 to 44	50	21	19	12	6
45 to 49	10	5	4	2	1
Total fertility rate					
per woman	4.1	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, International Data Base.