

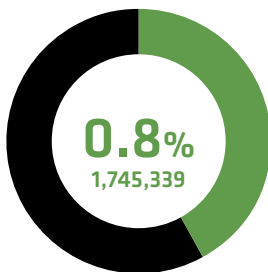


Diaspora engagement mapping BRAZIL

Facts & figures

Emigration

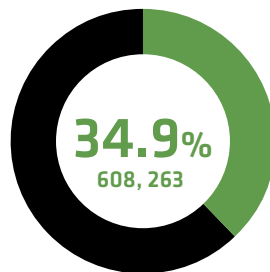
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 42.3%
♀ 57.7%



% of which in the EU



♂ 38.1%
♀ 61.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **3,566**



Top countries of destination¹

US	459,876
Japan	189,735
Portugal	136,526
Italy	115,970
Spain	109,552



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



*According to the Brazilian constitution, Brazilian citizens who acquire another nationality may lose their Brazilian one. A 1994 constitutional amendment allows two exceptions. Firstly, in the case of foreign law recognition of "originary nationality" i.e. where the other nationality is acquired by origin (birth or descent, as opposed to naturalisation). The second exception occurs when the other country requires naturalisation for the person to remain residing or to exercise civil rights.²

Brazil does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ For presidential elections. Voters must be on the nearest consulate's registration list and vote there in person; there is no postal vote or online polls. <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/perguntas-frequentes-artigos/19385-assistance-to-brazilians-abroad#1118>

² <http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/perda-da-nacionalidade>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework:



- 2010 ● **Decree No. 7.214³** establishes principles and guidelines of government policy for Brazilian communities abroad. It includes the Brazilian Conferences in the World (CBM) and creation of the Council of Representatives of Brazilians Abroad (CRBE).⁴ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs created the website Portal Brasileiros no Mundo (Brazilians in the World) to implement the decree (see Spotlight section).
- 2011 ● **'Actions to Benefit Brazilians Abroad' Action Plan⁵** comprises around 100 joint activities aimed at meeting the demands of the Brazilian Diaspora. The plan covers areas such as consular services and assistance; policies for expatriate communities; education; social security; labour; health; social services and human rights; culture and communication; economic affairs and science and technology.
- **Decree 10.554.⁶** President Jair Bolsonaro revoked a series of presidential decrees, including Decree 7.214. As a consequence, all initiatives and bodies created by this decree to support diaspora engagement ceased to exist.



Trends

The Brazilian diaspora is relatively autonomous and not substantially engaged with the homeland. Fewer Brazilians tend to remit compared to other nationalities, and they also tend to emigrate in smaller numbers. Once abroad they mainly focus on cultural awareness. The government also maintains a low profile. Its efforts are mainly limited to enabling remittance transfers and providing consular services.

There are recent efforts to bridge relations between government and civil society, as seen by public foundations linked to government institutions and financial institutions are becoming increasingly involved in social development.



Achievements

The first international conference of the Brazilians communities abroad was co-organised in 2008-2009 by the Alexandre de Gusano Foundation (FUNAG), - a public foundation linked to the MRE devoted to the study and disclosure of Brazilian foreign policy and themes related to international relations. FUNAG has been involved in supporting the diaspora through the organisation of meetings and publications.⁷

In 2017, the Central Bank of Brazil changed regulations for remittances as part of its efforts to open the banking sector to more players. A cash transfer from abroad can now be deposited directly into a checking or savings account in Brazilian reais, without the need for a foreign exchange transaction.⁸

3 http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2007-2010/2010/decreto/d7214.htm

4 <http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/apresentacao/decreto-no-7.987-de-17-de-abril-de-2013>

5 <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/press-releases/16677-actions-to-benefit-brazilians-abroad>

6 http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Decreto/D10554.htm#art1

7 <http://funag.gov.br/index.php/pt-br/>, Padilla, Beatriz. "Engagement Policies and Practices: Expanding the Citizenship of the Brazilian Diaspora." *International Migration*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2011, pp. 10-29., doi:10.1111/j.1468-2435.2011.00694.x.

8 <https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/brazils-central-bank-updates-remittances-regulations>

Obstacles



- **Representation:** Emigrants wish to have congressional representation but agreement cannot be reached due to inadequate partisan support. Recently, NGOs and government representatives have also been pushing for such representation.
- **Political participation:** Voter turnout is low. Voting is compulsory for citizens who are temporarily or permanently abroad and yet only about 5% of eligible external voters participate.
- **Remittances:** Information on the remittance marketplace is inadequate. It is hard to determine how much is arriving into the country and how much competition really exists between unlicensed and licensed businesses. There are recent initiatives that aim at improving foreign exchange controls to increase transparency and reduce costs to encourage remittance payments.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Portal Consular⁹

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website offers information about associations and organisations managed by Brazilians abroad, Brazilians in the World Conferences, and the latest developments on consular diplomacy. The website aims to strengthen and broaden the dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Brazilian communities abroad, as well as among themselves.

DIGITAL

Titulo Net

Offering better means for Brazilians abroad to exercise their citizenship rights more effectively, Titulo Net is a joint initiative of the Itamaraty, the Superior Electoral Court and the Regional Electoral Court of the Federal District. It allows the registration, transfer, registration change and regularisation of Brazilian voters outside the country by electronic means, with immediate processing by the Electoral Justice after checking and endorsing data and documents by registered consular agents.

MIGRANT RIGHTS

SIMPLE

Brazil-based exchange broker Frente Corretora de Câmbio (The Front Exchange) launched a fintech collaboration with San Francisco-based startup Ripple. The blockchain platform, Simple, is designed to allow people in Brazil to send money abroad without the high fees and the slow transaction times that are common in traditional money transfer mechanisms. Ripple uses Simple to address the fragmentation and unreliability of current remittances structures.¹⁰

REMITTANCES

CAIXA

This government-run bank acts as the main agent of Brazil's social policies. It offers support to migrants and their relatives with financial services tailored to their needs.¹¹ Its mission is to provide training to migrants to help them become future business leaders. The Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Businesses (CAIXA's partner) is also taking steps to ensure that remittance recipients in Brazil receive training to start and strengthen businesses. The program has established a partnership with a US bank, conducted needs assessments for migrants and their families living in Massachusetts, and developed six remittance-linked financial products tailored to the target population.¹²

FINANCE

⁹ <https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/assuntos/portal-consular/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ccn.com/ripple-launch-brazil-2-billion-remittances/>

¹¹ <http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/trabalho-empreendedorismo-retorno-remessas/programa-remessas>

¹² https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

The Consular Office <http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/>

The Brazilian Consular Network is one of the largest in the world. It consists of a set of Embassies, Consulates and Vice-Consulates, which can be contacted by Brazilian citizens in need of assistance abroad. The consular office is the unit through which the Brazilian Government is represented before the Brazilian community abroad, protecting and providing assistance to Brazilian citizens within their jurisdiction and within the limits set by existing international treaties and by the laws of the foreign country.

- **At ministerial level**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/services#consular>

The main services provided by consular offices are listed on the website Portal Consular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), including passports (regular, official or diplomatic); legalisation of documents issued abroad and in Brazil, and the issuance of other consular documents, such as proof of residence, travel authorization for children.

Undersecretary General for Brazilian Communities Abroad (SGEB)

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/press-releases/16638-1st-meeting-between-the-ministry-of-external-relations-and-the-council-of-brazilian-representatives-abroad-brasilia-may-2-to-6-2011>

This office within and created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008 assists the largest and the most vulnerable Brazilian communities abroad, develops ties between Brazil and the diaspora, improves consular assistance, forms strategies for reaching out to Brazilian emigrants, and updates services and technologies (such as web portals) for emigrants.

Council of Representatives of Brazilians Abroad (CRBE)

<http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/>

CRBE is a worldwide group of 32 elected representatives of nearly 4 million Brazilians living outside of Brazil. It is mandated by the Brazilian State Department to serve as liaison between the Brazilian Government and the Brazilian diaspora all over the world, establishing priorities and pursuing opportunities for bi-lateral improvements in government services and cultural and economic exchanges.

- **At sub-ministerial level**

Citizenship Councils

<http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/associativismo-e-politicas-para-as-comunidades/CRBE/espaco-dos-conselhos>

The Citizen or Citizenship Councils are informal fora that aim to facilitate contacts between nationals living abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular network. On the Brasileiros no Mundo website there is a list of active councils .



Diaspora organisations in Europe



AACILUS - Association of Social Support and Immigration Guidance in Portugal Portugal
<https://www.aacilusbrasil.org/aacilus/>

The association provides clarification to the Brazilian community on the issue of visa regularisation and employability.

Brazilian Association in the United Kingdom (ABRAS) UK <http://www.abras.org.uk/>

This non-profit, non-governmental organization supports the Brazilian community in the United Kingdom by providing free services such as general assistance, legal and psychological counselling, translation, interpretation, assistance in finding accommodation, schools and work, arrangements with banks, doctors and dentists.

Brazilian Association of Portugal (ABP) Portugal <http://www.abp.com.pt/>

The association's corporate purpose is to support initiatives aimed at stimulating the insertion of Brazilian immigrants in the community of the host country, namely in the socio-cultural, labour and academic sectors, among others. It aims to facilitate access to the services necessary for immigrants' survival by assisting them in their personal and professional lives in the host country, including in the areas of health, education, work and housing.

Brazilian Association for International Education <http://faubai.org.br/en-us/>

The association attempts to serve as a point of reference for guidance on teachers (selection, hiring, training, qualification), curriculum (different approaches already used by other schools, including other community languages), teaching materials, networking with other groups in the UK and abroad, human and financial resources.

Brazil Caledonia Association 2008 Scotland, UK <http://brasilcaledonia.btck.co.uk/>

The Scotland-based volunteer-run non-profit association was set up in 2008. It has no political or religious ties but the joint purposes of promoting Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language, giving moral and social support to Brazilians in Scotland and boosting the connections between Brazilians and their descendants residing in Edinburgh, Scotland - United Kingdom.

Roots Association 2001 Switzerland
<http://raizes.ch/>

Based in Geneva, Roots is a non-profit Brazilian cultural association, established by a decision of the Geneva State Council of 13/06/2001. Founded by Brazilian parents and educators, the association's work is done by both Brazilian and Swiss directors and members on a voluntary basis. It develops activities to promote the Brazilian language and culture.

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