**Brazil** [**i**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3AEn-us-Brazil.ogg)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_English)[brəˈzɪl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_English) ([Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language): *Brasil*, IPA: [[bɾaˈziw]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_Portuguese_and_Galician)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-7)), officially the **Federative Republic of Brazil**[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-8)[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-Mugnier-9) ([Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language): *República Federativa do Brasil*,  [listen](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b7/Pt-br-Rep%C3%BAblica_Federativa_do_Brasil.ogg) ([help](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AMedia_help%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3AMedia%20help)·[info](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3APt-br-Rep%C3%BAblica_Federativa_do_Brasil.ogg))), is the largest country in [South America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_America). It is the world's fifth largest country, both by[geographical area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_total_area) and [by population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) with over 192 million people.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Geo-10)[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_People-11) It is the only[Portuguese-speaking country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries) in the [Americas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas) and the largest [lusophone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lusophone%22%20%5Co%20%22Lusophone) country in the world.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Geo-10)

Bounded by the [Atlantic Ocean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) on the east, Brazil has a coastline of 7,491 km (4,655 mi).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Geo-10) It is bordered on the north by [Venezuela](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela), [Guyana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guyana), [Suriname](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suriname) and the[French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) overseas region of [French Guiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Guiana); on the northwest by [Colombia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia); on the west by[Bolivia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolivia) and [Peru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru); on the southwest by [Argentina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentina) and [Paraguay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraguay) and on the south by[Uruguay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruguay). Numerous [archipelagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archipelago) form part of Brazilian territory, such as [Fernando de Noronha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_de_Noronha), [Rocas Atoll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocas_Atoll%22%20%5Co%20%22Rocas%20Atoll), [Saint Peter and Paul Rocks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Peter_and_Saint_Paul_Archipelago), and [Trindade and Martim Vaz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trindade_and_Martim_Vaz%22%20%5Co%20%22Trindade%20and%20Martim%20Vaz).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Geo-10) It borders all other South American countries except [Ecuador](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecuador) and [Chile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile).

Brazil was a [colony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colony) of [Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) from the landing of [Pedro Álvares Cabral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedro_%C3%81lvares_Cabral) in 1500 until 1815, when it was elevated to the rank of kingdom and the [United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Portugal%2C_Brazil_and_the_Algarves) was formed. The colonial bond was in fact broken in 1808, when the capital of the [Portuguese colonial empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) was [transferred from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfer_of_the_Portuguese_Court_to_Brazil), after Napoleon invaded Portugal.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Intro-12) [Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Independence) was achieved in 1822 with the formation of the [Empire of Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_of_Brazil), a [unitary state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) governed under a [constitutional monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy)and a [parliamentary system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system). The country became a [presidential](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) in 1889, when a[military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military) [coup d'état](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) [proclaimed the Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation_of_the_Republic_%28Brazil%29), although the [bicameral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism) legislature, now called [Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_of_Brazil), dates back to the ratification of the first constitution in 1824.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Intro-12) Its current [Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil), formulated in 1988, defines Brazil as a [Federal Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic).[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-Constitui.C3.A7.C3.A3o-13) The Federation is formed by the union of the [Federal District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_District_%28Brazil%29), the 26 [States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Brazil), and the 5,564[Municipalities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Brazil).[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-Constitui.C3.A7.C3.A3o-13)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-14)

The [Brazilian economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Brazil) is the world's [sixth largest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28nominal%29) by nominal [GDP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) and the [seventh largest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29) by [purchasing power parity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) (as of 2011).[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-siteresources.worldbank.org-15)[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-16) Brazil is one of the world's [fastest growing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_growth) major economies. Economic reforms have given the country new international recognition.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-17) Brazil is a founding member of the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations), the [G20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G-20_major_economies), [CPLP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CPLP), [Latin Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_Union), the [Organization of Ibero-American States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_Ibero-American_States), the [Organization of American States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_American_States),[Mercosul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercosur) and the [Union of South American Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_South_American_Nations), and is one of the [BRIC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BRIC) countries. Brazil is also one of the 17 [Megadiverse countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megadiverse_countries%22%20%5Co%20%22Megadiverse%20countries), home to diverse [wildlife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_of_Brazil), [natural environments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment), and extensive [natural resources](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource) in a variety of [protected habitats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_areas_of_Brazil).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil#cite_note-CIA_Geo-10)