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## Brazilians in the United States 1980–2007

Laird Bergad

*Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies*

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Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

## Brazilians in the United States 1980—2007

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The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/>

For additional information you may contact the Center at 212-817-8438 or by e-mail at [clacls@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu).

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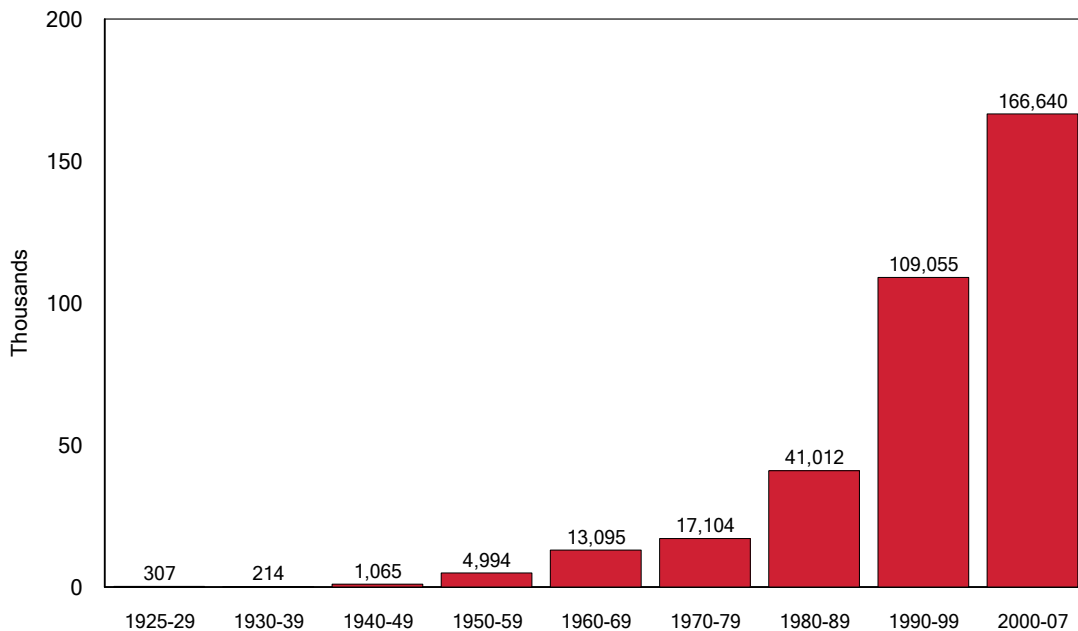
Population Trends

The Brazilian population of the United States increased from about 56,000 in 1980 to slightly over 454,000 in 2007 according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup> (See table 1). Although there was a rise in the number of Brazilians born in the U.S. over the same period, most of this population increase was the result of migration from Brazil which accelerated significantly in the 1990s and during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During the 17 years between 1990 and 2007 over 275,000 Brazilians migrated to the United States. (See figure 1).

Table 1  
Brazilian Foreign and Domestic-Born Population of the United States by Sex  
1980 - 2007

	Foreign-Born		Domestic-Born		Total		Total Population
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1980	20,730	25,730	5,024	4,603	25,754	30,333	56,087
1990	45,633	50,151	9,759	8,970	55,392	59,121	114,513
2000	103,945	122,374	22,409	21,113	126,354	143,487	269,841
2007	179,203	185,797	46,785	42,363	225,988	228,160	454,148

Figure 1  
Brazilian Migration to the United States by Decade  
1925 - 2007

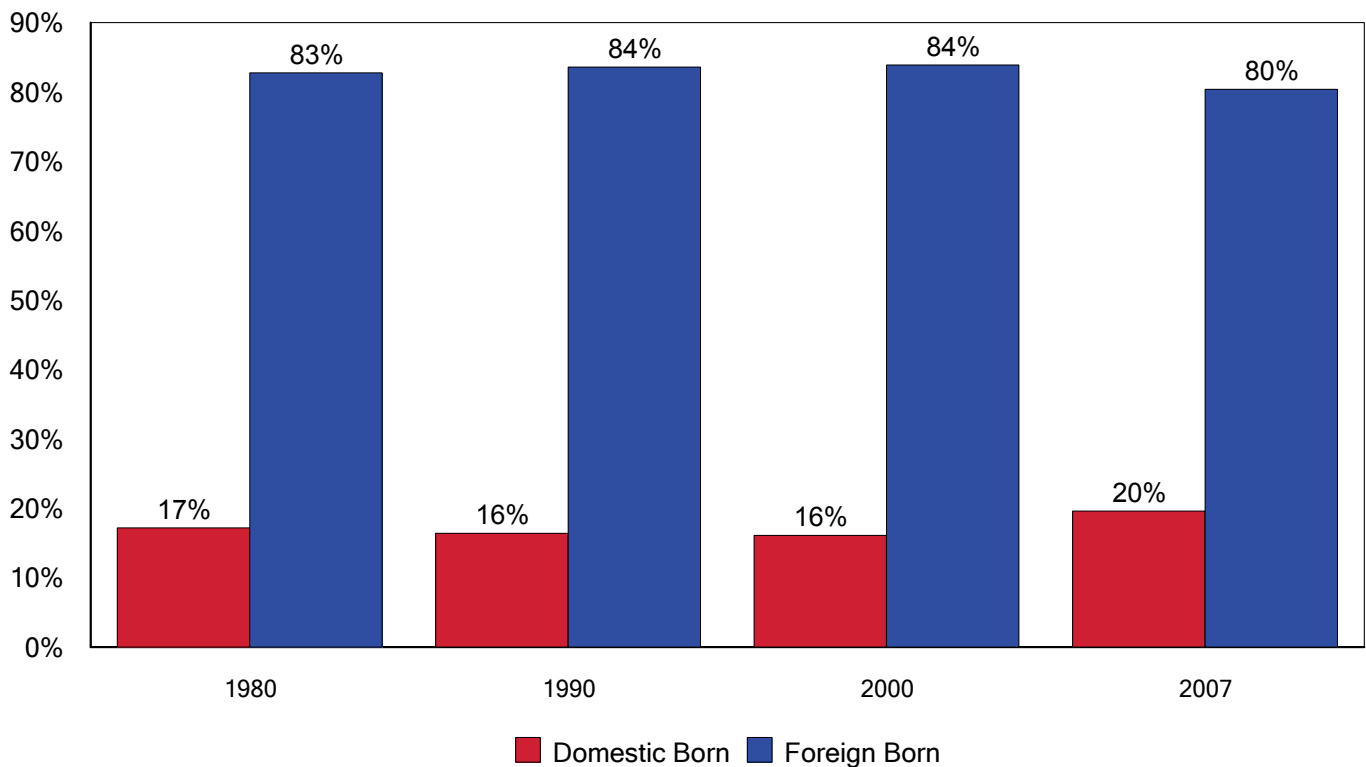


<sup>1</sup> All data in this report were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples for censuses of 1980, 1990, 2000 and the American Community Survey 2007 as organized and made available by Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 4.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2009, found at the internet site <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>

**Foreign and Domestic Born**

Because of this ongoing migration roughly 80% or more of the entire U.S. Brazilian population was foreign-born in all census years between 1980 and 2007. (See figure 2). Among this foreign-born population there was a slight predominance of women who accounted for about 51% of all foreign-born Brazilians in 2007. There is also evidence that Brazilian migration was not exclusively composed of single males or females, as has historically been the case among most migrant groups. There was the typical heavy concentration within working ages – about 70% of all Brazilian males and females arriving in the U.S. between 1990 and 2007 were between the ages of 15 and 40. However, about 57% of all Brazilian working-age females and 45% of males arriving in the U.S. after 1990 were married suggesting that ‘family’ migration was an important component among Brazilians coming to the U.S.

Figure 2  
Domestic and Foreign-Born Brazilians in the United States, 1980 - 2007  
(percentages)



Age Structures

The arrival of so many Brazilian working-age men and women after 1990 skewed the age structure of the total Brazilian population in the United States by 2007 as indicated in figure 3. Nearly 62% of all Brazilians in the U.S. were between 20 and 49 years of age and among foreign-born Brazilians 72% were in these age categories in 2007. (See figure 4).

Figure 3  
Age Pyramid Brazilian Total Population, 2007  
(in percentages of total population)

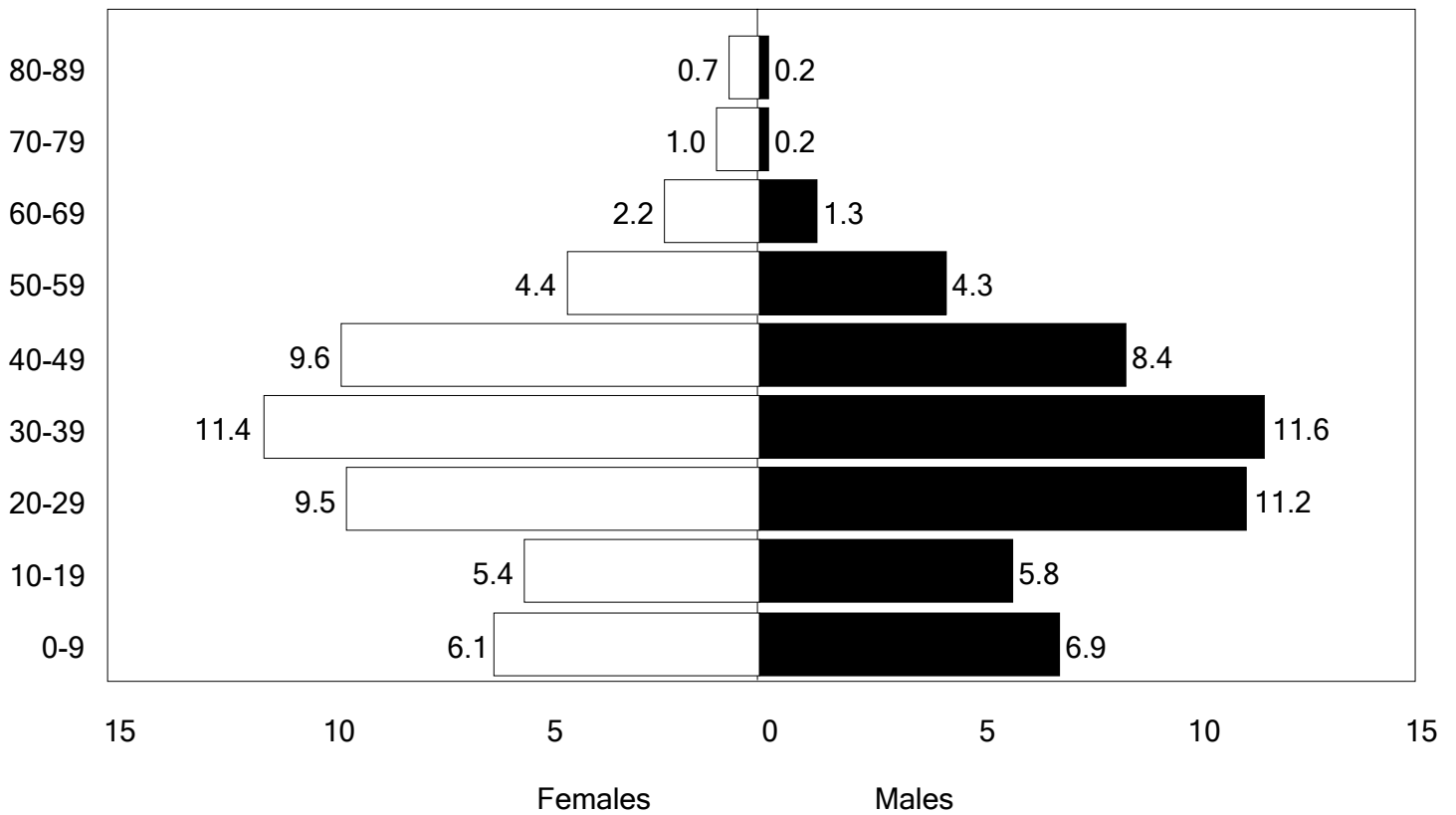
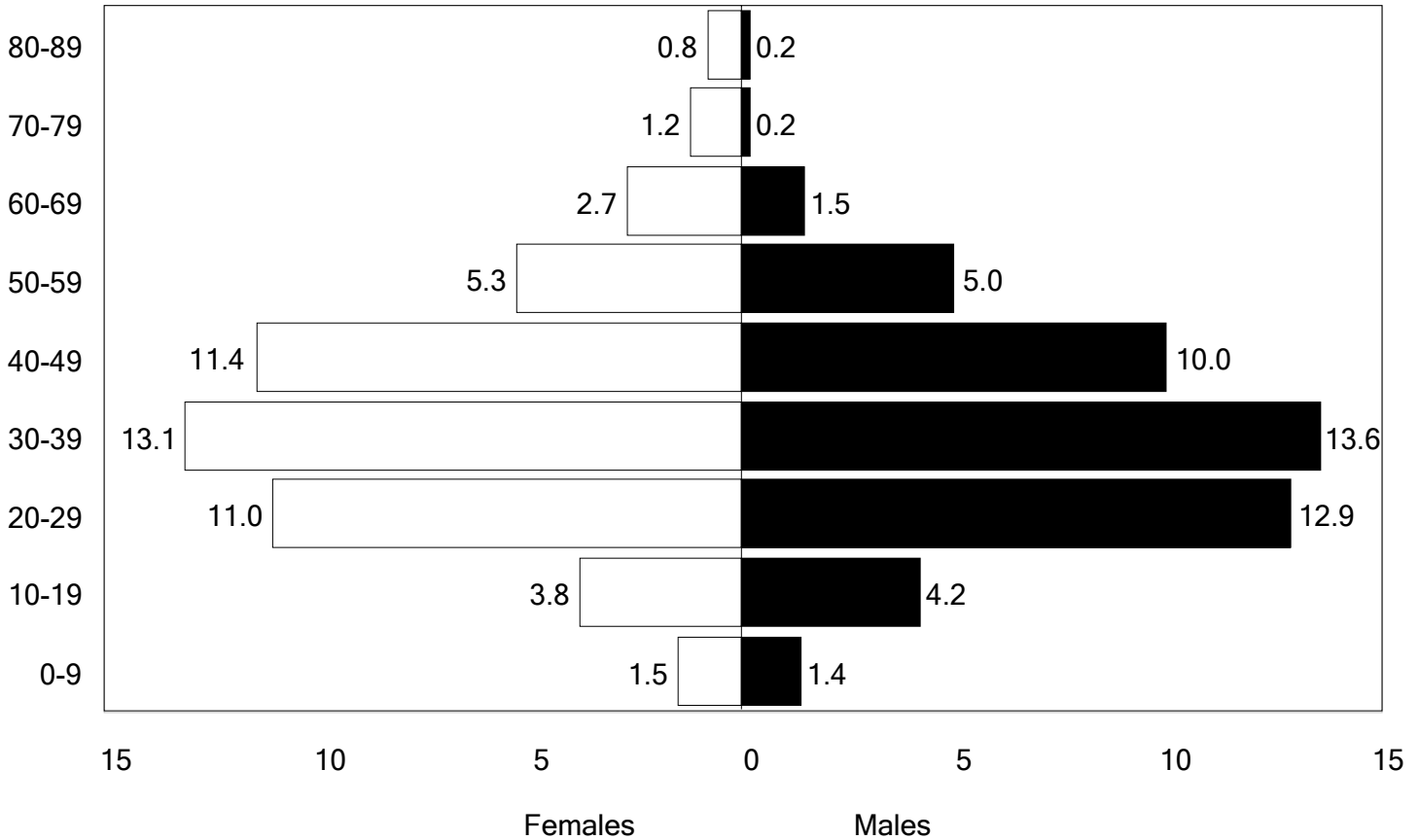


Figure 4  
Age Pyramid Brazilian Foreign-Born Population, 2007  
(in percentages of total population)



### Residential Patterns

Settlement patterns among Brazilians coming to the United States shifted considerably after 1980. In 1980 California and New York were the states with the largest Brazilian population concentration with over a third of all Brazilians in the U.S. residing in these two states. Florida and Massachusetts accounted for about 12% of the total Brazilian population in the same year. By 1990 there had been a slight decline in the percentage of all Brazilians living in California and New York (32%); but presaging future patterns, the percentage of all Brazilians living in Florida and Massachusetts rose to 21%. By 2007 Florida (22%) and Massachusetts (18%) had become the two states with the largest contingent of Brazilians (40% total); while California (9.5%) and New York (7.5%) were home to only 17% of all Brazilians residing in the U.S. and they had been surpassed by New Jersey where 10.4% of the Brazilian population lived in 2007. Five states accounted for two-thirds of the total Brazilian population in the U.S. in 2007: Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, and New York. (See table 2 for data from all states).



Table 2  
 Distribution of Brazilian Population in the United States by State, 1980 - 2007  
 (sorted by highest to lowest population in 2007)

	1980		1990		2000		2007	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Florida	3,480	6.2%	11,545	10.0%	53,569	19.9%	100,137	22.0%
Massachusetts	3,161	5.6%	12,498	10.8%	40,785	15.1%	82,244	18.1%
New Jersey	5,561	9.9%	12,653	11.0%	27,287	10.1%	47,051	10.4%
California	9,764	17.4%	18,109	15.7%	31,312	11.6%	42,927	9.5%
New York	9,410	16.7%	18,539	16.1%	27,991	10.4%	34,252	7.5%
Connecticut	1,562	2.8%	4,509	3.9%	14,098	5.2%	20,487	4.5%
Georgia	440	0.8%	1,117	1.0%	5,371	2.0%	18,325	4.0%
Texas	1,881	3.3%	5,006	4.3%	8,341	3.1%	14,516	3.2%
Maryland	2,141	3.8%	3,480	3.0%	5,778	2.1%	10,372	2.3%
Pennsylvania	2,301	4.1%	3,882	3.4%	4,699	1.7%	10,042	2.2%
Nevada	440	0.8%	541	0.5%	1,670	0.6%	5,968	1.3%
Illinois	2,200	3.9%	2,805	2.4%	5,020	1.9%	5,583	1.2%
Virginia	1,662	3.0%	2,361	2.0%	4,858	1.8%	4,492	1.0%
Utah	440	0.8%	861	0.7%	3,857	1.4%	4,443	1.0%
Michigan	1,360	2.4%	1,746	1.5%	3,978	1.5%	4,285	0.9%
South Carolina	220	0.4%	324	0.3%	1,471	0.5%	3,917	0.9%
North Carolina	420	0.7%	1,230	1.1%	2,960	1.1%	3,455	0.8%
Louisiana	500	0.9%	567	0.5%	1,052	0.4%	3,438	0.8%
Indiana	520	0.9%	682	0.6%	1,330	0.5%	3,080	0.7%
Washington	940	1.7%	1,449	1.3%	2,788	1.0%	2,846	0.6%
Ohio	1,220	2.2%	1,113	1.0%	2,833	1.0%	2,813	0.6%
Arizona	380	0.7%	1,021	0.9%	1,975	0.7%	2,489	0.5%
Kentucky	160	0.3%	233	0.2%	468	0.2%	2,393	0.5%
Rhode island	621	1.1%	868	0.8%	1,063	0.4%	2,222	0.5%
District of Columbia	400	0.7%	752	0.7%	967	0.4%	1,961	0.4%
Oregon	680	1.2%	973	0.8%	1,120	0.4%	1,946	0.4%
Minnesota	340	0.6%	671	0.6%	979	0.4%	1,893	0.4%
Colorado	220	0.4%	930	0.8%	2,007	0.7%	1,765	0.4%
New Hampshire	100	0.2%	273	0.2%	1,408	0.5%	1,765	0.4%
Missouri	261	0.5%	304	0.3%	1,159	0.4%	1,434	0.3%
Oklahoma	200	0.4%	120	0.1%	502	0.2%	1,340	0.3%
Hawaii	240	0.4%	220	0.2%	561	0.2%	1,261	0.3%
Tennessee	340	0.6%	453	0.4%	871	0.3%	1,021	0.2%
Delaware	40	0.1%	101	0.1%	331	0.1%	973	0.2%
Kansas	381	0.7%	390	0.3%	497	0.2%	966	0.2%
Maine	120	0.2%	149	0.1%	306	0.1%	846	0.2%
Alabama	140	0.2%	383	0.3%	840	0.3%	822	0.2%
Mississippi	180	0.3%	207	0.2%	215	0.1%	734	0.2%
Iowa	120	0.2%	202	0.2%	283	0.1%	550	0.1%
Wisconsin	280	0.5%	477	0.4%	1,109	0.4%	510	0.1%
North Dakota	40	0.1%	75	0.1%	107	0.0%	468	0.1%
West Virginia	200	0.4%	263	0.2%	223	0.1%	414	0.1%
Idaho	320	0.6%	176	0.2%	242	0.1%	365	0.1%
Nebraska	120	0.2%	84	0.1%	539	0.2%	325	0.1%
New Mexico	260	0.5%	426	0.4%	303	0.1%	291	0.1%
Arkansas	40	0.1%	61	0.1%	190	0.1%	286	0.1%
Alaska	120	0.2%	279	0.2%	243	0.1%	156	0.0%
Montana	120	0.2%	19	0.0%	138	0.1%	143	0.0%
Wyoming	40	0.1%	43	0.0%	42	0.0%	136	0.0%
South Dakota	21	0.0%	-	0.0%	68	0.0%	-	0.0%
Vermont	140	0.2%	62	0.1%	37	0.0%	-	0.0%
Total	56,247	100.0%	115,232	100.0%	269,841	100.0%	454,148	100.0%

**Educational Attainment**

Brazilians arriving in the United States between 1990 and 2007 had extraordinarily high educational attainment levels when compared to the major racial/ethnic groups in the United States. Nearly 29% of all Brazilian adult males and 35% of adult females had achieved a B.A. degree or higher either before they arrived in the U.S. or after taking up residence. In 2007 Brazilians in the United States had college and post-baccalaureate graduation rates which were slightly higher than the non-Hispanic white population of the United States, and they dwarfed the average college graduation rates of the Latino population in general. Nearly 32% of all Brazilians 25 years of age and older had at least graduated college – 30% of males and 33% of females – compared with 32% of all non-Hispanic whites, 17% of non-Hispanic blacks, and 13% of Latinos.<sup>2</sup> (See table 3 for complete educational attainment data for the Brazilian population from 1980 to 2007).

Table 3

Educational Attainment for Brazilian Population in the U.S. Ages 25 and Over and by Sex, 1980 - 2007

	1980			1990		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Did Not Graduate High School	24.3%	29.2%	27.1%	20.0%	21.2%	20.6%
High School Graduate	23.2%	28.7%	26.4%	22.3%	24.1%	23.3%
Some College No Degree	18.0%	18.9%	18.5%	17.2%	17.8%	17.5%
Associates Degree	na	na	na	5.6%	6.3%	5.9%
BA	34.5%	23.2%	28.0%	19.4%	20.1%	19.8%
MA	na	na	na	8.5%	6.5%	7.4%
Professional Degree	na	na	na	3.7%	2.4%	3.0%
PhD	na	na	na	3.3%	1.7%	2.4%
BA or Higher	34.5%	23.2%	28.0%	34.9%	30.7%	32.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	2000			2007		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Did Not Graduate High School	19.9%	17.6%	18.7%	18.7%	13.2%	15.9%
High School Graduate	24.1%	24.0%	24.0%	32.6%	31.0%	31.8%
Some College No Degree	17.2%	18.2%	17.8%	14.8%	17.1%	15.9%
Associates Degree	5.0%	6.0%	5.6%	4.1%	5.5%	4.9%
BA	19.4%	22.7%	21.2%	18.9%	22.2%	20.6%
MA	8.1%	6.7%	7.4%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%
Professional Degree	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%
PhD	2.9%	1.4%	2.1%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
BA or Higher	33.8%	34.1%	34.0%	29.8%	33.2%	31.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>2</sup> Asians had the highest college graduation rate in the U.S. in 2007. About 49% of Asian adults had at least graduated college.

**Median Household Income**

Two aspects about the household income of Brazilians stand out. First, between 1980 and 2007 median household income for households headed by both males and females experienced constant improvement. Second, and even more impressively, Brazilians had higher median household incomes in 2007 than non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Latinos, although Asians had the highest median household incomes in the U.S. (See figures 5 and 6).

Figure 5  
 Brazilian Median Household Income by Sex of Household Head, 1980 - 2007  
 (in 2007 inflation adjusted dollars)

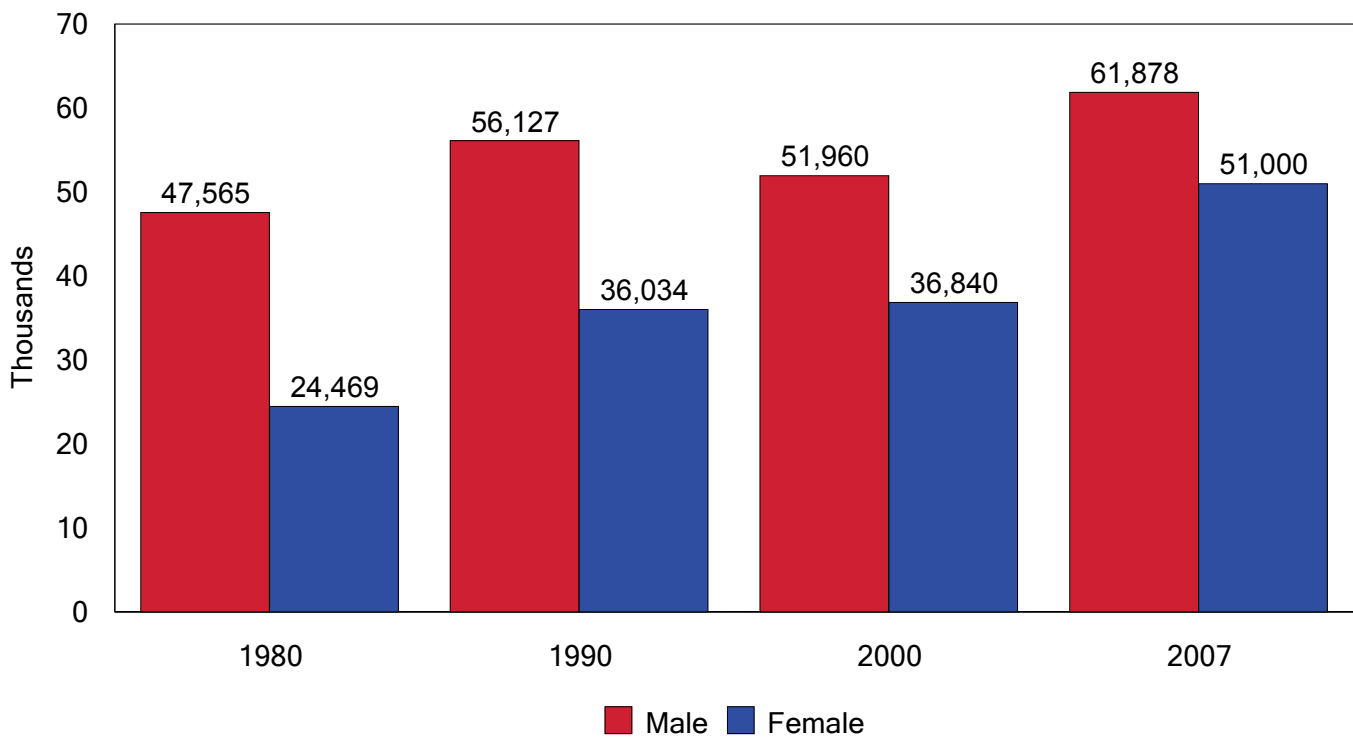
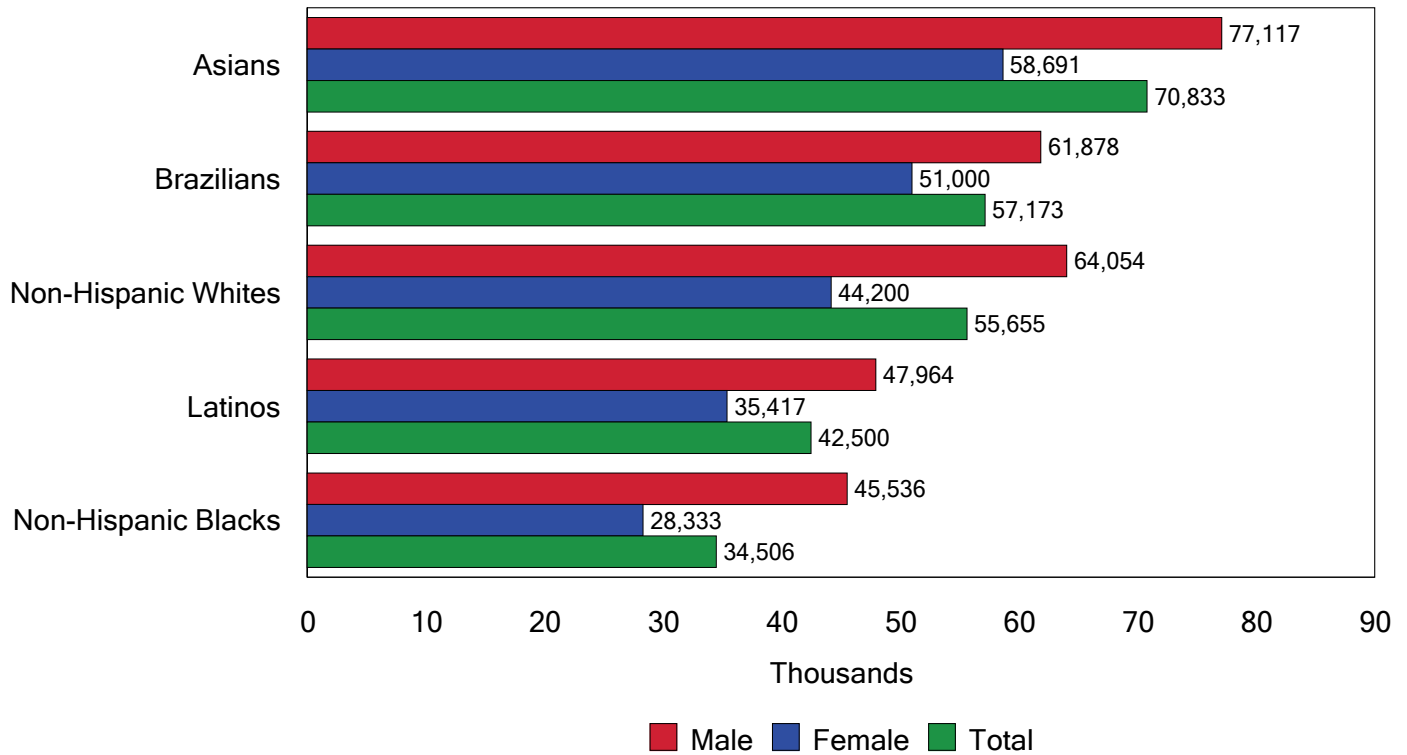


Figure 6  
Median Household Income by Sex of Household Head, Race/Ethnicity, and Brazilians 2007



### Employment and Unemployment

Brazilians between 16 and 60 years of age had lower unemployment rates and higher work-force participation rates in 2007 than any of the major racial/ethnic groups in the United States, although the margin of differentiation was not significantly greater than non-Hispanic whites. Nevertheless, there were constant improvements between 1980 and 2007 among both males and females. (See tables 4 and 5). By 2007 Brazilian males of working age had the highest rate of employment – 84%– and the lowest rate of unemployment – 3% – when compared with the other race/ethnicities. Brazilian females had marginally lower unemployment rates in 2007 – 3.3% – compared with non-Hispanic whites (3.7%) and Asians (3.5%), but this was significantly lower than the 8.5% unemployment among non-Hispanic blacks and the 5.4% among Latinos. Brazilian females also had a higher employment rate (75%) when compared to the other racial ethnic groups.

Table 4

Employment Status Among Brazilians in the United States Ages 16 - 60, 1980 - 2007

	1980			1990		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed	74.2%	54.3%	63.0%	81.5%	59.3%	70.0%
Unemployed	3.4%	3.2%	3.3%	4.0%	4.9%	4.4%
Not in Labor Force	22.4%	45.7%	35.6%	14.6%	35.8%	25.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	2000			2007		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed	74.8%	57.2%	65.4%	83.7%	65.5%	74.7%
Unemployed	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	2.9%	3.3%	3.1%
Not in Labor Force	21.4%	39.1%	30.8%	13.4%	31.2%	22.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5

Employment Status in the United States by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Brazilians 2007  
Population Ages 16-60

		Non-Hispanic Whites	Non-Hispanic Blacks	Asians	Latinos	Brazilians
Male	Employed	78.4%	60.2%	76.0%	76.7%	83.7%
	Unemployed	4.6%	9.0%	4.0%	5.4%	2.9%
	Not in labor force	17.0%	30.7%	20.1%	17.9%	13.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Female	Employed	69.0%	63.2%	62.2%	57.8%	65.5%
	Unemployed	3.7%	8.1%	3.5%	5.3%	3.3%
	Not in labor force	27.3%	28.8%	34.4%	36.9%	31.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total	Employed	73.8%	61.8%	68.8%	67.8%	74.7%
	Unemployed	4.1%	8.5%	3.7%	5.4%	3.1%
	Not in labor force	22.1%	29.7%	27.5%	26.9%	22.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Poverty**

Brazilians had higher poverty rates in 2007 than found among non-Hispanic whites and Asians, but significantly lower poverty rates than non-Hispanic blacks or Latinos. This pattern was found among both Brazilian men and women, and as was the case in all of the race/ethnic groups in the U.S., Brazilian women had slightly higher poverty rates than men.

Table 6  
Poverty Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Brazilians, 2007

	Non-Hispanic Whites	Non-Hispanic Blacks	Asians	Latinos	Brazilians
Males	6.5%	20.1%	8.2%	16.9%	8.7%
Females	8.6%	24.0%	9.0%	20.5%	10.2%
Total	7.6%	22.2%	8.6%	18.8%	9.5%

**Household Income Distribution Structure**

Brazilians not only had fairly low rates of poverty, but when the structure of household income is examined only 6.8% of Brazilian households earned less than \$20,000 in 2007 and this was the lowest rate compared to the other major race/ethnic groups. There was a fairly rigid income-earning hierarchy not unlike the other sectors of the U.S. population. Wealthier Brazilian households, those earning \$100,000 or more yearly comprised about 31% of all Brazilian households in 2007 and these controlled nearly two-thirds of total income earned by all Brazilians. Only Asians surpassed Brazilians in the percentage of households earning more than \$100,000 in 2007 at 40% of their total. Slightly fewer non-Hispanic white households (30%) and Latino households (30%) earned more than \$100,000, while only 19% of non-Hispanic black households were found in this wealthier category. Thus, a significant percentage of Brazilians in the United States were fairly well off, and as was the case with the other race/ethnic groups most Brazilian households earned incomes somewhere between rich and poor. (See the detailed data in table 7).

Table 7

Household Income Distribution Structure by Race/Ethnic Group, Brazilians, 2007

Income Category	Non-Hispanic Whites		Non-Hispanic Blacks		Asians	
	% Income	% Households	% Income	% Households	% Income	% Households
Less than 10,000	0.2%	3.0%	0.5%	9.4%	0.1%	2.7%
10,000-19,999	0.9%	6.5%	1.6%	12.6%	0.7%	5.2%
20,000-29,999	1.8%	7.8%	2.5%	11.8%	1.3%	6.0%
30,000-39,999	2.8%	8.6%	3.2%	10.7%	1.9%	6.5%
40,000-49,999	3.6%	8.7%	3.4%	9.0%	2.6%	7.0%
50,000-74,999	11.8%	20.5%	9.0%	17.1%	9.1%	17.4%
75,000-99,999	12.0%	15.0%	7.4%	10.0%	10.9%	14.9%
100,000 - 199,999	26.2%	21.2%	12.6%	11.3%	33.6%	29.0%
200,000 +	40.7%	8.6%	59.9%	8.1%	39.7%	11.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Income Category	Latinos		Brazilians	
	% Income	% Households	% Income	% Households
Less than 10,000	0.3%	4.6%	0.1%	2.5%
10,000-19,999	1.7%	9.9%	0.6%	4.3%
20,000-29,999	3.5%	12.1%	2.1%	8.6%
30,000-39,999	4.8%	11.9%	2.7%	8.1%
40,000-49,999	5.7%	10.9%	3.6%	8.5%
50,000-74,999	14.7%	20.5%	13.0%	22.0%
75,000-99,999	12.1%	12.1%	12.3%	14.8%
100,000 - 199,999	20.4%	13.4%	28.3%	22.3%
200,000 +	36.8%	4.7%	37.3%	8.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Citizenship Status**

Because of the surge in migration from Brazil after 1990 and the predominance of foreign-born Brazilians within the overall Brazilian population, a significant majority of Brazilians in the U.S. (58%) were not citizens in 2007. Some 23% of all Brazilians had been born in the U.S. or abroad to U.S. citizens by 2007 and another 19% had become naturalized citizens. (See table 8). It may be assumed that the number of Brazilians who acquire citizenship through naturalization will increase in the future, as well as those who will be born in the U.S., thus an increase the percentage of all Brazilians who are U.S. citizens may be anticipated in the future.

**Table 8**  
**Citizenship Status among Brazilians in the United States, 1980 - 2007**

	1980	1990	2000	2007
Born in the U.S.	17.1%	16.3%	16.1%	19.6%
Born abroad of American parents	9.8%	11.1%	5.1%	3.4%
Naturalized citizen	27.1%	17.5%	17.2%	19.3%
Not a citizen	45.9%	55.2%	61.6%	57.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**English Language Ability and Bilingualism**

About 79% of all Brazilians in the U.S. reported that they either spoke English exclusively (16%); spoke English very well (41%); or spoke English well (22%) in 2007. Thus, only about 21% of all Brazilians in the U.S. had poor English language skills. (See table 9 for changes between 1990 and 2007). The high skill level in English language abilities, despite a predominantly foreign-born population, was in all likelihood related to the significant educational attainment levels found among foreign-born Brazilians. It is probable that many Brazilians coming to the U.S. had learned English at varying proficiency levels in Brazil, and that these skills were refined once they were living in the U.S. However, as was the case with most immigrant groups who came to the United States, Brazilians maintained the use of their native language at home. Some 75% of Brazilians reported that they spoke Portuguese at home and this was similar to the 76% of all Latinos who reported speaking Spanish at home in 2007. (See table 10). Thus, bilingualism is an important aspect of Brazilian culture in the U.S. It ought to also be noted that about 7% of all Brazilians reported speaking Spanish at home. This is a clear indication of intermarriage or consensual cohabitation with Latinos who were Spanish speakers.



Table 9  
English Language Ability among Brazilians in the  
United States, 1990 - 2007

	1990	2000	2007
Does not speak English	3.0%	4.1%	6.8%
Yes, speaks only English	23.9%	16.5%	15.6%
Yes, speaks very well	37.4%	42.1%	41.3%
Yes, speaks well	22.0%	22.7%	21.7%
Yes, but not well	13.7%	14.6%	14.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 10  
Language Spoken at Home by Brazilians  
in the United States, 1990 - 2007

	1990	2000	2007
Portuguese	63.3%	74.6%	75.2%
English	23.9%	16.5%	15.6%
Spanish	7.9%	5.6%	7.4%
Other	4.9%	3.3%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## Summary

- The wave of migration from Brazil which began in the 1990s in all likelihood will continue into the future, economic fluctuations in the U.S. notwithstanding.
- In part this is due to the relatively high rates of educational attainment found among the foreign-born Brazilian population of the U.S. Implicit in these high rates is the fact that many migrants possess skills which command salaries in the U.S. that are significantly higher than found in the same professions within Brazil. This has been, without question, a major stimulus to out migration from Brazil.
- Brazilians with lower levels of educational attainment will probably continue to migrate to the United States because of the extraordinarily low salaries prevailing in Brazil in nearly every occupational category, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment prevailing in the country despite impressive rates of economic growth in the early 21st century. Despite economic expansion Brazil has one of the worst income distribution structures in the hemisphere as wealth is heavily concentrated among the elite, about 5% - 10% of the country's population.
- Because of the likelihood that migrants will be predominantly of working age, the distorted age structure which is typical of most immigrant populations will probably continue into the future, with heavy concentration in the 15 to 40 year-old age category.
- In all probability Brazilians will continue to be drawn to the five states – Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, New York – where about two-thirds of the Brazilian population resided in 2007.
- The impressive educational attainment profile of Brazilians in the U.S. will probably continue to improve. Not only are highly educated Brazilians a significant part of the immigrant pool, but there is an apparent propensity for Brazilians to continue aspiring to acquire college degrees once in the U.S.
- Brazilian median household incomes improved steadily in real dollars (adjusted for inflation) between 1980 and 2007. Of great significance is the fact that median incomes in Brazilian households are much higher than among all Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks, and in 2007 they were even greater than within the non-Hispanic white population.
- Brazilians in the U.S. had lower unemployment rates and higher work-force participation rates than all other race/ethnic groups in the U.S. among its working age population ages 16-60.
- Brazilians had significantly lower rates of poverty in 2007 than found among Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks, although these rates were higher than among non-Hispanic whites and Asians.

- When the structure of household income is considered Brazilians had fewer households earning less than \$20,000 yearly than all of the other major race/ethnic groups; and had a greater percentage of households earning more than \$100,000 annually in 2007 than the other race/ethnic groups with the exception of Asians.
- Because of a large foreign-born population nearly 3/5 of all Brazilians were not citizens of the United States. It may be expected that naturalization rates will continue to grow and that more Brazilians will be born in the U.S. in the future. This will increase the citizenship rate among the Brazilian population.
- Brazilians demonstrate an very high level of English language competency although in general they tend to speak Portuguese at home. This bilingualism is also commonly found within the general Latino population of the U.S.