

Um Panorama Geral da Vida dos Brasileiros nos EUA no Ano 2000*

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Palavras-chave: imigração, migração, adaptação, integração

Resumo

Este estudo visa mostrar um panorama abrangente de mais de 200,000 brasileiros residentes nos EUA, registrados pelo censo populacional em 2000. Estes dados permitirão mostrar um detalhado retrato socioeconômico desta população. Esta descrição começará documentando onde os brasileiros vivem, quando eles chegaram e como este grupo de imigrantes tem crescido desde 1990. Este perfil não somente documentará as características do indivíduo, como também apresentará dados sobre a situação domiciliar destes expatriados. Por exemplo, podemos perguntar, se os casais residem juntos e com os filhos nos EUA, ou se o casal vive separado; um sinal que o cônjuge e filhos continuaram morando no Brasil. Como nossa tentativa é determinar os padrões demográficos dos domicílios, também vamos examinar o estado econômico destes domicílios. Por exemplo, será que estas famílias são abastadas, ou estão vivendo abaixo da linha da pobreza, e em que grau.

Depois, nosso foco será a assimilação social dos brasileiros. Por exemplo, quantos se tornaram cidadãos americanos? Quantos falam inglês fluentemente? Como os padrões variam de acordo com o tempo de residência nos EUA? Quantos estão freqüentando escolas nos EUA? Como os padrões variam através das gerações?

O foco depois muda para a assimilação econômica. Quantos trabalharam tempo integral? Que ocupações tinham? Quanto ganhavam? Quantos estiveram vivendo na pobreza ainda que trabalhassem em horário integral?

Eu vou tentar determinar aqueles fatores que melhor explicam os padrões observados da assimilação social e econômica. Esta investigação começará focando o tempo de residência nos EUA, anos completo de escolaridade e idade.

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An Overview of Brazilian Life as Portrayed by the 2000 U.S. Census*

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Introduction

All available demographic indicators concur; the number of Brazilians immigrants in the United States is rapidly increasing. U.S. government statistics reveal that since the mid-1980s Brazilians have traveled to the U.S. in record numbers. Prior to that time this movement was but a fraction of what it is today. The main reason for this tremendous increase, which began approximately 20 years ago, was the worsening Brazilian economy (Goza 1992; Margolis 1994). Although the economic situation in Brazil has somewhat stabilized, the social networks now in place facilitate the integration of additional newcomers and the continued expansion of this movement. As such, it is extremely likely that this population will rapidly grow for at least the foreseeable future.

This study will use recently released data from the 2000 U.S. Census of Population to prepare a national overview of all Brazilians in the U.S. The 2000 data will be contrasted with data from the censuses of 1980 and 1990 in order to document the evolution of this immigrant group. This examination will begin by discussing the nature of this movement, its rapid increase and the difficulties involved with its measurement. Next, a demographic overview is presented and preferred places of geographic residence reviewed. Attention then turns to the family structure of these immigrants. These sections are followed by a discussion of this group's social assimilation and economic outcomes. This study concludes by

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Brazilians in the United States

From 1980 to 1998 the number of Brazilian citizens entering the U.S. with non-immigrant visas increased continuously almost every year. In 1998 over 935,000 non-immigrant visas were issued to Brazilians (U.S. INS 2000). That year only four nations

received more of these visas than Brazil. Although the most recent data available indicate that this figure had declined to 733,941 in 2001 (U.S. INS 2003), this number was still large enough to rank Brazil ninth among all countries. U.S. immigration statistics also reveal a steady increase in the number of Brazilians who entered the U.S. as permanent immigrants. In 2001 over 9,500 Brazilians arrived with this visa type (U.S. INS 2003). Although this may seem like a relatively small number, it is important to note that this figure represents an increase of approximately 650 percent since 1982 (U.S. INS 1993). Furthermore, this number is virtually guaranteed to increase for many years as these new arrivals will soon also be able to sponsor the immigration of additional relatives. As such, there is a built-in multiplier effect as each new immigrant cohort sponsors the next and larger future cohort.

The 2000 U.S. Census of Population recorded a total of 247,020 people born in Brazil.¹ Before we begin discussing the situation of those included in the census it is important to note that I believe many, perhaps even a majority, of the Brazilians residing in the U.S. were missed by these censuses. This information is based on various surveys conducted among Brazilians in the U.S. (Goza 1994). These studies revealed that approximately 50 percent of all Brazilian residents were missed by the census, for whatever reason. Thus, one could likely double all census estimates and still not overestimate the Brazilian-American population. In other words, although the 2000 Census counted approximately 250,000 people born in Brazil or of Brazilian ancestry, I believe that there were probably more than 500,000 present. Furthermore, because of the relatively rapid rate at which Brazilian immigration to the U.S. has increased in recent years (see below), the current, 2004 tally is likely much greater, perhaps even in the neighborhood of 600,000.

¹ Please note that all of the data analyzed in this study were generated by the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (see <http://www.IPUMS.org>). For 1980 and 1990 we used the 5% sample and for 2000 the 1% sample. Because these samples were created by different investigators at different times, using a wide variety of record layouts, coding schemes, and documentation it is possible that these numbers will not perfectly match those of other studies using the original census data. However, all general results and trends should be expected to be very similar, if not exactly the same.

Other scholars have also documented the likelihood that more Brazilians reside abroad than actually counted (Magno de Carvalho, 1996; Margolis, 1994). Similarly, in 2001, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimated that over 799,000 Brazilians were residing in the U.S. (MRE 2001).

There are many reasons for the Brazilian undercount, but perhaps the most significant one is that many are undocumented residents who are fearful of all government officials, even those from the Census Bureau. Nonetheless, the nearly 250,000 Brazilians counted by the 2000 census represents the most complete count of Brazilians in the U.S. and thus I will proceed to use this data to elaborate my socioeconomic profile of them.

Basic Demographic Statistics

Table 1 documents the extremely rapid growth of Brazilian Americans. This population more than doubled from 1980 to 1990 and then grew by another 150 percent from 1990 to 2000. Because of the large number of Brazilian born individuals entering each year, the native-born or second generation population still remains at only about 1 of every 8 people.

Table 2 clearly reveals the newness of this population. With the exception of 1980, those present who arrived prior to 1950 is miniscule for each census. Of course, many early arrivals may have long since departed the U.S., while still others may have died, thereby reducing the immigrant counts for the earlier years. Nonetheless, the 1980 data reveal that this population was in a strong growth mode, as 45 percent of the entire group arrived just 10 years prior to the

Table 1
Distribution of Brazilian Americans by Place of Birth
in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Place of Birth	1980	1990	2000
Brazil (1 st generation)	85.3	88.7	87.0
U.S. (2 nd or later gen.)	14.7	11.3	12.5
[N]	47,965	98,089	247,020

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

census. Strong growth was also evident in 1990 as fully 48.5 percent arrived between 1985 and 1990, exactly the period Brazil's economic crisis worsened. Furthermore, 64 percent of those counted in 1990 arrived during the preceding 10 year period! An amazingly similar pattern was observed in 2000 as 44 percent arrived five years prior to the census, and 65.4 percent during just the preceding 10 years! In fact, 87 percent of those counted in 2000 had arrived since 1980; a statistic that serves to highlight the newness of this group in the United States.

Table 2
Year of U.S. Arrival in Percentages, in
1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Year of Arrival	1980	1990	2000
before 1950	11.5	2.9	0.4
1950-1959	9.5	4.2	1.7
1960-1964	11.5	6.3	2.2
1965-1969	19.1	7.8	3.3
1970-1974	16.6	6.7	2.6
1975-1979 (or 1980)	28.4	8.2	2.8
1980-1984	---	15.5	6.0
1985-1989 (or 1990)	---	48.5	15.6
1991-1995	---	---	21.5
1996-2000	---	---	43.9
Total	100.0	100.1	100.0

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Who are these Brazilian Americans? Table 3 reveals that they are more likely to be female than male. In all three census years there were more women than men, while in both 1980 and 2000 women outnumbered men by approximately 10 percent.

Table 3
Sex Distribution of Brazilian Americans
in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Sex	1980	1990	2000
male	44.9	48.3	45.8
female	55.1	51.7	54.2
[N]	47,965	98,089	247,020

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Not only are there more women in this group, there are also many more young people. Table 4 documents the evolution of this population's age structure. In 1980 it was fairly well balanced as over 30 percent were less than age 20 and over 18 percent were more than 50 years old. By 2000 less than 25 percent were under 20 and only 11 percent were older than 50. In other words, the increasing proportion of those between the ages of 20 and 49, the prime labor force years, clearly indicates that this is primarily a movement of people who move with one motive in mind—to seek better opportunities, especially in the employment realm. Recall also that these age figures include the children of the labor migrants. The mean age of the foreign-born immigrants was always between 33 and 35 years of age, while, among the native-born it ranged from 8 to 10 years of age.

Table 4
Age Distribution of all Brazilian Americans
in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Age	1980	1990	2000
less than 10	13.9	12.4	12.5
10 to 19	16.3	12.4	12.4
20 to 29	20.5	26.4	22.3
30 to 39	18.7	24.3	26.1
40 to 49	12.1	10.4	15.3
50 to 59	8.1	6.9	7.3
60 and over	10.3	7.1	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
[N]	47,965	98,089	247,020

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Place of Residence

Where are Brazilian immigrants settling? Table 5 indicates their primary states of residence. The most popular states in 1980 were California and New York as together these two states accounted for over 35 percent of all Brazilians in the U.S. By 1990 New Jersey,

Massachusetts, and Florida had emerged as other important destinations, as each accounted for over 10 percent of the Brazilian American total. By 2000, however, California and New York had been removed from the top positions as Florida moved into first place with nearly 20 percent of the total population, while Massachusetts occupied the number two position with 17.1 percent. Although there was a repositioning of Brazilians in these five states, their concentrations within them continued to increase. In 1980 these five states accounted for 57.8 percent of the total, but by 2000 this figure had increased to a whopping 69.3 percent.

Table 5
U.S. State of Residence in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

State	1980	1990	2000
California	18.1	15.6	12.0
Florida	6.3	10.5	19.9
Massachusetts	6.0	11.9	17.1
New Jersey	10.0	12.1	10.2
New York	17.4	17.0	10.1
Total in these States	57.8	67.1	69.7

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Table 6 reveals the specific metropolitan areas within the U.S. where Brazilians were most likely to reside. In 1980 the New York City region was the largest (13.8%) followed by Los Angeles (7.1%). However, their share of the total has since declined significantly. By 2000 Boston had emerged as the metropolitan area most preferred by Brazilians (12%) while New York City declined to number two (7.4%). Two Florida areas, Fort Lauderdale and Miami were both experienced strong growth, while Newark continued stable with approximately 5.5 percent of the total. Table 6 also reveals that by 2000 these 8 metropolitan areas together accounted for nearly 70 percent of all Brazilian Americans.

Table 6
Metropolitan Areas where Brazilian Americans
Resided in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Metropolitan Area	State of Metro. Area	1980	1990	2000
Boston	Massachusetts	3.0	8.7	12.0
Fort Lauderdale	Florida	0.0	2.9	6.8
Jersey City	New Jersey	1.4	2.0	2.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach	California	7.1	6.2	2.8
Miami-Hialeah	Florida	2.3	3.8	4.5
New York	New York	13.8	14.0	7.4
Newark	New Jersey	5.7	5.9	5.4
San Francisco	California	2.9	1.8	1.2
TOTAL in these MSAs		36.2	45.3	42.1

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Family Structure

The results presented above suggest that the majority of these immigrants are primarily labor migrants. However, are they permanent or temporary labor migrants? Are they coming alone or with other family members? Temporary labor migrants frequently undertake moves by themselves and only later reunite with their families. Thus, perhaps the easiest way to examine this question is to review the marital status of those 18 and older. A flow of temporary labor migrants would probably be indicated by a large number of married individuals who were living apart or absent from their spouses. Table 7 reveals that in 1980 and 2000 over 60 percent of all adults were married and living with their spouse! In fact, in 2000 not a single married Brazilian did not reside with his/her spouse, while the corresponding figure in the other two years was very low. This suggests that these couples are here for an extended, perhaps even permanent stay. Although in 1990 4.5 percent lived apart from their spouses, perhaps because of their recent arrival, they had either since reunited or returned to Brazil. Table 7 also documents a sizable contingent of those never married and divorced. Perhaps these individuals did come by themselves for only a temporary stay in the U.S.

Table 7
Marital Status of Brazilian Americans 18 and Older, in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Marital Status	1980	1990	2000
Married, spouse present	62.3	52.7	60.3
Married, spouse absent	1.5	4.5	0.0
Separated	2.2	2.8	2.9
Divorced	5.2	7.9	7.5
Widowed	5.6	3.0	2.3
Never married/single (N/A)	23.1	29.1	27.0
Total %	100	100.0	100.0
[N]	35,060	76,485	209,612

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Tables 8 and 9 enable us to delve a bit deeper into family structure related concerns. Table 8 reveals that in each census year between 16 and 23 percent lived apart from other family members, while the majority of Brazilian Americans resided with at least one additional family member. Anywhere from 20 to 25 percent lived with four or more other family members. The mean number of family member present for all years was three.

Table 8
Number of own family members in household, in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Number of Family Members	1980	1990	2000
1	16.1	23.2	19.7
2	18.7	19.4	19.8
3	16.9	18.3	20.0
4	24.9	20.9	23.8
5	14.5	10.7	12.2
6	6.1	4.1	2.1
7+	2.7	3.5	2.5
mean	3.3	3.0	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
[N]	47,965	98,089	247,020

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Tables 9 documents the specific relationship of all Brazilian Americans to the person identified as the household head. Nearly 50 percent of the males in each census were identified as the head of household, while among women the corresponding figure was closer to 18 percent. Those identified as children accounted for between 33 and 26 percent of the respective

Table 9
Relationship to Household Head in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Household Head Relationship	1980			1990			2000		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Heads	50.5	14.1	30.5	47.6	18.7	32.7	49.6	18.3	32.6
Spouses	1.5	46.5	26.3	3.8	39.5	22.3	5.3	40.2	24.2
Children	37.8	28.5	32.7	28.2	23.4	25.7	27.0	24.8	25.8
Parents	0.8	2.4	1.7	0.5	2.2	1.4	0.5	1.9	1.2
Siblings	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.5
Other Relatives	0.6	1.2	0.9	2.1	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.0	2.5
Non-relatives	7.7	5.9	6.7	15.0	11.3	13.1	11.7	10.5	11.1
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
[N]	21,553	26,412	47,965	47,340	50,749	98,089	113,144	133,876	247,020

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

samples. Not all heads had spouses present and as such the figure for spouses is between 5 and 9 percentage points lower than it is for heads. The categories other relatives and siblings slowly increased over the 20 year period examined, while the category parents declined slightly. When combined, the categories head, spouse and child account for between 80 and 89 percent of all Brazilian Americans. This is indicative of the immigration of complete nuclear family units and is suggestive of those who have undertaken a permanent international move.

Social Assimilation

The assimilation of immigrants can be monitored many ways. However, because this study uses census data it is restricted in the number of variables that can be examined. For this reason I will focus on three key variables that numerous studies have documented to enhance immigrant well-being in the U.S. These three variables are the ability to speak English, years of completed education, and citizenship status.

In order to communicate with the majority population in the U.S. it is extremely important to be able to communicate well in the English language. Table 10 indicates that there is reason for concern. This is because the number of individuals who either speak no English or speak English poorly has increased in recent years. As of 2000, 22.9 percent of

those aged 5 and above fell into this category. This is a significant increase over the 12 percent observed in 1980.

Table 10
English Speaking Ability for those Aged 5 and Older, in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in
Percents

English Speaking Ability	1980	1990	2000
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Does not speak English	2.2	3.6	5.6
Not well	9.7	16.9	17.3
Speaks well	28.1	26.3	24.3
Speaks very well	41.6	40.3	43.8
Speaks only English	18.4	12.9	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Individuals in this situation, especially adults, will generally have a very difficult time interacting and making friends with host society members, and perhaps more importantly, finding desirable employment that pays well. On the other hand, 77 percent speak English quite well. Thus it appears that there is a bifurcation of English speaking skills among the Brazilians present in the U.S. Auxiliary analyses examining the effect of time in the U.S. not surprisingly yielded extremely significant results, indicating the more time people spend in the U.S. the better their English ability becomes.

Another important measure that facilitates assimilation and promotes economic well-being is education. Following generally accepted norms I will only focus on the education of those who are at least 25 years of age. Table 11 presents these results for the three census years. These results reveal a great deal of promise for the Brazilian American population. Brazilian immigrants to the U.S. have been and continue to be a relatively well educated group. Not only are their educational levels higher than the Brazilian norm, but they are also higher than those of the native-born white population! Furthermore, the educational attainment levels of these immigrants have consistently improved over time. For example, in 1980 26 percent of all Brazilians had completed at least a four year college degree. By 2000 the figure had increased to 34.5 percent. Likewise, those with at least a high school degree increased from 71.4 percent in 1980 to 88.7 percent in 2000. Among the general U.S. population this figure is only 25 percent. Furthermore, the figure has consistently increased

since 1980. As a consequence, only 11.3 percent of Brazilian American adults had not completed at least high school. This figure is a significant decrease from the frightful figure of 28.7 that was observed in 1980. Thus the Brazilian American educational picture is an extremely positive one that bodes well for future success.

The final assimilation variable to be examined is citizenship status. This variable reveals the number of Brazilians who have decided to make the ultimate investment in their new country, that of becoming a naturalized citizen. According to Gordon (1964) civic assimilation, which I would argue this represents, is the final stage of assimilation. By becoming a U.S. citizen the foreign-born gain all of the rights of the native-born, including the right to vote and

Table 11
Years of Schooling Completed for those 25 and Older in 1980, 1990 and 2000, in Percents

Years of Schooling	1980	1990	2000
None	2.3	1.8	1.2
Grade 1 to 8	18.0	8.9	6.1
Grade 9 to 11	8.4	5.9	4.0
Grade 12	27.2	30.0	31.9
1 to 3 years of college	18.2	22.9	22.3
4+years of college	26.0	30.4	34.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
[N]	28,952	63,199	161,317

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

possess a U.S. passport. Recall, however, that in most cases one must be a legal U.S. resident for five years before being able to become a naturalized citizen. Results from the 2000 census revealed that 19.9 of those born in Brazil had become naturalized citizens. Although this number might seem low, I would argue the exact opposite. Table 2 above showed that 43.9 percent arrived within the last five years. These individuals were not yet eligible to become citizens. Recall also that of the remaining 56 percent, not all were legally in the U.S. If we assume that one-half of this group was undocumented then only 28 percent were eligible to become citizens, which is precisely what 20 percent of this group opted to do. Hence I would argue that the observed 19.9 percent represents a very high proportion (.71) of

those eligible to become naturalized citizens; a strong indication that these individuals are attempting to do whatever is in their power to become well integrated members of U.S. society.

Economic Assimilation

Critical to the success of any immigrant's stability is the ability to locate gainful employment. Auxiliary tables examining Brazilians age 18 and over show that in 1979, 1989 and 1999 approximately 20 percent more men were employed than women. Supplementary tables also document a 7 percent decrease in the percentage of men at work during the 1990 to 2000 period. At the same time there was a corresponding 7 percent increase in the number of men not in the labor force; a rather disturbing result. On the positive side, however, the unemployment levels for both men and women were below the national average for all three census years.

What exactly were the Brazilian men and women who were gainfully employed doing in 2000? Table 12 shows the top 20 occupations separately for men and women. This fascinating table defies simple stereotypes. In it we see both men and women occupying highly skilled positions. For example, among men 16 percent worked as manager and professionals, and the corresponding figure for women was 9.8 percent. However, many were also engaged in the same occupations long occupied by recent immigrants. For instance, the number one profession among women was private household worker or maid (12%). Many men also found employment as cooks, drivers, laborers, janitors and gardeners. Likely there is a great deal of social mobility

Table 12
Occupations Reported, by Sex, for the Foreign-Born Age 18 and Older in 2000, in
Percents

Rank	Top 20 Occupations for Men	%	Top 20 Occupations for Women	%
				11.
1	Managers, officials, and proprietors	9.8	Private household workers	9
2	Professional & technical workers	6.1	Managers, officials, and proprietors	5.7
3	Operative and kindred workers	4.8	Clerical and kindred workers	5.4
4	Cooks, except private household	4.5	Professional & technical workers	4.1
5	Painters, construction and maintenance	4.3	Attendants and personal service	3.8
6	Truck and tractor drivers	3.9	Salesmen and sales clerks	3.7
7	Clerical and kindred workers	3.7	Teachers	3.5
8	Laborers	3.7	Operative and kindred workers	3.0
9	Carpenters	3.2	Cashiers	2.9
10	Salesmen and sales clerks	2.8	Waiters and waitresses	2.4
11	Foremen	2.7	Stenographers, typists & secretaries	2.3
12	Janitors and sextons	1.9	Janitors and sextons	2.1
13	Gardeners & groundskeepers	1.9	Service workers, except private h.hold	2.0
14	Service workers, except private h.hold	1.9	Professors and instructors	1.4
15	Private household workers	1.7	Attendants, hospital & other institutions	1.4
16	Teachers	1.5	Cooks, except private household	1.4
17	Testing-technicians	1.5	Buyers and dept heads, store	0.9
18	Buyers and dept heads, store	1.4	Barbers, beauticians & manicurists	0.9
19	Waiters and waitresses	1.3	Accountants and auditors	0.9
20	Automobile-mechanics and repairmen	1.2	Nurses, professional	0.9
		63.		60.
	Total Percent	8	Total Percent	5

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000.

within the work force, especially once one has spent time in the U.S. Unfortunately, census data only reveal current occupation.

Census data, however, do reveal how very important that is to be employed. The number one reason people are in poverty is because they don't work or because they are a dependent in a household where those responsible for their well-being did not work. Over 17 percent of all Brazilian Americans lived below the poverty line in 2000. Although this number is lower than corresponding Hispanic and African American figures, it is double that of native-born whites. When examining only foreign-born Brazilians over age 21 it becomes obvious how important a job is. Nearly 60 percent of the subset in poverty had not worked

the week before the census. Although this explains the lion's share of those in poverty, an additional 16 percent did work 40 hours and still could not rise above the poverty line. Adult women were only slightly more likely to be poor than men (i.e., 18 v. 16%). However, when examining all of the foreign-born an interesting pattern emerges. The groups most likely to be poor were the young, those under 20 (25%), and the old, those over 60 (20%). At the opposite end of the financial spectrum, 20 percent of all Brazilian Americans were in situations where their income was at least five times that of the poverty level. Five times the poverty level is a high as this measure goes, so it is possible that their incomes were even much higher.

Additional variables were examined in an attempt to gain further insights into the causes of unemployment, which recall is a key reason behind the observed poverty among Brazilian Americans. Not surprisingly, time in the U.S. was a factor. Those in the U.S. less than five years were 6 times as likely to be unemployed as any other group. Likewise, naturalized U.S. citizens, who by default have been in the U.S. at least five years, experienced only one-fourth the unemployment of Brazilians who were not U.S. citizens. Older individuals experienced slightly higher levels of unemployment than younger people. This too is to be expected, especially when people immigrate at older ages and possess few transferable skills.

Conclusions

The Brazilian American population continues to rapidly grow and evolve. Their sizable presence is now being felt in many regions of the United States as they begin to branch out and move beyond their initial strongholds of New York City and Los Angeles. A native-born generation has also begun to emerge. However, because of the large number of recent immigrants it remains relatively small when compared to the number of foreign-born Brazilians. The majority of Brazilians relocate with their spouses and children, suggesting

that whenever possible entire family units choose to move together. It is also not uncommon to witness extended families as many Brazilians reside with at least five additional family members. The future looks very bright for the majority of Brazilians, especially those who are well educated, which represents the majority of the foreign-born. Still, there is a rather large contingent that will likely experience tough financial and social times in the U.S. as they did not complete much formal education and do not speak English very well. However, given the large numbers of Brazilians who have already opted to become naturalized U.S. citizens, the ease with which they can now sponsor additional relatives, and the extended social networks already in place, it is likely that many more Brazilians will try to discover their future in the United States, regardless of whether or not they are adequately prepared for this movement.

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