

BRAZILIANS IN THE GREATER BOSTON REGION

BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY

THE **LATINO EQUITY** FUND
AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION



Instituto Diáspora Brasil

About the Instituto Diáspora Brasil (IDB)

The IDB is an independent, non-profit organization founded by Brazilian immigrants. The Institute is guided by a simple idea: knowledge based on social practices and everyday experiences in the lives of Brazilian immigrants is the starting and ending point of our work.

In partnership with other organizations and a significant network of collaborators, volunteers, and researchers, our mission is to support the Brazilian diaspora and its organizations in their efforts to build social, economic and political alternatives to transform their lived realities.

About the Latino Equity Fund

The Latino Equity Fund (LEF) is a unique partnership between local Latino leaders and the Boston Foundation. LEF uses its influence and platform to amplify diverse voices and perspectives within the Latino community and beyond in Greater Boston and the state, with a focus on achieving greater and more equitable access to economic prosperity and well-being.

LEF partners closely with nonprofits, funders, government leaders, and the private sector, leveraging the strengths of the Latino community to educate stakeholders about issues and surface the most effective solutions to achieve systemic change

About the Boston Foundation (TBF)

Founded in 1915, the Boston Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the country. By partnering with community members, donors, the public sector, businesses and nonprofits, TBF serves as a civic leader for the city and region. In this role, supported by its Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership, TBF publishes research on critical issues, invites groups of people to discuss the city's agenda, and uses shared knowledge to advocate for public policies that promote equity and opportunity for all. TBF is also one of New England's largest funders, providing support to nonprofits in Greater Boston through grantmaking and by working closely with donors to support nonprofits locally, nationally, and internationally.

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BRAZILIANS IN THE GREATER BOSTON REGION
Building Community for More than a Half Century
A Report from the Instituto Diáspora Brasil

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Instituto Diáspora Brasil

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FOREWORD

As a first-generation immigrant from Peru growing up in the United States, I witnessed firsthand the struggles immigrant families endured to make ends meet. From learning a new language to securing work and housing, my community faced significant challenges, and all I wanted to do was help. These weren't just Peruvian families facing hardships; they were families from all over the world. Despite our different languages, we understood that we had to work together in community if we were to create better lives and a brighter future for our families.

This spirit of collaboration is what brought this project to life. As Senior Director of Advancement at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, I had the privilege of working closely with Brazilian-led and Brazilian-serving organizations across the state. I quickly recognized the powerful leaders emerging from this community, and after getting to know them personally, they taught me that this was not recent. Brazilian community leaders have long stood at the forefront, working alongside other Latino communities to advocate for policies that improve the lives of all our people.

Now, in my role as Executive Director of the Latino Equity Fund at the Boston Foundation—the first fund of its kind in the state, dedicated solely to the advancement of all Latinos—it is my responsibility to serve as an ally to organizations seeking philanthropic support. It is an honor to play a small role in bringing our community together to learn more about the second-largest Brazilian community in the country. I hope this report sparks meaningful conversations and inspires further collaboration.

For decades, the Brazilian community has been a vibrant and integral part of Massachusetts' social, cultural, and economic fabric. As one of the Commonwealth's largest and most dynamic immigrant communities, Brazilians have made significant contributions across various sectors—from entrepreneurship to the arts, healthcare, and beyond. Their presence and influence have helped shape the diverse and inclusive landscape for which Massachusetts is known, and they will continue to play a vital role in how the Latino Equity Fund supports all Latino communities in the years to come.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Mariana Dutra and Alvaro Lima for their warm support in making this project possible. And, of course, my deepest gratitude goes to the Brazilian community, whose members came to the Boston Foundation offices to share their stories and infectious joy to celebrate the launch of this report.

Pra Frente!



Javier A. Juarez

Executive Director
Latino Equity Fund

INTRODUCTION

According to the Brazilian government, approximately two million Brazilians reside in the United States.¹ Massachusetts is home to the second-largest Brazilian community in the country (after Florida) and the largest immigrant community in the state, concentrated in the Greater Boston and Metrowest regions.² Despite its size and growth, the Brazilian community remains relatively unknown to most American public institutions.

This report is the result of a research project exploring themes related to the migratory trajectory of Brazilian immigrants, their lived experiences, and aspirations for the future. Qualitative research via interviews and focus groups led by the Instituto Diáspora Brasil in conjunction with Usideias Comunicação e Pesquisa, a research consultancy with 38 years of experience in the market, was complemented by demographic data from the American Community Survey (ACS 2022).

We hope that the stories captured by our research and the data presented in this report offer a new perspective on the construction of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts and its motivations, concerns, challenges, and future perspectives.

The report does not purport to provide an exhaustive or definitive account of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts, much less represent the great diversity of lived experiences, aspirations, and anxieties of the Brazilian community. Instead, we aim to demonstrate that this vibrant community is dedicated to constructing an intercultural space in which to strengthen relationships with the state's other diverse communities through work, enterprise, and cultural expression. The Brazilian community wants to be recognized for its unique cultural identity and ties to Brazil and for contributing to American cultural diversity.

We hope that this report helps policymakers, local governments, community-based organizations, and development funds better understand the Brazilian community in Massachusetts so that they may, in turn, support it and share in its rich culture and accomplishments.

Esse é um caminhar sem volta!



Álvaro de Castro e Lima
Fundador, Instituto Diáspora Brasil



Mariana Dutra
Diretora Executiva, Instituto Diáspora Brasil

¹ MINISTÉRIO DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES, Secretaria de Comunidades Brasileiras e Assuntos Consulares e Jurídicos. Comunidades Brasileiras no Exterior - Ano-base 2023, Publicado em 2024.

² U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL TOPICS ADDRESSED

According to the Brazilian government, approximately two million Brazilians reside in the United States.¹ Massachusetts is home to the second-largest Brazilian community in the country (after Florida) and the largest immigrant community in the state, concentrated in the Greater Boston and Metrowest regions.² The Brazilian community remains relatively unknown to most American public institutions despite its size and growth.

Through in-depth interviews and focus groups supplemented by demographic data, our research explores themes related to Brazilians' migratory trajectory, their lived experiences of economic and cultural integration and their future aspirations. Below, we highlight some of the topics covered in this report:

MAIN TOPICS:

1. The World of Work

- **Diverse Workforce:** The Brazilian community in Massachusetts is composed of diverse types of workers, from highly qualified professionals to medium-skilled workers to those in low-skill occupations;
- **Entrepreneurship on the Rise:** Our research highlights the importance of Brazilian entrepreneurs, who own approximately 24,488 medium-sized and growing companies, in the areas of real estate development, civil construction, law, accounting, restaurants, domestic services, and in the care and personal services sectors;

¹ MINISTÉRIO DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES, Secretaria de Comunidades Brasileiras e Assuntos Consulares e Jurídicos. Comunidades Brasileiras no Exterior - Ano-base 2023, Publicado em 2024.

² U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

- **Barriers to Salaried Employment:** Unrecognized professional licensure and academic degrees, exploitation in precarious jobs, difficulties obtaining English language proficiency, and immigration status are obstacles faced by many Brazilians working in Massachusetts;
- **Economic Impact:** Our research highlights the critical contribution of Brazilians to local economies, boosting various sectors and generating employment, income, and wealth;
- **Civil and Workers' Rights:** The study also highlights that Brazilian immigrants are frequently unaware of their civil rights and protections as workers, regardless of their legal and immigration status.

2. Political and Civic Participation

- **Political Engagement and Rights Awareness:** Our research demonstrates the need for greater awareness among Brazilian community members about their political rights and encouragement to participate in local and national elections;
- **Civic Engagement:** The study highlights the need for community-based and civil society organizations to support Brazilians in becoming active in the civic life of the state and municipalities where they live;
- **Growing Representation:** In recent years, the Brazilian community has achieved greater political representation in Massachusetts, with the election of three state representatives, a councilwoman, and a member of the School Board of the City of Everett;
- **Brazilian Women in Leadership:** The strong presence of Brazilian women in leadership positions in both public and private sectors was evident from qualitative and quantitative research conducted as part of this report.

3. Public Health

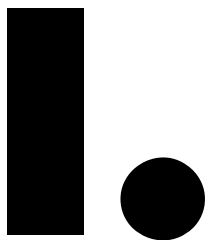
- **Mental Health in Focus:** Our research reflects growing concerns about the mental health of Brazilian immigrants, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing anti-immigrant sentiments;
- **Limited Access to Services:** Lack of immigration documentation, high healthcare costs, and language barriers limit access to health services for many Brazilians;
- **Vulnerable Populations:** Brazilian women are more likely than their male counterparts to suffer additional challenges such as strenuous working hours and domestic violence.

4. Arts and Culture:

- **Preservation of Cultural Identity:** Our research demonstrates the importance of arts and culture in preserving the identities of Brazilians in Massachusetts as well as the Brazilian Portuguese linguistic tradition;
- **Diverse Modes of Cultural Expression:** The Brazilian community expresses itself artistically through music, dance, theater, literature, cinema, and other creative practices, enriching local cultural life. However, a lack of institutional support for specifically Brazilian forms of artistic and cultural expression and activity makes this process difficult;
- **Building Bridges:** Arts and culture can potentially strengthen relations and bonds between Massachusetts' Brazilian communities and their American neighbors, promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual respect.

5. Brazilians Across Generations - Youth and Aging in the Brazilian Community:

- **Difficulty Adapting:** Our research addresses challenges faced by young, second-generation Brazilians born in the United States who find themselves in between Brazilian and American cultures, attempting to construct their own unique identities;
- **Aging with Dignity:** Our research reveals the challenges of aging among the first generation of Brazilian immigrants who dedicated their lives to work but find themselves struggling with the demands of retirement;
- **Building a Legacy:** The study points to the need for public policies and programs that at once promote the integration of young Brazilians and support the well-being of aging Brazilians, recognizing the essential contributions and needs of both groups.



FROM BRAZIL TO MASSACHUSETTS: THE THREE WAVES OF MIGRATION

Historically, Brazil was a population-receiving country, welcoming immigrants from various countries over time. For the first time, in the 1970s, the country experienced an inversion of this dynamic, shifting from a country with a steady flow of immigration to one characterized by out-migration or emigration. This flow intensified abruptly throughout the 1980s and, from 1990 onwards, reached a moment of relative stabilization as outflows declined. This process resumed its growth in 2000 and continues to grow.

Emigration from Brazil to the United States (among other countries in the global North) takes place in the context of economic crises in the global South permeated by profound transformations in the patterns of capitalist accumulation, impacting the international division of labor. Parallel to this process, countries in the global North face demographic crises – low natural growth and aging populations. It is in the context of these economic crises in the countries of the global South and the need for labor to reproduce the economies of the most developed countries in Europe and North America that spatial mobility appears as a pathway to greater economic and social mobility.¹

The first Brazilian immigrants to arrive in the United States came from the City of Governador Valadares, in the southern eastern state of Minas Gerais, to Massachusetts. This connection between Governador Valadares and the state of Massachusetts began during the Second World War when Brazil became one of the largest producers of mica, a quartzite mineral used to produce radio frequency equipment. Mica was mined by Massachusetts companies in deposits in the region of Governador Valadares and exported to the United States. Later, American engineers worked on expanding the railway system from the city of Vitória, in the neighboring state of Espírito Santo, to Minas Gerais.

The exchange experience between Americans and Brazilians in Governador Valadares and the stories about life in the United States told by pioneering Brazilians inspired others to undertake the same trip. Thus, in that region of the state of Minas Gerais, where the first Brazilians left to “make it in America,” a culture of emigration became more dominant, and the remittances received by family members who stayed behind began to drive the region's economy.

During this period (c.1960s), two distinct groups of Brazilians migrated to the United States. The first was made up of low-income and low-skilled workers who emigrated as employees of North American families who returned to the United States at the end of

¹ BRITO, Fausto. (1995). Ensaio Sobre as Migrações Internacionais no Desenvolvimento do Capitalismo. Revista Brasileira de Estudos Populacionais, Campinas.

the mica cycle (Federal Senate, 2005).^{2,3} The second group comprised young middle-class people who emigrated to the United States for “adventure.” The latter typically spent shorter stints in the United States before returning to Brazil or establishing circular migration patterns. The financial success of these first immigrants reinforced the idea of emigration to the United States as a promising alternative among the Valadarenses population.⁴

Thus, reports that a higher standard of living was attainable in the United States and the steady stream of remittances sent by those who had already emigrated fueled the desire of many generations to do the same. We can roughly divide the Brazilian migration process to the United States into three major migratory waves.

THE FIRST WAVE OF MIGRATION (1970-2000)

The first wave of Brazilian migration to the United States began in the 1970s and grew significantly through the beginning of the 1980s. What in the 1960s-70s “was a sporadic movement [...] became, in fact, a migratory flow” that intensified decade after decade, consolidating the Brazilian community we observe today.⁵

In the early 1980s, Brazil went through an economic recession marked by high unemployment rates that lasted until the end of the decade. During this period and the beginning of the 90s, there was a considerable reduction in jobs in the Brazilian economy and simultaneous growth of informal work. In addition to this combination of unemployment and precarious work, in 1990, the country once again experienced an inflationary period, reaching 2,500% per year in 1994.^{6,7} Primarily driven by a series of economic crises, this decade became known as the “lost decade.”

² SENADO FEDERAL. (2015). Parlamentares Investigam Razões da Emigração em Governador Valadares, In: Portal de Notícias. Edição de 18 de Agosto.

³ Sueli Siqueira (2018), interview with Geraldina Simpson, wife of Simpson, an engineer who worked on the expansion of the railway system, negates this version.

⁴ SIQUEIRA, Sueli. (2003). O Fenômeno da Migração Internacional em Governador Valadares. In: Caderno de Neder, Vol. 1, n. 1. Governador Valadares.

⁵ ASSIS, Gláucia Oliveira. (2001). Emigrantes Brasileiros para os EUA e a (Re)Construção da Identidade Étnica. In: TORRES, Sonia (org.). Raízes e Rumos. Rio de Janeiro: 7 Letras.

⁶ BROOK, J. (1993). LAtin America in Flux: In Brazil Wild Ways to Counter Wild Inflation, New York Times.

⁷ BROOK, J. (1994). Economy Dampens Ardor of Brazilians, New York Times.

As migratory flows to the United States solidified, Brazilian immigrants began to develop stronger ties with their host country and became attached to the communities they built there. They were thus less and less inclined to leave to return to Brazil.⁸

The majority of the Brazilian migrants in this initial wave were young, middle-class men with better education than the average Brazilian population.⁹ The predominance of men indicated a short-term migration. According to Margolis (1994), this population was also primarily single. However, the proportions between male and female migrants began to change, indicating changes in the nature of migratory flows at the end of this period: from individual to family migration (Carvalho and Campos, 2006).

Thus, as the flow evolved, what had been a migration of primarily middle-class men diversified, incorporating a class of Brazilians with a lower level of education and income. These immigrants entered the labor market in marginal economic sectors and low-income occupations.

THE SECOND WAVE OF MIGRATION (2000-2015)

The second wave of Brazilian migration to the United States began in the mid-2000s. During this period, Brazilians' desire to migrate to another country was motivated by their search for a better life for themselves and their families. Early childhood and primary education became a factor that increasingly compelled Brazilian immigrants to stay in the United States longer than initially planned.

During this period, Brazilian migration began to take on another characteristic, assuming an increasingly transnational quality.¹⁰ Brazilian immigrants began to maintain more robust relationships with Brazil and Brazilians in other countries. These relationships

⁸ SPENCER, Anne Marie. (2012). *The American Dream in Flux: Brazilian Immigrants' Experiences of Living, Working and 'Becoming' American*. Boston College University Libraries. Boston College Electronic Thesis or Dissertation.

⁹ MARGOLIS, Maxine. *Brazilian Immigration to the United States: Research and Issues for the New Millennium*. In: *Becoming Brazuca: Brazilian Immigration to the United States*. JOUËT-PASTRÉ, Clémence and BRAGA, Leticia J. (Eds.), David Rockefeller Center Series on Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 2008.

¹⁰ LIMA, Alvaro de Castro. (2010). *Transnationalism: A New Mode of Immigrant Integration*. The Mauricio Gastón Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston, Massachusetts.

also became more complex: beyond economic ties, crystalized in the form of remittances, Brazilians began to develop transnational social, cultural, and political relationships, characterizing what Peggy Levitt calls “social remittances.”¹¹

The arrival of a growing number of Brazilian international students in the United States also characterized this period. This population more than tripled from 7,000 in 2005 to 24,000 in 2015. Furthermore, the Brazilian government's internationalization of higher education and science over the preceding decades was responsible for including thousands of Brazilian researchers in programs abroad. Many of these students and scientists decided to remain in the United States.

THE THIRD WAVE OF MIGRATION (2015-present)

Finally, the third major migratory wave, which is ongoing today, began in 2015-2016. This most recent flow is characterized by an increasing emigration of families rather than mainly individuals, as previous flows had been. A small but important portion of this new flow is comprised of middle-class Brazilians with a higher level of formal education and some financial resources. Their reasons for emigrating recall historical motivations such as uncertainty about Brazil's economic prospects, issues of urban violence, concerns about the country's political climate and what some refer to as “falta de crença no futuro,” a lack of faith in the future.

According to the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 2023, the leading destination countries of Brazilians are the United States (41.7%)¹² whose flow comes from Minas Gerais (43.2%), Rio de Janeiro (30, 6%), Goiás (22.6%), São Paulo (20.1%) and Paraná (16.6%). Other countries with the highest concentration of Brazilian immigrants are Portugal (10.2%), Paraguay (5.3%), United Kingdom (4.6%), Japan (4.2%), Germany (3.4%) and Spain (3.2%), Italy (3.2%), Canada (2.9%) and Argentina (2.0%).

¹¹ LEVITT, Peggy. (2001). *Transnational Villagers*, University of California Press.

¹² MINISTÉRIO DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES, Secretaria de Comunidades Brasileiras e Assuntos Consulares e Jurídicos. *Comunidades Brasileiras no Exterior - Ano-base 2023*, Publicado em 2024.

Towards the middle of this period, the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic seriously affected Brazilian migrant workers. The lockdown in the second quarter of 2020 resulted in an estimated drop in US GDP of 32% (annualized). Furthermore, many of the industries that suffered the impact of COVID shutdowns were those that generally employ a more significant proportion of Brazilians. Restaurants and hotels were at the center of the lockdown. Civil construction, a major employer of Brazilian labor, was the first industry to be paralyzed. Additionally, as people began working from home, they refrained from hiring care and cleaning services to practice social distancing.

In response to the pandemic, the US government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, known as the CARE ACT, which consisted of a stimulus worth about 10% of US GDP. This federal program included a one-time cash payment, expanded unemployment benefits, and support for small businesses. The CARES ACT was important in supporting family consumption amid a sharp drop in disposable income. However, many Brazilians were not eligible for stimulus checks and other forms of government support and, therefore, had to face the pandemic with the help of only community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations. The Brazilian community is still recovering from the economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What had once been a temporary sojourn in the United States for earlier waves of Brazilian migrants is being redefined in the Third Wave; the intent to return to Brazil that characterized earlier generations has been replaced by expectations of longer stays or even definitive settlement, especially with the advent of the new, second generation of Brazilian immigrants born in the US. What used to be an “adventure,” small stays, continuous comings, and goings, was transformed into the mature community of today.



BRAZILIANS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Since the first wave (1970-2000), Brazilian emigration to Massachusetts has predominantly come from Minas Gerais, particularly the Governador Valadares region. However, almost all Brazilian states are part of the current migratory cycle, with pronounced migration from the states of São Paulo, Goiás, Espírito Santo, Paraná Santa Catarina, and Rio de Janeiro.¹

Since 2010, the Brazilian immigrant population (foreign-born) has been the largest immigrant population in Massachusetts due to

¹ MARCELLI, E. A., HOLMES, L., ESTELLA D., DA ROCHA F., GRANBERRY P., BUXTON O. (2007). (In)Visible (Im)Migrants: The Health and Socioeconomic Integration of Brazilians in Metropolitan Boston. San Diego, CA. Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies, San Diego State University.

accelerated growth in recent decades. In 1980, the Brazilian immigrant population occupied thirty-fourth place, rising to eighteenth in 1990 and fifth in 2000. In the 2010 Decennial Census and the 2022 American Community Survey, the Brazilian immigrant population occupied the first position.

Brazilian Immigrant Population



SOURCE: 1980 2010 EUA DECENIAL CENSUS; 2022 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY.

According to the American Community Survey (ACS 2022), the Brazilian population residing in Massachusetts is an estimated 139,587, of which 80.4% or 112,258 were born in Brazil.² Compared to the Brazilian population living in the state in 2015, the Brazilian population grew by 52.5% and 84% compared to Brazilian immigrant populations in both periods. In this same period, the state's immigrant population grew by 15.2% and the native population by 0.4%. As a whole, the state's population grew by 2.8%, highlighting the importance of immigrant populations and the Brazilian population in particular for the state's demographic growth.

² U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. (2022). American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

The Brazilian government does not have an estimate of the Brazilian population by state.³ However, if we consider the distribution of the Brazilian population estimated by the American Community Survey for 2022 - 16.7% of Brazilians reside in Massachusetts - and apply this factor to the estimate of the Brazilian population living in the United States in 2023, which, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil is 2.1 million people, we would have a population of 348,195 Brazilians residing in the state - more than double the ACS estimate.⁴

Concerning the size of its Brazilian population, Massachusetts is second only to Florida, home to around 21.8% of all Brazilians living in the United States. These two states, along with California (9.2%), New Jersey (7.9%), New York (4.9%), Texas (4.8%), and Connecticut (4.7%), represent 70% of the Brazilian population in the United States.

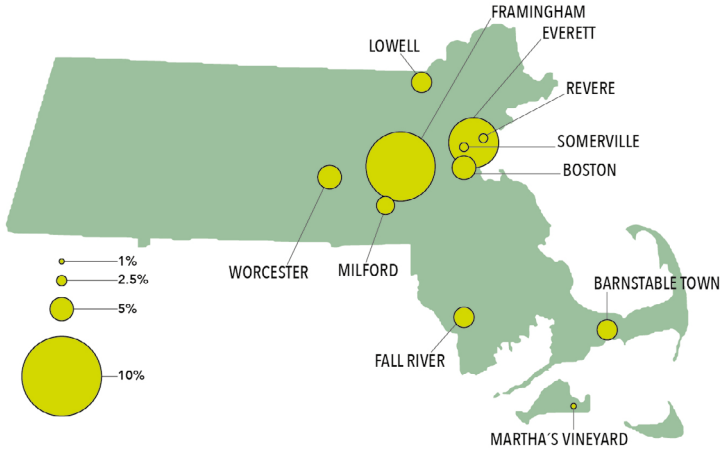
The vast majority of Brazilian immigrants to Massachusetts settled in urban areas that have a greater industrial concentration and more comprehensive Brazilian community support networks to facilitate access to employment and social integration. In Massachusetts, Brazilians are concentrated in the Greater Boston region (42.6%), mainly in the cities of Everett (6.3%), Boston (4.4%), Revere (2.6%) and Somerville (2.5%), followed by the MetroWest region, (19.6%) in the cities of Framingham (8.3%), Worcester (4.0%), Lowell (3.7%) and Milford (3.5%). There are fewer Brazilians in the Southeast region of the state, Cape Cod, and the Islands (12.0%), with the most significant regional concentrations in the cities of Barnstable (3.7%), Fall River (3.4%), and Martha's Vineyard (2.1%).⁵

³ The Brazilian government's estimates are limited to regions in which the Consulates General operate. For the Boston Consulate General region, which includes all New England, the Brazilian population estimate is 420,000 people (MRE, 2023). The estimate of 348,195 Brazilians residing in the state of Massachusetts takes into account the distribution of the Brazilian population by state, 16.7% (ACS, 2022) multiplied by the MRE estimate for the Brazilian population residing in the United States, 2,085,000 Brazilians (MRE, 2023).

⁴ Detailed discussion to be published in December 2024.

⁵ U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. (2022). American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

The majority of the Brazilian population lives in the regions of Greater Boston, MetroWest and, to a lesser extent, in the Southeast region of the state, Cape Cod and the Islands.



SOURCE: 2022 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY.

Gender, Marital Status, and Age

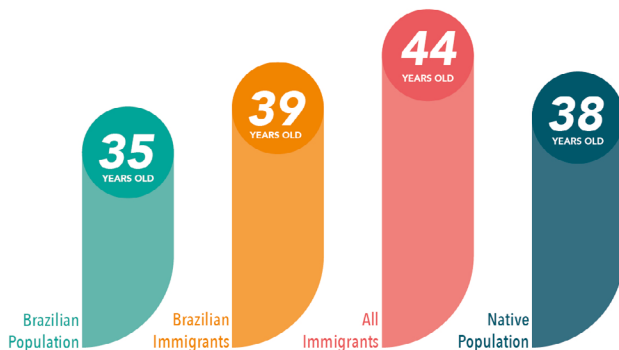
Women comprise most of the Brazilian population in Massachusetts (50.7%). Most Brazilian immigrants over 15 years of age living in Massachusetts are married (61.8%). When we add Brazilians born in the United States, the proportion of married Brazilians drops to 56.4%, indicating a younger second generation and possibly greater adherence to U.S. social standards.

According to the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), the average age of the Brazilian population residing in Massachusetts is 35 years old. In 2022, 84.4% of Brazilian immigrants were of working age (18 to 64 years old), highlighting the importance of work in the mobility of Brazilian immigrants. The young population (under 18 years old) now represents 22.4% of the Brazilian population. Older adults (65 years and over) represent a smaller portion of the Brazilian population, 4.0%.⁶ Between 2010 and 2022, these populations grew significantly: 457% and 1114% respectively.⁷

⁶ U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

⁷ U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, 2010 U.S. Census and the American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

The average age of Brazilian immigrants is similar to that of the native population. However, the Brazilian population as a whole is younger, indicating the presence of the second generation.



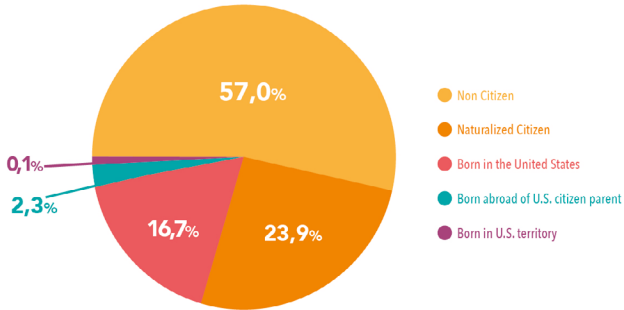
SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022.

Citizenship and Duration of Residency

In 2022, 29.6% of Brazilian immigrants residing in Massachusetts had obtained American citizenship, with 16.2% having arrived before 1990. The Brazilian population with American citizenship, that is, those naturalized and those born in the United States, totals 43.0% of Brazilians living in Massachusetts⁸. Most Brazilian immigrants (60.4%) arrived in the United States in 2000 or later. Most non-citizen Brazilians (52.8%) arrived in the United States between 2010 and 2020.

⁸ As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the term "native" is used to refer to anyone born in the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. island territories (Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or U.S. Virgin Islands), or abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents.

Almost half of the Brazilian population are citizens of the United States either born in the U.S. mainland or a territory, born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or are naturalized citizens.



SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022.

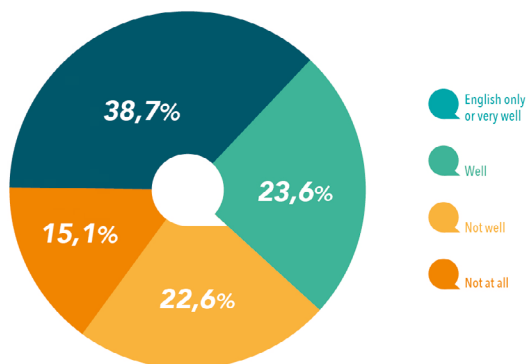
Pathways to citizenship are scarce for undocumented Brazilians, but several factors impact the overall level of naturalization, even for lawful residents. The barriers to the regularization of immigration status are immense. For most, the naturalization process is long, complex, and expensive. However, citizenship is a fundamental element of immigrant populations' economic and social mobility as it allows access to better-paid jobs with greater social prestige, lower financial costs and provides access to government health support programs and education, among other benefits.

English Language Proficiency and Level of Education

Mastery of the English language is of fundamental importance for the economic integration and social advancement of immigrant populations. 62.3% of Brazilian immigrants residing in Massachusetts speak only English or speak English either very well or well. Brazilian immigrants classified as having limited English proficiency (those who speak English less than very well) represent almost a quarter of the Brazilian immigrant population (22.6%). The pro-

portion of Brazilian immigrants who do not speak English is 15.1%.⁹ The proficiency level of Brazilians born in the United States and residing in Massachusetts is 98%.

English proficiency continues to be a problem with more than a third of Brazilians not speaking English well or not at all.

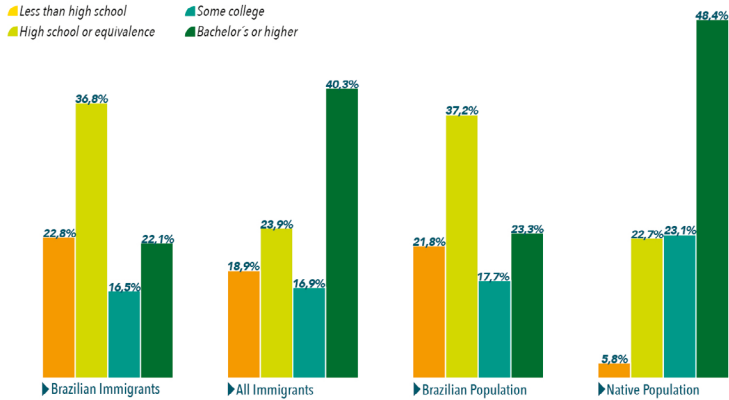


SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022.

Concerning education, 21.8% of Brazilian immigrants over 24 years of age have not completed secondary school (i.e., less than a high school diploma). On the other hand, Brazilian immigrants who have completed secondary school account for 38.6%, a higher level than that of both immigrant populations generally and the native population. Finally, 22.1% of Brazilian immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher. The level for immigrants to Massachusetts generally is 40.3% and 48.4% for natives.

⁹ U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, American Community Survey (ACS, 2022).

Educational attainment continues to be a challenge for Brazilians in Massachusetts.



SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022.

Labor Market Participation

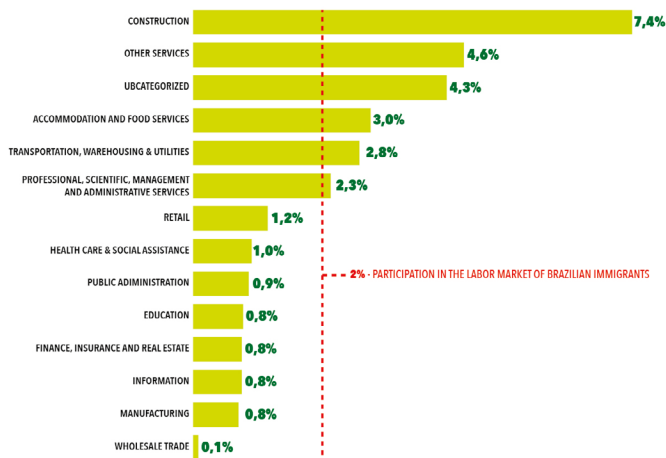
Integration into the labor market of their host country presents a distinct challenge for immigrants. Brazilian immigrants have a high degree of participation in the labor market - 78.4% of Brazilian immigrants over the age of 16 are part of the labor force. Brazilian immigrant women have a lower participation (65.5%) than Brazilian immigrant men (91.2%).

Most Brazilian immigrants work as employees in private companies (67.6%). Another 4.8% work in the public sector and 27.6% are self-employed. The share of Brazilian immigrant workers employed in private companies is smaller than that of other immigrants (82.1%) and the native population (77.3%) in Massachusetts. In the public sector, the participation of Brazilian immigrants is even lower than that of all immigrants (7.6%) and the native-born (14.3%). However, the share of self-employed Brazilian immigrants is higher than that of all immigrants (10.3%) and

native-born (8.4%). These self-employment levels may result from barriers in the labor market or legal barriers to work.

In general, Brazilian immigrants are underrepresented in the sectors with the highest income and social prestige: Retail (1.2%), Health and Social Assistance (1.0%), Public Administration (0.9%), Education (0.8%), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (0.8%), and Information (0.8%), in addition to the Production (0.8%) and Wholesale Trade (0.1%) sectors. On the other hand, Brazilian immigrants are overrepresented in the sectors of Construction (7.4%), Other Services (4.5%),¹⁰ Accommodation and Food Services (3.0%), Transport, Storage, and Public Services (2.8%)¹¹ and in the Professional, Scientific, Management and Administrative Services sector (2.3%).

Brazilian immigrants are overrepresented in low-wage industries and underrepresented in high-wage industries.



SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022.

¹⁰ Other Services include but are not limited to, Car Washing, Automotive Repair, Equipment Maintenance, Laundry, Hairdressers, Barber Shops, Manicures and Other Personal Services, and Dry Cleaning.

¹¹ Utilities

Brazilian Immigrant Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship presents an alternative path to labor market integration. While it is common in the literature on entrepreneurship to use self-employment¹² as a proxy for entrepreneurship, there is currently a debate about the determining factors of immigrant entrepreneurship. Some authors attribute immigrant entrepreneurship to the barriers to accessing the primary labor market, with entrepreneurship functioning as an alternative to unemployment or underemployment.^{13,14} According to Clark and Drinkwater (2000),¹⁵ another important factor is the tradition of self-employment for immigrants from countries where this form of work is current, thus generating a competitive advantage for these communities specifically. An emerging typology of entrepreneurship is summarized by Nithya Gangadhar¹⁶ as including both “necessity entrepreneurs” and “opportunity entrepreneurs.” Because they cannot find a place in the job market, the former open their own companies to avoid unemployment and maintain their livelihoods, and the latter recognize market opportunities and start businesses to exploit those opportunities.

Florida has the highest concentration of Brazilian entrepreneurs (24.7%), followed by Massachusetts (19.5%), California (10.4%), New Jersey (8.2%), Connecticut (4.9%), Texas (4.2%), New York (4.1%), Pennsylvania (3.2%), Georgia (2.9%), and Maryland (2.0%). Together, these ten states represent 84% of Brazilian companies.

¹² Self-employed workers have the following characteristics: (1) the self-employed worker is free to decide how to organize their work, when to work, and who to hire, without any of these conditions depending on or being established by others in subordination conditions; (2) self-employed workers, in general, enjoy some form of economic independence from those who provide them with work. In other words, they recruit their customers, determine the price of their products or services and assume the possibility of profit or the risk of loss corresponding to the characteristics of the business process (Roy, 1997).

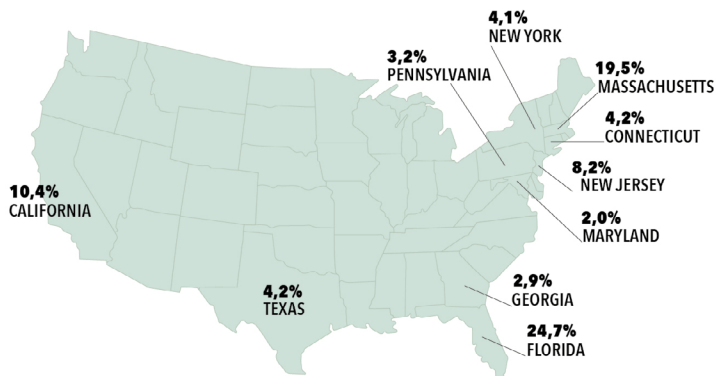
¹³ WALDINGER, Roger (1986). *Through the Eye of the Needle: Immigrants and Enterprise in the New York's Garment Trade*. New York: New York University Press.

¹⁴ WALDINGER, Roger (1989). Structural Opportunity or Ethnic Advantage? Immigrant Business Development in New York. *International Migration Review*, Vol. 23, Num 1, pp. 48-72.

¹⁵ CLARK, K. and DRINKWATER S. (2000). Pushed out or Pulled In? Self-employment Among Ethnic Minorities in England and Wales. *Labour Economics*, Vol. 7: pp. 603-628.

¹⁶ GANGADHAR, Nithya and MANOHAR, Murali (2015). Understanding Transnational Entrepreneurship. *International Journal of Advances in Management and Economics*. Issue 6 pp. 52-67.

Massachusetts is the state with the second largest concentration of Brazilian entrepreneurs after Florida



The Economic Impact of Brazilian Immigrants

Brazilian immigrants contribute to the state's economy as workers, consumers, businesspeople, investors, and tax contributors. As workers, in addition to keeping the economy competitive, immigrants contribute to economic growth by increasing the size of the workforce, its productivity, and gross state product (GSP). In 2022, Brazilian immigrant workers contributed around US\$8 billion to the gross state product.¹⁷ As consumers, their spending generates economic activity and employment. Through consumption, Brazilians generated US\$3.8 billion in gross state product, 29,935 jobs, and US\$2.2 billion in income.

As taxpayers, Brazilian immigrants pay federal¹⁸ and state income

¹⁷ This figure is calculated by taking into account average productivity, that is, the relationship between gross state product and wages and salaries for the year 2022 multiplied by the wage bill of Brazilians (personal earnings). City of Boston, Planning Department, Research Division.

¹⁸ Não contabilizado.

taxes in addition to those embedded in consumption and property. In 2022, Brazilians contributed US\$219.8 million to the state coffers via income tax and US\$76.4 million in consumption tax.¹⁹ Brazilian business people contributed US\$5.7 billion to the gross state product in the same year. They generated 53,502 direct jobs in addition to 29,014 indirect and induced jobs for a total of 82,516 jobs. They also contributed US\$208.9 million in state income taxes.

Some transnational companies encourage commercial relations between the United States and Brazil. As a consequence, some business owners divide their operations between the two countries, with part of the operations in Brazil where the labor cost is lower and the exchange rate is more favorable. For example, many small and medium-sized commercial establishments import typical Brazilian products. Cultural promoters organize events with local Brazilian artists or artists visiting from Brazil. Together with Brazilian restaurants, they create what is known as the “Saudade market.” Finally, Brazilian social networks are growing and becoming more sophisticated, with a series of “markets” and “bazaars” offering the most diverse products and services. WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other platforms complement consumer demand for distinctly Brazilian products.

The contribution of Brazilian business people goes beyond individual success and the generation of jobs, income, and wealth. The business activities of Brazilians, in particular those who establish themselves and reside in urban neighborhoods and commercial centers that have seen a long period of decline, contribute critically to transforming these areas into attractive places to live, work, and play. What were once neighborhoods and cities in decline, abandoned by the native middle classes, have become, through the work of immigrants, vibrant places with increasing employment levels, income, and a growing tax base. Framingham, in Middlesex County, is an example of this process.

¹⁹ Fontes: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) e Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMIM), PI+ Massachusetts Regions, City of Boston Planning Department, Research Division Analysis

Brazilian immigrants also economically impact their regions of origin via transnational relations. Above all, Brazilian immigrants participate in the economy of their home country through monetary remittances sent to families, though this important relationship between Brazilians abroad and at home is not consistently recognized by Brazilian authorities.^{20,21} In 2010, at the height of the global financial crisis, Brazil received 4.3 billion dollars in remittances from Brazilians abroad. To understand the magnitude of monetary remittances to Brazil, we can compare them with Brazilian exports. For example, in 2009, only 3.7 billion dollars worth of coffee had been exported (World Bank, 2011;²² Central Bank of Brazil, 2012²³). Brazil is the second largest recipient of remittances in terms of volume in Latin America, behind only Mexico.

In Brazil, remittances are usually invested in real estate and used for consumption by the family members who remained behind.²⁴ Middle and low-income households have a high propensity to consume (as opposed to saving), thus positively impacting local economic activity. Manuel Orozco (2005)²⁵ argues that for every US\$1 remitted, income increases by US\$1.78, illustrating the important multiplier effect of remittances. Aldeman and Taylor (1990)²⁶ confirm this phenomenon in their study in Mexico when they state that for every dollar received from Mexican immigrants, GDP grows by between US\$2.39 and US\$3.17, depending on whether the remittances are received in urban or rural areas.

Business investment is another aspect of these relationships. Between 2009 and 2014, the Remessas Program²⁷ monitored 119 companies originating from remittances or owned by Brazilian

²⁰ LIMA, Álvaro; GARCIA-ZANELLO, Eugenia e OROZCO, Manuel (2008). *Brazilians in the United States: A Look at Migrants and Transnationalism*.

²¹ LIMA, Álvaro de Castro e Lima e BARBOSA DE CASTRO, Alanni. (2017). *Brasileiros nos Estados Unidos: Meio Século (Re)fazendo a América (1960 - 2010)*, Fundação Alexandre Gusmão - FUNAG.

²² BANCO MUNDIAL. *Migration and Remittances - Factbook 2011*, 2a Edição. Washington, D.C., 2011.

²³ BANCO CENTRAL. *O Desempenho das Exportações Brasileiras de Commodities: Uma Perspectiva Regional (2006-2011)*. In: *Boletim Regional do Banco Central do Brasil*, Jan. 2012, Brasília, 2012.

²⁴ LIMA, Álvaro e PLASTRIK, Peter (2007). *A profile of Brazilian Remitters in Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts*.

²⁵ OROZCO, Manuel and MARTIN, Matthew (2022). *Family remittances in 202: Is Double-Digit Growth the New Normal? The Dialogue*.

²⁶ ADELMAN, Irma, and TAYLOR, J. Edward (1990). "Is Structural Adjustment with a Human Face Possible? The Case of Mexico." *Journal of Development Studies*. 26: 387-407. Bank of Mexico.

²⁷ CASTRO, Alanni de Lacerda Barbosa (2015). *Remessas*, Belo Horizonte, Sebrae Minas.

immigrants returning from Massachusetts located in Governador Valadares and municipalities in the region. The investments made by these entrepreneurs are responsible for an important part of the economic growth of the Valadares region.



EXPERIENCES OF INTEGRATION: VOICES FROM THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY

Our qualitative research carried out with members of the Brazilian community aimed to capture and give voice to their perspectives, experiences, feelings, and perceptions that shape their personal and collective universes.

Individual interviews, as well as group dialogues, aimed to reach people from different segments of the community, such as 1.5 and second generation immigrants; leaders of community organizations; public service employees in cities with a high concentration of Brazilian women; elected politicians; small and large entrepreneurs; community media communicators; and artists. Likewise, we sought to reach both long-time residents of Massachusetts and Brazilians who arrived more recently. Additionally, we attempted to include the voices of Brazilians from the five regions of Brazil and cities with the highest concentration of Brazilians in Massachusetts. In total, fifty-one people participated in our qualitative research process, which included forty-five individual in-depth interviews and six focus groups.¹

Structured questions explored perspectives relating to (1) the motivation to migrate, (2) the experiences and challenges arising from migration, (3) sense of community, and (4) the prospects of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts.

Motivations for Migrating to the United States

The stories and testimonies of participants in our qualitative research focused on motivations for migrating to the United States align with the above-mentioned research. The dominant factor in each migratory wave was the “economic” factor, sometimes called the “*search for better living conditions*.” This “search” often had a relationship with Brazil's economic, political, and social conditions. Each migratory wave was associated with an “*absence of prospects in Brazil*.” Sentiments such as “*I was stagnant in life*,” “*lack of opportunity*,” “*I want to change my life and the life of my family*,” and “*I wanted a better life for my children*” were common among the personal stories told by participants in our research. For Brazilian immigrants from the middle classes, the motivations for emigrating were also linked to better educational opportunities, the prospect of gaining fluency in English and access to consumer goods.

¹ O método snowball foi utilizado para acessar os vários participantes da pesquisa. Esse método permite alcançar grupos a partir de um círculo inicial de participantes que convidam outras pessoas a partir de suas redes de confiança para participar do processo de entrevistas ou grupos focais. É importante considerar que esse método fornece uma análise de um grupo amostral específico, não se dispondo a representar uma comunidade e suas complexidades. Heckathorn, D. D. (1997). “Respondent-Driven Sampling: A New Approach to the Study of Hidden Populations”. *Social Problems*, 44.

Opportunities in the United States to earn higher incomes, in comparison to the salaries paid in Brazil, even for low-skilled work, were seen by many as an important motivation for migration. In Brazil, the same “manual jobs” are deeply undervalued in terms of pay and perpetuate people's impoverishment while simultaneously carrying deep class stigmas. All interviewees noted that the amount paid for work is much higher in the United States than in Brazil, promoting “*access to consumer goods*” and “*quality of life*.” However, about individual experiences of work in the United States, many claim that they have “*witnessed*” or “*know*” Brazilians who have suffered “*extortion*,” “*abuse*,” “*labor exploitation*,” “*physical and psychological violence*,” “*suffering and deprivation*,” or experienced these hardships themselves.

The participants also articulated political motivations, such as escape from radicalization, polarization and growing violence in Brazil, as important factors.

Perspectives on the Challenges of Migration

In participants' opinion, the challenges faced by immigrants arriving in the United States from Brazil differ depending on the wave of migration. In the first wave, immigrants arrived alone, leaving their families behind. Their needs while in the United States were limited. They aimed to “*send some money to Brazil*” and return when possible. Most of these first-wave Brazilians had low educational attainment. Some managed to become entrepreneurs by opening small businesses.

From the second wave of migration onwards, this profile begins to change, with a growing tendency among Brazilians to stay in the United States. After 2010, families began to arrive with employment and housing already arranged. The primary concerns of these newer groups of Brazilian immigrants are paying travel debts, finding adequate schooling for their children and accessing rights provided for by law. The barrier to social and economic integration is English language proficiency. Often, the language barrier impedes access to social programs at different government levels. On the other hand, maintaining Portuguese language traditions is essential for forming the identity of Brazilian

children and young people. In this regard, bilingual education is of fundamental importance, as are social spaces - whether cultural, religious, or vocational - that create and sustain relationships between Brazilians.

As with many other communities of both native- and foreign-born residents, access to quality healthcare services is one of the most significant material challenges for Brazilian immigrants, particularly undocumented Brazilians, due to the higher out-of-pocket costs and inaccessibility of the American healthcare system when compared to its counterpart in Brazil. The state of women's health is especially worrying, as *"women who live with their children in the United States have more strenuous work and care hours than men,"* with a greater propensity to *"physical and mental illness"* and the *"scourge of domestic violence."*

Perspectives on the Shared Sense of Community Among Brazilians

During interviews and focus groups, participants referenced the "Brazilian community" as a social network based on ethnic ties. The elements of this network most frequently attributed to its solid social cohesion were "family relationships," "religion," "emotional relationships," "work relationships," and "social and cultural activities." The economic and social structures created by the different waves of migration are also cited as elements that create social cohesion.

Regardless of their period of arrival, state of origin, economic condition, or political and social position, participants tell stories of overcoming personal and collective obstacles. Brazilians shared many testimonies of solidarity. However, some expected greater unity and solidarity.

Our research highlights the appreciation of Brazilian community members for Brazilians' increasing presence in American politics, social, business, religious, and cultural spaces and organizations. However, for most participants, the *"Brazilian community has not yet awakened to the importance of the political role it has"* in

constructing their rights as immigrants, pointing out the need for more representation in electoral politics and government. They also highlighted the need for *“the Brazilian government to recognize the value of the Brazilian community in the United States beyond numbers.”*

Perspectives on the Future of the Brazilian Community in Massachusetts

There is recognition among Brazilians, regardless of the specific characteristics of their respective migratory wave, of the continuous growth of the Brazilian community and the need to strengthen, renew, and expand organized groups that support Brazilian families, both to promote their civic engagement by educating them about their civil rights and to provide them with greater certainty about their futures in the United States. Most participants expressed optimism and confidence in the future of the Brazilian community based on the entrepreneurial capacity of Brazilians, especially Brazilian women, and the growing collective action among Brazilians across different social classes. There is a particular pride in the fact that *“there is not a single activity in Massachusetts that does not have a Brazilian presence”* - from medicine to public security, from the real estate sector to the food sector, from finance to the areas of public and business administration, and from their presence in universities as teachers and students to cultural and athletic spaces.

Many participants in our research declared that new generations of Brazilians who emigrated or were born in the United States represent new potential for the community due to their higher education level and entrepreneurial skills. This demographic change might be leveraged to generate a greater appreciation and understanding of Brazilian culture in Massachusetts beyond current stereotypes.

Dilemmas of Social Organizations

During our qualitative research, we heard narratives of achievement but also of challenges, stories of the many social, economic, and political problems experienced by Brazilian immigrants living in Massachusetts. Church congregations, community organizations, and collective social movements often play a central role in building solidarity and supporting Brazilians in collectively surmounting these challenges. However, the demands on these organizations are growing exponentially given the increasing presence of new Brazilian immigrants in Massachusetts and the persistence of specific problems - e.g., regularization of immigration status - faced by those who have lived in the United States for decades. Our research indicates mounting dilemmas that community and social organizations must address as new Brazilians arriving in the United States and those who came in earlier waves struggle to support themselves in the face of growing unemployment, high rents, and an increased cost of living. However, we also observed the emergence of new Brazilian organizations and social movements in the state promoting social initiatives based on their own integration experiences.

IV.

CONCLUSION

Our research reveals a rich and complex constellation of experiences lived by Brazilian immigrants in Massachusetts over more than fifty years. The stories and testimonies collected in this report highlight the resilience and determination of the Brazilian community, which has faced significant challenges during its economic and social integration but has also cultivated a strong sense of identity and belonging.

U.S. Census data and other data show that, although the majority of Brazilians migrate in search of better living conditions, the experience of integration is multifaceted and uneven, with a great degree of variability regarding the extent and character of their integration into the US and economy. The language barrier presents the most important obstacle for those arriving in the country with little or no English proficiency. Access to healthcare services is another core obstacle faced by the Brazilian community in Massachusetts, both generally and when emergency care or elective interventions are necessary. Inevitably, Brazilians compare the difficulty of accessing quality healthcare in the US with their memories of Brazil, stating that healthcare was not a critical issue in their lives in Brazil. Other relevant challenges highlighted by our research are issues related to immigration status in the United States and their concerns about the second generation and their connection with Brazilian social and cultural identities. Although many Brazilians maintain a connection with their culture of origin,

there is a common feeling that the "Americanization" of Brazilian immigrants' worldview and relationships impedes the transmission of Brazilian cultural identity to new generations. This indicates the importance of promoting young people's appreciation of Brazil's diverse cultural heritage - traditions, rites, and social values - and encouraging their learning of the Portuguese language.

Participants in the research perceive that the community has not yet fully awakened to the importance of political activism. This suggests that there is room for greater civic engagement, which could improve the living conditions of Brazilian immigrants.

Finally, throughout the research, we heard participants suggest that both government and civil society need to more effectively meet the needs of the Brazilian community living in Massachusetts. Strategies aimed at educating immigrants about their civil, political, and economic rights, public policy and social programs that support community members experiencing economic and social precarity, and the promotion of intergenerational dialogue represent some of the interventions that might serve to better support immigrants who have lived for decades in Massachusetts, as well as those who arrived more recently.

In short, the evolution of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts reflects the complexity and diversity of the immigrant experience, where hardship and uncertainty coexist with hope and community spirit. The future of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts will depend, to a large extent, on actions that promote inclusion and respect for its cultural diversity. But it is a future of optimism, increasingly rooted in two great cultures.



INSIGHTS PROMPTED BY OUR RESEARCH

The findings and questions highlighted in our research suggest several possible opportunities for institutional support and investment in organizations and solidarity networks that reinforce the health, resilience, and cohesion of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts:

- › Develop new strategies designed to educate the Brazilian community about their rights as immigrants to access public services;
- › Support legislation in Congress that recognizes the contributions of immigrants to the social security system and guarantees access to the benefits for older adults without immigration status;

- Develop and test strategies to catalyze interest in studying and supporting the 1.5, 2nd, and 3rd generation Brazilian immigrants concerning their struggles with identity formation and connection to critical aspects of their cultural roots, such as language, literature, and the arts;

- Develop strategies for improving the lives and livelihoods of women and children, and in particular, support Brazilian women in entering the workforce and address issues such as domestic abuse;

- Expand labor protections for Brazilians (and other immigrants) who are not permanent residents but contribute to the development of the local economies;

- Support communication strategies that promote Brazilian identity and cultural expression;

- Strengthen and support local community media organizations as a trusted source of information for the Brazilian community;

- Promote meetings of Brazilian artists and/or promote Brazilian arts and culture in Massachusetts;

- Support the creation of a forum for Brazilian community organizations, where groups can share strategies and seek to build collective action that results in greater impact;

- Support collaborative networks that promote meetings between established Brazilian investors, existing entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs who are just arriving in the United States to share experiences and opportunities;

- ▶ Facilitate communication and collaboration between Brazilian leaders from civil society, business, and media with similar actors from other immigrant communities, creating learning bridges and alliances that enhance the process of integration in Massachusetts;
- ▶ Support more research into the root causes of mental health problems experienced by the Brazilian community and the integration of the 1.5 and second-generation Brazilians;
- ▶ Promote learning between researchers and community organizations to strengthen advocacy coalitions.

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