Brazil spends the most on social benefits among LAC countries

Reaching 38.5% of GDP in 2018, general government spending was the second highest in Brazil within the LAC region, well above the LAC average (31.2%) and not far from the OECD average (40.3%). Brazil also spends the most on social benefits: 36.7% of total government spending compared to 40.9% on average in OECD countries.

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics

2.13. General government expenditures as a percentage of GDP, 2007 and 2018
2.18. Structure of general government expenditures by economic transaction, 2007 and 2017

Brazil is making government data open and useful, but could further improve its re-usability

In the 2019 version of the Open Useful Re-usable data (OURdata) Index, Brazil is the LAC country with the third highest score reaching 0.63 out of 1 (on a scale from 0-1 with 1 being the best value) and above the LAC (0.43) and OECD (0.60) averages. Within the index components, Brazil fares relatively well in making data available (0.23/1) and ensuring its usability (0.26/1); however, it could further improve the government support to its re-use (0.14/1). The Open Useful Re-usable data (OURdata) Index assesses and benchmarks Open Government Data policies and their implementation. It is composed of three indicators: data availability, data accessibility and government support for data re-use.

Chapter 8: Open government data

8.2. OURdata Index 2019

Trust in government has significantly declined in Brazil

In 2018, self-reported trust in government reached 17% in Brazil, the lowest among LAC countries and significantly below the LAC and OECD averages, 34% and 45% respectively. Furthermore, between 2007 and 2018 trust decreased by 21 percentage points, one of the steepest declines in the region. Trust in government is essential for social cohesion and well-being and it affects government’s ability to implement reforms.

Chapter 11: Core government results

Public Finance and Economics

**Fiscal balance (2018)**

- **Brazil**: -7.2% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: -2.9%
- Average of OECD country values in blue: -6.5%

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

**Government gross debt (2018)**

- **Brazil**: 87.9% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: 108.6%
- Average of OECD country values in blue: 120.2%

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Public Employment

**Government investment (2017)**

- **Brazil**: 1.1% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: 3.1%

Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database

**Public sector employment as % of total employment (2018)**

- **Brazil**: 11.9% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: 21.1%

Source: International Labour Organization ILOSTAT database

**Gender equality in public sector employment (2018)**

- **Brazil**: 51.0% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: 60.2%

Source: International Labour Organization ILOSTAT database

Public Procurement

**Government procurement expenditures (2017)**

- **Brazil**: 6.5% (green)
- Average of LAC country values in grey: 6.0%

Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database

**Strategic public procurement by objective (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support to green public procurement</th>
<th>Support to SMEs</th>
<th>Support to innovative goods and services</th>
<th>Support to women-owned businesses</th>
<th>Support to responsible business conduct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD-IDB Survey on Public Procurement
Core Government Results

Rule of Law Index: Constraint to government powers (2019)

- Brazil: 0.56
- Average: 0.53
- Source: World Justice Project Rule of Law Index

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2018)

- National government: 17% - 34%
- Judicial system: 38% - 34%
- Health care: 33% - 49%
- Education system: 51% - 63%
- Source: Gallup World Poll

Gini coefficient: Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2017)

- Brazil: Before: 0.58, After: 0.47
- OECD average: Before: 0.47, After: 0.32
- Source: OECD Income Distribution database

Notes

LAC and OECD averages for Public finance and economics and Government procurement expenditures are weighted.

* Costs of goods and services financed by general government are not included in government procurement because they are not accounted separately in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (database).

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets:

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/13130fbb-en

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

This third edition of Government at a Glance Latin America and the Caribbean provides the latest available evidence on public administrations and their performance in the LAC region and compares it to OECD countries. This publication includes indicators on public finances and economics, public employment, centres of government, regulatory governance, open government data, public sector integrity, public procurement and for the first time core government results (e.g. trust, inequality reduction). Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments’ progress in their public sector reforms. Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings of the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.