

Porto Alegre metropolitan area profile

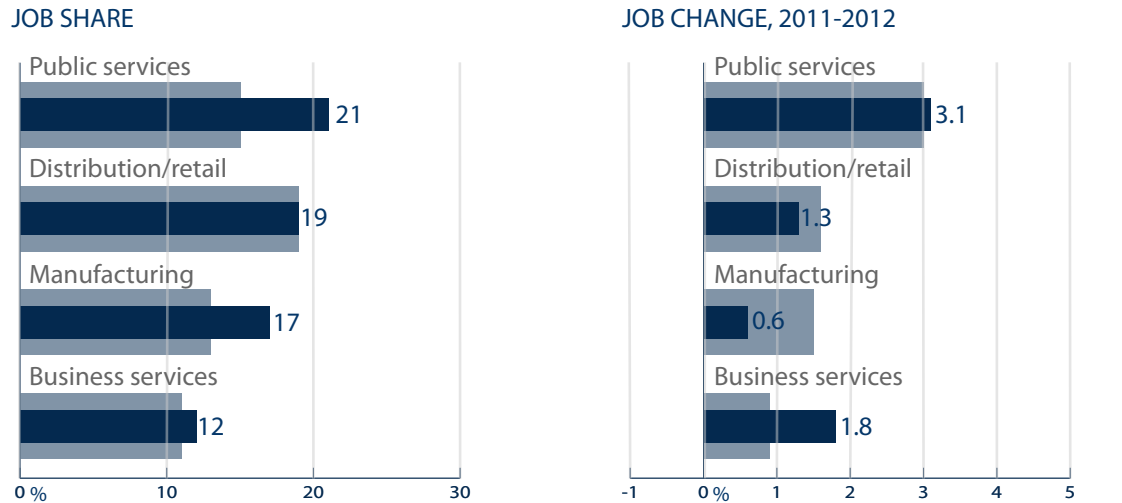
Overview *(rank among 13 Brazilian metros)*

<i>Population, 2012 in millions</i>	<i>Employment, 2010 in millions</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2012</i>	<i>Exports in billions, 2007-2012</i>
4.0 (4 th)	2.0 (4 th)	\$18,770 (6 th)	\$36.6 (3 rd)

Economic performance, 2011-2012

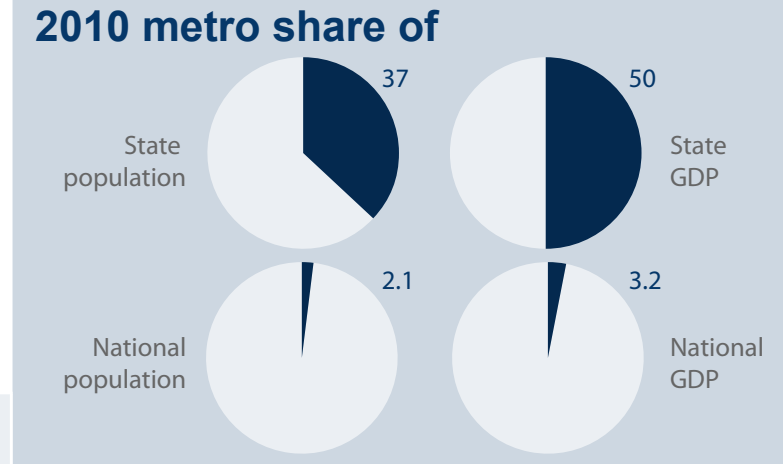
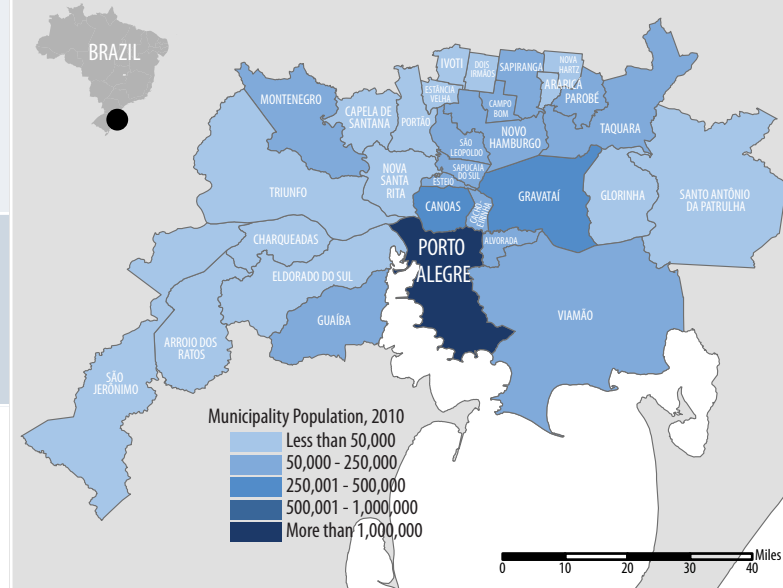
Rank among 13 Brazilian metros: **8th** *Rank among 300 world metros:* **142nd**

Top employment sectors, 2012



Key statistics *(national values)*

Population <i>Change, 1990-2012:</i> 23% (34%) <i>Working age share of total:</i> 66% (63%)	Migration <i>Share born outside the state:</i> 4.6% (14%) <i>Emigrants per 1,000 residents:</i> 2.8 (2.6)	Education <i>Share with a college degree:</i> 14% (11%) <i>Literacy rate:</i> 97% (91%)	GDP per capita <i>Change, 1990-2012:</i> 32% (42%) <i>Change, 2011-2012:</i> 0.4% (0.5%)	Employment <i>Change, 1990-2012:</i> 59% (37%) <i>Change, 2011-2012:</i> 1.7% (1.4%)
--	--	--	---	---



Porto Alegre metropolitan area profile

OVERVIEW

Porto Alegre is the largest city in southern Brazil and the capital of Rio Grande do Sul state. Its location at the intersection of five rivers and the Patos Lagoon, near the Atlantic Coast, has supported its development as a transportation hub for shipping, railroads, highways, and airlines. The fourth largest metropolitan area in Brazil, Porto Alegre is an important business and financial center and home to two major universities.

POPULATION

Almost 4 million people live in the metropolitan area of Porto Alegre, accounting for 37 percent of the state's population. Approximately the same size as the Phoenix metropolitan area, about one-third of metro Porto Alegre's residents live in the central city. Six (6) percent of Porto Alegre's population lives in *favelas* (irregular settlements), the 10th highest share among large metro areas.

Founded in 1742 by colonists from the Azores, Porto Alegre attracted German and Italian immigrants during the 19th century. Its strategic location near navigable waterways and international borders has supported its long-term growth. Its recent growth, however, has been muted. Between 1990 and 2000, its population increased 15 percent (10th among large metros), and between 2000 and 2012, it was the slowest-growing major metropolitan area in Brazil (7 percent) and grew at half the pace of the nation (14 percent).

Porto Alegre's population is slightly older than other large metro areas, with 8.2 percent of its residents over age 65 (compared to 7.2 among all large metro areas). Likewise, it has a slightly smaller share of its population who are children (26.2 versus 27.2 percent). Ninety-seven (97) percent of Porto

Alegre's population is literate, the highest among large metro areas. But it ranks only ninth for the share of its population who has completed tertiary education (14 percent).

Porto Alegre has a high native population, as only 5 percent of its residents were born outside the state of Rio Grande do Sul, lower than any other major metropolitan area profiled here. It ranks sixth for the share of its residents who are foreign born (0.4 percent), and second only to Curitiba for the share of foreign-born residents who are naturalized Brazilian citizens. Uruguayans account for one-quarter, Argentineans 16 percent, and Portuguese 6 percent of all immigrants. Porto Alegre ranks seventh for the proportion of its "residents" counted as living abroad in 2010, 2.8 per 1,000. The top destination countries are the United States (22 percent), the United Kingdom, and Australia (9 percent each).

ECONOMY

In 2011–2012, Porto Alegre was the eighth best performing metropolitan economy in Brazil, and the 142nd best-performing among the world's 300 largest metro economies. In many ways, Porto Alegre and other mid-performing Brazilian metros share a similar economic picture.

The Porto Alegre metro area is home to 2.0 million employees (fourth nationally), up 59 percent from 1990 (10th nationally). Porto Alegre's GDP of \$75 billion ranks it fifth nationally, but its GDP growth from 1990 to 2012 was only 62 percent—less than all other Brazilian metro areas and the national average. It contributes half of the state of Rio Grande do Sul's GDP. GDP per capita growth has been strong since 1990 (32 percent) but sluggish compared to other metro areas (11th), and was below the national average in the past year (0.4 percent, eighth among metro areas).

Porto Alegre's major employment sectors are similar to most other Brazilian metropolitan areas. Public services and distribution and retail together account for 41 percent of all employment in the metro. Over the last year, Porto Alegre experienced 3.8 percent growth in its hotels and catering sector and a 4.7 percent growth in its information services sector. The metropolitan area specializes in transportation services and is home to General Motors, which recently announced a \$2 billion regional expansion.

Despite ranking lower on the employment and GDP measures, Porto Alegre is the third largest exporter in Brazil, exporting \$37 billion in goods between 2007 and 2012. Porto Alegre's exports are diverse. Its major export, plastics, accounts for only 13 percent of all exports. Other major sectors are oil seeds, grains, and fruits, footwear, meat, and vehicles and parts. Argentina and China are the largest destination markets, followed by the United States, which receives 12 percent of metro exports.