

Recife metropolitan area profile

Overview *(rank among 13 Brazilian metros)*

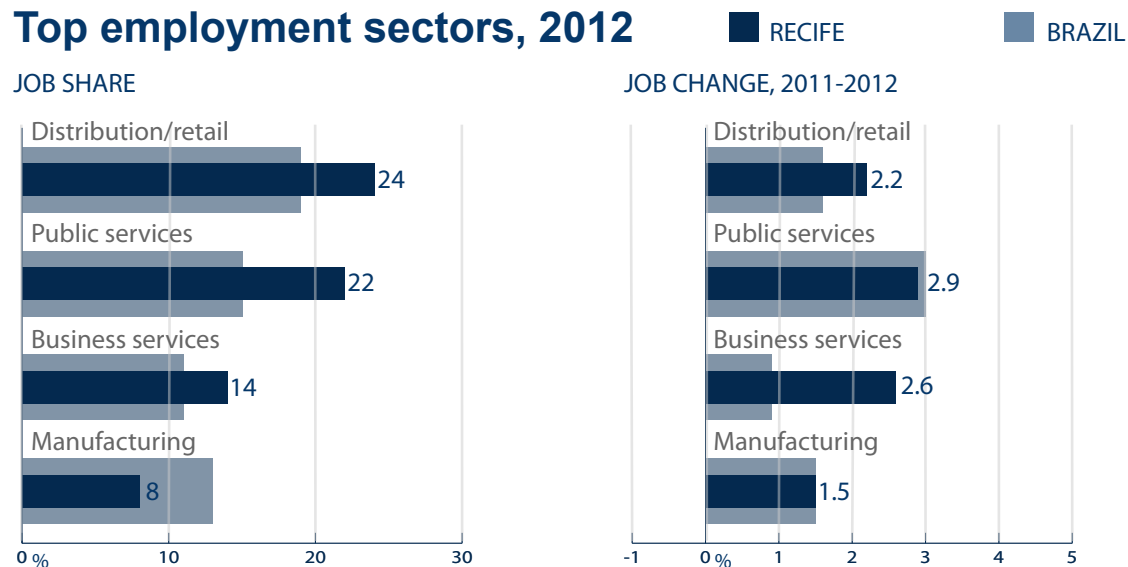
Population, 2012 in millions	Employment, 2010 in millions	GDP per capita, 2012	Exports in billions, 2007-2012
3.7 (6 th)	1.5 (9 th)	\$9,764 (12 th)	\$2.5 (12 th)

Economic performance, 2011-2012

Rank among 13 Brazilian metros: Rank among 300 world metros:

3rd 99th

Top employment sectors, 2012



Key statistics *(national values)*

Population

Change, 1990-2012:

24% (34%)

Working age share of total:

65% (63%)

Migration

Share born outside the state:

6.5% (14%)

Emigrants per 1,000 residents:

3.0 (2.6)

Education

Share with a college degree:

12% (11%)

Literacy rate:

92% (91%)

GDP per capita

Change, 1990-2012:

54% (42%)

Change, 2011-2012:

1.0% (0.5%)

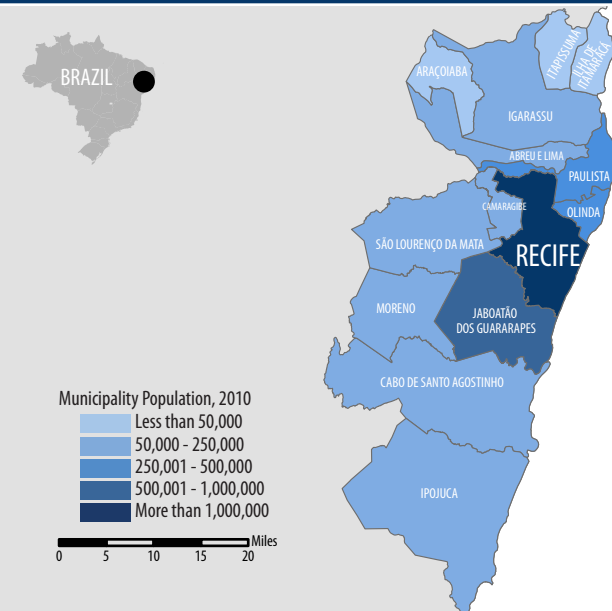
Employment

Change, 1990-2012:

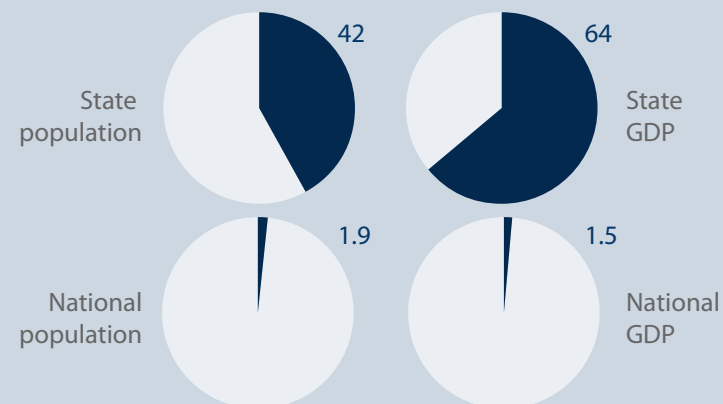
71% (37%)

Change, 2011-2012:

2.2% (1.4%)



2010 metro share of



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OVERVIEW

Recife, the capital of Pernambuco state, is a seaport located on northeastern bulge of South America into the Atlantic Ocean. Known as the Venice of Brazil for its many waterways and bridges, Recife is the sixth largest metropolitan area and Brazil's ninth largest economy. Tourists are attracted to its beaches and its carnival celebration, the second largest in Brazil.

POPULATION

Recife's 3.7 million inhabitants account for 42 percent of Pernambuco state's population. Approximately the same size as metropolitan Seattle, 42 percent of Recife's population lives in the city with the remainder residing in 13 other municipalities surrounding the city. Almost one-quarter (23 percent) of the metro area's population lives in *favelas* (irregular settlements), the second highest proportion among major metropolitan areas.

Founded in the 16th century by Portuguese colonists, and subsequently held by the French, British, and Dutch, Recife's development was boosted after 1960 by Sudene, a federal agency founded to promote economic growth in northeastern Brazil through industrialization. In recent decades, however, Recife's population has grown relatively slowly: 24 percent between 1990 and 2012 compared to 34 percent nationally. Among the 13 large metropolitan areas, it ranks 12th on this measure.

The age structure of metropolitan Recife is typical for large metropolitan areas in Brazil: 28 percent of its population are children, 7 percent are seniors, and 65 percent are of working age. Compared to Brazil, it has a slightly lower proportion of children and seniors, with a higher proportion of working-age

adults.

Educational attainment in Recife is relatively low. Ninety-two (92) percent of its population age 10+ is literate (only Fortaleza is lower among large metro areas), slightly higher than the national rate of 91 percent. Metro Recife ranks 11th among large metro areas for the share of its population with a tertiary education at 12 percent.

Recife does not attract a high number of migrants. Only 7 percent of its population was born outside the state (compared to 14 percent among large metro areas profiled here), and its foreign-born share (0.1 percent) ranks lowest, along with Fortaleza, among large metros. Among its small immigrant population, Portuguese account for one-quarter, with Italians and Americans making up another 9 and 5 percent, respectively. Emigration from Recife is somewhat higher, ranking fifth among large metros for the proportion of its population counted as "residing" in Recife but living abroad in 2010, 3.0 per 1,000. The United States is the destination of choice for one-fifth of these emigrants, with Portugal accounting for 13 percent and Germany 11 percent.

ECONOMY

Recife is home to 1.5 million Brazilian workers; its 2.2 percent growth over the last year ranks fifth nationally. Recife's GDP ranks it a modest ninth among all Brazilian metro areas, and its growth of 91 percent since 1990 is the same as the national growth rate. Over the last year, its GDP growth ranks higher (sixth) and is slightly more than the national average of 1.4 percent. The metropolitan area makes up approximately two-thirds of the state's GDP. Recife's GDP per capita ranks 12th among Brazilian metropolitan areas. However, it has seen above average growth both since 1990 and in the last year. The metro's long-term GDP per capita growth of 54

percent ranks third nationally and its 1.0 percent growth over the last year ranks second.

Recife's employment structure mirrors that of other Brazilian metro areas, especially smaller ones. The largest sector is distribution and retail (24 percent), followed by public services (22 percent), business services (14 percent), manufacturing (8 percent) and construction (8 percent). Long-term change in these industries has been strong in some (like business services and financial services, which both rank second nationally) and weak in others (like hotels and catering and agriculture, which both rank last nationally). Short-term (over the last year), Recife is one of only two Brazilian metropolitan areas (the other being Brasília), to experience at least 1 percent growth in every industry.

These short-term indicators reflect Recife's recent economic strength. The metropolitan area ranked third among its Brazilian counterparts (after Brasília and Salvador) and 99th among the 300 largest metro economies worldwide for 2011–2012 economic performance.

From 2007 to 2012, the metro exported a modest \$2.5 billion worth of goods, 15 percent of which were sent to the United States. Major exports include plastics (24 percent), sugars (15 percent), special operations (14 percent), rubber (7 percent), and fish (5 percent). The United States receives mostly plastics and fish from Recife (61 percent of all Recife's exports to the country). A large share of Recife's exports (14 percent) are consumed onboard ships and aircraft, more than any other Brazilian metropolitan area. The Suape Global project, focusing on the region's major port with the same name just south of the city of Recife, is drawing significant investment and planning around oil refining, and industrial production.