



Meet Folha de S.Paulo

Conozca la Folha de S.Paulo

Folha.com in Portuguese

## SECTIONS

National

Foreign

Finance

Daily Life

Health

Science

Sports

Culture

Travel

## LATEST PHOTO GALLERIES



**Cowboy Festival, in Barretos, São Paulo attracts lots of tourists**

PUBLISHED ON 26/08/2011



**Folha's photographer shows the faces behind humanitarian crisis in Somalia**

PUBLISHED ON 17/08/2011



**2016 Olympic Games**



**2014 World Cup**

## Drop in Catholics in Brazil hits all classes

24/08/2011 - 09H02

Curtir 1

2

**ANTÔNIO GOIS**  
FROM RIO

From 2003 to 2009, the drop in the number of Brazilians calling themselves Catholics, from 74% to 68%, occurred in all social classes. At the same time, the percentage of those without religion grew in all income groups.

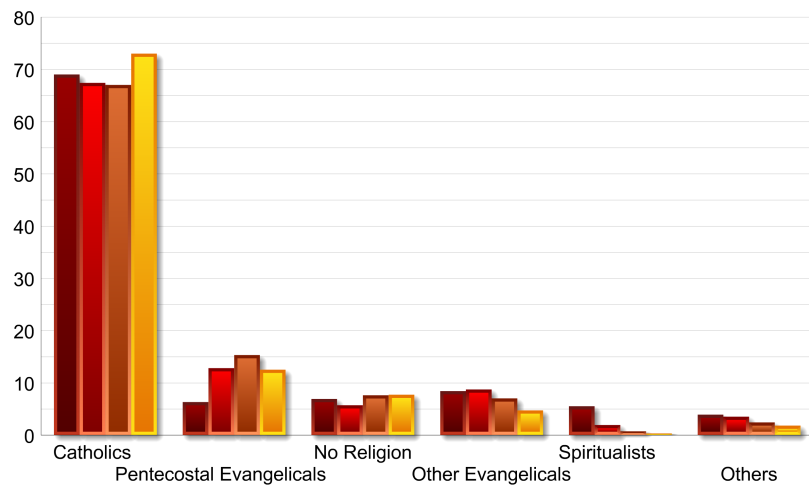
These are data from a study released yesterday by the economist Marcelo Neri of FGV, done for the POF (Research on Family Budgets), of IBGE.

By Neri's account, there was also a slowdown in the growth of Pentecostal Evangelicals from churches like the Assembly of God, the Universal Kingdom of God or the Christian Congregation of Brazil. Over this period, the proportion of Pentecostals varied from 12.5% to 12.8% of the total population.

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIONS

Evangelicals reach highest percentage in Class C

■ Classes A e B ■ Class C ■ Class D ■ Class E



The tendency of the past decade will only be better known when the IBGE releases the 2010 Census data on religion. For Neri, however, the POF indicates that the Pentecostals, who nearly doubled in proportion in the 90's, may be losing steam.

According to the economist, one possible explanation for this lower growth is the fact that the period between 2003 and 2009 was marked by strong growth in income, especially among the poor.

"In previous research, we found that the Pentecostals grew mainly in sectors where there was higher unemployment and lower income. Since this period from 2003 to 2009 had growth that favored the poor, this may have influenced the lower growth," he says.

BRAZILIAN STOCKS		
17H21		
<b>Bovespa</b>	<b>+2,93%</b>	<b>56,607</b>
16H57		
<b>Gold</b>	<b>-0,70%</b>	<b>99,3</b>
09H23		
<b>Dollar</b>	<b>-0,06%</b>	<b>1,6570</b>
08H56		
<b>Euro</b>	<b>+0,00%</b>	<b>2,3208</b>

In making division by class, the FGV study shows that the Pentecostals are mostly concentrated in classes C, D and E with proportions ranging from 13% to 15%.

In classes A and B where monthly household income is greater than R\$6745, the proportion of this religious group falls to 6%. The opposite occurs with the Kardecist Spiritualists. In classes D and E, with monthly household income less than R\$1200, they are less than 1%. At the top of the income scale (classes A and B), they represent 6% of the total.

Translated by **DAVE WOLLIN**

---

#### + NEWS FROM FOLHA IN ENGLISH

---

[FHC and Marina Silva support Dilma's fight against corruption](#)  
[Owner of chain of stores Magazine Luiza is invited to be minister](#)  
[Appreciation leads to gold rush in Brazil](#)

SHARE THIS

---

[National](#) | [Foreign](#) | [Finance](#) | [Daily Life](#) | [Health](#) | [Science](#) | [Sports](#) | [Culture](#) | [Travel](#)

Copyright Folha.com. All rights reserved. All materials contained in this page may not be reproduced in any media, whether electronic or printed, without the prior written permission of Folhapress.

---