

# Brasil's Poverty

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Brazil was removed from the UN hunger map in 2014, but there are concerns now that it could be reinstated by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

Economists say the country's deep recession is to blame, which has resulted in high unemployment and cuts in social programs. Homeless people living in the streets is just one of the signs of Brazil's return to poverty.

According to a study by Brazil's prestigious **Getulio Vargas Foundation**, poverty is on the rise again.

"After a long period of a sharp poverty fall it continues, for example in 2004, poverty reached 25 percent of the Brazilian population. It went down to eight per cent, and in the last two years, it went back to 11.2 per cent. So around 5.5 million people re-entered poverty," explained **Marcelo Neri**, director of the foundation.

45.5 million Brazilians living on less than US\$5.50 a day. Currently 22 percent of Brazilians live under the poverty line.

In the meantime, the government insists on implementing unpopular austerity measures in order, it says, to put the economy back on track.