

Brazil had a record 23 million living in poverty in 2021

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In the second year of the pandemic, another 7.2 million Brazilians began to live in poverty, according to a survey by the Center for Social Policies of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV Social). The proportion of the poor rose from 7.6% of the population in 2020 to 10.8% in 2021, an increase of 42.11%. The contingent of people living in poverty reached about 23 million, the highest level in the historical series started in 2016.

“It is enough to remember that the first goal of the Millennium Development Goals was to reduce poverty by half in 25 years”, pointed out researchers Marcelo Neri and Marcos Hecksher in the study entitled “The Rollercoaster of Poverty”, released this Wednesday, 15.

The calculation, which is based on microdata on per capita household income from all sources, calculated by the Continuous National Household Sample Survey of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), adopts the income limit as a reference for the poverty line. to receive the Auxílio Brasil, of BRL 210, at constant prices as of December 2021 per family member per month, around BRL 7 per day.

“This line, although low to meet basic needs, is used as a criterion for eligibility for some benefit by Auxílio Brasil”, justified FGV Social, in the survey.

The researchers draw attention to the fact that the monthly information points to even more extreme results than the annual averages. Considering the month of lowest poverty, experienced in August 2020, 3.9% of Brazilians survived in these conditions, a proportion that rose to 13.2% in March 2021, during the interruption of payment of Emergency Aid by the government.

“In fact, these annual poverty series in Brazil hide in the recent period fluctuations with an amplitude 5.7 times even more pronounced than those observed in monthly series, given the 238.5% increase in the same in less than six months”, the researchers stressed. .

The peak of poverty occurred in the first month of the pandemic, in March 2020, when 13.3% of Brazilians lived in this condition.

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The study also highlights that the monthly income of the poorest 10% was already falling before the arrival of the covid-19 pandemic in Brazil, falling from R\$114 per person per month in November 2019 to just R\$52 in March 2020. Thanks to Emergency Aid, the income of this group rose to a peak of R\$215 per month per person in August 2020, but dropped to R\$55 in January 2021 with the suspension of the program. The resumption of the benefit with coverage and reduced values ??made the income of the poorest 10% rise again, reaching R\$ 113 in August 2021, falling once again in November 2021, to R\$ 96.

“The latter projects a negative trend as it incorporates the fixed nominal values ??of the new Auxílio Brasil in the face of the high and accelerated inflation scenario, especially for low income”, pondered the survey. “In November 2021, the per capita household income of the poorest 10% was R\$96, equivalent to a measly R\$3.20 per day for each person. This extremely low figure had been 18.7% higher two years ago. before, BRL 114 per capita per month, always at December 2021 prices.”

The researchers point out that the poorest Brazilians do not have a formal employment contract that can provide any guarantee of support or dampen extreme fluctuations in income over the months.

“What they face month by month are unpredictable oscillations between extreme and moderate degrees of poverty, amplified by the pandemic and the instability of social policies of recent years. Without ever going to Florida, a roller coaster of deprivation was the part that fell to him. this theme park,” concluded Neri and Hecksher.