

Almost a third of Brazilians have to survive on up to R\$497 per month, according to FGV

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In Brazil, almost a third of people have less than half a minimum wage to spend the month. The data is part of the New Poverty Map, released last Wednesday (29), by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV). The study points out that poverty has never been as high in Brazil as in 2021, since the beginning of the historical series in 2012.

Also according to the survey, the number of people with a per capita household income of up to R\$497 per month reached 62.9 million Brazilians last year, about 29.6% of the country's total population. The result corresponds to 9.6 million more than in 2019, that is, the number of new poor people that emerged during the pandemic is almost the size of the population of Portugal.

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In the state of Rio, in particular, the research bases the comparison from the grouping of municipalities in eight spatial strata. Based on this methodology, poverty rates in the capital are lower (16.68%) than in the outskirts of Greater Rio: Arco Metropolitano de Niterói and São Gonçalo (20.96%), Arco Metropolitano de Duque de Caxias (30.48%) and the Nova Iguaçu Metropolitan Arch (33.24%).

In the interior cities, the proximity to the capital also points to differences in poverty rates, with the Serrana region (20.18%) with the lowest index, followed by the Lagos region (22.6%), Vale do Paraíba and Costa Verde do RJ (25.33%) and, finally, Norte Fluminense (26.12%).

Among the other states, Santa Catarina (10.16%) has the lowest poverty rate in 2021. Maranhão (57.90%) has the highest proportion of poor people. In percentage points, the largest increase in poverty between 2019 and 2021 took place in Pernambuco (8.14 percentage points), and the only declines in poverty in the period were observed in Tocantins (0.95 percentage points) and Piauí (0.03 percentage points).

The purpose of the survey, according to FGV, is to assess the spatial evolution of poverty in recent years. The research methodology considered microdata from the Annual Continuous PNAD of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).