INTRODUCTION
Brazil is a melting pot of people. There are all different kinds of people, but specifically:
- 53% men and 47% women
- In the work force, 13% between 10 and 24 years, 62% between 25 and 49 years, and 25% more than 50 years
- In education, 25% have less than 4 years, 24% have between 5 and 9 years, 35% have between 9 and 11 years, and 16% have more than 12 years
- Income wise, 19% make less than 142 Reais, 27% make between 142 and 284 Reais, 31% make between 284 and 568 Reais, 15% between 568 and 1,135 Reais, and 9% make more than $1,135

Social Classes
A: 2.7% of population
B1: 5% of population
B2: 18.1% of population
C1: 22.9% of population
C2: 24.6% of population
D: 26.6% of population
E: 5% of population

More than 50% of Brazil’s population is in the three lowest earning classes, leading to a need of help from the country.

Housing
- In Brazil, 84% of the total population live in urban areas, which has increased demand for services and infrastructure. There was a housing deficit of 5.4 million homes.
- In 2009, the Brazilian federal government launched the social housing program “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” My House, My Life).
- Underutilized spaces and buildings in central areas of cities can be redesigned for affordable housing projects.
- Participants in the program are offered financing options to either buy a home constructed by the government or renovate an already existing one.
- To apply, you must have monthly incomes of less than 5000 Reais, a priority placed on those that make less than 1600 Reais.
- It has already placed 10.5 million low-income people in 2.6 million housing units throughout Brazil.
- Minha Casa Minha Vida is funded primarily through the Growth Acceleration Program, a federal infrastructure-upgrading program.
- Contracts for construction of the properties are awarded by Caixa, the government-owned bank.

Bolsa Familia
- Starting in 2003, it was funded by less than 0.5% of Brazil’s GDP, and it now facilitates small trash transfers to 46 million people that have low income, placing them under the poverty line.
- To earn the transfers the children have to go to school and get health checks.
- Children between 6 and 15 have to have passed 85% of the school year. For 16 to 18 year olds, they have to pass 75% of the school year.
- Households are required to follow a vaccination schedule, keep a vaccination card, and monitor the growth and development of children under 7 years old.
- Bolsa Familia integrates the Brazil Without Poverty Plan, which focuses on the households that each family member’s income is below 77 Reais per month.
- Bolsa Familia gives aid to households with an income less than 154 Reais per household member.
- 53% of the population in the northeast of Brazil receive Bolsa Familia.
- São Paulo is in the northeast, and connecting that percentage to the way it looked on our trip to other states we visited, it makes sense and proves true.

Education
- Through the Universidade para Todos (ProUni), students can receive partial (50%) or full (100%) scholarships at private universities.
- The Fundo de Financiamento Estudantil (Fies) provides low interest loans (6.5% per year) to pay tuition at private universities.
- When the course ends, the students have 18 months before they must begin repaying the loan.
- To get ProUni and Fies the student has to prove their monthly family income and they have to take the Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio (Enem), which tests what they learned.
- More than 500 universities in Brazil use the results of the Enem to determine if people should be selected to attend the university.

Experience
The thing I found the most interesting on this trip was how nice people can be. Everyone I met was so kind and not quick to judge. As a person, I’m motivated to become more like a Brazilian in that aspect, and learn to just genuinely be nice to everyone I meet.

Professionally, I’m more prepared in the future when I must travel for work and interact with others, maybe not even speaking the same language as me. This study abroad experience was more beneficial to me than a traditional class setting because seeing things first-hand and integrating into the culture played a large role in the experience. Also, being in a smaller group of people, with them almost all day and night you form bonds and friendships that can last a lifetime. In the future, to highlight this experience to an employer, I will inform them of my understanding and respect for those who are different and to simply be kind to anyone you meet.

A happier tale of country folk
Brazil’s population living below $1.25 per day
% of total

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Source: IPEA

Quality of Goods (Food, health, etc.)

With Bolsa Familia

Without Bolsa Familia

Working with other students who attend PUC