

# Venezuelan refugees and migrants access to the formal labour market in Brazil

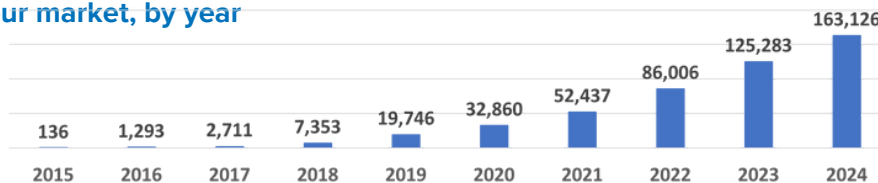
3RD QUARTER OF 2024

Data source: RAIS and CAGED<sup>1</sup>  
January 2012 to September 2024

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- In the third quarter of 2024, there was a positive balance of 13,331 Venezuelan refugees and migrants entries in the Brazilian formal labour market, as a result of 48,401 admissions and 35,070 exits. In 2024 the balance is 37,843 Venezuelans admitted into the formal labour market.
- From January 2012 to September 2024, within the framework of the reception policy, almost 160 thousand Venezuelan refugees and migrants entered the formal labour market. The cumulative data beyond this reception policy is about 163,126 Venezuelans are formally employed in Brazil.
- Most of those entering the formal labour market are adults aged 30 to 39 years (29,5%) and men (62,5%).
- The educational profile of those entering the formal labour market indicates that 70.2% completed high school, out of which 7.6% had completed higher education.
- The average salary for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in september 2024 is USD 326.1 which is 14% lower than the average salary of Brazilians hired in the same period<sup>2</sup>. Also, the overall Venezuelan refugees and migrants salary tends to increase with a higher educational level.
- The main economic activities in the formal labour market are: (i) Slaughter of pigs, poultry and other small animals, (ii) retail trade of general merchandise, with a predominance of food products - hypermarkets and supermarkets, and (iii) restaurants and other food and beverage service establishments.

## Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the formal labour market, by year



Since March 2017 the Federal Government has established a complementary route for applicants for refugee status, through temporary residence, for people from Venezuela to enter and reside in the country. On 19 June 2016, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) recognized that Venezuela faces a situation of "serious and widespread violation of human rights", which made it possible to simplify and speed up the analysis of requests from Venezuelan applicants for refugee status in Brazil.<sup>3</sup>

Venezuelans in Brazil, as well as refugees of other nationalities, have enormous potential to contribute to the country's economic growth, in addition to the development and diversification of the local economy.

Through *Operação Acolhida* (Operation Welcome), Brazil promotes the socioeconomic inclusion of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, especially through the [Internal Voluntary Relocation Program](#), which promotes the voluntary relocation of Venezuelan people from the bordering state of Roraima to other parts of the country where they can achieve better opportunities for social and economic inclusion.

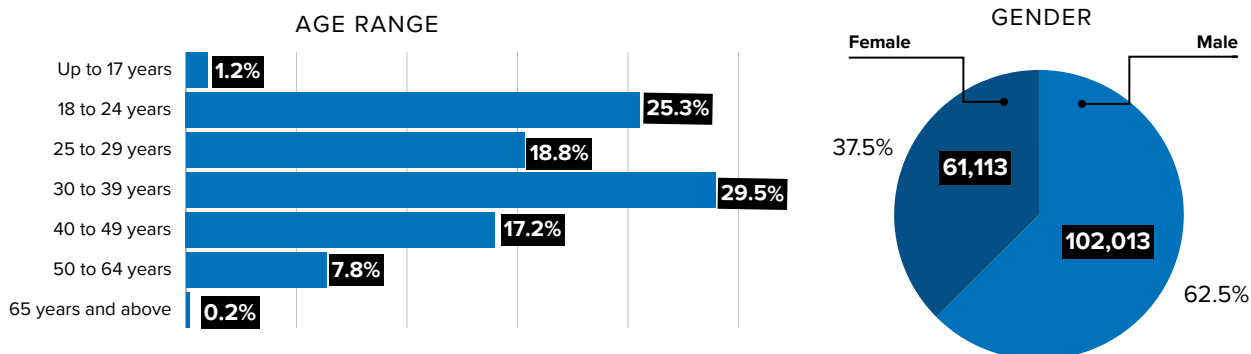
Since April 2017, **data from the Annual Social Information List (RAIS) and the General Register of Employed and Unemployed Persons (CAGED) from the Ministry of labour and Employment (MTE), recorded 160,415 Venezuelan refugees and migrants formally employed. The cumulative data is that 163,126 Venezuelans have formal employment in Brazil.**

1. This is the validity, to date, of the reception policy adopted by the country since April 2017, motivated by violence, insecurity and threats, as well as the lack of food, medicine and essential services. Currently, Interministerial Ordinance MJSP/MRE No. 19, dated 23 March 2021, is valid.

2. More details can be accessed at: [pdet.mte.gov.br/novo-caged](http://pdet.mte.gov.br/novo-caged)

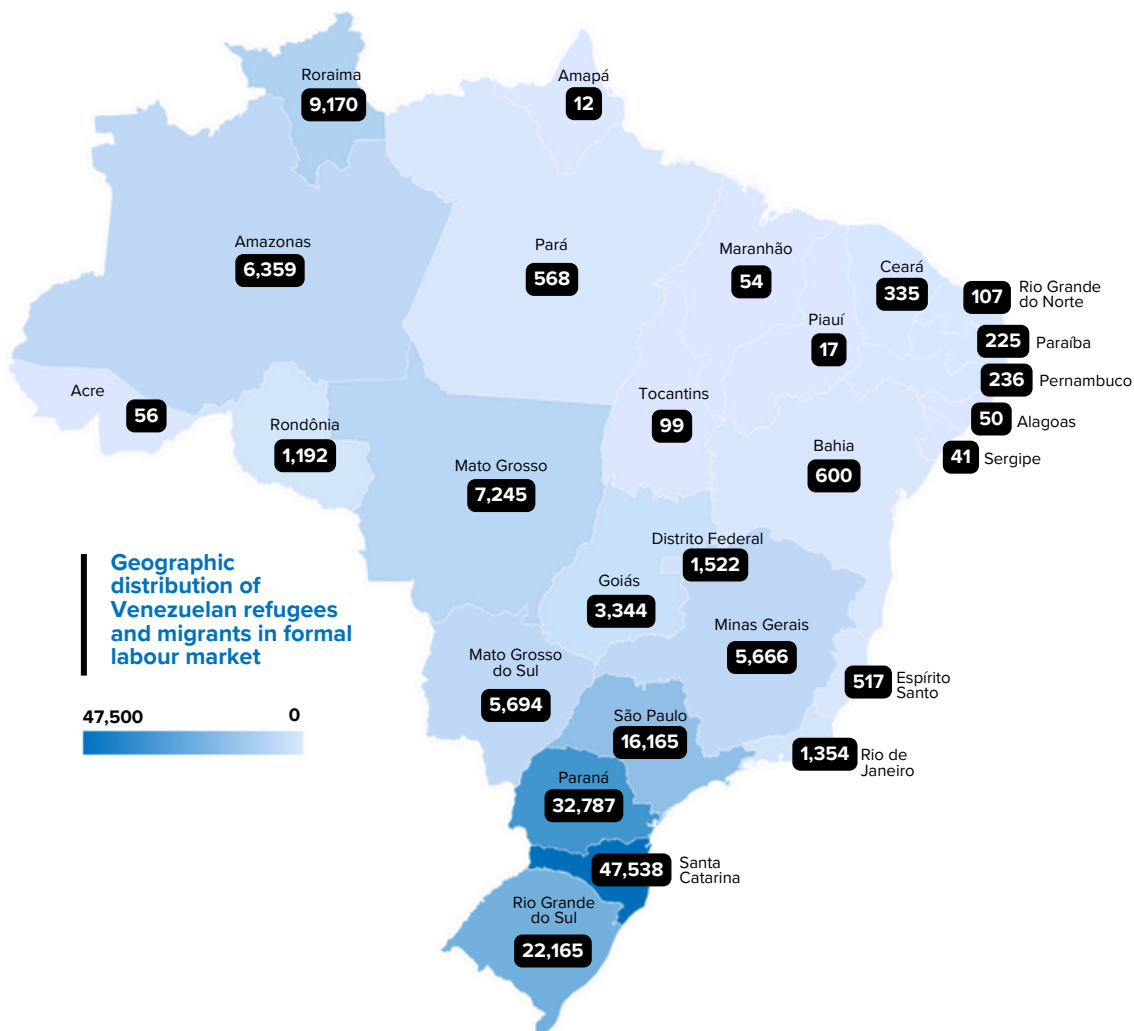
3. This definition is inspired by the Cartagena Declaration, adopted in 1984 by Brazil and 14 other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and was incorporated into the Brazilian law on the protection of refugees (law 9,474/1997), in section III of its article 1. The recognition of this situation by the Brazilian government has, since then, undergone successive revisions that have extended the application of the aforementioned simplified application analysis procedure.

## Demographic profile for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in formal labour market



## Educational profile and average salary of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, by sex

Profile	Total	Male (USD)	Female (USD)	Total (USD)
No education	5,627	\$ 345.0	\$ 320.7	\$ 336.1
Incomplete primary education	14,881	\$ 352.8	\$ 315.8	\$ 340.5
Complete primary education	15,636	\$ 349.3	\$ 309.0	\$ 334.7
Incomplete high school	12,522	\$ 342.7	\$ 301.9	\$ 328.5
Complete high school	99,102	\$ 368.9	\$ 321.3	\$ 351.6
Incomplete higher education	3,032	\$ 451.1	\$ 380.7	\$ 420.7
Complete higher education	12,326	\$ 811.6	\$ 556.5	\$ 685.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,126</b>	<b>\$ 391.4</b>	<b>\$ 343.4</b>	<b>\$ 373.6</b>



## Venezuelan refugees and migrants in formal labour market by standard classification of occupations

CBO	Classification of Occupations	Male	Female	Total
7842	Production Line Feeders	18,407	10,074	28,481
8485	Slaughterers and similars	10,474	7,362	17,836
5211	Trade operators in stores and markets	6,025	5,681	11,706
5143	Workers in building maintenance services	4,811	6,859	11,670
4141	Storekeepers and warehousemen	5,378	1,841	7,219
5135	Auxiliary workers in food services	2,771	3,837	6,608
7170	Civil works assistants	6,316	150	6,466
5134	Service workers in food, beverage and hotel service establishments	2,133	2,609	4,742
-	Others	45,668	22,684	68,352
<b>Total</b>		<b>102,013</b>	<b>61,113</b>	<b>163,126</b>

## Venezuelan refugees and migrants in formal labour market by National Classification of Economic Activities (CNAE)

CNAE	Total
Slaughter of pigs, poultry and other small animals	29,138
Retail trade of general merchandise, with a predominance of food products - hypermarkets and supermarkets	11,157
Restaurants and other food and beverage service establishments	9,978
Building construction	5,149
Slaughter of animals, except pigs	3,918
Road freight transport	2,917
Temporary workforce leasing	2,640
Cleaning in buildings and homes	2,390
Combined office and administrative support services	2,242
Others	91,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,126</b>