

Brazil⁹⁷

Alexandre Fraga (State University of Rio de Janeiro)

April 2025

Brazil is a federal state.

For comparisons with other countries in this review on leave provision and early childhood education and care services, please see the [cross-country tables](#) at the front of the review (also available individually on the [Leave Network website](#)). To contact authors of country notes, see the [members](#) page on the Leave Network website.

1. Current leave and other employment-related policies to support parents

Note on coverage of leave entitlements: Leave entitlements in Brazil are primarily governed by the Labour Law (*Consolidação das Leis do Trabalho – CLT*) which applies to the whole country, but only to employees with regular work contracts or those that contribute to the Social Security Institute (INSS). Only half of the Brazilian labour force works in formal jobs and are thus entitled to such benefits. The conventions and collective agreements negotiated by trade unions may eventually extend such rights.

a. Maternity leave (*licença-maternidade*) (responsibility of the National Institute of Social Security/INSS, Ministry of Social Security)

Length of leave (before and after birth)

- Private sector: 4 months (counted in calendar days), which can be extended to 6 or 8 months if the employer voluntarily adheres to the Company-Citizen Programme (*Programa Empresa Cidadã*). It may be taken from the 8th month of pregnancy.

⁹⁷ Please cite as: Fraga, A. (2025) 'Brazil country note', in Dobrotić, I., Blum, S., Kaufman, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P. and Valentova, M. (eds.) *International Review of Leave Policies and Research 2025*. Available at: <https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/>

- Public sector: 6 months in the federal public sector (counted in calendar days); at state and municipal levels, entitlement to the additional months depends on the approval of the authorities (most state authorities approve this extended leave, but only a minority of municipalities do so). It may be taken from the 8th month of pregnancy.

Payment, funding and taxation

- One hundred per cent of earnings, with no upper limit on payment. In the case of a variable salary (i.e., because of commission, gratuity, overtime, or bonus pay), the payment is equivalent to the average of the last 6 months of work.
- If leave in the private sector is extended to 6 months, the benefit during the extra 60 days is paid by the employer with the costs covered by fiscal deductions.
- In case of miscarriage or legal abortion (on the grounds of rape, risk to the mother's life, or a foetus with anencephaly), the Maternity benefit is paid for 2 weeks.
- Payments are taxed at 7.5, 9, 12 or 14 per cent, depending on earnings. This deduction for the social security system is paid by the beneficiary. These payments do not affect pensions; pension contributions are paid by the state.
- Funded for employees by contributions into a social security fund paid by employers and employees. Employers pay 20 per cent of their salary bill (domestic employers pay eight per cent of the domestic employee's salary as contribution). Employers cannot claim the payment back and it is not recoverable. Employees pay on a sliding scale according to their salary: 7.5 per cent if under BRL1,518.00 [€232.37]⁹⁸; 9 per cent between BRL1,518.01 [€232.37] and BRL2,793.88 [€427.68]; 12 per cent between BRL2,793.89 [€427.68] and BRL4,190.83 [€641.52]; and 14 per cent between BRL4,190.84 [€641.52] and BRL8,157.41 [€1,248.70], which is the upper limit for social security payments. For self-employed workers and business owners, leave is funded entirely by their own contributions.

Flexibility in use

- Women may continue with paid work until the birth of their child if they explicitly declare that it is their personal decision to do so.
- In the private sector Company-Citizen Programme, there are two possibilities; in both, the company maintains the full salary. In the first possibility, the employee has 6 months of Maternity leave at home taking care of her child. In the second, the employee has 8 months of Maternity leave, organized as follows: 4 months at home taking care of the child and another 4 months at the company with working hours reduced by 50 per cent.
- In the private sector, if leave is extended to 6 months, the 2 extra months can be shared between the employee and her partner, provided that both work in companies participating in the Company-Citizen Programme.

⁹⁸ Conversion of currency undertaken for 16 July 2025, using: <https://data.ecb.europa.eu/currency-converter>.

- In the event of the death of the mother, the partner is entitled to Maternity leave. The payment duration of the benefit is then calculated according to the period to which the woman would have still been entitled. The leave is not otherwise transferable to the father.

Eligibility (e.g., related to employment or family circumstances)

- All women who work and contribute to social security are eligible, whether through employment with a signed work card, as a temporary employee, or self-employed.
- If the mother has contributed to social security, the unemployed mother then has the right to Maternity leave for up to one year (after the termination of the last employment contract), or up to two years (if she received unemployment insurance), or up to three years (if she received unemployment insurance and contributed for 120 months or more). For self-employed and individual micro-entrepreneurs, they are eligible for up to one year after their last contribution or up to 2 years (if she contributed for 120 months or more). Individual/facultative taxpayers (who do not work) are eligible up to 6 months after their last contribution.
- Housewives or students who do not earn a salary, but who pay monthly optional social security contributions to retain coverage, can enjoy the same benefit as salaried workers after contributing for at least ten months. In this case, the amount of maternity benefit she will be paid is that of the reference salary contribution (e.g., if she contributes based on one minimum salary, she receives a minimum salary per month while on leave).
- Single adoptive fathers are entitled to Maternity leave.
- In gay and lesbian couples, only one partner (man or woman) is entitled to Maternity leave.
- Foreigners working in Brazil can enrol in social security, make monthly contribution and have the right to Maternity leave, without the requirement of citizenship or permanent residency.

Variation in leave due to child or family reasons (e.g., multiple or premature births; poor health or disability of child or mother; lone parent); or delegation of leave to person other than the mother

- The mother has the right to a further 15 days' leave in some specific situations, such as when her life or the baby's life is at risk.
- If the mother dies during childbirth or during Maternity leave, the father can apply for the benefit and complete the remaining period of the leave.

Regional or local variations in leave policy

- None.

Additional note (e.g., if leave payments are supplemented by collective agreements, employer exclusions, or rights to postpone)

- The conventions and collective agreements negotiated by trade unions may eventually extend leave rights.
- The employer cannot postpone the use of leave.

b. Paternity leave (*licença-paternidade*) (responsibility of the National Institute of Social Security/INSS, Ministry of Social Security)

Length of leave (before and after birth)

- Private sector: 5 consecutive calendar days. Leave can be extended to 20 days if the employer voluntarily adheres to the Company-Citizen Programme (*Programa Empresa Cidadã*).
- Public sector: 20 calendar days in the federal sector; at state and municipal levels, entitlement to the additional period depends on the approval of the local authorities.

Payment, funding and taxation

- One hundred per cent of earnings.
- Paternity leave is taxed at 7.5, 9, 12 or 14 per cent, depending on earnings. This deduction for the social security system is paid by the beneficiary and does not affect pensions.
- Paid by employers. They cannot claim the payment back and it is not recoverable.

Flexibility in use

- None.

Eligibility (e.g., related to employment or family circumstances)

- Fathers who work with a signed work card and those in the federal public sector have the right to Paternity leave. Those making other types of contribution do not yet have this right (i.e., facultative, special insured, and individual micro-entrepreneur). Unemployed fathers have no right to Paternity leave.
- Foreigners working in Brazil can register for social security, make monthly contributions, and have the right to Paternity leave, without the requirement of citizenship or permanent residency.

Variation in leave due to child or family reasons (e.g., multiple or premature births; poor health or disability of child or mother; lone parent); or delegation of leave to person other than the mother

- None.

Regional or local variations in leave policy

- None.

Additional note (e.g., if leave payments are supplemented by collective agreements, employer exclusions, or rights to postpone)

- The employer cannot postpone the use of leave.

c. Parental leave

No statutory entitlement.

d. Childcare leave or career breaks

No statutory entitlement.

e. Other types of leave and flexible working

Adoption leave and pay

- In the private sector, mothers who adopt a child are entitled to Maternity leave of 120 consecutive days paid at the rate of their full salary (the same as biological mothers). In the public sector, mothers who adopt children are entitled to 180 consecutive days of leave paid at their full salary (also the same as biological mothers).
- If the adoptive mother dies, the spouse can use the leave for the remaining time. This is also the case for gay and lesbian couples.
- When the adoptive mother does not pay social security contributions, all the benefits of Maternity leave go to the adoptive father (on the condition that he pays social security contributions).

Time off for the care of dependants

- Paid leave for up to 2 consecutive days is granted in the case of the death of a spouse, ascendant or descendant in family line, sibling or a person declared on the employee's work card (and for the purposes of social security) as financially dependent.
- In the public sector, leave is granted to **care for a sick spouse or companion, parent, child, stepfather/stepmother, stepchild or dependent**, subject to approval by an official medical board which must decide that the employee's direct assistance to the sick person is essential and must be during working hours. Leave may be granted for up to 60 days at 100 per cent of earnings, after which a further 90 days of leave is possible, but with no payment. For the private sector, leave to care for a sick dependent can be part of a collective agreement, but not a labour law or regulation.
- Public servants who **accompany their relatives with disabilities in health-related activities** are entitled to special working time, without having to compensate the hours spent in caring: they receive their full salary during this period.

Specific provision for (breast)feeding

- The Labour Law allows for two 30 minute breaks during the working day for breastfeeding, up until the child reaches the age of 6 months. This right is not transferable to another family member.

Flexible working

- No statutory entitlement.

Antenatal appointments and care

- None.

Other provisions

- None reported.

2. Relationship between leave policy and early childhood education and care policy

The maximum period of post-natal leave is six and a half months, paid at full earnings replacement. There is no entitlement to ECEC.

Labour Law (CLT) states that every company with a workplace employing at least 30 women over the age of 16 must maintain a suitable place, in which female employees can leave their babies under supervision and with adequate care, up to the sixth month of the breastfeeding phase. As a substitute for this requirement, the company can adopt a childcare assistance system: instead of maintaining a nursery in the workplace, the company pays a monthly amount to female employees who have children. The idea is that with this money they can look for a nursery or nanny outside the company. In this case, the benefits must be granted to every employee with a young child, regardless of the number of female employees in the establishment, and they must be the object of collective negotiation.

| |
|--|
| For ECEC attendance levels, see 'relationship between leave and ECEC entitlements' in the cross-country tables at the front of the review. |
|--|

3. Changes in policy since April 2024 (including proposals currently under discussion)

No changes reported.

4. Uptake of leave

a. Maternity leave

No information available, but close to 100 per cent uptake is likely as leave is a legal entitlement, plus payment is made from the social security fund, not by the employer.

b. Paternity leave

No information available, but we can suppose that the uptake is very high.

c. Parental leave

No statutory entitlement.