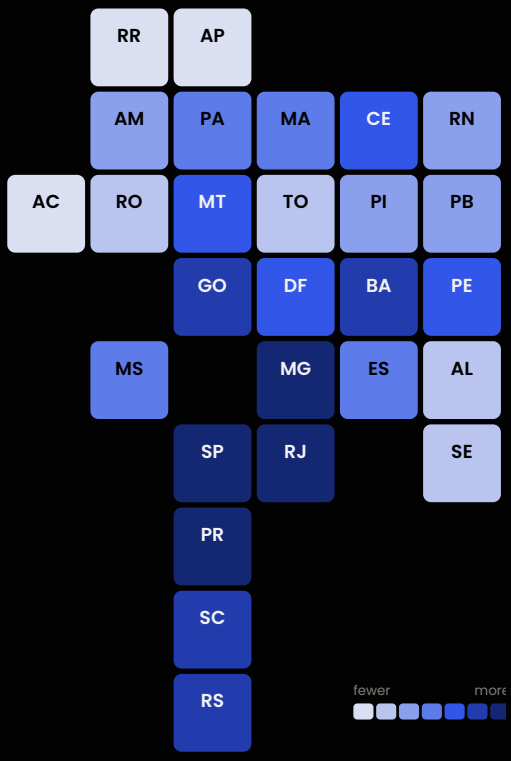
Piafter

MARKET REPORT_ NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

Brazil Companies 2026_

Every active business in the federal registry, measured: sectors, growth, survival, geography, the largest companies and foreign capital. With the 10,000 largest companies and their contacts.



8.25M
active companies
(legal entities)

28.1M
active registrations,
including micro-entrepreneurs

00_ ABOUT THIS REPORT

The whole Brazilian economy, from the registry

Every business in Brazil, from a street vendor to Petrobras, must hold a CNPJ registration with the federal tax authority, Receita Federal. This report reads the complete registry, 72,789,631 records, and turns it into the numbers a market-entry team, an investor or an analyst needs: how many businesses exist, in which sectors and cities, how fast they open and close, how long they last, who the largest are and where foreign capital sits.

What comes with it

- This report, 12 chapters.
- An Excel workbook with 15 sheets: the 10,000 largest operating companies with contacts, the 1,000 largest networks, 1,469 new foreign-backed companies, and every sector in every one of the 5,571 municipalities.
- CSV files of the company list and the sector-by-city table, ready for Python or BI tools.

Two words you will see often

Companies are legal entities: limited liability companies (Ltda), corporations (S.A.), cooperatives. This is the core of the economy and the focus of this report.

MEI is Brazil's micro-entrepreneur regime: one person, revenue up to R$ 81,000 a year, a flat monthly tax. MEI are counted in every total, but kept apart, because they are self-employed individuals rather than firms.

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Source: Piafter analysis of Brazil's federal business registry (Receita Federal, CNPJ).

01_ THE REGISTRY AT A GLANCE

28 million active registrations

The registry holds 72,789,631 records since the 1960s. 28,148,913 are active today. Most are individuals working on their own account: 59% are sole proprietors, mainly MEI. Companies, the legal entities, are 33% of the active base and the subject of most of this report.



Companies: 9,189,905 (33%) Sole proprietors (incl. MEI): 16,681,329 (59%) Non-profits: 1,290,667 (5%)

Public bodies and other: 987,012 (4%)

LEGAL FORM OF ACTIVE COMPANIES

LEGAL FORM	COMPANIES	SHARE
Limited liability company (Ltda)	7,764,505	94.1%
Professional partnership, limited	175,822	2.1%
Single-member law firm	143,347	1.7%
Professional partnership	72,619	0.9%
Privately held corporation (S.A.)	62,373	0.8%
Cooperative	15,627	0.2%
Innovation startup (Inova Simples)	12,483	0.2%
Publicly traded corporation (S.A.)	1,032	0.0%

Headquarters only. Ltda is the default legal form for small and mid-sized firms; S.A. is required to list shares on the stock exchange.

WHY THE TOTALS DIFFER

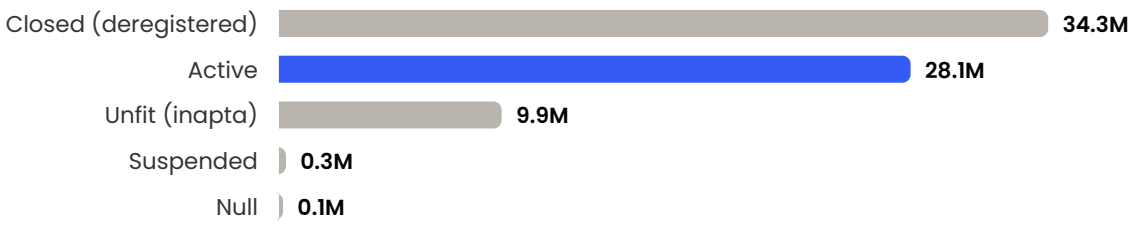
8,249,739 companies operate **9,189,905** establishments: every branch, shop or plant has its own registration number under the parent company. This report counts establishments when it measures presence in a sector or city, and headquarters when it measures companies.

34,286,153 records are formally closed, and 9,926,527 are "inapta", suspended for not filing tax returns. Neither is counted as active.

Companies vs. micro-entrepreneurs

The MEI regime, created in 2009, added 13.7 million registrations. They matter for consumer and labor markets, but a buyer looking for business partners, suppliers or clients should look at the 8.25 million companies.

STATUS OF ALL RECORDS IN THE REGISTRY



Source: Piafter analysis of Brazil's federal business registry (Receita Federal, CNPJ).

12_ METHODOLOGY

How the numbers were built

Source

Receita Federal do Brasil, Cadastro Nacional da Pessoa Jurídica (CNPJ), registry release of August 2026, the latest processed for this edition: 72,789,631 establishment records, read in full. Population: IBGE 2026 estimates. City names: IBGE.

Definitions

- **Active**: registration status "ativa". Suspended, unfit (inapta), null and closed records are excluded.
- **Companies**: legal natures 2xxx (business entities) except sole proprietors, investment funds, consortia and silent partnerships.
- **Sole proprietors**: legal nature 2135; MEI when currently opted into the regime. In historical series MEI and other sole proprietors are combined, because a MEI that closes leaves the regime and would otherwise be miscounted.
- **Sector**: main activity only (CNAE 2.0), mapped to ISIC Rev.4 names.
- **Openings**: activity start date. **Closures**: date of formal deregistration.

Largest companies ranking

The registry has no revenue or headcount, so the ranking uses declared share capital, capped and cleaned. To enter, a company must be classified "medium or large", be outside Simples Nacional, and, the higher its capital, show more signs of real operation: corporation status, several establishments, ten or more years of age, or a foreign corporate shareholder. Companies declaring hundreds of millions with a personal webmail were removed. 615 of the 12,000 highest declared capitals were excluded this way. Holding companies and single-project companies (SPEs) are identified by activity code and name and ranked in a separate sheet.

Contacts

Registered phones and emails only. Placeholder phones, accountants' shared emails and any email that identifies a person are removed; the remaining emails are tagged by type.

Limitations

- Registered active is not the same as operating. Dormant companies inflate counts, so on-the-ground counts tend to be lower.
- Share capital is declared once and rarely updated.
- Foreign shareholding covers direct shareholders only.
- 2026 figures cover the year to the registry release date.

License

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