GOIÁS

It is a state of Brazil, located in the central part of the country. The name Goiás (formerly, Goyaz) comes from the name of an indigenous community. The original word seems to have been guaíá, a compound of gua e iá, meaning "the same person" or "people of the same origin." Neighboring states are Tocantins, Bahia, Minas Gerais, the Federal District, Mato Grosso do Sul and Mato Grosso.

POLITICS

Governor: Marconi Perillo
Vice-governor: José Eliton

GEOGRAPHY

Goiás lies wholly within the Brazilian Highlands, which are located in the center of the country. It occupies a large plateau, the vast almost level surface of which stands between 750 and 900m above sea level and forms the divide between three of Brazil's largest river systems: to the south, Goiás is drained by the Paranaíba river, a tributary of the Paraná River; to the east it is drained by tributaries of the São Francisco River; and northward the state is drained by the Araguaia River and the Tocantins River and their tributaries. Other major rivers in the state are the Meia Ponte, Aporé, São Marcos, Corumbá River, Claro, Paranã, Maranhão, Paranã and Preto. None of these rivers is navigable except for short distances by small craft. The state's highest point is Pouso Alto, at 1,676 metres (5,499 ft) above sea level, in the Chapada dos Veadeiros.

Goiás is covered with a woodland savanna known in Brazil as 'Cerrado', although there are still tropical forests along the rivers. This Cerrado has been seriously diminished in recent years due to cattle raising and soybean farming with great loss of animal life and forest cover. The climate of the plateau is tropical. Average monthly temperatures vary from 26 °C (79 °F) in the warmest month to 22 °C (72 °F) in the coldest. The year is divided into a rainy season (October–March) and a dry season (April–September). Average annual rainfall is about 1,700 millimetres (67 in), but this varies due to elevation and microclimate. It is important to affirm that Goiânia is the second greenest city in the world, according to a worldwide research. The city of Edmonton in Canada is the first one in the rank.

The Great Central West Region, consisting of the states of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, and the Federal District, is among the fastest-growing regions of Brazil. The population of Goiás state tripled in size in the period from 1950 to 1980 and is still growing very quickly. However, outside the Federal District and the Goiânia metropolitan region (with a population of over a million) most of Goiás is very thinly populated. The chief concentration of settlement is in the southeast, in the area of Goiânia (Goiânia and Aparecida de Goiânia), across
the border from Minas Gerais (Catalão, Rio Verde, Jataí, and Caldas Novas), and around the Federal District (Formosa, Planaltina de Goiás, and Luziânia).

**ECOLOGICAL ISSUES**

To conciliate the expansion of agroindustry and cattle raising with the preservation of the *Cerrado*, one of the richest regions in the world in biodiversity, is one of the main challenges of Goiás. At the same time that it has the third largest cattle herd of the country and occupies first place in grain production, the state faces serious environmental damage.

The expansion of cattle raising especially has caused damage to the cerrado. The native forest has been for the most part destroyed and the permanent reserves gradually cut down to give way to cattle and farming. In the region of the sources of the Araguaia River there are areas of erosion caused by cutting down the trees in order to create pastures. This has produced *voçorocas*—sudden subsidence of land. Some measure up to 1.5 km. long, 100 meters wide, and 30 meters deep.

These problems, together with the loss of river banks, are causing Goiás to face a serious crisis in water supply, which is exacerbated by the long dry season. Cities like Goiânia, Anápolis, and Luziânia are especially vulnerable, especially since they dump their raw sewage into the rivers that pass through them or nearby.

Air pollution from smoke due to intentionally set fires are also a major problem, especially during the dry season. Fire has been a way of life for ranchers and land-owners for many decades, burning grass and vegetation to clear their property for various reasons. While the same result could be achieved by using hand tools or tractors to clear the land, fire is a cheaper, easier and highly efficient method. Recently, a law was passed banning intentional burning, however, it's not enforced by local law enforcement, and thus intentional burning continues. During the early part of the dry season, local fire departments don't recognize these fires as a life or safety hazard and thus do not respond to extinguish them. Commonly these fires burn through empty lots with low intensity next to and around homes and businesses, bumping the walls and property lines and jumping from lot to lot and across roads. However, most buildings are constructed of brick or masonry, and there is no threat of the structures catching fire when flames impinge on them. As the dry season continues and grasses cure and vegetation dries out, fires become very large in scale and are more intense.

**HISTORY**

The first European exploration of this interior part of Brazil was carried out by expeditions from São Paulo in the 17th century. Gold was discovered in the gravel of a tributary of the Araguaia River by the *bandeirante* Bartolomeu Bueno da Silva (the Anhanguera) in 1682. The settlement he founded there, called Santa Anna, became the colonial town of Goiás Velho, the former state capital. In 1744 the large inland area, much of it still unexplored by Europeans, was made a Captaincy General, and in 1822 it became a province of the empire of
Brazil. It became a state in 1889. The Brazilian constitution of 1891 specified that the nation's capital should be moved to the Brazilian Highlands (Planalto Central), and in 1956 Goiás was selected as the site for the federal district and capital national, Brasília. The seat of the federal government was officially moved to Brasília in 1960.

**GOIÂNIA, the largest city and capital,** was planned and founded in 1933 by Pedro Ludovico Teixeira to replace the old, inaccessible former state capital of Goiás, 110 kilometres (68 mi) northwest. In 1937 the state government moved there, and in 1942 the official inauguration was held. **Goiânia is now one of the fastest growing cities in Brazil and is regularly voted one of the most livable cities in the country.** Due to the immense territory of the state, which was over 600,000 square kilometres (230,000 sq mi), communications were obviously very difficult. The northern part of the state began to feel abandoned by the southern government and began a movement for separation. Local political leaders, many of whom were large landowners and were eager to gain important positions such as governor or senator and financial gain with the construction of a new capital, also encouraged the movement. **In 1989 the northern half of Goiás became a separate state called Tocantins.**

*The areas highlighted on red were only one before 1988 (Year of the new and current Brazilian Constitution). They are split today.*
**THE MAP**

![State of Goiás Map](image)

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- **Surface:** 340,111 km²;
- **Population:** 6,112,004;
- **Main cities and number of inhabitants:** Goiânia (1,318,148); Aparecida de Goiânia (465,092); Anápolis (338,544); Rio Verde (181,020); Caldas Novas (72,071);
- **Population density:** 19.18 inh/km²;
- **Population growth:** 2.5%;
- **Urbanization rate:** 88.6%;
- **HDI:** 0.735;
- **Illiteracy rate:** 7.30%;
- **Life expectancy:** 73 years-old;
- **Infant mortality rate/per 1,000 live births:** 12.57;
- **Ethnic groups:** White (51.45%); Pardos (49.41%); Black (5.6%); Asian (0.26%); Amerindian (0.25%);
- **Ancestral composition of Goiás state:** 83.70% (Europeans); 13.30% (Africans); 3.0% (Amerindians);
- **Religion:** 58.7% (Roman Catholics); 28% (Protestants); 4.6% (Others);
- **Language:** Portuguese, but English and Spanish are part of the official high school curriculum;
- **Currency:** REAL (BRL); R$.
ECONOMY

Structural changes have occurred in the productive activities of Goiás. The industry has changed the productive structure of Goiás economy and gained market share among the major sectors. Recently, sugarcane and automotive supply chain has driven the industrial sector of Goiás. As well as the formation of industrial centers such as Anápolis and Catalão and agribusiness in Rio Verde.

The high growth of the industrial sector is due to several factors, among them are: the state's location in the national territory; the production and exploitation of certain raw materials mainly of agricultural and extractive origin, due to the integration of the agricultural industry with modern agriculture.

On agriculture, Goiás is among the largest producers nationwide of soybean, sorghum, corn, beans, sugarcane and cotton. Optimum performance of the agricultural sector has taken place thanks to the agricultural modernization process, especially from the 1980s onwards.

On livestock, the state is featured in cattle and is among the seven largest domestic producers of pigs, horses, poultry, milk and eggs, beyond which is rather competitive in the slaughter of cattle, pigs and poultry.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

• Agriculture (in tons): sugarcane (9,251,798), soybeans (3,420,653), corn (3,414,601), tomato (759,009), rice (352,135), cotton (278,363), manioc (255,639), beans (200,977) -- (1999).
• Livestock (in head): fowl (80,000,000 est.), cattle (18,000,000 est.), pigs (1,000,000 est.) -- (1999).
• Minerals: titanium-ilmenite (1,624 t), nickel (52,302 t), manganese (23,242 t), cobalt (484 t), iron (199 brute tons), niobium-pirocloride (54,953 t), gold (4,512,882 grams), silver (211,917) -- (1998).
• Industry: food, metallurgy, extraction of non-metallic minerals.

LABOR MARKET

The strengthening of the industrial sector and its further integration to the agricultural sector, combined with the momentum of macroeconomic policies that expanded the Brazilian domestic consumer market, where Goiás was consolidated as a supplier of products to meet this market are factors that have led to the state being one of main generators of formal jobs between the Federative Units. Thus, the unemployment rate is lower than in the rest of Brazil and the region where Goiás in located itself. In numbers, between 2004 and 2013, the labor market proved to be very dynamic and generated about 715,000 job positions, bringing its number of employed people from 2.5 million to 3.2 million workers.
Although Goiás labor market has taken great strides, there is much to be done in what concerns the training of manpower especially among young people. From the point of view of the qualification of the employed workforce, 38% of workers have only elementary level. This relatively high proportion of lower-skilled jobs recorded in the state reflects its economic, occupational and social structure, in which 48% of workers are crowded in trade and service sectors and receive on average up to 2.5 minimum wages. **The minimum wage in Brazil is R$ 788 reais or US$ 250.**

**ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

- GDP: **US$ 46,02 billion (2014); 1,00 US dollar on the 8th of July, 2015 equals R$ 3,22;**
- GDP Per capita: **US$ 6,231.97 (2014);**

**GDP's participation on main activities in Goiás**

Source: IMB (Mauro Borges Institute) – 2012.

Compiled by SEGPLAN (Secretary of Management and Planning).
EDUCATION

The area of education in Goiás has advanced considerably in the recent years. The state practically universalized the participation of children in elementary school. There have been considerable improvements in school performance rates. In addition, Goiás obtained excellent results in the last two reports made by IDEB - Basic Education Development Index - both in elementary school and in high school.

The illiteracy rate of people aged 15 or more in Goiás is situated below the national average. However, illiteracy by age groups is more longstanding. In this regard, attention is needed with the illiteracy at older ages.

On the higher education, the number of private universities, in the last 15 years, has been expanded like never before in Goiás. On the other hand, the expansion of public higher education has increased a lot, like: A) creation of the State University of Goiás (UEG) in 1999, b) the creation of new courses and vacancies in the Federal University of Goiás (UFG), and c) the creation of the Federal Institutes of Education (IFE's).

It is emphasized that this expansionist process, here understood as to increase enrollment, courses and higher institutions, gets more effective from 1990 onwards and was accompanied by its internalization and the development of some cities.

Goiás currently has 1,434,363 students, of which 69,510 are youths and adults, according to the Secretary of Education (2011). The state is served by creches (daycare), preschools, kindergarten, elementary schools, high school, technical schools and special schools.

Educational institutions (Universities):

- Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG);
- Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia de Goiás (IFG);
- Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Goiano (IFGoiano);
- Universidade Estadual de Goiás (UEG);
- Universidade Paulista (UNIP Flamboyant);
- Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás (PUC GOIÁS);
- Universidade de Rio Verde;
- and many others.
Goiás is a constant invitation to visitors. It is a truly point destination to meet the desire of people of all ages. Styles that cover all tastes! They are landscapes to behold, ecotourism circuits, cultural events, hot springs resorts and fishing routes. All this not to mention the bustling nightlife of Goiás cities, which complement the leisure options with bars, restaurants, nightclubs and parties. This includes around also hotel infrastructure and services for holding meetings, business meetings and events. There are actually many things to do.

**This is what we’ve got:**

**ÁGUAS QUENTES (“HOT WATERS”)**

One of the most desired destinations in the state, the thermal spas are one of the major tourist attractions in Goiás. The cities of Caldas Novas and Rio Quente lead the demand of tourists in search of the higher hydrothermal resort of the world, whose waters vary the temperature between 20°C and 60°C. It is perfect for tours, relaxation and rest. This greatness can be found in pools, wells, showers, theme parks and even rivers that enchant visitors by their therapeutic and landscape quality.

**ADVENTURE**

Canyons, trails, plateaus and running rivers. The adventure’s tourism in Goiás is diversified. In addition to breathtaking scenery, there is the possibility of practicing cycling, trekking, horseback riding, caving, rafting and other options that allow, under the supervision of qualified companies, leisure, entertainment and fun for all ages.
CULTURAL STATE

Style meeting, stories, traditions and movements. Goiás is a rich state in culture. On its territory are found cities recognized as national and international heritage by secular manifestations as *Cavalhadas* and the Feast of the blaze in Pirenópolis and the city of Goiás Velho. In the state, yet is located the Sanctuary of the Divine Eternal Father in the city of Trindade, and traditions passed from generation to generation. All this without counting the gastronomic heritage which makes Goiás so “mouthwatering”!

ECOTOURISM

The diversity of the Cerrado’s landscapes within the State of Goiás favors the practice of eco-tourism as a leisure option. Two major national parks in Brazil are in the state - Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Park - and the presence of state parks, such as the Serra de Caldas, Serra Dourada and the Pyrenees mountains. Goiás also houses the second most important archaeological site of Brazil in the town of Serranópolis.
NAUTICAL

In addition to the famous hot water, the circuit of rivers and lakes in the state of Goias stands out as one of its major tourist attractions, gifted by great water sources. The Araguaia River, for example, is a truly destination for tourists at the river's low season, with the formation of beaches, where people might camp, participating in various activities of culture and leisure. It also draws attention the Lake Serra da Mesa, fifth largest lake in Brazil, in the northern region of the state.

BUSINESSES AND EVENTS

The privileged position of Goiás in Brazil's Central region led to the development of a hectic schedule of regional and national events within the state of both the business parts, as the entertainment agenda. It was no less than cities like Anápolis, Rio Verde and Caldas Novas, besides the capital, Goiânia, developed a complex network of services to receive this flow of visitors.
There is a quote that locals use to say which is “if there is no sea, let’s go to the bar”. A reflection of this is the wide variety of nightlife options faced by various Goiás tourist cities. In addition to bars, this structure that includes from the happy hour to the most important social events, includes restaurants, nightclubs, parties and concerts targeted at all types of audiences.
SOURCES:

Secretary of Management and Planning (SEGPLAN);

Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports;

Secretary of Tourism;

IMG – Instituto Mauro Borges;