

# Facts

## About Surnames & Ancestry In Brazil



Several Brazilians have Iberian surnames. A person with a non-Iberian surname is likely a descendant of the immigrants who moved to Brazil between 1850 and 1940.



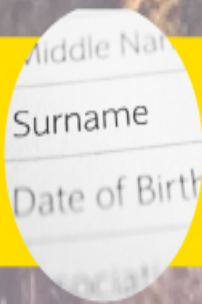
Children in Brazil usually have two surnames. The first one is the mother's second surname, followed by the father's second surname.



Since only the second surname of a parent is passed on, and as the father's surname comes at the end, ideally, only the father's surname survives over generations.



Until 1977, Brazilian civil law required a woman to adopt her husband's second surname after marriage.



In 2002, taking the spouse's surname became optional for both men and women.



The loss of the matrilineal surname might pose a challenge in accurately determining a person's ancestry in Brazil.



The five most common surnames in Brazil are Silva, Santos, Oliveira, Souza, and Pereira.

### REFERENCES:

1. Internal migration and the spread of long-term impacts of historical immigration in Brazil; Eduardo Cenci, Daniel A. F. Lopes, Leonardo M. Monasterio.
2. Surnames and ancestry in Brazil; National Library of Medicine.



Source: [https://www.momjunction.com/articles/brazilian-last-names-surnames\\_00759701/](https://www.momjunction.com/articles/brazilian-last-names-surnames_00759701/)