

046 Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

5.0 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Belo Horizonte	*2,350,564	1.2 %	331	7,101
Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region	*4,752,501	2.5 %	9,173	518
State of Minas Gerais	*15,255,765	7.8 %	43,909	347
Brazil	*184,101,109	100 %	8,511,965	21.6

**Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), Diretoria de Pesquisas, Brazilian Population Census, estimate for July 2004.*

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Belo Horizonte	Prefecture of Belo Horizonte <i>Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte</i>	1 Municipality or Prefecture (<i>prefeitura</i>) 9 Regional Administrations
Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region	<i>Regiao Metropolitana de Belo Horizonte</i>	33 Municipios (<i>prefeituras</i>): Baldim, Belo Horizonte, Betim, Brumadinho, Caeté, Capim Branco, Confins, Contagem, Esmeraldas, Florestal, Ibirité, Igarapé, Itaguara, Jaboticatubas, Juatuba, Lagoa Santa, Mário Campos, Mateus Leme, Matozinhos, Nova Lima, Nova União, Pedro Leopoldo, Raposos, Ribeirão das Neves, Rio Acima, Rio Manso, Sabará, Santa Luzia, São Joaquim de Bicas, São José da Lapa, Sarzedo, Taquaraçu de Minas and Vespasiano
State of Minas Gerais	<i>Estado de Minas Gerais</i>	853 Municipios (<i>prefeituras</i>)
Brazil	Federal Republic of Brazil <i>República Federativa do Brasil</i>	Federal structure: 26 states 1 Federal District (<i>Distrito Federal</i>) 5,563 Municipios (<i>prefeituras</i>)

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Belo Horizonte Prefecture

General Aspects

Has authority over urban planning, the provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure, education, public health and healthcare, municipal markets, the environment and urban waste management. It operates through autonomous organizations in the fields of public transport (bus), urban planning, public housing, funeral services and friendly societies for local public servants. The prefectural administration of Belo Horizonte is undergoing an administrative restructuring and it is possible there may be changes in its administrative structure and the distribution of powers.

Prefect, *Prefeito*

Has municipal executive power. Is responsible for the political leadership of the prefecture and before the Municipal Chamber. Is directly elected by a majority two-round voting system. By law, the candidates up for election renounce their public roles six months before the elections.

Municipal Chamber of Belo Horizonte, *Câmara Municipal de Belo Horizonte*

Maximum municipal organ, exercises legislative function in local matters in the following areas: the establishment of taxes and determination of prices, approval of budgets, urban planning, land use, etc. Has control over the political and administrative activity of the Prefecture. The 40 counselors (*vereadores*) are elected by an open-list proportional system from a single district for four-year terms of office.

Autonomous Organizations in the Prefecture

Empresa de Transporte e Transito de Belo Horizonte - BHTRANS

An organisation indirectly managed by the prefecture. Responsible for managing the transport and traffic systems. Attributes include the planning and implementation of traffic operations and the city's roads system, as well as controlling the public transport operators: taxis, collective transport and school transport services.

Companhia Urbanizadora de Belo Horizonte - URBEL

Public company responsible for urban planning and development under the protection of the Municipal Co-ordination Secretariat for Urban and Environmental Policy.

Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region

No political or administrative institution with responsibilities specific to this territorial level was identified.

State of Minas Gerais

General Aspects

Brazil is a federal state. The 1988 Constitution specifies a list of powers exclusive to the federal states. There is also a safeguard clause granting them all powers not attributed in the Constitution. The federal states are responsible for education, security, justice, employment, youth affairs, agriculture, economic promotion and science and technology. In the metropolitan area they have the authority for water provision and wastewater management, transport, environment and energy.

Governor, *Governador*

Has executive power in the state administration. Responsible for the administration. Terms of office are four years and the Governor is chosen by direct majority votes.

Legislative Assembly, *Assembléia Legislativa*

Has legislative power and exercises control of the activity of the executive and the overall administration. The 77 members are chosen for four-year terms by an open-list proportional system in a single district for the whole state.

Public Companies in the State of Minas Gerais

Companhia Brasileira de Trens Urbanos - CBTU

National company responsible for the implementation, management and operation of the Belo Horizonte subway. The CBTU develops activities in new urban centres around Brazil, acting as an operator in the cities of Belo Horizonte, Recife, Fortaleza, João Pessoa, Maceió, Natal and Salvador, and managing the Urban Train Systems Modernization Programs in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The subway system is in the process of being transferred from the State government to the municipal governments of Belo Horizonte and Contagem.

Companhia de Saneamento do Estado de Minas Gerais - COPASA

Company responsible for water distribution and basic sewerage. Linked to the Secretariat of Regional Development and Urban Policy at the Government of the State of Minas Gerais.

Brazil

President of the Republic, *Presidente da República*

Has wide-ranging executive powers. Combines the powers of head of state with head of the government. Election of the presidential ticket by a two-round absolute majority for a period of four years.

Cabinet, *Gabinete*

Supports and executes the decisions of the Presidency of the Republic. Appointed by the President of the Republic.

National Congress, *Congresso Nacional*

Has legislative power in its bicameral structure made up of the Federal Senate of territorial representation and the Lower House of popular representation. The lower house is made up of 513 members elected by popular vote in state constituencies based on a proportional open-list system. Terms of office are four years and coincide with the Presidential ones. The Senate comprises 81 senators. Each state chooses three senators by a simple majority system for eight-year periods. One-third is renewed after four years and the remaining two-thirds are renewed after another four years.

4. Relevant websites and online documents:

Prefecture of Belo Horizonte (Municipal Government): <http://www.pbh.gov.br/>

Municipal Chamber of Belo Horizonte: <http://www.cmbh.mg.gov.br>

Government of the State of Minas Gerais: <http://www.mg.gov.br>

Legislative Assembly of the State of Minas Gerais: <http://www.almg.gov.br/>

Companhia Brasileira de Trens Urbanos – CBTU: <http://www.metrobh.gov.br/>

Empresa de Transporte e Transito de Belo Horizonte – BHTRANS:
<http://www.bhtrans.pbh.gov.br>

Companhia de Saneamento do Estado de Minas Gerais – COPASA:
<http://www.copasa.com.br/>

Republic of Brazil Official website <http://www.brasil.gov.br/index.htm>

Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal <http://www.ibam.org.br/>

Ministerio de las Ciudades: www.cidades.gov.br

IBGE – *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística*: www.ibge.gov.br

Observatorio de Políticas Urbanas e Gestao Municipal - Observatorio das Metrópoles: <http://www.ippur.ufrj.br/observatorio/>

Documents:

The Cities Charter, *Estatuto da Cidade*:

https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/Leis/LEIS_2001/L10257.htm