



TRENDS IN THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION IN THE CAPITALS OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL: A COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

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SUMMARY

The article analyzes the population and economic dynamics of the northeastern capitals, highlighting the ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity of the region. By considering quantitative and qualitative aspects of the population, such as access to education, health, housing, employment and income, the study aims to understand the quality of life of the inhabitants and the socioeconomic dynamics of the cities. The analysis of the economically active population (EAP) in northeastern capitals reveals the importance of employment policies, predominant economic sectors and professional training opportunities. Transformations in the demographic and economic structure, influenced by internal migration, changes in occupation and employment patterns, technology and globalization, are discussed. To support more efficient and inclusive public policies, the study proposes an in-depth analysis of the evolution of the population and EAP in the capitals of the Northeast, using data from IBGE and recent academic studies. The article provides a comprehensive view of the population and the PEA in the northeastern capitals, contributing to the academic debate and the formulation of more effective and inclusive public policies, aiming at the human, social and economic development of the region.

Keywords: Population, Northeast, Dynamics, Quality

ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the population and economic dynamics of the Northeastern capitals, highlighting the ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity of the region. By considering quantitative and qualitative aspects of the population, such as access to education, health, housing, employment, and income, the study aims to understand the quality of life of the inhabitants and the socioeconomic dynamics of the cities. The analysis of the economically active population (EAP) in the Northeastern capitals reveals the importance of employment policies, predominant economic sectors, and professional training opportunities. Transformations in the demographic and economic structure, influenced by internal migration, changes in occupation and employment patterns, technology, and globalization, are discussed. To support more efficient and inclusive public policies, the study proposes an in-depth analysis of the population and EAP evolution in the Northeastern capitals, using data from IBGE and recent academic studies. The article provides a comprehensive view of the population and EAP in the Northeastern capitals, contributing to academic debate and the formulation of more effective and inclusive public policies, aiming at the human, social, and economic development of the region.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The northeast region of Brazil is one of the most significant and diverse areas of the country, with its capitals playing a fundamental role in the region's socioeconomic and cultural scenario. In recent years, several studies have been dedicated to analyzing the population and economic dynamics of northeastern capitals, aiming to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by this population and their implications for the regional development.

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The population of the capitals of the Northeast is marked by great ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity, reflecting the richness and complexity of this region. This diversity is manifested not only in ethnic and cultural composition, but also in demographic distribution, living and working conditions, and family and community dynamics present in different northeastern cities (Gomes & Lima, 2019; Almeida & Santos, 2020).

When analyzing the population of northeastern capitals, it is essential to consider not only quantitative aspects, such as the size and age structure of the population, but also qualitative aspects, such as conditions of access to education, health, housing, employment and income. These factors directly influence

the quality of life of inhabitants and the socioeconomic dynamics of cities (Ferreira et al., 2018; Silva & Oliveira, 2021).

One of the aspects of great relevance in the analysis of the population of the capitals of the Northeast is the economically active population (EAP), which encompasses individuals of working age who are or are looking to enter the job market. The dynamics of EAP in northeastern capitals reflects not only local labor market conditions, but also employment policies, predominant economic sectors and opportunities for training and professional qualifications (Santos & Sousa, 2017; Lima & Castro, 2019).

In recent years, a series of transformations have been observed in the demographic and economic structure of northeastern capitals, influenced by factors such as internal migration, changes in occupation and employment patterns, impacts of technology and globalization, and public policies aimed at regional development (Martins & Costa, 2020; Oliveira & Alves, 2019).

Understanding these transformations and population dynamics is essential to support more efficient and inclusive public policies that promote human, social and economic development in northeastern capitals. In this sense, this study aims to analyze and understand the evolution of the population and PEA in the capitals of the Northeast over recent years, aiming to identify trends, challenges and opportunities for regional development.

To achieve this objective, demographic, economic and social data will be used from sources such as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the Ministry of Economy, state and municipal departments, and recent academic studies on the topic. The analysis of this data will allow a comprehensive and updated view of the population and EAP in northeastern capitals, contributing to academic debate and the formulation of more effective and inclusive public policies.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The northeast region of Brazil presents a significant diversity in the proportions of economically active population (EAP) in its capitals, as evidenced in the table below. These numbers reflect the different economic and labor dynamics in each of the cities, with rates ranging from 26.05% to 42.65% in the PEA. This diversity in PEA's participation is crucial to understanding the economic and social panorama of the northeastern region, directly impacting development and job opportunities in each of the capitals. Below we have a table showing the population of each capital and the economically active population (EAP).

Table 01 –Population figures of the capitals

CAPITALS	POPULATION	ECONOMIC POPULATION- ACTIVE MIND	% ECONOMIC POPULATION ACTIVE CASE
Aracaju	664,908	232,679	34.99%
Strength	2,686,612	849,045	31.60%
João Pessoa	817,511	288,866	35.33%
Maceió	1,025,360	267,119	26.05%
Christmas	890,480	314,728	35.34%
Recife	1,653,461	705,172	42.65%
savior	2,886,698	849,711	29.44%
Saint Louis	1,108,975	369,816	33.35%
Teresina	868,075	301,449	34.73%

Source: Author

two Aracaju, the capital of Sergipe, has a total population of 664,908 inhabitants, of which 232,679 are included in the Economically Active Population (EAP). This significant proportion of 34.99% of the economically active population reveals an environment conducive to economic development

monkey from the region.

Based on IBGE data from 2020, the presence of a considerable economically active population suggests an active economic dynamic in the city of Aracaju. This scenario is crucial for promoting commercial activities, service provision and tourism, contributing to the creation of jobs and the movement of the local economy.

The relationship between the total population and the economically active population in Aracaju stands out as an important indicator for understanding the economic potential and labor dynamics of the capital of Sergipe. This balance between labor supply and employment opportunities is essential to boost economic growth and social development in the region.

Fortaleza, the capital of Ceará, stands out for its significant population of 2,686,612 inhabitants, according to data from IBGE (2020), of which 849,045 are integrated into the Economically Active Population (PEA), according to information from the Institute of Research and Ceará Economic Strategy (IPECE, 2021). This contingent represents around 31.60% of the total population, highlighting the city's economic relevance and its potential for the development of various productive activities.

The economic importance of Fortaleza is reflected in key sectors such as tourism, commerce, services and technology, as shown by studies carried out by Mendes and Miranda (2019) and Silva et al. (2020). The presence of a significant economically active population is an indication of the region's economic dynamism, with employment and business opportunities constantly evolving.

Studies such as those by Oliveira et al. (2018) and Santos (2021) point to a favorable scenario for economic growth in Fortaleza, highlighting the city's ability to attract investments and promote the generation of qualified jobs. These data demonstrate the solid economic base of the capital of Ceará, which stands out not only for its large population, but also for its active participation in the workforce.

This dynamic contributes to the diversification of the local economy and to the strengthening of the job market, promoting sustainable development in the region, as evidenced by studies such as those by Lima et al. (2017) and Sousa and Costa (2020).

Maceió, capital of Alagoas, has a total population of 1,025,360 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020). However, only 267,119 of these inhabitants are included in the Economically Active Population (EAP), which corresponds to a rate of 26.05% of the total population. This relationship shows economic challenges for the city, indicating the need to diversify economic activities and create jobs for a larger portion of the population.

Investments in strategic sectors, such as infrastructure, technology, tourism and industry, can be fundamental to boost Maceió's economy. Studies carried out by Silva et al. (2019) and Oliveira (2021) highlight the importance of public policies aimed at the city's sustainable economic development, aiming to increase PEA participation and reduce unemployment rates and underutilization of the workforce.

Furthermore, enhancing tourism, considering the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Maceió, can be an effective strategy to generate jobs and income in the city. In this sense, it is essential to plan and execute actions that promote inclusive economic growth and improve the quality of life for all Maceio residents.

Natal, capital of Rio Grande do Norte, is a city with a total population of 890,480 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020). Among this population, 314,728 are included in the Economically Active Population (EAP), which represents a participation rate in the EAP of 35.34%. This positive relationship between the total population and the PEA indicates a favorable economic dynamic in the city, suggesting a favorable environment for the development of economic activities and the creation of jobs.

Especially in recent years, Natal has stood out in the tourism, commerce, services and technology sectors. Studies carried out by Carvalho et al. (2021) and Silva (2020) point out the city's potential as a tourist destination, highlighting its natural beauty, cultural heritage and tourist infrastructure. These elements contribute significantly to attracting investments and growing the job market in the region.

3 Furthermore, Natal has sought strategies to strengthen other economic sectors, such as information and communication technology (ICT), through tax incentives and development policies. These initiatives have contributed to the diversification of the local economy and the expansion of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

In this way, the city of Natal stands out as a regional economic hub, with the potential to attract investment, promote sustainable economic growth and provide a better quality of life for its inhabitants.

Recife, capital of Pernambuco, is a city that stands out for its significant total population of 1,653,461 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020). Inside

Of this population contingent, 705,172 people are included in the Economically Active Population (EAP), which represents a participation rate in the EAP of 42.65%. This high proportion of economically active population highlights Recife as an important economic center in the Brazilian Northeast.

Recife's economic dynamics are driven by several sectors, with emphasis on services, technology, education and health. Studies conducted by Silva et al. (2019) and Oliveira (2020) highlight the importance of these sectors for the city's economy, contributing not only to the generation of jobs, but also to the development of high-value-added activities and attraction of investments.

Recife has increasingly consolidated itself as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, being nationally recognized for its initiatives aimed at the development of startups, technology parks and business incubators. This has generated a favorable environment for the emergence of new ideas and businesses, boosting economic growth and creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and qualified professionals in the region.

Furthermore, the city has invested in infrastructure and professional qualifications, seeking to align itself with the demands of the global market and promote sustainable development. Programs to encourage innovation, technical training and access to financing have contributed to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and consolidating Recife as one of the main reference centers for innovation and technology in the Northeast.

In this way, Recife stands out not only as a regional capital, but also as a dynamic and promising center for economic and social development, aligning itself with global trends in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Salvador, capital of Bahia, is a city that stands out for its impressive total population of 2,886,698 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020). However, the Economically Active Population (EAP) scenario presents a rate of 29.44%, representing a contingent of 849,711 people in the job market. This percentage, although considerable in absolute numbers, suggests challenges in terms of economic inclusion and job creation in the city.

According to studies conducted by Santos et al. (2018) and Lima (2019), Salvador faces significant challenges in relation to the insertion of its economically active population into the job market. The high rate of unemployment and underemployment in certain sectors, combined with informality and low professional qualifications in certain areas, are factors that directly impact the PEA participation rate in the city.

To overcome these challenges and promote more inclusive socioeconomic development, Salvador has sought strategies that aim to strengthen key sectors of the economy, such as tourism, industry and services. Programs to encourage entrepreneurship, professional qualification and attract investment have been implemented, aiming to create job opportunities and stimulate the city's economic growth.

The tourism sector, for example, plays a fundamental role in Salvador's economy, generating direct and indirect jobs in activities such as accommodation, food, culture and leisure. The diversification of the tourist offer, combined with investments in infrastructure and promotion of the city as a tourist destination, contributes to the generation of income and jobs, especially for the local population.

Furthermore, industry and services also play an important role in Salvador's economy, with the potential to generate formal and qualified jobs. Investments in innovation, technology and sustainability are essential to boost the growth of these sectors and increase PEA's participation in the city.

Therefore, it is essential that Salvador continues to invest in public policies and initiatives that promote economic inclusion, job creation and sustainable socioeconomic development, aiming to guarantee opportunities for its entire economically active population.

São Luís, capital of Maranhão, is a city with a considerable total population, with 1,108,975 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020). Among this population, 369,816 people are included in the Economically Active Population (PEA), which represents accounts for approximately 33.35% of the total. This proportion shows a significant participation of the population in the job market, highlighting São Luís as a relevant economic center in the Northeast region.

Recent studies, such as those carried out by Silva et al. (2021) and Oliveira (2019), highlight the economic potential of São Luís, especially in the services, industry, commerce and agriculture sectors. The diversification of the economy, with emphasis on agricultural production, the naval industry and the provision of services, contributes to the creation of jobs and the movement of the local economy.

São Luís also stands out as an important logistics and infrastructure hub in the region, with ports, airports and highways that facilitate the transport of goods and integration with other regions of the country and the world. This robust infrastructure opens up opportunities for investments in logistics, transportation and

distribution, boosting the city's economic development.

Furthermore, São Luís has a rich cultural and historical heritage, being recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, which attracts tourists and investments in the tourism sector. The valorization of cultural and ecological tourism, combined with environmental preservation policies, contributes to the diversification of the economy and the creation of jobs in activities related to tourism.

However, challenges such as the need for improvements in urban infrastructure, combating informality in the labor market and encouraging professional qualification are still points to be worked on to strengthen the economy of São Luís and increase PEA's participation in a sustainable way.

In short, São Luís presents a promising economic scenario, with potential for growth and diversification of productive sectors, which reinforces the importance of implementing public policies and private initiatives aimed at the city's socioeconomic development.

Teresina, the capital of Piauí, stands out as a significant economic center in the Northeast region of Brazil. With a total population of 868,075 inhabitants, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020), the city has a significant contingent of 301,449 people in the Economically Active Population (PEA), representing around 34.73% of the total population. . This proportion highlights a considerable portion of individuals active in the job market, reflecting an environment conducive to economic development and job creation.

Recent studies, such as those carried out by Santos et al. (2020) and Lima (2019), highlight the opportunities for economic growth in Teresina, especially in the agriculture, commerce, services and education sectors. The diversification of the economy, combined with the enhancement of agricultural activities and the encouragement of entrepreneurship, contributes to the city's economic dynamics and the creation of job opportunities.

Teresina has also stood out as a hub for innovation and technology, with initiatives that aim to encourage entrepreneurship and the creation of startups. Programs to encourage innovation, partnerships with educational institutions and research centers, and investments in technological infrastructure have boosted the development of new businesses and the attraction of investments in the city.

Furthermore, education plays a fundamental role in Teresina's economic scenario, with universities, technical schools and professional training programs that contribute to the formation of a qualified workforce. Professional qualification combined with a business-friendly environment strengthens the competitiveness of local companies and attracts investment from other regions.

However, challenges such as urban infrastructure, the formalization of the job market and the diversification of economic activities are still points to be addressed to further boost Teresina's economic and social development.

In summary, Teresina presents a promising scenario for economic growth, highlighted by the active participation of the PEA and the city's entrepreneurial and innovative potential. Investment in infrastructure, professional training and encouraging entrepreneurship are fundamental to sustaining this development and guaranteeing opportunities for the population.

These data reflect the economic and social diversity of the capitals of the Northeast, highlighting challenges and opportunities for sustainable development and economic inclusion in these regions. Understanding these dynamics is essential for formulating public policies and strategies that promote economic growth and quality of life throughout the Brazilian Northeast.

3.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The article comprehensively discusses the population and economic dynamics of northeastern capitals over recent years, highlighting both the challenges faced and the opportunities for regional development. The northeast region of Brazil is recognized for its ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity.

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Factors, such as social and economic dynamics, factors that directly influence the demographic composition, living and working conditions, and family and community dynamics present in different northeastern cities.

When analyzing the population of northeastern capitals, the study considers quantitative and qualitative aspects. Qualitative aspects, going beyond the size and age structure of the population to also address the conditions of access to education, health, housing, employment and income. This broad approach is fundamental to understanding the quality of life of inhabitants and the socioeconomic dynamics of cities, as highlighted by Ferreira et al. (2018) and Silva & Oliveira (2021).

One of the central points of the discussion is the economically active population (EAP) in the northeastern capitals, which reflects not only the conditions of the local labor market, but also employment policies,

the predominant economic sectors and opportunities for training and professional qualifications. This analysis is crucial to understanding labor dynamics and the challenges faced by the workforce in these regions, as pointed out by Santos & Sousa (2017) and Lima & Castro (2019).

The transformations observed in the demographic and economic structure of Northeastern capitals over recent years are influenced by a series of factors, such as internal migration, changes in occupation and employment patterns, impacts of technology and globalization, and public policies aimed at regional development. These transformations are discussed by Martins & Costa (2020) and Oliveira & Alves (2019), highlighting the complexity and constantly evolving dynamics of these regions.

To support more efficient and inclusive public policies, it is essential to understand these transformations and population dynamics. The study proposes an in-depth analysis of the evolution of the population and EAP in the capitals of the Northeast, using demographic, economic and social data from reliable sources such as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and recent academic studies.

The article provides a comprehensive and updated view of the population and PEA in northeastern capitals, contributing to academic debate and the formulation of more effective and inclusive public policies

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The article comprehensively addressed the population and economic dynamics of northeastern capitals over recent years, highlighting both the challenges faced and the opportunities for regional development. The ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity of the northeast region of Brazil was discussed, highlighting how these factors directly influence the demographic composition, living and working conditions, and family and community dynamics present in the different northeastern cities.

The analysis of the population of northeastern capitals was not limited to quantitative aspects, such as the size and age structure of the population, but also considered qualitative aspects, such as conditions of access to education, health, housing, employment and income. This broad approach is fundamental to understanding the quality of life of inhabitants and the socioeconomic dynamics of cities.

The importance of the economically active population (EAP) in northeastern capitals was also highlighted, reflecting not only the conditions of the local labor market, but also employment policies, the predominant economic sectors and opportunities for training and professional qualifications. This analysis is crucial to understanding labor dynamics and the challenges faced by the workforce in these regions.

The transformations observed in the demographic and economic structure of northeastern capitals over recent years were discussed, considering factors such as internal migration, changes in occupation and employment patterns, impacts of technology and globalization, and public policies aimed at regional development.

To support more efficient and inclusive public policies, it is essential to understand these transformations and population dynamics. The study proposed an in-depth analysis of the evolution of the population and EAP in the capitals of the Northeast, using demographic, economic and social data from reliable sources such as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and recent academic studies.

In this way, the article provided a comprehensive and updated view of the population and the PEA in the northeastern capitals, contributing to the academic debate and to the formulation of more effective and inclusive public policies, aiming to promote human, social and economic development in the region.

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