

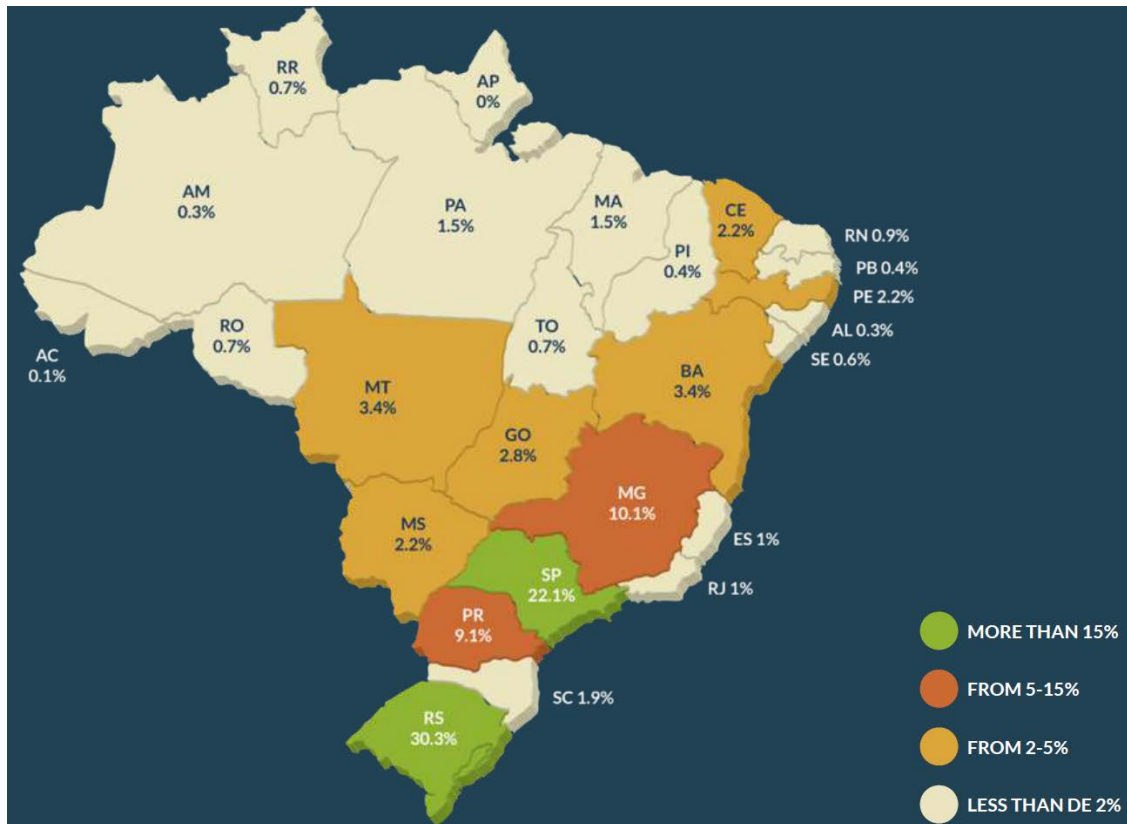
## Brazilian leather industry: a brief profile

Brazil figures amongst the top five largest leather producers in the world. Its industry generates, year after year, around US\$ 4 billion dollars in business.

*here you'll find out more about*

THE BRAZILIAN LEATHER SECTOR:





CICB (the Centre for the Brazilian Tanning Industry) is the entity that represents the Brazilian leather sector both nationally and abroad. Founded in 1957, it is the oldest institution within the Brazilian leather, footwear and components chain. With 60 associate members, CICB represents 80% of the country's leather and skin production.

In partnership with Apex-Brasil (the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency), the entity coordinates *Brazilian Leather*, project dedicated to promoting the sector in the international market. In fact, *Brazilian Leather* is responsible for a series of actions that serve to consolidate the segment worldwide. These are some of the highlights:

- ✓ Support to the participation of tanneries in the major sectorial trade fairs - ACLE (*All China Leather Exhibition*); APLF (*Asia Pacific Leather Fair*); Lineapelle (Italy); Première Vision Leather Paris; Interzum (Germany).
- ✓ Promotion of Business Missions, especially on emerging markets - India; Portugal; Spain and Vietnam.

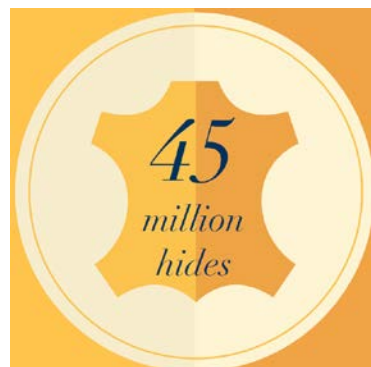
- ✓ Stimulus to innovation - project Design na Pele ([www.designnapele.com.br](http://www.designnapele.com.br))
- ✓ Incentive to improvement of processes - the Brazilian Leather Sustainability Certification (CSCB), the world's first certification to set in stone the sector's commitment to the three pillars of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental. CSCB is backed by Inmetro (the National Institute of Metrology)

*leather*  
PRODUCTION BY TYPE:



*production distribution:*

FIGURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY AND FOREIGN TRADE (MDIC) INDICATE THAT:



*10 million*  
DOMESTIC MARKET

*US\$ 1 billion*  
REVENUE

*200 million*  
PEOPLE

*35 million*  
EXPORTS

*US\$ 3 billion*  
REVENUE

*90 countries*  
DESTINATION

Its major buyers are China, Italy, and the USA.

64% of exports are finished and semi finished leather.

Please visit [www.cicb.org.br](http://www.cicb.org.br) and [www.brazilianleather.com.br](http://www.brazilianleather.com.br) for more information about the Brazilian leather industry.

## Brazil-U.S. Relations

Brazil and the United States share a healthy relationship with regard to leather trade. We are an important trading partner to the United States. Brazil currently has a surplus in the leather trade balance and is one of the main suppliers of crust and finished leather to US. CICB views positively, supports, makes efforts to strengthen our relations with the United States, and believes that it is possible to reduce existing trade barriers, including through a free trade agreement.

The private sectors of the two countries believe that through greater cooperation efforts in both production and trade, they will be able to contribute to a mutually advantageous relationship. Therefore, it is in our common interest to encourage increased trade and investments between Brazil and the United States.

## Request for Removal from the TDA-Trade and Development Act List

The United States Department of Labor (DOL) published its annual report “2014 Findings on the worst forms of child labor”. To our surprise, Brazilian Leather Sector was included in the report as a sector where “Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown”.

The evidences were included in items ([25](#), [31](#), [38](#), [45-47](#)) of the Report, as per below:

25.U.S. Embassy- Brasilia. *reporting, January 17, 2014.*

31.Melo, J. O Trabalho Infantil que Santa Catarina Não Vê: Não é Brincadeira; 2014, 17 min., 01 sec., [cited January 31, 2014];<http://www.naoebrincadeira.com/#!audio/c1v9s>.

38.Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger. *Programa de Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil (PETI): Redesenho Pactuado na CIT e*

Aprovado no CNAS em Abril de 2013. Brasília;2013. <http://bit.ly/1oQvnpn>.

45. "Reportagens Retrata Trabalho Infantil em Santa Catarina." [reporterbrasil.org.br](http://reporterbrasil.org.br) [online] January 20, 2014 [cited January 31, 2014]; <http://reporterbrasil.org.br/2014/01/reportagens-retratam-trabalho-infantil-em-santa-catarina/>.

46. Damázio, M. "Acidentes de Trabalho Atingem 8 Mil Crianças e Adolescentes em SP desde 2006." [redebrasilatual.com.br](http://redebrasilatual.com.br) [online] October 1, 2013 [cited March 13, 2014]; <http://bit.ly/1gfiOHL>.

47. de Souza Lourenço, E. *Trabalho de Crianças e Adolescentes: Desafios para o Programa de Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil (PETI) e para o trabalho profissional do Serviço Social* Brasília; 2013. <http://periodicos.ufes.br/temporalis/article/download/6277/4947>.

We would like to make the following comments on each of the items;

25 - No access to this report. Please send it to us if possible.

31 - Web page not available.

38 - Web page not available.

45 - Only mention the Shoes, Agriculture, Ceramics, Wood, and Bricks Sectors. Nothing about Leather sector.

46 - Only mention the Shoes and Food Sector. Nothing about Leather sector.

47 - Only mention the Shoes, Agriculture, Ceramics, Wood, and Bricks Sectors. Nothing about Leather sector.

This grave misunderstanding may have resulted in the Brazilian Leather sector's inclusion in the report. We view this action as unjust and unacceptable.

## **Brazil and its Work to Combat Child Labor**

Brazil has one of the most comprehensive and rigorous labor laws in the world. We have an entire justice system within the Judicial Branch exclusively dedicated to labor issues. We have a Ministry in charge of labor and employment. We have a structure in place to enforce the laws and specific programs aimed at eliminating any possible instance of child and/or forced labor. The government is deeply engaged with the private sector through labor unions and trade associations, the activities of which are regulated by the law. In addition, many of the bills currently being discussed and under consideration in the Brazilian Congress are associated with the labor area.

Brazil has been making significant progress, which was recognized by the international community, with regard to combating forced labor. This has been made with regard to legislation, inspection and punishment, including improvements in the treatment extended to immigrants who are expected to receive legal papers and be entitled to labor rights like any other Brazilian citizen.

## **Actions by the Private Sector**

The private sector has also worked very hard to disseminate the adoption of programs certification. Voluntary certification is a global trend in production sectors. Raising the level of organization within a company increases efficiencies in its processes, adds higher value to the product, and results in increased competitiveness. By implementing technical requirements for quality, safety, the environment, and social responsibility, the Brazilian tanning industry is constantly improving to better face the challenges of globalized markets, where quality and efficiencies are essential.

Several CICB's company members are developing social programs related to child, as the Germinare Institute, which we enclose presentation to this

letter. This program offers classes for middle scholars and high school, aiming forming individuals that learn, create, dream, lead, endeavor, build and perform.

## **Conclusion**

CICB continues with its work of holding discussions with all stakeholders and has gathered information that will support our complete and detailed request for removal from the list prepared by the U.S. government.

The Brazilian democracy values transparency, including information on forced labor cases and the actions that are taken to combat this practice. Brazil is strongly against each and every form of human rights violations.

We are a country that has and enforces rules that are at least as rigorous as those of any other nation are, including the developed countries. These rules apply not only to labor but also to other areas, such as the environment.

The Brazilian public and private sectors will continue to work towards the complete elimination of such practices, fulfilling its responsibilities with Brazilian society and the international community.

We are confident that the Department of Labor will use the information provided herewith for the review we hereby request and to ensure that the purposes for which the Report was conceived are effectively met. We do not believe it is reasonable that some countries should be punished for their transparency and good work in combating abusive labor practices, while others are rewarded for manipulating and hiding information, while not making the efforts that are required against forced and/or child labor.