



# ASSIBGE – SINDICATO NACIONAL

Dos Trabalhadores em Fundações Públicas Federais de Geografia e Estatística  
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## Crisis in IBGE and the need for change

**Note: IBGE = Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística**

Recently, the government of Brazil canceled the Simplified Census Operation, previewed for field work in 2015. The allegation was – there are no sufficient budgetary resources to perform it. The Simplified Census Operation is realized in between Demographic Census, in order to update the data produced by the latter. This updating serves many purposes. For the Brazilian municipalities, the main purpose is to allow the updated calculation of the basis for the federal state resources distribution, called the Municipalities Participation Fund. Considering the size and diversity of Brazil, a country with an estimated population of more than 204 million inhabitants, more than five thousand cities, this is not a minor question. Not having this operation previewed for 2015 means operating the distribution of federal state funds with old data. Consequently, the ones that most need public policies might be prejudiced by lack of updated date for public resources distribution.

Talking about resources... IBGE has been suffering from recurrent and severe budget cuts, year after year. This translates in doing the same with less, which in turn hardly affects the institute operational and technical capacity of doing research. But this is not the all picture. Beside budget cuts that amount to one third of previewed budget, IBGE is short of public servants and planning. To be subject to extreme budget fluctuation due to political and economical dynamics is not the needed stable context in which to produce solid official statistic and geographic data, analysis and products. These outputs of our daily work as IBGE's public servants are essential to base the decisions of government, market and society.

In 2014 the workers of IBGE struck for almost three months to show society that IBGE was suffering from what we called "precarization", which means that the institute is going through an institutional crisis materialized in:

- 1) **Budget cuts:** IBGE budget is bellow the one needed for our basic work plan in the past years. Furthermore it has been target of recurrent cuts, affecting hardly our work plan, and postponing structural surveys (eg. Household Expenditure Survey postponed twice, in 2014 and 2015), changing their previewed chronogram, creating uncertainty of when society will access specific structural data. IBGE implemented budget was of USD 453.50 million in 2007, USD 585.07 million in 2013 – meaning stagnation in nominal terms. Taking into consideration the accumulated inflation of the period (45.9%) our budget decreased 11.6%, in real terms. Breaking the budget down: our cost with staff has increased 22% (2007-2013), but our operational cost (that ensures our surveys) had a reduction, in real terms, of 69.2% (2007-2013).
- 2) **Constriction of the technical staff:** This is the outcome of a combined effect. From one side, massive retirement of our technical staff, and from the other side, inability to hold new staff. In the 1990s we were around 14 thousand works in IBGE; in March 2015 we went down to 5.895. From the latter 60% have more than 26 years of service, and 41% more than 31. This means that in the coming years IBGE can lose more than four thousand workers. New comers into IBGE have not been enough to replace the ones that have left and are leaving. Between 2011 and 2015 there were 1679 retirements and 659 workers joined the institute. Due to low salaries offered and bad working conditions to these extremely qualified staff, when compared to other executive government institutions and private companies, new comers are not staying: between 2011 and 2015, 212 new comers asked for exoneration.

- 3) **Use of temporary workers:** the institute has appealed to mass use of temporary labour force. Works that receive lower salaries (around 1.3 of minimum wage), are subject to harsh working conditions and have been assuming responsibility for all steps in data collection (inclusively in the supervision of field collection of primary data). Today IBGE has 5500 temporary workers and rising. This work force is fluid, flies in and out of the institute. This because their contracts are up to three years, but are subject to monthly evaluations used as a way to pressure for productivity detached with the social reality faced in the field and rising difficulties to "open the households". The high turnover rises costs of training and diminishes the capacity to retain learning in IBGE, impacting directly in the quality of our researches.
- 4) **Anti-union discrimination:** While IBGE workers denounced the need to protect the institution from "precarization", during the strike process in 2014, the board of directors accepted passively the budget cuts, demanding the maintenance of our work plan with fewer resources. Furthermore, after the strike process, moral harassment has been our daily working environment together with anti-union discrimination: communication between union and workers using institutional e-mails is blocked; union activities with timetable restriction; strike agreement not integrally fulfilled; etc.

The context in which IBGE is operating is dramatic and to change it we need the engagement not only of Brazilian society, but of the international community that uses and demands solid and updated data.

### **ASSIBGE – EXECUTIVA NACIONAL**