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Socioeconomic development indicators of Tocantins state, Brazil, a peripheral region of Amazon

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ABSTRACT: This study primary aimed to analyze the socioeconomic development indicators in Tocantins State, a peripheral region of Amazon, related to the first decade of this century. The used data are from Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística-IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), Tocantins State, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Data are related to birth rate, gross death rate, infant death rate, Human Development Index (HDI), literacy rate, fertility rate, per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Results suggest that the Tocantins State occupies the median position in socioeconomic development in the Brazilian North region, having shown progress in some indicators, but still has a long way for reaching satisfactory standard of economic development.

Keywords: Socioeconomic Development; Amazon Region; Human Development

Caracterização dos indicadores de desenvolvimento socioeconômico em uma região periférica da Amazônia: Tocantins

RESUMO: O objetivo central desse artigo foi analisar indicadores de desenvolvimento socioeconômico em uma Região Periférica da Amazônia do Estado do Tocantins, na primeira década do século XXI. Os dados utilizados são oriundos do Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), Governo do Estado do Tocantins, Programa das Nações Unidas para o Desenvolvimento (PNUD). Utilizando dados como índice de natalidade, índice de mortalidade bruta e infantil, Índice de Desenvolvimento Humano, taxa de alfabetização, taxa de fecundidade, Produto Interno Bruto (PIB) *per capita*. Os resultados sugerem que o Estado do Tocantins ocupa posição mediana em desenvolvimento socioeconômico na região Norte, tendo apresentado evolução em alguns indicadores, mas ainda tem muito que avançar para chegar ao padrão satisfatório de desenvolvimento econômico.

Palavras-chaves: Desenvolvimento Socioeconômico; Região Amazônica; Desenvolvimento Humano.

1 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this paper is a characterization of socioeconomic development indicators in Tocantins State, a peripheral region of Amazon, related to the first decade of this century, comparing its indicators with the ones of the Brazilian Northern Region.

This paper is justified because there are just a few studies concerning this specific region of Brazil. Thus, this study contributes to the analysis of economic indicators getting information about the real needs of Tocantins population.

The basic hypothesis that guides this study focuses on economic and social data from the Tocantins State, taking into account its growth and development presented in the 2000s. Tocantins is a particular and historical result of capitalist development process in Brazil, as well as the agricultural frontier expansion in the Amazon; it is not an isolated space, but an integral and interdependent part of the capitalist economy.

Aiming to understand the economic growth of this state, the question that drives this work is: "Is it possible that the economic growth of the newest state of the Brazilian Federation results in social welfare and access to education, health, sanitation, and employment for the population of Tocantins?"

Tocantins is one of the Brazilian states that showed the most intense growth process, both demographic and economic with rates much higher than the national averages. The migratory movement is still in a continuous process evidencing that the Tocantins State and the city of Palmas are attractive for people from neighboring regions.

The population of the Tocantins had an average growth of 22.5% from 2000 to 2010; and its gross domestic product (GDP) grown more than the other states, showing 74.2% in the accumulated from 2002 to 2010 (IBGE, 2012). Regarding the creation of formal employment, in 2000, the state had 106,040 job positions; in 2011, this number rose to 242,769, a growth over 128% (Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (MTE), Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2012).

To be able to make a comparison about the differential development among countries, regions, and states, it is necessary to analyze variables such as per capita income, education level in general, infant mortality ratio, basic sanitation, population growth rate, and other variables that will be discussed here.

Santos et al. (2010) made similar studies and analyzed the economic and social indicators for the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Results showed that Mato Grosso do Sul occupies a prominent position in socioeconomic development in the Midwest region of Brazil, with the second best Human Development Index (HDI), just behind the Federal District of Brazil. Lower fertility rates, infant mortality, and higher life expectancy at birth were observed in Mato Grosso do Sul, when compared to the average of the Midwest region and the whole country.

All previous indicators can be summarized by the Human Development Index (HDI)¹ prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Thus, the study about socioeconomic indicators is relevant, which may show if the

¹ The HDI (Human Development Index) ranges from 0 to 1 (the closer to 1, the higher the human development). The three analyzed variables are health, education, and income. The HDI is divided into four categories, (1) 25% with higher HDI are the states with very high Human Development; (2) the following quartile represents the states with high development (including the whole Brazil); (3) the third group belongs to the medium; and (4) the 25% worst are the states with the low human development (UNDP, 2011).

state and society are investing resources for improving the population life quality. It is worth to consider that the Tocantins State is still an economy in formation, but has economic potential especially in Palmas, its capital city.

The economic growth of Palmas follows the same performance presented by the State with an average growth of 14.4% of GDP from 2000 to 2010 (IBGE, 2012).

This study is divided into six sections. Besides this introduction (Section 1), Section 2 presents the historical characterization of Tocantins. Section 3 describes the theoretical framework and the Section 4 describes the methodological procedures. Section 5 presents the analysis of the socioeconomic development indicators of Tocantins. The concluding remarks summarize the work (Section 6).

2 HISTORICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF TOCANTINS

The history of Tocantins State is dating back to the period of Brazil Independence. According to Duarte et al. (2010), to facilitate the administration, the justice application, and particularly encourage settlement and development of the navigation of Araguaia and Tocantins rivers, a Permit was created dividing the Captaincy of Goiás in two counties (regions) or what today might be called in thesis municipalities: North County and South County.

According to Barbosa et al. (2004), this act marked definitely disharmony between the North and South of Goiás. Great defender of regional interests, the Judge Joaquim Theotônio Segurado was appointed administrator, becoming one of the emancipation forerunners of the Tocantins State.

To Segurado, the justifications for separation northern region from the south-central region of Goiás State were aspects of economic, political, administrative, and geographical nature. In this sense, according to Parente (1999), since the beginning, the northern portion of Goiás was isolated by legal measures, as well as by the geographical position not suitable for agricultural production in relation to other consumer centers, and this affirmative has not ceased to be true, because the wealth was concentrated in the southern region of Goiás in detriment of the northern region of the state.

Discussions aimed for the emancipation of Tocantins came back in the 70s after numerous struggles of the separatist movement, but there was no interest nor resources for the creation of a new state.

Tocantins State was created by the National Constituent Assembly in Article 13 of the Temporary Constitutional Provisions Act of the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil, promulgated on October 5, 1988. And, thus, the northern Goiás became emancipated and is now called Tocantins.

As seen, the state division was a longstanding demand of the people of former northern Goiás. Few socioeconomic changes occurred in the 90s, because the state was still consolidating investments in basic infrastructure, both at the newly inaugu-

rated Palmas capital city as well as in other cities.

Economic growth and urbanization of Tocantins really has only emerged in the 2000s. The productive sectors undergo a process of expansion that may cause to occupy a more relevant position on the national scene in the coming years. In general, both the Tocantins as Palmas have experienced strong economic growth since their creation, bringing a number of opportunities in the agricultural, industrial, and services sectors.

Some of these opportunities are the construction of the North-South Railway and the construction of the Hydroelectric Power Plant Luís Eduardo Magalhães (902.5 MW), in Lajeado municipality. There is also the investment possibility in Tocantins Waterway enabling the outflow of 56 million tons of grain and inputs, connecting the North to Midwest regions of the country.

3 THE THEORY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SOME CONSIDERATIONS

In this section, some theories of development will be discussed and then some concepts will be redeemed. Therefore, initially, the definition of Kuznetz (1983) will be considered. For him, the development is in essence a process of economic growth along with improvement of the population living standard, as well as by fundamental changes in the structure of their economy.

In his pioneering work, "Economic Growth and Income Inequality" (1995), Kuznetz studied the development of many countries. He found that very poor countries with very low per capita income showed the Gini indexes less unequal than countries that had just started their development process. The "law of Kuznetz" is a labeled and known expression; according to it, the underdeveloped countries in the developing process inevitably have a phase with accentuated income inequalities; then, with the development, they go to a phase when income inequality decreases until reaching a more egalitarian index as developed countries. This fact means that the economic growth process shows an inverted U-shaped curve for the relationship between index of income inequality and per capita income growth rate.

For Hirschman (1961) and Furtado (1987), the development depends on the many factors, including: (i) past history; (ii) geographical location; (iii) population; (iv) culture; (v) territorial extension; and (vi) natural resources.

Furtado (1986) complements stating that economic growth is only related to the increase of actual production, not modifying the production functions. Economic development is related to economic growth, but it is much more than a simple growth, changing a more complex structure, the social and economic forms of social labor division, satisfying the collective needs.

Hirschman (1961) defines economic development as a broad event and its occurrence involves increasing the life quality levels. To achieve this life quality, some prerequisites are essential: (a) natural resources, (b) energy production sources, (c) ex-

istence of qualified human resources, (d) administrative capacity, and (e) technologies.

Another theory is the cumulative growth or cumulative circular causation developed by Myrdal (1968). By this theory and concepts, he states about a virtuous or vicious cycle that can occur in an ascendant and descendant way, i.e., some events sequence triggering other events in a cumulative and propellant way. He uses this concept in both the economic and social fields.

According to Myrdal (1968), the production expansion of an urban center generates benefits to adjacent localities, employing large numbers of workers and stimulating the market for consumer goods. He states that regional inequalities are worsen to the extent in which the country is poorer; and that the higher the development level, the stronger the propellant effect, considering the social and economic conditions that the richest countries have.

The Growth Poles Theory developed by François Perroux explains the investments concentration for a better utilization of linkage effects. Perroux (1978) argues that the starting point for chaining the growth process is the insertion of a propelled industry that is capable to spread the linkage effects toward the polarized activities. Such insertion into a regional system will raise positive and negative effects on the receiving region. As such effects will be concentrating, propellant activity will become a propellant pole to region's economy. The development will depend on the level and quality of positive and negative effects.

This study has no intention to extend the development definitions; it aims to present some theories that underlie the growth and development of a country. Hereafter, the methodological procedures are presented.

4 METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

For this work, publications of IBGE, Government of Tocantins State, as well as other sources such as UNDP, websites, and books were used. To characterize the Tocantins State, an extensive literature was reviewed to know about the region under analysis. This process is indispensable for analyzing the characteristics for knowing well a certain region.

To make the socioeconomic characterization, data were collected about income, population, infant mortality, and illiteracy in Brazilian Northern region and, specifically, in the Tocantins State.

The Brazilian Northern region has about 3,853,575.6 km², corresponding to approximately 45.3% of the entire Brazilian territory. Around 7.2% of the territorial extension of the Brazilian Northern Region belongs to Tocantins State that measures 277,621.9 km² (Table 1).

Table 1 - Population density and area of Brazil, from the Northern Region and the State of Tocantins

Local	Total area of territorial units (km ²)	Share (%)
Brazil	8.502.728,3	-
North	3.853.575,6	45,3
Tocantins	277.621,9	7,2

Source: IBGE - Demographic Census (2010)

Tocantins State has 139 municipalities and a population of 1,373,551 inhabitants (2010), 85.9% urbanization rate, and demographic density of 4.95 inhabitants/km². The state capital city is Palmas with a population of 223,817 inhabitants. The state's characteristics are: (1) Tocantins and Araguaia Rivers, the main watersheds; (2) around 5,000 km of paved roads; (3) distance of 899.5 km between the extreme points in the North-South direction, and 615.4 km in the East-West direction; (4) agricultural potential of 16 million hectares of suitable soils for agriculture; and (5) vegetation composed of 87% Cerrado and 13% the Amazon Rainforest (IBGE, 2010).

5 ANALYSIS OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS OF TOCANTINS STATE

Table 2 shows the urban and rural total population of Brazil, Northern Region, and Tocantins State, from 2000 to 2010. The simple conclusion from this table is the urban population predominance for the three federative entities.

Table 2 - Total Population - Urban and rural residents (thousand people) in Brazil, Northern Region and the State of Tocantins, between 2001 and 2010

Year (*)	Brazil			North			Tocantins		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
2001	170955	143378	27577	9830	9486	344	1194	850	344
2002	173501	145913	27588	10200	9870	330	1211	881	330
2003	175954	148256	27698	10611	10275	336	1228	893	336
2004	181687	150689	30998	14300	10567	3734	1244	889	355
2005	183881	152138	31743	14573	10909	3665	1260	896	364
2006	186021	154751	31269	14838	11293	3545	1275	945	331
2007	188029	156763	31266	15085	11616	3469	1289	948	342
2008	189953	159095	30858	15327	11953	3374	1303	974	329
2009	191796	161041	30755	15555	12125	3430	1316	979	337
2010	190721	160879	29842	15865	11663	4202	1383	1090	293

Source: IBGE (2010) - National Research by Household Sample (*) estimates years: 2001-2009

Table 3 shows the annual urbanization rate for the same segments. In 2000, the country had an urbanization rate of 81.35%, which increased to 84.35% in 2010. The urbanization rate in the Brazilian Northern region from 2000 to 2010 rose from 69.9% to 73.5%. For Tocantins State, the urbanization rate rose from 74.3% in 2000 to 78.8% in 2010. Tocantins presents urbanization rate higher than Northern region, but lower than Brazil. It is evident, therefore, that the country in whole is more urbanized and the population living in rural areas are decreasing more and more. This deruralization

may be related to the intensive agriculture mechanization in the field and/or public services that cities can provide to their people such as education, health, employment, income, life quality.

Table 3 - urbanization of Brazil, North and Tocantins - 2000-2010

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2000	81,33	69,92	74,31
2001	83,87	73,37	71,19
2002	84,10	74,91	72,75
2003	84,26	75,32	72,72
2004	82,94	73,90	71,46
2005	82,74	74,86	71,11
2006	83,19	76,11	74,12
2007	83,37	77,00	73,55
2008	83,75	77,99	74,75
2009	83,96	77,95	74,39
2010	84,35	73,51	78,81

Source: IBGE / 2000 and 2010 Censuses

The more the population grows, the greater the demands to meet their basic needs and improve the development indicators (SOUZA, 2005). Therefore, it is necessary to calculate the population growth rates. Table 4 shows the rates for Brazil, Northern region, and Tocantins State, from 2001 to 2010. Tocantins presented an annual growth rate of 1.34, higher than 1% for Brazil, but lower than 1.88 for the Northern region.

Table 4 - Population Growth Rate: Brazil, North and Tocantins - 2001-2010

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2001-2010	1,00	1,88	1,34

Source: IBGE (2010)

Table 5 shows the birth rate for the above mentioned federative units from 2000 to 2008, comprising the number of live births per 1,000 inhabitants; Tocantins State had a birth rate of 26.9 in 2000, which declined to 20.5 in 2008, a difference of 6.4 higher than the difference of 5.6 in the Northern region and the difference of 4.8 for Brazil. Tocantins State has a birth rate lower than the Northern region, but higher compared to the national rate. It is observed that the birth rate has been declining over the analyzed years. The largest birth rate reduction occurred in Tocantins State, in which the rate decreased from 26.9 live births per 1,000 inhabitants in 2000 to 20.5 in 2008.

Table 5 - Birth rates for Brazil, North and Tocantins - 2000-2008

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2000	21,2	28,8	26,9
2001	20,1	27,5	25,8
2002	19,5	26,5	24,6
2003	18,8	25,3	23,4
2004	18,5	24,2	22,4
2005	17,7	22,6	21,4
2006	17,1	21,7	20,5
2007	16,6	21,3	18,4
2008	16,4	23,2	20,5

Source: IBGE / Preliminary demographic projections (2010).

With regard to life expectancy at birth, Table 6 shows the years evolution of life expectancy at birth distributed by gender. In the three federative entities, women had higher expectation compared to man, but there was significant improvement both for men and for women, which indicates a significant improvement in Brazilians' life quality.

TABLE 6 - Life expectancy at birth: Brazil, North and Tocantins - 2000-2009

Year	Brazil		North		Tocantins	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2000	66,7	74,4	66,8	72,4	67,2	71,3
2001	67,1	74,7	67,1	72,7	67,4	71,6
2002	67,4	75,0	67,4	73,0	67,7	72,0
2003	67,7	75,3	67,7	73,3	68,0	72,3
2004	68,0	75,6	68,0	73,7	68,3	72,6
2005	68,4	75,9	68,2	74,0	68,5	73,0
2006	68,7	76,2	68,5	74,3	68,8	73,3
2007	68,8	76,4	68,8	74,6	69,1	73,6
2008	69,3	76,8	69,1	74,9	69,3	73,9
2009	69,6	77,1	69,3	75,1	69,6	74,2

Source: IBGE / Preliminary population projections (2010).

To the mortality gross rate (per 1,000 inhabitants) in the three federative units, the woman had a higher expectation compared to man, but there was significant improvement both for men and for women, which indicates a significant improvement in Brazilians' life quality. Table 7 shows the Tocantins State with higher mortality gross rate than the Northern Region in all analyzed years; however, this rate is lower than the national average. It is noted that there is a regression rate over the years, which can be directly related to the better nutrition, better basic sanitation conditions, among other variables.

Table 7 - Gross Mortality Rate for Brazil, North and Tocantins - 2000-2008

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2000	6,4	5,3	5,9
2001	6,3	5,2	5,9
2002	6,3	5,1	5,8
2003	6,2	5,0	5,7
2004	6,2	5,0	5,7
2005	6,0	4,9	5,6
2006	6,0	4,9	5,6
2007	6,0	4,8	5,5
2008	6,1	4,8	5,1

Source: IBGE / Preliminary demographic projections (2010).

There was an increase in the country from 56.5% in 2000 to 61,8% in 2010 for basic sanitation: sewer network or septic tank connected to the general sewage system, water supply from the general water supply system, and garbage collected directly or indirectly by the cleaning services. In cities with up to five thousand inhabitants, the rates increased from 21.7% in 2000 to 30.8% in 2010. In cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants, the percentages were 79.7% in 2000, rising to 82.5% in 2010 (IBGE, 2011).

Analyzing the data for the Northern region of the country, only 22.4% of households had adequate sanitation conditions in 2010, while in the Southeast region of the country the proportion was 82.3%. For the Tocantins State, this percentage rises to about 25% of basic sanitation. It can be concluded that it is still poor basic sanitation in the country in whole and even more critical in Northern Brazil.

Analyzing the infant mortality rate, Table 8 shows the state having the highest rate when compared to the North and whole Brazil. In Tocantins, in 2007, for every thousand live births, 27.3 have died. In the North and in whole Brazil, 24.3 and 25 have died, respectively, per thousand live births in 2007. Reduction in infant mortality rate is noted in the subsequent years, 2009 and 2010, both in the Tocantins State and in the Brazilian larger region and federation. From 2007 to 2009, there was a reduction of 6.9% in the infant mortality rate of Tocantins, 5.9 in the Northern region, and 5.5 in the national infant mortality rate. This reduction can be attributed to increased levels of political and individual freedoms and the female education level.

Table 8 - Infant mortality rate for Brazil, North and Tocantins per 1,000 live births: 2000 and 2009

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2000	30,1	-	-
2001	29,2	-	-
2002	28,4	-	-
2003	27,5	-	-
2004	26,6	-	-
2005	25,8	-	-
2006	25,1	-	-
2007	24,3	25,0	27,3

2008	23,3	24,2	26,4
2009	22,5	23,5	25,6

Source: IBGE, Directorate of Research, Department of Population and Social Indicators, Management Studies and Analyses of Demographic Dynamics, Project UNFPA / BRAZIL (BRA/02/P02) - Population and Development, Systematic measures and sociodemographic indicators derived from the projection of population by sex and age, by demographic method, the Major Regions and Federation Units, for the period 1991-2030.

Analyzing the fertility rate according to the situation of the rural or urban residence, it was observed that, from 2007 to 2009, the Northern Region had the highest fertility rates, especially in rural areas, followed by Tocantins and Brazil. This indicator can also be directly related to the female education level and to the awareness policies by government (Table 9).

Table 9 - Total fertility rate by household situation Brazil, Tocantins and Northern Region: 2000 and 2009

Year	Brazil			North*			Tocantins**		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
2000	2,38	2,18	3,49	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	2,33	2,18	3,42	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	2,26	2,11	3,25	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	2,13	1,96	3,14	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	2,06	1,93	3,02	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006	1,99	1,86	2,86	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	1,95	1,81	2,74	2,6	2,36	3,61	2,26	2,4	2,87
2008	1,89	1,75	2,4	2,37	2,14	3,39	2,07	1,99	2,53
2009	1,94	1,81	2,73	2,51	2,23	3,47	2,6	2,24	3,23

Source: IBGE (2010) Research Directorate, Department of Population and Social Indicators, Management Studies and Analyses of Demographic Dynamics.

(*) (**) There is no data available for the North and Tocantins between 2000 and 2006.

When observing the education level (Table 10), Tocantins State has the lowest literacy rate when compared to the Northern region and Brazil. In 2007, the literacy rates for men and women in the Tocantins State were 84.3% and 87.2%, respectively. For the region, this indicator can also be directly related to the female education level and awareness policies by government (Table 9); in North, the literacy rate in 2007 was 90% for women and 88.3% for men; and in Brazil, the rates for men and women were, respectively, 89.8% and 90.25%. It can be observed also reduction in the literacy rate for women from 2007 to 2008, both in the North and in the Tocantins State. In Brazil, this rate was maintained for two years, but there was increased literacy rates for both men and women from 2007 to 2009 in Tocantins State, in the North, and in the country.

Table 10 - Literacy rate of persons 15 years or older by sex Brazil, Tocantins and Northern Region: 2001 and 2009

Year	Brazil		North *		Tocantins**	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2001	87,5	87,7	-	-	-	-
2002	88	88,3	-	-	-	-
2003	88,3	88,6	-	-	-	-
2004	88,4	88,8	-	-	-	-
2005	88,7	89,2	-	-	-	-
2006	89,4	89,9	-	-	-	-
2007	89,8	90,2	88,3	90	84,3	87,2
2008	89,8	90,2	88,8	89,7	84,5	86,8
2009	90,2	90,4	88,6	90,3	85,1	87,9

Source: IBGE, National Household Survey 1992/2009.

(*) (**) There is no data available for the North and Tocantins between 2001 and 2006.

The Human Development Report 2011 shows that Brazil is part of a select group of only 36 of the 187 countries that have risen in the rankings from 2010 to 2011, according to data recalculated for the new base of this year. In the Brazilian case, this HDI evolution from last year to this year had a greater push of health dimension - measured by life expectancy - responsible for 40% of the increasing rate. Each of the two dimensions that comprise the HDI, education and income, correspond to 30% of this development (UNDP, 2011).

Table 11 - Human Development Index (HDI) for Brazil, North and Tocantins: 2000, 2005 and 2010

Year	Brazil	North	Tocantins
2000	0,665	0,727	0,710
2005	0,692	0,766	0,756
2010	0,715	0,787	0,766

Source: UNDP, 2010 - Human Development Report; IBGE (2010) and IPEA (2010).

Table 11 shows the HDI data for 2000, 2005, and 2010. In 2000, the country had an HDI of 0.665, advancing to 0.718 after a decade. To the North Region, this index was 0.727, rising to 0.787 in 2010. For the Tocantins State, the index rose from 0.710 in 2000 to 0.766 in 2010. It can be concluded that the country is moving in the social and economic indicators, both in the North and in the Tocantins State, and this advancement is reverting in life quality and social welfare.

Regarding to income analysis, it is noted that the GDP of the Tocantins State in 2010 represents about 0.46% of national GDP and about 8.56% of GDP in the North, while the North is about 5.34% of national GDP (Table 12).

Table 12 - Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices (U.S. \$ 1,000,000) for Brazil, North and Tocantins

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Brazil	2661345	3032203	3239404	3770085
North	133578	154703	163208	201511
Tocantins	11094	13090	14571	17240

Source: IBGE - Regional Accounts (2010).

The per capita GDP has been used as the main indicator of economic growth. In 2009, the per capita GDP of Tocantins was higher than average GDP in the Northern Region, respectively, R\$ 11,278 (eleven thousand, two hundred, and seventy-eight reais) and R\$ 10,626 (ten thousand, six hundred, and twenty-six reais), but these GDP's are lower than the national average, R\$ 16,918 (sixteen thousand, nine hundred, and eighteen reais) (expressed in Brazilian currency; R = Real; plural = reais) (Table 13).

Table 13 - GDP per capita at market prices to Brazil, North and Tocantins -2007 to 2009

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Brazil	14465	15992	16918	19016
North	9135	10216	10626	12701
Tocantins	8921	10223	11278	12461

Source: IBGE (2010)

Table 13 shows the per capita GDP for Brazil, North, and Tocantins State from 2007 to 2010. In the accumulated, the country had a GDP growth of 31.46%, the Northern Region had 39.04%, and the Tocantins State had the best rate, 39.53%. When calculating the average annual GDP rate, the Tocantins State had a rate of 3.07, the Northern Region, 3.0%, and Brazil had a rate of 2.52%.

This per capita GDP growth in the Tocantins State can be assigned to works in the infrastructure area, for example, advances in the works of the North-South Railway, the agriculture expansion in the state, and investment in waterway and Belém-Brasília highway.

According to IBGE data (2010), Tocantins State experienced the largest growth in volume from 2002 to 2010 with an annual average of 14.2% and 74.2% in the accumulated. The growth national average rate was 7.5% compared to 2009 and 37.1% in the accumulated.

6 FINAL THOUGHTS

The main objective of this paper was to analyze the socioeconomic development indicators of the Tocantins State, making a comparison with the national average and the Northern Region, considering the State historical context.

Some considerations on the indicators show that both Brazil and the Tocantins State are more urbanized with a rate of 84.3% and 78.7% of urbanization, respectively. The State presented an annual growth rate of 1.34%, higher than the rate of Brazil, which was 1%, but lower than the North's rate. The birth rate for the State rose from 26.9 in 2000 to 20.5 in 2008. Life expectancy has increased in the three analyzed federative units.

The HDI recorded in the country was 0.665 in 2000; after a decade, it rose to 0.718. To the North region, this index rose from 0.727 in 2000 to 0.787 in 2010. For

the Tocantins State, HDI rose from 0.710 in 2000 to 0.766 in 2010.

When analyzing the GDP of Tocantins from 2002 to 2010, it was noted that the State had the highest growth, 74.2% in the accumulated. The share of GDP of the Tocantins State in 2010 represents about 0.46% of national GDP and about 8.56% of GDP in the North region, while the North region represents about 5.34% of the national GDP. Regarding to per capita GDP, the Tocantins State recorded an average annual growth of 3.07, the Northern Region had 3.0%, and Brazil had 2.52%. Therefore, Tocantins State showed great performance.

The presented data allow us to conclude that the Tocantins State occupies the median position in socioeconomic development in the North region of the country. There were improvements in some indicators, but there is still a long way for reaching satisfactory standard of economic development.

There is a hypothesis that the Tocantins State is a historical result from the capitalist development process in Brazil, as well as resultant from the expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Amazon, which is not an isolated space, but an integral and interdependent part of the capitalist economy. Regarding the raised question, it can be stated that the newest federative unit of Brazil is so still limited, investing in the life quality of its population. This study does not exhaust the subject matter contained herein, recommending further studies for other regions of the country.

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