



Brazil

Population: 213 million · 1 million Starlink subscribers

CONCERN

MODERATE

PROVIDERS

2 Operational / 5 Authorized

Latest update: March 2026



SkyCommons Observatory is a project of Open Knowledge to map power, expose risks, and advance public-interest principles into governance of LEO satellite internet services.

Our scores rating 'level of concern' are based on key public-interest principles defined in the table [here](#). This country profile is one of several on: skycommons.okfn.org

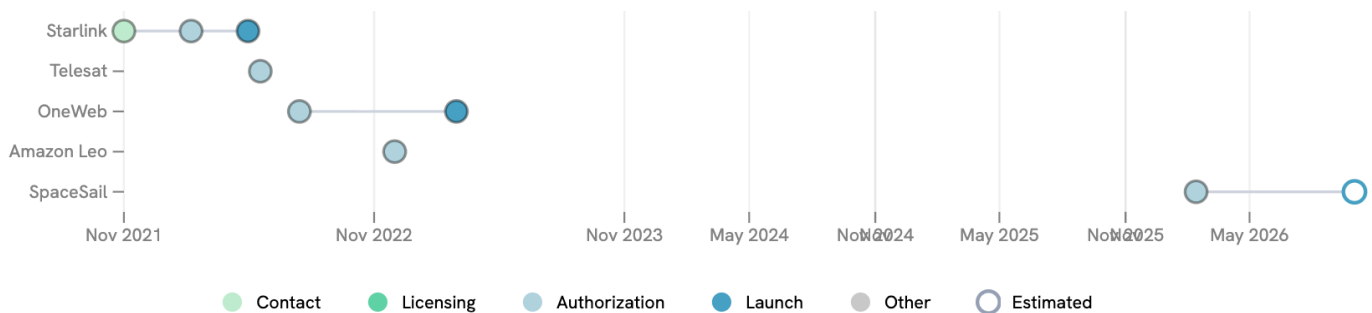
Summary

Brazil is Starlink's second-largest market globally. Five LEO satellite providers are authorised to operate in the country, but only one—Starlink—operates at mass consumer scale. There is also high dependency on Starlink to connect remote areas in the Amazon region. In January 2026, the company reported having around 1 million subscribers.

Its authorisation in 2022 was shaped by executive-level lobbying rather than an arm's-length regulatory process. Since then, there have been moments of political friction with the company's founder, Elon Musk—notably in 2024, when Brazil's supreme court ordered the suspension of another Musk company, X (formerly Twitter) and he threatened to defy the order.

Relying so much on a single operator has been called into question in different contexts. In April 2025, the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel) approved the further expansion of Starlink to 11,908 satellites on the same day as it also issued a regulatory alert for market concentration and gaps in space sustainability and digital sovereignty.

Timeline



[See [online version](#)]

Research highlights

Competition

CONCERN

HIGH

OPERATIONAL Starlink OneWeb (enterprise only)	AUTHORISED Telesat Amazon Leo (via Sky) SpaceSail
--	---

Brazil authorises five LEO satellite providers under a RGSat framework, but only Starlink currently offers internet services directly to consumers. OneWeb and Telesat serve enterprise and wholesale backhaul only. Amazon Leo (formerly Kuiper) has not yet launched. The market is practically monopolistic in the consumer segment.

In 2023, Brazil's Ministry of Education set a minimum internet speed for schools. Only Starlink could meet it, and that reinforces the lock-in. There are no LEO-specific consumer-rights instruments that govern exit costs or terminal portability.

Starlink has 11,908 satellites authorised, giving it a footprint few rivals can match. Chinese company SpaceSail was authorised shortly after a very public confrontation between Elon Musk and Brazil's Supreme Court in 2024, but is not yet operational.

Affordability

CONCERN

MODERATE

STARLINK SUBSCRIPTION \$37–83 / per month	STARLINK HARDWARE COST \$100–470
--	-------------------------------------

Monthly consumer subscription costs range from US\$37–82 a month while commercial plans range from US\$48–455 (for data ranging from 50GB to 2TB). Costs are a barrier for the lowest income earners, since the cheapest plan would still account for approximately 12% of a minimum-wage worker's monthly income. Average prices for Starlink hardware in 2026 range from US\$100–157 for Mini Kit and US\$ 330–470 for a Standard Kit.

Given the relatively high number of subscribers reported in the country, this suggests there is primarily uptake among middle and upper-income households rather than at the lower end of the income distribution. Starlink often operates in the rural Amazon region through partnerships with nonprofits, the private sector, and agreements with public authorities, as well as with grassroots initiatives. It is common for antennas to be donated to Amazon riverside (*Ribeirinho*) schools and other communities.

Accessibility

CONCERN

LOW

POPULATION 213 million	STARLINK SUBSCRIBERS (2026) ~ 1 million
---------------------------	--

Starlink reported that they had more than 1 million active subscribers as of January 2026. Anatel, Brazil's telecoms regulator, recorded a more conservative estimation of 791,000 active access points as of May 2026 (a 1.4% internet access market share) with rapid growth, especially in strategic regions (+145% in 2024 and +85% in 2025).

In Brazil, basic internet reaches 85% of urban and 74% of rural households (TIC Domicílios 2024). Only 22% of Brazilians meet a stricter "meaningful connectivity" threshold, and there are significant digital divides in the country's Southeast, North, and North East—especially depending on level of income. In remote areas—especially in the Amazon region (Amazônia Legal)—there is high dependency on Starlink for connectivity. As early as October 2023, Starlink covered 697 out of 722 municipalities, representing 90% of the region.

Starlink reportedly serves many schools in remote areas; Indigenous, Quilombola and Ribeirinho communities; and health workers. There have also been pledges to build digital-literacy infrastructure and to establish community-controlled antenna management, reducing these communities' vulnerability to service interruption by a single foreign operator.

Governance

CONCERN

MODERATE

PRIMARY DRIVER Executive Lobbying	PROCESS Signs of improvement
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------

In November 2021, Communications Minister Fábio Faria (of the Bolsonaro government) travelled to Starlink's parent company, SpaceX's Texas headquarters ahead of any formal regulatory process. The Ministry subsequently corresponded directly with SpaceX to confirm that Anatel (the regulatory agency) discussions were proceeding on schedule. The following month, RGSat (Resolution 748/2021) established Brazil's LEO licensing framework with a 10-day public comment window with no provisions on data sovereignty, routing obligations, or digital governance. RGSat establishes a two-layer structure: Satellite Exploitation Rights for Orbital Operation (5 operators were authorized) and an SCM Broadband Licence for serving retail customers (Starlink only). There was limited civil society and community engagement. Lobbying access has continued under the following administration (Lula government) which held twice as many meetings with Starlink in its first year. The Ministry of Communications was found to have denied holding meetings with Starlink that its own later disclosures confirmed took place. Full authorisation conditions and technical annexes are not routinely published in machine-readable form.

Accountability

CONCERN

MODERATE

In August 2024, Brazil's Supreme Court ordered X suspended. Elon Musk, the owner of both X and Space X, threatened to defy the order. Starlink terminals were used to route around the ban for the first hours, but when Anatel threatened to revoke the company's operating license, Starlink backed down and blocked X's domains. The company was charged, together with X, a US\$3,6 million fine for disrespecting court orders.

Soon after, Brazil also authorised a Chinese competitor, SpaceSail, as a geopolitical hedge against dependency on a single operator controlled by Musk.

In April 2025, Anatel issued a non-binding regulatory alert, which formally identified market concentration, space sustainability, and digital sovereignty as systematic gaps. The alert was issued on the same day Anatel approved Starlink's further expansion to 11,908 satellites, while noting that the framework for approving the expansion was inadequate.

The telecoms regulator referred the matter to two internal committees (C-INT and CEO) for a Regulatory Impact Analysis, with a full report and proposed resolution due in late 2026.

A series of accountability failures were named:

- **No binding coverage obligations attached to Starlink's authorisation:** The communities cited in political narratives as the justification for fast-tracked authorisation have no enforceable claim on the infrastructure.
- **No ex ante conditions:** Authorisation terms do not include coverage obligations, service quality benchmarks, or public-interest duties. There is nothing to enforce.
- **No operational oversight over terminal distribution:** Starlink terminals were adopted by illegal gold miners in Brazil's Yanomami Indigenous Territory, with 50 antennas seized during a wave of early 2024 enforcement raids.

Some compliance obligations do exist. There is a public-calamity clause, spectrum coordination—and for retail operators, Anatel's quality rules and data-protection law.

Over time, different types of enforcement have occurred: An account freeze, antenna seizures in Yanomami territory, and a binding 2025 identity-verification agreement. However, none ever originated from the licensing terms themselves.

Authors: Joana Varon, Burcu Kilic

About this research

SkyCommons Observatory was created by the Open Knowledge Foundation, a non-profit organisation working at the intersection of technology, openness, and governance. Our website (prototype) and research community questions the politics and processes of LEO satellite internet connectivity using open data and research methods. Is the public-interest met? We treat what happens in space as something that concerns everyone on Earth.



Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License