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## The dynamics and spatial rearrangements of a planned capital: the urbanization of Palmas (TO).

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### Abstract

The present study aims to analyze the urbanization profile of the city of Palmas, capital of the Federative Unit of Tocantins, in Brazil, by exploring the most recent data about the establishments and workers in this area, as well as the characteristics of the residents that relate to the surrounding cities and the scenario in the Center-North region of the country. The capital city presents itself as an administrative center for expansion, which preserves the label of "city of agribusiness" due to the expansion of services and commerce related to farming economy. At the same time, it feeds the characteristic consumption of a population with higher educational level, classified as part of the middle class.

### Key words:

Urban Geography; Metropolitan Region of Palmas (MRP); Economic Geography.

### Introduction

Palmas, the object of study in this research, is a planned-capital city with peculiar characteristics, located in the region of the Center-North agricultural border Brazil. It was the last city created, in the last Federative Unit established, Tocantins, by the Brazilian Federal Constitution made in 1988.

This research seeks to summarize the social-economic characteristics of Palmas and its development, as well as to know the urban economy and to know the relation of commercial exchange and displacement of citizens among the other cities of the surrounding area.

### Results and Discussion

Database information from the General Register of Employees and Unemployees (CAGED, in Portuguese), of the Ministry of Labor and Employment (TEM in PT-BR), were used to elucidate the trend of formal employment in Palmas. The data showed in Chart 1 confirm an overall cut of employees in all the sectors, following the actual national tendency.

In addition, the data shows a successive decay of hirings in the Civil Construction and Mineral Extraction sectors, both proeminente in the economy of Palmas, city whose management and the commerce of services and products are also of great importance, which also associates with the Agribusiness, validating the conception that Palmas is a "city of agribusiness" (ELIAS, 2011).

Chart 1. Evolution of Formal Employment by Sector of Economic Activity (annual balance), in percentage (%) – City: Palmas (TO) – Years: 2011-2017.

Sectors	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mineral Extraction	2,86	0	-1,48	-3,36	-4,07	-32,66	-14,29
Industry of Transformation	13,08	10,59	5,75	2,25	20,57	-6,92	-9
Ind. Serv. for Public Utilities	2,49	3,64	1,92	-6,03	-8,06	-18,28	-2,5
Civil Construction	41,12	3,85	10,46	16,76	4,36	-17,51	-15,52
Commerce	11,45	3,57	8,72	3,82	0,16	1,23	-3,65
Services	12,4	18,68	1,72	4,32	10,03	2,42	-2,87
Public Administration	6,61	0,8	0,02	0,08	0,04	0,03	-0,02
Agriculture and Livestock	13,1	1,04	-1,09	4,28	-1,79	67,17	-5,66
Total	14,87	9,76	3,86	4,29	4,48	-1,38	-3,9

Source: MTE – Cadastro Geral de Empregados e Desempregados (CAGED) – Law 4.923/65 – Self elaboration (2017).

Despite the low expressiveness of the data about Public Administration found in CAGED, this sector has a big role in the economic plan of the capital in question. According to the Annual Register of Social Information (RAIS, in Portuguese) from 2015 (the most recent), this sector represented 52.93% of the active establishments, followed by commerce, with representation of 24.75%.

Still, Palmas presents the majority of migrants installed over the last 10 years and the majority citizens migrated between the past 1 and 2 years from the years of the study (2008 and 2009), confirming that it is the most attractive city in the region and that has the most recent population allocated.

According to data from the 2010 Census, the per capita income of the most part of the population residing in Palmas is between 1 to 5 minimum wages, while in most other cities in the Metropolitan Region of Palmas (RMP) it is less than half a wage. Even so, 11.47% of the employees receive more than 5 minimum wages, which is much higher than the other cities in the metropolitan region.

The current situation of the city shows that, although the city had a Pilot Project and a Master Plan that aimed its orderly materialization, Palmas developed beyond the forecasts of these documents, being today a place of unequal zoning and suffering the consequences of the unpredictable scenario of Urban environments.

### Conclusions

It is possible to conclude that Palmas follows the path as the head office of the region in which it is located geographically, where the Public Administration sector ascends in an area of typically farming activity. It presents a population with higher purchasing power than the other people of the MRP, affirming the status of centrality in the regional urban network. From this bias, the surrounding cities can be seen as satellite cities of Palmas, housing workers who travel daily to the capital to work, considering that the city concentrates more opportunities for labor and consumption in commercial and services activities.

ELIAS, D. *Agronegócio e novas regionalizações no Brasil*. R. B. Estudos Urbanos e Regionais V. 13, N. 2. Novembro, 2011.