

TIMELINE

German immigrant João Gerdau and his son Hugo start the first Gerdau Group unit with the Pontas de Paris Nail Factory in the city of Porto Alegre, state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Curt Johannpeter, Hugo's son-in-law, leads Gerdau through a decisive stage in the expansion of the company's business. In 1947, Gerdau becomes a limited liability company listed on the Porto Alegre Stock Exchange.

The Group develops its social responsibility culture by creating the Gerdau Foundation, with health, education, housing and social assistance programs for employees and their family members.

Gerdau heads toward the Northeastern region of Brazil with the Açonorte mill in the state of Pernambuco.

The Gerdau Group's process of internationalization begins with the acquisition of the Laisa steel mill in Uruguay.

International growth advances into North America with the acquisition of Courtice Steel, currently Gerdau Ameristeel Cambridge, in the province of Ontario (Canada). In 1995, Gerdau strengthens its position in Canada through the acquisition of a second industrial plant, MRM Steel, in the province of Manitoba.

In Argentina, Gerdau becomes a shareholder of the Sipar Aceros S.A. rolling mill. In 2005, the Group acquires control of Sipar.

The Gerdau Group completes 100 years of activity, reaching an annual production capacity of 8.4 million metric tons and R\$ 551 million in net profit.

Year of expansion in the Americas. In Colombia, the Group announces an agreement for the acquisition of shareholder control of Diaco and Sidelpa. In North America, Gerdau acquires the assets of North Star Steel. Gerdau Ameristeel shares are listed on the NYSE.

1901 — 1907 — 1946 — 1948 — 1963 — 1967 — 1969 — 1971 — 1980 — 1989 — 1992 — 1998 — 1999 — 2001 — 2002 — 2004 — 2005

The business started by João Gerdau is divided into two independent companies: Hugo manages the Pontas de Paris Nail Factory and his brother, Walter, takes charge of the furniture manufacturing business, Móveis Gerdau, also in Porto Alegre. Later, in 1930, the two brothers take part in the founding of the Manufacturing Industry Center of Rio Grande do Sul, which later becomes the Federation of Industries of Rio Grande do Sul (FIERGS).

The Gerdau Group enters the steelmaking business with the Group's Riograndense steel mill in Porto Alegre. The Riograndense mill pioneers the technological concept of the minimill, employing scrap metal as raw material and focusing operations on regional marketing and sales, which translates into more competitive operating costs.

The company's expansion route reaches the Southeastern region of Brazil, with the acquisition of the São Judas Tadeu wire factory, a nail and wire manufacturer in the state of São Paulo.

Construction of the Cosigua mill begins in the city of Rio de Janeiro, as part of a joint venture with the German group August Thyssen Huetten. This is also the year in which the Gerdau Group enters the steel distribution business, with the first Comercial Gerdau store in São Paulo.

The Group acquires control of the AZA steel mill in Chile, currently Gerdau AZA. The Group launches the GG 50 rebar, the first in the country to bear a brand name and a guarantee of quality.

Gerdau starts to produce steel in the United States with the acquisition of Ameristeel. In the same year, the shares of Gerdau S.A., one of the Group's public companies in Brazil, are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

The Group merges its North American operations with Co-Steel. The move results in the creation of Gerdau Ameristeel, with 11 steel mills and 29 service centers.

The Group expands its participation in the global market and enters Europe by acquiring interest in the Spanish steelmaker Sidenor. In Brazil, the Gerdau São Paulo steel mill starts operations.

