

Status of Global Christianity, 2025, in the Context of 1900–2050

	1900	1970	2000	2020	Trend % p.a.*	2025	2050
GLOBAL POPULATION							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,695,390,000	6,148,899,000	7,840,953,000	0.88	8,191,988,000	9,709,492,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,302,129,000	4,290,579,000	5,827,214,000	1.46	6,264,023,000	7,699,095,000
3. Adults, % literate	27.6	63.8	76.7	84.1	0.02	84.2	88.0
4. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.5	46.7	56.1	1.06	59.1	68.0
5. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,347,106,000	2,869,247,000	4,397,965,000	1.95	4,843,655,000	6,604,545,000
6. Cities over 1 million	20	145	371	579	2.43	653	950
7. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	345	2.80	396	500
GLOBAL RELIGION							
8. Religious diversity	2.7	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.04	4.4	4.4
9. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,986,913,000	5,365,962,000	6,942,770,000	0.97	7,285,421,000	8,842,489,000
10. Christians	558,346,000	1,216,131,000	1,987,905,000	2,519,505,000	0.98	2,645,317,000	3,312,204,000
11. Muslims	200,301,000	574,379,000	1,299,602,000	1,897,880,000	1.67	2,061,718,000	2,860,760,000
12. Hindus	202,976,000	467,434,000	843,615,000	1,090,611,000	0.70	1,129,155,000	1,245,725,000
13. Buddhists	126,946,000	233,383,000	448,423,000	531,050,000	0.27	538,173,000	533,434,000
14. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	238,188,000	420,817,000	453,250,000	-0.22	448,283,000	392,978,000
15. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	171,476,000	225,753,000	288,156,000	0.46	294,801,000	306,733,000
16. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,557,000	63,579,000	67,463,000	0.07	67,690,000	65,329,000
17. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	21,605,000	29,254,000	1.45	31,433,000	41,842,000
18. Jews	11,725,000	13,959,000	12,948,000	14,800,000	0.74	15,357,000	17,942,000
19. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	708,478,000	782,937,000	898,183,000	0.19	906,567,000	867,003,000
20. Agnostics	3,028,000	543,321,000	645,052,000	751,227,000	0.26	761,092,000	733,956,000
21. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	137,885,000	146,957,000	-0.20	145,475,000	133,047,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION							
22. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	32.9	32.3	32.1	0.10	32.3	34.1
23. Affiliated Christians	522,440,000	1,112,204,000	1,886,371,000	2,383,436,000	0.91	2,493,823,000	3,161,041,000
24. Catholics	265,756,000	656,431,000	1,024,932,000	1,235,323,000	0.60	1,272,775,000	1,480,094,000
25. Protestants	134,196,000	251,902,000	429,289,000	586,193,000	1.42	628,862,000	864,317,000
26. Independents	8,859,000	89,480,000	284,420,000	384,757,000	1.25	409,425,000	610,002,000
27. Orthodox	116,199,000	139,037,000	257,602,000	290,107,000	0.10	291,580,000	317,365,000
28. Unaffiliated Christians	35,906,000	103,927,000	101,533,000	136,069,000	2.17	151,494,000	151,163,000
29. Evangelicals	80,912,000	108,841,000	270,707,000	390,532,000	1.47	420,040,000	620,970,000
30. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	57,631,000	442,643,000	623,844,000	1.25	663,863,000	1,031,503,000
CHURCH ORGANIZATION							
31. Denominations/Rites	2,000	13,100	31,000	44,700	2.27	50,000	64,000
32. Congregations	400,000	1,330,000	3,000,000	4,180,000	1.03	4,400,000	5,500,000
CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT							
33. Global North	459,901,000	692,870,000	816,126,000	840,612,000	-0.41	823,714,000	729,541,000
34. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	380,647,000	490,507,000	562,062,000	566,985,000	-0.54	551,934,000	473,649,000
35. Northern America (1 region)	79,254,000	202,363,000	254,063,000	273,627,000	-0.14	271,779,000	255,892,000
36. Global South	98,445,000	523,261,000	1,171,779,000	1,678,893,000	1.65	1,821,603,000	2,582,663,000
37. Africa (5 regions)	9,640,000	137,866,000	383,463,000	663,664,000	2.59	754,229,000	1,288,574,000
38. Asia (5 regions)	21,966,000	97,390,000	281,094,000	385,052,000	1.60	416,786,000	581,869,000
39. Latin America (3 regions)	62,002,000	269,960,000	482,856,000	600,589,000	0.64	620,116,000	678,906,000
40. Oceania (4 regions)	4,837,000	18,045,000	24,366,000	29,589,000	0.59	30,472,000	33,314,000
41. Percent of all Christians in the Global South	17.6	43.0	58.9	66.6	0.66	68.9	78.0
42. Middle East	5,803,000	8,428,000	15,403,000	19,546,000	0.85	20,386,000	25,662,000
43. Christian percent of Middle East population	12.7	6.1	5.0	4.2	-0.48	4.1	4.0
CHRISTIAN MISSION							
44. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	13,000,000	0.91	13,600,000	17,000,000
45. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	425,000	1.15	450,000	600,000
46. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	900,000	0.00	900,000	1,000,000
47. % of all Christians in Christian countries	95.0	75.8	61.0	51.9	-0.17	51.5	49.4
48. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.3	13.4	17.4	18.28	0.30	18.6	20.0
SCRIPTURES AND GOSPEL ACCESS							
49. Languages with New Testament translations	228	582	1,454	2,257	2.07	2,500	4,400
50. Population without gospel access	879,998,000	1,655,125,000	1,849,747,000	2,167,025,000	0.42	2,213,003,000	2,772,731,000
51. No gospel access as % of world population	54.3	44.8	30.1	27.6	-0.45	27.0	28.6
CHRISTIAN FINANCE (IN US\$, PER YEAR)							
52. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	56,470 billion	5.56	74,000 billion	178,000 billion
53. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	1,032 billion	6.03	1,383 billion	5,200 billion
54. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	67 billion	6.53	92 billion	390 billion

*Column % p.a. trend. Average annual rate of change, 2020–2025, as % per year.

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2025

(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Gina A. Zurlo, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing, "World Christianity 2025: Regional Perspectives," *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, Vol. 49 (1), January 2025, pp 62-74. Indented categories form part of, and are included in, un-indented categories above them. Definitions of categories are as given and explained in David B. Barrett, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 1st ed. (Oxford University Press, 1982); David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2001); David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends* (WCT; William Carey Library, 2001), and Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3rd edition (Edinburgh University Press, 2019), with additional data and explanations below.

Lines 1-2. Demographic totals as shown in *World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2022).

3. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2005-2013) and Gina A. Zurlo and Todd M. Johnson, eds., *World Christian Database* (Leiden: Brill, accessed August 2022).

4-6. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

8. 0-10, 10=most diverse. The Herfindahl index methodology is described in Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, *The World's Religions in Figures* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), chapter 3.

9. Religions do not add up to the total because religions with fewer adherents are not listed. Religionists include smaller religions not shown in the indented lines (Spiritists, Daoists, Confucianists, Baha'is, Jains, Shintoists, Zoroastrians).

10. Widest definition: professing Christians plus secret believers, which equals affiliated (church members) plus unaffiliated Christians.

25. Including Anglicans. Past tables have listed Anglicans separately.

29. Churches and individuals who self-identify as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. Included in traditions above.

30. Church members involved in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Independent Charismatic renewal in the Holy Spirit, known collectively as "Pentecostals/Charismatics." Included in traditions above.

42. Middle East includes Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

44-48. Defined in *World Christian Trends*, part 25, "Macroevangelistics."

46. Ten-year total for decade ending in the given year. World totals of current long-term trend. See David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2001), pt. 4, "Martyrology."

47. Percentage of all Christians living in countries $\geq 80\%$ Christian.

49. Change in the number of languages with New Testament translations. Two scripture statistics have been retired from the table: Bibles printed per year; Bible density (copies in place).

50. Defined in *World Christian Trends*, pt. 25, "Macroevangelistics." The new term "Population without gospel access" is synonymous with "Unevangelized population" from past tables.

52-54. Defined in *World Christian Trends*, part 20, "Finance."

54. Amounts embezzled by top custodians of Christian monies (U.S. dollar equivalents, per year).

Three finance statistics have been retired from the table: Churches' income; Parachurch and institutional income; Income of global foreign missions.



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