

Status of Global Christianity, 2024, in the Context of 1900–2050

	1900	1970	2000	2020	Trend % p.a.	mid-2024	2050
GLOBAL POPULATION							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,695,390,000	6,148,899,000	7,840,953,000	0.87	8,118,836,000	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	1.21	6,114,898,000	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	0.74	57.8	68.0
5. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,347,080,000	2,869,193,000	4,397,903,000	1.62	4,690,224,000	6,604,474,000
6. Cities over 1 million	20	145	371	579	1.64	618	950
7. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	345	1.21	362	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	6,949,778,000	0.98	7,225,815,000	8,860,607,000
10. Christians	558,346,000	1,216,131,000	1,987,906,000	2,521,460,000	1.08	2,631,941,000	3,326,346,000
11. Muslims	200,301,000	574,379,000	1,299,601,000	1,899,103,000	1.68	2,029,703,000	2,859,536,000
12. Hindus	202,976,000	467,434,000	843,615,000	1,090,592,000	0.60	1,117,016,000	1,244,529,000
13. Buddhists	126,946,000	233,383,000	448,423,000	530,612,000	0.17	534,250,000	532,963,000
14. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	238,188,000	420,817,000	457,672,000	-0.25	453,190,000	392,777,000
15. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	171,476,000	225,753,000	288,022,000	0.36	292,234,000	312,696,000
16. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,557,000	63,579,000	67,463,000	0.09	67,704,000	65,799,000
17. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	21,605,000	29,254,000	1.60	31,177,000	41,840,000
18. Jews	11,725,000	13,959,000	12,948,000	14,800,000	0.70	15,216,000	17,913,000
19. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	708,478,000	782,937,000	891,175,000	0.05	893,021,000	848,885,000
20. Agnostics	3,028,000	543,321,000	645,052,000	744,166,000	0.09	746,715,000	715,955,000
21. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	137,885,000	147,009,000	-0.12	146,306,000	132,930,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION							
22. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	32.9	32.3	32.2	0.20	32.4	34.3
23. Affiliated Christians	522,440,000	1,112,204,000	1,886,318,000	2,398,583,000	1.13	2,508,432,000	3,201,640,000
24. Catholics	265,756,000	656,431,000	1,024,932,000	1,240,312,000	0.75	1,278,009,000	1,514,383,000
25. Protestants	134,196,000	251,902,000	429,290,000	586,373,000	1.63	625,606,000	869,789,000
26. Independents	8,859,000	89,480,000	284,420,000	390,209,000	1.96	421,689,000	607,415,000
27. Orthodox	116,199,000	139,037,000	257,602,000	291,720,000	0.12	293,158,000	317,049,000
28. Unaffiliated Christians	35,906,000	103,927,000	101,588,000	122,877,000	0.13	123,508,000	124,706,000
29. Evangelicals	80,912,000	108,841,000	270,707,000	387,026,000	1.66	413,404,000	620,970,000
30. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	57,631,000	442,643,000	644,260,000	1.48	683,341,000	1,031,503,000
CHURCH ORGANIZATION							
31. Denominations / Rites	2,000	13,100	31,100	44,900	1.21	47,100	64,000
32. Congregations	400,000	1,330,000	3,000,000	4,060,000	0.85	4,200,000	5,400,000
CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT							
33. Global North	459,901,000	692,870,000	816,126,000	847,319,000	-0.32	836,646,000	746,525,000
34. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	380,647,000	490,507,000	562,062,000	573,692,000	-0.39	564,737,000	488,979,000
35. Northern America (1 region)	79,254,000	202,363,000	254,063,000	273,627,000	-0.16	271,909,000	257,546,000
36. Global South	98,445,000	523,261,000	1,171,780,000	1,674,141,000	1.76	1,795,295,000	2,579,821,000
37. Africa (5 regions)	9,640,000	137,866,000	383,463,000	661,349,000	2.64	734,130,000	1,281,941,000
38. Asia (5 regions)	21,966,000	97,390,000	281,094,000	382,397,000	2.11	415,647,000	585,348,000
39. Latin America (3 regions)	62,002,000	269,960,000	482,857,000	600,717,000	0.60	615,229,000	679,401,000
40. Oceania (4 regions)	4,837,000	18,045,000	24,366,000	29,678,000	0.51	30,289,000	33,130,000
CHRISTIAN MISSION							
41. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	13,000,000	0.95	13,500,000	17,000,000
42. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	425,000	1.16	445,000	600,000
43. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	900,000	0.28	910,000	1,000,000
44. % in Christian countries	95.0	75.8	61.0	51.9	-0.17	51.6	49.4
45. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.3	13.4	17.4	18.28	0.30	18.5	20.0
SCRIPTURES AND GOSPEL ACCESS							
46. Languages with New Testament translations	227	581	1,453	2,232	1.83	2,400	4,200
47. Population without gospel access	879,998,000	1,655,125,000	1,849,747,000	2,168,903,000	1.02	2,258,875,000	2,772,731,000
48. No gospel access as % of world population	54.3	44.8	30.1	27.7	0.15	27.8	28.6
CHRISTIAN FINANCE (IN US\$, PER YEAR)							
49. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	56,470 billion	5.52	70,000 billion	178,000 billion
50. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	1,032 billion	6.03	1,304 billion	5,200 billion
51. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	67 billion	6.41	86 billion	390 billion

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2024
(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Gina A. Zurlo, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing, “World Christianity 2024: Fragmentation and Unity,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, January 2024. 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 Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds., *World Christian Database* (Leiden: Brill, accessed August 2022).

4, 5, 6. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

8. 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. 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.

29. Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves 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.

44. World totals of current long-term trend for all confessions (see WCT , part 4, “Martyrology”). 57-62. Defined in WCT, part 20, “Finance.”

47, 48. Formerly called “Unevangelized population” and “Unevangelized as % of world population”

51. Amounts embezzled by top custodians of Christian monies (U.S. dollar equivalents, per year). 63-64. Defined in WCT, part 25, “Macroevangelistics.”

Annual trend (%). Average annual rate of change, 2000–2022, as a % per year.



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