

# The Global Religious Landscape

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## 84% Have a Religious Affiliation

Worldwide, more than eight-in-ten people identify with a religious group. This comprehensive demographic study estimates that there are 5.8 billion religiously affiliated adults, representing 84% of the 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

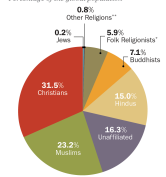
This study – based on analysis of more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and population registers – finds 2.2 billion Christians, 1.6 billion Muslims, nearly 500 million Buddhists and 14 million Jews around the world as of 2010. In addition, more than 400 million people practice various folk or traditional religions. An estimated 58 million people belong to other religions.

Roughly one-in-six people around the globe (1.1 billion) have no religious affiliation. This makes the unaffiliated the third-largest religious group worldwide, behind Christians and Muslims, and about equal in size to the world's Catholic population.

In the next stage of this project, we will publish projections of the future growth of all major religious groups, including the religiously unaffiliated.

Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

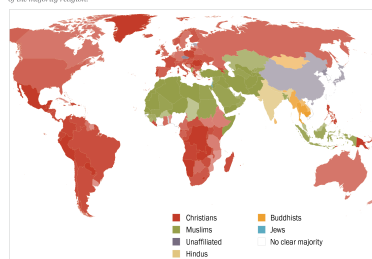
Percentage of the global population



\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian Aboriginal religions.  
\*\*Includes Bahá'í, Jain, Sikh, Shinto, Taoist, followers of Teriyya, Wiccan, Zoroastrian and many other faiths.  
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
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### Majority Religion, by Country

Countries are colored according to the majority religion. Darker shading represents a greater prevalence of the majority religion.



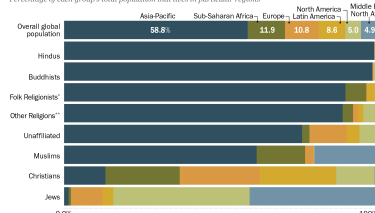
Nine countries have no clear religious majority: Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. There are no countries in which adherents of folk religions make up a clear majority. There are also countries in which followers of other religions (such as Bahá'í, Jain, Sikh, Shinto, Taoist, followers of Teriyya, Wiccan, Zoroastrian) make up a clear majority.

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## Many Religions Concentrated in Asia

### Geographic Distribution of Religious Groups

Percentage of each group's total population that lives in particular regions



Most detailed bar charts, with percentages labeled, appear in the chapters on each of the eight religious groups. For example, the chart showing the percentage of Christians living in each region appears on page 17.  
\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian Aboriginal religions.  
\*\*Includes Bahá'í, Jain, Sikh, Shinto, Taoist, followers of Teriyya, Wiccan, Zoroastrian and many other faiths.  
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### The geographic distribution of religious groups varies considerably.

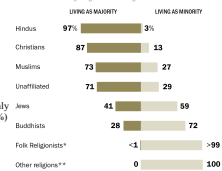
Several religious groups are heavily concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region, including the majority of Hindus (99%), Buddhists (99%), adherents of folk or traditional religions (90%), members of other world religions (89%), the religiously unaffiliated (76%), and Muslims (62%). Of the major religious groups covered in this study, Christians are the most evenly dispersed. A plurality of Jews (44%) live in North America.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the world's people live in countries in which their religious group makes up a majority of the population.

Only about a quarter (27%) live as religious minorities. (This figure does not include subgroups of the eight major groups in this study, such as Shia Muslims living in Sunni-majority countries or Catholics living in Protestant-majority countries.)

### Majority or Minority

Percentage of each religious group that lives in countries where its adherents are a majority or a minority

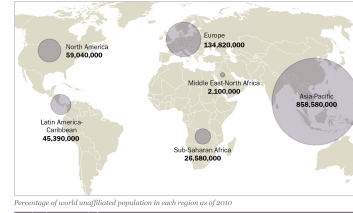


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## 16% Have No Affiliation

### Regional Distribution of the Unaffiliated

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world unaffiliated population in each region as of 2010



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
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The 1.1 billion people with no religious affiliation in 2010 include atheists, agnostics and those who claim no religion in particular. However, many of the religiously unaffiliated have some religious beliefs. For example, belief in God or a higher power is shared by 7% of Chinese unaffiliated adults, 30% of French unaffiliated adults and 68% of unaffiliated U.S. adults.

There are six countries where the religiously unaffiliated make up a majority of the population: the Czech Republic (76% are religiously unaffiliated), North Korea (71%), Estonia (60%), Japan (57%), Hong Kong (56%) and China (52%). The number of religiously unaffiliated people in China alone is more than twice the total population of the United States.

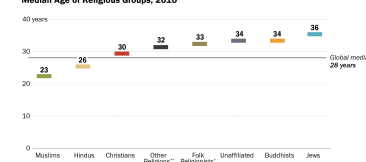
### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Unaffiliated

	ESTIMATED 2010 UNAFFILIATED POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS UNAFFILIATED	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD UNAFFILIATED POPULATION
China	700,680,000	52.2 %	62.2 %
Japan	121,120,000	57.0	6.4
United States	50,980,000	18.4	4.5
Vietnam	26,040,000	29.6	2.3
Russia	23,180,000	18.2	2.1
South Korea	22,350,000	48.4	2.0
Germany	20,350,000	24.7	1.8
France	17,580,000	28.0	1.6
North Korea	17,250,000	71.3	1.5
Brazil	15,410,000	7.9	1.4
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	988,040,000	39.9	85.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	105,460,000	3.5	14.2
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,126,500,000</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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## Median Age Varies Widely

### Median Age of Religious Groups, 2010



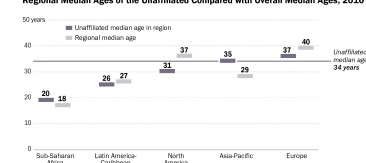
Religious groups are ordered by median age from youngest to oldest.  
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Some religions have much younger populations, on average, than others. In part, the age differences reflect the geographic distribution of religious groups. Those with a larger share of adherents in fast-growing, developing countries tend to have younger populations. Those concentrated in China and in advanced industrial countries, where population growth is slower, tend to be older.

The median age of two major groups – Muslims (23 years) and Hindus (26) – is younger than the median age of the world's overall population (28). All the other groups are older than the global median.

Globally, the religiously unaffiliated have a median age of 34. The religiously unaffiliated are older than the general population in Asia and the Pacific and in sub-Saharan Africa. The religiously unaffiliated are younger than the general population in North America, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Regional Median Ages of the Unaffiliated Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010



Regions are ordered by median age of the unaffiliated from youngest to oldest.  
Median age is the unaffiliated median age in each region.  
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Full Report Including Sortable Tables and  
Methodology Available at [Pewforum.org](http://Pewforum.org)