

Worldwide Adherents of All Religions

Figures on Worldwide Adherents of All Religions by Six Continental Areas are provided in the table.

Worldwide Adherents of All Religions by Six Continental Areas, Mid-2010					
	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America	Northern America
Christians	488,880,000	350,822,000	584,809,000	544,592,000	283,308,000
Affiliated	463,320,000	346,770,000	559,393,000	538,553,000	229,796,000
Roman Catholics	170,484,000	139,526,000	276,688,000	470,622,000	84,400,000
Protestants	136,631,000	88,765,000	67,710,000	58,769,000	60,206,000
Independents	98,239,000	146,423,000	10,839,000	42,669,000	71,227,000
Orthodox	44,507,000	15,832,000	200,620,000	1,038,000	7,262,000
Anglicans	50,215,000	865,000	26,428,000	865,000	2,795,000
Marginal Christians	3,667,000	3,136,000	4,113,000	11,239,000	11,820,000
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>	<i>-40,423,000</i>	<i>-47,777,000</i>	<i>-27,005,000</i>	<i>-46,649,000</i>	<i>-7,914,000</i>
Unaffiliated	25,560,000	4,052,000	25,416,000	6,039,000	53,512,000
Muslims	421,938,820	1,083,354,900	40,174,000	1,599,000	5,598,000

Hindus	2,945,000	935,753,000	991,000	789,000	1,867,000
Nonreligious (agnostics)	5,995,000	504,352,000	84,652,000	16,941,410	43,211,700
Buddhists	258,000	455,412,000	1,777,000	760,000	3,845,000
Chinese folk-religionists	133,000	452,762,000	438,000	189,000	781,000
Ethnoreligionists	109,592,000	153,565,000	1,150,000	3,802,000	1,246,000
Atheists	594,000	116,204,000	15,390,000	2,901,000	2,013,000
New religionists	117,000	59,611,000	364,000	1,744,000	1,747,000
Sikhs	74,000	22,496,000	500,000	6,900	613,000
Jews	134,000	5,980,000	1,914,000	963,000	5,720,000
Spiritists	2,900	2,100	143,000	13,330,000	247,000
Daoists (Taoists)	0	8,412,000	0	0	12,700
Baha'is	2,178,000	3,433,000	142,000	902,000	572,000
Confucianists	20,200	6,433,000	15,500	490	0
Jains	95,100	5,056,000	18,800	1,400	102,000
Shintoists	0	2,700,000	0	7,800	64,200

Zoroastrians	980	148,000	5,700	0	21,400
Other religionists	85,000	245,000	275,000	120,000	690,000
Total population	1,033,043,000	4,166,741,000	732,759,000	588,649,000	351,659,000
	Oceania	World	%	Change Rate (%)	Number of Countries
Christians	28,205,000	2,280,616,000	33.0	1.20	232
Affiliated	23,759,000	2,161,591,000	31.3	1.24	232
Roman Catholics	8,941,000	1,150,661,000	16.7	1.06	231
Protestants	7,714,000	419,795,000	6.1	1.48	229
Independents	1,271,000	370,668,000	5.4	2.04	220
Orthodox	968,000	270,227,000	3.9	0.34	136
Anglicans	4,883,000	86,051,000	1.2	1.44	161
Marginal Christians	668,000	34,643,000	0.5	1.74	217
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>	<i>-686,000</i>	<i>-170,454,000</i>	<i>-2.5</i>	<i>1.06</i>	<i>174</i>
Unaffiliated	4,446,000	119,025,000	1.7	0.64	226
Muslims	524,000	1,553,188,720	22.5	1.79	209

Hindus	526,000	942,871,000	13.6	1.38	125
Nonreligious (agnostics)	4,629,100	659,781,210	9.6	0.48	231
Buddhists	573,000	462,625,000	6.7	0.86	150
Chinese folk-religionists	101,000	454,404,000	6.6	0.56	119
Ethnoreligionists	368,000	269,723,000	3.9	1.44	145
Atheists	462,000	137,564,000	2.0	-0.17	220
New religionists	101,000	63,684,000	0.9	0.21	119
Sikhs	48,600	23,738,500	0.3	1.42	55
Jews	113,000	14,824,000	0.2	0.69	139
Spiritists	7,600	13,732,600	0.2	0.89	57
Daoists (Taoists)	4,400	8,429,100	0.1	0.52	6
Baha'is	110,000	7,337,000	0.1	1.56	221
Confucianists	47,600	6,516,790	0.1	0.45	16
Jains	3,200	5,276,500	0.1	-0.04	19
Shintoists	0	2,772,000	0.0	1.32	8

Zoroastrians	2,500	178,580	0.0	0.83	27
Other religionists	12,000	1,427,000	0.0	1.31	79
Total population	35,838,000	6,908,689,000	100.0	1.19	232

Continents. These follow current UN demographic terminology, which now divides the world into the six major areas shown above. *See United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision* (New York: UN, 2009), with populations of all continents, regions, and countries covering the period 1950–2050, with 100 variables for every country each year. Note that "Asia" includes the former Soviet Central Asian states, and "Europe" includes all of Russia eastward to the Pacific.

Change Rate. This column documents the annual change in 2010 (calculated as an average annual change from 2000 to 2010) in worldwide religious and nonreligious adherents. Note that in 2010 the annual growth of world population was 1.19%, or a net increase of 79,284,600 persons.

Countries. The last column enumerates sovereign and nonsovereign countries in which each religion or religious grouping has a numerically significant and organized following.

Adherents. As defined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a person's religion is what he or she professes, confesses, or states that it is. Totals are enumerated for each of the world's 232 countries following the methodology of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (2001), and *World Christian Trends* (2001), using recent censuses, polls, surveys, yearbooks, reports, Web sites, literature, and other data. *See the World Christian Database*(www.worldchristiandatabase.org, Brill) and *World Religion Database*(www.worldreligiondatabase.org, Brill) for more detail. Religions (including nonreligious and atheists) are ranked in order of worldwide size in mid-2010.

Atheists. Persons professing atheism, skepticism, disbelief, or irreligion, including the militantly antireligious (opposed to all religion). A flurry of recent books have outlined the Western philosophical and scientific basis for atheism. Ironically, the vast majority of atheists today are found in Asia

(primarily Chinese communists).

Buddhists. 56% Mahayana, 38% Theravada (Hinayana), 6% Tantrayana (Lamaism).

Chinese folk-religionists. Followers of a unique complex of beliefs and practices that may include universism (yin/yang cosmology with dualities earth/heaven, evil/good, darkness/light), ancestor cult, Confucian ethics, divination, festivals, folk religion, goddess worship, household gods, local deities, mediums, metaphysics, monasteries, neo-Confucianism, popular religion, sacrifices, shamans, spirit-writing, and Daoist (Taoist) and Buddhist elements.

Christians. Followers of Jesus Christ, enumerated here under **Affiliated**, those affiliated with churches (church members, with names written on church rolls, usually total number of baptized persons including children baptized, dedicated, or undedicated): total in 2010 being 2,161,591,000, shown above divided among the six standardized ecclesiastical megablocs and with (negative and italicized) figures for those **Doubly affiliated persons** (all who are baptized members of two denominations) and **Unaffiliated**, who are persons professing or confessing in censuses or polls to be Christians though not so affiliated. **Independents.** This term here denotes members of Christian churches and networks that regard themselves as postdenominationalist and neoapostolic and thus independent of historical, mainstream, organized, institutionalized, confessional, denominationalist Christianity. **Marginal Christians.** Members of denominations who define themselves as Christians but on the margins of organized mainstream Christianity (e.g., Unitarians, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, and Religious Science).

Confucianists. Non-Chinese followers of Confucius and Confucianism, mostly Koreans in Korea.

Ethnoreligionists. Followers of local, tribal, animistic, or shamanistic religions, with members restricted to one ethnic group.

Hindus. 68% Vaishnavites, 27% Shaivites, 2% neo-Hindus and reform Hindus.

Jews. Adherents of Judaism. For detailed data on "core" Jewish population, see the annual "World Jewish Populations" article in the American

Jewish Committee's *American Jewish Year Book*.

Muslims. 84% Sunnites, 14% Shi'ites, 2% other schools.

New religionists. Followers of Asian 20th-century neoreligions, neoreligious movements, radical new crisis religions, and non-Christian syncretistic mass religions.

Nonreligious (agnostics). Persons professing no religion, nonbelievers, agnostics, freethinkers, uninterested, or dereligionized secularists indifferent to all religion but not militantly so.

Other religionists. Including a handful of religions, quasi-religions, pseudoreligions, parareligions, religious or mystic systems, and religious and semireligious brotherhoods of numerous varieties.

Total population. UN medium variant figures for mid-2010, as given in *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*.

Source: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1731588/Religion-Year-In-Review-2010/298437/Worldwide-Adherents-of-All-Religions>