

Status of Global Christianity, 2021, in the Context of 1900–2050

Year:	1900	1970	2000	Trend % p.a.	mid-2021	2025	2050
GLOBAL POPULATION							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,700,578,000	6,145,007,000	1.19	7,875,465,000	8,185,614,000	9,771,823,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,311,829,000	4,295,756,000	1.50	5,878,250,000	6,168,588,000	7,689,005,000
3. Adults, % literate	27.6	63.8	76.7	0.45	84.2	84.3	88.0
GLOBAL CITIES AND URBAN MISSION							
4. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.6	46.7	0.92	56.6	58.3	68.4
5. Urban poor	100 million	650 million	1,400 million	3.10	2,660 million	3,000 million	4,100 million
6. Slum dwellers	20 million	260 million	700 million	3.36	1,400 million	1,600 million	1,900 million
7. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,354,213,000	2,868,301,000	2.12	4,455,416,000	4,774,652,000	6,679,764,000
8. Christian urban population	159,600,000	660,800,000	1,221,824,000	1.55	1,686,925,000	1,749,127,000	2,472,589,000
9. Cities over 1 million	20	145	371	2.26	593	653	950
10. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	2.15	353	394	500
11. New non-Christians per day	5,200	51,100	137,000	0.95	167,000	174,000	129,000
GLOBAL RELIGION							
12. Religious diversity	0.27	0.43	0.45	-0.08	0.44	0.44	0.43
13. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,991,122,000	5,347,575,000	1.29	6,996,150,000	7,318,714,000	8,922,221,000
14. Christians	558,346,000	1,229,309,000	1,988,967,000	1.18	2,545,579,000	2,660,574,000	3,421,107,000
15. Muslims	200,301,000	570,567,000	1,291,280,000	1.92	1,926,115,000	2,061,407,000	2,802,391,000
16. Hindus	202,976,000	462,982,000	822,397,000	1.28	1,073,619,000	1,101,278,000	1,226,939,000
17. Buddhists	126,946,000	234,957,000	452,301,000	0.94	550,493,000	569,204,000	591,796,000
18. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	238,027,000	431,244,000	0.42	471,103,000	491,548,000	415,932,000
19. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	169,417,000	224,055,000	0.89	269,949,000	271,532,000	284,792,000
20. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,557,000	62,943,000	0.19	65,441,000	64,914,000	61,031,000
21. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	19,973,000	1.71	28,538,000	29,640,000	34,914,000
22. Jews	11,725,000	13,902,000	12,881,000	0.68	14,838,000	15,141,000	16,994,000
23. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	709,456,000	797,432,000	0.47	879,315,000	866,900,000	849,601,000
24. Agnostics	3,028,000	544,300,000	656,410,000	0.52	731,705,000	723,108,000	701,818,000
25. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	141,023,000	0.22	147,609,000	143,792,000	147,784,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION							
26. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	33.2	32.4	-0.01	32.3	32.5	35.0
27. Affiliated Christians	522,440,000	1,112,655,000	1,889,808,000	1.21	2,432,007,000	2,543,469,000	3,303,112,000
28. Roman Catholics	265,756,000	658,556,000	1,025,102,000	0.95	1,250,319,000	1,286,883,000	1,551,403,000
29. Protestants	134,196,000	251,901,000	429,180,000	1.56	593,660,000	624,924,000	895,056,000
30. Independents	8,859,000	89,480,000	284,439,000	1.60	396,991,000	422,968,000	621,855,000
31. Orthodox	116,199,000	141,930,000	257,741,000	0.62	293,599,000	296,858,000	312,133,000
32. Unaffiliated Christians	35,906,000	116,654,000	99,159,000	0.65	113,572,000	117,105,000	117,996,000
33. Evangelicals	80,912,000	111,809,000	270,635,000	1.80	393,545,000	420,870,000	620,963,000
34. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	57,637,000	442,677,000	1.89	655,557,000	703,639,000	1,031,500,000
CHURCH ORGANIZATION							
35. Denominations / Rites	2,000	13,100	31,100	1.84	45,600	49,000	64,000
36. Congregations	400,000	1,329,000	3,000,000	1.84	4,100,000	4,300,000	5,500,000
CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT							
37. Global North	459,901,000	703,710,000	816,017,000	0.10	832,729,000	827,529,000	787,352,000
38. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	380,647,000	492,068,000	562,140,000	0.01	563,906,000	556,483,000	501,724,000
39. Northern America (1 region)	79,254,000	211,642,000	253,877,000	0.27	268,822,000	271,046,000	285,628,000
40. Global South	98,445,000	525,599,000	1,172,950,000	1.82	1,712,851,000	1,833,045,000	2,633,755,000
41. Africa (5 regions)	9,640,000	140,023,000	382,510,000	2.81	684,931,000	760,781,000	1,324,601,000
42. Asia (5 regions)	21,966,000	95,758,000	279,960,000	1.50	382,829,000	406,689,000	571,364,000
43. Latin America (3 regions)	62,002,000	271,568,000	486,111,000	1.14	617,295,000	636,854,000	703,255,000
44. Oceania (4 regions)	4,837,000	18,250,000	24,369,000	0.63	27,796,000	28,721,000	34,536,000
CHRISTIAN MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION							
45. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	0.92	13,200,000	14,000,000	17,000,000
46. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	0.11	430,000	450,000	600,000
47. Foreign mission sending agencies	600	2,200	4,000	1.62	5,600	6,000	7,500
48. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	-2.70	900,000	900,000	1,000,000
49. % in Christian countries	95.0	76.0	59.1	-0.39	54.4	54.6	48.6
50. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.3	13.2	17.3	0.24	18.2	18.5	19.7
CHRISTIAN MEDIA							
51. Books (titles) about Christianity	300,000	1,800,000	4,800,000	3.65	10,200,000	11,800,000	14,500,000
52. Christian periodicals (titles)	3,500	23,000	35,000	4.32	85,000	100,000	120,000
53. Bibles printed per year	5 million	25 million	54 million	2.52	91 million	100 million	120 million
54. Scriptures (including selections) printed per year	20 million	281 million	4,600 million	1.07	5,250 million	6,000 million	9,200 million
55. Bible density (copies in place)	108 million	443 million	1,400 million	1.04	1,740 million	1,800 million	2,300 million
56. Users of radio/TV/Internet	0	750 million	1,840 million	1.15	2,340 million	2,460 million	2,930 million
CHRISTIAN FINANCE (IN US\$, PER YEAR)							
57. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	5.08	51,000 billion	54,000 billion	70,000 billion
58. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	4.75	848 billion	1,000 billion	2,300 billion
59. Churches' income	7 billion	50 billion	130 billion	4.68	340 billion	400 billion	900 billion
60. Parachurch and institutional income	1 billion	20 billion	190 billion	4.81	510 billion	600 billion	1,400 billion
61. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	5.22	55 billion	70 billion	170 billion
62. Income of global foreign missions	200 million	3 billion	18 billion	4.96	49 billion	60 billion	120 billion
WORLD EVANGELIZATION							
63. Unevangelized population	880,122,000	1,650,954,000	1,843,175,000	0.90	2,223,956,000	2,321,273,000	2,739,879,000
64. Unevangelized as % of world population	54.3	44.6	30.0	-0.29	28.2	28.4	28.0

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2021
(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Gina A. Zurlo, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing. “World Christianity and Mission 2021: Questions about the Future.” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, January 2021. 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 2017 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2017).

3. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2005–2017) and Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds., *World Christian Database* (Leiden: Brill, accessed July 2019).

4, 7, 9. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

12. 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.

13. Religionists include smaller religions not shown in the indented lines (Spiritists, Daoists, Confucianists, Baha’is, Jains, Shintoists, Zoroastrians).

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

33. 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.

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

48. World totals of current long-term trend for all confessions (see *WCT*, part 4, “Martyrology”).

57–62. Defined in *WCT*, part 20, “Finance.”

61. 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, 2000–2021, as a % per year.



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