

Status of Global Christianity, 2026, in the Context of 1900–2075

	1900	1970	2000	2020	Trend % p.a.*	2026	2075
GLOBAL POPULATION, INDICATORS, AND CITIES							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,694,684,000	6,171,703,000	7,887,001,000	0.86	8,300,678,000	10,250,496,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,300,913,000	4,296,697,000	5,851,941,000	1.24	6,300,354,000	8,403,653,000
3. % with some secondary education	1	13	52	65	0.28	66	74
4. Refugees per 100,000	–	5	195	290	7.60	450	–
5. Carbon dioxide emissions (t per person)	1.6	4.0	4.0	4.3	0.74	4.5	5.7
6. Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	143	85	52	20	-1.74	18	10
7. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.6	46.6	56.0	0.75	58.6	80.0
8. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,351,007,000	2,875,602,000	4,418,052,000	1.61	4,862,300,000	8,200,397,000
9. Cities over 1 million	20	145	371	579	2.46	670	1,370
10. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	345	2.80	407	990
GLOBAL RELIGION							
11. Religious diversity	2.7	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.05	4.4	4.3
12. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,985,919,000	5,385,821,000	6,982,224,000	0.95	7,388,710,000	9,534,076,000
13. Christians	558,346,000	1,222,867,000	1,993,436,000	2,526,029,000	0.95	2,673,989,000	3,675,544,000
14. Muslims	200,301,000	576,995,000	1,311,342,000	1,917,487,000	1.57	2,105,142,000	3,422,840,000
15. Hindus	202,976,000	455,729,000	842,884,000	1,097,448,000	0.76	1,148,172,000	1,193,892,000
16. Buddhists	126,946,000	234,130,000	448,943,000	528,137,000	0.24	535,726,000	430,019,000
17. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	238,645,000	422,590,000	456,538,000	-0.27	449,231,000	354,417,000
18. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	171,674,000	226,919,000	293,413,000	0.88	309,298,000	267,472,000
19. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,557,000	63,518,000	68,256,000	-0.07	67,964,000	57,773,000
20. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	21,576,000	29,292,000	1.10	31,276,000	45,899,000
21. Jews	11,725,000	13,917,000	12,942,000	15,239,000	0.57	15,765,000	20,439,000
22. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	708,765,000	785,882,000	904,777,000	0.13	911,969,000	716,421,000
23. Agnostics	3,028,000	543,609,000	647,584,000	756,480,000	0.19	764,998,000	632,734,000
24. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	138,298,000	148,297,000	-0.15	146,970,000	83,687,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION							
25. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	33.1	32.3	32.0	0.10	32.2	35.9
26. Affiliated Christians	522,440,000	1,111,990,000	1,891,714,000	2,393,889,000	0.94	2,532,232,000	3,477,604,000
27. Catholics	265,756,000	656,330,000	1,025,776,000	1,236,702,000	0.56	1,278,885,000	1,516,574,000
28. Protestants	134,196,000	251,902,000	429,249,000	586,195,000	1.42	637,856,000	1,018,981,000
29. Independents	8,859,000	89,480,000	284,419,000	395,485,000	1.26	426,370,000	702,513,000
30. Orthodox	116,199,000	138,669,000	257,102,000	287,949,000	0.28	292,757,000	347,922,000
31. Unaffiliated Christians	35,906,000	110,877,000	101,722,000	132,140,000	1.18	141,756,000	197,940,000
32. Evangelicals	80,912,000	113,161,000	280,897,000	391,673,000	1.34	424,255,000	711,955,000
33. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	57,630,000	442,640,000	630,824,000	1.16	676,117,000	1,138,447,000
34. Denominations / Rites	2,000	13,100	31,000	45,100	2.73	53,000	72,000
35. Congregations	400,000	1,330,000	3,000,000	4,180,000	1.97	4,700,000	6,100,000
CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT							
36. Global North	459,901,000	700,995,000	816,340,000	844,839,000	-0.33	828,457,000	660,684,000
37. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	380,647,000	491,158,000	562,875,000	567,040,000	-0.41	553,294,000	398,231,000
38. Northern America (1 region)	79,254,000	209,836,000	253,465,000	277,799,000	-0.16	275,163,000	262,453,000
39. Global South	98,445,000	521,872,000	1,177,095,000	1,681,190,000	1.57	1,845,532,000	3,014,860,000
40. Africa (5 regions)	9,640,000	137,106,000	388,250,000	668,451,000	2.60	779,575,000	1,815,656,000
41. Asia (5 regions)	21,966,000	97,532,000	282,624,000	385,491,000	1.27	415,772,000	536,697,000
42. Latin America (3 regions)	62,002,000	269,176,000	481,757,000	596,948,000	0.62	619,542,000	627,442,000
43. Oceania (4 regions)	4,837,000	18,058,000	24,464,000	30,301,000	0.19	30,643,000	35,065,000
44. Percent of all Christians in the Global South	17.6	42.7	59.0	66.6	0.61	69.0	82.0
45. Middle East	5,803,000	8,439,000	15,426,000	19,600,000	1.55	21,499,000	31,205,000
46. Christian percent of Middle East population	12.7	6.1	5.0	4.2	-0.07	4.2	4.1
47. % of all Christians in Christian countries	95.0	76.0	60.9	51.0	0.16	51.5	48.5
MISSION AND CHRISTIAN FINANCE							
48. Population without gospel access	879,998,000	1,650,584,000	1,858,141,000	2,225,437,000	0.55	2,300,248,000	2,762,319,000
49. No gospel access as % of world population	54.3	44.7	30.1	28.2	-0.30	27.7	26.9
50. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.4	13.4	17.5	18.9	0.03	18.9	19.6
51. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	13,000,000	1.24	14,000,000	18,000,000
52. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	425,000	1.14	455,000	690,000
53. Languages with New Testament translations	228	582	1,454	2,257	2.39	2,600	7,600
54. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	900,000	0.00	900,000	1,000,000
55. Personal income of Christians (US\$, per year)	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	56,470 billion	0.73	59,000 billion	80,000 billion
56. Giving to Christian causes (US\$, per year)	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	1,032 billion	0.78	1,081 billion	1,600 billion
57. Ecclesiastical crime (US\$, per year)	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	67 billion	0.78	70 billion	120 billion

*Column % p.a. trend. Average annual rate of change, 2020–2026, as % per year.

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2026

(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Gina A. Zurlo, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing, “World Christianity 2026: Anticipating the Future,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, Vol. 50 (1), January 2026. 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 2024 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2024).

3. Population with at least some secondary education (% aged 25 and above). Primary source: Barro and Lee (2018), ICF Demographic and Health Surveys, OECD (2023) et.al. in HDR 2023-24.

4. Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin. Primary source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (2021).

5. Annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (production) tonnes per capita. Primary source: Global Carbon Project (2023) in HDR 2023-24.

7–10. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

11. 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.

12. 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).

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

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

32. 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.

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

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

47. Percentage of all Christians living in countries ≥80% Christian.

48. Defined in David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends* (William Carey Library, 2001), pt. 25, “Macroevangelistics.” The new term “Population without gospel access” is synonymous with “Unevangelized population” from past tables.

53. 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).

54. 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.”

55–57. Defined in *World Christian Trends*, part 20, “Finance.”

57. 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.