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# Around the World, Many People Are Leaving Their Childhood Religions

*Surveys in 36 countries find that Christianity and Buddhism have the biggest losses from ‘religious switching’*

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## About Pew Research Center

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## Terminology

Throughout this report, **religious switching** refers to a change between the religious group in which a person says they were raised (during their childhood) and their religious identity now (in adulthood). The rates of religious switching are based on responses to two survey questions we asked of adults ages 18 and older:

- “What is your current religion, if any?”
- “Thinking about when you were a child, in what religion were you raised, if any?”

The responses to these two questions allow us to calculate what percentage of the public has left a religious group (or “switched out”) and what percentage has entered (or “switched in”). This kind of switching can take place without any formal rite or ceremony.

We have analyzed switching into and out of five widely recognized, worldwide religions to allow for consistent comparisons around the globe. Specifically, this report analyzes change between the following groups: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, other religions, religiously unaffiliated adults, and those who did not answer the question.

For example, someone who was raised Buddhist but now identifies as Christian would be considered as having switched religions – as would someone who was raised Christian but is now unaffiliated.

However, switching *within* a religious tradition, such as between Catholicism and Protestantism, is not captured in this report. (Refer to Pew Research Center’s [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) for an analysis of switching in the United States that *does* count some switching within Christianity. Read “[4 facts about religious switching within Judaism in Israel](#)” for an analysis of switching within Judaism.)

**Religiously unaffiliated** refers to people who answer a question about their current religion (or their upbringing) by saying they are (or were raised as) atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular.” This category is sometimes called “no religion” or “nones.”

**Other religions** is an umbrella category. It contains a wide variety of religions that are not in the other categories and that have survey sample sizes too small to analyze separately in most countries. This includes Sikhism, Jainism, the Baha’i faith, African traditional religions, Native American religious traditions, and others.

**Disaffiliation rates** refer to the percentage of adults who say they were raised in a religion but are now religiously unaffiliated (or have no religion).

**Net gains/losses** are the differences between the percentage of survey respondents who say they were raised in a particular religious category (as children) and the percentage who identify with that same category at the time of the survey (as adults). The “net” gain or loss takes into account both sides of the equation – those who have left *and* those who have entered the group.

**Retention rates** show, among all the people who say they were raised in a particular religious group, the percentage who still describe themselves as belonging to that group today.

**Accession rates** (also called entrance rates) show, among all the people who describe themselves as belonging to a particular religious group today, the percentage who were raised in some other group.

## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this analysis to examine rates of religious switching in 36 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East-North Africa region, North America and sub-Saharan Africa. The countries have a variety of historically predominant religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

### Countries included in this report



Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Around the World, Many People Are Leaving Their Childhood Religions"

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For non-U.S. data, this analysis draws on nationally representative surveys of 41,503 adults conducted from Jan. 5 to May 22, 2024. All interviews were conducted over the phone with adults in Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Interviews were conducted face-to-face in Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. In Australia, we used a mixed-mode probability-based online panel.

For the United States, data comes from the 2023-2024 [Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS). The new RLS was conducted in English and Spanish from July 17, 2023, to March 4, 2024, among a

nationally representative sample of 36,908 U.S. adults. Respondents had the option of completing the survey online, on paper, or by calling a toll-free number and completing the survey by telephone with an interviewer. The RLS was made possible by The Pew Charitable Trusts, which received support from the Lilly Endowment Inc., Templeton Religion Trust, The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

Here are the [questions and responses used for this report](#), along with the [survey methodology](#).

This analysis was produced by Pew Research Center as part of the [Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project](#), which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world. Funding for the Global Religious Futures project comes from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John Templeton Foundation (grant 63095). This publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the John Templeton Foundation.

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# Around the World, Many People Are Leaving Their Childhood Religions

*Surveys in 36 countries find that Christianity and Buddhism have the biggest losses from ‘religious switching’*

In many countries around the world, a fifth or more of all adults have left the religious group in which they were raised. Christianity and Buddhism have experienced especially large losses from this “religious switching,” while rising numbers of adults have no religious affiliation, according to Pew Research Center surveys of nearly 80,000 people in 36 countries.

Rates of religious switching vary widely around the globe, the surveys show.

## **What is religious switching?**

Throughout this report, **religious switching** refers to a change between the religious group in which a person says they were raised (during their childhood) and their religious identity now (in adulthood).

We use the term religious switching instead of “conversion” because the changes can take place in many directions – including from having been raised in a religion to being unaffiliated.

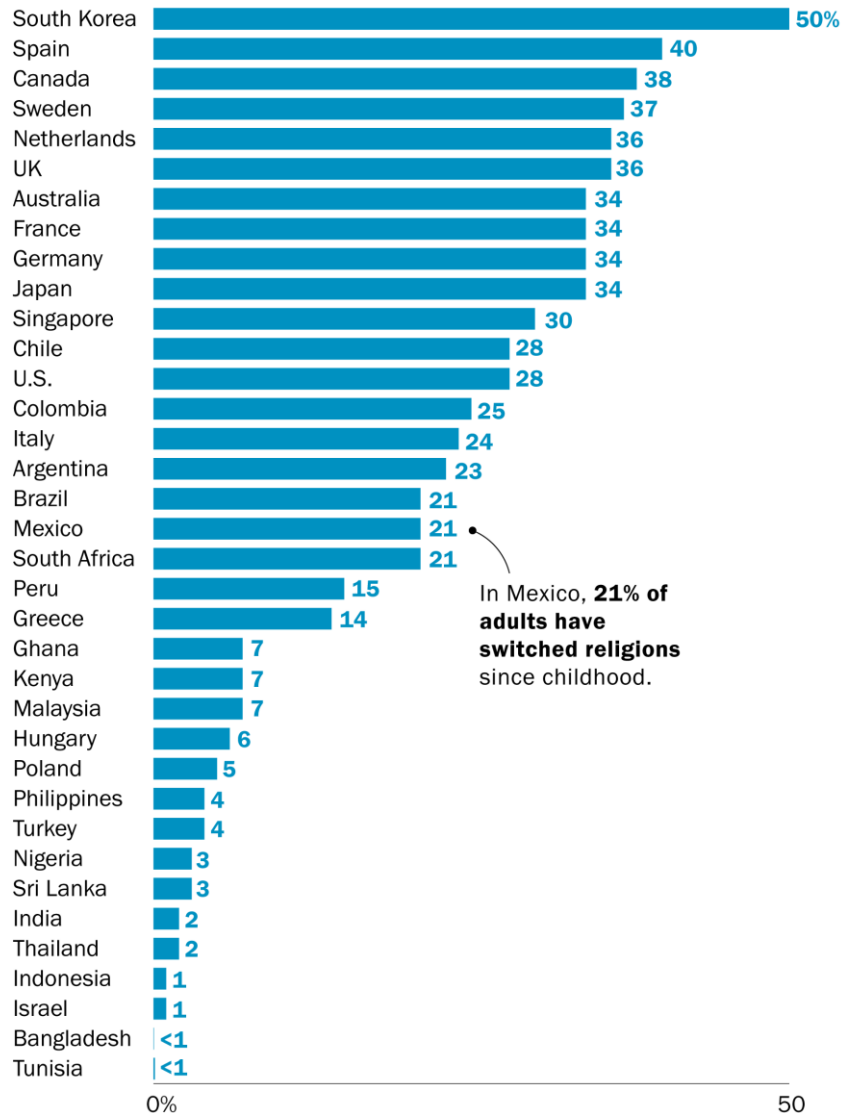
We count changes *between* large religious categories (such as from Buddhist to Christian, or from Hindu to unaffiliated) but not switching *within* a world religion (such as from one Christian denomination to another). Refer to the [Terminology](#) section for details.

**In some countries, changing religions is very rare.** In India, Israel, Nigeria and Thailand, 95% or more of adults say they still belong to the religious group in which they were raised.

**But across East Asia, Western Europe, North America and South America, switching is fairly common.** For example, 50% of adults in South Korea, 36% in the Netherlands, 28% in the United States and 21% in Brazil no longer identify with their childhood religion.

## About 20% or more of adults in many countries in East Asia, Europe and the Americas have switched religions

*% of adults in each country who belong to a religious category (including unaffiliated) different from the one they were raised in*



Note: Rates are based on self-reported childhood and present religions. We measure switching between the following categories: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, other religions, religiously unaffiliated and those who did not answer the questions.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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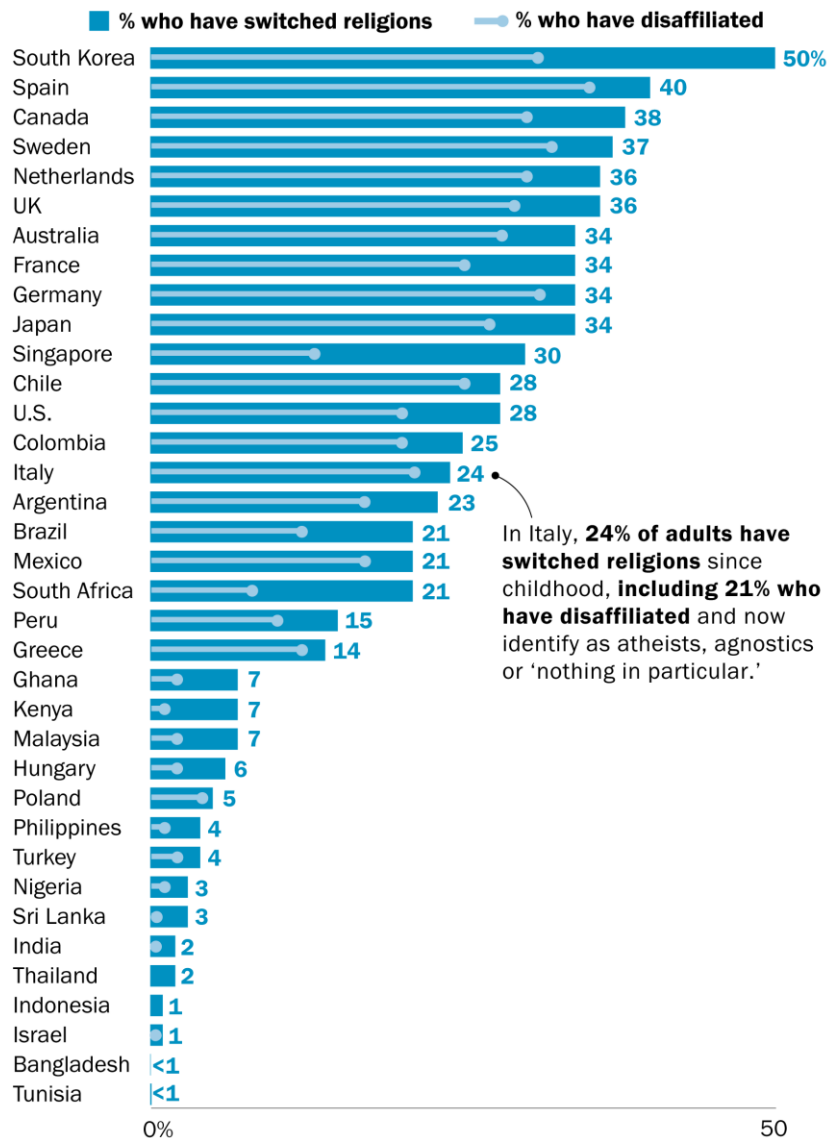
## Which religions are people switching to?

Most of the movement has been into the category we call religiously unaffiliated, which consists of people who answer a question about their religion by saying they are atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular.”

In other words, **most of the switching is *disaffiliation* – people leaving the religion of their childhood and no longer identifying with *any* religion.**

### Most religious switching has been by people who were raised in a religion and are now unaffiliated

*% of adults in each country who have switched religions since childhood, including the share who have disaffiliated (i.e., were raised in a religion but are now unaffiliated)*



Note: Rates are based on self-reported childhood religion and present religion. We measure switching between the following categories: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, other religions, religiously unaffiliated and those who did not answer the questions.  
 Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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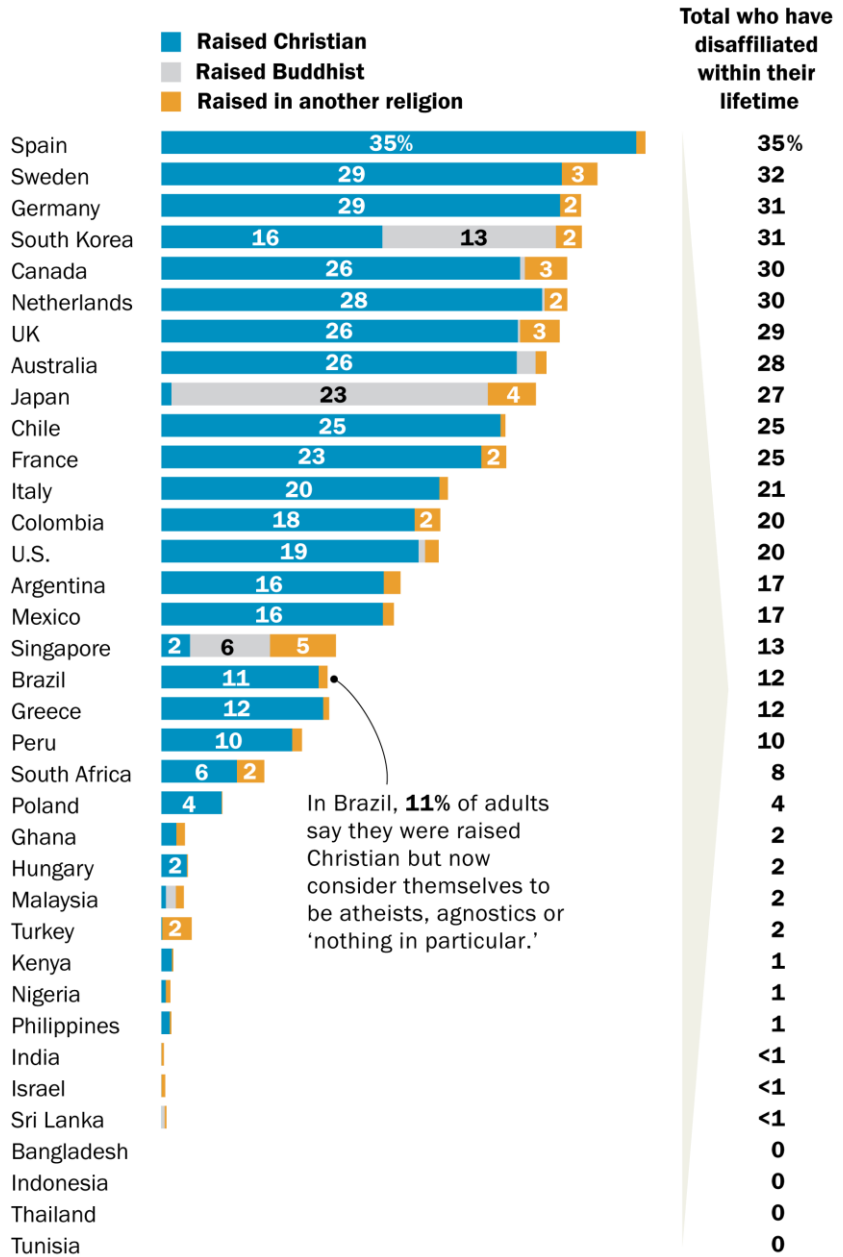
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Many of these people were raised as Christians. For example, 29% of adults in Sweden say they were raised Christian but now describe themselves religiously as atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular.”

Buddhism also is losing adherents through disaffiliation in some countries. For example, 23% of adults surveyed in Japan and 13% in South Korea say they were raised as Buddhists but don’t identify with any religion today.

### Most religious disaffiliation is from Christianity

% of adults in each country who say they were \_\_\_ but now identify as religiously unaffiliated (atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”)



Note: “Raised in another religion” in this chart includes respondents who say they were raised Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, some other religion, or did not state their childhood religion. Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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However, not all switching is away from religion. Some people move in the opposite direction. Of the 36 countries surveyed, **South Korea has the highest share of people who say they were raised with no affiliation but have a religion today (9%)**. Most of them (6% of all South Korean adults) say they had no religious upbringing and are now Christian.

Additionally, about one-in-ten or more adults in Singapore (13%), South Africa (12%) and South Korea (11%) have switched between two religions.

While these figures reflect religious trends in the 36 countries included in the survey, they are not necessarily representative of the entire world's population. Christianity – the [world's largest](#) and [most geographically widespread](#) religion, by Pew Research Center's estimates – is either the current majority faith or historically has been a predominant religion in 25 of the countries surveyed.

Islam, the world's second-largest religion, is a historically predominant religion in six of the 36 countries surveyed: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tunisia and Turkey. (We consider *both* Christianity and Islam to predominate in Nigeria, which is closely divided religiously.)

Buddhism has been predominant in five other countries surveyed: Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Thailand. (We also count South Korea as having *two* predominant religions, Buddhism and Christianity.)

Hinduism and Judaism are each the predominant religion in just one country surveyed (India and Israel, respectively).

### **Other questions answered in this Overview:**

- [Which religious groups have experienced the largest losses from religious switching?](#)
- [Which religious group has gained the most from religious switching?](#)
- [Are there differences in religious switching rates by age, education or gender?](#)

#### **Jump ahead to:**

- Switching into and out of [Christianity](#)
- Switching into and out of the [religiously unaffiliated](#) group
- Switching into and out of [Buddhism](#)
- Switching into and out of [Islam](#)
- Switching into and out of [Hinduism](#)
- Switching into and out of [Judaism](#)

### **Other factors driving religious change**

This report focuses on religious switching. But switching is far from the only factor driving changes in the size of religious groups around the world. Other factors include [migration rates](#) (how many people in each religious group are moving into and out of a particular place); [age structure](#) (variations in the demographic makeup of religious groups by age and sex); [fertility rates](#) (the number of children born to women in different religious groups); and [mortality rates](#) (whether people in some religious groups live longer than others).

For example, across sub-Saharan Africa, [the numbers of both Christians and Muslims are rising](#), largely because of high birth rates rather than switching. In the United States, the size of [Muslim](#), [Buddhist](#) and [Hindu](#) populations are growing, due in large part to migration. And in some Western European countries, [more Christians are now dying than being born each year](#), reflecting the continent's low fertility rates.

Pew Research Center has published several global demographic studies looking at the interplay between all these factors and projecting the future growth rates of major world religions under various scenarios, including:

- [“The Religious Composition of the World’s Migrants”](#)
- [“Modeling the Future of Religion in America”](#)
- [“Europe’s Growing Muslim Population”](#)
- [“The Changing Global Religious Landscape”](#)
- [“The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050”](#)

## Which religious groups have experienced the largest losses from religious switching?

Another way of analyzing religious switching is to examine *net* gains and losses – how many people have entered and how many have left each religious group.

Net gains and losses can be expressed as a ratio: For every person who has left, how many people have joined a particular religion?

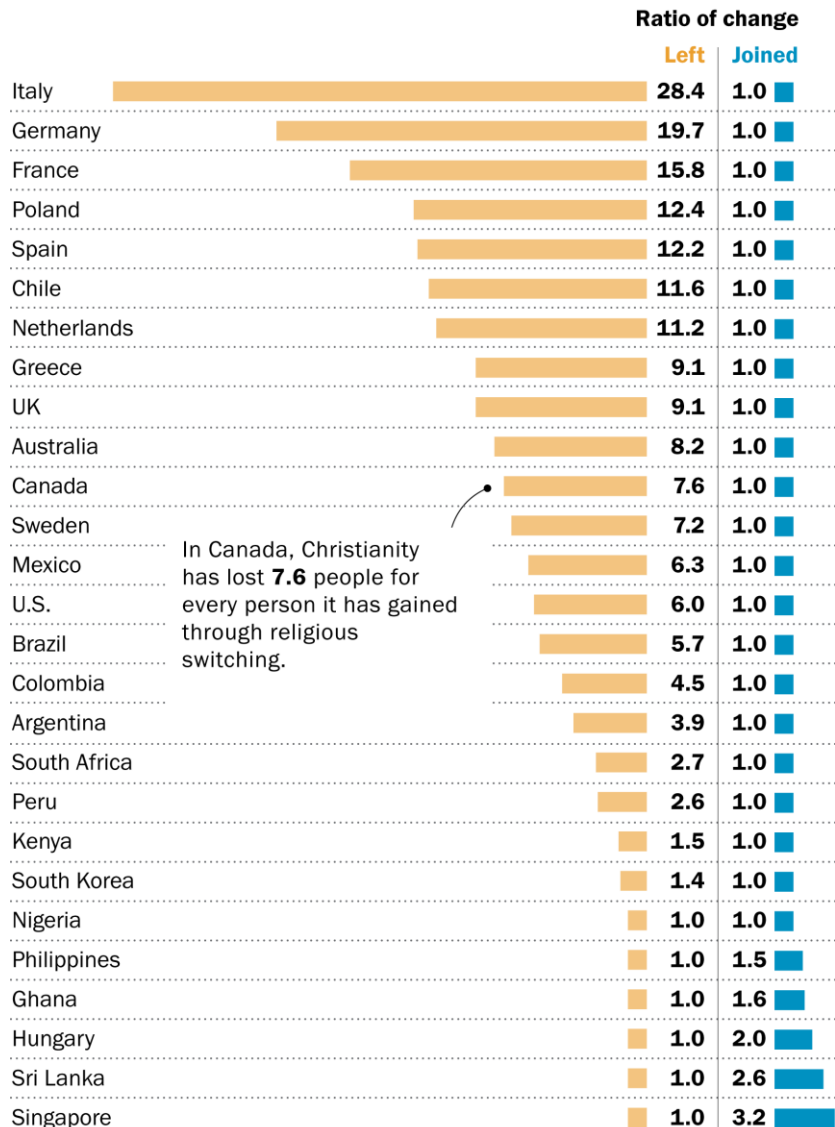
**In most of the countries surveyed, Christianity has the highest ratios of people leaving to people joining – the largest net losses.**

In Germany, for example, this ratio among Christians is 19.7 to 1.0, meaning *there are nearly 20 Germans* who say they were raised as Christians in childhood but don't consider themselves Christian today *for every one German* who has become a Christian after being raised in another world religion or in no religion.

**In a handful of countries, though, Christianity is making small gains from religious switching.** In Singapore, for instance, the

### Christianity is experiencing large losses from religious switching in many countries

Ratio of adults who have **left Christianity** to those who have **joined Christianity**, by country



Note: Countries without a sufficient sample size of Christian adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023–March 4, 2024.

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ratio among Christians is 1.0 to 3.2. For every Singaporean who has left Christianity, about three others have become Christians.

And in a few other places, roughly equal numbers of people are leaving and joining Christianity. For example, the ratio in Nigeria is 1.0 to 1.0.

(Read more about switching into and out of Christianity in [Chapter 1.](#))

The survey also shows that **Buddhism is experiencing large losses from religious switching – mostly disaffiliation – in a few countries, such as Japan, Singapore and South Korea.**

However, the leaving-to-joining ratios are not as high as those for Christianity. For instance, in Japan – the country with the largest percentage of people who say they were raised Buddhist but are no longer Buddhists – the leaving-to-joining ratio among Buddhists is 11.7 to 1.0.

(Read more about switching into and out of Buddhism in [Chapter 3.](#))



## Which religious group has gained the most from religious switching?

The category that has experienced the largest net gains from switching is the religiously unaffiliated.

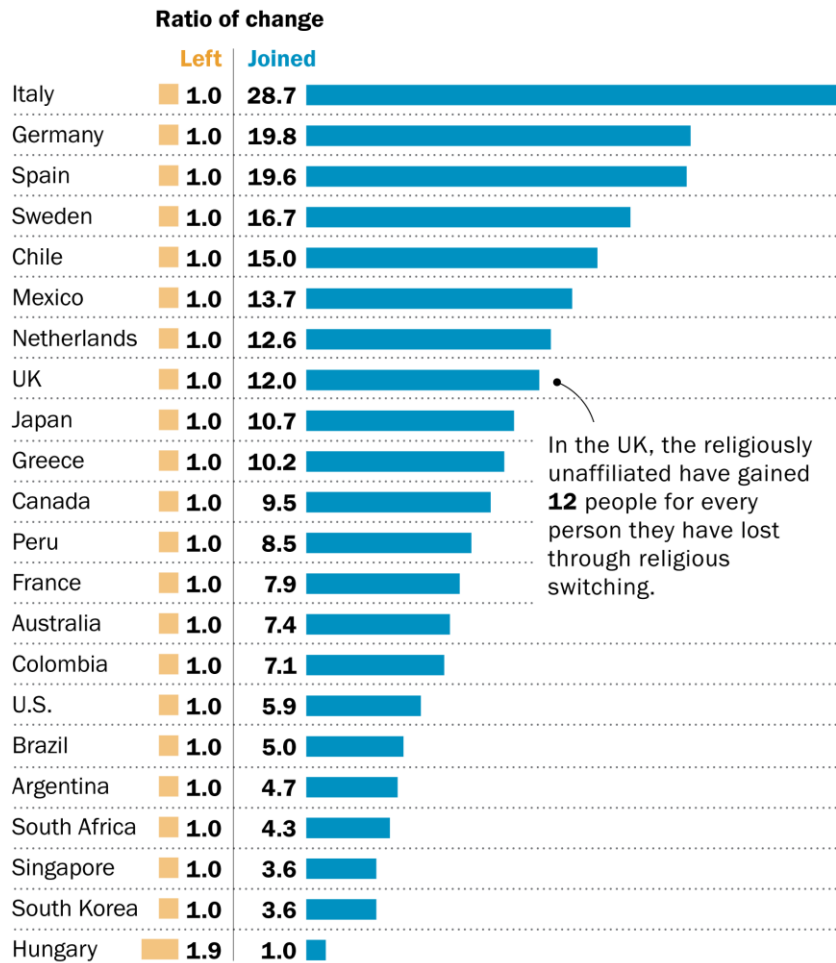
In countries with substantial numbers of people who describe themselves as having no religion – sometimes called “nones” – many more survey respondents have become unaffiliated than have joined a religion after being raised without one.

In Italy, for example, the ratio of leaving to joining among the unaffiliated is 1.0 to 28.7. For every person who was raised without a religious affiliation but who now has a religion, more than 28 people say they were raised in a religion but no longer have one.

However, in Hungary, this is not the case. For every Hungarian who has become religiously unaffiliated, nearly two others say they were raised without a religion but now identify with one (a leaving-to-joining ratio of 1.9 to 1.0). Most of the Hungarians who have taken on a religion after being raised without one are now Christians.

### In many countries, the religiously unaffiliated are making large gains from religious switching

Ratio of adults who have left the religiously unaffiliated group to those who have joined the religiously unaffiliated, by country



Note: Countries without a sufficient sample size of religiously unaffiliated adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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(Read more about switching out of the religiously unaffiliated category in [Chapter 2](#).)

## Are there differences in religious switching rates by age, education or gender?

### Age

In most countries surveyed, roughly equal percentages of younger and older adults have switched religions. For example, in Singapore, 29% of adults between the ages of 18 and 34 say they belong to a religious group that is different from the one in which they were raised, as do 29% of adults older than 50.

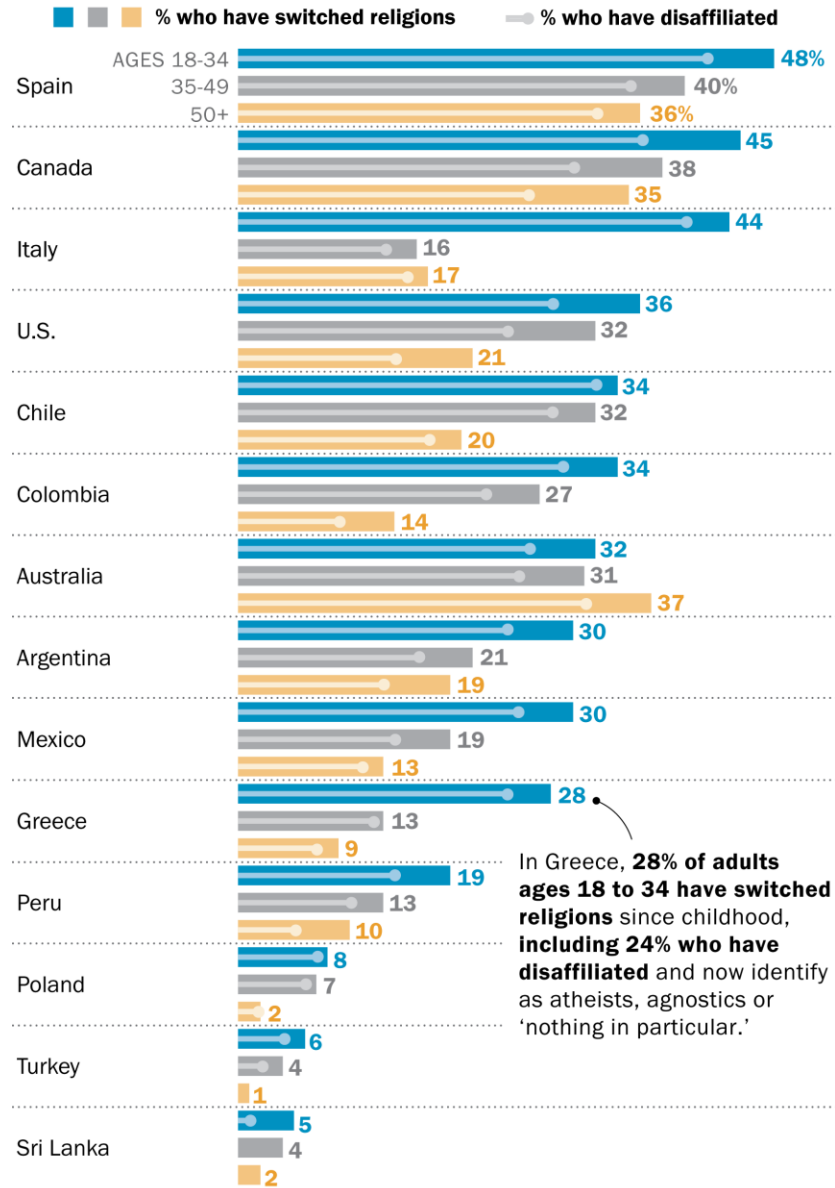
However, **in 13 countries – including nearly all Latin American nations surveyed, as well as several countries in Europe and North America – adults under 35 are more likely than adults ages 50 and older to have switched religions.**

In Spain, for instance, 48% of 18- to 34-year-olds have switched religions since childhood, compared with 36% of adults ages 50 and older. And in Colombia, 34% of the youngest adults have switched religions, compared with 14% of the oldest adults.

In Australia, however, younger adults are slightly *less* likely than older adults to have switched religions (32% vs. 37%).

## Younger adults are more likely than older adults in some places to change religions and to disaffiliate

*% of adults, grouped by age and place, who have switched religions since childhood, including the share who have disaffiliated (i.e., were raised in a religion but are now unaffiliated)*



Note: Rates are based on self-reported childhood religion and present religion. We measure switching between the following categories: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, other religions, religiously unaffiliated, and those who did not answer the questions. Only places with significant differences (in religious switching) between the youngest and oldest age groups are shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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**In most cases, the bulk of the switching in all age groups is *disaffiliation*** – much of which is people leaving Christianity. But the rates of disaffiliation are often higher among young adults. In Colombia, for example, 26% of 18- to 34-year-olds say they were raised as Christians but no longer identify with any religion, compared with 9% of Colombians ages 50 and older.

Because the survey questions pick up changes that have happened *at any time* since childhood, it is not possible to know whether the adults older than 50 who have disaffiliated did so recently or long ago, perhaps when they were in their teens or early 20s. Some older adults may have disaffiliated when they were young and then came back to a religion as they aged.

In short, these age patterns *might* be signs of secularization, indicating that countries like Spain, Canada, Italy and the U.S. are gradually becoming less religious. However, it's also possible that some of the age differences in religious affiliation revealed in a single survey (or multiple surveys conducted at the same point in time) could result from people becoming more religious as they grow older.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For more discussion of age patterns in religious beliefs, behaviors and identities, read Pew Research Center's report "[The Age Gap in Religion Around the World](#)."

## Education

In most countries, rates of religious switching don't vary a great deal between people with different levels of education.

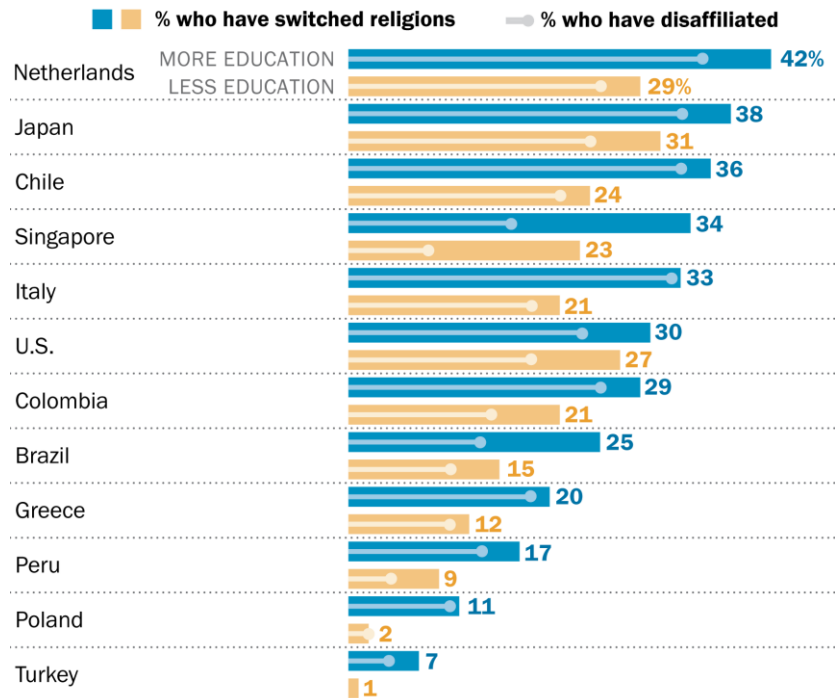
However, in 12 of the 36 countries surveyed, people with more education tend to have higher rates of religious switching.

Once again, **most of the switching by people at each level of education is disaffiliation** – in particular, people who say they were raised in a religious tradition (often as Christians or Buddhists) but no longer identify with any religion.

The Netherlands displays the largest differences in switching rates by education: 42% of Dutch adults with higher levels of education (a postsecondary degree or higher) have changed religions since childhood, compared with 29% of Dutch adults with lower levels of education.<sup>2</sup>

## In some countries, people with more education are more likely to have changed religions and to have disaffiliated

*% of adults, grouped by education and place, who have switched religions since childhood, including the share who have disaffiliated (i.e., were raised in a religion but are now unaffiliated)*



Note: Rates are based on self-reported childhood religion and present religion. We measure switching between the following categories: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, other religions, religiously unaffiliated, and those who did not answer the questions. Only places with significant differences (in religious switching) between people with differing levels of education are shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> For more on the relationship between educational attainment levels and religion, read Pew Research Center's report "[Religion and Education Around the World](#)."

## Gender

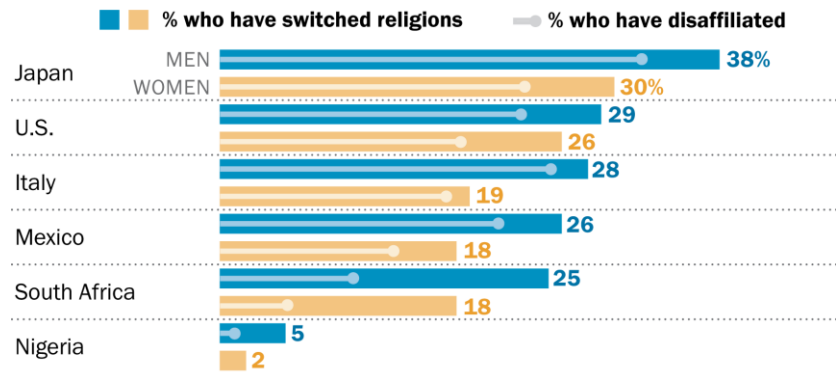
Likewise, in most countries surveyed, roughly equal percentages of women and men have changed religions. For instance, in South Korea – the country with the largest share of adults who have switched religions – 51% of women and 50% of men have changed religions over the course of their lives.

**But in six countries, there are statistically significant differences in switching rates by gender, with men more likely than women to have switched religions.**

And, as with the differences by age and education, much of the switching among both men and women is disaffiliation – especially from Christianity or, in Japan, from Buddhism.<sup>3</sup>

### In some countries, more men than women have switched religions and have disaffiliated

*% of adults, grouped by gender and place, who have switched religions since childhood, including the share who have disaffiliated (i.e., were raised in a religion but are now unaffiliated)*



Note: Rates are based on self-reported childhood religion and present religion. We measure switching between the following categories: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, other religions, religiously unaffiliated, and those who did not answer the questions. Only places with significant differences (in religious switching) between men and women are shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>3</sup> For more discussion of gender differences in religious affiliation, beliefs and practices, read Pew Research Center's report "[The Gender Gap in Religion Around the World](#)."

## Other key findings in this report

- Across the countries surveyed, most people who currently identify as **Christian** were raised as Christians. Among the smaller numbers who have *become* Christian after being brought up in a different way, most say they were raised as Buddhists or religiously unaffiliated. ([Chapter 1](#) discusses switching into and out of Christianity.)
- Most adults who are now **religiously unaffiliated** say they were raised in some religion – in many cases, Christianity or Buddhism. ([Chapter 2](#) covers switching into and out of the unaffiliated category.)
- In some countries, **Buddhism** has declined due to religious switching, while in other countries, it has remained relatively stable. ([Chapter 3](#) examines switching into and out of Buddhism.)
- Very small percentages of the overall adult population have left or joined **Islam** in most of the countries surveyed. ([Chapter 4](#) discusses switching into and out of Islam.)
- Nearly all people who were raised **Hindu** in India and Bangladesh still identify as Hindu today. ([Chapter 5](#) covers switching into and out of Hinduism.)
- Most people who were raised **Jewish** in Israel and the U.S. still identify this way today, resulting in high Jewish retention rates in both countries. ([Chapter 6](#) discusses switching into and out of Judaism.)

# 1. Religious switching into and out of Christianity

This section takes a closer look at religious switching into and out of Christianity by reviewing [where Christianity has had the largest net losses](#), [what percentage of adults who were raised Christian are still Christian](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups people who left Christianity have switched into](#), and [where Christianity has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Of the 36 countries surveyed, 27 have sufficient sample sizes of Christians to allow analysis of religious switching into and out of Christianity.

## Net losses for Christianity

- More people have left Christianity than have joined it in many of the 27 countries analyzed.
- Spain has the largest net losses for Christians from religious switching (in proportion to the size of its population) of any country surveyed.

## Remaining Christian

- In nearly all countries, majorities of Christians have retained their religion. This is especially true in the Philippines, Hungary and Nigeria, where nearly all people who say they were raised Christian are still Christians as adults.

## Leaving Christianity

- Most who have left Christianity no longer identify with any religion, saying they are now atheist, agnostic or have no religion in particular.
- In some Asian countries, small shares of those raised Christian now identify as Buddhists.

## Entering Christianity

- Singapore and South Korea have relatively high rates of “accession,” or entrance, into Christianity, with about four-in-ten or more Christian adults in these countries saying they were raised in another religion or with no religion. However, Christians remain a minority in both countries: 18% of Singaporeans and 33% of South Koreans currently identify as Christian.
- Among those who have switched into Christianity, many say they were raised Buddhist or without a religion.



## **Where has Christianity experienced the largest net gains and losses from religious switching?**

In many countries surveyed, more people were raised as Christians and have left Christianity than have become Christians after being raised in some other tradition or without a religious affiliation.

In other words, Christianity has experienced an overall or “net” loss in adherents due to religious switching in many places.<sup>4</sup>

For example, **Spain has the largest net losses for Christians in percentage terms (as a proportion of the country’s total adult population)** of the 27 countries analyzed.

The vast majority of all Spanish adults surveyed (87%) say they were raised Christian. But far fewer (54%) describe themselves as Christians today – a net loss for Christianity of one-third of *all* Spanish adults (that is, 33% of the total adult population, not just of current Christians).

This loss has occurred because 36% of Spanish adults have left Christianity (i.e., they were raised Christian but no longer identify as such) while just 3% of Spanish adults have entered Christianity (i.e., they identify as Christians today but say they were not raised that way).

## More have left Christianity since childhood than joined the group across many countries surveyed

*% of all adults in each country who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as Christian*

	Raised Christian	Left Christianity	Entered Christianity	Currently Christian
Spain	87%	-36	+3	=54%
Sweden	70	-30	+4	=45
Netherlands	64	-30	+3	=37
Germany	78	-30	+2	=49
Canada	73	-29	+4	=48
UK	69	-29	+3	=43
France	67	-28	+2	=41
Australia	64	-27	+3	=39
Chile	89	-25	+2	=66
U.S.	80	-22	+4	=62
Italy	94	-22	+1	=73
South Korea	38	-19	+14	=33
Colombia	91	-19	+4	=77
Mexico	93	-18	+3	=78
Argentina	87	-17	+4	=74
Brazil	90	-17	+3	=76
South Africa	71	-14	+5	=63
Greece	95	-12	+1	=84
Peru	94	-10	+4	=87
Kenya	86	-4	+3	=85
Poland	99	-4	+0	=95
Singapore	12	-3	+9	=18
Hungary	77	-2	+4	=79
Ghana	72	-2	+3	=73
Philippines	95	-1	+2	=95
Sri Lanka	9	-1	+2	=10
Nigeria	61	-1	+1	=61

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of all respondents, not just Christians, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the “Currently Christian” column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Christian adults are not shown. Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>4</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of *all* adults surveyed in each country. For example, the second row shows that 70% of *all* Swedish adults say they were raised as Christians, 30% of *all* Swedish adults have left Christianity, 4% of *all* Swedish adults have entered Christianity, and 45% of *all* Swedish adults currently identify as Christians.

Even in South Korea – the country with the largest share of adults raised outside of Christianity who now identify as Christian – more people have *left* Christianity (19% of all South Korean adults) than have *entered* Christianity (14%), a net loss for Christians that is equivalent to 5% of South Korea’s total adult population.

This trend is especially strong in many high-income countries. The survey finds that Christianity has sustained net losses due to switching of 20 percentage points or more of the total adult populations in Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Chile, the United States and Italy.

On the other hand, the pattern is not universal. In Singapore, which is also a high-income country, a larger share of adults have joined Christianity since childhood than have left Christianity. While 12% of Singaporean adults say they were raised Christian, 18% currently identify as Christians. This means Christianity has seen a *net gain* of 6% of all Singaporean adults.

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The net loss for Christianity in Sweden due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is calculated by subtracting the current share of Swedish adults who are Christian (45%) from the share who say they were raised Christian (70%). The difference is a net loss for Christianity of 25% of the country’s total adult population (not 25% of Swedish Christians).

## What percentage of people raised Christian are still Christian?

**In most countries, majorities of adults who were raised Christian still identify as Christian today.**

We call this religious “retention.”

Christian retention rates vary widely, however. The highest are in the Philippines, Hungary and Nigeria, where nearly all adults who were raised Christian are still Christian today.<sup>5</sup>

Across the countries analyzed, the lowest retention rate among Christians is in South Korea. About half of Koreans raised Christian still identify as Christian (51%), while the other half (49%) are no longer Christian.

### Most adults raised Christian still identify as Christian

Among *adults who were raised Christian*, % who now identify as ...

	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Other religions</b>	<b>Religiously unaffiliated</b>	<b>Total no longer identify as Christian</b>
Philippines	<b>99%</b>	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Hungary	<b>98</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>
Nigeria	<b>98</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
Ghana	<b>97</b>	1	2	<b>3</b>
Kenya	<b>96</b>	4	1	<b>4</b>
Poland	<b>95</b>	0	4	<b>5</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>92</b>	8	0	<b>8</b>
Peru	<b>89</b>	1	10	<b>11</b>
Greece	<b>87</b>	0	12	<b>13</b>
Brazil	<b>81</b>	6	13	<b>19</b>
Mexico	<b>81</b>	2	17	<b>19</b>
South Africa	<b>81</b>	11	8	<b>19</b>
Argentina	<b>80</b>	1	19	<b>20</b>
Colombia	<b>79</b>	1	20	<b>21</b>
Singapore	<b>78</b>	5	17	<b>22</b>
Italy	<b>77</b>	2	22	<b>23</b>
U.S.	<b>73</b>	4	23	<b>27</b>
Chile	<b>72</b>	0	28	<b>28</b>
Canada	<b>61</b>	4	36	<b>39</b>
Germany	<b>61</b>	1	37	<b>39</b>
Spain	<b>59</b>	2	40	<b>41</b>
France	<b>58</b>	7	35	<b>42</b>
UK	<b>58</b>	4	38	<b>42</b>
Australia	<b>57</b>	2	41	<b>43</b>
Sweden	<b>57</b>	1	42	<b>43</b>
Netherlands	<b>53</b>	3	43	<b>47</b>
South Korea	<b>51</b>	7	43	<b>49</b>

**Retention rate:** In the Philippines, 99% of people raised Christian are still Christian.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion. Places without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised Christian are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>5</sup> The share of adults who currently identify as Christian in each of these countries – regardless of what religion they were raised in, if any – also varies widely. For instance, in Poland, the retention rate for Christianity is quite high (95%), and the vast majority of Polish adults (95%) identify as Christian. On the other hand, Sri Lanka also has a high retention rate among Christians (92%), yet just 10% of Sri Lankan adults are Christians. Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## Which religious groups have former Christians switched to?

Analyzing retention rates also sheds light on the religious groups that former Christians have joined. Across most countries surveyed, [the majority of adults who have left Christianity say they no longer identify with any religion.](#)

For example, in Australia, 41% of adults raised Christian now identify with *no religion*, compared with just 2% of Australian adults who were raised Christian and have left Christianity for *some other religion*.

In some Asian countries, small shares of those raised Christian now identify as Buddhist. This includes 7% of those raised Christian in Sri Lanka and 6% in South Korea.

## Where does Christianity have the largest shares of new entrants?

In the countries with sufficient sample sizes of Christians to analyze, most people who currently identify as Christian were raised Christian. For example, virtually all Polish Christians surveyed say they were raised as Christians.<sup>6</sup>

**But in a few places, large shares of those who describe themselves as Christians say they were not raised this way.** We refer to this as “accession,” or entrance, into Christianity.

In particular, three countries surveyed have accession rates higher than 10%: Singapore, South Korea and Sri Lanka. Just under half of Singaporean Christians (47%) say they were raised outside Christianity.

In Singapore and South Korea, sizable shares of Christians were raised Buddhist (17% each) or with no religion (12% and 19%, respectively). In Sri Lanka, the 19% accession rate for Christians is made up entirely of former Hindus (10%) and former Buddhists (9%).

### Large shares of current Christians in Singapore and South Korea were *not* raised Christian

Among *adults who currently identify as Christian*, % who were raised ...

	Christian	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total raised not Christian
Singapore	53%	36%	12%	47%
South Korea	58	23	19	42
Sri Lanka	81	19	0	19
Sweden	91	5	4	9
Australia	92	1	7	8
Canada	92	4	4	8
South Africa	92	6	2	8
Netherlands	93	4	3	7
UK	93	2	5	7
Argentina	94	1	5	6
U.S.	94	2	4	6
Colombia	95	2	4	5
Ghana	95	4	1	5
Hungary	95	0	4	5
Spain	95	2	3	5
Brazil	96	1	3	4
France	96	1	4	4
Mexico	96	2	1	4
Peru	96	3	1	4
Chile	97	1	3	3
Germany	97	1	2	3
Kenya	97	2	1	3
Greece	98	0	1	2
Nigeria	98	2	0	2
Philippines	98	2	0	2
Italy	99	0	1	1
Poland	100	0	0	0

**Accession rate:** In Singapore, 47% of Christian adults say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion.

Countries without a sufficient sample size of Christian adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>6</sup> Throughout this report, percentages are rounded to the closest integer. The share of current Polish Christians who say they were raised Christian rounds to 100%.

## 2. Religious switching into and out of the religiously unaffiliated group

This section takes a closer look at religious switching into and out of the religiously unaffiliated category, which consists of people who describe their religion as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular.” This group is sometimes referred to as religious “nones.”

Read on for details about [where the religiously unaffiliated population has had the largest net gains](#), [what percentage of people raised without a religion are still unaffiliated](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups those who have left the unaffiliated have switched into](#), and [where the religiously unaffiliated population has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Of the 36 countries surveyed, 22 have sufficient sample sizes of “nones” to allow analysis of religious switching into and out of the religiously unaffiliated group.

### Net gains for the religiously unaffiliated

- In almost every country analyzed, more people have entered the religiously unaffiliated category than have left it.
- Spain has had the largest net gains for the religiously unaffiliated from religious switching.

### Remaining religiously unaffiliated

- In many countries, the majority of adults who were raised without a religion are still unaffiliated as adults. This ranges from 63% in Argentina to 92% in Japan.

### Leaving the religiously unaffiliated

- In the countries with the largest shares of people *leaving* the unaffiliated – such as in Argentina – these losses are largely due to people switching to Christianity.
- Some places, such as Singapore, also have seen a small percentage of unaffiliated people switching to Buddhism or Islam.

### Entering the religiously unaffiliated

- Italy, Colombia and Greece have the highest levels of “accession,” or entrance, into their religiously unaffiliated populations, with roughly nine-in-ten unaffiliated adults in these

countries saying they were raised in a religious tradition. Currently, 23% of Italian and Colombian adults, along with 14% of Greeks, identify as unaffiliated.

- Among those who have switched to become religiously unaffiliated, many were raised Christian.



## Where have the religiously unaffiliated experienced the largest net gains from religious switching?

In over half the countries surveyed, more adults say they were raised with a religious affiliation and are now unaffiliated than say they were raised unaffiliated but have since joined a religion. To put it another way, **the unaffiliated population has experienced net gains from religious switching.**

In Sweden, for example, 52% of adults currently identify as religiously unaffiliated, while just 22% say they were raised without a religion – a difference of 30 percentage points. It results from 32% of all Swedish adults saying they have left their childhood religion and now identify as “nones,” while just 2% of Swedish adults have moved in the opposite direction – from having no religion as children to identifying with a religion as adults.<sup>7</sup>

Even though South Korea has the largest share of adults who have left the ranks of the religiously unaffiliated and

### In most countries surveyed, religious switching has led to large increases for the unaffiliated

*% of all adults in each country who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as religiously unaffiliated*

	Raised religiously unaffiliated	Left the religiously unaffiliated	Became religiously unaffiliated	Currently religiously unaffiliated
Spain	10%	-2	+35	=44%
Sweden	22	-2	+32	=52
South Korea	27	-9	+31	=49
Germany	14	-2	+31	=43
Canada	14	-3	+30	=41
Netherlands	26	-2	+30	=53
UK	19	-2	+29	=46
Australia	27	-4	+28	=51
Japan	31	-3	+27	=55
France	22	-3	+25	=44
Chile	10	-2	+25	=33
Italy	3	-1	+21	=23
Colombia	5	-3	+20	=23
U.S.	13	-3	+20	=29
Argentina	10	-4	+17	=24
Mexico	4	-1	+17	=20
Singapore	11	-4	+13	=20
Brazil	5	-2	+12	=15
Greece	3	-1	+12	=14
Peru	3	-1	+10	=12
South Africa	5	-2	+8	=11
Hungary	21	-4	+2	=19

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of all respondents, not just religiously unaffiliated people, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the “Currently religiously unaffiliated” column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of religiously unaffiliated adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>7</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of all adults surveyed in each country. For example, the second row shows that 22% of all Swedish adults say they were raised without a religion, 2% of all Swedish adults have left the unaffiliated, 32% of all Swedish adults have become unaffiliated, and 52% of all Swedish adults currently identify as religiously unaffiliated. The net gain for the religiously unaffiliated in Sweden due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is

taken on a religion (9%), there are far more Koreans who say they were raised in a religion and have since disaffiliated (31%), yielding a 22% net gain for the unaffiliated population among all South Korean adults.

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calculated by subtracting the current share of Swedish adults who are unaffiliated (52%) from the share who say they were raised unaffiliated (22%). The difference is a net gain for the religiously unaffiliated group of 30% of the country's total adult population (not 30% of Swedish "nones").

## What percentage of people raised without a religion are still unaffiliated?

In many countries, a sizable majority of adults who say they were raised without a religion remain unaffiliated today, yielding a high retention rate for the unaffiliated population.

Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden have the highest retention rates among the unaffiliated. In each country, at least nine-in-ten adults who were raised religiously unaffiliated still do not identify with a religion.<sup>8</sup>

The lowest retention rates among the religiously unaffiliated are in Singapore, South Korea and Argentina – where about a third or more of people raised without a religion say they now identify with a religion.

### Most adults raised without a religious affiliation have remained unaffiliated

Among adults who were raised religiously unaffiliated, % who now identify as ...

	Religiously unaffiliated	Christian	Other religions	Total no longer identify as religiously unaffiliated
Japan	92%	2%	7%	8%
Netherlands	91	5	4	9
Sweden	91	8	0	9
Germany	89	7	5	11
UK	87	11	2	13
Australia	86	10	4	14
France	86	7	7	14
Chile	83	17	0	17
Hungary	83	16	1	17
Spain	82	17	1	18
Canada	78	15	8	22
U.S.	73	21	6	27
Singapore	68	19	13	32
South Korea	68	23	9	32
Argentina	63	37	0	37

**Retention rate:** In Japan, 92% of people raised religiously unaffiliated are still unaffiliated.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion.

Countries without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised religiously unaffiliated are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>8</sup> The share of adults who currently identify as religiously unaffiliated in each of these countries – regardless of what religion they were raised in, if any – also varies widely. Singapore and South Korea, for example, have the same retention rate among unaffiliated adults (68% each). But more than twice as many South Koreans as Singaporeans are religiously unaffiliated (49% vs. 20% of adults, respectively). Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## Which religious groups have formerly unaffiliated people switched to?

Analyzing retention rates also reveals which religions have been adopted by people who were raised as religiously unaffiliated. In general, among people brought up without a religion who now identify with one, Christianity is the most common choice.

(Read more about entrance rates into Christianity in [Chapter 1](#).)

In a few of the surveyed countries, relatively small shares of people who grew up religiously unaffiliated now identify as Buddhists or Muslims. For example, 6% of Singaporeans who were raised unaffiliated now describe themselves as Buddhists.

## Where do the religiously unaffiliated have the largest shares of new entrants?

Most religiously unaffiliated adults surveyed were raised in some religious tradition as children.

In Italy, Colombia and Greece, roughly nine-in-ten adults who now have no religion say they were brought up with some religious affiliation, meaning that the religiously unaffiliated population in those places has a very high “accession” (or entrance) rate.

In these three countries, as well as many others in Europe and the Americas, **a large share of religiously unaffiliated adults were raised Christian.**

But in Japan, Singapore and South Korea, large shares of today’s religiously unaffiliated population also were raised in religions besides Christianity.

## Most religiously unaffiliated adults surveyed were raised in a religion

Among adults who currently identify as religiously unaffiliated, % who were raised ...

	Without a religious affiliation	Christian	Buddhist	Other religions	Total raised with some kind of religion
Italy	8%	89%	--	3%	<b>92%</b>
Colombia	10	82	--	8	<b>90</b>
Greece	12	85	--	3	<b>88</b>
Peru	15	79	--	6	<b>85</b>
Mexico	16	80	--	4	<b>84</b>
Brazil	18	77	--	4	<b>82</b>
Spain	19	80	--	2	<b>81</b>
Chile	24	75	--	1	<b>76</b>
Argentina	27	68	--	5	<b>73</b>
Canada	27	64	1	8	<b>73</b>
Germany	28	68	0	4	<b>72</b>
U.S.	31	64	2	3	<b>69</b>
South Africa	32	50	--	18	<b>68</b>
UK	36	57	0	6	<b>64</b>
Singapore	37	10	29	24	<b>63</b>
South Korea	37	33	26	4	<b>63</b>
Sweden	39	56	--	5	<b>61</b>
France	43	53	0	4	<b>57</b>
Netherlands	44	52	0	3	<b>56</b>
Australia	45	50	3	2	<b>55</b>
Japan	51	1	42	6	<b>49</b>
Hungary	90	10	--	0	<b>10</b>

**Accession rate:** In Italy, 92% of unaffiliated adults say they were raised with some kind of religion.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Dashes indicate the response option was not given in that country. "Other religions" includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of religiously unaffiliated adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Around the World, Many People Are Leaving Their Childhood Religions"

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For example, in South Korea, 37% of unaffiliated adults were raised as "nones," while 33% were raised Christian and 26% were raised Buddhist. In Singapore, nearly a quarter of unaffiliated adults were raised in some religion outside of Christianity or Buddhism, including 17% who say they were raised in a traditional Chinese religion.

Hungary is the only country surveyed in which fewer than around half of all unaffiliated adults were raised with some sort of religion. Unlike its European neighbors, **in Hungary only 10% of unaffiliated adults were raised as Christians.** This may reflect the legacy of Hungary's communist period, which lasted from 1949 until 1989.

### 3. Religious switching into and out of Buddhism

This section examines religious switching into and out of Buddhism, detailing [where Buddhism has had the largest net losses](#), [what percentage of adults who were raised Buddhist are still Buddhist](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups people who left Buddhism have switched into](#), and [where Buddhism has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Along with Christians and religiously unaffiliated adults, Buddhists have relatively high levels of religious switching. However, of the 36 countries surveyed, just six – including the United States – have sufficient sample sizes to allow analysis of religious switching into and out of Buddhism.<sup>9</sup>

#### Net losses for Buddhism

- More people have left Buddhism than have joined it in Japan, South Korea and Singapore.
- Japan has had the largest net losses for Buddhism from religious switching.

#### Remaining Buddhist

- Sri Lanka and Thailand have the highest Buddhist retention rates, with nearly all people who say they were raised Buddhist in those countries still identifying as Buddhist today.
- In the U.S. and South Korea, fewer than half of adults who were raised Buddhist remain so.

#### Leaving Buddhism

- Most of the people who have left Buddhism no longer identify with any religion.
- In Singapore, South Korea and the U.S., small percentages of those raised Buddhist are now Christian.

#### Entering Buddhism

- The highest levels of “accession,” or entrance, into Buddhism are in South Korea and the U.S., though Buddhists make up a relatively small portion of the adult populations there (17% and 1%, respectively). A third of South Korean Buddhists and about half of U.S. Buddhists say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.
- In the U.S., South Korea and Japan, many people who have switched into Buddhism say they were raised as Christians or without any religion.

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<sup>9</sup> The U.S. data comes from Pew Research Center’s [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#), which surveyed 36,908 adults. Because of this large sample size, we are able to analyze and report results for relatively small religious groups in the U.S. – including Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims.

## Where has Buddhism experienced the largest net losses from religious switching?

In Japan, South Korea and Singapore, significant shares of adults who were raised as Buddhists do not describe themselves that way today.

Japan has experienced the largest losses from Buddhism due to religious switching: 26% of all Japanese adults say they were brought up Buddhist in childhood but don't identify as Buddhist today.<sup>10</sup>

However, in Thailand and Sri Lanka – two countries where Buddhists make up a majority of the overall populations – 1% or fewer of adults have either left or entered Buddhism, resulting in negligible change between childhood and current religion due to religious switching.

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### More adults in Japan, South Korea and Singapore have left Buddhism than have entered it

*% of all adults who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as Buddhist*

	<b>Raised Buddhist</b>	<b>Left Buddhism</b>	<b>Entered Buddhism</b>	<b>Currently Buddhist</b>
Japan	58%	-26	+2	=34%
South Korea	30	-18	+6	=17
Singapore	27	-10	+5	=22
Sri Lanka	71	-1	+1	=71
U.S.	1	-1	+1	=1
Thailand	90	-1	+0	=88

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of all respondents, not just Buddhists, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the "Currently Buddhist" column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Buddhist adults are not shown. Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>10</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of all adults surveyed in each country. For example, the first row shows that 58% of all Japanese adults say they were raised as Buddhists, 26% of all Japanese adults have left Buddhism, 2% of all Japanese adults have entered Buddhism, and 34% of all Japanese adults currently identify as Buddhists. The net loss for Buddhism in Japan due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is calculated by subtracting the current share of Japanese adults who are Buddhist (34%) from the share who say they were raised Buddhist (58%). The difference is a net loss for Buddhism of 24% of the country's total adult population (not 24% of Japanese Buddhists).



## What percentage of people raised Buddhist are still Buddhist?

Buddhist retention rates vary widely. In Sri Lanka and Thailand, nearly all adults who were raised Buddhist still identify as Buddhist today (98% each).<sup>11</sup>

However, in South Korea, the retention rates are much lower: Just 39% of those raised Buddhist still identify as Buddhist.

### Most Sri Lankan and Thai adults raised Buddhist still identify this way now

Among **adults who were raised Buddhist**, % who now identify as ...

	<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>Other religions</b>	<b>Religiously unaffiliated</b>	<b>Total no longer identify as Buddhist</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>98%</b>	2%	0%	<b>2%</b>
Thailand	<b>98</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
Singapore	<b>62</b>	16	22	<b>38</b>
Japan	<b>55</b>	5	40	<b>45</b>
U.S.	<b>45</b>	17	39	<b>55</b>
South Korea	<b>39</b>	19	42	<b>61</b>

**Retention rate:** In Sri Lanka, 98% of people raised Buddhist are still Buddhist.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Other religions" includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised Buddhist are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>11</sup> The share of adults who currently identify as Buddhist in each country also varies widely. For instance, although Sri Lanka and Thailand have the same retention rate among Buddhist adults (98%), Buddhists make up a higher share of adults in Thailand (88%) than in Sri Lanka (71%). Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## Which religious groups have former Buddhists switched to?

Analyzing retention rates also reveals the religious groups that former Buddhists have joined. In Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the U.S., many people who have left Buddhism say they no longer identify with any religion. For example, 40% of Japanese adults who were raised Buddhist are now unaffiliated (i.e., identify religiously as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”).

Additionally, in Singapore, South Korea and the U.S., a small percentage of adults who were raised Buddhist now identify as Christian. This ranges from 12% of those raised Buddhist in Singapore to 18% in South Korea.

## Where does Buddhism have the largest shares of new entrants?

The U.S. has the highest “accession” (or entrance) rate into Buddhism: About half of Buddhist Americans (48%) say they were raised outside of Buddhism. This includes 33% of U.S. Buddhist adults who were raised as Christians and 12% who were raised without religion.<sup>12</sup>

On the other hand, in all five Asian countries with large Buddhist populations that were surveyed, the majority of people who currently identify as Buddhist say they were raised Buddhist. For example, nearly all Thai Buddhists surveyed say they were raised that way.<sup>13</sup>

### Nearly all Sri Lankan and Thai Buddhists were raised Buddhist

Among *adults who currently identify as Buddhist*, % who were raised ...

	Buddhist	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total raised not Buddhist
U.S.	52%	37%	12%	<b>48%</b>
South Korea	67	20	13	<b>33</b>
Singapore	76	21	3	<b>24</b>
Japan	94	3	3	<b>6</b>
Sri Lanka	99	1	0	<b>1</b>
Thailand	100	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Accession rate:** In the U.S., 48% of Buddhist adults say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Buddhist adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>12</sup> Although the U.S. has the largest accession rate into Buddhism out of the countries surveyed, only about 1% of all U.S. adults currently identify as Buddhist. And even in South Korea – the country with the second-largest accession rate for Buddhism (33%) – just 17% of South Korean adults currently identify as Buddhist. Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

<sup>13</sup> Throughout this report, percentages are rounded to the nearest integer. The share of Buddhists surveyed in Thailand who say they were raised Buddhist rounds to 100%. This survey-based estimate does not necessarily mean that every current Buddhist in Thailand was raised as a Buddhist.

## 4. Religious switching into and out of Islam

This section delves into religious switching into and out of Islam, describing [where Islam has had the largest net gains and losses](#), [what percentage of adults who were raised Muslim are still Muslim](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups people who left Islam have switched into](#), and [where Islam has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Of the 36 countries surveyed, 13 have sufficient sample sizes of Muslims to allow analysis of religious switching into and out of Islam. The United States is among these countries.<sup>14</sup>

### Net gains and losses for Islam

- Very small percentages of the overall adult population have left or joined Islam in most of the 13 countries analyzed.

### Remaining Muslim

- In several countries, nearly all adults who were raised Muslim still identify that way today, yielding high Muslim retention rates.

### Leaving Islam

- Fewer than a quarter of adults in all countries analyzed who were raised Muslim no longer identify as Muslim.
- Most who have left Islam either no longer identify with any religion (i.e., they identify religiously as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”) or now identify as Christian.

### Entering Islam

- Large majorities of people who currently identify as Muslim say they were raised as Muslims.
- The U.S. and Kenya have the highest levels of “accession,” or entrance, into Islam, with 20% of U.S. Muslims and 11% of Kenyan Muslims saying they were raised in another religion or with no religion. That said, overall, Muslims are a minority in both places: About 1% of U.S. adults and 11% of Kenyans currently identify as Muslim.
- Among those who have switched into Islam, most say they were raised Christian.

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<sup>14</sup> The U.S. data comes from Pew Research Center’s [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#), which surveyed 36,908 adults. Because of this large sample size, we are able to analyze and report results for relatively small religious groups in the U.S. – including Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims.

## Where has Islam experienced the largest net gains or losses from religious switching?

Across the 13 countries with sufficient sample sizes to analyze religious switching for Muslims, 3% or fewer of all adults have left or entered Islam, resulting in very little change between childhood and current religion from religious switching.<sup>15</sup>

For instance, in Indonesia, the share of adults who currently identify as Muslim is equal to the share who say they were raised Muslim (93%). Fewer than 1% of all adults surveyed in Indonesia say they have left or entered Islam.

### Few adults are leaving or entering Islam across the countries surveyed

*% of all adults who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as Muslim*

	<b>Raised Muslim</b>	<b>Left Islam</b>	<b>Entered Islam</b>	<b>Currently Muslim</b>
Turkey	98%	-3	+0	=95%
Ghana	21	-2	+1	=21
Kenya	11	-1	+1	=11
Nigeria	38	-1	+1	=38
Singapore	25	-1	+1	=25
Malaysia	74	-0	+2	=75
Bangladesh	91	-0	+0	=91
India	11	-0	+0	=11
Indonesia	93	-0	+0	=93
Israel	18	-0	+0	=19
Sri Lanka	8	-0	+0	=8
Tunisia	100	-0	+0	=100
U.S.	1	-0	+0	=1

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of all respondents, not just Muslims, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the "Currently Muslim" column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Muslim adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>15</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of all adults surveyed in each country. For example, the first row shows that 98% of all Turkish adults say they were raised as Muslims, 3% of all Turkish adults have left Islam, 0% of all Turkish adults have entered Islam, and 95% of all Turkish adults currently identify as Muslims. The net loss for Islam in Turkey due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is calculated by subtracting the current share of Turkish adults who are Muslim (95%) from the share who say they were raised Muslim (98%). The difference is a net loss for Islam of 3% of the country's total adult population (not 3% of Turkish Muslims).

## What percentage of people raised Muslim are still Muslim?

In several countries, virtually all adults who answer survey questions by saying they were raised Muslim still identify that way today, yielding extremely high retention rates.<sup>16</sup>

Except in the U.S., the survey does not show much variation in Muslim retention rates. In most places, upward of 90% of people raised as Muslims have remained Muslims as adults.<sup>17</sup>

Even in the U.S. – which has the lowest retention rate among Muslims in the countries surveyed – roughly three-quarters of Americans who were raised Muslim still identify as Muslims today.

### Most adults raised Muslim are still Muslim today

Among *adults who were raised Muslim*, % who now identify as ...

	Muslim	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total no longer identify as Muslim
Bangladesh	<b>100%</b>	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
Indonesia	<b>100</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Israel	<b>100</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Malaysia	<b>100</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>100</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Tunisia	<b>100</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
India	<b>99</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
Nigeria	<b>98</b>	2	1	<b>2</b>
Singapore	<b>97</b>	1	3	<b>3</b>
Turkey	<b>96</b>	1	2	<b>4</b>
Kenya	<b>92</b>	8	0	<b>8</b>
Ghana	<b>91</b>	8	1	<b>9</b>
U.S.	<b>77</b>	10	13	<b>23</b>

**Retention rate:** In Bangladesh, 100% of people raised Muslim are still Muslim.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Other religions" includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion.

Countries without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised Muslim are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>16</sup> Throughout this report, percentages are rounded to the nearest integer. In several countries, the retention rate among Muslims rounds to 100%. This survey-based estimate does not necessarily mean there are *no* people who have switched out of Islam in those countries.

<sup>17</sup> The share of adults who currently identify as Muslim in each of these countries – regardless of what religion they were raised in, if any – varies widely. For instance, in both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, nearly all adults raised Muslim are still Muslim. However, 91% of Bangladeshi adults identify as Muslim, compared with just 8% of Sri Lankan adults. Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## **Which religious groups have former Muslims switched to?**

Analyzing retention rates also sheds light on the religious groups that former Muslims have joined. In the U.S., 13% of adults who were brought up as Muslims no longer identify with any religion.

In addition, a modest number of U.S. adults who were raised Muslim now identify as Christians (6%). The same is true in Kenya (8%) and Ghana (6%).

## Where does Islam have the largest shares of new entrants?

In the 13 countries with sufficiently large samples of Muslims to analyze, most adults who currently identify as Muslims say they were raised in Islam. This includes nearly all Muslims surveyed in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Israel, Tunisia and Turkey.

The country with the highest “accession” (or entrance) rate into Islam is the U.S.: One-fifth of Muslim Americans say they were raised outside of Islam. Most of them say they were raised as Christians (13%).<sup>18</sup>

The same is true in Kenya: Most of the religious switching into Islam is by Kenyans who were raised Christian (9%).

### Most Muslims say they were raised Muslim in the countries surveyed

Among **adults who currently identify as Muslim**, % who were raised ...

	Muslim	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total raised not Muslim
U.S.	80%	17%	3%	20%
Kenya	89	10	1	11
Ghana	94	6	1	6
Nigeria	97	2	1	3
Sri Lanka	97	3	0	3
Malaysia	98	2	1	2
Singapore	98	1	2	2
Bangladesh	100	0	0	0
India	100	0	0	0
Indonesia	100	0	0	0
Israel	100	0	0	0
Tunisia	100	0	0	0
Turkey	100	0	0	0

**Accession rate:** In the U.S., 20% of Muslim adults say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Muslim adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>18</sup> Although the U.S. has the highest accession rate into Islam of the countries surveyed, only 1% of U.S. adults currently identify as Muslims. Similarly, the country with the second-highest accession rate for Islam – Kenya – also has a fairly small percentage of Muslims in its adult population (11%). Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.



## 5. Religious switching into and out of Hinduism

This section explores religious switching into and out of Hinduism, reviewing [where Hinduism has had the largest net gains and losses](#), [what percentage of adults who were raised Hindu are still Hindu](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups those who have left Hinduism have switched into](#), and [where Hinduism has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Of the 36 countries surveyed, just four have sufficient sample sizes to allow analysis of religious switching into and out of Hinduism: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the United States.<sup>19</sup>

### Net gains and losses for Hinduism

- Very small shares *of the overall population* in any of the countries analyzed have left or joined Hinduism. In the U.S., Hindus are a small share of the population to begin with (1%).

### Remaining Hindu

- The Hindu retention rate is high in all the places analyzed, but there is some variation.
- Nearly all people who were raised Hindu in India and Bangladesh still identify as Hindu today.
- In Sri Lanka, roughly nine-in-ten people who were brought up as Hindus have retained that identity, as have about eight-in-ten in the U.S.

### Leaving Hinduism

- Of the countries surveyed, the highest shares of people raised Hindu who no longer identify as Hindu are in the U.S. (18%) and Sri Lanka (11%).
- In Sri Lanka, most who have left Hinduism now identify as Christians. In the U.S., 11% of people who were raised Hindu are now religiously unaffiliated (i.e., they identify religiously as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”) and 6% are Christians.

### Entering Hinduism

- Most people who currently identify as Hindu say they were raised as Hindus, resulting in low “accession” (or entrance) rates into Hinduism across the four countries analyzed.
- The U.S. has the highest accession rate, with 8% of Hindu American adults saying they were raised outside of Hinduism.

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<sup>19</sup> The U.S. data comes from Pew Research Center’s [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#), which surveyed 36,908 adults. Because of this large sample size, we are able to analyze and report results for relatively small religious groups in the U.S. – including Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims.

## Where has Hinduism experienced the largest net gains or losses from religious switching?

Across the four countries analyzed, relatively few people (at least, as a percentage of the overall public in each country) have either left or entered Hinduism.<sup>20</sup>

For instance, in India, the country with the world's largest Hindu population, roughly equal shares of Indians say they were raised Hindu (84%) and currently identify as Hindu (83%). Only 1% of all Indian adults have left Hinduism, and a similarly small share have become Hindus after having been raised in another religion or with no affiliation.<sup>21</sup>

### Few adults are leaving or joining Hinduism in India

*% of all adults who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as Hindu*

	<b>Raised Hindu</b>	<b>Left Hinduism</b>	<b>Entered Hinduism</b>	<b>Currently Hindu</b>
India	84%	-1	+1	=83%
Sri Lanka	12	-1	+0	=11
Bangladesh	9	-0	+0	=9
U.S.	1	-0	+0	=1

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of all respondents, not just Hindus, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the "Currently Hindu" column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Hindu adults are not shown. Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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In the U.S., just 1% of adults were raised Hindu, and the percentage of all U.S. adults who have left Hinduism rounds to zero – as does the percentage who have switched into Hinduism.

<sup>20</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of *all* adults surveyed in each country. For example, the second row shows that 12% of *all* Sri Lankan adults say they were raised as Hindus, 1% of *all* Sri Lankan adults have left Hinduism, 0% of *all* Sri Lankan adults have entered Hinduism, and 11% of *all* Sri Lankan adults currently identify as Hindus. The net loss for Hinduism in Sri Lanka due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is calculated by subtracting the current share of Sri Lankan adults who are Hindu (11%) from the share who say they were raised Hindu (12%). The difference is a net loss for Hinduism of 1% of the country's total adult population (not 1% of Sri Lankan Hindus).

<sup>21</sup> These results for switching into and out of Hinduism in India are similar to the findings of a [2019-2020 Pew Research Center survey](#) of nearly 30,000 adults in India.

## What percentage of people raised Hindu are still Hindu?

The Hindu retention rate is high in all the countries where it can be measured. For example, in Bangladesh and India, nearly all adults who were raised Hindu still identify as Hindu today (99% each).<sup>22</sup>

### Most Bangladeshi and Indian adults raised Hindu still identify this way now

Among **adults who were raised Hindu**, % who now identify as ...

	Hindu	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total no longer identify as Hindu
Bangladesh	<b>99%</b>	1%	0%	<b>1%</b>
India	<b>99</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>89</b>	10	1	<b>11</b>
U.S.	<b>82</b>	7	11	<b>18</b>

**Retention rate:** In Bangladesh, 99% of people raised Hindu are still Hindu.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Other religions" includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion.

Countries without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised Hindu are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>22</sup> The share of adults who currently identify as Hindu in each of these countries – regardless of what religion they were raised in, if any – varies widely. For example, Bangladesh and India have the same retention rate among Hindu adults (99% each). But 83% of Indian adults identify as Hindus, compared with just 9% of Bangladeshi adults. Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## **Which religious groups have former Hindus switched to?**

Analyzing retention rates also reveals the religious groups that former Hindus have joined. In the U.S., 18% of U.S. adults who were raised Hindu no longer identify as Hindu – including 11% who are now religiously unaffiliated, 6% who describe themselves as Christians and 1% who now identify as Muslims.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, 8% of adults who were raised Hindu now identify as Christians, while equal shares describe themselves as unaffiliated, Muslims or Buddhists (1% each).

## Where does Hinduism have the largest shares of new entrants?

Most people who currently identify as Hindus say they were raised Hindu. For example, all the Bangladeshi Hindus surveyed say they were raised Hindu.

As such, the “accession” (or entrance) rates into Hinduism are low across the four countries with sufficient sample sizes to analyze.

The U.S. has the highest accession rate, with 8% of Americans who currently identify as Hindu saying they were raised outside of Hinduism, including many who were raised Christian (5% of all Hindu Americans).<sup>23</sup>

### Nearly all Sri Lankan, Indian and Bangladeshi Hindus were raised Hindu

Among *adults who currently identify as Hindu*, % who were raised ...

	Hindu	Other religions	Religiously unaffiliated	Total raised not Hindu	Accession rate: In the U.S., 8% of Hindu adults say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.
U.S.	92%	8%	0%	8%	
Sri Lanka	98	2	0	2	
India	99	1	0	1	
Bangladesh	100	0	0	0	

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Hindu adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>23</sup> Although the U.S. has the highest accession rate into Hinduism of the countries surveyed, only 1% of U.S. adults currently identify as Hindu. Consult the [Topline](#) for the estimated percentage of the adult population that each religious group represents in all 36 countries.

## 6. Religious switching into and out of Judaism

This section describes religious switching into and out of Judaism, reviewing the [net gains and losses for Judaism in Israel and the United States](#), [what percentage of adults who were raised Jewish are still Jewish](#) (i.e., retention rates), [which religious groups those who have left Judaism have switched into](#), and [where Judaism has the largest shares of new entrants](#) (i.e., the highest accession rates).

Around [80% of the world's Jews live in just two countries: Israel and the United States](#). Both countries were included in our 2024 survey, allowing us to examine religious switching among a majority of the world's Jewish population.<sup>24</sup>

However, people may identify as Jewish in a multitude of ways, including ethnically, culturally, religiously or by family background. In this report, we use the term “Jewish” to mean only *religious* identity, because the survey questions used in the analyses ask about a person's current religion and what religious group they were raised in (their childhood religion).

### Net gains and losses for Judaism

- Viewed as a percentage of *all* U.S. adults, few people have left or joined Judaism. But Jewish adults make up only a small fraction of the U.S. population to begin with (about 2%).

### Remaining Jewish

- Most people who were raised Jewish in Israel and the U.S. still identify this way today, resulting in high Jewish retention rates in both countries – though it's higher in Israel than in the U.S.

### Leaving Judaism

- In the U.S., about a quarter of adults who were raised Jewish no longer identify as Jewish.
- In Israel, fewer than 1% of adults who were raised Jewish no longer identify as such.
- Most adults who have left Judaism in both countries now are unaffiliated (i.e., they identify religiously as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”).

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<sup>24</sup> The U.S. data comes from Pew Research Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#), which surveyed 36,908 adults. Because of this large sample size, we are able to analyze and report results for relatively small religious groups in the U.S. – including Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims.

## Entering Judaism

- Most Jewish adults in Israel and the U.S. were raised Jewish, meaning the “accession” (or entrance) rates into Judaism are fairly low in both places.
- But of the two countries, the U.S. has the higher accession rate, with 14% of Jewish Americans saying they were raised outside of Judaism, compared with just 1% of Israeli Jewish adults.

Refer to Pew Research Center’s “[4 facts about religious switching within Judaism in Israel](#)” and “[Denominational switching among U.S. Jews: Reform Judaism has gained, Conservative Judaism has lost](#)” for analyses of switching within Judaism.

## Has Judaism experienced net gains or losses from religious switching?

In Israel and the U.S., the proportion of the overall populations that have either switched into or switched out of Judaism is very small (1% or less). This is true in *both* places, even though Jewish adults make up a sizable majority of all adults in Israel and a small sliver of all U.S. adults.<sup>25</sup>

### Few are leaving, joining Judaism in Israel and the U.S.

*% of all adults who were raised in, left, entered and currently identify as Jewish*

	<b>Raised Jewish</b>	<b>Left Judaism</b>	<b>Entered Judaism</b>	<b>Currently Jewish</b>
Israel	77%	-0	+1	=77%
U.S.	2	-0	+0	=2

Note: All figures in this table, including in middle columns, are based on the total adult population of each country. They are percentages of *all* respondents, not just Jewish adults, surveyed in each country. Figures may not add up to the “Currently Jewish” column due to rounding. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Jewish adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>25</sup> Every number in the accompanying table – including in the middle two columns – was calculated as a percentage of *all* adults surveyed in each country. For example, the second row shows that 2% of *all* U.S. adults say they were raised as Jews, 0% of *all* U.S. adults have left Judaism, 0% of *all* U.S. adults have entered Judaism, and 2% of *all* U.S. adults currently identify as Jews. The net change for Judaism in the U.S. due to switching over the lifetimes of the survey respondents is calculated by subtracting the current share of U.S. adults who are Jewish (2%) from the share who say they were raised Jewish (2%). The difference shows no net gain or loss for Judaism from switching across the whole U.S. population (not just U.S. Jews).



## What percentage of people raised Jewish are still Jewish?

The Jewish retention rate is high in both Israel and the U.S. In Israel, virtually all adults who were raised Jewish still identify as Jewish today.<sup>26</sup> In the U.S., 76% of adults who were raised Jewish still identify this way.<sup>27</sup>

### Most Israeli and U.S. adults raised Jewish still identify that way

Among **adults who were raised Jewish**, % who now identify as ...

	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Other religions</b>	<b>Religiously unaffiliated</b>	<b>Total no longer identify as Jewish</b>
Israel	<b>100%</b>	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
U.S.	<b>76</b>	7	17	<b>24</b>

**Retention rate:**  
In Israel, 100% of people raised Jewish are still Jewish.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Other religions" includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their current religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of adults who were raised Jewish are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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<sup>26</sup> Throughout this report, survey estimates are rounded to the nearest integer. In the 2024 Pew Research Center survey, the share of Israelis raised Jewish who are still Jewish rounds to 100%. However, this survey-based estimate does not necessarily mean that every person in Israel who was raised Jewish still considers themselves Jewish.

<sup>27</sup> The definition of Jewishness in this report is based solely on religious self-identification: Survey respondents are classified as Jewish only if they answer a question about their religion by saying they are Jewish. This definition is consistent with the way other religious groups, such as Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, are defined in this report. But it is different from the way the Center has defined Jewishness in some past surveys that delved deeply into Jewish identity, belief and practice in the U.S. For example, our reports "[Jewish Americans in 2020](#)" and "[A Portrait of Jewish Americans](#)" (2013) classified survey respondents as Jewish if they said either that a) their religion was Jewish or b) they considered themselves Jewish *aside from religion*, had at least one Jewish parent, and did not belong to any other religion. The latter group, sometimes called "Jews of no religion" or "cultural Jews," has different levels of religious switching (including lower retention rates) than "Jews by religion" do. Refer to the [2013](#) and [2020](#) survey reports for more detailed examinations of U.S. Jewish retention rates and switching between branches of American Judaism.

## Which religious groups have former Jews switched to?

Analyzing retention rates also sheds light on the religious groups that former Jewish adults have joined. In the U.S., 17% of adults who were raised Jewish now identify as unaffiliated, while 2% now identify as Christian and 1% now identify as Muslim.

## Between the United States and Israel, which country has seen larger shares of new entrants into Judaism?

In both the U.S. and Israel, the majority of people who currently identify as Jewish say they were raised Jewish, resulting in low “accession” (or entrance) rates into Judaism in both countries.

In the U.S., 14% of Jewish adults say they were raised outside of Judaism. This includes 7% who were raised as Christians and 6% who were raised religiously unaffiliated.

### Large majorities of Israeli and U.S. Jews were raised Jewish

Among **adults who currently identify as Jewish**, % who were raised ...

	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Other religions</b>	<b>Religiously unaffiliated</b>	<b>Total raised not Jewish</b>	<b>Accession rate:</b> In the U.S., 14% of Jewish adults say they were raised in another religion or with no religion.
U.S.	86%	8%	6%	<b>14%</b>	
Israel	99	0	1	<b>1</b>	

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Other religions” includes some respondents who declined to answer the question about their childhood religion. Countries without a sufficient sample size of Jewish adults are not shown.

Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. For the U.S., 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study.

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## Methodology

### About Pew Research Center's Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone, face-to-face and online interviews conducted under the direction of Gallup, Langer Research Associates, Social Research Centre and Verian. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. Read more details about our [international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs](#).

### The Religious Landscape Study's survey methodology

Results for the United States are based on data from the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study. Surveys were conducted in English and Spanish. For more information about how Pew Research Center conducted this landmark survey, read the [methodology](#) section of [the report](#).

## Analysis

### Religious identification

In each country surveyed, people were asked about their current and childhood religious identification. We only analyzed religious groups with large enough sample sizes. But respondents of other religious backgrounds were not excluded from the surveys, even if their religious group was not able to be analyzed separately. In the U.S. for example, the survey included Sikhs, Wiccans, followers of Native American religious traditions, and others, though there were [not enough respondents from these smaller groups](#) to report on their answers separately. Refer to the report [Topline](#) for additional information.

### Education

To compare educational groups across countries, we standardize education levels based on the United Nations' [International Standard Classification of Education \(ISCED\)](#).