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Religious Diversity Around the World

Singapore is the most religiously diverse country overall, while the U.S. ranks first among nations with very large populations

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About this research

This Pew Research Center report describes levels of religious diversity in 201 countries and territories. We measure how evenly each country's population is distributed among seven groups: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of all other religions (an umbrella category) and people with no religious affiliation.

Why did we do this?

This research is part of the [Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project](#), which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world. It builds on our recently published work on the [world's religious composition](#).

How did we do this?

The core of this analysis is our Religious Diversity Index (RDI). It relies on a mathematical formula that ecologists use to measure the [diversity of species](#) in a particular area and economists use to measure [market concentration](#). Based on the size of seven religious groups, we calculate the religious diversity of 201 countries and territories that together are home to 99.98% of the world's population. Refer to this report's [Methodology](#) for details.

Calculations are based on our [religious composition estimates](#) for 201 countries and territories, which were first published in 2025.

Religious Diversity Around the World

Singapore is the most religiously diverse country overall, while the U.S. ranks first among nations with very large populations

Singapore is the world's most religiously diverse country as of 2020, according to a new Pew Research Center study.

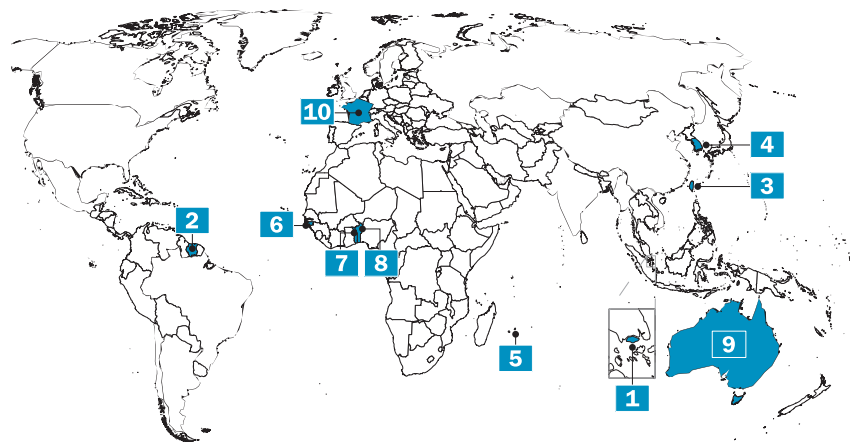
Buddhists (31%) are Singapore's largest religious group, but its population also includes substantial shares of religiously unaffiliated people (20%), Christians (19%), Muslims (16%), Hindus (5%) and adherents of all other religions (9%).

Suriname ranks second in religious diversity and is the only Latin American country in the top 10. About half of Suriname's residents (53%) are Christians. The rest are mainly Hindus (22%), Muslims (13%) and religiously unaffiliated people (8%).

Most of the other places in the top 10 are in the Asia-Pacific region (**Taiwan, South Korea and Australia**) or in sub-Saharan Africa (**Mauritius, Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Benin**).

Singapore is the most religiously diverse country

Based on Pew Research Center's Religious Diversity Index scores calculated for 201 countries and territories



Rank	Religious Diversity Index score
1. Singapore	9.3
2. Suriname	7.5
3. Taiwan	7.5
4. South Korea	7.3
5. Mauritius	7.3
6. Guinea-Bissau	7.2
7. Togo	7.1
8. Benin	7.1
9. Australia	7.0
10. France	6.9

Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

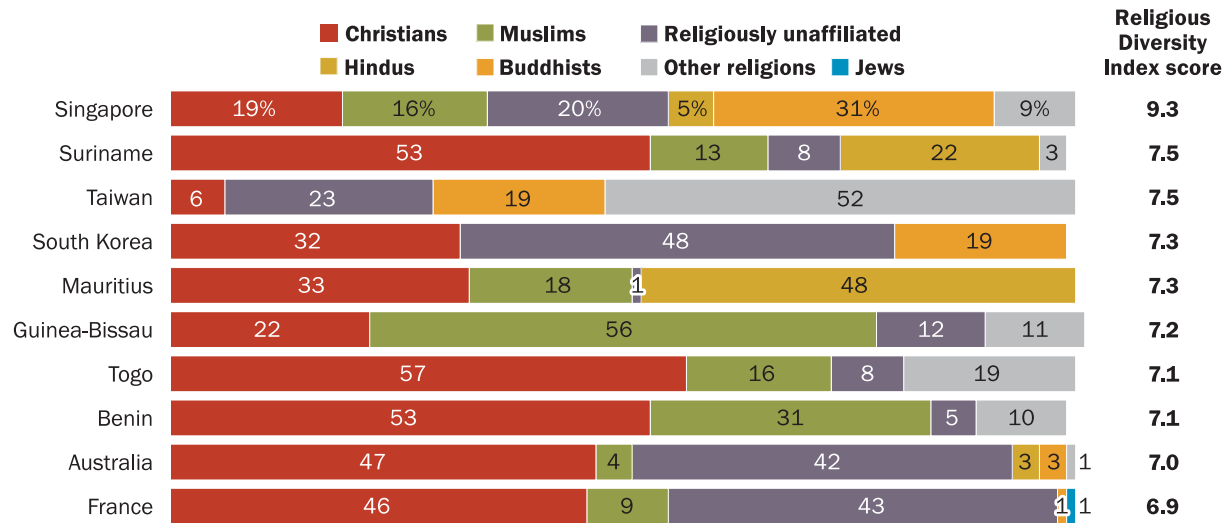
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France is the only European country on the top 10 list. Its population is largely Christian (46%) and religiously unaffiliated (43%), with a sizable Muslim minority (9%).

In the world's most religiously diverse places, Christians are often the largest group

% of people in each place who are ...



Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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The **United States** is *not* among the 10 most religiously diverse countries in the world (it ranks 32nd overall). But when looking just at the 10 most populous nations, the U.S. ranks first in religious diversity, followed by Nigeria, Russia, India and Brazil.

This analysis divides the world's population into seven categories – Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of all other religions and people with no religious affiliation – and measures how evenly these groups are represented within each country or territory.¹

¹ People who identify with no religion, also known as the religiously unaffiliated or "nones," include those who say they are atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular" in response to a Pew Research Center survey question about religious identity, as well as people who choose a "no religion" or "none" option in other surveys and national censuses.

Why just 7 religious groups?

This analysis relies on [Pew Research Center's previous estimates](#) of the religious makeup of 201 countries and territories, published in 2025. These estimates divide the world's population into seven categories: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of all other religions and people with no religious affiliation.

Limiting the analysis to seven categories allows us to compare data from around the world, even though such broad categories may obscure the diversity that exists *within* religious traditions.

We acknowledge that many countries' scores would be different if we subdivided the seven large groups into smaller ones. For example, Singapore would appear even more diverse if different groups within the "other religions" category – such as Daoists (also spelled Taoists) and followers of Chinese folk religions – were counted separately. The United States would have a higher score if we counted [many Christian denominations](#) as separate religious groups, and Pakistan's score would be higher if various [Islamic sects](#) were counted separately.

One challenge, however, is that there is no single, universally accepted way to subdivide large religious traditions. For example, Christianity could be divided into three main traditions (Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox) or into dozens – or even hundreds – of smaller groupings. The same is true of other faiths.

For more details, refer to the [Methodology](#).

We ranked a total of 201 countries and territories using our Religious Diversity Index (RDI). Possible scores range from 0 (for a country made up entirely of a single religious group) to 10 (for a country with perfectly even distributions of all seven groups, each making up about 14% of the population). (Refer to the [Methodology](#) for more on how we calculated RDI scores.)

With a score of 9.3, Singapore comes closer to an even distribution of religious groups than any other country. By comparison, South Korea's score is 7.3, France's is 6.9, and the United States' score is 5.8.

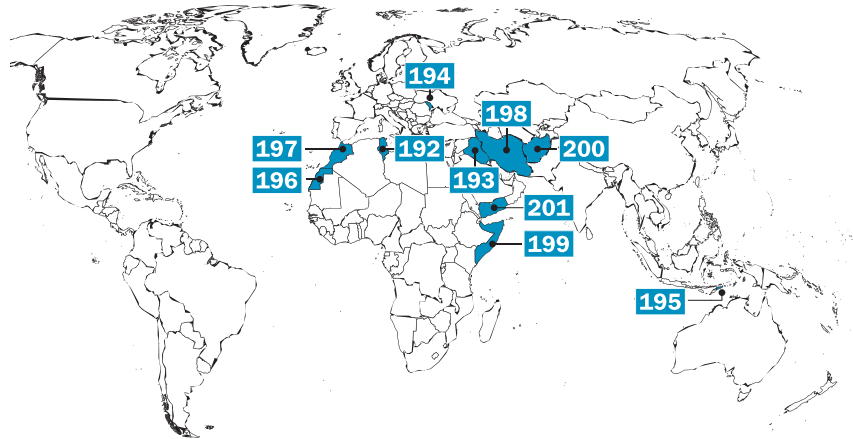
(Explore our [sortable table](#) to see how all 201 countries and territories rank.)

No country in our analysis has a score of 10. But three countries have scores near 0, making them the *least religiously diverse* places in the world, according to our analysis: **Yemen**, **Afghanistan** and **Somalia**. In each, Muslims represent 99.8% or more of the population.

Overall, Muslims make up at least 99% of the population in eight of the 10 least religiously diverse countries and territories. The other two – **Timor-Leste** and **Moldova** – have populations that are almost entirely Christian.

8 of the 10 least religiously diverse places have populations that are almost entirely Muslim

Based on Pew Research Center's Religious Diversity Index scores calculated for 201 countries and territories



Rank	Religious Diversity Index score	Composition (%)
192. Tunisia	0.16	99.3 Muslim
193. Iraq	0.12	99.5 Muslim
194. Moldova	0.11	99.5 Christian
195. Timor-Leste	0.11	99.5 Christian
196. Western Sahara	0.10	99.6 Muslim
197. Morocco	0.08	99.7 Muslim
198. Iran	0.05	99.8 Muslim
199. Somalia	0.04	99.8 Muslim
200. Afghanistan	0.03	99.9 Muslim
201. Yemen	0.03	99.9 Muslim

Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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Diversity in the world's largest societies

If we focus just on the world's 10 *most populous* countries, each of which is home to at least 120 million people, then the **United States** emerges as the most religiously diverse.

Christians make up an estimated 64% of the U.S. population as of 2020, while religiously unaffiliated people account for about 30%. The remaining 6% are Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and people in the “other religions” category, with each of these groups making up about 1% to 2%.²

Nigeria is the second-most religiously diverse of these big countries. Muslims and Christians, the largest groups in Nigeria, each make up more than 40% of the population. In fact, Nigeria is among the nations that are most evenly divided between two religious categories.

Related: [5 facts about religion in Nigeria](#)

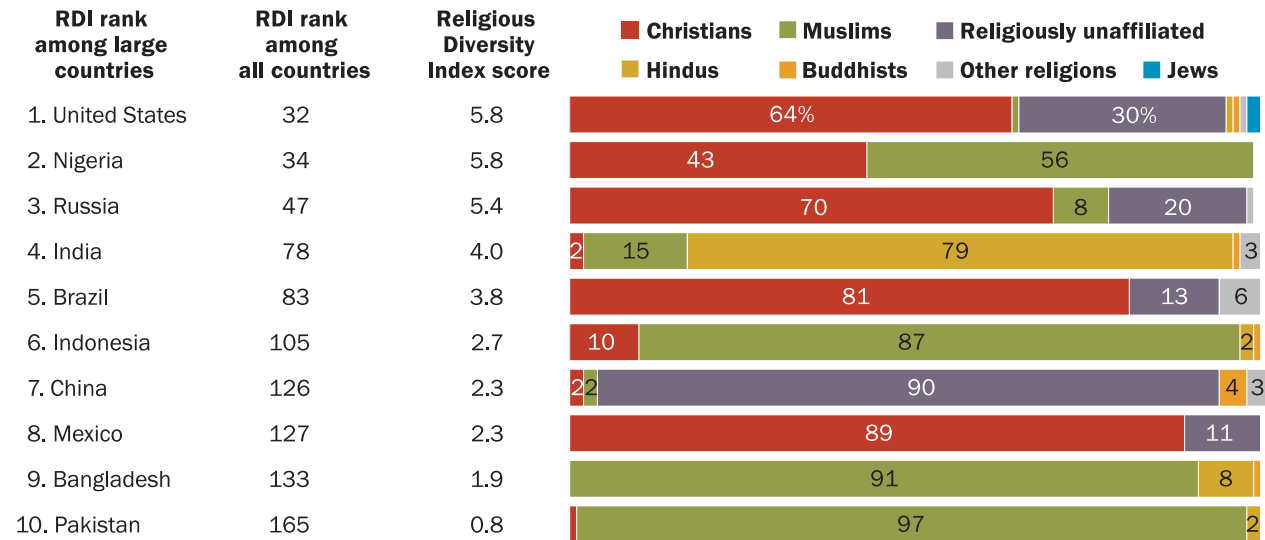
Pakistan, where Muslims account for 97% of all residents, is the least religiously diverse of the 10 most populous countries.

The RDI scores of the world's most populous countries cover a large range, from 5.8 in the U.S. to 0.8 in Pakistan. Together, these 10 countries account for nearly 60% of the global population.

² These U.S. religious composition estimates, like all estimates in this report, include both adults and children. Everyone in the population is allocated to one of the seven religious categories studied. By contrast, Center surveys typically measure only the religious affiliation of adults, and people who do not answer the question about their affiliation are placed in a “don’t know/no answer” category. Those decisions account for some differences between the U.S. numbers in this report and those in our reports on the religious composition of U.S. adults.

Among the world's most populous nations, the U.S. is the most religiously diverse

% of people in each place who are ...



Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied. The RDI rank for large countries is based on only the 10 most populous places as of 2020. The RDI rank for all countries is based on 201 countries and territories that together make up 99.98% of the world's population.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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These are among the key findings of a Pew Research Center analysis of religious diversity around the world. The study is part of the [Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project](#), which seeks to understand global religious change and its impact on societies.

The rest of this report covers the following:

- [In almost every country, a single religious group forms a majority](#)
- [10 countries where the population is most evenly split between two religious groups](#)
- [Where do countries fall on the diversity spectrum?](#)
- [Religious diversity by region](#)
- [What share of people live in religiously diverse societies?](#)
- [Change in religious diversity since 2010](#)

In almost every country, a single religious group forms a majority

While some places around the world have a diverse mix of religious groups, it is more common for national populations to primarily consist of a single religious category.

In 194 countries and territories, 50% or more of the population falls into just one religious category. This includes 43 places where at least 95% of the population belongs to the same religious group; these places are predominantly Muslim (25), Christian (17) or Buddhist (1).

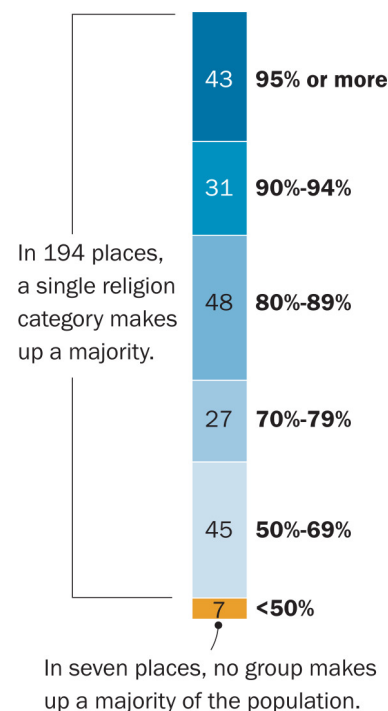
In addition, many countries have a *second* religious category that accounts for most of the rest of the population.

Only 49 countries have three or more religious categories that each make up 5% or more of the population. This includes seven places (Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Taiwan and Togo) with at least four religious categories that each make up at least 5% of the population.³

There are seven countries in which no group makes up a majority of the population: the United Kingdom, Mauritius, South Korea, Australia, France, Ivory Coast and Singapore.

In nearly all countries, a single religious group makes up a majority

Number of countries and territories where the largest religious category accounts for ___ of the population, as of 2020



Note: Religious composition is measured using seven categories: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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³ Having three or four religious groups that each make up at least 5% of the population does not necessarily make a country more diverse than another country that has fewer groups. This is because the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) takes into account the size of each group presented. For example, Malaysia, despite having four religious groups with a significant presence, has an RDI score of 6.3 because Muslims form a clear majority of the population (64%). On the other hand, South Korea, with three groups, has a higher score of 7.3 because the population is more evenly distributed among the religiously unaffiliated (48%), Christians (32%) and Buddhists (19%). The RDI captures *how evenly the groups are distributed*, not just the number of groups presented.

10 countries where the population is most evenly split between two religious groups

In 173 countries and territories, at least 90% of the population falls into just two of the seven religious categories we analyzed, sometimes resulting in a fairly even split. We calculated a [“religious divide” score](#) for each place to analyze just how evenly these populations are divided.

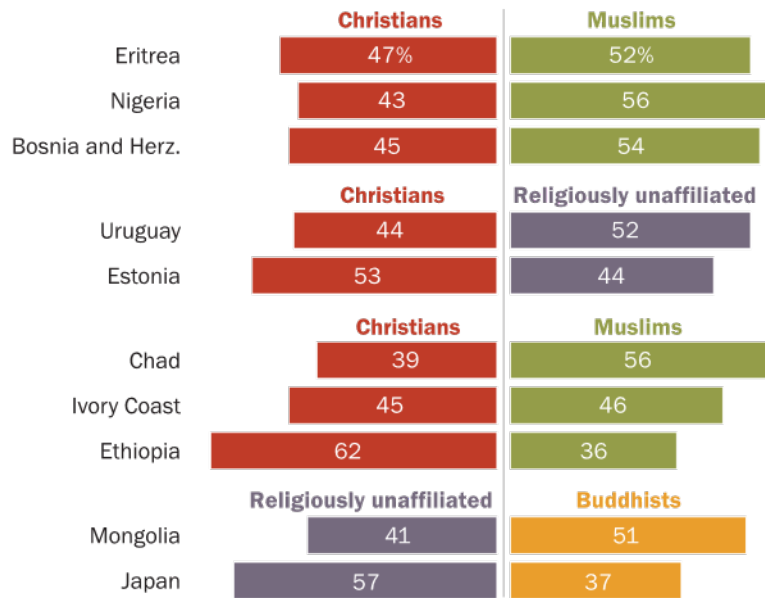
Eritrea ranks first on this measure, with a near-even divide between Muslims (52%) and Christians (47%), as of 2020.

Nigeria and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** – second and third on the list, respectively – also have large shares of Christians and Muslims.

Among the 10 countries with the most evenly divided religious composition, six have a Christian-Muslim split. In the remaining four, the split is between Christians and the unaffiliated (**Uruguay** and **Estonia**) or between Buddhists and the unaffiliated (**Mongolia** and **Japan**).

Countries where 90% of the population falls most evenly into a pair of religious categories

10 countries where the two largest religious groups are most evenly divided, based on religious composition in 2020



Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys. “Religious Diversity Around the World”

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Where do countries fall on the diversity spectrum?

In addition to ranking countries based on their Religious Diversity Index score, we also grouped countries and world regions into five levels of diversity ranging from very high to very low.

Sorting countries by their overall level of diversity can help shed light on [which regions of the world are most and least religiously diverse](#), and whether people more commonly [live in places with high or low levels of diversity](#).

Countries and territories with scores of 7.0 to 10.0 are categorized as having a *very high* degree of religious diversity. Places with scores below 1.0 are categorized as having a *very low* degree of religious diversity.

Of the 201 countries and territories in this analysis, the largest number are moderately diverse (89). Many countries also fall into the low (30) or very low (41) range, while fewer are at the high (33) or very high (8) end of the spectrum.

Diversity levels and their corresponding Religious Diversity Index scores

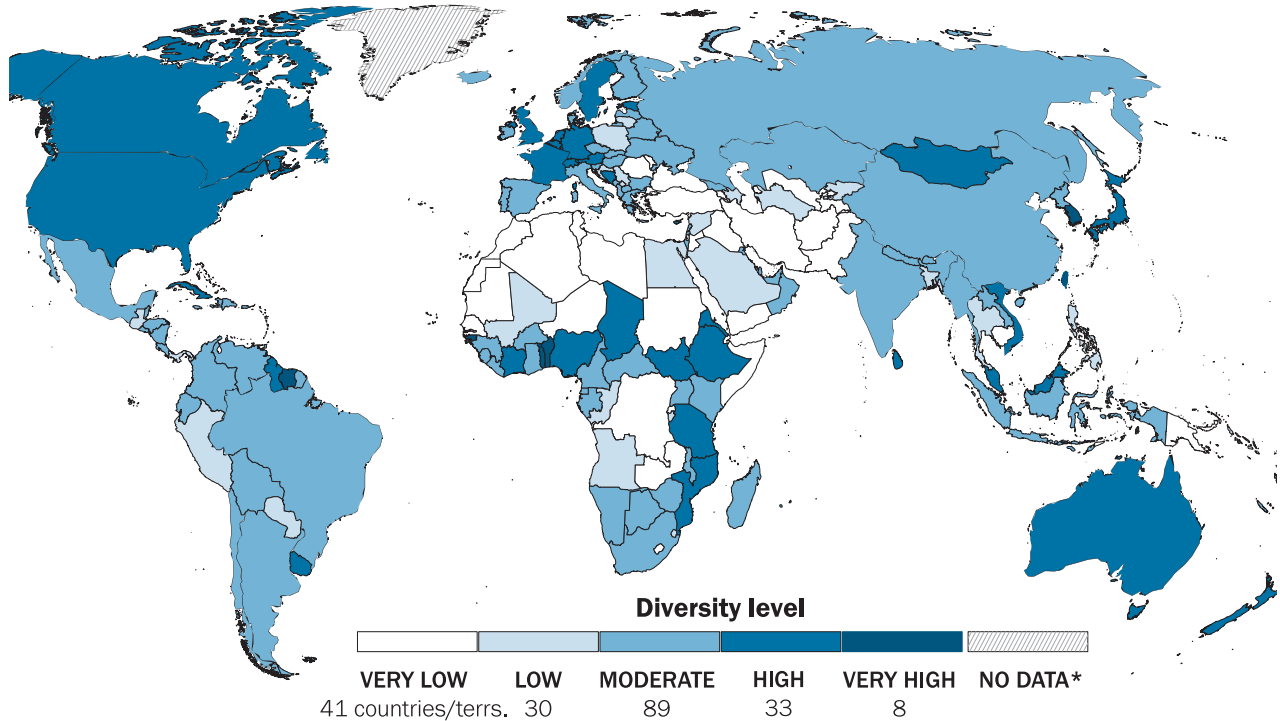
Diversity level	RDI score range
Very high	7.0-10.0
High	5.5-6.9
Moderate	2.0-5.4
Low	1.0-1.9
Very low	0.0-0.9

Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation. The first figure in each range represents the minimum threshold for the diversity level. Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys. “Religious Diversity Around the World”

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Countries with high levels of religious diversity are scattered around the world

Places with a ___ level of religious diversity, based on Religious Diversity Index scores



* Places with populations under 100,000 in both 2010 and 2020, including Greenland, are excluded from analysis.

Note: Based on Religious Diversity Index (RDI) scores for 201 countries and territories. Higher RDI scores reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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Religious diversity by region

The Asia-Pacific region, with an overall RDI score of 8.7 and a **very high level of diversity**, is the most religiously diverse of the six regions in our analysis.

Considered as a whole, the Asia-Pacific region is home to many millions of religiously unaffiliated people, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and people in the “other religions” umbrella category. Jews are the only major group with a small presence in this region.

No religious category constitutes a majority in the Asia-Pacific region. The largest single group – the religiously unaffiliated – makes up only about a third of the region’s population.

Three regions in this analysis have a **high level of diversity**: North America (with an RDI score of 6.0), sub-Saharan Africa (5.9) and Europe (5.6). In each of these regions, Christians make up a majority of the overall population. The second-largest group – the religiously unaffiliated in North America and Europe, and Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa – makes up a quarter or more.

The Latin America-Caribbean region falls in the **moderate diversity** category, with an RDI score of 3.1. The region has a large Christian majority and a modest share of unaffiliated people.

The Middle East-North Africa region, with an RDI score of 1.3 and a **low level of diversity**, is the least diverse of the regions we studied, with a population that is 94% Muslim. This region includes five of the world’s 10 *least* religiously diverse countries and territories: Yemen, Morocco, Western Sahara, Iraq and Tunisia.

Religious diversity by region

Religious Diversity Index score, diversity level and religious composition of each region

	Asia-Pacific	North America	Sub-Saharan Africa	Europe	Latin America-Caribbean	Middle East-North Africa
RDI score	8.7	6.0	5.9	5.6	3.1	1.3
Diversity level	Very high	High	High	High	Moderate	Low
Christians	6%	63%	62%	67%	85%	3%
Muslims	26	2	33	6	<1	94
Religiously unaffiliated	33	30	3	25	12	<1
Hindus	26	1	<1	<1	<1	1
Buddhists	7	1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Other religions	2	1	2	1	3	<1
Jews	<1	2	<1	<1	<1	2

Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied. Groups are ordered by their share of the global population.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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What share of people live in religiously diverse societies?

A majority of the global population lives in countries and territories with a moderate level of religious diversity.

Just 1% of all people live in places with very high religious diversity. An additional 19% live in places with high diversity, while the remainder live in places with low (9%) or very low (12%) diversity.

Muslims are the group most likely to live in countries and territories with very low diversity, though they also tend to live in moderately diverse places. This is because many Muslims reside [in Middle East-North African countries](#) – where the vast majority of people are Muslim – and in moderately diverse Asian countries such as Indonesia and India.

Christians – who are, geographically, the [most widely distributed](#) of the groups in this analysis – are most likely to live in moderately diverse countries. However, many Christians also live in highly diverse places, such as [the U.S., Nigeria and Ethiopia](#).

Religiously unaffiliated people mostly live in moderately diverse societies, such as China, which [is home to two-thirds](#) of the world's unaffiliated population.

Jews are split almost evenly between moderately and highly diverse countries. Nearly 40% of the world's Jewish population resides in the U.S. (a highly diverse country) and 46% live in Israel (moderately diverse).

Related: [Many religions are heavily concentrated in a few countries](#)

77% of religious 'nones' live in countries or territories with a moderate level of religious diversity

% of each group living in places with a ___ level of religious diversity, based on Religious Diversity Index scores

	Very high (7.0-10.0)	High (5.5-6.9)	Moderate (2.0-5.4)	Low (1.0-1.9)	Very low (0.0-0.9)
Christians	1%	30%	50%	12%	7%
Muslims	<1	13	30	18	39
Religiously unaffiliated	2	20	77	1	<1
Hindus	<1	1	97	1	<1
Buddhists	5	31	38	21	5
Other religions	9	15	72	2	1
Jews	<1	49	51	<1	<1
All	1	19	58	9	12

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied. Groups are ordered by their share of the global population.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates for 2020, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys. "Religious Diversity Around the World"

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Hindus primarily live in places that are moderately diverse. This is because the vast majority of Hindus (95%) live in India, a moderately diverse country.

Buddhists are spread most evenly across the five levels of religious diversity, with the majority dwelling in moderately (38%) or highly (31%) diverse countries. Buddhists also are among the most likely to live in places with a very high level of diversity, such as Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

Change in religious diversity since 2010

Broadly speaking, religious diversity levels around the world did not change much between 2010 and 2020, as the [religious composition of most countries](#) was fairly stable.⁴

However, the RDI scores of around two dozen countries changed considerably over that decade, primarily due to widespread [religious disaffiliation among Christians](#).⁵ In places where very large Christian populations shrank and a small religiously unaffiliated population gained ground, the RDI score rose. In places where the unaffiliated population was already large and expanded further, the RDI score fell.

Changes in RDI scores also led religious diversity *levels* to shift in some countries. For example, the religious diversity level of the U.S. rose from “moderate” to “high” over the decade. The country’s large Christian majority shrank by 14 percentage points to 64% in 2020 and a growing minority of Americans did not identify with any religion. Similarly, Ireland’s religious diversity level rose from “low” to “moderate” as the large Christian majority shrank by 11 points to 81%.

On the other side of this equation, a few places experienced a shift that *lowered* their RDI score. For example, in the Netherlands, the already-large share of religiously unaffiliated people grew by 9 points to 54%, while the Christian population shrank. As a result, the country’s religious diversity level fell from “very high” in 2010 to “high” in 2020.

But changes in a country’s religious composition do not always lead to a change in its RDI score or religious diversity level. For example, New Zealand’s score remained at around 6.6, because its two largest groups essentially swapped places: The share of Christians in the population shrank by 9 points, and the share of unaffiliated people expanded by 7 points.

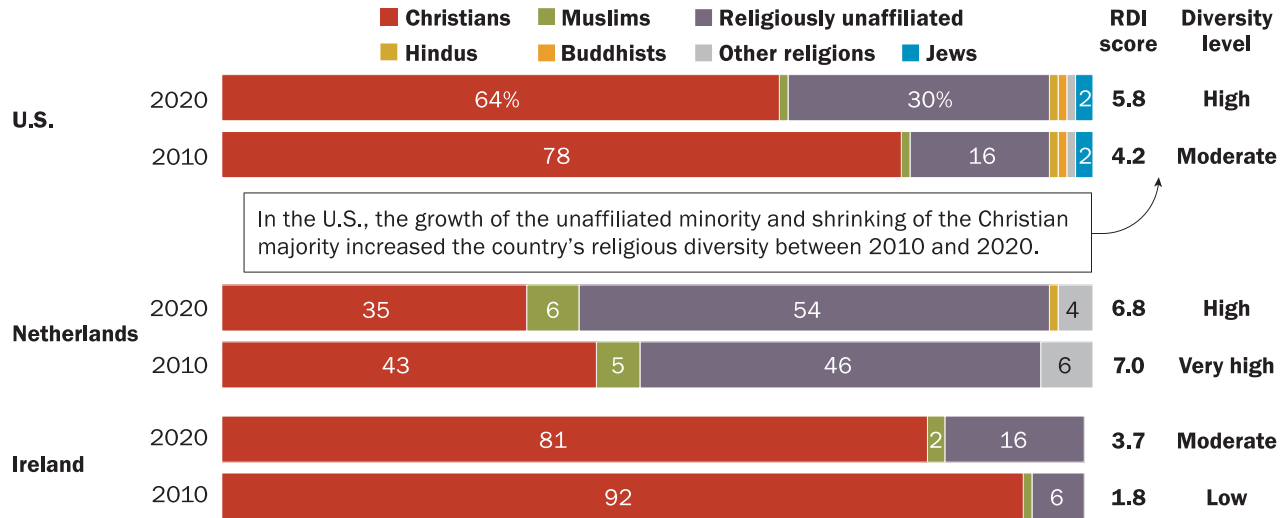
Some countries, such as Chile and Oman, remained in the “moderate” diversity classification despite an increase in their RDI scores. This is because their religious compositions were still not as evenly distributed as those of countries in the “high” diversity category.

⁴Of the 201 countries and territories in our analysis, 153 (or 76%) experienced an absolute RDI score change of less than 0.5 points between 2010 and 2020, and 169 (or 84%) remained in the same diversity classification. Explore the [sortable table](#) to learn more about the changes in individual countries.

⁵There are 25 countries and territories whose RDI scores increased by at least 1.0 point between 2010 and 2020.

Examples of countries with changing levels of religious diversity

Based on religious composition in 2010 and 2020



Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) reflect a more even distribution of the seven religious categories studied.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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Methodology

This Pew Research Center study calculates Religious Diversity Index (RDI) scores for countries, territories and world regions based on the distribution of seven religious categories: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of all other religions (an umbrella category) and people with no religious affiliation.

The underlying estimates of the size of religious populations were previously published in Pew Research Center's 2025 report, "[How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020](#)." The estimates covered 201 countries and territories, each of which had at least 100,000 people in 2010 or 2020. Together, these 201 countries and territories accounted for 99.98% of the global population in 2020.

We limited our analysis to seven religious categories to enable comparisons across the world, including in many countries and territories where reliable data is not available on smaller religious subgroups, such as Protestant denominations. If we were to count various denominations, branches, sects or movements within each religion separately, the diversity scores would be different.

For example, the United States would have a higher diversity score if we treated Catholics, Orthodox Christians and numerous Protestant denominations as separate religious groups instead of as a single "Christians" category. Similarly, other countries would have higher scores if we counted subgroups of Muslims, Jews, Hindus and Buddhists separately, or if we divided the "religiously unaffiliated" category into subgroups such as atheists and agnostics.

Although there is internal diversity within each of the seven religious categories used in this analysis, they are generally recognized as distinct from one another.

Calculating Religious Diversity Index scores

The Religious Diversity Index (RDI) is a modified version of the [Herfindahl-Hirschman Index](#) and is calculated using this formula:

$$\{1 - \sum_i^7 Prop_i^2\} \times 10 / \frac{6}{7}$$

The calculation involves three steps, as illustrated in the accompanying table.

- First, the proportions of the seven religious categories analyzed in this study are squared and then summed to obtain a score representing how concentrated they are. In this first step, a country made up of a single religious group would get a score of 1, while a country where the population is evenly distributed among seven groups would get a score of 0.14.⁶
- Second, we subtract the first-step score from 1 so that higher scores reflect higher religious diversity.
- Third, the second-step score is further adjusted to put the final Religious Diversity Index on a scale of 0 to 10, which involves inflating the second-step score by a factor of 11.6 (=10/0.86).

Calculating Religious Diversity Index scores

Using the United States' 2020 religious composition as an example

Step 1: Calculate concentration score

	Proportion	Squared
Christians	0.64	0.41
Muslims	0.01	0.00
Religiously unaffiliated	0.30	0.09
Buddhists	0.01	0.00
Hindus	0.01	0.00
Jews	0.02	0.00
Other religions	0.01	0.00
Total	1.00	0.50

Step 2: Obtain diversity score

$$1 - 0.50 = 0.50$$

Step 3: Rescale to 0-10

$$0.50 \times (10/0.86) = 5.8$$

Source: Pew Research Center calculations.
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Two factors determine a country's religious diversity score: the extent to which its population falls into a single religious group, and the degree to which the remaining population is dispersed across

⁶ When a country's population is equally divided among seven religious categories, each group accounts for one-seventh (or 0.14) of the population, and the sum of the squared proportions is also one-seventh (or 0.14).

other religious categories. When a single religious group constitutes a higher proportion of the population, the country receives a lower RDI score.

Meanwhile, among countries where the largest group comprises the same share of the population, places in which the remaining population is distributed more evenly across groups score higher on the RDI. For example, in a country in which 70% of the population belongs to a single religious group, the index score would be 4.9 if the remaining 30% were concentrated in just one category. However, the score would rise to around 5.7 if the remainder were spread evenly across five or six different groups.

The resulting score corresponds to an assigned level of religious diversity: very high, high, moderate, low or very low.

This classification reflects the extent to which a population is concentrated in a single religious group. For instance, countries and territories in the “very high” category have a relatively even distribution of the seven groups studied. In these places, no religious category makes up more than 57% of the population. By contrast, in places that are in the “very low” category, the largest religious category accounts for 96% or more of the population.

Refer to [Appendix B](#) for a detailed table showing RDI scores, religious diversity classifications, and religious composition data for 201 countries and territories. The table also includes diversity calculations for world regions.

Diversity levels and corresponding RDI score ranges

	RDI score range	# of countries and territories	% of population that the largest group makes up
Very high	7.0-10.0	8	31%-57%
High	5.5-6.9	33	46-70
Moderate	2.0-5.4	89	64-91
Low	1.0-1.9	30	91-95
Very low	0.0-0.9	41	96-100

Note: Higher scores on the Religious Diversity Index (RDI) reflect a more even distribution of seven religious categories studied: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, adherents of other religions and people with no religious affiliation. The first figure in each RDI score range represents the minimum threshold for the diversity level.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations using religious composition estimates, which are based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

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Calculating religious divide scores

To measure the extent to which countries and territories are evenly split between just two religious categories, we relied on the [Reynal-Querol index](#), calculated using the distance of the distribution of the groups from a 50/50 distribution. A country where virtually everyone belongs to a single religious group gets a score of 0, while a country with two equally sized groups receives a score of 10.

The calculation follows the formula:

$$1 - \sum_i \left[\frac{0.5 - Prop_i}{0.5} \right]^2 * Prop_i$$

$Prop_i$ represents each religious category's share in the population. The formula gives more weight to bigger groups while adjusting for the size of the rest of the population. As with the RDI scores, we rescale the final values to range from 0 to 10.

[Appendix C](#) contains religious divide scores and religious composition estimates (2010-2020) for all countries, territories and world regions included in this analysis.

Calculating religious divide scores

Using Eritrea's 2020 religious composition as an example

	Proportion	Step 1: Calculate distance from a 50/50 split	Step 2: Square the distance	Step 3: Weigh by each group's size
Christians	0.47	-0.07	0.00	0.00
Muslims	0.52	0.03	0.00	0.00
Religiously unaffiliated	0.01	-0.98	0.96	0.01
Buddhists	0.00	-1.00	1.00	0.00
Hindus	0.00	-1.00	1.00	0.00
Jews	0.00	-1.00	1.00	0.00
Other religions	0.01	-0.99	0.98	0.01
Total	1.00	--	--	0.02

Step 4: Obtain division score

$$1 - 0.02 = 0.98$$

Step 5: Rescale to 0-10

$$0.98 \times 10 = 9.81$$

Source: Pew Research Center calculations.
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How our diversity measures differ from what we published in 2014

The Religious Diversity Index scores in this report shouldn't be directly compared with those we published in the 2014 "[Global Religious Diversity](#)" report. While we use the same methodology – a modified version of the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index – to calculate Religious Diversity Index scores, the underlying religious composition numbers have been updated.

As described in our 2025 report, "[How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020](#)," we have recently adjusted our data sources and methods for 2010 to make them more methodologically comparable with our 2020 estimates. In most cases, the differences between our old and new 2010 figures are modest. In China, however, the revisions resulted in a considerable change to the country's religious composition estimates and, consequently, its level of religious diversity.

Additionally, our revised composition estimates [no longer include separate figures for adherents of folk religions](#). Instead, people who identify with folk religions are now included in the "other religions" category. As a result, the Religious Diversity Index scores in the current study reflect the distribution of *seven* religious categories rather than *eight*, as in the 2014 study.

Refer to [Appendix B](#) for RDI scores and religious composition estimates (2010-2020) for all countries, territories and world regions included in this analysis. The 2010 estimates in the appendices reflect our updated methodology.

Appendix A: Countries with a large majority by religion

In 74 places, a single religious group accounts for 90% or more of the population

Number of countries and territories where ___ are the largest religious group, by their share of the population

	<50%	50%-69%	70%-79%	80%-89%	90%-94%	95%+	Total
Christians	3	27	16	39	21	17	123
Muslims	1	8	5	6	9	25	54
Religiously unaffiliated	1	6	3	1	0	0	11
Hindus	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
Buddhists	1	3	1	1	1	1	8
Other religions	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jews	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
All	7	45	27	48	31	43	201

In 25 places, Muslims make up 95% or more of the population.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.
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