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Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are still highly religious and conservative, but signs point to demographic and social change

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About Pew Research Center

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About this research

This project looks at the religious beliefs and practices, as well as the social and political views, of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (sometimes called Mormons) in the United States.

Why did we do this?

Pew Research Center has long studied the religiousness and political attitudes of Americans in different religious traditions. This project builds on [our major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#). Learn more about [Pew Research Center](#) and our other [research on religion](#).

How did we do this?

This project is based mainly on data from the Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS), a survey of 36,908 randomly sampled U.S. adults conducted from July 17, 2023, to March 4, 2024. It included interviews with 565 people who currently identify as Latter-day Saints (414 lifelong church members and 151 converts), as well as 316 former Latter-day Saints. 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 more details about the landscape study's [methodology](#) and information on [the sample sizes and margins of error](#) for subgroups of Latter-day Saints analyzed in this project.

Table of contents

About Pew Research Center	1
About this research	2
Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.	4
How have Latter-Day Saints changed demographically?	7
Have Latter-day Saints become less religious?	10
Have Latter-day Saints' views on social issues changed in recent years?	12
Lifelong Latter-day Saints are more religious than both former members and converts	15
How lifelong members and former members compare demographically	20
How lifelong members and former members compare religiously	22
How lifelong members and converts compare demographically	23
How lifelong members and converts compare religiously	24
Latter-day Saints are highly religious, though not uniformly so	25
How Latter-day Saints in the Mountain region stand out religiously	28
Educational divides in religiousness among Latter-day Saints	29
Latter-day Saints largely identify as Republican but stand out from their partisan peers on diversity issues	30
How Latter-day Saint Republicans' views compare with those of Republicans overall	33
Latter-day Saints: Happy in their family lives, traditional in gender roles	35
Religion and marriage among Latter-day Saints	37
Latter-day Saint views on gender	38
Latter-day Saints have strong communal ties and high social trust	40
Acknowledgments	42
Methodology	44
Classification as a Latter-day Saint	44
Appendix: Detailed tables	46

Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are still highly religious and conservative, but signs point to demographic and social change

In many ways, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are a stable and traditional community. For at least [the last four decades](#), Latter-day Saints (widely known as Mormons) have made up [between 1% and 2% of the U.S. adult population](#). Members of this group have consistently stood out as highly religious and conservative.

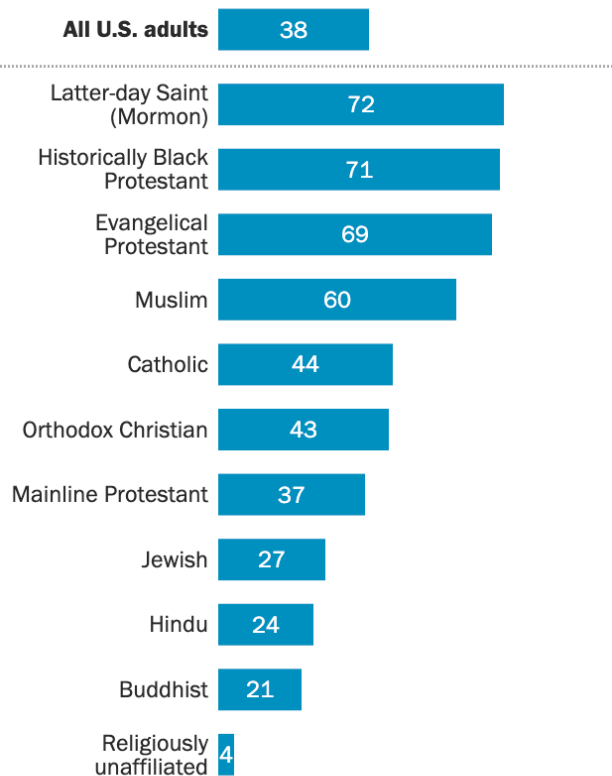
Several of Pew Research Center's surveys dating back to 2007 have found that **Latter-day Saints are, on average, [among the most religious adults in America](#)**.

For example, about seven-in-ten Latter-day Saints surveyed in the Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS) say that religion is very important in their lives. This is roughly on par with evangelical Protestants and members of historically Black Protestant churches – and far higher than the shares of U.S. Catholics (44%), Jews (27%) and Buddhists (21%) who say religion is very important to them.

Latter-day Saints also have remained overwhelmingly [attached to the Republican Party over the past several decades](#). About three-quarters of the church's members identify as Republican or lean toward the Republican Party, as of 2023-24.¹ Previous

Roughly 7 in 10 Latter-day Saints say religion is very important in their lives

% of adults who say religion is **very important** in their lives



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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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¹ This survey was conducted mostly in 2023 and the early part of 2024, before the 2024 presidential election.

Center surveys conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2014 also found that Latter-day Saints were, on the whole, among the country's [most politically conservative groups](#) when asked about their ideology.

Amid these signs of stability, however, are indications of change within the church.

Center surveys show that since 2007, Latter-day Saints have become:

- [More demographically diverse](#) and much less likely to be raising children under 18 at home
- Slightly less religious by some key measures, including [daily prayer rates](#)
- Modestly [more liberal on some social and political issues](#), such as homosexuality

The church's [retention rate also has fallen](#) over this time span.

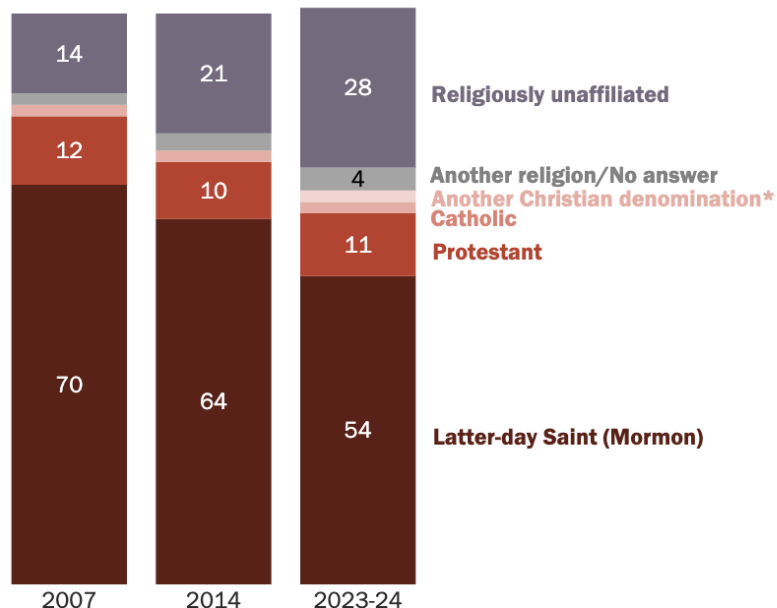
About half of Americans who say they were raised as Latter-day Saints still identify as members of the church in adulthood (54%), according to the 2023-24 RLS. That retention rate has steadily declined since 2007, when it stood at 70%.

A growing percentage of people who were raised as Latter-day Saints now identify as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular.” As of 2023-24, 28% of adults who were raised as Latter-day Saints are religiously unaffiliated – double the figure seen in 2007.

These are among the key findings of a new Pew Research Center study examining the views, beliefs and practices of Latter-day Saints in the United

Latter-day Saints' retention rate has fallen in recent decades

*Among people who were raised as Latter-day Saints, % who **now** identify as/with ___ in adulthood*



* This share rounds to 0% in the 2007 and 2014 surveys.

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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

“Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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States. This project is based on data from the 2023-24 RLS as well as our previous landscape studies, conducted in 2014 and 2007. We also draw on the Center’s [major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#).

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using “Mormon”](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church’s full name and refer to members of the faith as “Latter-day Saints.” We include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”²

² In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” A few respondents who identify as “Mormon” may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

How have Latter-Day Saints changed demographically?

While most Latter-day Saints today are White, the church's members have grown more racially and ethnically diverse in recent decades. The portion of Latter-day Saints who are White has fallen from 85% in 2007 to 72% in 2023-24. Hispanic adults have doubled in share – from 6% to 12% – over this time span, while the percentage of Latter-day Saints who are Black has grown from 2% to 6%.

These changes are driven at least in part by converts to the faith, who are [more racially and ethnically diverse](#) than lifelong members of the church.

There also has been a slight decrease in the share of Latter-day Saints who are at least third-generation Americans, meaning both they and their parents were born in the U.S. Today, 79% of church members fit this description, compared with 87% in 2007.³

The overall age profile of church members also has slightly shifted. Since 2007, the median age among Latter-day Saint adults has risen from 41 to 44 years. (The median [age of U.S. Christian adults overall](#) has risen more sharply, from 46 to 54.) And a smaller share of Latter-day Saints are parents of children under 18 today than in 2007 (37% vs. 49%).⁴

Latter-day Saints are slightly more diverse than they were in the past

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who are ...

	2007	2011	2014	2023-24
White	85	87	84	72
Hispanic	6	7	8	12
Black	2	1	1	6
Asian*	1	1	1	1
Other/Multiracial	3	4	5	7
First generation (born outside U.S.):**	7	5	7	11
Second generation (born in U.S., at least 1 parent born outside U.S.)	5	6	7	9
Third+ generation (born in U.S., both parents born in U.S.)	87	89	85	79
Have children under 18 at home	49	--	41	37
Have at least a bachelor's degree	29	31	33	36

* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

** Estimates for respondents born outside the U.S. are representative only of English and Spanish speakers.

Note: White, Black and Asian respondents include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Those who did not answer are not shown. Dashes indicate the question was not asked in that survey. The three older surveys were conducted by telephone, but the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study (RLS) was completed mainly online and on paper. This "mode shift" affects the results of some survey questions. Analysis of an experimental telephone survey conducted alongside the 2023-24 RLS indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons shown here. Refer to Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS for more details.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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³ For the purposes of this analysis, the "First generation" category includes those born in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. Although individuals born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth, they are included with the "First generation" category here because they are born into a Spanish-dominant culture and because, on many points, their attitudes, views and beliefs are much closer to those of Hispanics born outside the U.S. than to Hispanics born in the 50 U.S. states or the District of Colombia, even those who identify themselves as being of Puerto Rican origin.

⁴ Comparisons between the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study (RLS) and the earlier surveys are complicated by important differences in the ways they were conducted. The previous surveys were conducted by telephone, but the 2023-24 RLS was completed mainly online and on

Today, the share of Latter-day Saints with a bachelor's degree stands at 36%. In recent years, Latter-day Saint women have become much more likely to hold a bachelor's degree (25% in 2007 vs. 40% today). Meanwhile, the percentage of Latter-day Saint men with at least a bachelor's degree has held steady over this period at roughly one-third.

For more about Latter-day Saint families, read our related analysis, "[Latter-day Saints: Happy in their family lives, traditional in gender roles.](#)"

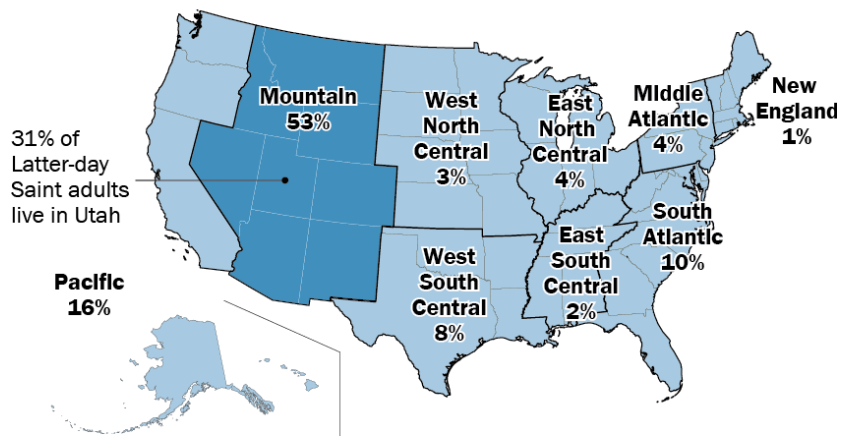
Regional distribution of Latter-day Saints

In 1847, fleeing persecution, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began [settling in the Salt Lake Valley](#), in present-day Utah. In the following decades, the church sent its members [to settle the broader region](#).

The echoes of those early settlement patterns are still visible in the distribution of church members throughout the United States. According to our 2023-24 RLS, about half of Latter-day Saint adults live in the eight states of the Mountain region, stretching from Montana to New Mexico.⁵ The percentage of Latter-day Saints living in the Mountain region has remained

Half of Latter-day Saints live in Utah and the surrounding states

% of all U.S. Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who live in each region



Note: Regions are classified according to the U.S. Census Bureau's nine divisions. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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paper. This "mode shift" affects the results of some survey questions more than others. To find out whether results could be reliably compared across surveys, the Center conducted an experimental telephone survey (or "bridge study") alongside the 2023-24 RLS. Analysis of the bridge study's results indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons discussed here despite the mode shift. Refer to [Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS](#) for more details.

⁵ The U.S. Census Bureau's Mountain division includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The percentage of Latter-day Saint adults estimated to live in the Mountain region based on the 2023-24 RLS aligns with [the church's membership statistics](#). As of Dec. 31, 2025, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reported that 3,649,570 members – or 53% of all Latter-day Saints in the U.S. – lived in these eight states.

fairly stable since our 2007 RLS. Within the Mountain region, Utah stands out: 31% of the country's Latter-day Saints live in Utah alone.

This is a remarkably high concentration of church members, as only 8% of Americans live in the Mountain region and just 1% of Americans live in Utah.

Latter-day Saints living in the Mountain region are more likely to be members of a congregation than those who live elsewhere (93% vs. 78%).⁶ And by a variety of measures, this geographically concentrated group tends to be [somewhat more religious or spiritual](#) than Latter-day Saints in other parts of the U.S.

⁶ According to [the church's published statistics](#), 59% of congregations located in the U.S. are in the Mountain region – about the same as the share of the country's Latter-day Saints who live in the region. (Data reported as of Dec. 31, 2025.)

Have Latter-day Saints become less religious?

While Latter-day Saints are among the most religious Americans, they appear to have grown less religious by some measures over the last few decades.⁷

For example, compared with 2007, Latter-day Saints are now:

- 14 percentage points less likely to say they believe in God or a universal spirit with absolute certainty
- 11 points less likely to say religion is very important in their lives
- 9 points less likely to say they pray daily

This generally aligns with a decades-long, nationwide pattern in which Americans, on the whole, have become less religious. For instance, 58% of Americans said in the 2007 RLS that they prayed daily. By the 2023-24 RLS, that share had dropped to 44%. This pattern is not simply a result of growth among the country's religiously unaffiliated population: Christians were more likely to [report praying daily](#) in 2007 than they are now (66% vs. 60%).

However, in recent years – beginning around 2020 – religion has [shown signs of relative stability](#) in the U.S. For example, the percentage of U.S. adults who pray daily, as well as the share who say they attend religious services monthly, have [held fairly steady](#) in our annual National Public Opinion Reference Surveys (NPORS) from 2020 through 2025.

Unlike the massive RLS project, most of our surveys do not have large enough samples of Latter-day Saints to report their responses separately, given that they make up only 2% of the U.S. adult

Latter-day Saints have grown less likely to say they believe in God with certainty

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say ...

	2007	2011	2014	2023-24
They believe in God or a universal spirit with absolute certainty	90	--	86	76
Religion is very important in their lives	83	82	84	72
They pray daily	82	83	85	73

Note: Dashes indicate the question was not asked in that survey.

The three older surveys were conducted by telephone, but the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study (RLS) was completed mainly online and on paper. This "mode shift" affects the results of some survey questions. Analysis of an experimental telephone survey conducted alongside the 2023-24 RLS indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons shown here. Refer to Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS for more details.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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⁷ Analysis of results from the 2023-24 RLS's companion "bridge study" indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons discussed here despite a change in the survey's mode of administration (from interviewer-administered to mostly self-administered). Refer to [Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS](#) for more details.

population. As a result, we do not have sufficient data to determine whether religiousness among Latter-day Saints – like religion among Americans as a whole – has stabilized in the last few years.

For more on the religious beliefs and practices of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today, read our accompanying analysis, “[Latter-day Saints are highly religious, though not uniformly so.](#)”

Have Latter-day Saints' views on social issues changed in recent years?

Latter-day Saints still have more conservative views than members of many other U.S. religious groups, but their attitudes on some social and political issues appear to have changed over time.

For instance, majorities of adults in most U.S. religious groups say homosexuality should be accepted by society – a position taken by fewer Latter-day Saints (46%). Among [the religious groups analyzed in the 2023-24 RLS](#), only evangelical Protestants are less likely than Latter-day Saints to say homosexuality should be accepted. Yet the share of Latter-day Saints who say homosexuality should be socially accepted has nearly doubled since 2007, when it was 24%.⁸

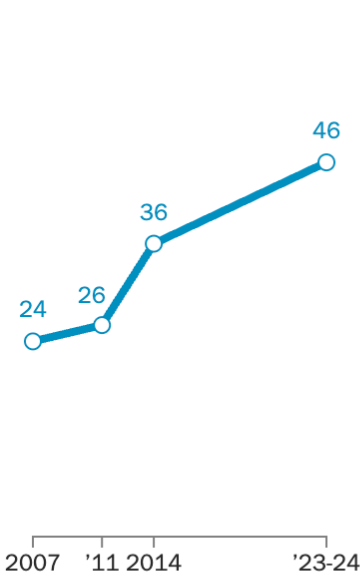
Likewise, a growing percentage of church members say that having more women in the workforce is a change for the better.

⁸ Analysis of results from the 2023-24 RLS's companion "bridge study" indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons discussed here despite a change in the survey's mode of administration (from interviewer-administered to mostly self-administered). Refer to [Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS](#) for more details.

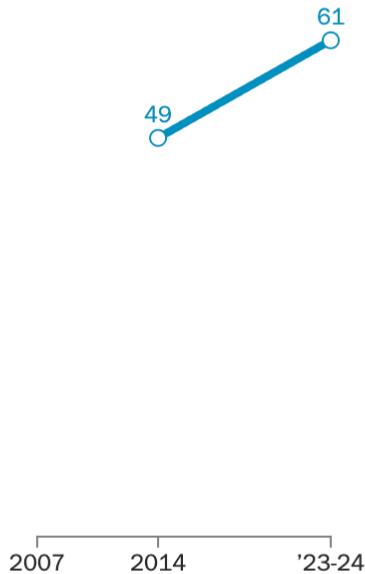
Latter-day Saints have grown much more accepting of homosexuality in recent decades

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say ...

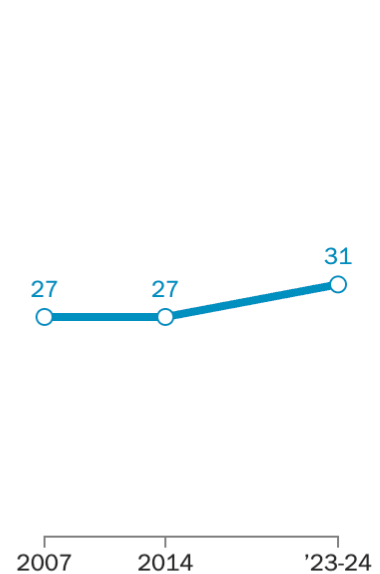
Homosexuality should be accepted by society



More women in the workforce is a change for the better



Abortion should be legal in all/most cases



Note: The question about women in the workforce was not asked in the 2007 or 2011 surveys. The question about abortion was not asked in the 2011 survey. The three older surveys were conducted by telephone, but the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study (RLS) was completed mainly online and on paper. This "mode shift" affects the results of some survey questions. Analysis of an experimental telephone survey conducted alongside the 2023-24 RLS indicates that it is safe to make the comparisons shown here. Refer to Appendix A of the 2023-24 RLS for more details.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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These shifts have taken place even though a majority of Latter-day Saints have remained connected to the Republican Party. While the percentages who identify with the two main political parties in the 2023-24 RLS [are not directly comparable to the 2007 and 2014 RLS findings](#) for methodological reasons, in all three of our landscape studies [most Latter-day Saints](#) have identified with, or leaned toward, the GOP.

However, Latter-day Saints' views have not changed on all issues. For example, church members' support for legal abortion has remained largely unchanged since 2007, even as Americans overall have become somewhat more likely to say that [abortion should be legal](#) in all or most cases.

For more on political and social views among members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, read our accompanying analysis, “[Latter-day Saints largely identify as Republican but stand out from their partisan peers on diversity issues](#).”

This analysis is part of a larger project exploring the views, beliefs and religious practices of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Other parts of the project explore:

- [Comparisons between lifelong Latter-day Saints, former church members and converts](#)
- [Differences in religiousness by region and education](#)
- [Political views](#)
- [Family life and gender views](#)
- [Community connections and social trust](#)

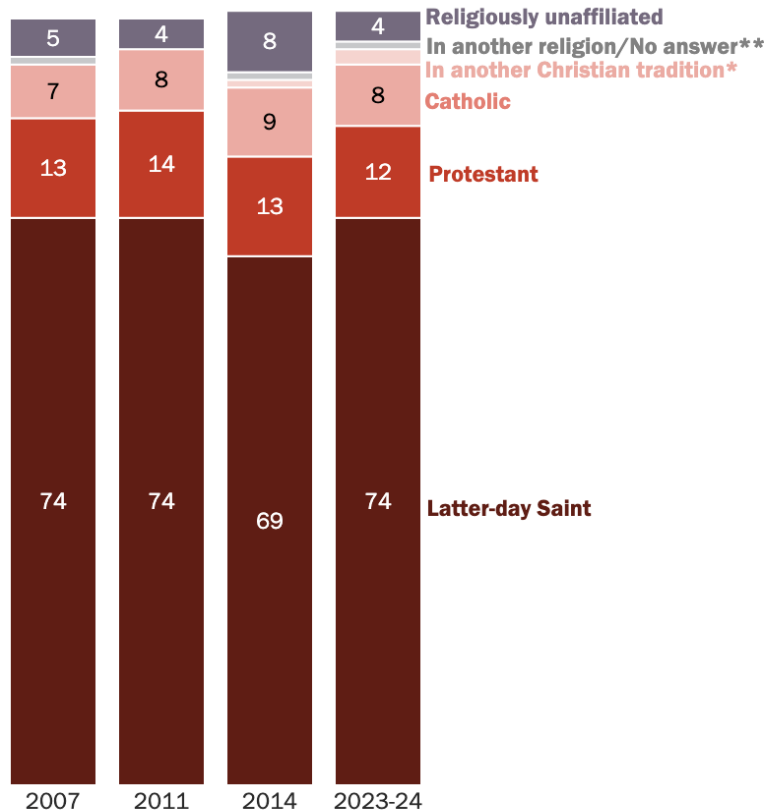
Lifelong Latter-day Saints are more religious than both former members and converts

For many people, the image of a Latter-day Saint may be tied to missionaries they've seen, clad in white shirts and black name tags, evangelizing to gain converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

While most current Latter-day Saints (widely known as Mormons) were raised in the church, about a quarter are converts to the faith, according to Pew Research Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS).⁹ The church's accession rate – the percentage of current members who are converts – has held fairly steady since 2007, with most converts coming from other Christian traditions.

1 in 4 Latter-day Saints were raised in another religious tradition

% of **current** Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) raised ...



* This share rounds to 0% in the 2007 and 2011 surveys.

** This share rounds to 0% in the 2011 survey.

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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⁹ In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: "What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?" A few respondents who identify as "Mormon" may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

Compared with the accession rates of other religious traditions in the United States, the rate among Latter-day Saints is somewhere near the middle, at 26%.

Latter-day Saints have a higher accession rate than Protestants, Jews, Hindus and Catholics.

Latter-day Saints are more likely than Catholics and Protestants to be converts

Among adults who **currently** identify with each religious tradition, % who were raised ...

Among those who currently identify as __	In the same religious tradition	Protestant	Catholic	In another Christian tradition	In another religion/No answer	Religiously unaffiliated	NET Raised in different religious tradition
Religiously unaffiliated	31	35	25	4	5	–	69
Buddhist	52	17	14	1	4	12	48
Orthodox Christian	71	12	3	4	6	4	29
Latter-day Saint (Mormon)	74	12	8	2	1	4	26
Muslim	80	9	3	2	3	3	20
Protestant	81	–	11	1	2	5	19
Jewish	86	3	3	1	1	6	14
Hindu	92	4	1	1	3	<1	8
Catholic	92	5	–	1	1	2	8

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% or to NETs due to rounding.

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

“Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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Meanwhile, religiously unaffiliated people (i.e., those who identify religiously as atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular”) have a much higher accession rate than Latter-day Saints. Nearly seven-in-ten unaffiliated adults say they were raised in a religious tradition but have since shed that identity.

Another way to look at religious change is to consider the *retention rate* of a religious tradition – that is, the share of people who were raised in a group and still identify with that group in adulthood.

The retention rate of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has declined in recent years, from 70% in 2007 to 54% in 2023-24.

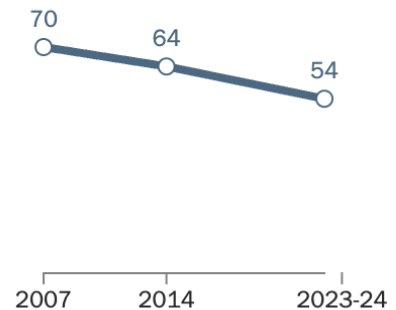
Roughly a quarter of people raised as Latter-day Saints have become religiously unaffiliated (28%). Among the minority who have switched to another religion after being raised as a Latter-day Saint, more have joined another Christian denomination than a non-Christian religion.

The retention rate of Latter-day Saints is lower than that of several other religious traditions in the U.S. For example, about three-quarters of people who were raised Jewish, Muslim or religiously unaffiliated have retained their childhood religious identity in adulthood.¹⁰

Overall, 0.4% of all U.S. adults have converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after having been raised in another religion (or no religion). And 1.0% of all U.S. adults have left the church after having been raised as Latter-day Saints. (Refer to our previous analysis about religious switching among the broader public.)

Latter-day Saints' retention rate has fallen in recent decades

*Among people who were raised as Latter-day Saints, % who **now** identify as Latter-day Saint (Mormon) in adulthood*



Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.
 "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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¹⁰ The retention rate of Latter-day Saints also is lower than that of Protestants when considering Protestantism a single group: 70% of everyone who was raised within Protestantism still belongs to a Protestant tradition today. Of course, Protestantism includes many denominational families (such as Methodists and Presbyterians). When the retention rate of Latter-day Saints is compared with individual denominational families, the retention rate for Latter-day Saints is higher than that of most Protestant denominational families, because there is a lot of switching within Protestantism.

Latter-day Saint retention by gender and age

Retention rates differ within the church for some demographic groups.

Men and women who were raised as Latter-day Saints are equally likely to identify with the church as adults (55% and 54%, respectively).

However, there are notable differences connected to age. People who were raised in the church and are now at least 50 years old are somewhat more likely than younger adults to still identify as Latter-day Saints (61% vs. 50%).

This age difference is largely driven by women. About two-thirds of older women raised in the church still identify as Latter-day Saints now, compared with about half of younger women.

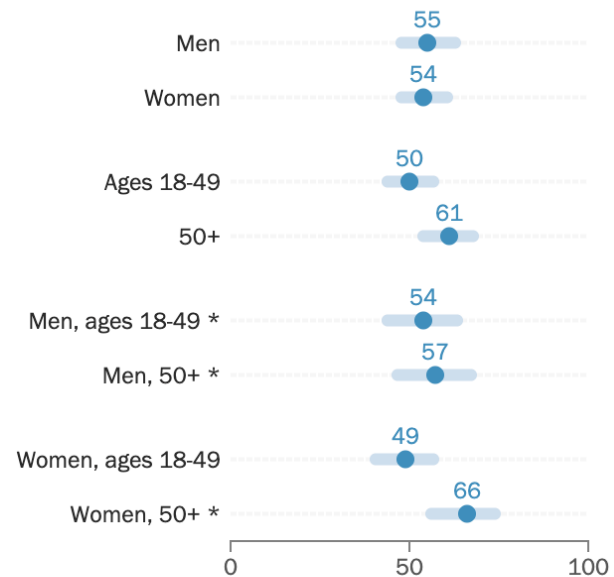
By contrast, similar percentages of older and younger adult men who were raised as Latter-day Saints currently affiliate with the church (57% and 54%, respectively).

(Survey results looking at gender and age at the same time are based on responses from a smaller number of people. Fewer interviews contribute to larger margins of error. [Error bars](#) are included in the accompanying graphic to help readers understand how estimates are less precise when they are based on small samples.)

This analysis of switching into and out of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is part of a larger effort to explore Latter-day Saints' [demographic makeup](#), religious [beliefs and practices](#), and [political and social views](#), as

Older women raised as Latter-day Saints are more likely than younger women to stay in the church as adults

*Among people who were raised as Latter-day Saints, % who **now** identify as Latter-day Saint (Mormon) in adulthood*



* The survey sample for this question included 158 interviews with men ages 18-49 who were raised as Latter-day Saints, with an effective sample size of 84 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.7 percentage points. The sample included 169 interviews with men ages 50+ who were raised as Latter-day Saints, with an effective sample size of 72 and a margin of error of plus or minus 11.5 points. The sample included 159 interviews with women ages 50+ who were raised as Latter-day Saints, with an effective sample size of 90 and a margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 points. These margins of error conservatively assume a reported percentage of 50%. Bars in this graphic show margins of sampling error at a 95% confidence interval for each specific estimate.

Note: The only statistically significant differences in this graphic are the breaks by age and the breaks by age for women.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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well as [how these characteristics have changed over time](#). Data for this analysis comes from our 2023-24 RLS and our previous landscape studies, conducted in 2014 and 2007. We also draw on our [major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#).

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using “Mormon”](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church’s full name and refer to members of the faith as “Latter-day Saints.” We include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”

The rest of this analysis explores [demographic](#) and [religious](#) differences between lifelong and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It also compares the [demographic makeup](#) and [religiousness](#) of lifelong members with those of converts to the church.

How lifelong members and former members compare demographically

Among people *raised* in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, lifelong members and former members differ along several demographic measures.

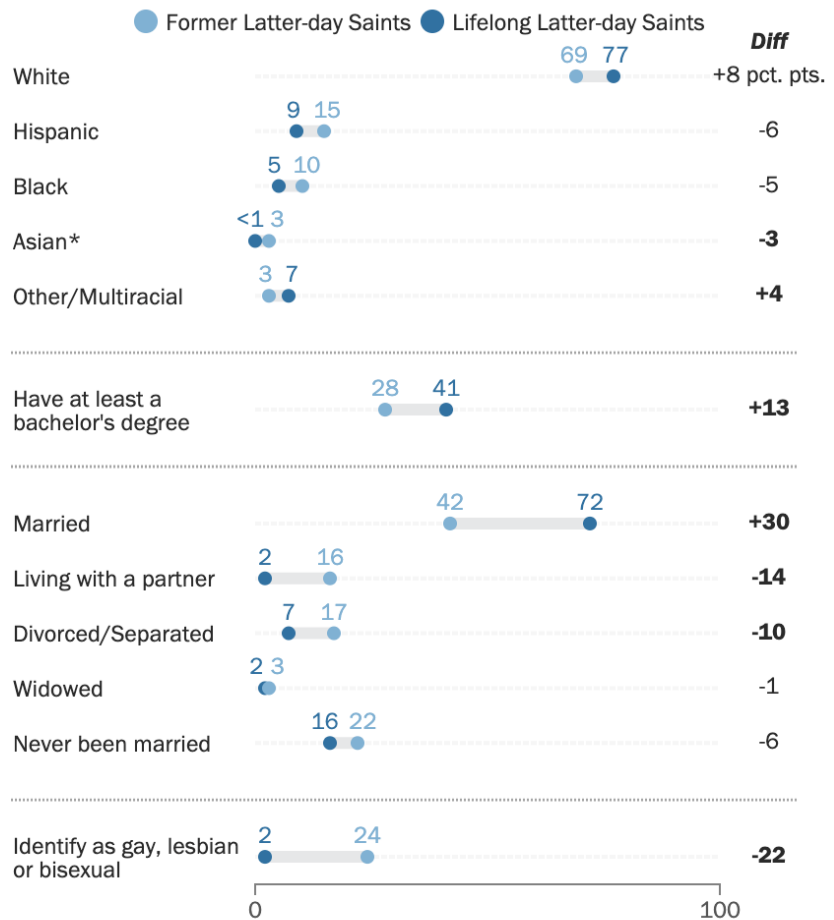
Marital status is one of the most striking differences. Roughly three-quarters of lifelong members are currently married, compared with 42% of former Latter-day Saints. Meanwhile, former Latter-day Saints are more likely than lifelong members to be living with a partner, or to be either divorced or separated.

Just 2% of lifelong Latter-day Saints identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, compared with 24% of former church members.

Lifelong Latter-day Saints also are more likely than former members to have a bachelor's degree. And they are, on average, a little older than former members (with a median age of 43 years vs. 38 years).

Lifelong Latter-day Saints are much more likely than former members to be married

Demographic composition of lifelong vs. former Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons)



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only. The percentage of lifelong Latter-day Saints who are Asian rounds to 0%.
Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**. White, Black and Asian respondents include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Those who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

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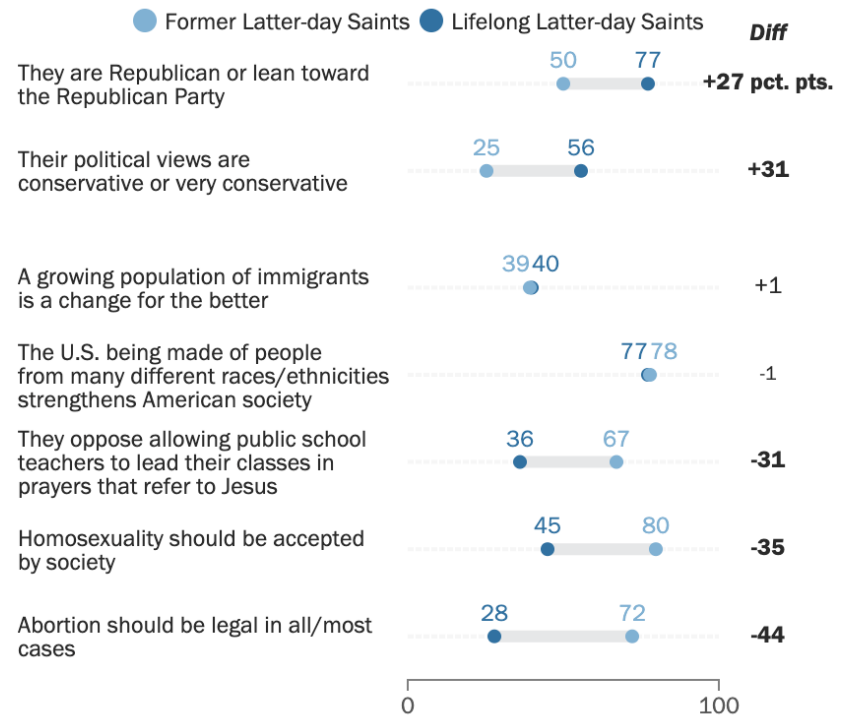
When it comes to politics, lifelong Latter-day Saints are more likely than former church members to identify as Republican or lean toward the Republican Party. They also are much more likely to describe their political views as conservative or very conservative.¹¹

These differences are reflected in their views on various social and political issues. For example, *former* Latter-day Saints are more likely than lifelong members of the church to:

- Oppose public school teachers leading classes in prayers that refer to Jesus
- Say homosexuality should be accepted by society
- Support legal abortion

Lifelong Latter-day Saints are much more conservative than former church members

Among people who were raised as Latter-day Saints (Mormons), % of adults who say ...



Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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However, the two groups are similar in their views about diversity in America. For instance, about three-quarters of both lifelong and former Latter-day Saints say that having people from many different races and ethnicities strengthens the United States.

¹¹ This survey was conducted mostly in 2023 and the early part of 2024, *before* the 2024 presidential election.

How lifelong members and former members compare religiously

In general, lifelong Latter-day Saints are more religious or spiritual than former members, the majority of whom identify as religiously unaffiliated.

Take prayer as an example: 72% of lifelong Latter-day Saints say they pray daily, compared with 27% of former Latter-day Saints.

Childhood religiousness also separates lifelong Latter-day Saints from former church members.

About two-thirds of lifelong Latter-day Saints say religion was very important to them personally when they were growing up, compared with 27% of former church members.

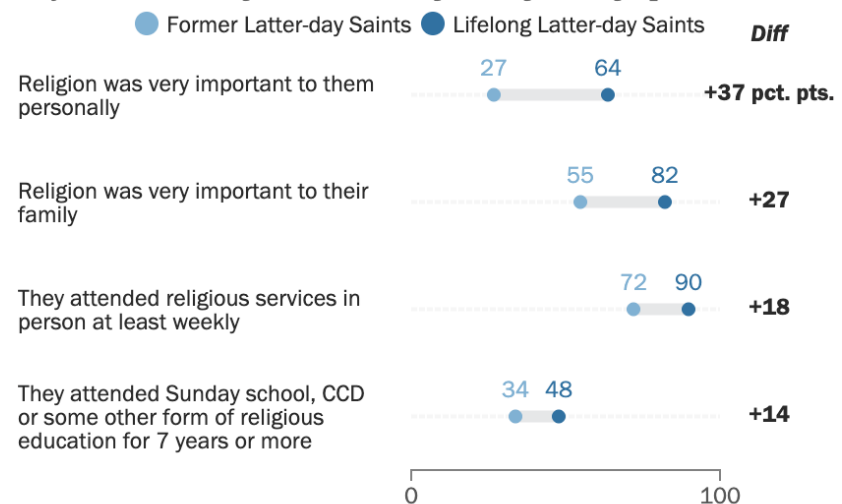
There also are significant gaps in religious *behaviors* during childhood. For instance:

- 90% of lifelong members say they attended religious services at least weekly when they were growing up, compared with 72% of ex-Latter-day Saints.

- 48% of lifelong Latter-day Saints say they attended seven or more years of Sunday school or some other form of extracurricular religious education when they were kids, compared with 34% of former church members.

90% of lifelong Latter-day Saints went to church weekly or more often as kids

Among people who were raised as Latter-day Saints (Mormons), % of adults who say that when they were growing up ...



Note: All differences are statistically significant.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Each of the differences in the way lifelong and former Latter-day Saints describe their childhood experiences with religion is significant even after controlling for various demographic factors, such as gender and education.

How lifelong members and converts compare demographically

Lifelong members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differ demographically from converts to the church in several ways. For example, lifelong members are more likely to:

- Identify as White
- Have a bachelor's degree or more education
- Be currently married

By contrast, converts to the church are more likely than lifelong members to be living with a partner (14% vs. 2%) or widowed (11% vs. 2%).

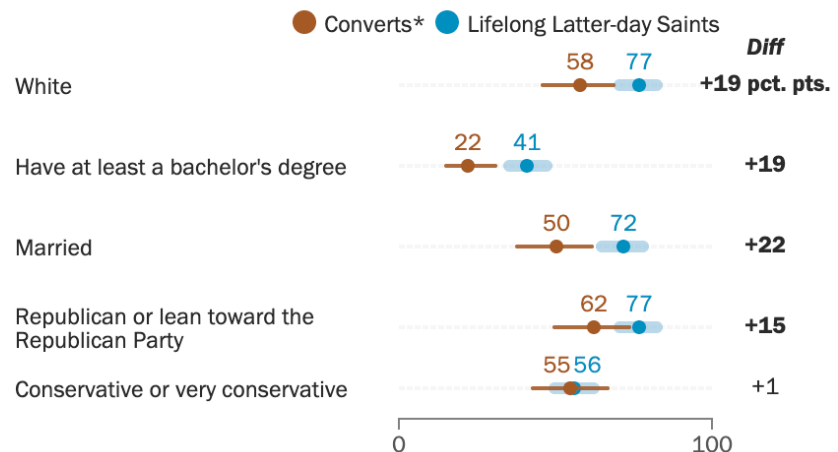
(The RLS includes interviews with 151 people who are converts to the church, with an effective

sample size of 60 and a 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 12.7 percentage points, at its most conservative level. In this analysis, **error bars** are included in graphics that focus on converts to help readers understand how estimates are less precise when they are based on small samples.)

When it comes to politics, lifelong Latter-day Saints are more likely than converts to identify as Republican or lean toward the Republican Party (77% vs. 62%). But they are equally likely to describe their political views as conservative.¹²

Lifelong Latter-day Saints are more likely than converts to be White

% of current Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who (are) ...



* The survey sample included 151 interviews with Latter-day Saints who are converts to the church, with an effective sample size of 60 and a 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 12.7 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50%. Bars in this graphic show margins of sampling error at a 95% confidence interval for each specific estimate. Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**. White respondents include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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¹² This survey was conducted mostly in 2023 and the early part of 2024, before the 2024 presidential election.

How lifelong members and converts compare religiously

There are some signs that lifelong Latter-day Saints may be more religious or spiritual than church converts, though the pattern does not consistently appear on all measures.

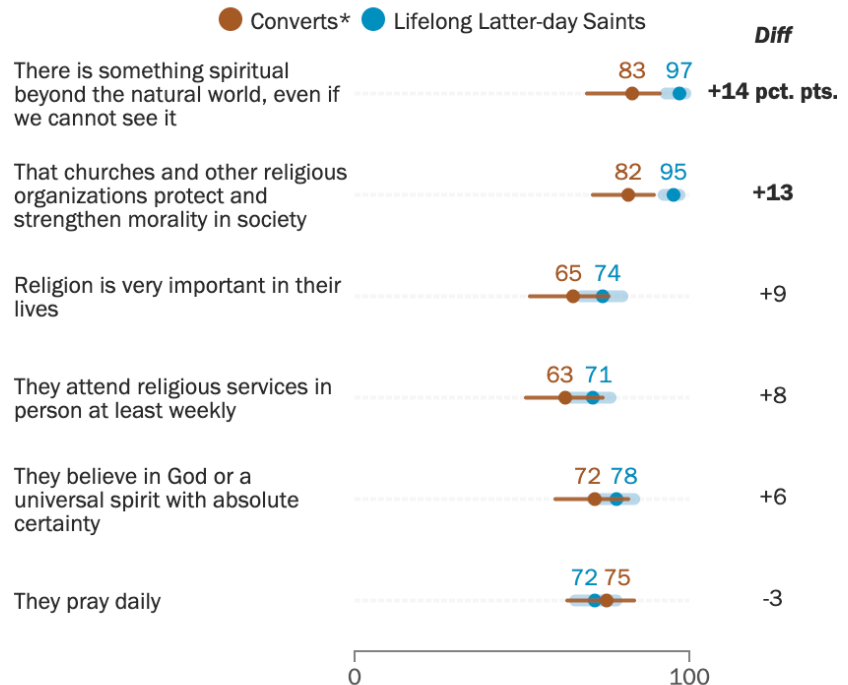
For instance, 97% of lifelong members of the church say there is something spiritual beyond the natural world, even if we cannot see it, compared with 83% of converts.

Lifelong Latter-day Saints also are somewhat more likely than converts to express a favorable view of religious organizations and churches. For example, 95% of lifelong members say that churches and religious organizations protect and strengthen morality in society, compared with 82% of converts.

But similar shares of converts and lifelong Latter-day Saints report praying daily and believing in God or a universal spirit with absolute certainty.

Nearly all lifelong Latter-day Saints believe there is something spiritual beyond the natural world

% of current Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say ...



* The survey sample included 151 interviews with Latter-day Saints who are converts to the church, with an effective sample size of 60 and a 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 12.7 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50%. Bars in this graphic show margins of sampling error at a 95% confidence interval for each specific estimate. Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**.

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

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Latter-day Saints are highly religious, though not uniformly so

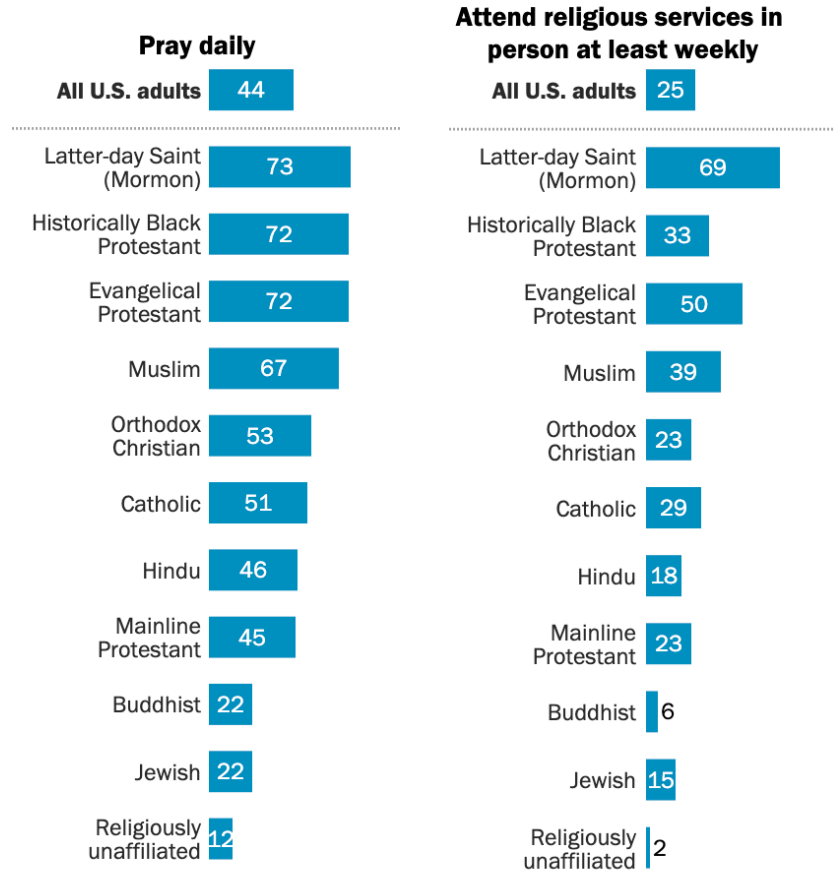
Latter-day Saints are among the most religious Americans. Their rates of religious engagement often rival evangelical Protestants and members of historically Black Protestant churches, and they far exceed those of many other religious groups.

For instance, 73% of Latter-day Saint adults say they pray daily, according to data from Pew Research Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS). This is similar to the shares among evangelical Protestants and members of the historically Black Protestant tradition (72% each) but much higher than the shares of Catholics (51%) or Buddhists (22%) who say they pray daily.

And 69% of Latter-day Saints report attending religious services in person at least weekly, compared with 29% of Catholics and 23% of mainline Protestants.

Latter-day Saints stand out from other Americans as highly religious

% of adults who say they ...



Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.
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In the RLS, we also asked Americans to assess how their own religiousness may have shifted over their lifetimes. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (often referred to as Mormons) are far more likely to say they have grown *more* religious than to say they've grown *less* religious (48% vs. 12%).

This is different from the pattern among Americans overall, who are about as likely to say they've become more religious (28%) as to say they've become less religious (29%).

In addition, most Latter-day Saints say they have become more spiritual over their lifetimes (58%). Few say they have grown less spiritual (8%).

While Latter-day Saints as a whole are more religious than many Americans, some of the church's members exhibit higher levels of religiousness than others. Latter-day Saints who live in the eight states of the country's Mountain region (including Utah) and church members who have more education particularly stand out.

This analysis is part of a larger project exploring Latter-day Saints' [demographic makeup](#), religious beliefs and practices, and [political and social views](#), as well as [how these characteristics have changed over time](#).

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using "Mormon"](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church's full name and refer to members of the faith as "Latter-day Saints." We

About half of Latter-day Saints say they have become more religious during their lifetime

% of adults who say that over the course of their lifetime, they have generally become ...

	More religious	Less religious	Some of both	Stayed about the same
Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	48	12	26	12
All U.S. adults	28	29	21	21

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”¹³

Read on to learn more about the religious differences among [Latter-day Saints in different parts of the country](#) and among church members [with different education levels](#).

¹³ In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” A few respondents who identify as “Mormon” may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

How Latter-day Saints in the Mountain region stand out religiously

About half of American Latter-day Saints [live in the Mountain region](#) stretching from Montana to New Mexico.¹⁴ In several of these states, at least 5% of adults identify as members of the church – a share that rises to 50% in Utah. By comparison, Latter-day Saints comprise [about 2% of the U.S. adult population](#).

Church members living in this Latter-day Saint hub are, on average, a little more religious or spiritual than members living elsewhere in the country. For example, nearly all Latter-day Saints in the Mountain region (98%) say there is something spiritual beyond the natural

world, even if we cannot see it, compared with 88% of church members living in all other regions.

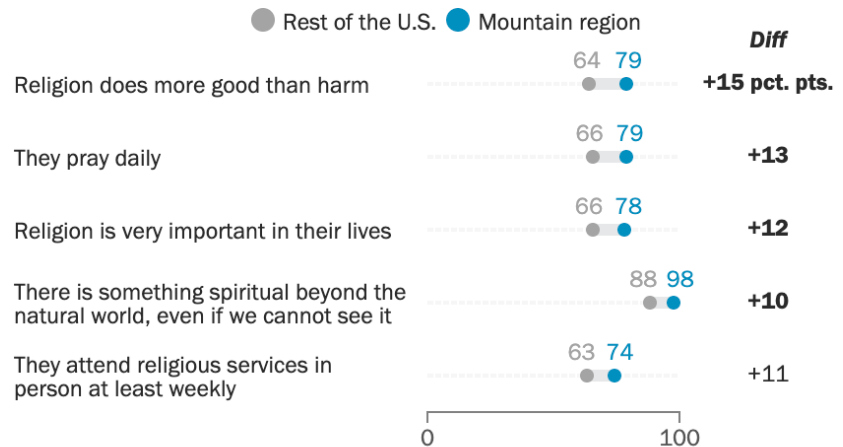
And while 79% of Latter-day Saints in Utah and the surrounding states report praying daily, 66% in other parts of the United States say the same.

This higher religiousness of people in the Mountain region appears unique to Latter-day Saints. For instance, roughly six-in-ten Christians overall in both the Mountain region and other parts of the country say they pray every day.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living in the Mountain region (79%) also are more likely than members living elsewhere (64%) to view religion positively, saying it does more good than harm.

Latter-day Saints in the Mountain region are somewhat more religious than those who live elsewhere in the country

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) in the ___ who say ...



Note: The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Statistically significant differences are in **bold**. Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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¹⁴ [The U.S. Census Bureau's](#) Mountain division includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Educational divides in religiousness among Latter-day Saints

As we previously showed in [our major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#), church members with more education are typically more religious or spiritual than those with less education.

This pattern is different from what we see in the U.S. general public, where higher levels of education are typically [linked with lower levels of religiousness](#). There are exceptions to this pattern, as Christians with bachelor's degrees are often just as religious as Christians without college diplomas – and in some cases, slightly *more* religious.

Still, on some measures, the gap between Latter-day Saints with different levels of education is notably large. For instance, there's a 27 percentage point gap in weekly attendance at religious services between Latter-day Saints with a bachelor's degree or more education (85%) and church members with less education (59%). The gap by education is much smaller among Christians overall (7 points).

Latter-day Saints with more education appear more religious, spiritual than those with less education

% of adults who say ...

	Among Latter-day Saints (Mormons)			Among all Christians		
	Bachelor's degree or more	Less education	Diff	Bachelor's degree or more	Less education	Diff
There is something spiritual beyond the natural world, even if we cannot see it	97	91	+6 pct. pts.	92	89	+3 pct. pts.
They attend religious services in person at least weekly	86	59	+27	42	35	+7
Religion is very important in their lives	85	65	+20	53	56	-3
They pray daily	85	66	+19	58	61	-3

Note: All differences are statistically significant.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Latter-day Saints with bachelor's degrees (82%) also are more likely than those with less education (67%) to express a favorable view of religion, saying that it does more good than harm in society. Among Christians overall, 57% with bachelor's degrees take this view, compared with 60% of those without college degrees.

Latter-day Saints largely identify as Republican but stand out from their partisan peers on diversity issues

Latter-day Saints are a heavily conservative group. About three-quarters (73%) identify as Republicans or Republican-leaning independents, while 23% identify as Democrats or Democratic leaners, according to Pew Research Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#).¹⁵ (The RLS was conducted mostly in 2023 and the early part of 2024, *before* the 2024 presidential election.)

Currently, all nine [Latter-day Saints serving in the U.S. Congress](#) are Republicans – and all represent states in the country's Mountain region, [where Latter-day Saints are heavily concentrated](#). Church members living in the eight Mountain region states stretching from Montana to New Mexico are more likely than Latter-day Saints living in all other regions to identify as Republican (84% vs. 61%).¹⁶

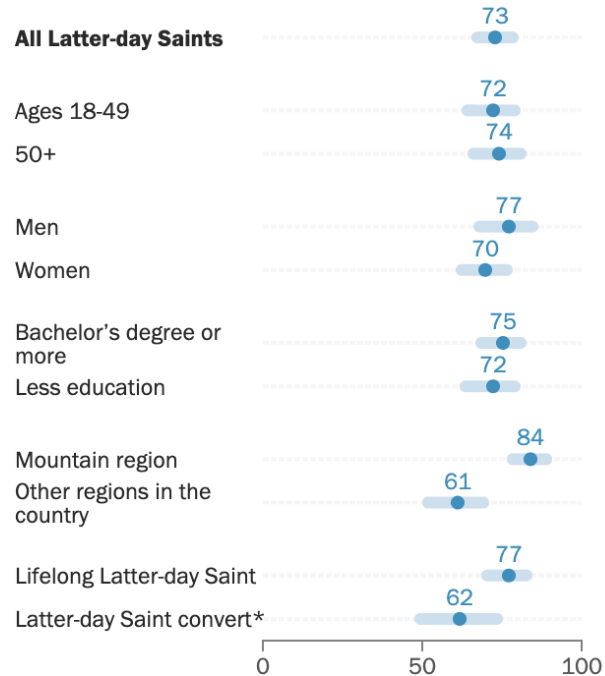
There are no significant differences by age, gender or education in the percentage of Latter-day Saints who identify with the GOP, though lifelong Latter-day Saints are notably more likely than converts to the church to identify as Republican (77% vs. 62%).

¹⁵ While the percentages who identify with the two main political parties in this round of the RLS [cannot be directly compared with previous RLS findings](#) for methodological reasons, in all three landscape studies [most Latter-day Saints](#) have identified with or leaned toward the Republican Party.

¹⁶ [The U.S. Census Bureau's](#) Mountain division includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Share of Latter-day Saints who identify as Republican differs little by demographic subgroup

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who identify as **Republicans or Republican leaners**



* The survey sample for this question included 151 interviews with Latter-day Saints who are converts to the church, with an effective sample size of 60 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 12.7 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50%. Bars in this graphic show margins of sampling error at a 95% confidence interval for each specific estimate.

Note: The only statistically significant differences in this graphic are the breaks by region and comparing lifelong Latter-day Saints with converts. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

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While members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (widely known as Mormons) largely affiliate with the Republican Party, Latter-day Saint Republicans stand out from Republicans nationally on various social and political issues.

This analysis is part of a larger project exploring Latter-day Saints’ [demographic makeup](#), [religious beliefs and practices](#), and political and social views, as well as [how these characteristics have changed over time](#).

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using “Mormon”](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church’s full name and refer to members of the faith as “Latter-day Saints.” We include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”¹⁷

¹⁷ In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” A few respondents who identify as “Mormon” may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

How Latter-day Saint Republicans' views compare with those of Republicans overall

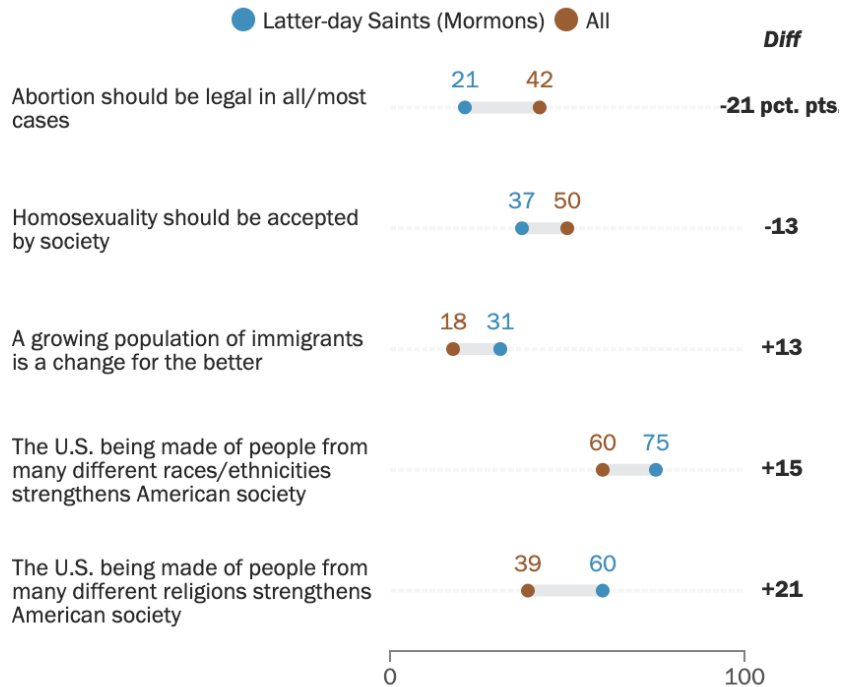
On some issues, Latter-day Saint Republicans are noticeably more conservative than their national counterparts.¹⁸ For example:

- They're half as likely as Republicans overall to say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.¹⁹
- About four-in-ten say homosexuality should be accepted in society, compared with half of all Republicans.

But Latter-day Saints overall appear to be growing less conservative on some of these issues. For example, 46% of all Latter-day Saints say in our 2023-24 RLS that homosexuality should be accepted by society, up from 24% in 2007.

Latter-day Saint Republicans are more conservative than Republicans overall on abortion, homosexuality

*Among **Republicans and Republican leaners**, % of adults who say ...*



Note: All differences are statistically significant.

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

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And Latter-day Saint Republicans are more open than their national counterparts to racial and religious diversity. For instance, Latter-day Saint Republicans are more likely than Republicans overall to say that the U.S. population being made of people from many different races and ethnicities strengthens the country (75% vs. 60%). There is a similar response pattern on a

¹⁸ Due to small sample sizes, we do not report the views of Latter-day Saint Democrats in this analysis.

¹⁹ In a newer survey from 2026, 36% of all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said abortion should be legal in all or most cases – down from 2024. The share of Latter-day Saints in the 2023-24 RLS who said abortion should be legal is still significantly smaller than the 2026 share among all Republicans.

question about religious diversity in the United States. (Latter-day Saints are themselves a minority in America, [making up roughly 2% of the population.](#))

Latter-day Saint Republicans also are more likely than Republicans overall to say that a growing population of immigrants is a change for the better (31% vs. 18%). Still, nearly half of Latter-day Saint Republicans say that a growing immigrant population is a change for the worse (46%).

Latter-day Saints: Happy in their family lives, traditional in gender roles

Many teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints center around the family. For example, family relationships are believed to [continue beyond death](#): Marriages performed in temples can be eternal, and the children of couples married in temples can be sealed to (or united with) them for eternity. For many years, the church also has encouraged members to hold [weekly family nights](#).

Given the church's emphasis on marriage and children, how do its members feel about their families?

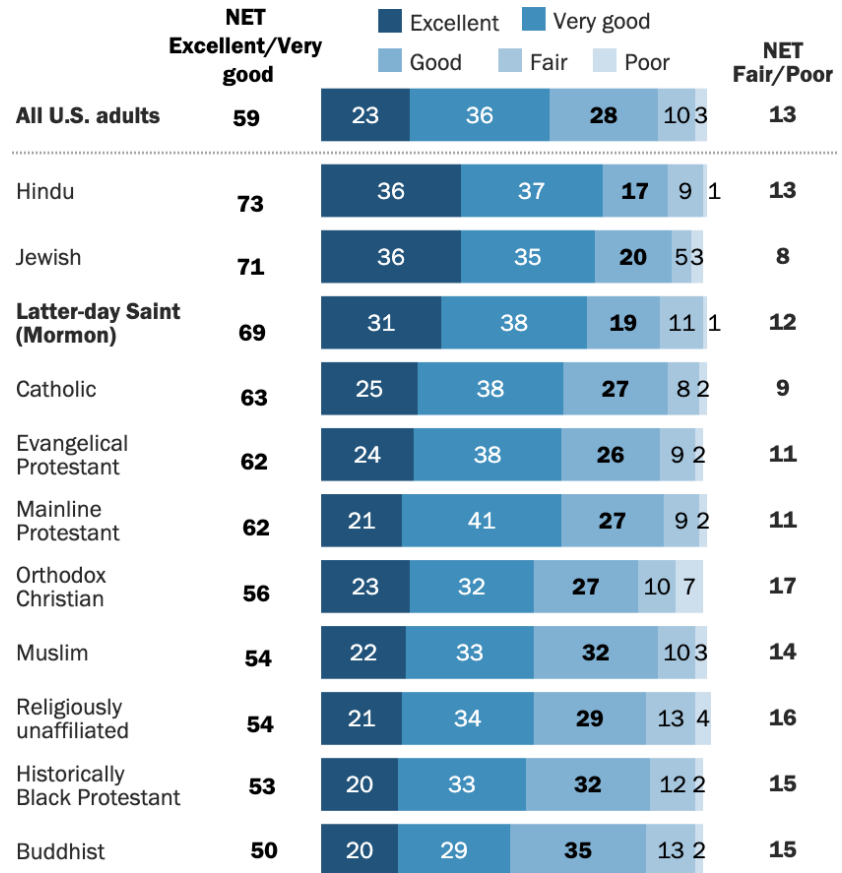
According to Pew Research Center's [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS), they're largely satisfied with their family bonds.

Compared with other religious groups, Latter-day Saints (widely known as Mormons) are among the most likely to rate their family lives as excellent or very good. About seven-in-ten

Latter-day Saints rate their family lives this positively – similar to the shares among Hindus and Jews, and higher than the shares of other Christians and religiously unaffiliated adults who describe their family lives as very good or excellent.

Nearly 7 in 10 Latter-day Saints rate their family lives as excellent or very good

% of adults who say their family life is ...



Note: Figures may not sum to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Those who did not answer are not shown.

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

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They also are more likely than members of many other religious groups to [engage their children in religious activities](#), such as prayer and scripture reading or religious education programs.

Overall, the share of Latter-day Saints who are married has held fairly steady in recent decades. In the Center’s first RLS, conducted in 2007, [71% of Latter-day Saints were married](#). In each of our more recent surveys (conducted in 2011, 2014 and 2023-24), about two-thirds of Latter-day Saints have said they are married.

However, members of the church are less likely now than they were in 2007 to say they are the parents or guardians of children under 18 years old living in their home. In 2007, 49% of Latter-day Saints had minors at home, compared with 37% in 2023-24. This is in line with national trends. In the 2007 RLS, 35% of U.S. adults surveyed said they were the parents of children living at home. But in the 2023-24 RLS, the comparable share had fallen to 28%.

This analysis of family life, marriage and gender roles among Latter-day Saints is part of a larger project exploring church members’ [demographic makeup](#), [religious beliefs and practices](#), and [political and social views](#), as well as [how these characteristics have changed over time](#). Data in this analysis comes from the 2023-24 RLS as well as our previous landscape studies, conducted in 2014 and 2007. We also draw on our [major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#).

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using “Mormon”](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church’s full name and refer to members of the faith as “Latter-day Saints.” We include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”²⁰

The rest of this analysis explores in more detail the religious connections that [married Latter-day Saints have with their spouses](#) and [how Latter-day Saints see gender roles](#).

²⁰ In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” A few respondents who identify as “Mormon” may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

Religion and marriage among Latter-day Saints

Latter-day Saints are more likely than Americans in several other religious groups to say they are [married to someone of the same religion](#). Among Latter-day Saint adults who are married, 87% have spouses of the same faith. No more than three-quarters of married adults in most other major U.S. religious groups say their spouses share their religious identity. (Protestants are an exception: 81% of married Protestants say their spouse is also a Protestant.)

Among married adults, Latter-day Saints also are more likely than members of other religious groups to say:

- Their own religious beliefs and the beliefs of their spouse are very similar.
- Religion is very important in their spouse's life.
- They talk about religion with their spouse daily.

Married Latter-day Saints more likely than other married Americans to talk about religion with their spouse daily

% of married adults who say ...

	Their own religious beliefs are very similar to their spouse's	Religion is very important in their spouse's life	They talk about religion with their spouse daily
All married U.S. adults	51	36	16
Latter-day Saint (Mormon)	77	73	37
Protestant	59	52	26
Catholic	47	36	12
Jewish	45	30	14
Religiously unaffiliated	41	7	2

Note: The survey did not include enough interviews with married people in other religious traditions – including Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and others – to report their responses separately here. Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

“Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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Latter-day Saint views on gender

Latter-day Saints hold more traditional views about gender and family roles than the broader American public does.

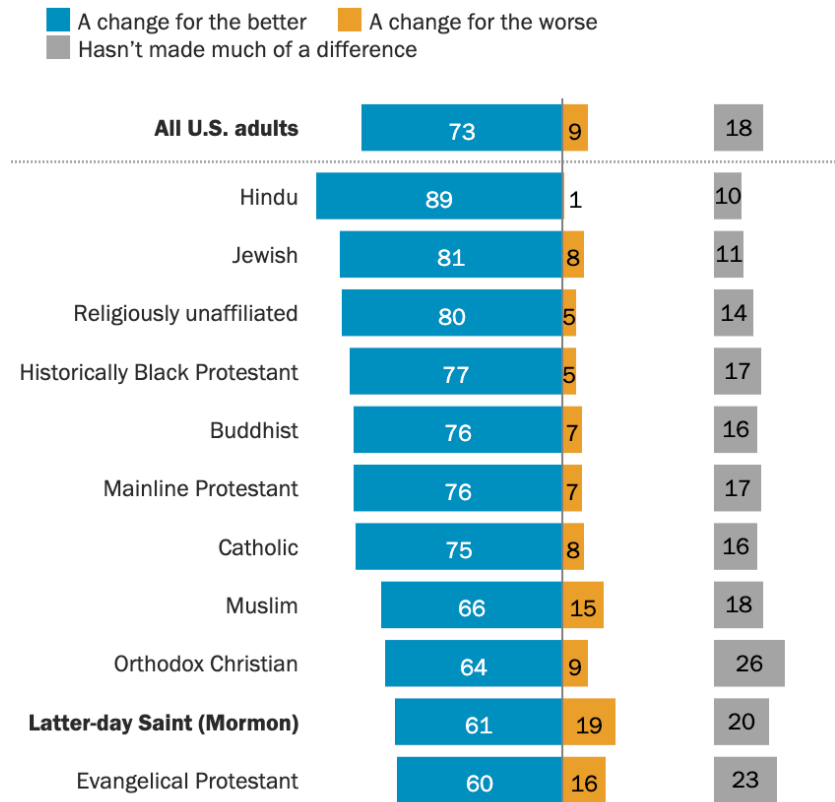
For example, 61% of Latter-day Saints say that more women in the workforce is a change for the better, compared with 73% of U.S. adults overall. Among several religious traditions, the share is 80% or more. (Still, the portion of Latter-day Saints who see more women in the workforce as a positive change has [increased significantly since 2014](#), when it was 49%.)

Likewise, members of the church are more likely than U.S. adults in other religious groups to say that children with two parents are [better off when one parent stays home](#). Nearly eight-in-ten Latter-day Saints say this. Smaller majorities of evangelical Protestants (67%), Muslims (63%) and Catholics (58%) say children are better off with a parent staying home rather than with both parents working outside the home.

When asked in a follow-up question which parent should stay home, Latter-day Saints are among the most likely to say it's better if the mother stays home (41% say this), though somewhat similar shares of Muslims (36%) and evangelical Protestants (35%) say the same.

Latter-day Saints are less likely than other religious groups to say having more women in the labor market is good

% of adults who say more women in the workforce (is) ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

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

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Both among Latter-day Saints and among U.S. adults overall, men are more likely than women to say children are better off if their mother stays home.

Refer to this project's [detailed tables](#) for more on how Latter-day Saint men and women answer the questions included in this project.

Latter-day Saints have strong communal ties and high social trust

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints involves a lot of community engagement. Most adult members have a role in their congregation (referred to as a “calling”) and are [assigned specific people or families to serve and support](#). Many Latter-day Saints also choose to serve as a missionary either as a young adult or in their later years.

These strong communal connections set Latter-day Saints apart from U.S. adults as a whole.

For instance, Latter-day Saints (widely known as Mormons) are much more likely than other Americans to say they have volunteered in the past 12 months, according to Pew Research Center’s [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS). While 41% of all U.S. adults say they spent time in the previous year volunteering, 72% of Latter-day Saints say this. In no other religious group analyzed do a majority say they volunteered during the past 12 months.²¹

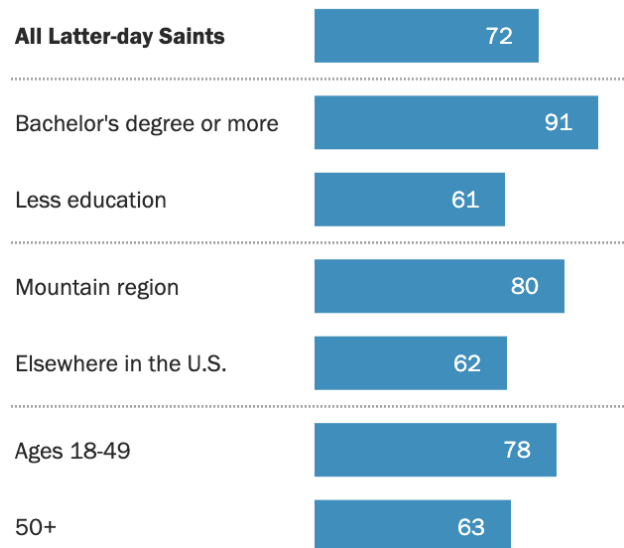
While majorities of Latter-day Saints in all major demographic subgroups say they have volunteered in the past 12 months, church members with bachelor’s degrees are much more likely than those with less education to have volunteered.

(Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often called Mormons by other people, and for years the church used that term [to refer to its members](#) or related

institutions, such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. However, [the church stopped using “Mormon”](#) in 2018 and [discourages others from using the term](#) to refer to the church or its followers. In this analysis, we primarily use the church’s full name and refer to members of the faith as “Latter-day

Nearly three-quarters of Latter-day Saints have volunteered recently

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say they spent time volunteering in the past 12 months



Note: The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

“Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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²¹ [Previous research](#) has also found that Latter-day Saints are more likely than other Americans to volunteer.

Saints.” We include limited references to the term “Mormon” in parentheses for readers who are unfamiliar with the full name of the church or the term “Latter-day Saints.”)²²

Latter-day Saints also exhibit high levels of social trust.

In the 2023-24 RLS, we asked respondents whether, generally speaking, they think “most people can be trusted” or “you can’t be too careful in dealing with people.”

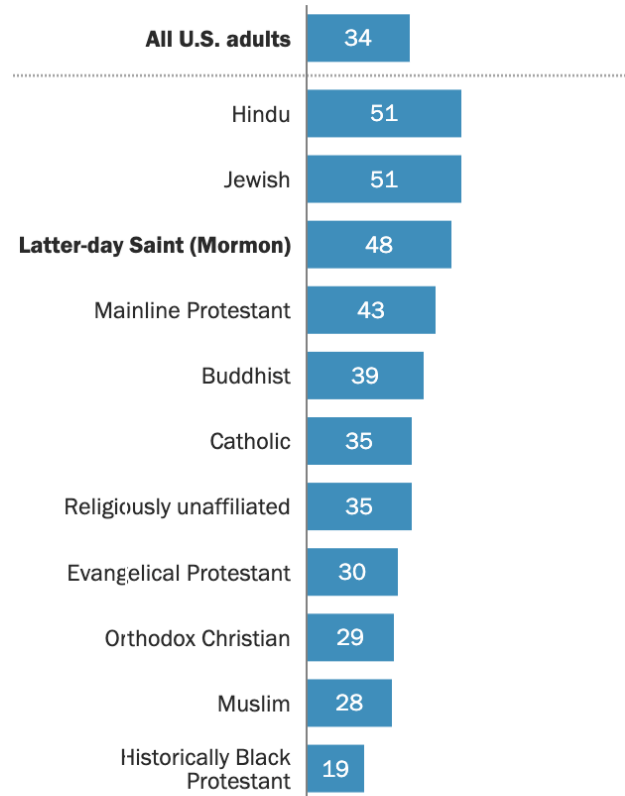
About half of Latter-day Saints take the former position – making them one of the most trusting religious groups in the country.

Within the church, there is a particularly large divide on this topic by education: Six-in-ten Latter-day Saints with a bachelor’s degree say most people can be trusted, compared with about four-in-ten church members without a college diploma.

Latter-day Saints also are more likely than many other Americans to say they feel a deep sense of connection with humanity [at least once a week](#).

Compared with other religious groups, Latter-day Saints are especially likely to say most people can be trusted

% of adults who say most people can be trusted



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

“Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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These findings about Latter-day Saints’ civic engagement and communal connections are drawn from our [2023-24 RLS](#). This analysis is part of a larger project exploring Latter-day Saints’ [demographic makeup](#), their [religious beliefs and practices](#), and [political and social views](#), as well as [how these characteristics have changed over time](#).

²² In all four Pew Research Center surveys used in this analysis, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on their answers to our long-standing religious affiliation question: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” A few respondents who identify as “Mormon” may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but, instead, may belong to smaller churches with historic connections to Joseph Smith, such as the Community of Christ. Refer to the [methodology](#) for more detail.

Acknowledgments

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This project includes new analysis of data from the [2023-24 U.S. Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS). 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.

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Methodology

The [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#) (RLS), on which this project is based, is a national cross-sectional survey designed by Pew Research Center and administered by NORC at the University of Chicago.

It 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. Here are [complete details about the RLS methodology](#).

The accompanying table contains information on sample sizes and margins of sampling error for the groups analyzed in this project.

Sample sizes and margins of sampling error, among different groups

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	565	6.2 percentage points
Among Latter-day Saints		
Men	253	9.7 percentage points
Women	308	7.5 percentage points
Ages 18-49	247	8.9 percentage points
50+	311	8.1 percentage points
Bachelor's degree or more	303	7.4 percentage points
Less education	262	8.7 percentage points
Mountain region	332	8.1 percentage points
Other regions in the country	233	9.4 percentage points
Lifelong Latter-day Saint	414	7.0 percentage points
Latter-day Saint convert	151	12.7 percentage points
Rep/lean Rep	412	7.1 percentage points
Former Latter-day Saints	316	8.1 percentage points

Note: These margins of sampling error conservatively assume a reported percentage of 50% and are calculated at the 95% confidence level.

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

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Classification as a Latter-day Saint

This project largely uses results from Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2023-24. The 2007, 2011 and 2014 surveys were conducted by telephone, and they asked respondents the following question about their religious identity: “What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?” The 2023-24 RLS was largely self-administered online or using a paper questionnaire. It asked the same question about religious identity, but the response option included the church’s full name: “Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS).”

In all four surveys, we classify respondents as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints if they chose the “Mormon” option. (The 2007 and 2014 landscape studies, as well as our [major 2011 survey of Latter-day Saints](#), also included a follow-up question for those who selected the “Mormon” response to clarify whether they identified with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Community of Christ, or another church. In all three surveys, at least 98% of those who identified as “Mormon” identified as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or did not specify an affiliation beyond “Mormon.” The 2023-24 RLS did not include this follow-up question.)

In the 2007 and 2014 landscape studies, respondents who selected “something else” in response to the religious affiliation question were prompted to volunteer their religious identity. If respondents volunteered their religion as “Community of Christ,” “fundamentalist Latter-day Saint” or another group with historical ties to Joseph Smith, they were later back-coded into the broader “Mormon” category. The 2023-24 RLS also allowed respondents who selected “something else” to specify their religion, but did *not* back-code respondents who identified with these groups into the “Mormon” category. Only six of the 36,908 respondents to the 2023-24 RLS volunteered that they identify with a Mormon group other than the Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter-day Saints, so this small difference in the way responses are coded has little impact on comparisons between the surveys.

Appendix: Detailed tables

Importance of religion in one's life among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say religion is ___ important in their lives

	NET Very/ Somewhat	Very	Somewhat	Not too/ Not at all
All Latter-day Saints	95	72	23	4
Men	94	67	26	4
Women	96	78	18	4
Ages 18-49	96	69	27	4
50+	94	77	17	3
Bachelor's degree or more	98	85	13	2
Less education	93	65	28	5
Mountain region	99	78	21	1
Other regions in the country	90	66	24	7

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Frequency of prayer among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say they pray ...

	Daily	Weekly/ Monthly	Seldom/ Never
All Latter-day Saints	73	18	8
Men	69	21	7
Women	78	14	8
Ages 18-49	69	23	8
50+	80	11	7
Bachelor's degree or more	85	8	7
Less education	66	23	8
Mountain region	79	13	5
Other regions in the country	66	23	10

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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In-person religious service attendance among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say they attend religious services in person ...

	NET Monthly or more often	Weekly or more often	Once or twice a month	NET Less than monthly	A few times a year	Seldom/ Never
All Latter-day Saints	76	69	7	24	13	11
Men	73	67	6	27	15	12
Women	79	71	8	21	12	10
Ages 18-49	78	70	8	22	15	7
50+	73	68	6	27	10	17
Bachelor's degree or more	91	86	4	9	6	3
Less education	67	59	9	33	18	15
Mountain region	83	74	9	17	10	8
Other regions in the country	68	63	5	32	18	14

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Belief in God among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say they ...

	NET Believe in God or a universal spirit	And they are ___ certain in this belief			Do not believe in God or a universal spirit
		Absolutely	Fairly	Not too/ Not at all	
All Latter-day Saints	97	76	19	2	3
Men	97	73	21	3	3
Women	97	80	16	1	3
Ages 18-49	98	73	22	3	2
50+	96	82	13	1	4
Bachelor's degree or more	99	81	16	2	1
Less education	96	74	20	2	4
Mountain region	100	81	18	1	0
Other regions in the country	94	72	20	3	6

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.
Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.
"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Belief in something spiritual beyond the natural world among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say ...

	The natural world is all there is	There is something spiritual beyond the natural world, even if we cannot see it
All Latter-day Saints	5	93
Men	6	91
Women	4	96
Ages 18-49	4	93
50+	6	93
Bachelor's degree or more	1	97
Less education	7	91
Mountain region	1	98
Other regions in the country	9	88

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Belief in a soul or spirit among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say “people have a soul or spirit in addition to their physical body” is something they ...

	Believe	Don't believe
All Latter-day Saints	97	3
Men	97	3
Women	97	3
Ages 18-49	99	1
50+	95	4
Bachelor's degree or more	99	1
Less education	95	4
Mountain region	99	0
Other regions in the country	94	6

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. “Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S.”

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Views about homosexuality among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say homosexuality should be ___ by society

	Accepted	Discouraged
All Latter-day Saints	46	50
Men	41	58
Women	53	42
Ages 18-49	51	46
50+	39	58
Bachelor's degree or more	47	50
Less education	46	50
Mountain region	39	56
Other regions in the country	54	44

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about women in the workforce among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say more women in the workforce (is) ...

	A change for the better	A change for the worse	Hasn't made much of a difference
All Latter-day Saints	61	19	20
Men	56	19	24
Women	66	19	15
Ages 18-49	60	21	19
50+	61	16	22
Bachelor's degree or more	58	26	15
Less education	63	14	23
Mountain region	55	24	21
Other regions in the country	67	13	19

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about abortion among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say abortion should be ___ in most/all cases

	Legal	Illegal
All Latter-day Saints	31	69
Men	29	71
Women	34	65
Ages 18-49	32	68
50+	30	70
Bachelor's degree or more	25	74
Less education	34	65
Mountain region	22	77
Other regions in the country	41	59

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about working parents among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say the following about children with two parents

	NET They're better off when one parent stays at home ...	... and it's the mother	... and it's the father	... but it doesn't matter which parent	They're just as well off when their parents work outside the home
All Latter-day Saints	79	41	1	35	20
Men	86	50	<1	34	14
Women	70	33	1	37	27
Ages 18-49	77	39	1	36	21
50+	81	45	<1	33	19
Bachelor's degree or more	86	47	1	37	13
Less education	75	38	1	34	24
Mountain region	82	44	<1	38	15
Other regions in the country	75	39	2	32	25

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about public school teachers leading prayers that refer to Jesus among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who ___ allowing public school teachers to lead their classes in prayers that refer to Jesus

	NET Favor	Strongly favor	Favor	NET Oppose
All Latter-day Saints	64	29	34	34
Men	64	33	31	32
Women	62	25	37	36
Ages 18-49	56	21	35	40
50+	74	40	34	23
Bachelor's degree or more	60	21	39	39
Less education	66	34	32	31
Mountain region	67	25	42	32
Other regions in the country	59	34	26	35

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views on immigrants among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say a growing population of immigrants is ...

	A change for the better	A change for the worse	Hasn't made much difference
All Latter-day Saints	38	38	22
Men	38	37	23
Women	39	38	20
Ages 18-49	47	28	23
50+	26	53	20
Bachelor's degree or more	40	36	21
Less education	37	39	23
Mountain region	33	44	21
Other regions in the country	44	31	23

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about racial and ethnic diversity in the U.S. among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say the fact that the U.S. population is made up of people of many different races and ethnicities ...

	Strengthens American society	Weakens American society	Doesn't make much difference
All Latter-day Saints	76	7	16
Men	75	8	17
Women	78	7	14
Ages 18-49	80	6	15
50+	72	10	17
Bachelor's degree or more	84	7	8
Less education	72	7	20
Mountain region	77	8	15
Other regions in the country	76	6	17

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about religious diversity in the U.S. among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say the fact that the U.S. population is made up of people of many different religions, including people who are not religious ...

	Strengthens American society	Weakens American society	Doesn't make much difference
All Latter-day Saints	65	15	20
Men	63	15	22
Women	66	16	17
Ages 18-49	65	13	22
50+	65	18	16
Bachelor's degree or more	71	17	11
Less education	61	14	25
Mountain region	64	17	19
Other regions in the country	65	13	21

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views about religious organizations protecting morality among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who ___ that churches and other religious organizations protect and strengthen morality in society

	Agree	Disagree
All Latter-day Saints	92	8
Men	95	4
Women	89	10
Ages 18-49	92	7
50+	93	7
Bachelor's degree or more	93	6
Less education	91	9
Mountain region	96	4
Other regions in the country	87	12

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views of religion's impact on American society among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say religion does ___ in American society

	More good than harm	More harm than good	Equal amounts of good and harm
All Latter-day Saints	72	6	21
Men	74	6	20
Women	70	7	22
Ages 18-49	68	5	26
50+	78	8	13
Bachelor's degree or more	82	6	11
Less education	67	7	26
Mountain region	79	4	16
Other regions in the country	64	9	27

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Volunteering among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say they spent time volunteering in the past 12 months

All Latter-day Saints	72
Men	70
Women	74
Ages 18-49	78
50+	63
Bachelor's degree or more	91
Less education	61
Mountain region	80
Other regions in the country	62

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024. "Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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Views on trusting people among Latter-day Saints

% of Latter-day Saint adults (Mormons) who say ...

	Most people can be trusted	You can't be too careful in dealing with people
All Latter-day Saints	48	51
Men	48	52
Women	48	49
Ages 18-49	46	53
50+	52	47
Bachelor's degree or more	60	40
Less education	41	57
Mountain region	52	46
Other regions in the country	43	56

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The Mountain region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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

"Tradition and Change Among Latter-day Saints in the U.S."

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