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The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

The Future of the Global Muslim Population

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WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION
(2010)
1,599,700,000

PERCENTAGE OF WORLD'S
POPULATION THAT IS MUSLIM
23.2%

MEDIAN AGE OF MUSLIMS
23

For More Information

UN Population Data by Religion

Muslim Population by Percentage Worldwide



Overview

As of 2010, there were 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, representing 23% of all people worldwide. This makes Islam the world's second-largest religion. The number of Muslims around the world is projected to increase rapidly in the decades ahead, growing to nearly 2.8 billion in 2050. Muslims are expected to grow twice as fast as the overall global population. Consequently, Muslims are projected to rise from 23% of the world's population in 2010 to 30% in 2050.

Looking to the future, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to remain the home of a majority of the world's Muslims. However, the share of the global Muslim population living in several Asian countries with large Muslim populations (such as Indonesia, India and Pakistan) is anticipated to decline between 2010 and 2050. While 62% of the world's Muslims lived in Asia and the Pacific in 2010, 53% are projected to live in the region in 2050. The Middle East-North Africa region is predominantly Muslim, but as of 2010, only one-in-five Muslims lived in that part of the world. By 2050, about the same share of the global Muslim population is expected to live in the Middle East and North Africa (20%).

There are two major branches of Islam – Sunni and Shia. As of 2010, it was estimated that the overwhelming majority (87-90%) of Muslims were Sunnis; about 10-13% were Shia Muslims.

Explore population characteristics and survey results for Muslims using [Topics & Questions](#) or the [Data Explorer](#).

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