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The Future of the Global Muslim Population

Report

Interactive Maps

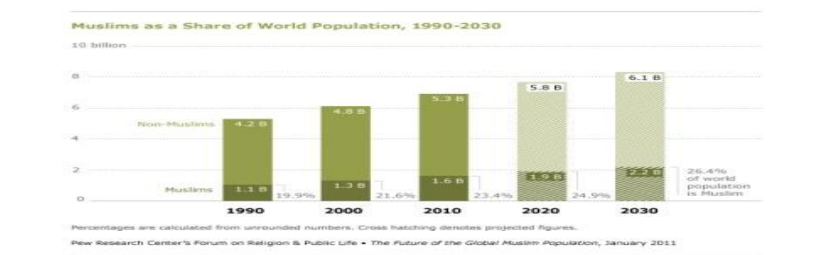
Sortable Data Tables



The world's Muslim population is expected to increase by about 35% in the next 20 years, rising from 1.6 billion in 2010 to 2.2 billion by 2030, according to new population projections by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Globally, the Muslim population is forecast to grow at about twice the rate of the non-Muslim population over the next two decades – an average annual growth rate of 1.5% for Muslims, compared with 0.7% for non-Muslims. If current trends continue, Muslims will make up 26.4% of the world's total projected population of 8.3 billion in 2030, up from 23.4% of the estimated 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

While the global Muslim population is expected to grow at a faster rate than the non-Muslim population, the Muslim population nevertheless is expected to grow at a slower pace in the next two decades than it did in the previous two decades. From 1990 to 2010, the global Muslim population increased at an average annual rate of 2.2%, compared with the projected rate of 1.5% for the period from 2010 to 2030.



These are among the key findings of a comprehensive report on the size, distribution and growth of the global Muslim population. The report by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life seeks to provide up-to-date estimates of the number of Muslims around the world in 2010 and to project the growth of the Muslim population from 2010 to 2030. The projections are based both on past demographic trends and on assumptions about how these trends will play out in future years. Making these projections inevitably entails a host of uncertainties, including political ones. Changes in the political climate in the United States or European nations, for example, could dramatically affect the patterns of Muslim migration.

Muslim Population by Region				
	2010	2030	2010	2030
	ESTIMATED MUSLIM POPULATION	PROJECTED MUSLIM POPULATION	ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION	PROJECTED PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION
World	1,619,314,000	2,190,154,000	100.0%	100.0%
Asia-Pacific	1,005,507,000	1,295,625,000	62.1	59.2
Middle East-North Africa	321,869,000	439,453,000	19.9	20.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	242,544,000	385,939,000	15.0	17.6
Europe	44,138,000	58,209,000	2.7	2.7
Americas	5,256,000	10,927,000	0.3	0.5

If current trends continue, however, 79 countries will have a million or more Muslim inhabitants in 2030, up from 72 countries today.<sup>1</sup> A majority of the world's Muslims (about 60%) will continue to live in the Asia-Pacific region, while about 20% will live in the Middle East and North Africa, as is the case today. But Pakistan is expected to surpass Indonesia as the country with the single largest Muslim population. The portion of the world's Muslims living in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to rise; in 20 years, for example, more Muslims are likely to live in Nigeria than in Egypt. Muslims will remain relatively small minorities in Europe and the Americas, but they are expected to constitute a growing share of the total population in these regions.

In the United States, for example, the population projections show the number of Muslims more than doubling over the next two decades, rising from 2.6 million in 2010 to 6.2 million in 2030, in large part because of immigration and higher-than-average fertility among Muslims. The Muslim share of the U.S. population (adults and children) is projected to grow from 0.8% in 2010 to 1.7% in 2030, making Muslims roughly as numerous as Jews or Episcopalians are in the United States today. Although several European countries will have substantially higher percentages of Muslims, the United States is projected to have a larger number of Muslims by 2030 than any European countries other than Russia and France. (See the [Americas](#) section for more details.)

In Europe as a whole, the Muslim share of the population is expected to grow by nearly one-third over the next 20 years, rising from 6% of the region's inhabitants in 2010 to 9% in 2030. In absolute numbers, Europe's Muslim population is projected to grow from 44.1 million in 2010 to 58.2 million in 2030. The greatest increases – driven primarily by continued migration – are likely to occur in Western and Northern Europe, where Muslims will be approaching double-digit percentages of the population in several countries. In the United Kingdom, for example, Muslims are expected to comprise 8.2% of the population in 2030, up from an estimated 4.6% today. In Austria, Muslims are projected to reach 9.3% of the population in 2030, up from 5.7% today; in Sweden, 9.9% (up from 4.9% today); in Belgium, 10.2% (up from 6% today); and in France, 10.3% (up from 7.5% today). (See the [Europe](#) section.)

Several factors account for the faster projected growth among Muslims than non-Muslims worldwide. Generally, Muslim populations tend to have higher fertility rates (more children per woman) than non-Muslim populations. In addition, a larger share of the Muslim population is in, or soon will enter, the prime reproductive years (ages 15-29). Also, improved health and economic conditions in Muslim-majority countries have led to greater-than-average declines in infant and child mortality rates, and life expectancy is rising even faster in Muslim-majority countries than in other less-developed countries. (See the section on [Main Factors Driving Population Growth](#) for more details. For a list of Muslim-majority countries and definitions for the terms less- and more-developed, see the section on [Muslim-Majority Countries](#).)

- Worldwide**
- Sunni Muslims will continue to make up an overwhelming majority of Muslims in 2030 (87- 90%). The portion of the world's Muslims who are Shia may decline slightly, largely because of relatively low fertility in Iran, where more than a third of the world's Shia Muslims live.
  - As of 2010, about three-quarters of the world's Muslims (74.1%) live in the 49 countries in which Muslims make up a majority of the population. More than a fifth of all Muslims (23.3%) live in non-Muslim-majority countries in the developing world. About 3% of the world's Muslims live in more-developed regions, such as Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
  - Fertility rates in Muslim-majority countries are closely related to women's education levels. In the eight Muslim-majority countries where girls generally receive the fewest years of schooling, the average fertility rate (5.0 children per woman) is more than double the average rate (2.3 children per woman) in the nine Muslim-majority countries where girls generally receive the *most* years of schooling. One exception is the Palestinian territories, where the average fertility rate (4.5 children per woman) is relatively high even though a girl born there today can expect to receive 14 years of formal education.
  - Fewer than half (47.8%) of married women ages 15-49 in Muslim-majority countries use some form of birth control. By comparison, in non-Muslim-majority, less-developed countries nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of all married women in that age group use some form of birth control.

10 Countries with the Largest Number of Muslims in 2010

Country	ESTIMATED MUSLIM POPULATION
Indonesia	204,847,000
Pakistan	178,097,000
India	177,286,000
Bangladesh	148,607,000
Egypt	80,024,000
Nigeria	75,728,000
Iran	74,819,000
Turkey	74,660,000
Algeria	34,780,000
Morocco	32,381,000

10 Countries with the Largest Projected Number of Muslims in 2030

Country	PROJECTED MUSLIM POPULATION
Pakistan	256,117,000
Indonesia	238,833,000
India	236,182,000
Bangladesh	187,506,000
Nigeria	116,832,000
Egypt	105,065,000
Iran	89,626,000
Turkey	89,127,000
Afghanistan	50,527,000
Iraq	48,350,000

Population estimates are rounded to thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • The Future of the Global Muslim Population, January 2011

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Sunni Muslims will continue to make up an overwhelming majority of Muslims in 2030 (87- 90%). The portion of the world's Muslims who are Shia may decline slightly, largely because of relatively low fertility in Iran, where more than a third of the world's Shia Muslims live.

مسلمانان سنی همچنان اکثریت غالب مسلمانان را در سال ۲۰۳۰ تشکیل خواهند داد (۸۷ تا ۹۰٪). سهم مسلمانان شیعه جهان کاهش خواهد یافت، بیشتر به دلیل باروری نسبتاً کم در ایران که بیش از دو سوم شیعیان جهان در آن زندگی می کنند.