

# Changing religion, changing economies

*Future global religious and  
economic growth*

October 21, 2015

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*Research prepared for the Global Agenda Council  
on the Role of Faith*



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM &  
BUSINESS FOUNDATION

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## Introduction

Dramatic religious and economic shifts will impact our planet in the decades ahead, according to this new study by the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, [Changing religion, changing economies](#). The study provides insights into the global marketplace's growing religious diversity by linking the best available demographic and economic data.

According to a 2015 global [study](#) published in *Demographic Research*, social scientists were wrong to predict the demise of religion. The study and its connected Pew Research Center [report](#) show that between 2010 and 2050, the growth of religious populations worldwide is projected to be 23 times larger than the growth of religiously unaffiliated populations. During this period, the number of people affiliated with a religion is expected to grow by 2.3 billion, from 5.8 billion in 2010 to 8.1 billion in 2050. By contrast, the number of people unaffiliated with any religion (including those who say their religion is “nothing in particular” as well as self-identifying agnostics and atheists) is projected to increase by only 0.1 billion, from 1.13 billion in 2010 to 1.23 billion in 2050. Also, in terms of population shares, this is significantly lower than the peak in the 1970s under communism when nearly one-in-five people worldwide were religiously unaffiliated, according to the [World Religion Database](#) (Brill).

The growth of religious populations also has implications for how the world's wealth will be spread about. The economic transformations of China and India are common knowledge. But, what is less well known is that the five leading economies of 2050 are projected to represent one of the most *religiously diverse* groupings in recent memory. For instance, today, seven of the G8 nations have Christian-majority populations. But by 2050 only one of the five leading economies is projected to have a majority Christian population – the United States. The other mega economies in 2050 are projected to include a country with a Hindu majority (India), a Muslim majority (Indonesia), and two with exceptionally high levels of religious diversity (China and Japan).

As religious diversity and religious populations grow, so does their potential impact, creating new challenges and opportunities for societies, governments and economies. [Changing religion, changing economies](#) is a “first-cut” type of research providing pioneering insights into the future religion and economic change based on best available data. While it does not offer recommendations, business, government and civil society leaders will find useful information to inform discussion for years to come.

This report is part of a “toolkit” being developed by members of the Global Agenda Council (GAC) on the Role of Faith, and we thank the GAC members for their input. The Role of Faith Council seeks to increase “religious literacy” – including awareness and understanding of the positive impact of the role of faith in various sectors - in our complex world. This report is one such tool. Of course, all projections of future trends must be taken with a note of caution. Indeed, unforeseen events will yield unpredictable consequences. With this caution in mind, we believe that demographic projections are of particular value because, as Voltaire observed, “the present is [literally] pregnant with the future.”

**Brian J. Grim, Ph.D.**

*President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation*

*Member, Global Agenda Council on the Role of Faith, part of The World Economic Forum's Network of Global Agenda Council*

## About the Report

This report is based on a unique dataset (see the methodology on page 26). Dr. Brian J. Grim, president of Religious Freedom & Business Foundation and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Role of Faith, oversaw the research. Dr. Phillip Connor, an independent researcher, constructed and analyzed the dataset.

The project employs the best economic and religion data available (see methodology) to present a global view of the shape of future faith and economic change. The project does not aim to provide a direct causal link between religious behavior and economic practices. Instead, it seeks to connect self-identified religious affiliation with economic environments around the world. In this way, religion and religious change is neither analyzed as a causal force leading to economic change nor is economic change analyzed as a causal force in religious change. Instead, the analysis provides a global perspective of how the relative size and economic power of religious groups occur today and how these dynamics are expected to change in the near- and long-term future.

Although data estimates were produced by researchers for this project, all estimates contained in this report relied on leading religious and economic indicators generated by

other organizations described in the methodology. These include the Pew Research Center, the World Religion Database, the International Monetary Fund, the OECD, the United Nations, and various country-specific census and survey datasets (see appendix on page 30).

*The growing religious diversity - documented in this study - can be an economic strength if national and business leaders promote interfaith understanding, protect minority groups' human rights, and freedom of religion or belief, ensuring sustainable and peaceful development for all.*

Brian J. Grim, President  
Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

## Data limitations, assumptions and potential biases

The economic estimates by faith presented in this report are based on other estimates of religion and economics that have their own limitations and potential biases. For a deeper understanding of how the underlying data for faith and economics were shaped, please consult the methodologies of each organization's report, which are linked to in the methodology section of this report.

Projections in this report by religious grouping do not take into account potential narrowing or enlarging of economic inequality within countries. Such projections are non-existent. Consequently, projections of GDP (\$PPP) assume that current income inequalities across religious groupings within countries will remain the same in the near and long-term future.

The data used in this project is assumed to be reliable and valid. However, projections of religious affiliation or GDP (\$PPP) are uncertain estimates. This is why the bulk of the estimates presented in this report are based on short-term projections (2010 to 2020) rather than long-term projections (2010 to 2050). As in all projection work, it is the general direction of patterns that is more important than the actual estimates themselves.



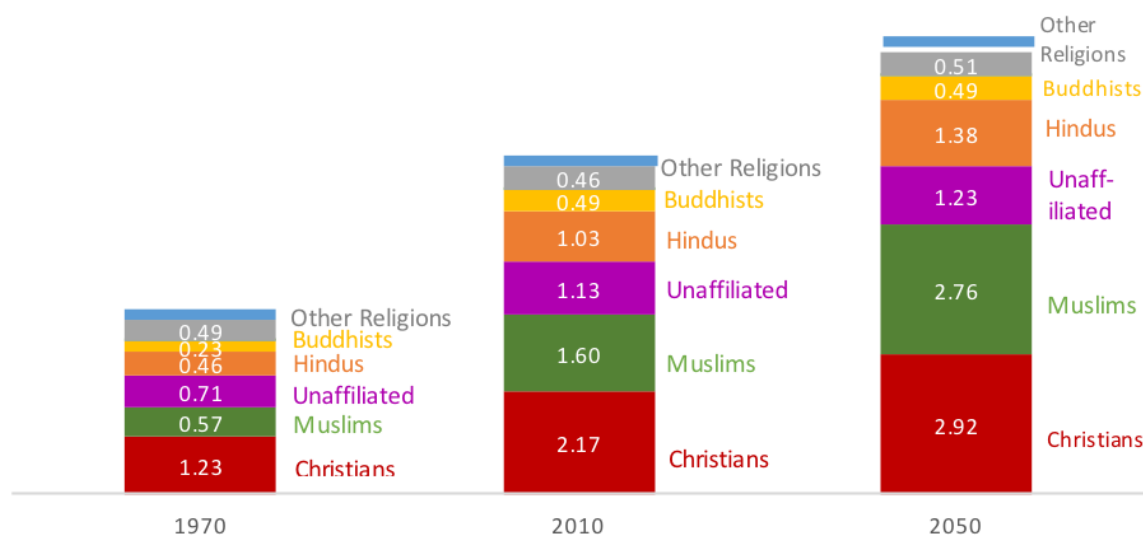
## The Globe's Changing Religious and Economic Landscape

### Global religious change

In 1970, about two-in-six people in the world were Christian. Come 2050, 80 years later, it is expected that two-in-six people will still be Christian. However, the relative size of other groups, like Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists will be much different. In 1970, Muslims represented about one-in-six people, but by 2050 is anticipated to be on par with Christians numbering about two-in-six people in the world. Similarly, Hindus and Buddhists combined were about one-in-six people in the world in 1970 and is projected to be about two-in-six people by 2050.

### 80 Years of Global Religious Change - 1970, 2010 and 2050

*Global population by religious group in billions...*



Sources: World Religion Database (1970) and Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2010 and 2050) .

Notes: "Other Religions" include religious traditions not covered elsewhere in this report that do not have sufficient data to have their own category across all country censuses and surveys. Jews numbered about 13 million in 1970, 14 million in 2010 and are expected to be about 16 million in 2050.

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The religious landscape of the world has been and is continuing to change. Muslim populations are growing at a faster rate than other major religious groups. At the same time, Christian growth is on par with global population growth. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated and remaining religious groups are shrinking as a proportion of the world's population. In sum, we are becoming a much more religious and religiously diverse world, at least in terms of religious affiliation.

But these religious landscape changes are not happening to the same degree in all places. For example, the growth of religiously unaffiliated is projected to slow in Asia, but increase in the Americas. Minority religious groups are anticipated to grow in size and share of populations in the Americas, Europe and the Middle East-North Africa. And Christianity is expected to make some of the most substantial regional

shifts, moving its population center from Europe and the Americas to the Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

### Global economic change

At the same time, the world is undergoing a dramatic shift in countries holding economic power. Simply looking at GDP as a measure across countries since 1980 and projected to 2050, we can see the rise of new economies.

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## 70 Years of Global Economic Change - 1980, 2010 and 2050

*Top 5 economies by year according to GDP*

1980	2010	2050
United States	United States	China
Soviet Union	China	United States
Japan	Japan	India
West Germany	Germany	Japan
France	France	Indonesia

Sources: International Monetary Fund (1970, 2010), OECD long-range projections (2050)

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The United States, a majority-Christian country, continues to be a leading economic power in the years ahead. But new countries such as China, which is majority-religiously unaffiliated, and India, which is majority-Hindu and Indonesia, which is majority-Muslim, are also expected to be prominent economic players in the decades ahead. Thus, more religiously diverse economic influence means potentially a greater impact of religious diversity than in previous decades.

This report seeks to examine how different religious groups will grow both in population and their regional spread in the years ahead, and also how different religious groups will increase their economic power in terms of GDP at the disposal of the communities they live in. As religious groups and economies change in size relative to each other, so do the economic influence of religious groups comprising the majority of people living in those countries. Putting faith and economics together, we can see how projected economic changes occur alongside religious change and vice-versa.

### Main takeaways of global religious and economic change, ordered by the size of religious groups in 2010

#### Christianity

- The growth of the global Christian population is projected to be about the same rate as overall global population growth between 2010-2050.
- The largest share of the world's Christians lived in the Americas as of 2010, while the largest share of Christians is expected to be in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050.

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- Economic growth among the global Christian population is expected to increase, but be significantly less than economic growth in the world as a whole.
- In the years ahead, the global distribution of economic influence associated with Christian populations is expected to remain largely dominated by the Americas, with Europe slightly decreasing in influence and Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia-Pacific regions slightly increasing.

### Islam

- The number of Muslims in the world is expected to nearly double between 2010 and 2050 and Muslims are expected to lead the world in population growth compared with other religious groups.
- The largest share of the world's Muslims lived in the Asia-Pacific region as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Economic growth among the global Muslim population is expected to significantly outpace global economic growth.
- India is expected to have the largest Muslim population of any country in the world by 2050, surpassing Indonesia.
- In the years ahead, slightly more than half of the economic influence associated with Muslim populations is expected to be in the Asia-Pacific region, with India's economic overall growth also helping to add some to the global economic resources of Muslims.

### Religiously Unaffiliated

- The growth of the global religiously unaffiliated population is slowing at a much faster rate than global population growth.
- The largest share of the world's religiously unaffiliated population lived in the Asia-Pacific region as of 2010 with over half of the entire world's unaffiliated people living in China. Population growth of the religiously unaffiliated population in the Americas is expected to be substantially higher than growth in other regions of the world.
- Economic growth among the global religiously unaffiliated population is expected to be on par with global economic growth in the years ahead.
- The global distribution of economic influence associated with religiously unaffiliated populations is expected to grow in the Asia-Pacific region, with economic influence decreasing slightly in Europe and the Americas.

### Hinduism

- The number of Hindus in the world is expected to grow by 400 million people between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to remain about the same share of the world's population in the decades ahead.
- The largest share of the world's Hindus lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably India) as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Economic growth among the global Hindu population is expected to significantly outpace global economic growth, mostly led by the rising economy of India.
- The vast majority of economic resources available to Hindus lies in India, but Hindus in the United States and the United Kingdom also contribute significantly to the global economic resources available to Hindus.

## Buddhism

- The number of Buddhists in the world is expected to remain at nearly 500 million between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to decrease as a share of the world's population.
- The largest share of the world's Buddhists lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably China) as of 2010; they are estimated to continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Despite the stagnation of population growth among Buddhists, economic growth among the global Buddhist population is expected to be on par with global economic growth, largely due to China's economic rise.
- China and Japan jointly hold nearly all of the world's economic resources available to Buddhists, but this study estimates that Buddhists in the United States also contribute significantly to the global economic resources available to Buddhists.

## Judaism

- The growth of the global Jewish population is slowing more quickly than the world overall; however, the number of Jews is still anticipated to be about two million more in 2050 than in 2010 (increasing from about 14 million in 2010 to slightly more than 16 million worldwide in 2050).
- The largest share of the world's Jews lived in the Americas (mostly in the United States) as of 2010, while the largest share of Jews is expected to be in the Middle East-North Africa region (namely Israel) by 2050.
- Economic growth among the global Jewish population is expected to increase, but be significantly less than economic growth in the world as a whole.
- In the years ahead, the global distribution of economic influence associated with Jewish populations is expected to slightly decrease in the Americas with corresponding slight increases among Jewish populations living in the Middle East- North Africa region.

## Other religions\*

- The number of people belonging to other religions in the world is expected to grow by about 30 million people between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to decrease as a share of the world's population.
- The largest share of the world's other religious populations lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably China) as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Despite its slow population growth, economic growth among people belonging to other religions is expected to outpace global economic growth, largely due to China's projected economic growth.
- China holds about two-thirds of the global economic resources available to other religions.

\* **Other religions include** religious traditions not covered elsewhere in this report. Data limitations prevent their individual analysis on a global basis. They are included, however, to account for all people worldwide, recognizing that the results have limited information for any one particular group. These religions include folk religions often identified along ethnic lines and sometimes mixed with local beliefs of other major religions. Examples of these folk religions include traditional African religions and Chinese ancestral belief systems. The other religion category also includes groups like Baha'i, Jainism, Shintoism, Sikhism and Taoism that do not have sufficient data to have their own category across most country censuses and surveys.



## Global Change by Faith Groups

### Christianity

- The growth of the global Christian population is about the same rate as overall global population growth.
- The largest share of the world's Christians lived in the Americas as of 2010, while the largest share of Christians is expected to be in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050.
- Economic growth among the global Christian population is expected to increase, but be significantly less than economic growth in the world as a whole.
- In the years ahead, the global distribution of economic influence associated with Christian populations is expected to remain largely dominated by the Americas, with Europe slightly decreasing in influence and Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia-Pacific regions slightly increasing.

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**Christians include** Catholics (both those affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and those who are not), Orthodox Communions (such as the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches), Protestants (including independent churches not associated with Protestant denominations) and other Christian groups (such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Christian Scientists and Jehovah's Witnesses). Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

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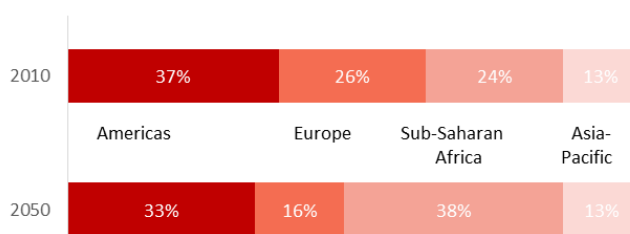
### Christian population growth and regional change

Christians numbered about 1.2 billion or about 33% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's Christian population almost doubled to 2.2 billion people, but fell slightly as a share of the world's population to about 31% of global population. Two opposing forces are both increasing the population size of Christians around the world while simultaneously decreasing their share of the world's population. Population increase is mainly due to high levels of fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America where Christianity is the majority religion. However, the share of populations in Europe and North America is decreasing as some Christians change their religious affiliation, mainly to no religious affiliation. This is, however, offset by the fact that religiously affiliated women have more children, on average, than religiously unaffiliated women (see study in [Demographic Research](#)).

Looking forward to 2050, the number of Christians is expected to grow to about 2.9 billion people and still remain around a third (31%) of the world's population. The growth rate of Christians is expected to decline, from about 1.1% annual growth between 2010 and 2015 to 0.5% annual growth between 2045 and 2050. Although the growth of

#### Where Christians Live, 2010 and 2050

% of world's Christian population living in ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015)

Note: Less than 1% of the world's Christians lived in the Middle East-North Africa region in 2010 with a similar share expected to live in the same region in 2050.

Christians globally appears to be slowing, it is still on par with global population growth, which is also slowing at a similar rate.

The regional concentration of Christians around the world is expected to change substantially in future decades. The share of world's Christians living in Europe is expected to decline substantially between 2010 and 2050 and to a lesser extent in the Americas (see chart). Meanwhile, the share of the world's Christians living in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to grow significantly from about 24% of the world's Christians in 2010 to 38% in 2050, largely because of higher fertility in this part of the world. The percentage of the world's Christians living in the Asia-Pacific region and Middle East-North Africa is expected to remain the same in future decades, although increase in absolute numbers.

In 2010, nearly half (48%) of the world's Christian population could be found in 10 countries – United States (243 million), Brazil (173 million), Mexico (108 million), Russia (105 million), the Philippines (86 million), Nigeria (78 million), China (68 million), Democratic Republic of Congo (63 million), Germany (57 million) and Ethiopia (52 million).

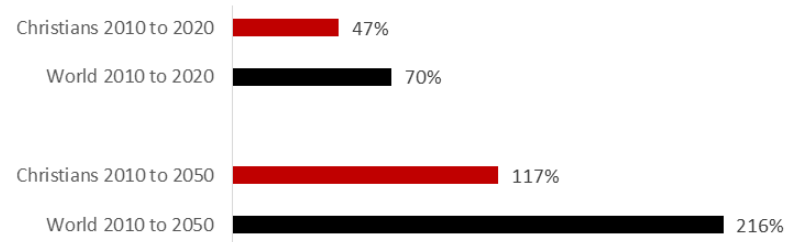
In 2050, the top 10 countries representing nearly half (47%) of the world's Christian population is projected to include a similar list of countries, but in a different ranking – United States (262 million), Brazil (193 million), Nigeria (155 million), the Philippines (144 million), Democratic Republic of Congo (142 million), Mexico (130 million), Tanzania (94 million), Russia (88 million), Ethiopia (85 million) and Uganda (81 million). Germany is projected to drop from the top 10 as Uganda enters the top 10, while Nigeria moves from sixth to third spot.

### Christian economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of Christian populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 47% (see chart), from an estimated 39 trillion \$PPP to 58 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP, however, is less than the global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among Christians expected to increase by 117% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

#### Economic Growth Among the Global Christian Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)

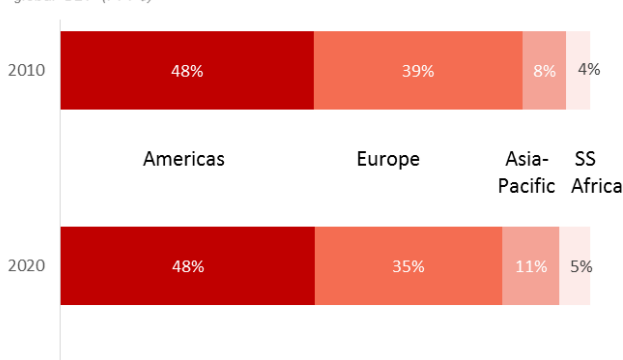


Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, the United States population is majority-Christian; however, each religious group holds a share of the United States' GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.

The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with Christian populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020 with only slight changes. The share of global GDP at the disposal of Christian populations in Europe is expected to decrease only somewhat (39% to 35%) with corresponding slight increases for Christians living in the Asia-Pacific region (8% to 11%) and Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa (4% to 5%). For both 2010 and 2020, nearly half of global GDP at the disposal of Christian populations is found in the Americas, over a third is in Europe and smaller shares (mostly 10% or less) are held by Christians in Asia-Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East-North Africa regions.

**Regional Breakdown of Global Economic Influence Associated with Christians, 2010 and 2020**  
global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015) and International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

Top countries contributing to global GDP at the disposal of Christian populations are not expected to change significantly between 2010 and 2020. In 2010, the leading countries included the United States (11.2 trillion), Brazil (2.4 trillion), Germany (2.4 trillion), Russia (2.2 trillion) and Italy (1.8 trillion). In 2020, the leading countries of GDP at the disposal of Christian populations are expected to include the United States (16.3 trillion), Brazil (3.4 trillion), Germany (3.1 trillion) and Russia (2.9 trillion). Finally, Mexico (2.7 trillion) takes Italy's place in the top five in 2020. (Note, these figures are for the estimated GDP at the disposal of Christian populations in these countries. For instance, the total GDP of the United States in 2020 is projected to be over 22 trillion \$PPP.)

## Islam

- The number of Muslims in the world is expected to nearly double between 2010 and 2050 and is expected to lead the world in population growth compared with other religious groups.
- The largest share of the world's Muslims lived in the Asia-Pacific region as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Economic growth among the global Muslim population is expected to significantly outpace global economic growth.
- In the years ahead, slightly more than half of the economic influence associated with Muslim populations is expected to be in the Asia-Pacific region, with India's economic growth overall raising the global influence of economic strength among Muslims. India is expected to have the largest Muslim population of any country in the world by 2050, surpassing Indonesia.

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**Muslims include** the two major branches of Islam – Sunni and Shia – as well as other Islamic groups. Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

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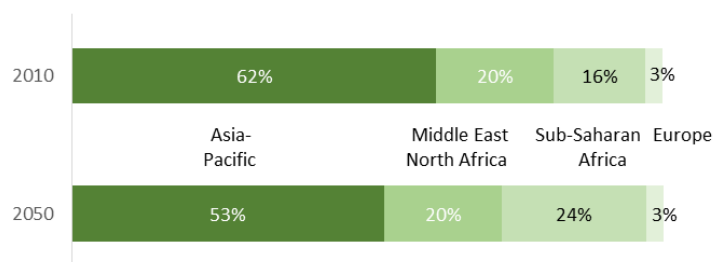
### Muslim population growth and regional change

Muslims numbered nearly 600 million or about 15% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's Muslim population more than doubled to 1.6 billion people and grew to over 23% of the world's population, mostly because of larger fertility rates in majority-Muslim countries. Looking forward to 2050, the number of Muslims is expected to grow substantially to about 2.8 billion people and also grow as a share of the world's population to nearly 30% of the globe. As is expected for all major religious groups, the growth rate of Muslims is expected to decline, from about 1.8% annual growth between 2010 and 2015 to 1.0% annual growth between 2045 and 2050. Although the growth of Muslims globally appears to be slowing, it is still a much higher growth rate than the world's population as a whole which is anticipated to be only 0.4% by 2050.

The regional concentration of Muslims around the world is expected to change in future decades. The share of world's Muslims is expected to decline in the Asia-Pacific region and is simultaneously expected to grow in Sub-Saharan Africa from about 16% of the world's Muslims in 2010 to 24% in 2050 (see chart). Percentages of the world's Muslims living in the Europe and Middle East-North Africa are expected to remain the same in future decades, although increase in absolute numbers.

**Where Muslims Live, 2010 and 2050**

% of world's Muslim population living in ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015)

In 2010, nearly two-thirds of the world's Muslim population could be found in 10 countries – Indonesia (209 million), India (176 million), Pakistan (167 million), Bangladesh (134 million), Nigeria (77 million), Egypt (77 million), Iran (73 million), Turkey (71 million), Algeria (35 million) and Morocco (32 million).

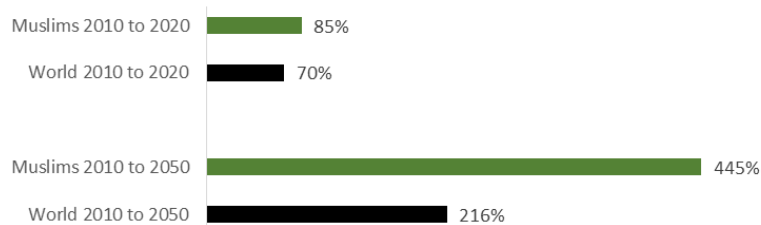
In 2050, the top 10 countries representing not quite two-thirds (62%) of the world's Muslim population is projected to include a similar list of countries, but in a different ranking with India having the highest number of Muslims (311 million), followed by Pakistan (273 million), Indonesia (257 million), Nigeria (231 million), Bangladesh (182 million), Egypt (120 million), Turkey (89 million), Iran (86 million), Iraq (80 million) and Afghanistan (72 million). By 2050, Afghanistan is expected to replace Algeria and Morocco in the top 10, while Nigeria moves up the ranking ahead of Bangladesh. Nigeria has the distinction of being in the top 10 for both Muslim and Christian populations in 2010 and 2050.

### Muslim economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 85% (see chart), from an estimated 14 trillion \$PPP to 25 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP is more than the global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern of higher than global growth is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among Muslims expected to increase by 445% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

#### Economic Growth Among the Global Muslim Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, Indonesia's population is majority-Muslim; however, each religious group holds a share of Indonesia's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.



## Changing religion, changing economies: Future global religious and economic growth

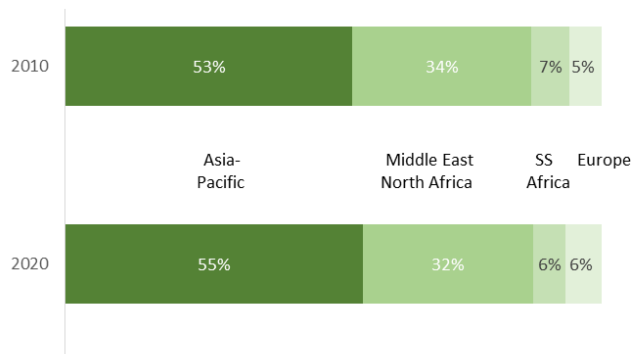
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The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with Muslim populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020 with only slight changes. As shown in the chart, the share of global GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to increase only somewhat (53% to 55%) with corresponding slight decreases for Muslims living in the Middle East-North Africa region (34% to 32%) and Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa (7% to 6%).

For both 2010 and 2020, over half of global GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations is found in the Asia-Pacific region, about a third is in the Middle East-North Africa region and smaller shares (10% or less) are held by Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

**Regional Breakdown of Global Economic Influence Associated with Muslims, 2010 and 2020**

global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015) and International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

Top countries contributing to global GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations are not expected to change significantly between 2010 and 2020. In 2010, the leading countries included Indonesia (1.7 trillion), Iran (1.3 trillion), Saudi Arabia (1.1 trillion), Turkey (1.2 trillion) and Egypt (0.8 trillion). In 2020, the leading countries of GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations are expected to include Indonesia (3.6 trillion), Saudi Arabia (2.1 trillion), Turkey (2.0 trillion) and Iran (1.6 trillion). India (1.9 trillion) is expected to hold the number four spot of leading countries associated with Muslim economic influence even though it is a Hindu-majority country. (Note, these figures are for the estimated GDP at the disposal of Muslim populations in these countries. For instance, the total GDP of India in 2020 is projected to be nearly 13 trillion \$PPP.)

## Religiously unaffiliated

- The growth of the global religiously unaffiliated population is slowing at a much faster rate than global population growth.
- The largest share of the world's religiously unaffiliated population lived in the Asia-Pacific region as of 2010 with over half of the entire world's unaffiliated people living in China alone. Population growth of the religiously unaffiliated population in the Americas is expected to be substantially higher than growth in other regions of the world.
- Economic growth among the global religiously unaffiliated population is expected to be on par with global economic growth in the years ahead.
- The global distribution of economic influence associated with religiously unaffiliated populations is expected to grow in the Asia-Pacific region, with economic influence decreasing slightly in Europe and the Americas.

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**The religiously unaffiliated population includes** atheists, agnostics and those who claim no specific religious identity. Some people having no religious affiliation may still hold religious or spiritual beliefs and may even attend religious worship services and ceremonies. Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

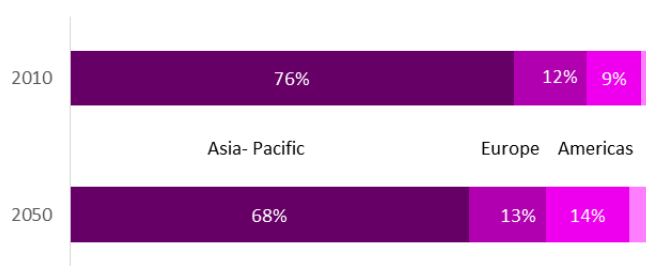
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### Religiously unaffiliated population growth and regional change

The religiously unaffiliated population numbered about 700 million or about 19% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's religiously unaffiliated population grew to 1.1 billion people, but fell as a share of the world's population to about 16% of global population. Looking forward to 2050, the number of religiously unaffiliated persons is expected to grow only slightly to about 1.2 billion and continue to fall as a share of the world's population (13%). The growth rate of the religiously unaffiliated population is expected to become negative in the decades ahead, from about 0.6% annual growth between 2010 and 2015 to -0.2% annual growth between 2045 and 2050. The slowing growth and eventual shrinking of the religiously unaffiliated population is not on par with global population growth which is expected to slow in the decades ahead but not become negative.

The regional concentration of the religiously unaffiliated population around the world is expected to change in future decades. The share of world's religiously unaffiliated population is expected to decline in the Asia-Pacific region from 76% in 2010 to 68% in 2050 (see chart) as fertility rates in this part of the world continue to decline. Meanwhile, the share

**Where the Religiously Unaffiliated Population Lives, 2010 and 2050**  
% of world's religiously unaffiliated population living in ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015)

living in the Americas is expected to grow significantly in future years from about 9% of the world's religiously unaffiliated population in 2010 to 14% in 2050 as populations in this part of the world are

projected to increasingly turn from having a religious affiliation to having no religious affiliation. The percentages of the world's religiously unaffiliated population living in Europe is expected to be about the same in future decades, although increase in absolute numbers and increase as a share of Europe's overall population.

In 2010, over 8-in-10 people in the world with no religious affiliation (86%) could be found in 10 countries – China (700 million), Japan (72 million), the United States (51 million), Vietnam (26 million), Russia (23 million), South Korea (22 million), Germany (20 million), France (18 million), North Korea (17 million) and the United Kingdom (17 million).

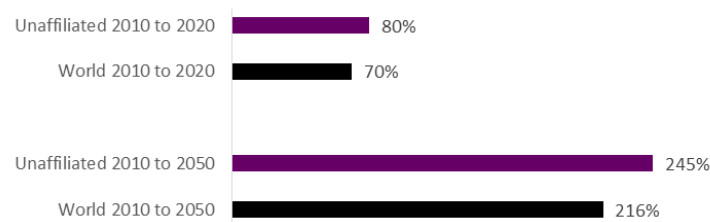
In 2050, the top 10 countries representing again about 8-in-10 religiously unaffiliated persons (82%) is projected to include a similar list of countries, but in a different ranking with China remaining at the top (663 million), but the United States in the number two position (101 million). The remaining eight countries include Japan (73 million), Vietnam (32 million), France (31 million), the United Kingdom (27 million), South Korea (22 million), Germany (21 million), Brazil (21 million) and North Korea (19 million). Brazil is projected to displace Russia from the top 10 list by 2050.

### Religiously unaffiliated economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of religiously unaffiliated populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 80% (see chart), from an estimated 19 trillion \$PPP to 34 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP is slightly higher than the global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among the religiously unaffiliated population expected to increase by 245% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

#### Economic Growth Among the Global Religiously Unaffiliated Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, China's population is majority-religiously unaffiliated; however, each religious group holds a share of China's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.

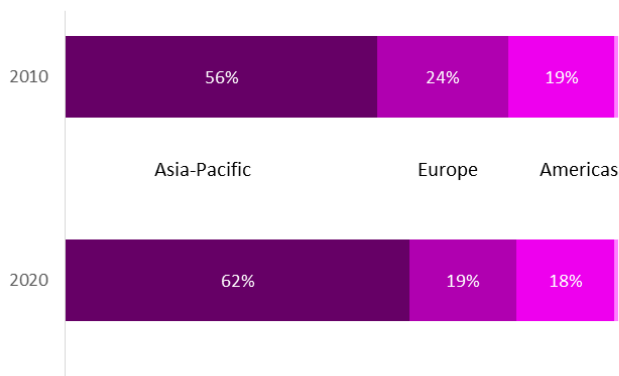
## Changing religion, changing economies: Future global religious and economic growth

October 21, 2015, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with the religiously unaffiliated population is expected to change only slightly between 2010 and 2020. As shown in the chart, the share of global GDP at the disposal of the religiously unaffiliated population in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to increase slightly (56% to 62%) with corresponding decreases for the religiously unaffiliated population living in Europe (24% to 19%) and the Americas (19% to 18%). For both 2010 and 2020, over half of global GDP at the disposal of religiously unaffiliated populations is found in the Asia-Pacific region and about a fifth is in both Europe and the Americas. Much smaller shares are held by religiously unaffiliated populations in Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East-North Africa regions.

**Regional Breakdown of Global Economic Influence Associated with the Religiously Unaffiliated Population, 2010 and 2020**

global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015) and International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

Top countries contributing to global GDP at the disposal of religiously unaffiliated populations are not expected to change significantly between 2010 and 2020. In 2010, the leading countries included China (6.3 trillion), Japan (2.7 trillion), the United States (2.6 trillion), Germany (0.7 trillion) and South Korea (0.7 trillion). In 2020, the leading countries of GDP at the disposal of religiously unaffiliated populations are expected to include China (14.6 trillion), the United States (4.4 trillion), Japan (3.6 trillion), South Korea (1.2 trillion) and Germany (1.1 trillion). (Note, these figures are for the estimated GDP at the disposal of religiously unaffiliated populations in these countries. For instance, the total GDP of China in 2020 is projected to be over 28 trillion \$PPP.)

## Hinduism

- The number of Hindus in the world is expected to grow by 400 million people between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to remain about the same share of the world's population in the decades ahead.
- The largest share of the world's Hindus lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably India) as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Economic growth among the global Hindu population is expected to significantly outpace global economic growth, mostly led by the rising economic growth of India.
- India holds nearly all of the world's economic influence of Hindus, but Hindus in the United States and the United Kingdom combined have an estimated global economic influence of about a quarter trillion dollars (\$PPP) as of 2010.

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**Hindus include** a heterogeneous group of traditions mostly located in India, of which worship devoted to the god Vishnu and Shiva feature most prominently. Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

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### Hindu population growth and regional change

Hindus numbered nearly half a billion or about 13% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's Hindu population topped a billion people and grew to 15% of the world's population. Looking forward to 2050, the number of Hindus is expected to grow modestly to about 1.4 billion people, but remain around 15% of the world's population. As is expected for all major religious groups, the growth rate of Hindus is expected to decline, from about 1.3% annual growth between 2010 and 2015 to 0.2% annual growth between 2045 and 2050. By way of comparison, annual population growth for the world as a whole is anticipated to be 0.4% by 2050, slightly higher than projected for Hindus.

The regional concentration of Hindus around the world is expected to remain very stable in the decades ahead. Although the shares of the world's Hindu population is expected to increase slightly in regions outside of the Asia-Pacific region, 99% of Hindus are still expected to live in the Asia-Pacific region in 2050 – about the same share estimated to have lived in the Asia-Pacific region in 2010.

In 2010, nearly all of the world's Hindu population could be found in 3 countries – India (974 million), Nepal (24 million) and Bangladesh (13 million). In 2050, the top 3 countries representing nearly all of the world's Hindu population is projected to be the same: India (1.3 billion), Nepal (38 million) and Bangladesh (14 million).

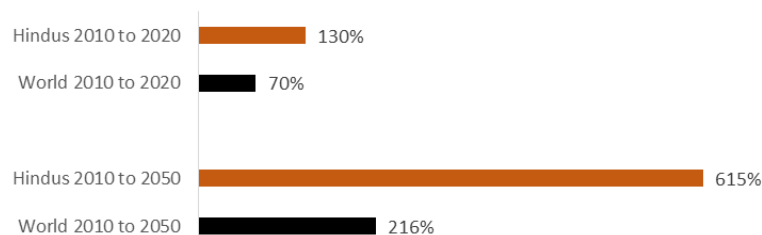


## Hindu economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of Hindu populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 130% (see chart), from an estimated 5 trillion \$PPP to 11 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP is substantially more than projected global GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern of higher than global growth is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among Hindus expected to increase by 615% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

### Economic Growth Among the Hindu Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, India's population is majority-Hindu; however, each religious group holds a share of India's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.

The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with Hindu populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020. Between 92% and 95% of global GDP at the disposal of Hindu populations is expected to remain in the Asia-Pacific region.

Not surprising, the top country contributing to global GDP at the disposal of Hindu populations is India with 4 trillion \$PPP in 2010 and 9 trillion \$PPP in 2020. Somewhat surprising are the countries in second and third position for GDP at the disposal of Hindu populations – the United States (160 billion in 2010 and 300 billion in 2020) and the United Kingdom (60 billion in 2010 and 90 billion in 2020), countries with a high number of Hindu migrants, but still a minority population.

## Buddhism

- The number of Buddhists in the world is expected to remain nearly 500 million people between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to decrease as a share of the world's population.
- The largest share of the world's Buddhists lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably China) as of 2010 and is estimated to continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Despite its population stability, economic growth among the global Buddhist population is expected to be on par with global economic growth, largely due to China's economic rise.
- China and Japan jointly hold nearly all of the world's economic influence of Buddhists at well over six trillion \$PPP, but Buddhists in the United States are estimated to have a global economic influence of over 400 billion \$PPP as of 2010.

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**Buddhists include** the three major traditions of Mahayana Buddhism, Theravada Buddhism and Vajrayana (sometimes described as Tibetan) Buddhism. Buddhists in this analysis also include members of groups like Soka Gakkai and Hoa Hao, but still identify as Buddhists. Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

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### Buddhist population growth and regional change

Buddhists numbered nearly a quarter billion people or about 6% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's Buddhist population reached nearly half a billion people and grew to about 7% of the world's population. Looking forward to 2050, the number of Buddhists is expected to be about the same at half a billion people, but decline to around 5% of the world's population. Buddhists currently have a positive annual growth rate of about 0.5%; however, by 2050 it is estimated the annual growth rate will be negative at -0.4%, largely due to China's demographic contraction. By way of comparison, annual population growth for the world as a whole is projected to slow, but not become negative.

The regional concentration of Buddhists around the world is expected to remain very stable in the decades ahead. Although the shares of the world's Buddhist population is expected to increase slightly in regions outside of the Asia-Pacific region through migration to North America, Europe and the Middle East-North Africa region, the overwhelming majority (98%) of Buddhists are expected to continue living in the Asia-Pacific region in 2050.

In 2010, nearly all (94%) of the world's Buddhist population could be found in 10 countries, including China (244 million), Thailand (64 million), Japan (46 million), Burma-Myanmar (38 million), Sri Lanka (14 million), Vietnam (14 million), Cambodia (14 million), South Korea (11 million), India (9 million) and Malaysia (5 million).

In 2050, the top 10 countries representing nearly all (93%) of the world's Buddhist population is projected to be largely the same, but in a slightly different order: China (242 million), Thailand (62 million), Burma-Myanmar (45 million), Japan (27 million), Cambodia (19 million), Vietnam (17 million), Sri Lanka (16 million), India (11 million), South Korea (9 million) and the United States (5 million). China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam have the distinction of being in the top 10 for both Buddhist and

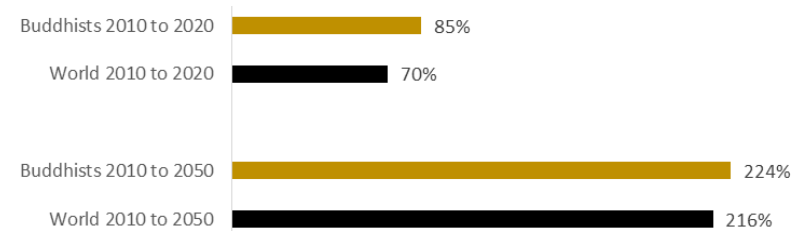
religiously unaffiliated populations in 2010 and 2050. The U.S. Buddhist population is expected to overtake Malaysia's in the top 10 list by 2050.

### Buddhist economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of Buddhist populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 85% (see chart), from an estimated 6 trillion \$PPP to 11 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP is more than global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. Also, slightly higher than global growth is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among Buddhists expected to increase by 224% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

#### Economic Growth Among the Buddhist Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, Thailand's population is majority-Buddhist; however, each religious group holds a share of Thailand's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.

The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with Buddhist populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020. About 95% of global GDP in 2010 was at the disposal of Buddhist populations living in the Asia-Pacific region, and it is expected to remain at nearly 95% for 2020. Interestingly, about 4% of global GDP at the disposal of Buddhist populations is held by Buddhists living in the Americas.

Not surprising, the top country contributing to global GDP at the disposal of Buddhist populations is China with 2.2 trillion \$PPP in 2010 and 5.2 trillion \$PPP in 2020. In 2020, China is followed by Japan (1.5 trillion), Thailand (1.3 trillion) and South Korea (0.5 trillion). Somewhat surprising is that the United States is the country with the fifth largest economic influence among the global Buddhist population, with a projected 400 billion \$PPP at the disposal of U.S. Buddhists.

## Judaism

- The growth of the global Jewish population is slowing more quickly than the world overall; however, the number of Jews is still anticipated to be about two million more in 2050 than they were in 2010 (increasing from about 14 million in 2010 to slightly more than 16 million worldwide in 2050).
- The largest share of the world's Jews lived in the Americas (mostly in the United States) as of 2010, while the largest share of Jews is expected to be in the Middle East-North Africa region (namely Israel) by 2050.
- Economic growth among the global Jewish population is expected to increase, but be significantly less than economic growth in the world as a whole.
- In the years ahead, the global distribution of economic influence associated with Jewish populations is expected to slightly decrease in the Americas with corresponding slight increases among Jewish populations living in the Middle East- North Africa region.

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**The Jewish population includes** those who identify religiously as Jewish. The Jewish population in this report does not include those with Jewish ancestry or identify as “cultural” or “ethnic” Jews without some identity with the Jewish religion. Estimates are based on censuses and surveys that ask respondents to self-identify their religion. Thus, the estimates do not indicate level of religious practice or religious beliefs, but religious affiliation with a religious group.

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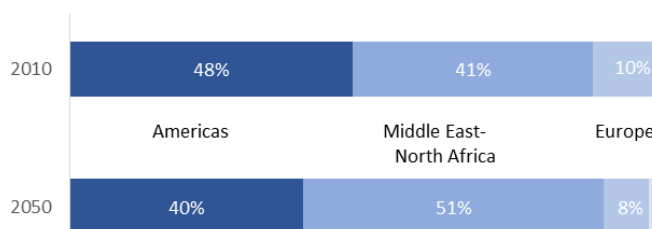
### Jewish population growth and regional change

Jews numbered nearly 14 million or about 0.4% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's Jewish population was about the same at 14 million people, but fell slightly as a share of the world's population to about 0.2% of global population. Looking forward to 2050, the number of Jews is expected to grow to about 16 million people and still remain about 0.2% of the world's population. Like all religious groups, the growth rate of Jews is expected to decline in the decades ahead, from about 0.6% annual growth between 2010 and 2015 to about 0.2% annual growth between 2045 and 2050. The future annual growth of Jews between 2045 and 2050 is expected to be lower than global population growth at 0.4%.

The regional concentration of Jews around the world is expected to change in future decades. The share of the world's Jews is expected to decline in the Americas and Europe. Meanwhile, the share of the world's Jews living in the Middle East-North Africa region (namely Israel) is expected to grow in future years from 41% of the world's Jewish population in 2010 to 51% in 2050. Percentages of the world's Jews living in the Asia-Pacific region and Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to remain the same in future decades and represent well less than 5% of the world's Jewish population.

### Where the Jewish Population Lives, 2010 and 2050

% of world's Jewish population living in ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015)

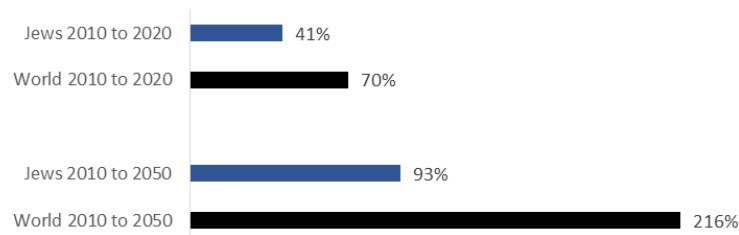
In 2010, about 8-in-10 Jews lived in the United States (5.7 million) or Israel (5.6 million). By 2050, over 9-in-10 Jews are projected to live in the same two countries, with a greater number living in Israel (8.2 million) than in the United States (5.4 million).

### Jewish economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 41% (see chart), from an estimated 0.8 trillion \$PPP to 1.2 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP, however, is less than the global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among Jews expected to increase by 93% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

### Economic Growth Among the Jewish Population, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

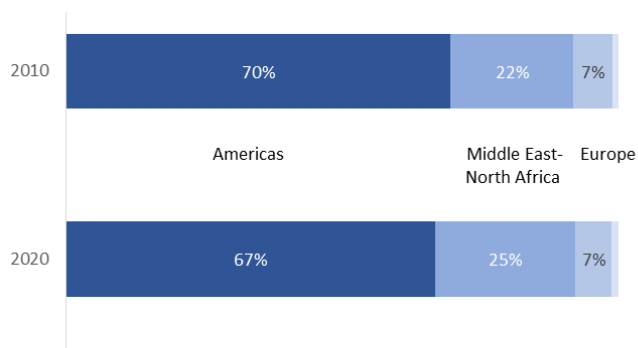
**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, Israel population is majority-Jewish; however, each religious group holds a share of the Israel's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.



The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with Jewish populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020 with only slight changes. As shown in the chart, the share of global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations is highest in the Americas at about two-thirds (70% in 2010 and 67% in 2020) of the globe's total GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations. Meanwhile, about a quarter of global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations is in the Middle East-North Africa region (22% in 2010 and 25% in 2020). For both 2010 and 2020, smaller shares (less than 10% each) are held by Jews living in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Regional Breakdown of Global Economic Influence of Jewish Populations, 2010 and 2020**

*global GDP (PPP\$)*



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015) and International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

Two countries – the United States and Israel – largely contribute to global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations. In 2010, global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations living in the United States was about 500 billion and is expected to grow to over 700 billion by 2020. Meanwhile, global GDP at the disposal of Jewish populations living in Israel was nearly 200 billion in 2010 and is projected to be nearly 300 billion by 2020.

## Other religions as a group

- The number of people belonging to other religions in the world is expected to grow by about 30 million people between 2010 and 2050, but is projected to decrease as a share of the world's population.
- The largest share of the world's other religion population lived in the Asia-Pacific region (notably China) as of 2010 and will continue to live in this region in the decades ahead.
- Despite its slow population growth, economic growth among the global other religion population is expected to outpace global economic growth.
- China holds about two-thirds of the world's economic influence of other religions.

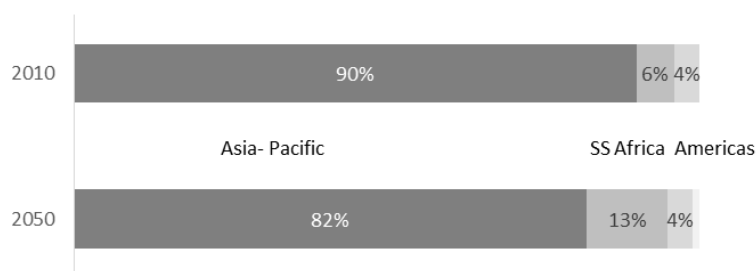
**Other religions include** religious traditions not covered elsewhere in this report. These religions include folk religions often identified along ethnic lines and sometimes mixed with local beliefs of other major religions. Examples of these folk religions include traditional African religions and Chinese ancestral belief systems. The other religion category also includes groups like Baha'i, Jainism, Shintoism, Sikhism and Taoism that do not have sufficient data to have their own category across all country censuses and surveys.

Populations belonging to other religions numbered about 470 million people or about 13% of the world's population in 1970. By 2010, the world's other religion population was about the same population size, but decreased to about 7% of the world's population. Looking forward to 2050, the number of people adhering to other religions is expected to be slightly higher than 500 million, but decrease to around 5% of the world's population. Those adhering to other religions currently have a positive annual growth rate of around 0.7%; however, by 2050 it is estimated the annual growth rate will be negative and slightly below -0.1%. By way of comparison, annual population growth for the world as a whole is projected to slow, but not become negative.

The regional concentration of those adhering to other religions around the world is expected to remain fairly stable in the decades ahead. Although the shares of the world's other religion population is expected to increase slightly in Sub-Saharan Africa, the majority (82%) of people adhering to other populations are expected to continue living in the Asia-Pacific region in 2050 (see chart).

### Where People Belonging to Other Religions Live, 2010 and 2050

% of world's other religion population living in ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015)

In 2010, most (90%) of the world's populations adhering to other religions could be found in 10 countries, including China (303 million), Vietnam (40 million), India (33 million), Taiwan (14 million), Japan (6 million), North Korea (6 million), Brazil (6 million), South Sudan (3 million), Burma-Myanmar (3 million), Burkina Faso (3 million).

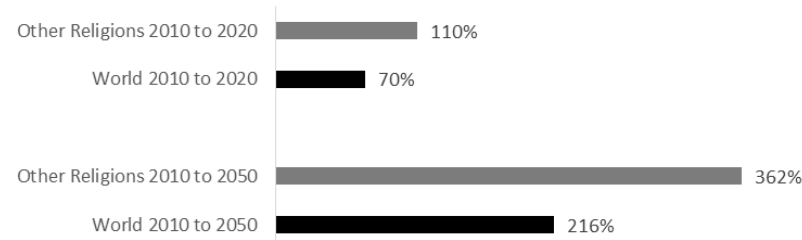
In 2050, the top 10 countries representing nearly all (85%) of the world's other religion population is projected to be largely the same, but in a slightly different order: China (294 million), Vietnam (46 million), India (34 million), Taiwan (11 million), Brazil (9 million), United States (8 million), Burkina Faso (8 million), North Korea (7 million) and South Sudan (7 million). China, Vietnam, India, Taiwan, the United States and North Korea each are represented on other top 10 lists, an indicator of the religious diversity present in each.

### Other religions' economic growth and regional change

Estimated global GDP at the disposal of populations adhering to other religions is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 110% (see chart), from an estimated 5 trillion \$PPP to 10 trillion \$PPP. This growth in GDP is more than global projected GDP growth of 70% between 2010 and 2020. A similar pattern of higher than global growth is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050 with estimated global GDP growth among other religions expected to increase by 362% whereas global GDP is expected to increase by 216% for the same time period.

#### Economic Growth Among Other Religion Populations, 2010 to 2020 and 2010 to 2050

% increase in global GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions (2015), International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (2015) and OECD Economic Outlook (November 2014). See the report's methodology for the calculation of estimates.

**GDP estimates** are based on the population distribution of religious groups within individual countries. Adjustment weights were used to take into account income differences between religious groups within countries. Consequently, the GDP of countries with religiously diverse populations is shared by a number of religious groups, not only the majority religious group. For example, China's population has many people who belong to other and folk religions; however, each religious group, including those besides other and folk religions, holds a share of China's GDP, weighted by income differentials by religious group. It is important to note that other measures of economic power apart from GDP are important, especially since GDP involves all aspects of the economy, not just household spending. However, GDP is the most available measure for future change as well as the most consistent measure available across countries. For more information on how economic estimates were calculated, see the report's methodology on page 26.

The regional breakdown of global economic influence associated with other religion populations is expected to remain largely the same between 2010 and 2020. About 90% of global GDP at the disposal of other religion populations is in the Asia-Pacific region. Interestingly, about 7% of the global GDP at the disposal of other populations is held by people belonging to other religions living in the Americas.

Not surprising, the top country contributing to global GDP at the disposal of other religion populations is China with 2.7 trillion \$PPP in 2010 and 6.4 trillion \$PPP in 2020. In 2020, China is followed by Taiwan (0.9 trillion), Japan (0.3 trillion) and India (0.5 trillion).

## Methodology

This project employs the best economic and religion data available (see below) to present a global view of the shape of future faith and economic change. The project does not aim to provide a direct causal link between religious behavior and economic practices. Instead, it seeks to connect self-identified religious affiliation with economic environments around the world. In this way, religion and religious change is neither analyzed as a causal force leading to economic change nor is economic change analyzed as a causal force in religious change. Instead, the analysis provides a global perspective of how the relative size and economic power of religious groups today and how these dynamics are expected to change in the near- and long-term future. This methodology includes four sections: (1) a description of the data used to calculate estimates, (2) the basic method in calculating estimates, (3) data limitations and potential biases, and (4) an appendix of source data and assumptions used for individual countries.

### Data

Although religion and economic data estimates were produced by researchers for this project, all estimates contained in this report relied on leading religious and economic indicators generated by other organizations.

**[Pew Research Center's Future of World Religions](#)** (April 2015) – A first of its kind, this [publicly available dataset](#) contains projections for the size of religious groupings in every country in the world at decade intervals from 2010 to 2050. Religious groupings include: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, folk religions, other religions and the religiously unaffiliated.<sup>1</sup> Projections were calculated by the [International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis \(IIASA\)](#) and use gold-standard demographic methods in projecting population change. The underlying data used to produce the projection estimates involved years of data gathering and harmonization, including religious-specific fertility and migration rates for every country of the world, current size of religious groupings and estimates for religious switching.

**[World Religion Database](#)** (Brill, 2015) – For the 1970 religion estimates, researchers used data from the WRD, which is also a source for some of the Pew Research Center's baseline 2010 data. Besides census and survey reports, the WRD estimates also take into account other sources of information on religious affiliation, including anthropological and ethnographic studies as well as reputable statistical reports from religious groups themselves. The WRD is an outgrowth of the [international religious demography project](#) at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs.

**[International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database](#)** (April 2015) – The IMF bi-annually produces past, current and short-term future estimates for Gross Domestic Product - GDP (\$PPP) of most countries in the world. Estimates for this project relied on GDP (\$PPP) estimates for 2010 and 2020.

**[OECD Long-term Baseline Projections](#)** (No. 95 – May 2014) – Using economic and population data, the OECD periodically releases long-term projections of economic change for OECD countries, BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, Indonesia and South Africa) and the remainder of the world as its own separate category. This project uses estimates at decade intervals between 2010 and 2050, pairing them with Pew Research Center's estimates of the size of religious groups in the same decade intervals.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this project, folk religions and other religions were combined into a single category, leaving seven religious groupings.

**Various country-specific datasets** (see appendix) – various micro-datasets (census, survey) were analyzed to estimate the relative religious differences in income across the seven religious groupings in most countries of the world. When reliable data was unavailable, religious groupings were assumed to have economic equality.<sup>2</sup>

These data were leveraged to weight population shares of religious groupings in a given country by their total GDP (\$PPP). All these data permitted short-term and long-term global estimates for about 98% of the world's population in 2010. Weights based on differences in income-levels of religious groupings within countries were used for about 83% of the world's population.

## Method

### **Short-term economic comparisons (2010 and 2020)**

Each country's estimated GDP (\$PPP) in 2010 and projected for 2020 by the IMF was redistributed according to the religious population distribution of the country, as assessed in 2010 and projected for 2020 by the Pew Research Center. These estimates of GDP held by particular religious groups in each given country for 2010 and 2020 were adjusted based on income-level differences across religious groupings. Finally, these country estimates are summed globally to obtain global estimates of GDP held by each of the seven religious groupings in 2010 and 2020.

As an example, the United States had an estimated GDP (\$PPP) in 2010 of 14.96 trillion dollars. As of 2010, the religious breakdown of the country was estimated to be 78.3% Christian, 16.4% religiously unaffiliated, 1.8% Jewish, 1.2% Buddhist 0.9% Muslim, 0.6% Hindu, and 0.8% other religions. However, some religious groupings in the United States are known to have higher incomes and be wealthier than other religious groupings. Consequently, a simple redistribution of the country's GDP according to population shares is inappropriate.

Using data from the pooled years of 2008, 2010 and 2012 of the U.S General Social Survey, differences in income across religious groups were calculated. Standardized weights were calculated according to the median household income of respondents by religious grouping. With a weight of one indicating no greater or lesser level of income relative to other religious groupings, Jews were found to have the highest standardized weight at 1.49, followed by Hindus at 1.41, and Buddhists at 1.18. All other religious groupings have standardized weights less than 1 with 0.81 among the religiously unaffiliated, 0.74 among both Christians and folk and remaining religions and 0.62 among Muslims.

A final standardized weight for the redistribution of GDP (\$PPP) that takes into account both population shares as well as income inequality was calculated for each country. The numerator of the final standardized weight involved the multiplication of the population share of each religious group by the religious groupings' income standardized weight. The denominator of the final standardized weight was the sum total of the calculations found across the numerators.

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<sup>2</sup> In a few instances, proxies of religious groupings for similar countries by region and geography were used (for example data for Qatar was used for all Gulf Cooperation Council countries).



This final standardized weight consisting of both the population share of each religious grouping and their level of income inequality vis-à-vis other groupings resulted in a slightly different set of percentages to redistribute the 2010 United States' GDP (\$PPP) than if only population shares were used: about 75.0% held by Christians (less than the 78.3% population estimate for Christians), 17.2% held by the religiously unaffiliated (more than the 16.4% population estimate for the religiously unaffiliated), 3.5% held by Jews (more than the 1.8% population estimate for Jews), 1.7% held by Buddhists (more than the 1.2% population estimate for Buddhists), 1.1% held by Hindus (more than the 0.6% population estimate for Hindus), 0.7% held by Muslims (less than the 0.9% population estimate for Muslims) and 0.8% other religions (about the same as the 0.8% population estimate for other religions).

Applying these weighted percentages to United States' total 2010 GDP (\$PPP) of 14.96 trillion dollars results in approximately 11.22 trillion dollars held among Christians, 2.57 trillion held among the religiously unaffiliated, about 0.53 trillion held by Jews, 0.26 trillion held by Buddhists, 0.16 trillion held by Hindus, 0.11 trillion held by Muslims and 0.12 trillion held by other religions.

The same method for 2020 projections was employed for each religious grouping in each country of the world. Global estimates of GDP (\$PPP) held by religious groupings were summed across countries to obtain changes in GDP associated with religious grouping between 2010 and 2020.

Most count estimates (populations, GDP, percentages) presented in this report are rounded so that false certainty with more precise estimates are not introduced. Although estimation of population growth, projections of populations, and the application of these estimates to global GDP is valuable information, it is important to remember these are estimates and projections, not numbers of significant certainty.

### **Long-term economic comparisons (2010 to 2050)**

The same method employed for short-term economic comparisons by religious grouping in each country was applied to the calculation of long-term economic estimates by religious grouping. OECD long-term forecasts prioritize OECD and BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, Indonesia and South Africa) in their estimates. The remaining countries fall into a remainder category. This remainder group represents a very small share of the world's GDP in any future decade (5% or less of global GDP). To calculate the religious holdings of this remainder group, the global religious distribution after economic inequality weights for the combined set of countries this remainder group represented was applied to the GDP (\$PPP) estimate provided by the OECD for each decade.

### **Data limitations, assumptions and potential biases**

#### **Economic inequality by country**

Household and individual income in micro-data was used to estimate income inequality across religious groupings for many countries of the world. Income is not perfectly correlated with wealth or holding of GDP within a given country; nonetheless, it is the best cross-national indicator that can be used to assess economic inequality across religious groupings.

Projections in this report by religious grouping do not take into account potential narrowing or enlarging of economic inequality within countries. Such projections are non-existent. Consequently, projections of GDP (\$PPP) assume that current income inequalities across religious groupings within countries will remain the same in the near and long-term future.

**Data limitations**

The data used in this project is assumed to be reliable and valid. However, projections of religious affiliation or GDP (\$PPP) are uncertain estimates. This is why the bulk of the estimates presented in this report are based on short-term projections (2010 to 2020) rather than long-term projections (2010 to 2050). As in all projection work, it is the general direction of patterns that is more important than the actual estimates themselves.

Additionally, the economic estimates by religion presented in this report are based on other estimates of religion and economics that have their own limitations and potential biases. For a deeper understanding of how the underlying data for faith and economics were shaped, please consult the methodologies of each organization's report.

## Appendix: Data Sources and Methods by Country

The best nationally-representative data on religious affiliation and individual/household income were selected for each country to assess income inequality across religious groupings. When available, data sources, selected variables and assumptions in the calculations are listed below.

Country	Availability of Weight Data	Weight Data Source	Weight Data Source URL	Weight Variable and Assumptions
Afghanistan	No			
Albania	No			
Algeria	No			
Angola	No			
Argentina	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Armenia	No			
Aruba	No			
Australia	Yes	2011 Census	<a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a>	Median personal income
Austria	Yes	2006 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Azerbaijan	No			
Bahamas	No			
Bahrain	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income (Qatar Proxy); non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income

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		Income Survey		
Bangladesh	No			
Barbados	No			
Belarus	No			
Belgium	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Belize	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Benin	No			
Bhutan	No			
Bolivia	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Bosnia-Herzegovina	No			
Botswana	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Brazil	Yes	2010 Census	<a href="https://international.ipums.org/international/">https://international.ipums.org/international/</a>	Median individual income
Brunei	No			
Bulgaria	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, estimates for Hindu, Buddhist and Jews assumed to be national median

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Burkina Faso	No			
Burma (Myanmar)	No			
Burundi	No			
Cambodia	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews and Hindus to be national mean
Cameroon	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Canada	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income
Cape Verde	No			
Central African Republic	No			
Chad	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Chile	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
China	Yes	2007 Spiritual Life Study	<a href="http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/SPRTCHNA.asp">http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/SPRTCHNA.asp</a>	Median household income; assuming Hindus, Muslims and Jews are the national median

		of Chinese Residents (Baylor University)		
Colombia	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Comoros	No			
Congo	No			
Costa Rica	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Croatia	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income; Hindus, Buddhists and Jews assumed to be national median
Cyprus	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Czech Republic	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Muslim assumed to be national median
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean

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Denmark	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Djibouti	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Dominican Republic	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Ecuador	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Egypt	Yes	2012-2014 Arab Barometer	<a href="http://www.arabbarometer.org">www.arabbarometer.org</a>	Median household income; All non-Muslim and non-Christian groups assumed to be national median
El Salvador	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Equatorial Guinea	No			
Eritrea	No			
Estonia	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Ethiopia	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income,



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		Religion Survey		assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Federated States of Micronesia	No			
Fiji	No			
Finland	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
France	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Gabon	No			
Gambia	No			
Georgia	No			
Germany	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Ghana	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey <a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>		Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Greece	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews assumed to be national median
Grenada	No			

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Guatemala	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Guinea	No			
Guinea Bissau	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Guyana	No			
Haiti	No			
Honduras	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Hong Kong	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews and Hindus to be national mean
Hungary	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews and Muslims assumed to be national median
Iceland	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews assumed to be national median
India	Yes	2004 Socio-Economic Survey	<a href="https://international.ipums.org/international/">https://international.ipums.org/international/</a>	Median personal income, excluding respondents with zero income; Jews and religiously

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				unaffiliated assumed to be national median
Indonesia	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews and Hindus to be national mean
Iran	No			
Iraq	No			
Ireland	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews assumed to be national median
Israel	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists assumed to be national median
Italy	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category,
Ivory Coast	No			
Jamaica	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Japan	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income; Muslims, Hindus and Jews assumed to be national median
Jordan	No			

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Kazakhstan	No			
Kenya	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Kosovo	No			
Kuwait	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and Income Survey	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income (Qatar Proxy); non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income
Kyrgyzstan	No			
Laos	No			
Latvia	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income, Hindu assumed to be national median
Lebanon	Yes	2012-2014 Arab Barometer	<a href="http://www.arabbarometer.org">www.arabbarometer.org</a>	Median household income; All non-Muslim and non-Christian groups assumed to be national median
Lesotho	No			
Liberia	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Libya	No			
Lithuania	Yes	2012 European	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the

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		Social Survey		same "Eastern" religion category, Muslim assumed to be national median
Luxembourg	No			
Madagascar	No			
Malawi	No			
Malaysia	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews to be national mean
Maldives	No			
Mali	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Malta	No			
Mauritania	No			
Mauritius	No			
Mexico	Yes	2010 Census	<a href="https://international.ipums.org/international/">https://international.ipums.org/international/</a>	Median individual income, other assumed to be national median
Moldova	No			
Mongolia	No			
Montenegro	No			
Morocco	No			
Mozambique	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Namibia	No			
Nepal	No			

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Netherlands	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category,
New Zealand	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income
Nicaragua	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Niger	No			
Nigeria	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Norway	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category,
Oman	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and Income Survey	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income (Qatar Proxy); non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income
Pakistan	No			
Panama	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian

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				religions are the same median income
Papua New Guinea	No			
Paraguay	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Peru	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Philippines	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income; assuming all religious groups to be national mean
Poland	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income; Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category; Muslims, Jews and other religions assumed to be national median
Portugal	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income; Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews and other religions assumed to be national median
Qatar	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and Income Survey	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income; non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income



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Republic of Macedonia	No			
Reunion	No			
Romania	No			
Russia	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category,
Rwanda	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Samoa	No			
Sao Tome and Principe	No			
Saudi Arabia	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and Income Survey	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income (Qatar Proxy); non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income
Senegal	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Serbia	No			
Sierra Leone	No			
Singapore	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews and the

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				religiously unaffiliated to be national mean
Slovakia	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income; Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and other religions assumed to be national median
Slovenia	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews assumed to be national median
Solomon Islands	No			
South Africa	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income
South Korea	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income; Muslims, Hindus and Jews assumed to be national median
Spain	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category, Jews assumed to be national median
Sri Lanka	No			
St. Lucia	No			
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	No			

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Sudan	No			
Suriname	No			
Swaziland	No			
Sweden	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Switzerland	Yes	2012 European Social Survey <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>		Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
Syria	No			
Taiwan	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program <a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>		Median household income; Muslims, Hindus and Jews assumed to be national media
Tajikistan	No			
Tanzania	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey <a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>		Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Thailand	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer <a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>		Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming all non-Muslim and non-Buddhists to be national mean
Timor-Leste	No			
Togo	No			
Tonga	No			
Trinidad and Tobago	No			

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Tunisia	No			
Turkey	Yes	2010 International Social Survey Program	<a href="http://www.issp.org/">http://www.issp.org/</a>	Median household income; Hindus, Buddhists and other religions assumed to be national media
Turkmenistan	No			
Uganda	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming Jews, Buddhists and Hindus to be national mean
Ukraine	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
United Arab Emirates	Yes	2006-2007 Qatar Household Expenditure and Income Survey	<a href="http://www.qix.gov.qa/">http://www.qix.gov.qa/</a>	Household median income (Qatar Proxy); non-Muslim populations assumed to have non-Qatari household median income
United Kingdom	Yes	2012 European Social Survey	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>	Median household income, Hindus and Buddhists share the same "Eastern" religion category
United States	Yes	2008 2010 2012 General Social Survey	<a href="http://www.3norc.org/GSS+Website/">www.3norc.org/GSS+Website/</a>	Median household income

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Uruguay	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Uzbekistan	No			
Vanuatu	No			
Venezuela	Yes	2008 Americas Barometer	<a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop</a>	Median household income, assuming all non-Christian religions are the same median income
Vietnam	Yes	2010 Asian Barometer	<a href="http://www.asianbarometer.org/">http://www.asianbarometer.org/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 5 range from low to high income, assuming Jews and Hindus to be national mean
Yemen	No			
Zambia	Yes	2008 Pew Africa Religion Survey	<a href="http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/">http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/</a>	Mean income based on 1 to 4 range from low to high income, assuming non-Christians/non-Muslims to be national mean
Zimbabwe	No			

## Link

Link to online report: <http://religiousfreedomandbusiness.org/changing-religion-and-changing-economies>

## About the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

**MISSION:** The Religious Freedom & Business Foundation educates the global business community about how religious freedom is good for business, and engages the business community in joining forces with government and non-government organizations in promoting respect for freedom of religion or belief (FoRB).

**Emphasis:** The Foundation places emphasis on helping businesses foster interfaith understanding and peace.

**VISION:** The Foundation envisions a global future of innovative and sustainable economies where freedom of religion or belief and diversity are respected.

**ACTIONS:** The Foundation accomplishes its work through [research](#), [the Empowerment+ initiative](#), [global awards](#), [world forums](#), and [education](#) on how freedom of religion or belief is in the strategic interests of businesses and societies.

### Unique Role and Mission

The Religious Freedom & Business Foundation is the first organization dedicated to educating businesses about why religious freedom will enable them to be more productive and successful, and how they can effectively [incorporate religious freedom in their strategic business](#) plans for the benefit of their stake holders, their employees and society.

The Foundation is a non-partisan charitable organization working with business people, academics, government officials and community leaders from multiple faiths (or of none) to accomplish its mission. The Foundation is a registered corporation and has IRS recognition as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in the USA. It does not take a position on current political debates.

