

THE WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION
IN 1991-2 AND IN 2025

The magnitude and distribution of the World's Muslim population have been of interest to the Chancellor's Commission. It is commonly said that there are a billion or more Muslims in the world, and figures on particular countries have come into the Commission's discussions. The following tables represent an effort at somewhat more than casual attention to questions of size and distribution and they make a projection over the period the Chancellor's Commission is concerned with. The principal sources of the data are three : (1) The Encyclopaedia Britannica Yearbook for 1993, which gives statistics on adherents of "all" religions by continental areas; (2) the IBRD's World Development Report for 1993, which gives in Table 26, present populations by countries, with rates of growth and projected populations in 2025, and (3) the World Almanac, 1994, which gives the fraction of national populations that are Muslim, for most countries.

The grouping of regions follows UN practice and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Yearbook. The year 2025 was chosen because that is a year for which the IBRD's table gives projections (mostly based on the assumption that later rates of growth will be lower than those given for 1992-2000). The projection of Muslim populations in 2025 is based on the assumption that the fraction of the national population that is Muslim stays constant. No adjustments are made for likely migration, even for areas like Europe or North America where recent migration has been important. In the case of Nigeria, where the overall population is a matter of controversy and published figures differ widely, an intermediate figure between the extremes has been taken; in cases like Afghanistan where demographic uncertainty prevails, the rate of growth has been estimated and the 2025 figure derived therefrom. The figure for the Muslim population in China is based on the 1990 census as interpreted by Dru C. Gladney, Journal of Asian Studies, v.54, #2, May 1995, p.372.

WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION BY REGIONS, 1991-92 AND 2025
(all figures in millions)

<i>Region</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Africa	279	29	589	31
West Africa	97	10	225	12
East Africa*	67	7	157	8
North Africa (includes Egypt)	115	12	207	11
Asia	638	66	1212	63
Middle East	125	13	331	17
South Asia	318	33	593	31
East & SE Asia	195	20	288	15
Eurasia	39	4	72	4
Europe	12.6	1	15.3	1
Latin America	1.4		2.4	
North America	2.9		3.9	
World Totals	973		1895 (up 95 % from 1992)	

* Includes Sudan and Ethiopia, which are major contributors to the increase.

<i>Asia</i>	<i>1991 Pop.</i>	<i>% Muslims</i>	<i>1991 Muslims</i>	<i>Pop. Growth</i>	<i>Pop. 2025</i>	<i>Muslims 2025</i>
South Asia						
Afghanistan	27	79	17	(2.5)*	(49)*	38
Bangladesh	111	83	92	1.9	180	166
India	866	11	95	1.8	1,365	150
Pakistan	116	97	113	2.8	244	237
Sri Lanka	17	7	1	1.1	24	2

* estimated

East and South East Asia

China	1,149.5	1.6	18	1.3	1,569	25
Indonesia	181	88	159	1.4	245	233
Malaysia	18	59	11	2.2	34	20
Philippines	67.1	5	3.4	1.9	102	5.1
Thailand	57.6	4	2	1.4	82	3.2
Singapore	2.8	16	0.5	1.5	4	0.6

North Africa

Egypt	54	94	51	2.1	92	86
Algeria	26	99	26	2.7	53	52
Morocco	26	99	26	2.2	45	44
Tunisia	8	99	8	1.9	13	13
Libya	4.7	97	4	(3.0)	12	12

The Maghreb (without Libya) goes from 60 million to 109 million

Eurasia

Tajikistan	5.5	90	5.0	3.1	13	11.7
Uzbekistan	21.6	89	19.2	2.4	42	37.4
Turkmenistan	3.8	85	3.2	2.5	8	6.8
Kyrgyzstan	4.6	78	3.6	1.4	7	5.5
Kazakhstan	17.1	47	8.0	0.7	22	10.3

<i>Middle East</i>	<i>1991 Pop.</i>	<i>% Muslim</i>	<i>1991 Muslims</i>	<i>Pop. Growth %</i>	<i>Pop. 2025</i>	<i>Muslims 2025</i>
Yemen Rep.	12.5	99	12.5	3.7	37	37
Iran Islamic Rep.	57.7	95	54.8	3.4	160	152
Iraq	18.6	95	17.7	(2.5)	(43)	(41)
Jordan	4	92	3.7	4.0	9	8
Lebanon	3.7	75	2.8	(2.5)	9	6
Syria Arab Rep.	13	90	11.7	3.4	34	30
Bahrain	0.5	100	0.5	(3.0)	(1.4)	(1)
Oman	1.6	100	1.6	3.9	5	5
Saudi Arabia	15.4	99	15.3	3.5	41	41
Israel	4.9	13	0.6	2.8	8	1
Kuwait	1.5	85	1.3	(3.0)	(4)	(3)
Qatar	0.5	95	0.5	(3.0)	(1.4)	(1)
U. Arab Emirates	1.6	96	1.5	(3.0)	(4.4)	(4)

West Africa

Burkina Faso	9.65	25	2.4	3.1	23	5.8
Chad	5.2	44	2.9	2.6	14	4.2
Gambia	0.96	9	0.9	(2.8)	(2.4)	(2.2)
Ghana	16.2	30	4.9	3.2	36	10.8
Guinea	7.8	85	6.6	2.9	14	11.9
Guinea-Bissau	1.1	38	0.4	2.0	2	0.8
Liberia	2.5	20	0.5		(5)	(1.0)
Mali	8.6	90	7.7	3.1	24	21.6
Mauretania	2.1	100	2.1	2.9	5	5.0
Niger	8.1	80	6.5	3.5	24	19.2
Nigeria*	94.0	50	47.0	2.8	217	108.5
Sierra Leone	4.6	30	1.4	2.6	10	3.0
Togo	4.0	20	0.8	3.1	9	1.8
Cameroun	12.7	16	2.0	3.1	29	4.6
Côte d'Ivoire	13.5	25	3.4	3.3	32	8.0
Senegal	8.2	92	7.5	2.8	18	16.6

East and Southern Africa

Comores	0.5	86	0.43	?	?(0.8)	(0.7)
Djibouti	0.45	94	0.42	?	?(0.8)	(0.7)
Ethiopia	52.8	40	21.0	2.7	130	52
Kenya	25.0	6	1.5	3.5	73	4
Madagascar	12.0	7	0.8	2.8	26	1.8
Malawi	8.8	20	1.8	3.1	24	4.8
Mozambique	16.1	10	1.6	2.9	43	4.3
Somalia	8.0	99	8.0	?	(16)	(16)
Sudan	25.8	70	18.0	3.0	60	42
Tanzania	25.2	33	8.3	3.0	59	19.6
Uganda	16.9	6	1.0	3.3	48	2.9
Zaire	38.6	10	3.9	?	?	7.9

Figures in parantheses are estimated.