

Middle East Populations — 2017		Population (by source)					Christian Population				
Country (CNEWA)	CIA World Factbook (July 2016 est)	World Bank (2015 est)	United Nations (2016 proj)	U.S. Census Bureau (2017 midyear est.)	Country's Own Figures (2015 or later)	Other (see notes)	Estimated Total Christians, 2017 (See notes)	CNEWA 2010 Point of Reference	% Christian (CIA Factbook)	CIA Christian % Confidence Level	Catholics (Annuario Pontificio)
Cyprus	1,205,575	1,165,300	1,177,000	1,222,000	1,271,532	-	893,000	860,000	94.8% (south only)	-	10,000
Egypt	94,666,993	91,508,080	93,384,000	97,041,000	92,615,888	-	9,400,000	8,100,000	10.0%	Medium	190,237
Iraq	38,146,025	36,423,390	37,548,000	39,192,000	36,394,000	-	250,000	300,000	0.8%	Medium	293,822
Israel	8,174,527	8,380,400	8,193,000	8,300,000	8,643,300	-	170,000	145,000	2.0%	High	95,000
Jerusalem	-	-	-	-	870,000	-	15,580	12,750	-	-	8,164
Jordan	8,185,384	7,594,550	7,748,000	8,075,000	9,531,712	-	350,000	300,000	2.2%	Medium	32,560
Lebanon	6,237,738	5,850,740	5,988,000	6,230,000	-	-	2,000,000	2,630,000	40.5%	High	2,084,271
Palestine (sum only)	-	4,422,140	4,797,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palestine, Gaza Strip	1,753,327	-	-	1,795,000	1,881,135	2,000,000	1,300	4,000	0.5%	Low	-
Palestine, West Bank	2,697,687	-	-	2,748,000	2,935,368	-	59,000	50,000	2.5%	Low	-
Syria	17,185,170	18,502,410	18,564,000	18,029,000	-	-	1,200,000	2,200,000	10.0%	Low	246,000
Turkey	80,274,604	78,665,830	79,622,000	80,845,000	79,814,871	-	187,000	137,910	< 0.2%	-	53,769
Total	258,527,030	252,512,840	257,021,000	263,477,000	-	-	14,525,880	14,739,660			
Country (Non-CNEWA)	CIA World Factbook (July 2016 est)	World Bank (2015 est)	United Nations (2016 proj)	U.S. Census Bureau (2017 midyear est.)	Country's Own Figures (2015 or later)	Other (see notes)	Estimated Total Christians (See notes)	CNEWA 2010 Point of Reference	% Christian	CIA Christian % Confidence Level	Catholics
Bahrain	1,378,904	1,377,240	1,397,000	1,411,000	1,370,322	-	200,000	66,420	14.5%	High	2,445,000*
Iran	82,801,633	79,109,270	80,043,000	83,768,000	79,926,270	-	285,000	295,000	-	High	3,540
Kuwait	2,832,776	3,982,110	4,007,000	2,875,000	4,132,415	-	714,908	336,000	17.3%	High	(See Bahrain)
Oman	3,355,262	4,490,540	4,655,000	3,424,000	4,414,051	-	250,000	60,000	6.5%	Low	(See UAE)
Qatar	2,258,283	2,235,360	2,291,000	2,314,000	2,673,022	-	230,000	70,000	8.5%	Medium	(See Bahrain)
Saudi Arabia	28,160,273	31,540,370	32,158,000	28,572,000	31,742,308	-	1,400,000	1,000,000	"Small"	None	(See Bahrain)
United Arab Emirates	5,927,428	9,156,960	9,267,000	6,072,000	(see Notes)	-	720,000	150,000	9.0%	Medium	942,000*
Yemen	27,392,779	26,832,220	27,478,000	28,037,000	-	-	41,000	53,000	0.2%	Low	(See UAE)
Total	154,107,338	158,724,070	161,296,000	156,473,000	-	-	3,840,908	2,030,420			
FINAL	412,634,368	411,236,910	418,317,000	419,950,000	-	-	18,366,788	16,770,080			

Notes:

Bahrain: Nearly all Christians are migrant workers, who make up about half the population. Bahrain is the seat of the apostolic vicariate of Northern Arabia, which also includes Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia; Catholic column includes members of the Eastern and Latin churches.

Cyprus: Christian count adapts 2011 census ratios to updated population of government-controlled Cyprus; northern Cyprus Christians estimated to be a fraction of 1% of the population.

Egypt: Multiple sources give 10% figure for Christian population, though it remains to be seen if it has kept pace with broad population growth in the last decade+.

Iran: Christian count taken from World Christian Database via State Dept doc linked in Sources.

Iraq: See "Prewar points of reference" section at the bottom of Sources. No reliable stats in recent years. Wide fluctuations in last two decades (e.g., displacement from 2003 invasion, return, etc).

Israel: Figure based on Ministry of Foreign Affairs demographic (2.1%, see Sources), minus Jerusalem to avoid double counting.

Jerusalem: Figure from Jerusalem Institute for Jerusalem Studies document (2014, see sources), several thousand higher than CNEWA's 2010 figures compiled by Dr. Bernard Sabella. Catholic figure includes Armenian, Maronite and Syriac Catholics in Palestine and Israel.

Jordan: Jordan sources (see below) give multiple possible percentages of the population for Christians. These in turn yield different ranges depending on population measure used. The selected figure of 350,000 lands at the upper end of low estimates and the lower end of high estimates. CIA estimates lower, but with "medium" confidence.

Kuwait: Nearly all Christians are migrant workers, who make up about 70% of the population.

Lebanon: Census data famously out of date (1932), and unofficial demographic counts are often inflated for political reasons. Additionally, many Lebanese Christians live abroad but continue to identify with their motherland and/or home parish. Both factors likely contributed to the high 2010 estimate, drawn primarily from church data (often stated "as many as [x]"). Most estimates place Christians in the mid-30% range; CIA rated its 40.5% figure "high" confidence, based on Statistics Lebanon study (see U.S. State Dept report in Lebanon section). Population figures include refugees, who are predominantly Muslim; UNHCR, via factcheck.org source below, claims 1.5% Christians among Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Per UNHCR mid-year 2016 report, official refugee figure around 1 million, though non-U.N. sources may use alternative estimates.

Oman: Most Omanis are Ibadi Muslims; Christians are mostly found among the migrants who make up about 45% of Oman's population.

Palestine, Gaza Strip: 2014 YMCA survey estimated 1,313 Christians in Gaza. Gaza strip recently passed two million total population (see Times of Israel & Palestine Chronicle articles in Sources).

Palestine, West Bank: West Bank Christian figure based on Times of Israel (Bethlehem article) and official population estimate.

Qatar: Christian population in Qatar mostly found among the migrants that make up more than 80% of the country's population.

Saudi Arabia: Christian population in Saudi Arabia mostly found among the migrants that make up about 38% of the country's population.

Syria: See "Prewar points of reference" section at the bottom of Sources. No reliable stats in recent years. CNEWA 2010 figure includes about 200,000 Iraqi Christian refugees.

Turkey: Figure from Open Doors, USA. Scant available on Christians of Turkey since Ottoman era.

United Arab Emirates: Christians mostly found among migrant population (85% of emirates' total). UAE is the seat of the apostolic vicariate of Southern Arabia, which also includes Oman and Yemen; Catholic column includes members of the Eastern and Latin churches. Official population data only available for some emirates; Abu Dhabi (2,784,490) and Dubai (2,745,965) make available up-to-date figures. Second-hand reporting says Sharjah's 2015 census counted more than 1.4 million. Fujairah reported 213,712 in 2015. Others either out of date, incomplete, or otherwise require major extrapolation. Best available estimates: Ras al Khaimah 345,000; Ajman 262,186; Umm al Quwain 73,000. Total: 7,824,353. If the latter figures are low, internally-calculated population of the UAE may be around 8,000,000.

Yemen: Christian figure from World Christian Database via 2011 BBC article (see Sources). CIA estimate slightly higher, but "low" confidence. May have risen with population; may have fallen with war. No census since 2004. CNEWA 2010 point of reference figure primarily consists of refugees from Ethiopia, most of whom were Orthodox Christian.

Sources:

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Kuwait	CNEWA 2010 Kuwait Central Statistics Bureau CSB Population Estimates (midyear)	http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=3494&pagetypeID=4&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1 https://www.csb.gov.kw/Default_EN.aspx https://www.csb.gov.kw/Socan_Statistic_EN.aspx?ID=67
Lebanon	Central Administration of Statistics (Lack of population data illustrated here) BBC: Christians in the Middle East (2011) CNEWA 2010 CIA World Handbook, "Religious Affiliation" (40.5% Christian, high confidence) UNHCR Mid-Year Trends, June 2016 U.S. Department of State, 2012 Report on International Religious Freedom Farley, Robert. Factcheck.org. "Christian Refugees 'Unfairly' Kept Out?"	http://www.cas.gov.lb/ http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/monthly-data-matrix http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15239529 http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=3486&pagetypeID=4&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1 https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2122.html#le http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statistics/unhcrstats/58aa8f247/mid-year-trends-june-2016.html https://www.state.gov/j/dri/rls/irf/2012/nea/208400.htm http://www.factcheck.org/2017/01/christian-refugees-unfairly-kept-out-of-u-s/
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Prewar Points of Reference		
Syria	1.25 mil 2 million 1.7 million 2 million 1.8 million (down to less than 1.3m) 2 million	http://www.acnuk.org/news.php/599/christianity-is-on-course-to-disappearfrom-parts-of-the-middle-east http://www.aina.org/reports/hftme.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2016%20minority%20report%20FINAL%20%20Single%20pages.pdf https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/research/4882720 http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/08/economist-explains-13 http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=3485&pagetypeID=4&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1
Iraq	1.5 mil (2003) 1 mil (2003) 1.4 mil (2003) (erroneously cites uscifr.gov) 1.5 mil (pre-2003) (cites above Times link) 1.4 mil (1987) 1 mil (1991) 1.5 million (2003) (down to less than 400k) 1 mil (undated); 20% in 1932; 10% after 1979; 3% (810k) by 2010; may have fallen as low as 300k during the 2003 war.	https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/magazine/is-this-the-end-of-christianity-in-the-middle-east.html http://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF%20Annual%20Report%202015%20%282%29.pdf http://www.stopthechristiangenocide.org/scg/en/resources/Genocide-report.pdf http://www.aina.org/reports/hftme.pdf http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=61897 http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-11669994 http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/08/economist-explains-13 http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=3487&pagetypeID=4&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1