

How the world's religious landscape will look in 2050: Islam will become America's second-largest religion as the percentage of atheists across the globe will fall

- **Christians will decline from 75% of US population to just two thirds in 2050**
- **Muslims will outnumber Christians in the world by 2070, report predicts**
- **Christians are expected to fall below 50% of the population in UK by 2050**
- **Statistics have been revealed by Washington DC's Pew Research Center**

By [Julian Robinson for MailOnline](#)

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Islam will become America's second-largest religion by 2050 according to a report outlining the world's religious landscape 35 years from now.

The number of Christians in the US will decline from three quarters of the population in 2010 to just two thirds in 2050, researchers claim.

Statistics revealed by the [Pew Research Center](#) show the percentage of atheists across the globe is expected to fall across the same time frame while Muslims will outnumber Christians by 2070.

Research shows that although Islam will be the fastest growing religion in the world over the next four decades, Christians will remain the largest group in 2050.

At the same time, those who do not affiliate with any religion, including atheists and agnostics, will make up a 'declining share of the world's population' - even if their numbers are increasing in countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

The map created by [Razzmazz](#) above shows the status of the world's faiths in 35 years' time, and how the percentage of those that consider themselves 'religiously unaffiliated' is expected to increase in the West.

By 2050 in Europe, Muslims will make up one in ten of the overall population. The region's Christian population will shrink from 553million to 454million, according to projections.



Changing landscape: This graphic, taken from the map above, shows how the percentage of those that consider themselves religiously unaffiliated is expected to increase in the West 35 years from now

The global Buddhist population will remain roughly the same but Hindu and Jewish populations will be larger than they are today, according to the report.

It reveals that five years ago, there were 2.2billion Christians in the world making it 'by far' the world's largest religion with Islam second with 1.6billion out of a global population of 6.9billion.

By 2050, there will be 2.8billion Muslims and 2.9billion Christians, it is estimated.

According to the Daily Telegraph, the report suggests the increase in Muslim populations could be put down to the fact those following the faith are younger while infant mortality rates are decreasing.

Meanwhile, a number of countries are expected to have changing religious majorities in four decades.

Christians are projected to fall below 50 per cent the population in the United Kingdom, Australia, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Republic of Macedonia.

Nigeria and the Republic of Macedonia are set to gain Muslim majorities by 2050, it is reported.

The findings were produced using data on a range of factors including age, fertility, mortality, migration and religious switching for 'multiple religious groups around the world'

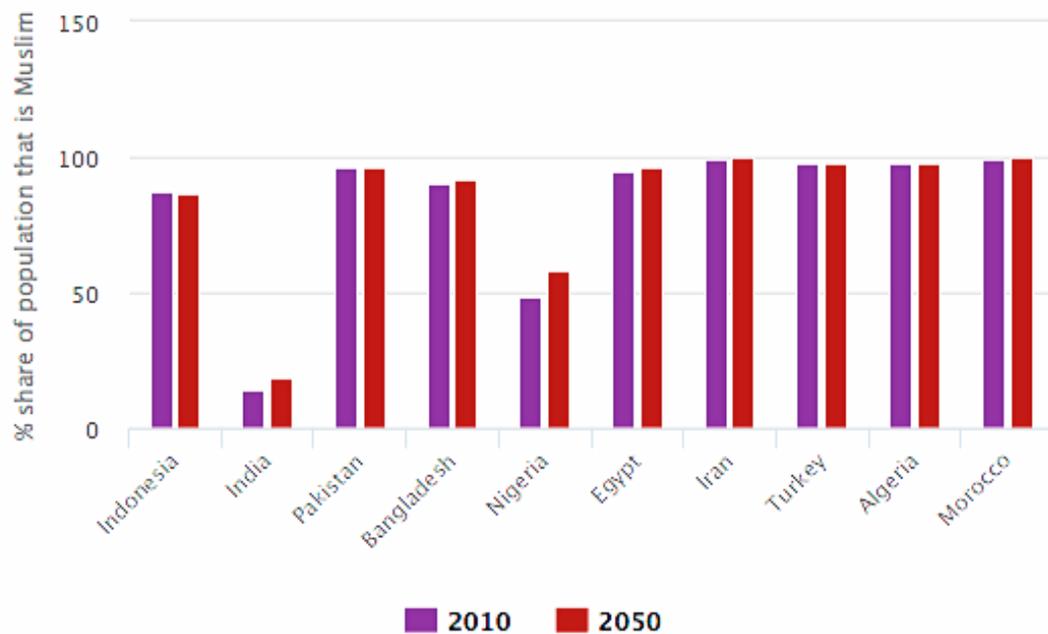
The report says: 'The projections take into account the current size and geographic distribution of the world's major religions, age differences, fertility and mortality rates, international migration and patterns in conversion.'

Authors point out that the projections were based on current trends and recently gathered statistics but that predictions could change as a result of 'any events – scientific discoveries, armed conflicts, social movements, political upheavals, natural disasters and changing economic conditions'.

Washington DC's Pew Research Center and Austria's International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis spent six years gathering the data from 2,500 censuses and surveys.

These are the 10 countries with the largest Muslim populations ☰

Source: Pew Research Centre

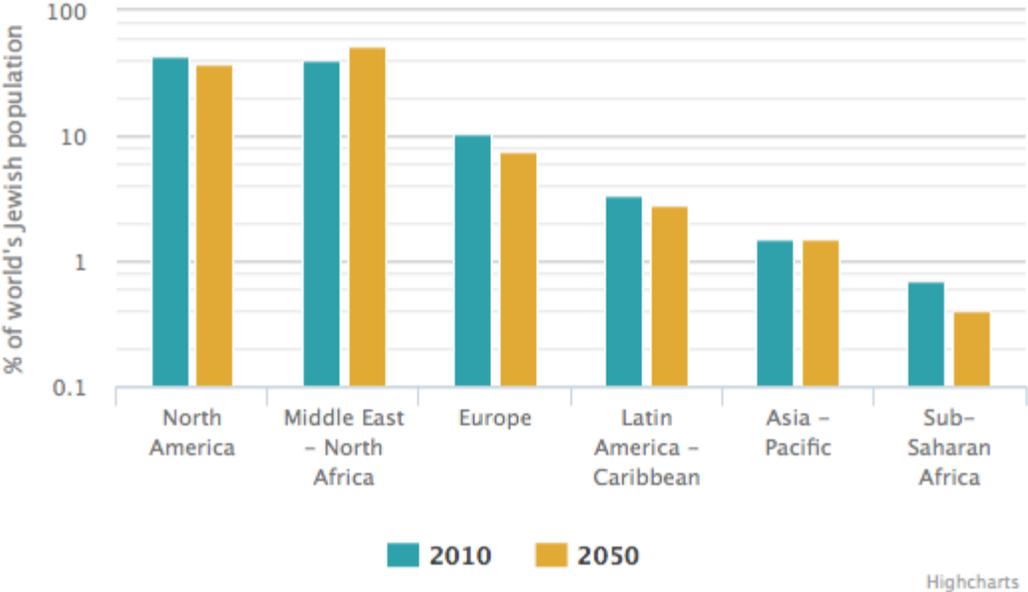


Highcharts

50 per cent of the global Jewish population is expected to live in the Middle East and North Africa by 2050



Source: Pew Research Centre



Highcharts

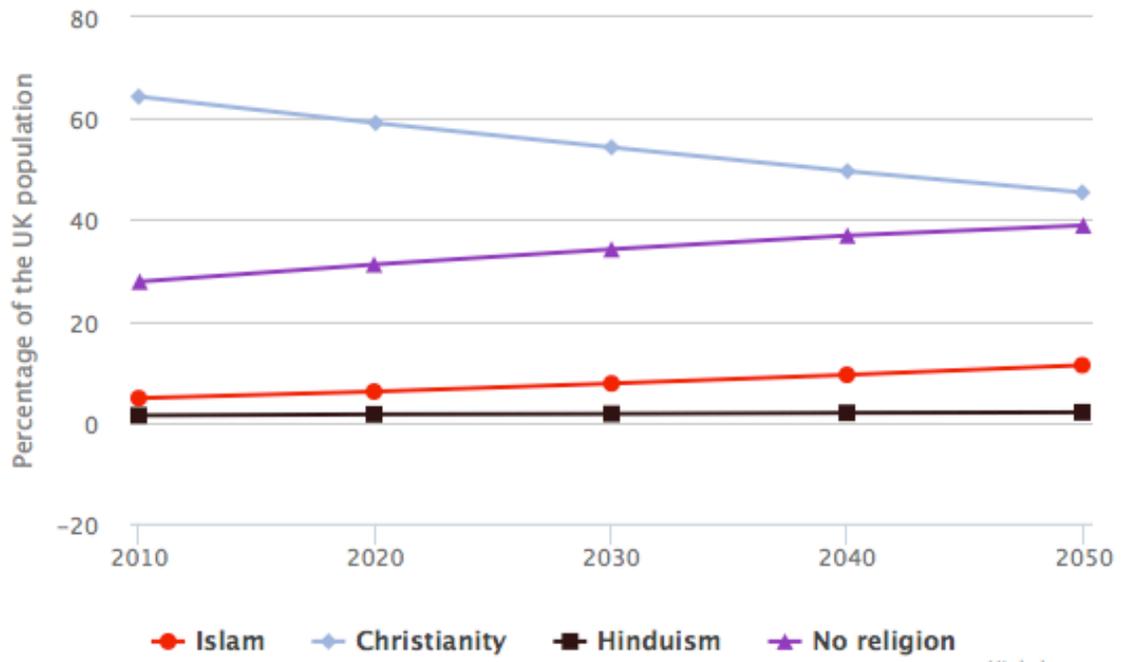


A heat map of the world's Jewish landscape in 2050



Those with no religion could outnumber Christians in the UK towards the end of the century

Source: Pew Research Centre



Highcharts