

Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants

Fact Sheet: European Union

KEY FINDINGS

- **Christian immigrants outnumber Muslim immigrants in the E.U., but the numbers are much closer when migration within the E.U. is excluded.** An estimated 26 million Christian immigrants (56% of the foreign-born population) and nearly 13 million Muslim immigrants (27%) live in the 27 countries of the European Union. However, when internal migration within the European Union is excluded, and only people born outside of the 27 E.U. nations are counted as immigrants, the share of Christian immigrants (42%) and the share of Muslim immigrants (39%) are much closer. Nevertheless, Christian immigrants (about 13 million) still clearly outnumber Muslim immigrants (about 12 million).
- Most Christian immigrants living in Germany (about 5.5 million) and Italy (about 2.5 million) are from other European countries, including those in Eastern Europe. Spain's large population of Christian immigrants (nearly 4.6 million) consists principally of migrants from Latin America as well as Romania, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.
- Germany's foreign-born Muslim immigrants (estimated at more than 3 million) are primarily from Turkey, but they also include substantial numbers from such countries as Kosovo, Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Morocco. France's Muslim immigrants (about 3 million) are primarily from the former French colonies of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
- About one-in-ten immigrants in the 27 E.U. states have no particular religious affiliation, and the remainder belong to a variety of smaller religious groups, including Hindus, Buddhists and Jews. Hindu immigrants to the E.U. states are mostly from India, and the religiously unaffiliated have come mostly from Russia and China. Buddhist immigrants in the E.U. are from a variety of Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand. The largest number of Jewish immigrants to the E.U. have come from Israel.

EUROPEAN UNION/UNITED STATES COMPARISON

- In a number of ways, the scale of migration to the European Union has been remarkably similar to the scale of migration to the United States:
 - The E.U.'s 27 member states collectively have 47 million immigrants. The U.S. has an estimated 43 million (including unauthorized immigrants and those born in U.S. territories, such as Puerto Rico and Guam).
 - About 13% of the U.S. population was born abroad. Many Western European countries (such as Spain and Germany) have a similar percentage of foreign-born residents.
 - The estimated number of Muslim immigrants living in the E.U. is about the same as the estimated number of Mexican immigrants residing in the U.S.

Faith on the Move is part of the [Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project](#), an effort funded by [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#) and the [John Templeton Foundation](#) to analyze religious change and its impact on societies around the world. The full report, which includes a companion quiz, interactive map and sortable data tables, is available on the Pew Forum's [website](#). For a summary of the religious makeup of immigrants from a global perspective, see the [global fact sheet](#). For more information on the U.S., see the [U.S. fact sheet](#).