

The Largest Atheist / Agnostic Populations

Top 50 Countries With Highest Proportion of Atheists / Agnostics (Zuckerman, 2005)

Below is a list of the top fifty countries containing the largest measured percentage of people who identify as atheist, agnostic, or non-believer in God. These figures do not necessarily represent the number of people who are identify themselves as "atheists." For example, in Estonia in 2004, 49% of people surveyed said they did not believe in God. At the same time, only 11% of people in the country identified themselves as atheists.

Country	Total country population (2004)	% Atheist/ Agnostic/ Nonbeliever in God	Number of Atheists/ Agnostics Nonbelievers in God (minimum - maximum)
Sweden	8,986,000	46 - 85%	4,133,560 - 7,638,100
Vietnam	82,690,000	81%	66,978,900
Denmark	5,413,000	43 - 80%	2,327,590 - 4,330,400
Norway	4,575,000	31 - 72%	1,418,250 - 3,294,000
Japan	127,333,000	64 - 65%	81,493,120 - 82,766,450
Czech Republic	10,246,100	54 - 61%	5,328,940 - 6,250,121
Finland	5,215,000	28 - 60%	1,460,200 - 3,129,000
France	60,424,000	43 - 54%	25,982,320 - 32,628,960
South Korea	48,598,000	30 - 52%	14,579,400 - 25,270,960
Estonia	1,342,000	49%	657,580
Germany	82,425,000	41 - 49%	33,794,250 - 40,388,250
Russia	143,782,000	24 - 48%	34,507,680 - 69,015,360
Hungary	10,032,000	32 - 46%	3,210,240 - 4,614,720
Netherlands	16,318,000	39 - 44%	6,364,020 - 7,179,920
Britain	60,271,000	31 - 44%	18,684,010 - 26,519,240
Belgium	10,348,000	42 - 43%	4,346,160 - 4,449,640
Bulgaria	7,518,000	34 - 40%	2,556,120 - 3,007,200
Slovenia	2,011,000	35 - 38%	703,850 - 764,180

Israel	6,199,000	15 - 37%	929,850 - 2,293,630
Canada	32,508,000	19 - 30%	6,176,520 - 9,752,400
Latvia	2,306,000	20 - 29%	461,200 - 668,740
Slovakia	5,424,000	10 - 28%	542,400 - 1,518,720
Switzerland	7,451,000	17 - 27%	1,266,670 - 2,011,770
Austria	8,175,000	18 - 26%	1,471,500 - 2,125,500
Australia	19,913,000	24 - 25%	4,779,120 - 4,978,250
Taiwan	22,750,000	24%	5,460,000
Spain	40,281,000	15 - 24%	6,042,150 - 9,667,440
Iceland	294,000	16 - 23%	47,040 - 67,620
New Zealand	3,994,000	20 - 22%	798,800 - 878,680
Ukraine	47,732,000	20%	9,546,400
Belarus	10,311,000	17%	1,752,870
Greece	10,648,000	16%	1,703,680
North Korea	22,698,000	15%*	3,404,700
Italy	58,057,000	6 - 15%	3,483,420 - 8,708,550
Armenia	2,991,000	14%	418,740
China	1,298,848,000	8 - 14%*	103,907,840 - 181,838,720
Lithuania	3,608,000	13%	469,040
Singapore	4,354,000	13%	566,020
Uruguay	3,399,000	12%	407,880
Kazakhstan	15,144,000	11 - 12%	1,665,840 - 1,817,280
Mongolia	2,751,000	9%	247,590
Portugal	10,524,000	4 - 9%	420,960 - 947,160
USA	293,028,000	3 - 9%	8,790,840 - 26,822,520
Albania	3,545,000	8%	283,600
Argentina	39,145,000	4 - 8%	1,565,800 - 3,131,600
Kyrgyzstan	5,081,000	7%	355,670
Dominican Republic	8,834,000	7%	618,380
Cuba	11,309,000	7%*	791,630
Croatia	4,497,000	7%	314,790

Source: Zuckerman, Phil. "Atheism: Contemporary Rates and Patterns", chapter in *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, ed. by Michael Martin, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK (2005).

* **NOTE:** The estimates of the number of atheists in North Korea, China and Cuba may be unreliable. The best data available have been used in making these estimates, but the people in these three nations live under Communist governments which have traditionally suppressed religious freedom and officially (often forcibly) endorsed atheism.

Top 20 Countries With Largest Numbers of Atheists / Agnostics (Zuckerman, 2005)

Country	Total country population (2004)	% Atheist/ Agnostic/ Nonbeliever in God	Number of Atheists/ Agnostics Nonbelievers in God (minimum - maximum)
China	1,298,848,000	8 - 14%*	103,907,840 - 181,838,720
Japan	127,333,000	64 - 65%	81,493,120 - 82,766,450
Russia	143,782,000	24 - 48%	34,507,680 - 69,015,360
Vietnam	82,690,000	81%	66,978,900
Germany	82,425,000	41 - 49%	33,794,250 - 40,388,250
France	60,424,000	43 - 54%	25,982,320 - 32,628,960
USA	293,028,000	3 - 9%	8,790,840 - 26,822,520
Britain	60,271,000	31 - 44%	18,684,010 - 26,519,240
South Korea	48,598,000	30 - 52%	14,579,400 - 25,270,960
Canada	32,508,000	19 - 30%	6,176,520 - 9,752,400
Spain	40,281,000	15 - 24%	6,042,150 - 9,667,440
Ukraine	47,732,000	20%	9,546,400
Italy	58,057,000	6 - 15%	3,483,420 - 8,708,550
Sweden	8,986,000	46 - 85%	4,133,560 - 7,638,100
Netherlands	16,318,000	39 - 44%	6,364,020 - 7,179,920
Czech Republic	10,246,100	54 - 61%	5,328,940 - 6,250,121
Taiwan	22,750,000	24%	5,460,000
Australia	19,913,000	24 - 25%	4,779,120 - 4,978,250

Hungary	10,032,000	32 - 46%	3,210,240 - 4,614,720
Belgium	10,348,000	42 - 43%	4,346,160 - 4,449,640

Source: Zuckerman, Phil. "Atheism: Contemporary Rates and Patterns", chapter in *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, ed. by Michael Martin, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK (2005).

Top 10 Countries With Highest Proportion of Atheists (Greeley/Jagodzinski, 1991)

Country	Percent Atheist
East Germany	88.20%
Slovenia	29.80
Russia	27.30
Israel	25.60
Netherlands	24.10
Hungary	23.30
Norway	14.90
Britain	14.00
West Germany	12.10
New Zealand	11.50

These figures are based on responses to survey questions about beliefs. There may be overlap between people who self-identify as adherents of an organized religion, while at the same time hold beliefs which categorize them an atheist. Opinion surveys are typically the only reliable method for determining the numbers of atheists in an area, because atheists are rarely affiliated formally with membership organizations. Officially released statistics from some Communist governments are often merely manufactured estimates without an empirical or statistical basis