



Luxembourg

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Europe

Geography

Area 2,586 sq km. The smallest of the Benelux, or Low Countries.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010 491,772	1.17%	190/sq km
2020 549,839	1.12%	213/sq km
2030 614,500	1.11%	238/sq km

Capital Luxembourg 91,200. **Urbanites** 82.2%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 18%. **Life expectancy** 79.4 yrs.

Peoples

Luxembourgers 57.4%. The lowest percentage of indigenous population of any European country.

Expatriates 42.6%. Mostly other Europeans. Portuguese 16.2%; French 5.3%; Italian 3.8%.

Literacy 100%. **Official language** French, used in official communication. German dominates education and the newspapers. *Lëtzebuergesch* (of Franco-Mosellan origin) is the national language; English learning is compulsory in schools. **All languages** 6. **Indigenous languages** 3. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 1por.

Economy

Highly industrialized and diversified economy, with a highly educated, multilingual workforce and excellent infrastructure. Banking and finance are dominant economic elements, and the country is attractive for its low taxes. Has the 2nd highest GDP per capita in the world,

despite recent downturns.

HDI Rank 11th/182. **Public debt** 10.2% of GDP. **Income/person** \$113,044 (238% of USA).

Politics

Parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarch, in economic union with Belgium and Netherlands. A member of EU, and headquarters of many EU institutions. The only sovereign Grand Duchy in the world, although the Grand Duke's powers were recently reduced to a virtually nominal status after disputes with parliament over euthanasia.

Religion

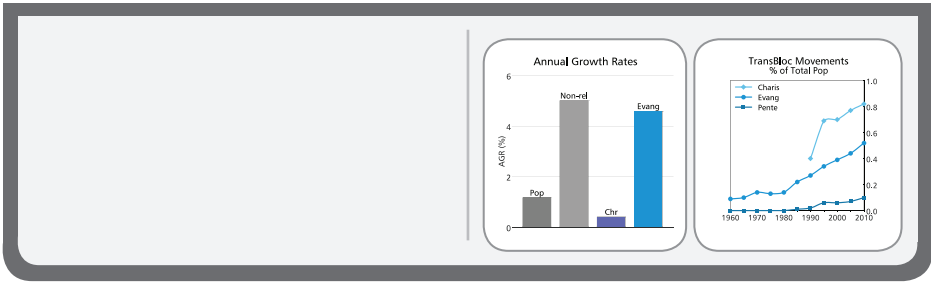
Freedom of religion. Catholicism still predominates but other religions as well as atheism have grown rapidly of late. The major confessions have established conventions and thereby financial support.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	81.63	401,433	0.4%
Non-religious	15.77	77,552	5.0%
Muslim	1.90	9,344	6.1%
Baha'i	0.30	1,475	1.2%
Other	0.20	984	7.2%
Jewish	0.20	984	1.2%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	18	1.96	10,000	1.9%
Independent	9	0.19	1,000	2.8%
Anglican	1	0.12	1,000	1.8%
Catholic	1	79.31	390,000	0.1%
Orthodox	4	1.02	5,000	6.2%
Marginal	3	1.10	5,000	1.6%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-2.07	-10,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	279	307,087	390,000
Orthodox Churches	O	4	3,759	5,000
Prot Ref Ch of Lux	P	4	250	3,500
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	33	2,000	3,400
Danish Evang Luth Ch	P	2	1,562	2,500
Prot Ch of Grand Duchy	P	5	1,000	1,300
German-speaking Prot Ch	P	2	570	855
Other denominations[26]		42	3,458	5,026
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-10,200
Total Christians[36]		371	319,686	401,381

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	0.5	2,554	4.6%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	0.8	4,020	2.3%
Pentecostals	0.1	510	9.2%



Challenges for Prayer

1 **Luxembourg's strong Catholic heritage** remains, but is slowly dwindling. Sea changes in Catholicism have had little impact here, and while the majority profess Catholicism, only a small percent regularly attend mass or practice their faith. A melange of secularism, materialism and a fuzzy personalized spirituality all weigh in heavily in shaping the prevalent worldview of this highly affluent Grand Duchy. Veneration of Mary plays a great role in cultural tradition and ritual. It is tradition more than conviction that keeps Luxembourg Catholic. Pray that people discover the power of the living Christ.

2 **The growth of other faiths** presents a challenge to traditional faith. Islam, Orthodoxy, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Eastern mysticism and the multiplication of Protestant and Independent groups have transformed this small nation into a melting pot of religious expression. Pray that believers in the Lord Jesus might seek and make use of chances to share the gospel, and help shape the nation according to biblical principles.

3 **Evangelicals are a small minority**, and a high proportion of them are foreigners (although almost all congregations have at least some indigenes). In the 23 evangelical churches, worship is conducted in nine different languages, and only a minority have full-time pastors. There is still a great need for more Bible teaching, more Christ-centered churches and more workers to labour in these churches. Evangelicals face several other challenges:

- a) **A negative bias** on the part of government and society, with the stigma of "cults". This bias makes state recognition, public perception and the renting of buildings difficult for evangelicals.
- b) **Unity** has been a major challenge. While there are still obstacles to seeing real spiritual unity (as opposed to the papery ecumenical variety), genuine progress is being made as the different churches begin to trust one another and to pray and worship together on occasion – great Kingdom potential exists as a result. Pray that old hurts will be overcome and restored relationships achieved.
- c) **Outreach is limited.** Door-to-door and street evangelism is frowned upon by society and the government; gentle and creative methods are much more likely to be effective. Believers are slowly learning how to reach out and are beginning to gain more experience and interest.

4 **Foreigners** comprise both some of the staunchest believers and some of the least reached. The majority of expatriates are present for employment, business or EU affairs (with day commuters, Luxembourg becomes over 50% foreign!), and show little interest in spiritual things. Others, such as Muslim immigrants from the Balkans, adhere to other faiths. Pray for the vision and strategy for reaching each group, and for receptive hearts.

5 **The Lëtzebuergesch language** is spoken by many as their heart language. Most are fluent in French or German (or both), but to have the Bible in Lëtzebuergesch could be helpful to opening many hearts to the good news. Various versions of the NT are in progress. Pray that they might be completed in a timely manner and with the highest standards of Bible translation principles. There is one solitary Christian bookstore in the country, but others in neighbouring countries are readily accessible.