



Montenegro

Republic of Montenegro

Europe

Geography

Area 14,026 sq km. A coastal Adriatic state. Small, but mountainous and picturesque.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	625,516	0.03%
2020	631,002	0.14%
2030	633,958	0.02%

Capital Podgorica 144,000. **Urbanites** 59.5%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 19%. **Life expectancy** 74 yrs.

Peoples

The narrow distinction between Montenegrins and Serbs and the politicized element of ethnicity makes it difficult to ascertain precise figures.

Slavic 92.8%. Montenegrin 46.7%; Serb 34.6%; Bosniak 8.4%; Croat 1.2%; Slovak 1.0%.

Albanian 5.6%.

Romani 0.7%. Probably significantly higher.

Other 0.9%. Central and Western Europeans, Arabs.

Literacy 97.3%. **Official language** Ijekavian dialect of Serbian, one of the southern Slavonic languages. **All languages** 6. **Languages with Scriptures** 4Bi 1NT 1por.

Economy

Montenegro's economy suffered from war and sanctions in the 1990s, since it was tied to Serbia as part of Yugoslavia. Adopting the Euro and making the economy investment-friendly has helped. A beautiful coastline hosts Europe's fastest growing tourist industry.

HDI Rank 65th/182. **Public debt** 38% of GDP. **Income/person** \$4,904 (11% of USA).

Politics

Recognized as a state as early as 1077, Montenegro became part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1918. A controversial and flawed referendum retained ties to Serbia in 1992. Perceived by many as the lesser partner, Montenegro successfully separated following a referendum in 2006. A multiparty parliamentary democracy.

Religion

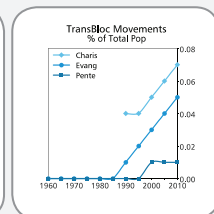
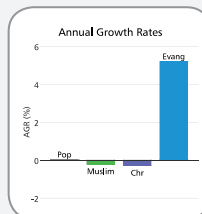
Historically, the Orthodox Church has had a strong influence – a theocratic principality ruled from 1516 to 1852. Religious freedom, but few would consider changing faiths. A feud between the predominant Serbian Orthodox and the breakaway Montenegrin Orthodox Church dominates the religious scene.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	77.05	481,960	-0.3%
Muslim	15.00	93,827	-0.2%
Non-religious	7.79	48,728	4.5%
Other	0.12	751	3.7%
Buddhist	0.03	188	8.5%
Jewish	0.01	63	0.0%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	4	0.10	1,000	3.6%
Catholic	1	5.28	33,000	1.9%
Orthodox	8	71.62	448,000	-0.5%
Marginal	1	0.05	<500	3.7%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Serbian Orthodox	O	587	234,667	352,000
Other Orthodox	O	12	37,333	56,000
Montenegrin Orthodox	O	55	18,182	40,000
Catholic Church	C	13	21,000	33,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	3	250	450
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	5	158	300
Pentecostal Church	P	2	50	80
Brethren Church	P	1	35	58
Reformation Church	P	2	35	58
Total Christians[14]		680	311,710	481,946

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	<0.1	286	5.2%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	0.1	414	3.3%
Pentecostals	<0.1	80	9.9%



Challenges for Prayer

1 Independence has brought optimism and hope. Montenegro is a small country but has great potential. If it can avoid the enmity between ethnic/religious communities that plagues most of the Balkans, there is much to look forward to. However, economic development (mostly through a burgeoning tourist industry and the aim of joining the EU) brings neither peace nor salvation, and less upright elements of society will now see the nation as a ripe new target for their vice. Pray for Montenegro to be a just, peaceful and corruption-free nation which enjoys ethnic harmony. Pray that people will seek the truth in the midst of their new-found nationhood.

2 The Orthodox Church is characterized by an almost farcical drama of claims, counter-claims and mutual anathematizations as the Montenegrin Orthodox Church seeks to establish itself in place of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Before the 20th Century the Montenegrin Orthodox Church existed as an autocephalous group. Pray that instead of squabbling over rights and property, Orthodox leaders would demonstrate Christlike leadership to a population whose faith is, for the most part, nominal. Pray for new spiritual life to come to the nation's Orthodox community (75% of the population).

3 The evangelical community is tiny, but multiplying. The Pentecostals, Baptists and Brethren have active growing churches. Evangelicals increased five-fold between 2000 and 2005, but they still only number 0.03% of the population. Evangelical congregations, while only a handful, have a vision for sharing the gospel; pray for continued church growth. Pray for steadfast witness in the face of opposition, for unity among denominations and for fruitful ministry.

4 Most ethnic minorities have little to no meaningful interaction with the good news. Pray for sensitive and loving outreach to:

a) *Bosniaks*, who may number up to 11% of the population and will be almost exclusively Muslim. Their extreme hostility toward Christians is justified, given the atrocities in the Balkans during the 1990s.

b) *Albanians*, among whom there are no evangelical churches or groups of believers.

c) *The Romani*, officially only 0.5% of the population but likely significantly more. As in other Balkan nations, they are poorer, often despised and are proving more open to the gospel than most ethnic groups.

5 Foreign missions are only just discovering Montenegro. There are workers from Pioneers, Baptists, Finnish Pentecostals and other groups. Pray that a fruitful and mutually edifying partnership can arise among the growing local churches and the foreign workers.