



Norway

Norway Kingdom of Norway Europe

Geography

Area 323,878 sq km. A long, mountainous fjord-indented land. One of the four Scandinavian countries. Also included are the Arctic dependencies of Jan Mayen and Svalbard (Spitzbergen) Islands – 62,000 sq km.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	4,855,315	0.93%
2020	5,200,079	0.64%
2030	5,518,034	0.57%

A further 2,400 on Svalbard (Russians 70%; Norwegians 30%).

Capital Oslo 888,435. **Urbanites** 77.6%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 19%. **Life expectancy** 80.5 yrs.

Peoples

Indigenous 92.6%. Norwegian 92.0%; Sami (Lapp, 5 groups) 0.5%; Romani (Gypsy) 0.1%.

Foreign-origin 7.4%.

European 3.0%. Swedish 0.5%; Danish 0.4%; Bosnian 0.3%; Serbian 0.3.

Asian 3.6%. Pakistani 0.6%; Iraqi 0.4%; Vietnamese 0.4%; Turk 0.3%; Iranian 0.3%; Tamil 0.3%; Punjabi 0.3%.

African 0.6%. Somali 0.3%.

Literacy 99%. **Official language** Norwegian (Bokmal and Nynorsk). **All languages** 20. **Indigenous languages** 10. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 2NT 1por 1wi.p.

Economy

Strong and wealthy industrial state with high earnings from oil, mining, fishing, forest products and high-tech industries.

HDI Rank 1st/182. **Public debt** 55.7% of GDP. **Income/person** \$94,387 (199% of USA).

Politics

Independent from Sweden in 1905 as a parliamentary monarchy. Not a member of the EU, but participates in the EEC.

Religion

The Lutheran Church (or Church of Norway) is the official state church, but there is complete freedom for other denominations and religions.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	91.08	4,422,221	0.7%
Non-religious	6.10	296,174	3.0%
Muslim	1.90	92,251	5.8%
Other	0.70	33,987	4.1%
Buddhist	0.15	7,283	0.9%
Jewish	0.04	1,942	0.9%
Baha'i	0.03	1,457	0.9%

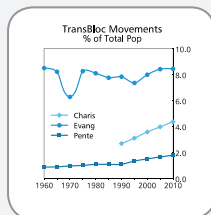
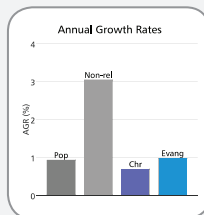
Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	23	85.80	4,166,000	0.5%
Independent	39	1.66	81,000	3.8%
Anglican	1	0.02	1,000	-1.6%
Catholic	1	1.09	53,000	2.7%
Orthodox	4	0.15	7,000	8.3%
Marginal	6	0.40	19,000	-0.4%
Unaffiliated		7.00	341,000	1.3%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-5.07	-246,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Lutheran Church	P	1,418	2,977,778	4,020,000
Catholic Church	C	61	39,259	53,000
Pentecostal Movement	P	210	30,195	46,500
Evangelical Luth Free Ch	P	82	8,217	23,500
Mission Covenant Ch	P	84	9,100	18,200
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	170	7,747	14,100
Methodist Church	P	39	4,936	11,500
Free Evang Assemblies	P	70	6,871	10,100
Baptist Church	P	65	4,545	10,000
Salvation Army	P	28	6,169	9,500
Orthodox Church	O	5	1,440	7,200
Other denominations[60]		486	54,812	103,468
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-246,000
Total Christians[74]		2,718	3,151,069	4,081,068

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	8.4	409,731	1.0%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	4.4	211,616	2.9%
Pentecostals	1.8	86,456	2.4%

Missionaries from Norway

P,I,A 1,060 (610 long-term), all international, nearly all cross-cultural.



Answers to Prayer

- 1 The state church of Norway**, Lutheranism, is a rarity in that many of its leaders are soundly evangelical and stand firm on many theological and moral issues. Praise God for this positive influence in the Church and nation.
- 2 Norway has strong mission-sending traditions** and lively mission vision today. Pentecostals and independent mission organizations within the Lutheran Church are the core of this sending tradition. Norway remains proportionally one of the top sending nations, even while again focusing on the renewed need for home missions. But a new wave of younger missionaries is called for.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Norway has a powerful spiritual heritage.** The influence of Pietism, prayer and revival movements within Lutheranism over the past 200 years is still strong. About 90% of Norwegians are church members, but it can no longer be taken for granted that they are believers. Less than 10% of young people are committed Christians, and only 4% of the nation attend church on any given Sunday. More than half doubt or don't believe in the existence of God. Pray for the roots of Norway's rich Christian past to be reestablished.
- 2 The Lutheran Church**, while a pillar of society and the most evangelical of all state churches in Europe, faces challenges nonetheless. It has, in the past, seen revivals, prayer and mission houses and many mission and volunteer agencies formed. But today it faces the same pluralistic challenge as other European societies as well as an internal battle over homosexuality. Pray for new revival and for a deep commitment to biblical faith and practice.
- 3 The formation of independent mission organizations** within and without the Lutheran Church is bringing high levels of member-commitment to congregational life and to missions. These groups blend Lutheran heritage with informal Pietist-rooted evangelicalism. The hubs of these movements are found in mission houses – informal nodes of worship, prayer and community where the lay organizations were founded. Almost the entire foreign missionary effort of the Church of Norway, and a considerable amount of domestic evangelistic work, are carried out by these organizations; the Norwegian Missionary Society, Norwegian Lutheran Mission, Normisjon and others are part of this movement. Pray for their continued role and impact in a changing society.
- 4 The (non-state) Free Churches** also strongly contribute to Norwegian church life, although they too struggle to retain members. Pentecostal and charismatic churches are the largest, with the Mission Covenant Church, Methodists, Baptists and others also present. Pray for these groups to likewise contribute to rejuvenating the spiritual life of the nation.
- 5 Church planting is a real need** in a society where church membership is high but actual belief and attendance are low. **DAWN** is catalytic in this respect, and many denominations are getting behind the vision; even missions traditionally focused on foreign fields see the need on the home front. Between 1996 and 2005, more than 250 new congregations were planted. The challenge is two-fold: to disciple the many nominal Christians and to reach the increasing numbers of non-Christians in Norway. Pray for many new groups of committed believers to be formed.
- 6 Young people's ministry** continues to be spearheaded by new charismatic youth movements, such as Jesus Revolution as well as the older **IFES** movement. The younger generation is much less committed to Christianity and more open to other ideas. Pray that these ministries would have a powerful and lasting impact on lives.
- 7 Special issues for prayer.**
 - a) The 25,000 Sami** traditionally live in the far north and are culturally and linguistically very different from sedentary Norwegians. Some are still reindeer herders. Most are nominally Lutheran, but committed Christians are relatively few.
 - b) Immigrant minorities** continue to increase rapidly. Norway's high quality of life draws many to this northern land from around the globe. A number are Muslims; Islam is now the

second-largest religious group after Lutherans. But a greater number of migrants are vibrant Christians, forming dynamic new congregations that are beginning to have an impact on Norwegian church life.

i Muslims from Pakistan, Iran, Somalia, Turkey. Significant numbers do not practice their faith. Some 75% live in the Oslo area; a few are responsive to the gospel, but a specific strategy is called for.

ii Asians. Of special need are the Sri Lankan Tamils, Vietnamese, Punjabi and Chinese.

iii Immigrants from former communist nations – Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Poland, Russia.

c) Oslo and the surrounding area have a lower number of evangelical Christians, but over half the population live in these areas. Norwegians of a non-Christian persuasion are concentrated here. The majority of adherents to other religions also reside in and around Oslo. Some of the newer Pentecostal and charismatic churches are seeing many born again and set free from alcohol and drugs. To see Norway truly transformed, Oslo must be the focal point of church planting and ministry.