



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE
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Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Pope Francis in Luxembourg and Belgium (26 to 29 September 2024) - Statistics

Statistics of the Catholic Church in Luxembourg and Belgium as of 31 December 2022 (from the Central Office for Church Statistics)

Table 1 – Population and ecclesiastical structure

Table 2 – People engaged in activities of the apostolate

Table 3 – Indicators of pastoral workload

Table 4 – Priestly vocations

Table 5 – Educational centres owned / managed by ecclesiastics or religious

Table 6 – Charitable and social centres owned / managed by ecclesiastics or religious

The following are some statistical data relating to the situation of the Catholic Church in Luxembourg and Belgium as of 31 December 2022:

Table 1 – Population and ecclesiastical structure

Belgium

Luxembourg

Area (km ²)	30,528	2,586
Population (in thousands)	11,618	654
Density (inhabitants/km ²)	381	253
Catholics (in thousands)	8,361	271
Catholics per 100 inhabitants	71.97	41.43
Ecclesiastical circumscriptions	9	1
Parishes	3,656	275
Other pastoral centres	434	-
Catholics per pastoral centre	2,044	985

Table 2 – People engaged in activities of the apostolate

	Belgium	Luxembourg
Bishops ¹	22	3
Diocesan priests	2,066	121
Religious priests	1,677	49
Total priests	3,743	170
Permanent deacons	577	20
Men religious (other than priests)	355	13
Professed women religious	5,045	225
Members of secular Institutes	91	6
Lay missionaries	34	-
Catechists	4,803	-

[1] Situation on 15.06.2024

Table 3 – Indicators of pastoral workload

	Belgium	Luxembourg
Catholics per priest	2,234	1,594
Catholics per pastoral worker	570	620
Priests per pastoral centre	0.92	0.62
Priests per 100 people engaged in activities of the apostolate	25.7	39.6

Table 4 – Priestly vocations

	Belgium	Luxembourg
-		
Minor seminarians	1	-
Major seminarians	197	12
Major seminarians per 100,000 inhabitants	1.70	1.83
Major seminarians per 100,000 Catholics	2.36	4.43
Major seminarians per 100 priests	5.26	7.06

Table 5 – Educational centres owned / managed by ecclesiastics or religious

	Belgium	Luxembourg
Schools:		
Pre-school and primary	3,368	2
Lower middle and secondary	1,076	5
Higher and university	30	-
Students in:		
Pre-school and primary schools	608,989	1,980
Lower middle and secondary schools	572,292	2,500
Higher and university institutes	172,563	-

Table 6 – Charitable and social centres owned / managed by ecclesiastics or religious

	Belgium	Luxembourg
Hospitals	88	2
Clinics	19	-
Leper colonies	8	-
Homes for the elderly and disabled	360	25
Orphanages and nurseries	181	4
Family advisory centres	52	-
Special centres of social education or rehabilitation	5	-

Other institutions

142

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