

**MISSION ATLAS PROJECT**  
**EUROPE**  
**Luxembourg**

**SNAPSHOTS**

**Country Name:** (Grand Duchy of) Luxembourg; (Grand Duche de) Luxembourg

**Country Founded in:** Founded in AD 963. Became a Grand Duchy in 1815. Gained independence from the Netherlands in 1839.

**Population:** 474,413 (July 2006 est.)

**Government Type:** Constitutional monarchy.

**Number of people groups:** 19 people groups, with the Luxembourggeois forming the majority.

Picture of flag:



**Map:**



**Geography/location in the world:** Luxembourg is a landlocked country in Western Europe. It borders with France in the south (73 km), with Belgium in the west and north (148 km), and with Germany in the east (138 km). The summers are cool and the winters are mild. Precipitation is high. Most of the terrain is “gently rolling uplands with broad, shallow valleys; uplands to slightly mountainous in the north; steep slope down to Moselle flood plain in the southeast” (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html>).

## Religion Snapshot:

Major Religion and % of population: Listed as Christian (93.9%) but this figure includes Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and marginal groups. 94.75 % of the Christian group is Catholic and 0.35% is Orthodox. Marginal groups make up 0.89%. Protestants and Anglicans account for 1.81% of the population. Non-religious claim 4.5%.

All religions and % for each:

Christian	93.9%
Catholic	94.75%
Protestant	1.76%
Orthodox	0.35%
Anglican	0.05%
Marginal	0.89%

Jewish	0.20%
Muslim	1.10%
Baha'i	0.30%

Non-religious/other 4.5%

Note: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html> lists 87% Roman Catholic, 13% of Protestants/Jews/Muslims (2000 est.).

**Government interaction with religion:** The Constitution provides full “freedom of religion and of public worship.” Also, “freedom to express one’s religious opinions [is] guaranteed, subject to the repression of offenses committed in the exercise of such freedoms” (Article 19 of the Constitution, [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/ic1/lu00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/ic1/lu00000_.html))

There is no State Church in Luxembourg. The government provides the salaries and pensions of clergy of some Christian denominations. Representatives of Islam are filing for the same support for their clergy.

Sources consulted:

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg>  
[http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/ic1/lu00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/ic1/lu00000_.html)  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2003/24420.htm>  
[http://www.24-7prayer.com/ow/country2.php?country\\_id=83](http://www.24-7prayer.com/ow/country2.php?country_id=83)

**MISSION ATLAS PROJECT**  
**Western Europe**

**Luxembourg**

**Basic Facts**

**Name:** (Grand Duchy of) Luxembourg; (Grand Duche de) Luxembourg

**Demographics:**

In July 2006, Luxembourg had an estimated population of 474,413.

For the total population, the sex ratio is 0.97 male(s)/female (2006 est.).

The age structure is: 0-14 years: 18.9% (male 46,118/female 43,356)  
15-64 years: 66.5% (male 159,498/female 156,075)  
65 years and over: 14.6% (male 28,027/female 41,339)

The median age is 38.7 years (37.7 years for males and 39.7 years for females).

Llife expectancy at birth is 78.89 years (75.6 years for males and 82.38 years for females).

The population growth rate is 1.23%.

The birth rate is 11.94 births/1,000 population.

The death rate is 8.41 deaths/1,000 population.

The infant mortality rate is 4.74 deaths/1,000 live births.

The net migration rate is 8.75 migrants/1,000 population.

The HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate is 0.2% (2001 est.). In 2003, less than 500 people lived with HIV/AIDS.

The average density is 171 persons/sq km (444 persons/sq mi) (2001 est.).

In 2000, the urbanization rate was 91%. Over 74,000 people live in Luxembourg's capital, Luxembourg. Other relatively large cities are Esch-sur-Alzette (24,012), Dudelange (14,677), Differdange (8,489), and Schiffflange (6,859) (*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001).

**Language:**

There are 3 official languages spoken in Luxembourg, German, French, Dutch. The national language is Luxembourgish. This language belongs to the West Central Germanic group of High Germanic languages. Luxembourgish has at least 8 distinct dialects (Areler, Eechternoacher, Kliärrwer, Minetter, Miseler, Stater, Veiner, and Weelzer). Despite Luxembourgish being a Germanic language, it is heavily influenced by the French language. The Dutch language also influenced Luxembourgish.

The 2 official administrative languages are French and German. French is the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest of the Romance languages. Luxembourg is 1 of the 30 countries in which French is an official language. Initially, French enjoyed a greater prestige than German.

The Napoleonic civil code, written in French, is still applied in Luxembourg. This forms a major reason for French still being used as the language of legislation.

German is a Germanic language and, in Luxembourg, is the primary language of the press. Police case files, too, are written in German. German and French are taught in primary and secondary education. Luxembourgish is only taught in primary education. Public information is available in both French and German.

### **Society/Culture:**

Throughout the centuries, the culture of Luxembourg has been influenced strongly by its neighboring countries – Germany, France, and Belgium – which is especially noticeable in the fact that most citizens are trilingual (Luxembourgish, German, and French).

The independent character of the Luxembourgish is reflected in the country's national motto "Mir wölle bleiwen wat mir sin" ("We want to remain what we are").

The people of Luxembourg are fond of their traditions. 1 Of these is the Echternach Dancing Procession. This procession takes place annually in the city of Echternach on Whit Tuesday (the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after Pentecost). The event is in honor of St. Willibrord, Luxembourg's patron saint and establisher of the Abbey of Echternach in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The focus of the procession is Willibrord's crypt in the abbey. "The unusual custom began in the fourteenth or fifteenth century in connection with the annual tithe processions. People from all parishes under the jurisdiction of the abbey would walk to Echternach during the Whitsuntide holidays bearing their offerings. Historical references mention that pilgrims from the village of Waxweiler would perform a sort of "hopping dance" as they proceeded to the abbey" (<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/6434/history.html>). For hours, many musical groups repeat the same ancient melody to which the pilgrims dance or hop.

Other main (religious) holidays are Carnival, Easter, May Day (1 May), Ascension Day, Pentecost, Ascension Day (15 August), All Saints Day (1 November), Christmas, and New Year. Luxembourg's National Day is June 23. Since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it has been custom in Luxembourg to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duke/Duchess. During the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte (1919-1964), this

celebration was in the middle of the winter, on January 23. For purely weather reasons, it was decided in 1961 to celebrate this day on June 23 of each year. Charlotte's son and grandson have kept this tradition (translated from the French, [http://www.gouvernement.lu/tout\\_savoir/histoire\\_monarchie/fetenat.html](http://www.gouvernement.lu/tout_savoir/histoire_monarchie/fetenat.html)).

The family is the center of life in Luxembourg, which is one of the safest and richest countries in the world. Many adults live in the same town in which they were born. In general, parents are closely involved in their children's lives, their education, and their career choices.

Most Luxembourgish are private and reserved, especially in interacting with outsiders. Even with friends, most people do not discuss personal matters. Personal life and business are 2 separate domains. One's friendship with a colleague is not to be brought to the workplace.

In communication, clarity and logic based on sound reasoning is appreciated. Being blunt is considered rude. The normal greeting consists of a firm handshake. Only family and friends are greeted with 3 kisses on the cheeks (starting with the left cheek and alternating. This only between a woman and a man or woman, never between 2 men).

When invited to someone's house, the guest is expected to bring flowers or chocolate. A small gift for the children is also appreciated. <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/luxembourg.html>)

Luxembourg has more Michelin Star (9-star) restaurants per capita than any other country. Luxembourg's cuisine is heavily influenced by French, German, and Belgian culinary traits. In recent years, however, Portuguese and Italian immigrants have influenced Luxembourg's cuisine. Some of Luxembourg's delicacies are pastries, Luxembourg cheese, Ardennes ham, game, fish, quetsch (plum tart), treipen (black pudding), and quenelles (calves' liver dumplings) with sauerkraut and boiled potatoes.

Although Luxembourg had the highest worldwide per capita consumption of alcohol in 1993, alcoholism is not listed as a problem. French wine and fine German, Belgian, and Luxembourg beers are drunk most frequently.

The arts and historical documentation are well represented in Luxembourg; the National Museum of History and Art, the History Museum of the City of Luxembourg, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Battle of the Bulge Museum are some examples. Joseph Kutter, Jean Jacoby, Emile Kirscht, and Gust Graas are among Luxembourg's famous painters. Michael Rodange, Anise Koltz, and Jean Portante are some of Luxembourg's poets. The capital is on the Unesco World Heritage List. Some of the daily newspapers in Luxembourg are Lëtzebuerger Journal, Luxemburger Wort/La Voix du Luxembourg, Le Républicain Lorrain, and Zeitung vum Letzeburger Vollek.

Hiking, cycling, fishing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, and canoeing are among the more popular sports in Luxembourg.

## **Government:**

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a constitutional monarchy. A hereditary Grand Duke or Duchess of the house of Nassau (related to the royal family of the Netherlands) is the monarch and the chief of state.

As stipulated in the 1868 Constitution (amended), the monarch (currently, Grand Duke Henri) and the prime minister (currently, Jean-Claude Juncker), along with the cabinet, exercise executive authority. The prime minister is the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition and is appointed by the monarch. The monarch also appoints the vice prime minister (currently, Jean Asselborn). The prime minister and vice prime minister are responsible to the Chamber of Deputies.

The unicameral Chamber of Deputies exercises legislative authority. Its 60 members are elected by direct popular vote for a 5-year term. The last elections were held in June 2004. The Council of State, consisting of 21 members appointed for life by the monarch, serves as an advisory council to the Chamber of Deputies. The Chamber, however, can overrule recommendations made by the Council. The government has 19 different main ministries.

The 3 major political parties of Luxembourg are CSV (Christian Social People's Party), LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party), and DP (Democratic Party). The CSV and LSAP make up the present government coalition. The country is divided into 12 cantons, which are subdivided into communes. Many of the politicians on the national level begin their political careers on the local level as mayors. National politicians are elected from each canton. Municipal elections are held every 6 years.

Luxembourg's judicial branch consists of judicial courts and tribunals (3 Justices of the Peace, 2 district courts, and 1 Supreme Court of Appeals); administrative courts and tribunals (State Prosecutor's Office, administrative courts and tribunals, and the Constitutional Court). The monarch appoints all judges for life. Luxembourg law is a rather complicated composite of French, Belgian, and German systems as well as local practice and legal tradition.

Luxembourg is 1 of the founding members of the European Union (EU) and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Along with Belgium and the Netherlands, Luxembourg is part of the Benelux Economic Union. Luxembourg has a small volunteer army. The country abolished compulsory military service in 1967. Suffrage is 18 years of age, universal, and compulsory.

## **Economy:**

Luxembourg is one of the richest countries of the world. In 2005, the country's GDP totaled \$31.76 billion or \$55,600 per capita. The GDP growth rate that year was 3.7%. Agriculture contributed 1% to the GDP, industry contributed 13% (mainly steel and iron), and services 86%. Luxembourg's labor force for 2005 was 316,500. 121,600 of these are

foreign cross-border workers mainly from Germany, Belgium, and France. 1% of the labor force was employed in agriculture, 13% in industry, and 86% in services. Most industrial workers are organized in unions, which are closely linked to a major political party. The unemployment rate remained low at 4.5%. The inflation rate of 2.5% was low as well. Luxembourg's budget runs \$9.195 billion in revenues and \$9.573 billion in expenditures.

In the last 2 decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the steel industry developed in Luxembourg. The 1<sup>st</sup> steel company, Arbed, was founded in 1911. 90 years later, this company merged with Usinor and Aceralia to form the world's 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest steel company, Arcelor.

Besides iron and steel, Luxembourg has other industries: banking and financial services, IT, telecommunications, food processing, cargo transportation, metal products, chemicals, tires, engineering, glass, aluminum, and tourism. Banking and financial services formed 28.9% of the economy in 2004. There are about 160 banks in Luxembourg. The political stability, location, multilingual staff, and a tradition of banking secrecy are all conducive to the growth of the banking and financial services sector. Luxembourg's agricultural products include livestock products, wine, grapes, dairy products, barley, oat, wheat, potatoes, and fruits.

Luxembourg's main export partners are Germany, France, and Belgium, followed by UK, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. The country's main import partners are Belgium, Germany, China, France, and the Netherlands.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3182.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Luxembourg)

### **Literacy:**

Defined as: age 15 and over can read and write.

Literacy rate: 100%.

### **Land/Geography:**

Geographic coordinates:

49 45 N, 6 10 E. Luxembourg, the only Grand Duchy in the world, is a landlocked country, bordering with Germany in the east (138 km), with France in the south (73 km), and with Belgium in the west and north (148 km). Its total area is 2,586 sq km.

Luxembourg is 82 km (51 mi) long and 57 km (35 mi) wide. The rivers Our, Sûre, and Moselle form the eastern border with Germany. The capital, Luxembourg, is located in the south-central part of the country (see map in Snapshot).

2 Distinct geographic regions characterize the country. In the north, one finds the rugged uplands (Oesling) of the Ardennes. Here the average elevation is 450 m (1,476 ft). This area is forested and has poor soil. In the south, the terrain is characterized by fertile

lowlands, called Bon Pays (Good Land). The average elevation is 250 m (820 ft). Valleys run throughout the country.

The climate is “modified continental with mild winters, cool summers” (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html>). The average annual precipitation is about 75 cm (30 in), with more rain falling in the southern part of Luxembourg. Apart from many vineyards, Luxembourg has many shrubs (blueberry, genista), ferns, flowers, and trees (pine, spruce, chestnut, linden, elm, oak, beech, fruit trees). The only wild animal species in Luxembourg are deer, roe deer, and wild boar. There are many birds and a large variety of fish (eel, perch, carp, trout, pike, and bream).

Luxembourg faces some environmental issues: soil pollution of farmland and air and water pollution in urban areas.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/lu.html>

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001).

## History

The first mention of Luxembourg involves the Treveri tribe of German/Celtic origin about which Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) wrote in his *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*. AD 963 is, however, the year of the official start of Luxembourg’s history. Sigfrid, Count of Ardennes, allegedly was the founder of Luxembourg Castle on the site of a small Roman fort. Soon a town developed around the castle, forming the center of a strategic state. Its value did not go unnoticed to France, the Netherlands, and Germany. Luxembourg became part of the Holy Roman Empire and its dynasty provided 4 Holy Roman Emperors. The dynasty also brought forth Kings of Bohemia and Archbishops of Trier and Mainz. Charles IV (1316-78) made Luxembourg a duchy in 1354.

The next phase in the history of Luxembourg is that of the Burgundian rule, which started in 1441/3 and lasted less than 40 years. The Burgundian rule implied that Luxembourg was now one of the Seventeen Provinces of the Netherlands. In 1477, Mary of Burgundy married Maximilian of the Habsburg house. Luxembourg was now under Habsburg rule.

This rule lasted until 1815. The descendants of the house of Habsburg were scattered all over Europe. Upon the death of one of the descendants, the rule over Luxembourg was passed on to another heir of the house of Habsburg, who might live in another country. Therefore, Luxembourg was ruled by different countries until 1815. Spain ruled the duchy from 1506-1684, France from 1684-97, again Spain from 1697-1714, Austria from 1714-95, and France from 1795-1815.

After Napoleon’s Waterloo, in 1815 the Congress of Vienna granted Luxembourg the status of Grand Duchy and made it an independent state ruled by the King of the Netherlands, William VI – Prince of Orange. Luxembourg assisted Belgium in a successful revolution against Dutch rule. For 9 years (1830-39), Luxembourg was a province of the new Belgian state.



The Treaty of London (1839) confirmed Luxembourg's status as grand duchy. A negative result of the treaty was that Luxembourg retained less than half of its territory with the rest lost to Belgium. With the loss of territory, Luxembourg also lost economically. "Luxembourg remained an underdeveloped agrarian country for most of the century. As a result of this about one in five of the inhabitants emigrated to the United States between 1841 and 1891" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Luxembourg)).

Independence seems to have been one of the major struggles for Luxembourg throughout the centuries, due to its neighbors's interests in its strategic position. However, in 1867, the second Treaty of London formally ratified both Luxembourg's perpetual independence and Luxembourg's neutrality.

Despite official independence, Luxembourg remained a part of the Netherlands until 1890, the year of King William III's death. The House of Nassau-Weilburg then gained control over Luxembourg. Ironically, Luxembourg's neutrality was taken lightly, too, for during World War I, the Germans occupied the country but allowed the government and Grand Duchess to remain in office. U.S. and French troops liberated the country. Luxembourg's independence was affirmed once again at Versailles.

The 1930s were marked by both left and right wing influence on Luxembourg. The government attempted to quell Communist-led unrest and to remain on good terms with Nazi Germany. Germany, however, violated Luxembourg's neutrality again on 10 May 1940. Nazi forces occupied the country and forced out the monarchy and government.

In August 1942, Luxembourg became an official part of the Third Reich. As a result, the citizens now were official German citizens and were drafted for military service. Many Luxembourgers resisted the Nazi occupation by not speaking the German language (which led to a renaissance of Luxembourgish) and by organizing a strike. Their resistance was met by the Nazis with imprisonment, executions, and deportations to concentration camps. Finally, in January 1945 the Nazis in Germany were defeated by U.S. troops.

After WWII, Luxembourg became a founding member of NATO (1949) and the UN and so abandoned its neutrality. In 1948, it entered into a monetary union with Belgium and the Netherlands (BENELUX). Luxembourg was also one of the founding members of the EU.

In 1999, the country joined the Euro currency area. In 2005, its citizens approved the European Constitution albeit by a very narrow margin. Until today, however, the European Constitution has not been ratified, as several countries have voted it down.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Luxembourg)

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001)

## **Christian History**

Until the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, the tribes living in Luxembourg's territory were pagans. Then the Christianization of Luxembourg began to take place, with Christians coming from the Christian-Roman city of Trier. A second round of evangelization in Luxembourg occurred in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. Mother-parishes were formed, which over time evolved into the present-day parishes. The place Echternach grew in importance during this second wave of spreading the Good News. Echternach was the basis from which English monks, led by Bishop Willibrord, undertook the mission to the Frisians. (See the section on society for a short discussion of Echternach).

During the Middle Ages, religious orders were established throughout Luxembourg. The main groups were the Benedictine, Cistercian, Franciscan, Dominican, Claretian, and Augustinian (women's) orders. The orders heavily influenced Luxembourg's pastoral care, spirituality, and culture. Perhaps due to these Roman Catholic-oriented influences and the work of the Jesuits, who have been present in Luxembourg since 1594, the Reformation effected hardly any changes in Luxembourg. In fact, the Jesuit activities countered the Reformation. As a result, "Protestantism was outlawed in Luxembourg until 1768" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantism\\_in\\_Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantism_in_Luxembourg)).

The country's religious history until 1768, then, is largely that of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1988, Pope John Paul II lifted the status of the Roman Catholic Church in Luxembourg to that of Archdiocese. Until then, the Church had been a part of the Bisdom of Trier, of Lüttich, of Metz (1801-23), of the Diocese of Namür (1823-40), and it had been an Apostolic Vicariate dependent on Rome (1840-1870). It was an independent Diocese from 1870 to 1988. During World War II, the Roman Catholic Church played a patriotic role. During the period of secularization, however, it lost much of its influence on society. Despite the decline in participation in Catholic practice, the Church remains a strong component of Luxembourg's pluralistic society. (Much on the Roman Catholic Church was adapted from <http://www.cathol.lu/spip.php?article810>)

Another component of this pluralistic society is the Protestant wing. Made up of only 5,000 to 15,000 members, the Protestant churches form the largest minority religion in Luxembourg. In 1768, the formation of Protestant churches in Luxembourg was finally allowed. Small groups of Lutherans, Calvinists, and Waldensians existed by 1815.

When Grand Duke Adolphe founded the Protestant Church of Luxembourg in 1894 to unite Lutherans and Calvinists as well as to acknowledge their existence in a country dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, these small groups did not join because they did not want to give up their distinct practices and principles.

Grand Duke Jean's decree of 1982 established the Protestant Reformed Church of Luxembourg. Nowadays, there are many Protestant churches representing different nationalities: the Evangelical Church in Germany, the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, the Anglican Church/Church of England, the Church of Scotland, and the Church of Denmark. The Assemblies of God is another small group in Luxembourg as well as the Mennonites. (See the section on Religions: Protestants/Evangelicals/Pentecostals for more information on each of these groups).

A third component is the Orthodox Church in Luxembourg. Like many of the Protestant churches, the Orthodox Church, too, represents different nationalities. The main groups are Russian and Greek. 2 Smaller groups are Serbian and Romanian.

A fourth and smaller component of Luxembourg's pluralistic society is Judaism. Having been present in Luxembourg since at least the 1200s, the Jewish community forms the oldest religious minority group in the Grand Duchy. Most of the 1,000 practicing Jews are Ashkenazi and live in the capital. The majority attends Conservative congregations with a minority visiting a Reformed congregation.

A fifth and most recent religious group in Luxembourg is that of Muslims. Some of the 6,000 Muslims are from former Yugoslavia. The majority of Muslims live in the capital where they can gather for worship in 1 of the 2 mosques. Muslims are applying to the government for equal status with other religious groups.

Whereas the Catholic Church, the Protestant Churches, and the Jewish community "have the status of public entities and are therefore granted special tax treatment enabling them to receive private funds and/or funds from some organizations," Islam does not share this status ([http://www.coe.int/t/e/human\\_rights/ecri/1-ecri/2-country-by-country\\_approach/luxembourg/luxembourg\\_cbc\\_3.asp#P416\\_64118](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/1-ecri/2-country-by-country_approach/luxembourg/luxembourg_cbc_3.asp#P416_64118)). The clergy of the religious entities, which have been granted special status, receive their pensions from the government. Islamic representatives desire to be granted the same benefits for Islamic clergy.

The Constitution of Luxembourg reads: "Freedom of religion and of public worship as well as freedom to express one's religious opinions are guaranteed, subject to the repression of offenses committed in the exercise of such freedoms" (Article 19). The next article reads: "No one may be forced to take part in any way whatsoever in the acts and ceremonies of a religion or to observe its day of rest" (Article 20, [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/lu00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/lu00000_.html)).

This freedom of religion has also allowed Christian and non-Christian cults and sects to establish their communities in Luxembourg. Most of these groups are rather small with around 1,000 members each (see the section on Religions). In general, these groups find it difficult to gain a serious hearing in Luxembourg. Perhaps this is due to the religious education in public schools: "Religious instruction is a local matter, coordinated at the communal level between representatives of the Catholic Church and communal authorities" (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3182.htm>). Although the Roman Catholic Church dominates religious education in the public schools, Protestant education is available on demand as is instruction in other faiths.

## **Religions**

### **Non-Christian:**

*Jewish* (0.2%, 1,000 members): Most of the Jewish people in Luxembourg are Ashkenazi. The majority of the Jews live in the capital. A rather small Jewish community

is found in Esch-sur-Alzette. The majority of the Jews attend Conservative congregations. A small group, which consists mainly of newcomers, attends a Reformed congregation. The Jewish Holy Book consists of the Torah (the law), the Nebiim (the prophets), and the Chetoebim (the writings). Christians refer to this collection as the Old Testament. Jews believe in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

*Islam* (1.1%, around 6,000 members): The Muslims in Luxembourg number around 6,000 including 885 refugees from Montenegro. The 2 mosques in Luxembourg provide places for worship and fellowship. Islam's holy book is the Qur'an. Some of the basic tenets of faith are belief in Allah and his unity, belief in the prophets (especially Muhammad; Jesus was only one of the prophets and fully man), belief in paradise and hell, and belief in judgment day. The Muslims in Luxembourg attempt to integrate in society. Their official website is [http://www.islam.lu/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=de](http://www.islam.lu/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=de) and is available in both French and German.

*Baha'i* (0.3%): The Baha'i religion began in Persia in 1844 under the leader and founder Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means "Glory of God." According to Baha'i the world is but one country and all people are its citizens. Baha'i emphasizes the unity of humanity, the equality of male and female, elimination of extreme riches and poverty, religious tolerance, and access for all to education and culture. According to Baha'i, all religions are diverse expressions of the one universal religion. In Luxembourg, people from 19 different nationalities are members of the Baha'i community, which has 47 locations. The official website for Baha'i in Luxembourg is <http://www.bahai.lu/>.

*Non-religious* the non-religious make up 4.5% of the population, a number greater than any one Christian group.

### **Christian Cults and Sects:**

*Jehovah's Witnesses* number around 1920 members in 33 congregations. They are probably the largest of the non-Catholic groups in the country when seen from the number of members and congregations.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe they are the restoration of 1<sup>st</sup>-century Christianity. The Watchtower and Awake! are two of their magazines. The group's headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York. Jehovah's Witnesses trace their origin to the Bible Students (late 1870s). A schism occurred in 1917 and in 1931 the believers, who remained supportive of the Watch Tower Society, took on the name Jehovah's Witnesses under the leadership of Joseph F. Rutherford. Jehovah's Witnesses consider their translation of the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. Rejecting the concepts of Trinity and hell, they instead believe in Unitarianism.

Using God's name, Jehovah, is a requirement for true worship. Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their rejection of blood transfusions.

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints* (less than 1,000 members): The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which the members are known as Mormons, was founded by Joseph Smith in 1820. The Church claims 11 million members worldwide. In addition to the Bible, the Latter-day Saints consider The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Book of Mormon (1830) as sacred. Although in 1890, the practice of polygamy was officially rejected, polygamy is still present in the state of Utah (USA). The Mormons are known for their extensive research in genealogy. Their views on the main Christian doctrines differ from those held by evangelical Christians.

*Universal Church of the Kingdom of God* (less than 1,000 members): A Brazilian organization founded in 1977, Universal Church of the Kingdom of God has close to 6 million believers worldwide and an estimated \$1 billion annual income. The church finds its roots in Pentecostalism with its strong emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit. The Universal Church, however, has gone in the direction of the Word of Faith or Prosperity Gospel movement. Believers are promised healing of illnesses and increase of wealth in return for (large) sums of money. In Luxembourg, the organization is known under the name Communauté chrétienne du Saint-Esprit. For more information on this group, see <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/i04.html>.

### **Catholic/Orthodox Churches:**

*Catholic Church* (87%): The Christianization of Luxembourg started in the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the early 700s, Bishop Willibrord from England came to Luxembourg and founded an abbey in Echternach. Today, although the Roman Catholic Church is losing some of its influence in Luxembourg, the Church still forms a strong component of the pluralistic society.

The Catholic Church claims as many as 328 congregations with 321,000 members. This Church also claims 408,000 as adherents.

Catholic masses are held all throughout Luxembourg and in several languages: French (also in French for Africans), German, Dutch, Italian, Slovak, Portuguese, Polish, Italian, Hungarian, English, Spanish, and Croatian. The official website of Luxembourg's Roman Catholic Church: <http://www.cathol.lu/>.

*Orthodox Church* (less than 0.35%, around 5,000 members): The Orthodox Church in Luxembourg is mainly comprised of the Greek and Russian Orthodox expressions. Smaller Orthodox groups are Serbian and Romanian. Eastern Orthodoxy is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Christian denomination in the world.

In 1054, the Great Schism took place between Rome and Constantinople. The result was the separation of the church of the west, the Roman Catholic Church, and the church of the east, the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The two orthodox groups claim a total of 4000 members.

### **Protestants/Evangelicals/Pentecostals:**

The Protestants in Luxembourg number between 5,000 and 15,000 (1% to 3.2% of the population).

*Protestant Church of Luxembourg* (1,100 members): The Protestant Church of Luxembourg was founded by order of Grand Duke Adolphe on 16 April 1894. His purpose was to acknowledge the Protestant minority in a mainly Roman Catholic country. The Lutherans, Calvinists, and Waldensians, however, did not join the church. Today, with only around 1,100 members, the church is one of many Protestant churches in Luxembourg. The church is a member of the Alliance of Protestant Churches in Luxembourg. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant\\_Church\\_of\\_Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant_Church_of_Luxembourg))

*Protestant Reformed Church of Luxembourg*: The Protestant Reformed Church of Luxembourg was established by Grand Duke Jean's decree in 1982. The church adheres to the Helvetic or Helvetian creed (Calvinistic). The church is a member of the Alliance of Protestant Churches in Luxembourg. The church reported 5 congregations and some 1300 members.

*Evangelical Church in Germany*: In Luxembourg, the Evangelical Church in Germany is a Protestant church that is aligned with the German federation of 23 Lutheran, Reformed, and United churches. No other information found on the church in Luxembourg.

*Protestant Church in the Netherlands*: In Luxembourg, the Protestant Church in the Netherlands is affiliated with the PKN (*Protestantse Kerk in Nederland; Protestant Church in the Netherlands*), a 2004 merger of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Around 2,300,000 people are members of the PKN. The PKN has several congregations outside the Netherlands, including Luxembourg. For more info on the PKN, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant\\_Church\\_in\\_the\\_Netherlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant_Church_in_the_Netherlands).

*Church of England/Anglican Church*: The Church of England came into being when Henry VIII approved the Act of Supremacy in 1531. The Church broke with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Rome because the Pope refused to annul Henry's marriage. Henry VIII now became the head of the Church of England. Some of its practices and traditions have remained Roman Catholic in character; other aspects have undergone some reform. Having been established 50 years ago, the Anglican Church of Luxembourg meets in Luxembourg City. The church's website is <http://www.anglican.lu/splash.php>.

*Church of Scotland*: The largest Christian denomination in Scotland, the Church of Scotland was initially Roman Catholic. It underwent change during the Reformation period and became Presbyterian in 1690. The final authority over the church rests with the General Assembly. The church is active in missions work overseas. The church also has expressions in other European countries, including Luxembourg.

*Church of Denmark*: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark is Denmark's State Church. In 2002, more than 84% of the Danes were members but only around 5%



attended weekly services. The Church of Denmark in Luxembourg is one of the congregations outside Denmark.

*Assemblies of God:* The Assemblies of God has its roots in the Pentecostal revivals in the USA in the late 1800s, early 1900s. In 1914, the General Council of the Assemblies of God was founded in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Assemblies of God churches worldwide emphasize missions and evangelism. There are 2 Assemblies of God churches in Luxembourg (in Esch-sur-Alzette and in Luxembourg City). The church in Luxembourg City attracts around 150 people from 20 different nationalities to its weekly service. The website for the 2 churches is <http://www.jesus.lu/addlux/e/index.htm>.

*Mennonites:* The Mennonites form an Anabaptist group, deriving its name from the Anabaptist leader, Menno Simons (16<sup>th</sup> century). Among other tenets of faith, Mennonites affirm believer's baptism, pacifism, and a memorial understanding of the Lord's Supper. In their early days, Mennonites were persecuted and oppressed because of their religious beliefs. Nowadays, there are several Mennonite communities in the USA. Mennonite churches are scattered over Europe. In Luxembourg, there are 2 Mennonite congregations with around 110 members total. The 2 congregations are associated in the Association Mennonite Luxembourgeoise.

### **People Groups:**

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American, U.S. (1,300)

The American population is a melting pot of mainly Native American, European, and African American people groups. The official language is English, a West-Germanic language of the Indo-European language family. The majority of Americans adheres to the Christian faith.

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Arab (1,000)

The Arabs' native language is Arabic. There are only about 1,000 of them in Luxembourg with the majority most likely living in the capital. No other information found on this people group in Luxembourg.

366

British (4,700)

The Anglophones are English-speaking people from Great Britain. They consist of English, Scots, Welsh, and Irish people. These people groups share a similar culture with many individual/national elements. The majority belongs to the Christian faith.

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Caboverdian Mestico (3,000)

The Caboverdian Mestico's homeland is the Cape Verde Islands – a dependency of Portugal. The official language is Portuguese, a Western language of the Romance language group. The majority of the Caboverdian Mestico is Roman Catholic.

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Danish (2,100)

The Danish in Luxembourg originated from Denmark, the most densely populated of the Scandinavian countries. Like other Scandinavian people groups, the Danes are descendants of the early Vikings. The Danish are generally tall with fair skin and light-colored eyes, which make this people group look similar to the Norwegians. The majority of the Danes professes the Lutheran faith.

000

Deaf (24,373)

The deaf in Luxembourg form a separate people group. The only specialized institution for education of deaf children between 0 and 16 years of age is the 'Centre de Logopédie' (CL). CL "is a public school at the border of Luxembourg-City. Children with all degrees of hearing-impairment, including those with a language-disturbance or a delay of the development of language, are educated at the CL. The state guarantees transport and lunch for the pupils" (<http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/publications/on-linemagazine/models/luxembourg.htm>). The main challenge the deaf face is the use of multiple languages – Luxembourgish, German, and French. Moreover, nearly 50% of the students at CL "are foreigners with Portuguese, Italian or another language as mother tongue," which only adds to the challenge of the deaf (<http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/publications/on-linemagazine/models/luxembourg.htm>).

367

Dutch (4,000)

The Dutch are a western-Germanic people. They speak Dutch and/or Frisian along with many dialects. The Dutch are known as hardworking, devout, yet tolerant and liberal people. Most of the Christians belong to the Roman Catholic and the Reformed churches. The Dutch are tall with fair skin.

373

Fleming and Walloon (12,000)

The Belgians are mainly made up of Flemish and Walloon people. The Flemish originate from the western part of Belgium, whereas the Walloon come from the eastern part of Belgium. The Flemish, a Germanic people, are closely related to the Dutch. The majority of the Flemish adheres to the Roman Catholic faith. The Flemish language is closely related to Dutch, a Germanic language. The Flemish language has been suppressed by the French language that is spoken by the Walloons, a Latin people. The Walloons are shorter and darker than the Flemish. Like the Flemish, the majority of the Walloons confess the Roman Catholic faith.

368

French (22,000)

The French in Luxembourg come from neighboring France, one of the most powerful nations in the world. The French are a Latin people with a mix of Germanic, Mediterranean, and other European peoples. French is one of the Gallo-Romance languages (part of the Romance group of Indo-European languages). Close to 90% of the French is Roman Catholic. Although the majority of the population belongs to the Roman



Catholic Church, most of the people are secular. For centuries, the French have been known for their art, letters, and fashion.

369

German (11,000)

The Germans form an ancient ethnic group, dating back as far as the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The official language is German (Deutsch or Hochdeutsch). There are many local dialects in addition to the official language. The northern Germans are mostly Protestant (Lutheran) and the southern Germans mostly Roman Catholic.

370

Italian (20,000)

The Italians are a Latin people with a mixture of Germanic and Mediterranean people groups. Known for their long and glorious history, the Italians are predominantly Roman Catholic (84%). However, church attendance is only about 25%. Standard Italian is the official language but different dialects are spoken all throughout the country.

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Jew, German (800)

The first record of Jews in Luxembourg dates back to 1276. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries the Jews were expelled twice from Luxembourg. Some families resettled in Luxembourg and finally in 1823, the first synagogue was opened. By 1927, the Jewish community number 1,171. In the 1930s, the number reached around 4,000 due to the migration of Jews from Germany. Only around 1,555 Jews living in Luxembourg survived the Holocaust. The present Jewish population is made up of Holocaust survivors and immigrants. (Information taken from <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Luxembourg.html>) The Jews speak the local languages.

371

Luxembourgeois (273,000)

The Luxembourgeois are Germanic of a French and German blend. They have a distinct national consciousness. Around 95% of the Luxembourgeois are Roman Catholic. A small minority is Protestant. The official national language is Luxembourgish. In addition, French and German (both official languages) are spoken by most Luxembourgeois.

372

Portuguese (94,000)

A Latin people, the Portuguese display Iberian, Roman, Visigoth, and Moorish ethnic elements. Having 4 distinct dialects, the Portuguese language is a Western language of the Romance language group. Around 97% of the Portuguese consider themselves Roman Catholic.

42468

Spaniard (4,100)

The Spaniards, an Iberian people, are descendants of early Iberians, Celts, and Romans. Semitic, Teutonic, and Mediterranean elements influenced the Spanish culture. Other important influences on the Spanish music, food, and culture are the Rom population and the Latin-American populations. Around 97% of the Spaniards profess Roman Catholicism. The Spanish language is descended from the Vulgar Latin and has 7 major dialects.

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Swedish (1,300)

The Swedes, tall and often very fair with light eyes, are a Scandinavian people and as such related to the Danes and Norwegians. They are descendants of the early Vikings. Around 94% of the Swedes belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Swedish language, spoken in 4 major dialects, is an East Scandinavian language of the North Germanic language group.

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Yugoslav former, generic (12,000)

The Yugoslavs are mainly made up of Sanjakis, Montenegrins, and Serbs. The Sanjakis or Sanjak Muslims are a South Slav people related to the Bosnians. The Sanjaki culture contains many Turkish elements. Their language, Sanjaki, is a dialect of Serbian, written in the Cyrillic alphabet. The majority of the Sanjakis are Sunni Muslim.

The Montenegrins, a South Slav people, are ethnically Serbs but consider themselves a separate people. The Montenegrins, a mountain people, adhered to a clan system well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The males are known for their personal tenacity and combat skills, while the women are known for performing their traditional roles. The language, a dialect of the Serbian branch of the Serbo-Croatian language, uses the Cyrillic alphabet. Most of the Montenegrins consider themselves Montenegrin Orthodox Christians. A minority of Montenegrins are Muslims.

The Serbians are the largest of the South Slav people groups. The Turks greatly influenced the Serbian language and culture. The Serbian/Serbo-Croatian language, written in the Cyrillic alphabet, is a western language of the South Slav language group. It has 4 major dialects: Chakavian, Kajkavian, Stokavian, and Torlakian. The majority of Serbs adhere to the Serbian Orthodox tradition.

### **Missiological Implications:**

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should consider the evangelization of the minority populations in Luxembourg. The Portuguese population that numbers over 94,000, the Italians with 20,000, and the Spanish with more than 4200 should be approached with the gospel.
2. The people of Luxembourg should be approached in their own heart language (Lëtzebuergesch). The Bible and the Jesus Film in this language might lead to a major breakthrough. Many of the Catholics of Luxembourg are nominal and others are moving toward Buddhism and New Age teachings.

3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should help believers in Luxembourg train in ways of reaching and sharing the Gospel with Roman Catholics. Christian groups could train locals in the better methods of witnessing to Catholics and Moslems.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek ways to reach the non-religious who make up 4.5% of the population or more than 20,000 people. An approach through some form of lecture series or studies might open this door.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should introduce the methods related to house churches as a means to reach more of the people who are nominally Catholic in Luxembourg.

Pictures:

See separate folder.

Links:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg>

<http://www.gouvernement.lu/> The official government site in French

<http://www.ont.lu/home-en.html> The official tourist information site, available in English

<http://www.statec.public.lu/fr/index.html> The official statistics site in French

<http://visitluxembourg.com> Another tourist information site, available in English