

Religion Regulation Index - Summary Categories

The Religion Regulation Index, Summary Categories, groups countries into categories based on the level of restrictions that a government may place on the majority religion or all religions. This measure was constructed from the 29 measures from the Religion and State 3 (RAS3) Religion Regulation Index. The Religion and State project is a university-based project located at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel and is directed by Jonathan Fox.

Each of the 29 items in this index is coded on the following scale:

- 3 = The activity is illegal or the government engages in this activity often and on a large scale.
- 2 = Significant restrictions including practical restrictions or the government engages in this activity occasionally and on a moderate scale.
- 1 = Slight restrictions including practical restrictions or the government engages in this activity rarely and on a small scale
- 0 = No restrictions

The 29 measures are grouped by types of restriction below. [The methods used for conducting the collection](#) and [the complete codebook](#) can be reviewed online. Or, the codebook and data file can be downloaded free of charge [here](#).

Countries are then grouped into four categories of religious regulation, where 0=None; 1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High.

Restrictions on Religion's Political Role

- **nx01:** Restrictions on religious political parties.
- **nx02:** Restrictions on trade associations or other civil associations being affiliated with religion.
- **nx03:** Restrictions on clergy holding political office.
- **nx04:** Restrictions or monitoring of sermons by clergy. (this generally applies to political speech)
- **nx05:** Restrictions on clergy/religious organizations engaging in public political speech (other than sermons) or propaganda or on political activity in or by religious institutions.

Restrictions on Religious Institutions

- **nx06:** Restrictions/harassment of members and organizations of the majority religion who operate outside of the state sponsored or recognized ecclesiastical framework (do not code arrests for activities that are commonly considered criminal unless these charges seem to be pretexts).
- **nx07:** Restrictions on formal religious organizations other than political parties
- **nx08:** Restrictions on access to places of worship.
- **nx09:** Foreign religious organizations are required to have a local sponsor or affiliation.
- **nx10:** Heads of religious organizations (e.g., bishops) must be citizens of the state.

- **nx11:** All practicing clergy must be citizens of the state.
- **nx12:** The government appoints (code as 3) or must approve (code as 2) clerical appointments or somehow takes part in the appointment process (code as 1).
- **nx13:** Other than appointments, the government legislates or otherwise officially influences the internal workings or organization of religious institutions and organizations.
- **nx14:** Laws governing the state religions are passed by the government or require the government's approval.

Restrictions on Religious Practices

- **nx15:** Restrictions on the public observance of religious practices, including religious holidays and the Sabbath.
- **nx16:** Restrictions on religious activities outside of recognized religious facilities.
- **nx17:** Restrictions on the publication or dissemination of written religious material.
- **nx18:** People are arrested for religious activities.
- **nx19:** Restrictions on religious public gatherings that are not placed on other types of public gathering.
- **nx20:** Restrictions on the public display by private persons or organizations of religious symbols, including (but not limited to) religious dress, the presence or absence of facial hair, nativity scenes/icons.
- **nx21:** Conscientious objectors to military service are not allowed alternative service and are prosecuted.

Other Regulation of Religion

- **nx22:** Arrest/detention/ harassment of religious figures, officials and/or members of religious parties.
- **nx23:** Restrictions on public religious speech.
- **nx24:** Restrictions on religious-based hate speech.
- **nx25:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education in public schools.
- **nx26:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education outside public schools.
- **nx27:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education at the university level.
- **nx28:** State ownership of some religious property or buildings.
- **nx29:** Other religious restrictions. Specify: