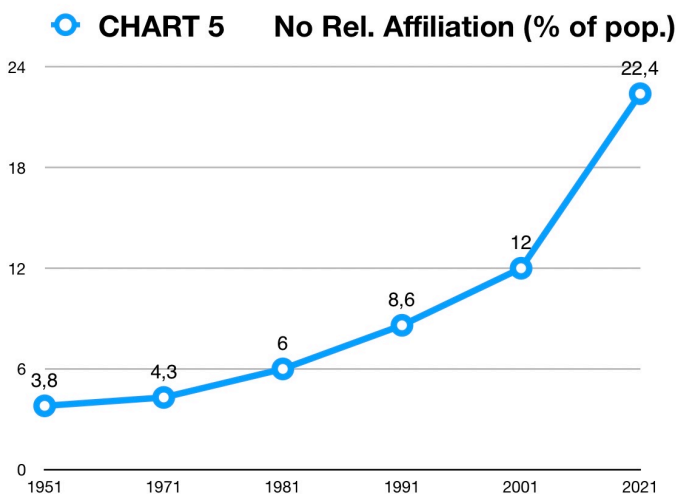
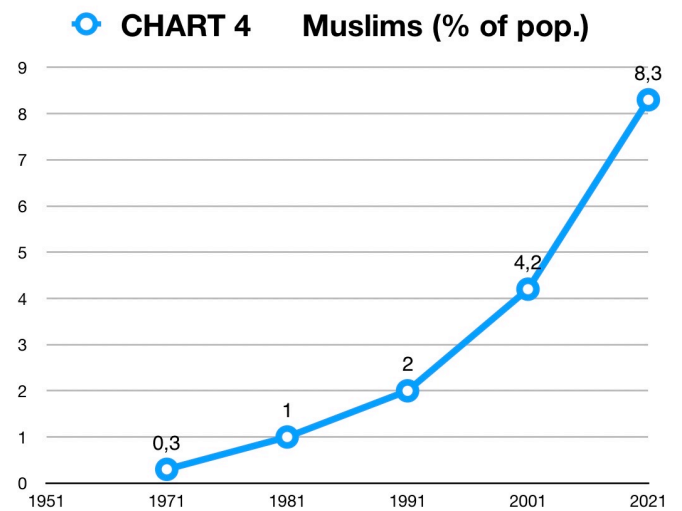
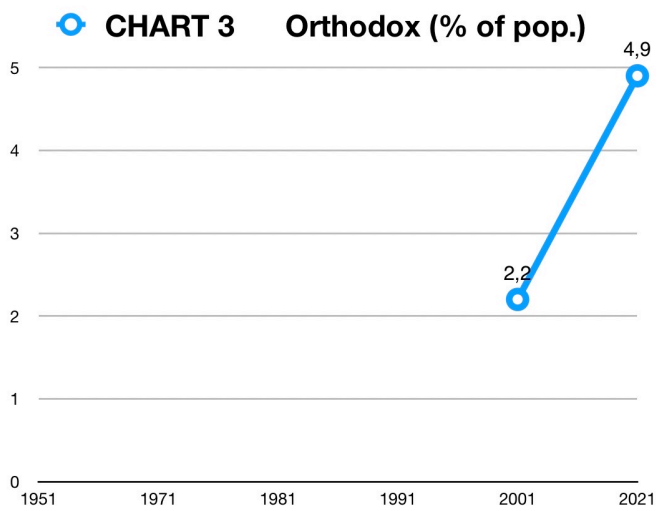
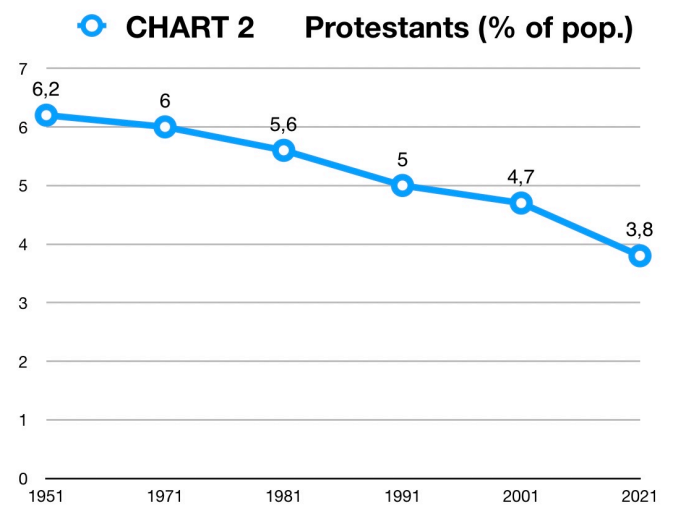
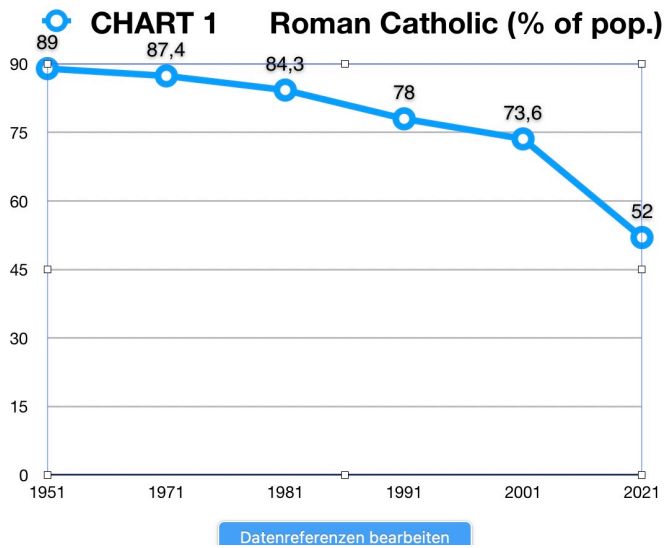


Religion in Austria (only Charts)



WHERE ARE THE FREE CHURCHES IN ALL OF THIS?

CHART 6 Congregations All Free Ch.

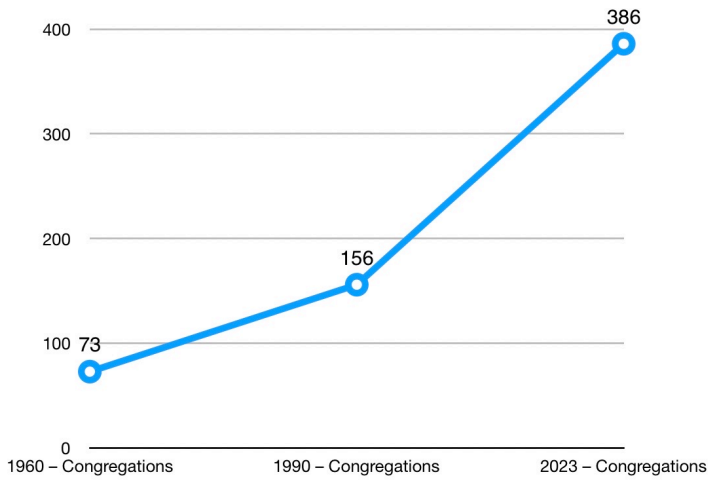


CHART 7 Members All Free Churches

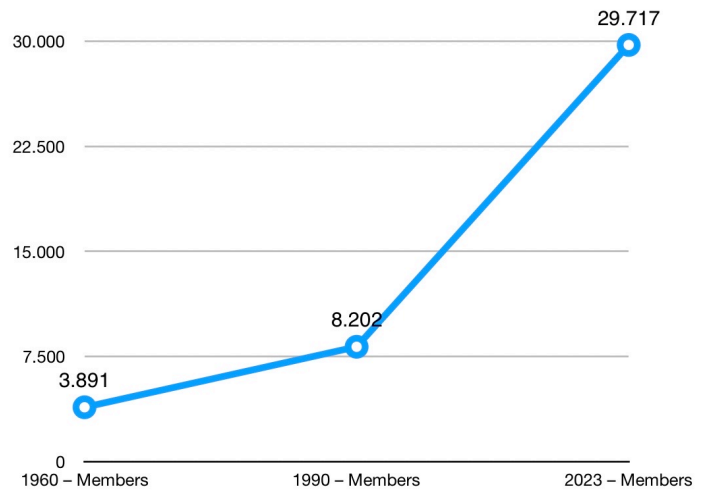
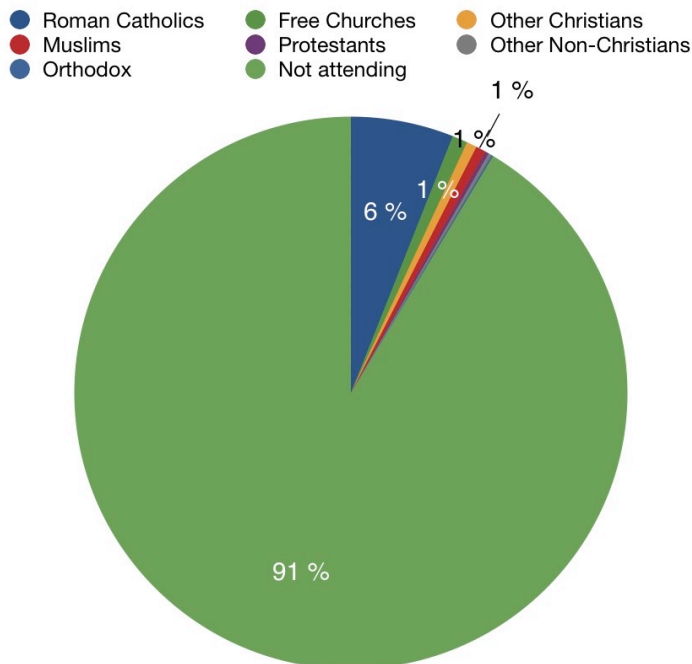


CHART 8 Attendance of Religious Services, Steyr 2005



Franz Rathmair, Juli 2023

You can download these pages together with an expanded version that includes the tables and more details here:
<https://rathmair.eu/resources/Religion-in-Austria-2023.pdf>



Religion in Austria (with Tables)

TABLE 1 Development of Major Religious Groups in Austria, 1950 – 2022

	1951	1971	1981	1991	2001	2021
Roman Catholic	89	87,4	84,3	78	73,6	52
Protestant Church	6,2	6,0	5,6	5,0	4,7	3,8
Orthodox					2,2	4,9
Muslims		0,3	1,0	2,0	4,2	8,3
Others	0,3	1,0	1,6	2,5	0,9	5,3
No religion	3,8	4,3	6,0	8,6	12,0	22,4

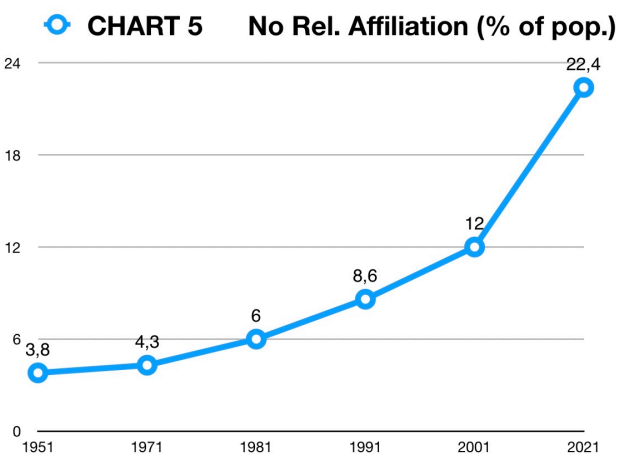
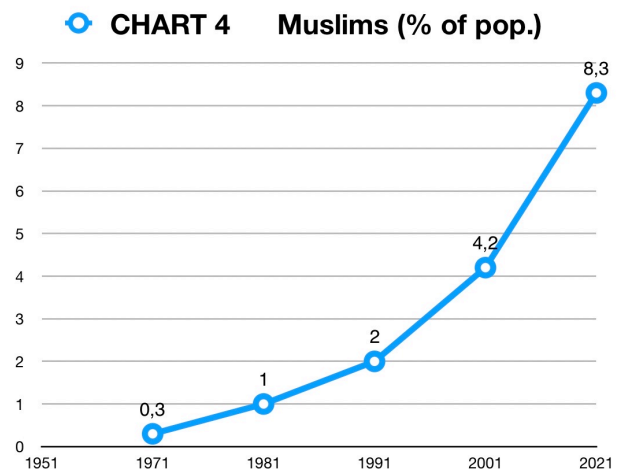
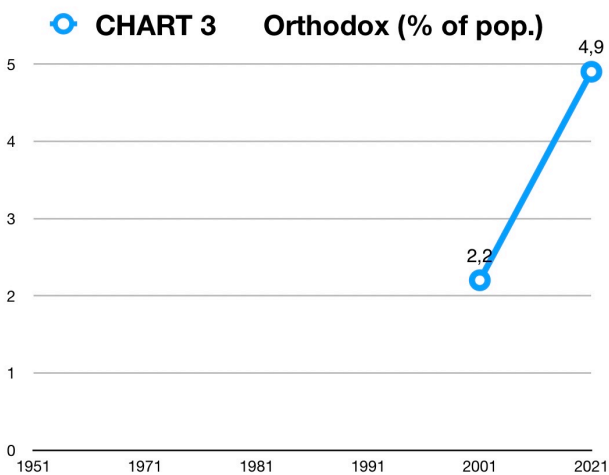
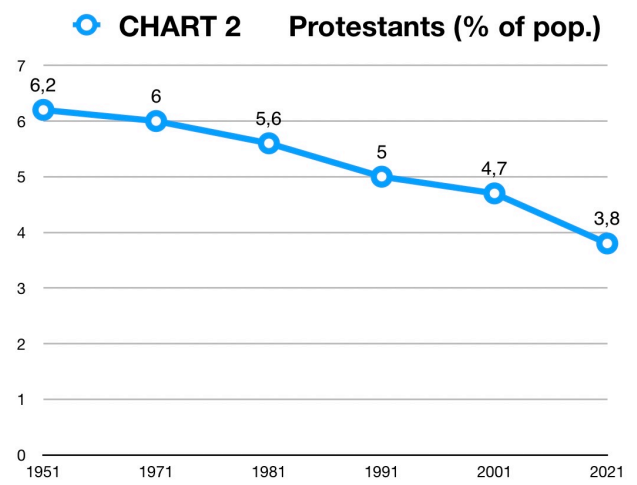
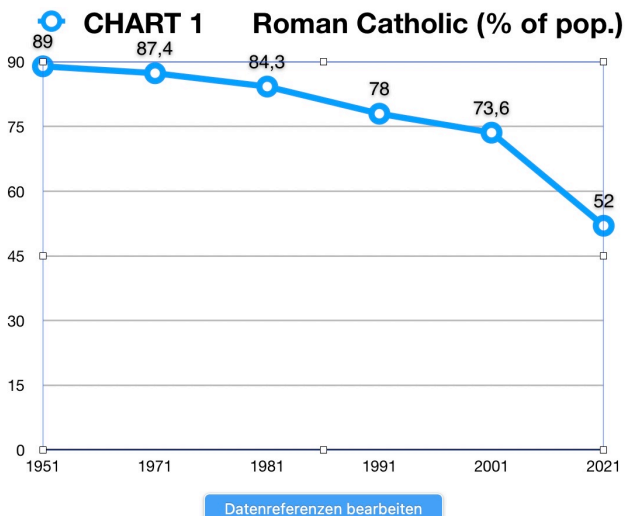


TABLE 2 Growth of all Free Church Denominations in Austria, 1960 – 2023

	1960 – Congregations	1960 – Members	1990 – Congregations	1990 – Members	2023 – Congregations	2023 – Members
Baptists (FKÖ)	8	400	10	700	28	1.999
Open Brethren (FKÖ)	5	200	13	500		
Mennonite (FKÖ)	4	60	7	297	6	394
Volksmision	3	130	9	500		
Tulpengasse Vienna			7	410		
Alliance Team Mission			4	120		
Other independent churches			8	250		
Evangelical Free BEG (start 1992) (FKÖ)			17	550	63	2.884
FCG Pentecostals	12	400	24	950	124	7.173
Closed Brethren (Colvin)			8	400	52	3.125
Church of God (Rumanians)			6	500	46	9.200
Elaia-Gemeinden (FKÖ)					10	600
House Churches						
Others (Heilsarmee, Gem. für Christus, etc.)						
Adventists	41	2.701	43	3.025	57	4.342
Total	73	3.891	156	8.202	386	29.717
Total without Adventists	32	1.190	113	5.177	329	25.375

CHART 6 Congregations All Free Ch.

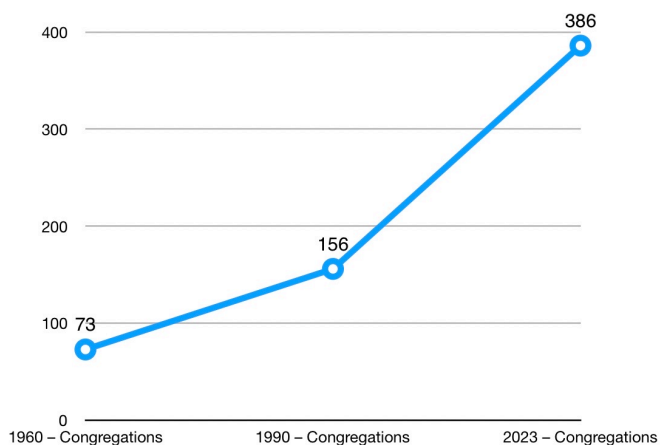


CHART 7 Members All Free Churches

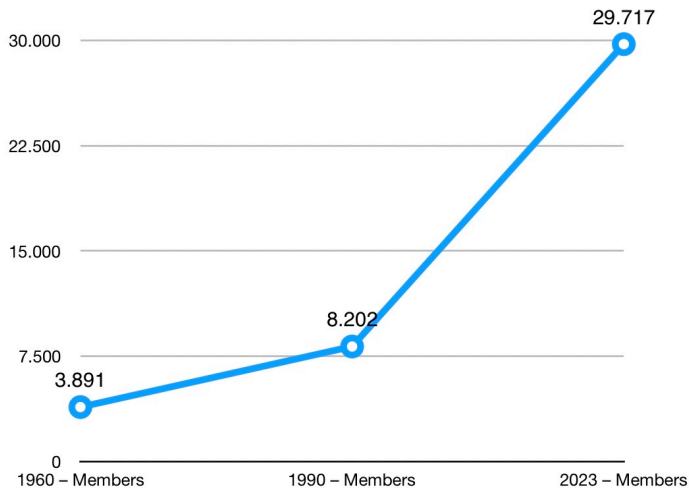
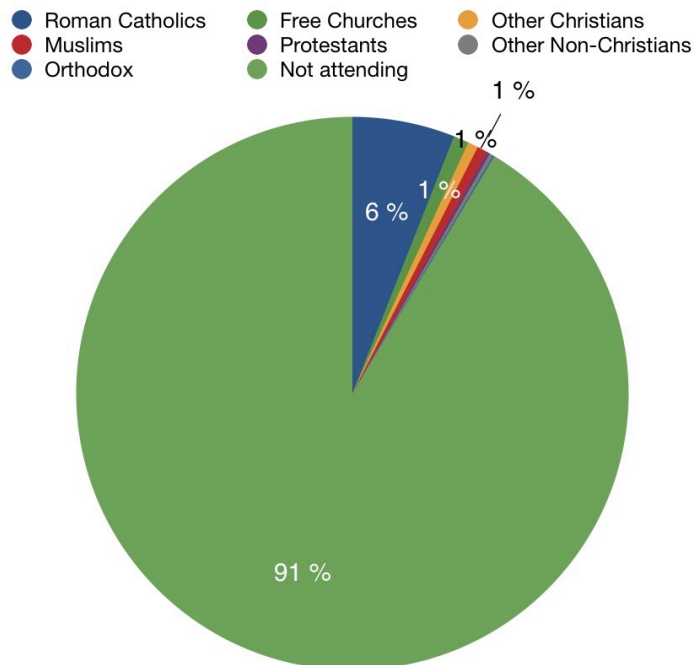


TABLE 3 Attending religious services in Steyr Study 2005

	Percentage of population	Out of 1.000 people (rounded)	Out of 40.000
Roman Catholics	6,0	60	2.400
Free Churches	0,9	9	360
Other Christians	0,6	6	360
Muslims	0,6	6	240
Protestants	0,2	2	80
Other Non-Christians	0,2	2	80
Orthodox	0,1	1	40
Not attending	91,4	914	36.560
Total	100,0	1.000	40.000

CHART 8 Attendance of Religious Services, Steyr 2005



Religion in Austria

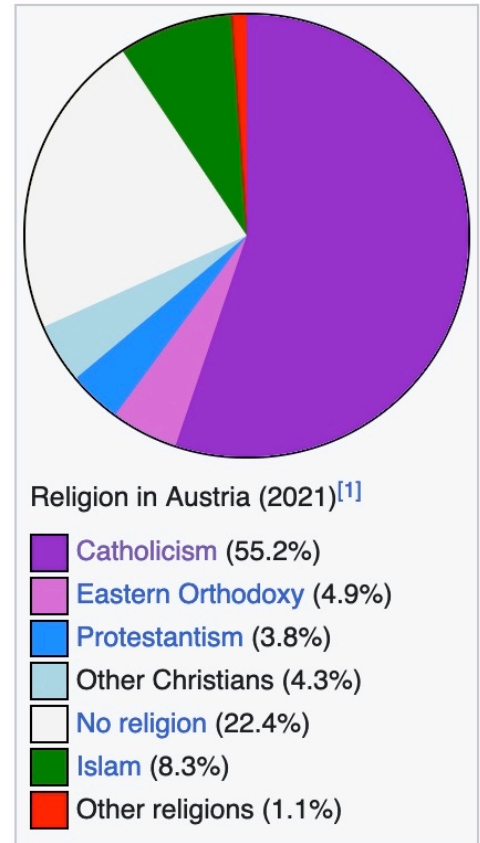
From Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Austria

Religion in Austria is predominantly [Christianity](#), adhered to by 68.2% of the country's population according to the 2021 national survey^[a] conducted by [Statistics Austria](#).^[1] Among Christians, 80.9% were [Catholics](#), 7.2% were Orthodox Christians (mostly belonging to the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#)), 5.6% were [Protestants](#), while the remaining 6.2% were other Christians, belonging to other denominations of the religion or not affiliated to any denomination.^[1] In the same census, 8.3% of the Austrians declared that their religion was [Islam](#), 1.2% declared to believe in other non-Christian religions (including [Buddhism](#), [Hinduism](#), [Judaism](#) and others), and 22.4% declared they did not belong to any religion, denomination or religious community.^[1]

According to church membership data, in 2021 53.9% of the population were Roman Catholics^[2] and 3.0% adhered to Protestant churches.^[3]

Austria was historically a strongly Catholic country, having been the centre of the [Habsburg monarchy](#) (1273–1918) which championed Roman Catholicism.^[4] Although in the 16th century many Austrians converted to [Protestantism](#), [Lutheranism](#) in particular, as the [Protestant Reformation](#) (begun in 1517) was spreading across Europe, the Habsburgs enacted measures of [Counter-Reformation](#) as early as 1527 and harshly repressed Austrian Protestantism, albeit a minority of Austrians remained Protestant.^[4] A few decades after the fall of the Habsburg monarchy at the end of the [World War I](#), and the transformation of Austria into a [federal](#) republic, at least since the 1970s there has been a decline of Christianity (with the exception of Orthodox churches) and a proliferation of other religions, a process which has been particularly pronounced in the capital state of [Vienna](#).^[5]

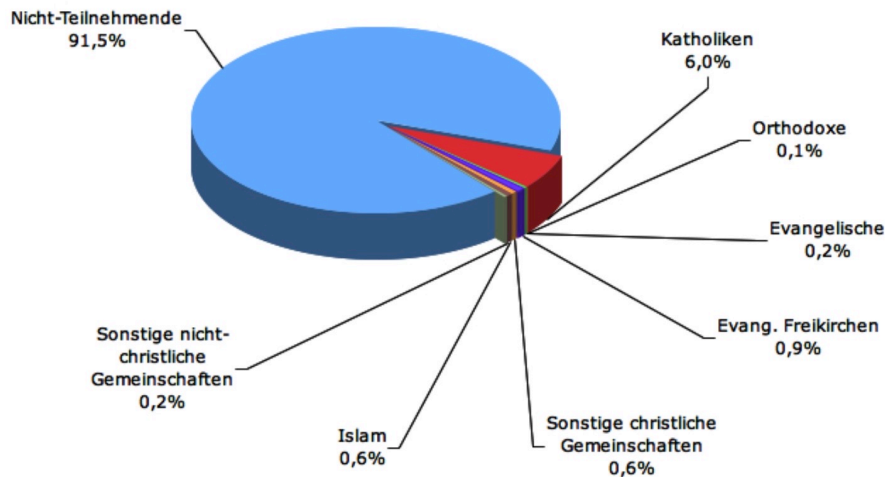
Between the censuses of 1971 and 2021, Christianity declined from 93.8% to 68.2% of the Austrian population (Catholicism from 87.4% to 55.2%, and Protestantism from 6% to 3.8%, while Orthodox Christianity grew from 2.2% to 4.9% between 2001 and 2021).^[1] During the same timespan, [Islam](#) grew from being the religion of 0.2% to 8.3% of the Austrian population (see chart), and the proportion of people neither affiliating with nor belonging to any religion grew from 4.3% to 22.4%.^[1]



Religion in Steyr

From a study I did in 2005 just a chart that shows how few residents of Steyr (40.000) attended a church or mosque etc.

Abb. 48 Gottesdienstbesuch von Gesamtbevölkerung in „Blöcken“, Steyr 2004



Meanwhile, almost 20 years later, and after Covid-19 made it even easier to not attend any religious meeting, these figures definitely will be even lower now...

Jesus is building his church

The number of church plants in Austria has grown considerably since the 1970's, when I became part of a small free church in Steyr.

In 2013 something special happened: Five free church denominations banded together and formed a new ecclesiastical entity, **Freikirchen in Austria**, which is now state recognized church body, on the same level as the catholic, lutheran and other churches. More than 160 congregations belong to this body. In addition, there are quite a number of congregations outside of the state recognized Freikirchen who are thriving. Those churches that are growing and multiplying are usually from a migrant background and/or have a strong emphasis in discipleship.

All together, there were already in 2007, when I researched the numbers, about twice as many people worshipping on any given Sunday in all the free church congregations in Austria combined, than in all the protestant (Lutheran) parishes. Now it will be even more.

However, when religion is discussed in media or statistics quoted, Freikirchen are hardly acknowledged to even exist. Yet, things are changing slowly as more and more people come to a living faith in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord.