



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on Church Growth and Missionary Work for
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

April 2026

WELCOME!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and missionary news stories and present a synopsis of recently completed educational resources and research. We are a privately funded initiative that provides resources online without cost. The Cumorah Foundation is not authorized or approved by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or any other group.

CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENTS

New Stakes

(provided with chronological ranking and date of creation)

- 22. Santa Rosa de Copan Honduras - April 19th, 2026
- 23. Tartagal Argentina - April 19th, 2026
- 24. Copperbelt Zambia - April 26th, 2026
- 25. Mebane North Carolina Stake - April 26th, 2026

New Districts

- 6. Quelimane Mozambique - April 12th, 2026
- 7. Nkayi Republic of the Congo - April 19th, 2026

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Districts

- 2. Oran Argentina

Locations Recently Closed by the Church

Cities where the only ward or branch was closed; some of these cities may continue to have a dependent unit and/or missionaries assigned.

- São Lourenço do Sul, Brazil
- Willows, California
- Bernburg, Germany
- Houghton Lake, Michigan
- Siler City, North Carolina
- Millersburg, Pennsylvania

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(Locations where the first ward, branch, or member group was recently organized)

- Roeselare, Belgium
- Buenaventura, Cuba
- Dobales, Cuba
- Tasajera, Cuba
- Lwambo, DR Congo
- Punia, DR Congo
- Tshileo, DR Congo
- Ubundu, DR Congo
- Maiao, French Polynesia
- Akwatia, Ghana
- Las Flores, Honduras
- Marakusi, Kenya
- Ihugh, Nigeria
- Ichi-Ukwu, Nigeria
- Jattu, Nigeria
- Oke, Nigeria
- El Valle de Pachacamac, Peru
- Tocache, Peru
- Baggao, Philippines
- El Nido, Philippines
- Kauswagan, Philippines
- Libacao, Philippines
- Malvar, Philippines
- Mina, Philippines
- Keur Massar, Senegal
- Serabu, Sierra Leone
- Mankweng, South Africa
- Effel Flats, Zimbabwe

2025 Statistical Report

The Church released the 2025 Statistical Report in April reflecting key growth metrics for the Church as of December 31st, 2025.

- **Membership:** 17,887,212 (increase of 377,431 from 2024; a 2.16% annual increase)
- **Congregations:** 32,046 (increase of 370 from 2024; a 1.17% annual increase)
- **Stakes:** 3,695 (increase of 87 from 2024; a 2.41% annual increase)
- **Districts:** 488 (decrease of 6 from 2024; a 1.2% annual decrease)
- **Missions:** 451 (increase of 1 from 2024; a 0.22% annual increase)
- **Convert Baptisms:** 385,490 (increase of 76,808 from 2024; a 24.9% annual increase)
- **Increase of Children on Record:** 91,835 (increase of 218 from 2024; a 0.24% annual increase)
- **Full-time Teaching Missionaries:** 78,596 (increase of 4,469 from 2024; a 6.03% annual increase)
- **Senior Service Missionaries:** 31,613 (increase of 493 from 2024; an 1.58% annual increase)
- **Young Service Missionaries:** 4,518 (increase of 326 from 2024; a 7.78% annual increase)

2025 Country-by-Country Church-Reported Statistics Released

During the month of April, the Church released country-specific statistical information as of year-end 2025. See below for a list of countries with the highest membership and congregational growth rates for the year provided with the rate of annual growth. Total church-reported membership as of the end of the year is included for the membership growth list. Stake growth by country is also provided below.

2025 MEMBERSHIP GROWTH (AT LEAST 10% ANNUAL GROWTH)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Solomon Islands - 98.7% - 3,232 | 23. Turkey - 15.8% - 808 |
| 2. Montenegro - 91.2% - 65 | 24. Reunion - 15.1% - 989 |
| 3. Georgia - 59.1% - 498 | 25. Namibia - 15.0% - 1,492 |
| 4. Rwanda - 45.6% - 3,625 | 26. Puerto Rico - 14.9% - 26,947 |
| 5. Israel - 36.1% - 422 | 27. Burundi - 14.6% - 2,070 |
| 6. Palau - 35.9% - 572 | 28. Jamaica - 14.3% - 7,856 |
| 7. Malawi - 32.3% - 7,857 | 29. Zimbabwe - 13.8% - 52,430 |
| 8. Central African Republic - 27.1% - 357 | 30. Republic of the Congo - 13.1% - 15,482 |
| 9. Tanzania - 24.6% - 6,259 | 31. Botswana - 12.9% - 5,465 |
| 10. Mozambique - 24.2% - 39,282 | 32. Papua New Guinea - 12.9% - 46,583 |
| 11. Sint Maarten - 23.9% - 358 | 33. Serbia - 12.8% - 422 |
| 12. Niue - 23.8% - 400 | 34. Croatia - 12.7% - 739 |
| 13. Malta - 21.7% - 320 | 35. Nauru - 11.5% - 146 |
| 14. Sierra Leone - 20.7% - 41,775 | 36. United States Virgin Islands - 11.2% - 704 |
| 15. Lesotho - 20.5% - 2,278 | 37. Liberia - 11.0% - 25,767 |
| 16. Angola - 19.9% - 8,779 | 38. Eswatini - 10.7% - 2,598 |
| 17. St. Kitts and Nevis - 19.7% - 292 | 39. Zambia - 10.6% - 7,823 |
| 18. DR Congo - 19.2% - 159,771 | 40. United Arab Emirates - 10.6% - 2,002 |
| 19. Madagascar - 17.7% - 20,395 | 41. Cyprus - 10.6% - 701 |
| 20. Benin - 17.2% - 8,286 | 42. Cameroon - 10.4% - 3,673 |
| 21. Ireland - 16.9% - 4,923 | 43. Macau - 10.4% - 1,595 |
| 22. Kenya - 15.8% - 24,547 | 44. Iceland - 10.2% - 445 |

2025 CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH (NET INCREASE OF 4 OR MORE UNITS)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. DR Congo +85 (24.6% increase) | 14. Uganda +8 (14.8% increase) |
| 2. United States +63 (0.43% increase) | 15. Cote d'Ivoire +7 (2.62% increase) |
| 3. Philippines +46 (3.47% increase) | 16. Botswana +6 (35.3% increase) |
| 4. Nigeria +40 (4.76% increase) | 17. Republic of the Congo +6 (16.2% increase) |
| 5. Kenya +26 (34.2% increase) | 18. Haiti +6 (12.0% increase) |
| 6. Sierra Leone +24 (25.5% increase) | 19. Liberia +6 (7.50% increase) |
| 7. Zimbabwe +21 (20.6% increase) | 20. Madagascar +6 (13.0% increase) |
| 8. Ghana +14 (3.62% increase) | 21. Bolivia +5 (1.75% increase) |
| 9. Peru +12 (1.51% increase) | 22. Angola +4 (13.8% increase) |
| 10. Spain +12 (8.70% increase) | 23. Australia +4 (1.35% increase) |
| 11. Tanzania +11 (32.4% increase) | 24. Ecuador +4 (1.20% increase) |
| 12. Argentina +10 (1.37% increase) | 25. Guatemala +4 (0.92% increase) |
| 13. Mozambique +10 (12.5% increase) | 26. Solomon Islands +4 (66.7% increase) |

2025 STAKE GROWTH (NET INCREASE)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. United States +33 (1.9% increase) | 13. Mozambique +2 (25.0% increase) |
| 2. DR Congo +12 (37.5% increase) | 14. Spain +2 (13.3% increase) |
| 3. Philippines +10 (7.6% increase) | 15. Cameroon +1 (first stake organized) |
| 4. Papua New Guinea +4 (200.0% increase) | 16. Colombia +1 (3.2% increase) |
| 5. Canada +3 (5.7% increase) | 17. Republic of the Congo +1 (25.0% increase) |
| 6. Nigeria +3 (3.9% increase) | 18. Liberia +1 (16.7% increase) |
| 7. Peru +3 (2.6% increase) | 19. Madagascar +1 (25.0% increase) |
| 8. Brazil +2 (0.7% increase) | 20. Mexico +1 (0.4% increase) |
| 9. Chile +2 (2.5% increase) | 21. Portugal +1 (14.3% increase) |
| 10. Cote d'Ivoire +2 (9.5% increase) | 22. Tanzania +1 (first stake organized) |
| 11. Kiribati +2 (100.0% increase) | 23. Uganda +1 (33.3% increase) |
| 12. Malawi +2 (first stakes organized) | 24. Zimbabwe +1 (9.1% increase) |

The following countries reported a loss in the number of members, congregations, or stakes during 2025. Rankings are in descending order of growth rate (for membership) or net change (for congregations and stakes).

Membership

1. Bahrain - -16.3% - 231
2. Barbados - -10.2% - 1,082
3. Isle of Man - -3.06% - 285
4. Guernsey - -1.64% - 60
5. Armenia - -1.27% - 3,579
6. Cook Islands - -1.15% - 1,890
7. Trinidad and Tobago - -1.12% - 3,458
8. Netherlands - -0.99% - 9,027
9. Albania - -0.96% - 3,285
10. Indonesia - -0.61% - 7,655
11. Jersey - -0.37% - 269
12. United States - 0.00% - 6,929,770

Congregations

1. Brazil **-88** (4.20% decrease)
2. Russia **-5** (8.93% decrease)
3. United Kingdom **-5** (1.65% decrease)

Stakes

1. New Zealand **-1** (3.4% decrease)
2. Russia **-1** (33.3% decrease)

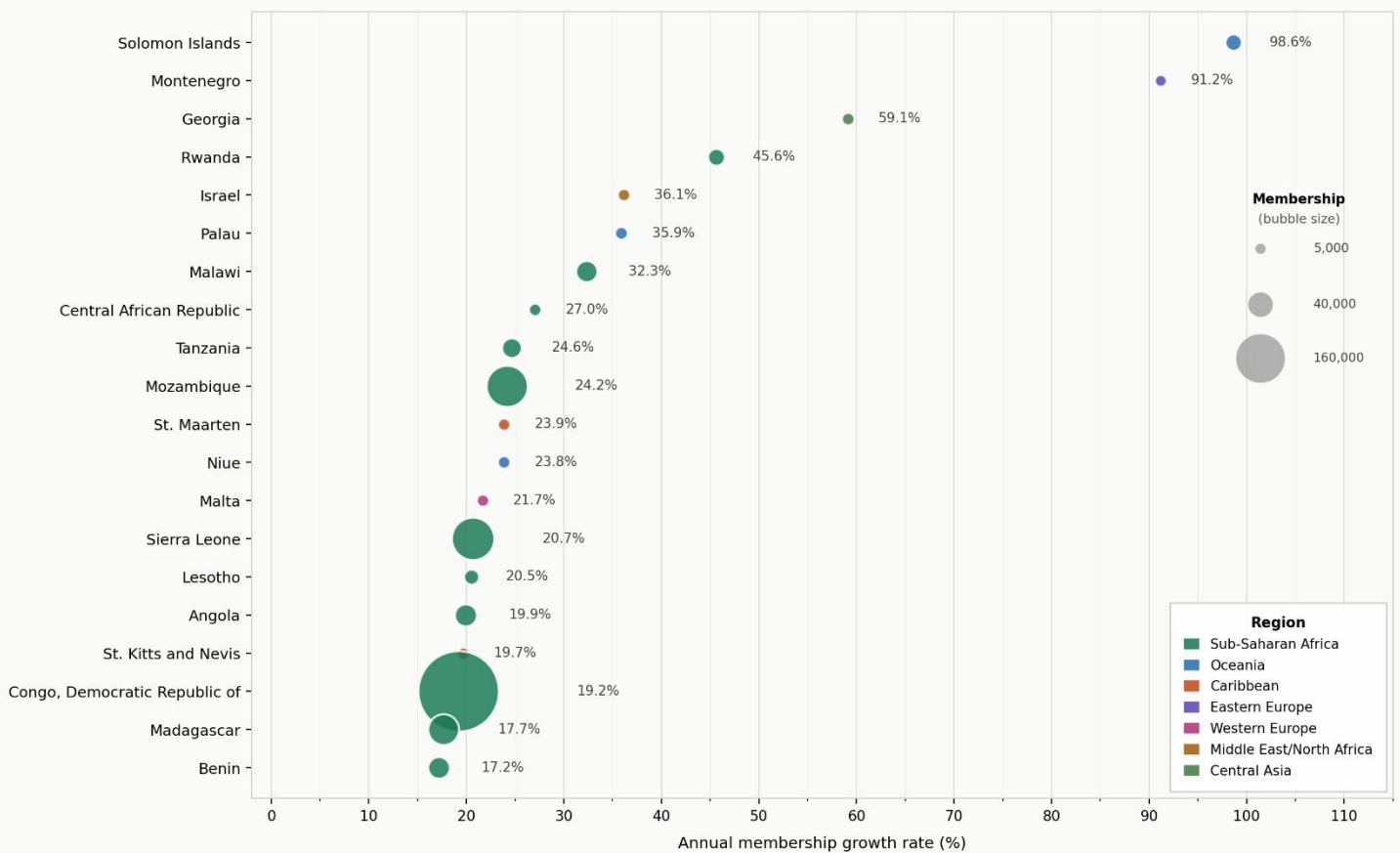
Here are a few key takeaways from these data:

Church Membership Surpasses 1 Million in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa surpassed one million members for the first time in Church history during 2025. Combined membership for all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa increased from approximately 934,000 in 2024 to approximately 1.05 million by year-end 2025—an increase of more than 110,000 members in a single year. This milestone represents one of the most important developments in the worldwide Church, further underscoring the accelerating shift in the center of Church growth toward Africa. Several African countries also reported some of the highest rates of congregational and stake growth in the world. The DR Congo has stood out as the nation with the largest membership with the most dynamic growth. Church membership in the DR Congo grew from 89,000 in 2021 to nearly 160,000 in 2025 — nearly doubling in four years — while its stake count grew from 26 to 44 in just three years. At the current trajectory, there may be as many as 200,000 members in the DR Congo in 2–3 years. Nigeria also continued to experience some of the most significant absolute membership growth in the world during 2025. Church membership increased by more than 23,000 during the year to approximately 274,000 members, and the country appears likely to surpass 300,000 members within the next one to two years if current growth rates continue. The number of active members in Africa continues to increase and the maturing Church in many nations has warranted the creation of the first stakes, including in Cameroon, Malawi, and Tanzania. Moreover, countries with the highest membership growth rates in 2025 were overwhelmingly in Africa. See below for a graph displaying the top 20 countries by membership growth rate in 2025 and geographic region.

2025 Membership Growth Rate — Top 20 Countries

Bubble size proportional to total church-reported membership as of December 31, 2025.



Significant Expansion of Stakes in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

PNG experienced one of the most significant developments in stake growth anywhere in the world during 2025. After maintaining only two stakes from 2011 through 2024, the number of stakes in the country increased from two to six during 2025, tripling the total number of stakes nationwide. Combined with annual membership growth of 12.9% and total membership approaching 47,000, PNG appears to be rapidly maturing into one of the fastest-growing Church communities in the Pacific with a sizable church membership. With two new missions scheduled to be organized this summer (for a total of four missions), there appears to be substantial potential for further acceleration of growth and expansion.

Consolidations of Congregations Continue in Brazil

Brazil's net decline of 88 congregations during 2025 continued a multi-year trend of consolidation and contraction in the Church's congregational infrastructure in the country. The reduction in congregations appears to reflect ongoing efforts to consolidate wards and branches in order to establish congregations with larger numbers of active members (member reports have indicated that many wards have recently had 50-80 active members prior to these consolidations). Brazil's total number of wards and branches has declined from a recent high of 2,176 congregations in 2021–2022 to 2,008 congregations in 2025 despite continued membership growth of more than 100,000 during the same period. Despite widespread consolidations in many major cities, the Church continues to organize new congregations—particularly branches in previously unreached cities—although the rate of new unit creation remains substantially lower than the rate of ward and branch consolidations.

NEW RESOURCES

Comprehensive Historical Database of Church Growth Statistics

We have completed a comprehensive database displaying all country-by-country statistical metrics ever published by the Church dating back to 1920 (for membership when available). The database includes annual membership totals, congregations (with ward and branch breakdowns), stakes, districts, missions, and temples for every country or territory for which data have been published by the Church. Data were obtained from the retired Deseret News Church Almanac series and the Church's official Newsroom site where annual country-by-country data have been published.

To our knowledge, this is the most comprehensive publicly available compilation of historical Church statistics ever assembled. This resource provides valuable data for researchers, historians, journalists, members, and others interested in analyzing long-term trends in Church growth, missionary expansion, organizational development, congregational consolidation, and geographic outreach throughout the world. Users can also identify historical milestones, compare regional growth patterns, and examine changes in Church development over time at both global and national levels.

Click [here](#) to access the database in Google Sheets.