



User Guide to the World Values Survey

World Values Survey (WVS)

A voluntary network of sociological researchers, the WVS compiles data from detailed questionnaires (approximately 250 questions) administered in person to a sample population (minimum 1,000) from more than 80 societies worldwide. Questions cover political, social, religious, and economic values, as well as family bonds, gender norms, and personal well-being.

The first WVS was conducted in 1981-84 as an expansion of the European Values Survey. Since then there have been three additional “waves”—89-93, 94-99, and 99-04. Each wave has broadened the project’s international scope, and currently societies constituting 85% of the global population participate. This allows for cross-cultural comparisons over time, testing the Survey’s hypothesis that economic and technological changes reshape basic values.

Two years after each round of fieldwork, the data is published for public use at the WVS Web site.

Basic Navigation of the WVS Web Site

At the WVS home page, click on the “Online Data Analysis” link.



Begin by selecting survey data by country and date. From the scroll-down menu you can choose one or more countries and, for each, one or more dates. (Note: available “waves” of data depend on when a country joined the Survey.)

Please choose the samples by marking the corresponding checkboxes:

1981-1984	1989-1993	1994-1999	1999-2004
		<input type="checkbox"/> Albania [1998]	<input type="checkbox"/> Albania [2002]
			<input type="checkbox"/> Algeria [2002]
<input type="checkbox"/> Argentina [1984]	<input type="checkbox"/> Argentina [1991]	<input type="checkbox"/> Argentina [1995]	<input type="checkbox"/> Argentina [1999]
		<input type="checkbox"/> Armenia [1997]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Australia [1981]		<input type="checkbox"/> Australia [1995]	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Austria [1990]		<input type="checkbox"/> Austria [1999]
		<input type="checkbox"/> Azerbaijan [1997]	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh [1996]	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh [2002]
	<input type="checkbox"/> Belarus [1990]	<input type="checkbox"/> Belarus [1996]	<input type="checkbox"/> Belarus [2000]
<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium [1981]	<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium [1990]		<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium [1999]
		<input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia and	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia and

For example, you might choose to compare the most recent data from India, Sweden, and the United States:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> India [1990]	<input type="checkbox"/> India [1995]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> India [2001]
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweden [1982]	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweden [1990]	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweden [1996]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sweden [1999]
<input type="checkbox"/> United States [1982]	<input type="checkbox"/> United States [1990]	<input type="checkbox"/> United States [1995]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States [1999]

After you have made your selections, click the **+ Continue** button at the top right.

This opens the “Question Index”—a set of 250 questions categorized under the thematic headings of “Perceptions of Life,” “Environment,” “Work,” “Family,” “Politics and Society,” Religion and Morale,” and “National Identity.”

Additionally, there is a “Structure” category that reports on the conditions under which the survey was administered and a default “Sociodemographics” category that provides basic data about the respondents—age, sex, occupation, education, etc.

QUESTION INDEX:

Please select a variable from the index to see the question, marginals, crosstabs or graphics, or else select another index section to browse existing variables

1. Structure	6. Politics and Society
2. Perceptions of life	7. Religion and Morale
3. Environment	8. National Identity
4. Work	9. Sociodemographics
5. Family	

- **Socio-Demographics**
 - Sex(X001)
 - Age
 - Year of birth(X002)
 - Age(X003)
 - Age recoded(X003R)
 - Age recoded (3 intervals)(X003R2)
 - Marital status
 - Stable relationship(X004)
 - Legally married to partner(X005)
 - Stable relationship before(X006)
 - Marital status(X007)
 - Been divorced(X009)
 - Children
 - How many children do you have(X011)
 - Household composition

Selected samples: India [2001], Sweden [1999], United States [1999]

If you select the **2. Perceptions of life** category you will open the scroll of questions that fall under this heading:

- **Perceptions of life**
 - Importance of some aspects in life
 - Family important in life(A001)
 - Friends important in life(A002)
 - Leisure time important in life(A003)
 - Politics important in life(A004)
 - Work important in life(A005)
 - Religion important in life(A006)
 - Service to others important in life(A007)
 - Feeling of happiness
 - Feeling of happiness(A008)
 - State of health (subjective)(A009)
 - Respect and love for parents(A025)
 - Parents responsibilities to their children(A026)
 - Qualities that children can be encouraged to learn at home

To look at the response data for the countries and dates you have already selected, simply click on a question:

- Importance of some aspects in life
 - Family important in life(A001)
 - Friends important in life(A002)
 - Leisure time important in life(A003)
 - Politics important in life(A004)
 - Work important in life(A005)
 - Religion important in life(A006)
 - Service to others important in life(A007)

This opens the full text of the question and the answer options:

Question text Marginals Cross-tabs Graphics

A006.- WVS2000: For each of the following aspects, indicate how important it is in your life. Would you say it is:
 EVS1999: Please say, for each of the following, how important it is in your life.

Religion

- 1 Very important
- 2 Rather important
- 3 Not very important
- 4 Not at all important

To view the statistical data—what percentage of the respondents gave which answer—click on the “Marginals” tab at the top:

Marginals Question text Cross-tabs Graphics

BASE=4217 Weight [with split ups]	TOTAL		India [2001]		Sweden [1999]		United States [1999]	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
Very important	1908	45,2	1117	55,8	108	10,6	683	56,9
Rather important	1019	24,2	469	23,4	246	24,2	304	25,4
Not very important	810	19,2	232	11,6	429	42,3	149	12,4
Not at all important	428	10,1	143	7,1	226	22,2	59	4,9
Don't know	51	1,2	40	2,0	7	0,7	4	0,3
No answer	1	0,0	1	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0
Total	4217	(100%)	2002	(100%)	1015	(100%)	1200	(100%)

A quick scan of the numbers (and note that the Survey uses commas instead of decimal points) reveals a marked difference between Sweden, where only 10% described religion as “very important,” and the U.S. and India, where over 50% chose that response.

(Note: Questions are standardized, but whether they are asked can vary by country, sometimes resulting in a column of zeros.)

If you wish to see how these figures vary according to the age, sex, religion, or education of the respondents, click “Cross-tabs” at the top.

Cross-tabs Question text Marginals Graphics

Operations Show %/(Column - DK/NA) X<->Y

Cross by Sex of respondent

Show

- Total
- Study year
- Age - respondent
- Age - other
- Respondent Education
- Marital status - respondent
- People living at home
- Country
- Religious practice - respondent
- Respondent's religion
- Sex of respondent

TOTAL

BASE=4217
Weight [with split ups]

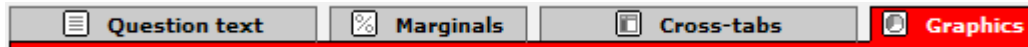
Selecting "Age—respondent" will sort the data by age cohort:

India [2001]				
BASE=4217 Weight [with split ups]	Total	15-29	30-49	50 and more
Very important	57,0	54,1	56,9	60,2
Rather important	24,0	25,4	23,8	22,6
Not very important	11,8	13,0	12,0	10,0
Not at all important	7,3	7,5	7,2	7,3
Total	1954 (100%)	532 (100%)	940 (100%)	482 (100%)

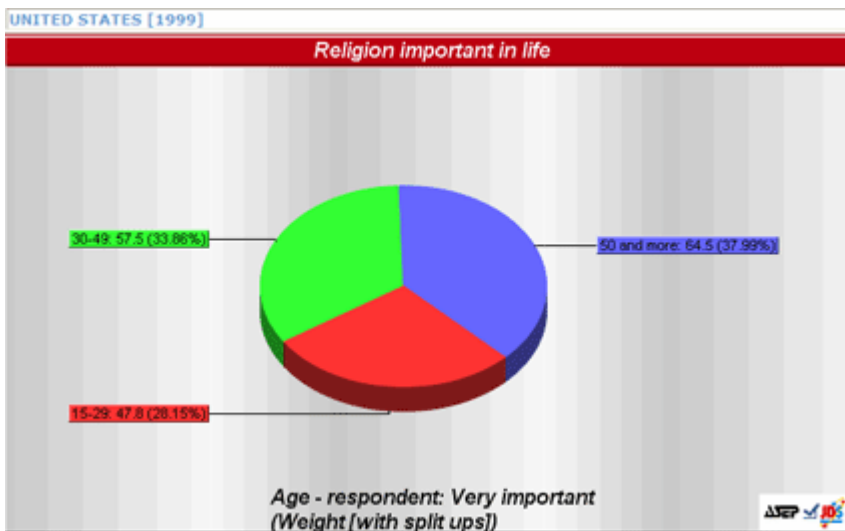
Sweden [1999]				
BASE=4217 Weight [with split ups]	Total	15-29	30-49	50 and more
Very important	10,7	9,1	8,7	13,6
Rather important	24,3	19,8	17,8	33,4
Not very important	42,5	46,1	46,8	36,4
Not at all important	22,4	25,0	26,7	16,6
Total	1008 (100%)	238 (100%)	377 (100%)	394 (100%)

United States [1999]				
BASE=4217 Weight [with split ups]	Total	15-29	30-49	50 and more
Very important	57,1	47,8	57,5	64,5
Rather important	25,5	27,3	26,7	22,1

Finally, by opening the "Graphics" tab--



--you can display your statistics as either bar graphs or pie charts:



[WVS Web Site](#)