

World Jewish Population

IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE to ascertain the exact number of Jews in the various countries of the world in 1970. The figures presented below are the best available estimates, based on local censuses, communal registrations, estimates of informed residents and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1969 and 1970. In 1970, questionnaires were sent to 56 major Jewish bodies in selected countries, requesting information about a) the number of Jews in the country, including nationals and refugees; b) figures for principal cities; c) source of the data (census, communal registration, estimate); and d) method used in arriving at the estimate. Responses were received from 29 organizations.¹ All figures below are of varying degrees of accuracy, and will have to be revised when more precise data become available.

The following should be noted: Some of the figures obtained from our informants repeated estimates given before. While there were some changes in the Jewish population of a number of the countries listed below, the earlier figure was repeated because there was no way at arriving at a meaningful new estimate. Only changes reflected in figures received from the respondents have been taken into consideration. In the tables below, figures obtained from the 1970 inquiry were indicated by an x. Where no reply to the questionnaire of 1970 was received, and a figure from 1969 inquiry was available, the latter was listed with a z.

¹ Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Center; Bolivia: Comunidad Israelita de Bolivia; Brazil: Confederação Israelita do Brazil; Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress—Louis Rosenberg; Denmark: Det Mosaiske Troessamfund; Finland: Suomen Juntalaisten Seurakuntien Keskusneuvosto; France: Fonds Social Juif Unifié; Germany (F.R.): Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland; Guatemala: Sociedad Israelita Maguen David; Gibraltar: Managing Board Jewish Community; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; Kenya: Nairobi Hebrew Congregation; Luxembourg: Consistoire Israélite de Luxembourg; Mexico: Mr. Tuvie Maisel; Peru: Asociación de Sociedades Israelitas de Peru; Philippines: Jewish Community of the Philippines; Portugal: Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; Singapore: Jewish Welfare Board; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Sweden: Jewish Community of Stockholm; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews; Uruguay: Comité Central Israelita; Venezuela: Asociación Israelita; Yugoslavia: Federation of Jewish Communities.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population, at the end of 1970, stood at about 13,951,000. Of this total, about 6,963,000 (some 50 per cent) were in the Americas; over 4,000,000 (29 per cent) were in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the Soviet Union, and some 2,668,000 (19 per cent) were in Asia. Only some 196,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa and about 77,000 (0.5 per cent) were in Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

| <i>Continent</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Per Cent</i> |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey) | 4,046,150 | 29.0 |
| America, North, Central and South | 6,962,925 | 50.0 |
| Asia | 2,668,200 | 19.0 |
| Africa | 196,600 | 1.5 |
| Australia and New Zealand | 77,000 | 0.5 |
| TOTAL | <u>13,950,875</u> | <u>100.0</u> |

Europe

Of the over 4,000,000 Jews in Europe, more than 2,800,000 were in the Communist area, including an estimated 2,620,000 in the Soviet Union. According to the 1970 Soviet census, the Jewish population in the USSR was about 2,151,000, or some 116,000 less than in 1959. A more detailed discussion of the results of the Soviet census will be found on page 403. Suffice it to say here that, since there was no substantial emigration of Russian Jews or similar mass phenomena, a decrease of 116,000 in the course of some 10 years seems at best very much questionable and cannot be justified on purely statistical grounds. Pending further clarification, it was therefore deemed necessary to repeat the figure used in the 1970 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, i.e., 2,620,000. The Jewish community in Poland shrank considerably, to some 9,000 in 1970.

More than 1,200,000 Jews were in non-Communist countries. France, with a current Jewish population of 550,000, had the largest Jewish community in Western Europe. The influx of North African Jews thoroughly transformed French Jewry from a traditionally Ashkenazi community to one with a large Sephardi sector. Great Britain had an estimated Jewish population of 410,000. Some British sources claimed the actual number of Jews was larger, since many nonaffiliated Jews escaped the record. There were about 100,000 Jews in Rumania, and 80,000 in Hungary. Belgium had a Jewish population of some 40,000; Italy 35,000, Germany 30,000, and

the Netherlands 30,000. Except for Turkey (both Asiatic and European), all other countries in Europe had a Jewish population of less than 25,000.²

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

| Country | Total Population ^a | Jewish Population |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Albania | 2,075,000 | 300 |
| Austria | 7,373,000 | 8,000 ^x |
| Belgium | 9,646,000 | 40,500 |
| Bulgaria | 8,434,000 | 7,000 |
| Czechoslovakia | 14,418,000 | 14,000 |
| Denmark | 4,891,000 | 6,000 ^x |
| Finland | 4,703,000 | 1,450 ^x |
| France | 50,320,000 | 550,000 ^x |
| Germany | 77,918,000 | 30,000 ^x |
| Gibraltar | 27,000 | 600 ^x |
| Great Britain | 55,534,000 | 410,000 ^x |
| Greece | 8,838,000 | 6,500 |
| Hungary | 10,295,000 | 80,000 |
| Ireland | 2,921,000 | 5,400 |
| Italy | 53,170,000 | 35,000 ^x |
| Luxembourg | 338,000 | 1,000 ^x |
| Malta | 323,000 | 50 |
| Netherlands | 12,873,000 | 30,000 |
| Norway | 3,851,000 | 750 |
| Poland | 32,555,000 | 9,000 |
| Portugal | 9,560,000 | 600 ^x |
| Rumania | 20,010,000 | 100,000 |
| Spain | 32,949,000 | 9,000 |
| Sweden | 7,978,000 | 15,000 ^x |
| Switzerland | 6,224,000 | 20,000 ^x |
| Turkey | 34,375,000 | 39,000 ^b |
| USSR | 241,720,000 | 2,620,000 ^b |
| Yugoslavia | 20,351,000 | 7,000 ^x |
| TOTAL | 733,670,000 | 4,046,150 |

^a United Nations Statistical Office, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and other sources including local publications.

^b Includes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

^x Reply to 1970 inquiry.

^z Reply to 1969 inquiry.

North, Central, and South America

No new estimate for the Jewish population of the United States was available since the national Jewish population study conducted under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has not yet been completed. The estimate for 1968 was 5,870,000. There were approximately 280,000 Jews in Canada and 778,000 in Central and South America. No

² Because of differences in sources and dates, some figures given here may not agree with figures in other sections of this volume.

new estimates were available for Argentina (500,000), and Brazil (150,000). There was some emigration from Latin America, but its extent will be recorded later.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Total Population^a</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Canada | 21,089,000 | 280,000 ^e |
| Mexico | 48,933,000 | 35,000 ^e |
| United States | 203,216,000 | 5,870,000 ^b |
| Total North America .. | 273,238,000 | 6,185,000 |
| Barbados | 253,000 | 75 ^c |
| Costa Rica | 1,685,000 | 1,500 |
| Cuba | 8,250,000 | 1,700 |
| Curaçao | 150,000 | 700 |
| Dominican Republic | 4,174,000 | 350 |
| El Salvador | 3,390,000 | 300 ^c |
| Guatemala | 5,014,000 | 1,900 ^c |
| Haiti | 4,768,000 | 150 |
| Honduras | 2,495,000 | 150 |
| Jamaica | 1,952,000 | 600 ^d |
| Nicaragua | 1,915,000 | 200 |
| Panama | 1,417,000 | 2,000 |
| Trinidad | 1,040,000 | 300 |
| Total Central America and West Indies | 36,503,000 | 9,925 |
| Argentina | 23,983,000 | 500,000 |
| Bolivia | 4,804,000 | 2,000 ^f |
| Brazil | 90,840,000 | 150,000 ^g |
| Chile | 9,566,000 | 35,000 |
| Colombia | 20,463,000 | 10,000 |
| Ecuador | 5,890,000 | 2,000 |
| Paraguay | 2,303,000 | 1,200 |
| Peru | 13,172,000 | 5,300 ^h |
| Surinam | 389,000 | 500 |
| Uruguay | 2,852,000 | 50,000 ⁱ |
| Venezuela | 10,035,000 | 12,000 ^k |
| Total South America ... | 184,297,000 | 768,000 |
| TOTAL | 494,038,000 | 6,962,925 |

^a See Table 2, note ^a.

^b We repeat the figure from AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1970, pending completion of the statistical study of the U.S. Jewish population.

^c Including 5,000 recorded members of the community.

^d See Table 2, note ^x.

Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

Of the 2,668,000 Jews in Asia, 2,560,000 lived in Israel, 80,000 in Iran, and some 15,000 in India. No other country in Asia (except Turkey and

Asian USSR) had as many as 5,000 Jews. Syria had 4,000, Lebanon 3,000, Iraq 2,500 and the Jewish population in all other countries did not exceed 800. The increase in the total Jewish population in Asia was due essentially to the growth of the Jewish community in Israel. About 35,000 Jews emigrated to Israel in the course of 1970, but this migration was somewhat offset by those who left the country. The Jewish population of Australia was 72,000; that of New Zealand was 5,000.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Total Population^a</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Afghanistan | 16,516,000 | 800 |
| Burma | 26,980,000 | 200 |
| China | 740,000,000 | 20 |
| Cyprus | 630,000 | 30 |
| Hong Kong | 3,990,000 | 200 |
| India | 536,983,000 | 15,000 |
| Indonesia | 116,000,000 | 100 |
| Iran | 27,892,000 | 80,000 |
| Iraq | 9,350,000 | 2,500 |
| Israel | 2,999,000 | 2,560,000 ^b |
| Japan | 102,321,000 | 500 ^x |
| Lebanon | 2,645,000 | 3,000 |
| Pakistan | 111,830,000 | 250 |
| Philippines | 37,178,000 | 500 ^x |
| Singapore | 2,017,000 | 600 ^x |
| Syria | 5,866,000 | 4,000 |
| Yemen | 5,000,000 | 500 |
| TOTAL | 1,748,197,000 | 2,668,200 |

^a See Table 2, note ^a.

^b Excluding population under Israeli control after the 1967 war.

^x See Table 2, note ^x.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1970

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Total Population^a</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Australia | 12,296,000 | 72,000 ^a |
| New Zealand | 2,777,000 | 5,000 |
| TOTAL | 15,073,000 | 77,000 |

^a See Table 2, note ^a.

^z See Table 2, note ^z.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa continued to dwindle to a present estimated total of some 196,000. This total may have to be adjusted when the

census figure for South Africa becomes available. It was estimated that the South African Jewish population increased to 119,900. The Maghreb area was gradually losing the remnants of its Jewish community: Morocco had 45,000 Jews, Tunisia 10,000, Algeria 1,500, and Libya some 100 Jews. The North African Jewish communities, some among the oldest Jewish settlements, were about to disappear.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Total Population^a</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Algeria | 13,349,000 | 1,500 |
| Congo Republic | 17,100,000 | 300 |
| Egypt | 32,501,000 | 1,000 |
| Ethiopia | 24,769,000 | 13,000 |
| Kenya | 10,506,000 | 200 ^x |
| Libya | 1,869,000 | 100 |
| Morocco | 15,050,000 | 45,000 |
| Republic of South Africa | 19,618,000 | 119,900 ^x |
| Rhodesia | 5,090,000 | 5,200 ^x |
| Tunisia | 5,027,000 | 10,000 |
| Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) .. | 4,208,000 | 400 |
| TOTAL | 149,087,000 | 196,600 |

^a See Table 2, note ^a.

^x See Table 2, note ^x.

COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS

The largest Jewish communities in 1970 were in the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel. Together they accounted for over 79 per cent of the world Jewish population. Only in four other countries were there Jewish communities of over 200,000: France, Great Britain, Argentina, and Canada.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| United States | 5,870,000 |
| Soviet Union | 2,620,000 |
| Israel | 2,560,000 |
| France | 550,000 |
| Argentina | 500,000 |
| Great Britain | 410,000 |
| Canada | 280,000 |

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES*

| <i>City</i> | <i>Jewish Population</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Amsterdam | 12,000 |
| Antwerp | 13,000 |
| Athens | 2,850 |
| Basle | 2,300 ^a |
| Belgrade | 1,600 ^a |
| Berlin | 6,000 ^a |
| Berne | 800 |
| Bordeaux | 6,400 |
| Brussels | 24,000 |
| Budapest | 65,000 |
| Buenos Aires | 350,000 |
| Cochin | 500 |
| Copenhagen | 6,000 |
| Florence | 1,400 |
| Geneva | 3,250 ^a |
| Glasgow | 13,400 ^a |
| Guatemala City | 1,500 |
| Haifa | 207,500 |
| Helsinki | 1,100 |
| Istanbul | 32,000 |
| Izmir | 4,000 |
| Jerusalem | 195,000 |
| Johannesburg | 57,800 ^a |
| Kiev | 220,000 |
| Leeds | 18,000 ^a |
| Leningrad | 165,000 |
| Lima | 5,250 |
| London (greater) | 280,000 ^a |
| Luxembourg | 850 |
| Lyons | 20,000 |
| Malmö | 2,000 |
| Manchester | 31,000 |
| Manila | 300 |
| Marseilles | 65,000 ^a |
| Melbourne | 35,000 ^a |
| Mexico, D.F. | 30,000 |
| Milan | 9,500 |
| Montreal | 113,000 |
| Moscow | 285,000 |
| Nice | 20,000 |
| Oslo | 600 |
| Paris | 300,000 ^a |
| Plovdiv | 1,000 |
| Rio de Janeiro | 50,000 ^a |
| Rome | 15,000 ^a |
| Salonika | 1,300 |
| Santiago | 30,000 |
| São Paulo | 65,000 ^a |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Sarajevo | 1,100 ^x |
| Sofia | 4,000 |
| Stockholm | 8,000 |
| Strasbourg | 12,000 |
| Subotica | 400 |
| Sydney | 28,000 ^x |
| Teheran | 30,000 |
| Tel Aviv-Jaffa | 394,000 |
| Tokyo | 400 ^x |
| Toronto | 100,000 |
| Toulouse | 18,000 |
| Trieste | 1,200 |
| Vancouver | 8,000 |
| Valparaiso | 4,000 |
| Vienna | 8,200 |
| Warsaw | 5,000 |
| Winnipeg | 21,000 |
| Zagreb | 1,350 |
| Zurich | 6,150 ^a |

* For cities in the United States see AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 71 (1970), pp. 348-353. New figures will be available after the completion of the demographic study of the U. S. Jews, now being conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

^x See Table 2, note ^x.

^a See Table 2, note ^a.

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