

World Jewish Population, 1984

Updated Estimates

THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS updates, as of 1984, of the Jewish population estimates for 1982 which were first published in the 1984 AJYB and reprinted in a condensed version in the 1985 AJYB. The estimates reflect some of the results of a prolonged and ongoing effort to study scientifically the demography of contemporary world Jewry.¹ Data collection and comparative research have benefited from the collaboration of scholars and institutions in many countries, including replies to direct inquiries regarding current estimates. Also, population censuses taken around 1980 have yielded useful information on the Jews of some countries. It should be emphasized, however, that the elaboration of a worldwide set of estimates for the Jewish populations of the various countries is beset with difficulties and uncertainties. The reader has been given some information on the quality of the estimate for each country by an accuracy rating, using a simple scale explained below.

About 95 percent of world Jewry is concentrated in nine countries, with approximately 100,000 or more Jews each. The aggregate of these nine major Jewish population centers virtually determines the assessment of the size of total world Jewry. The figures for 1982 have been updated to 1984 in accordance with the intervening changes—natural (i.e., births and deaths), affiliative, and migratory. In addition, some corrections have been introduced in the light of newly accrued information from recent population censuses and Jewish surveys. Analogous corrections have also been applied retrospectively to the 1982 figures, which appear below in revised summary (see Table 1), so as to allow for comparison with the 1984 estimates.

Jewish Population Trends²

Diaspora Jews are highly dispersed. In most countries their number is now rather small and they constitute no more than a minute fraction of the entire population.

¹Many of these activities have been carried out by, or in coordination with, the Division of Jewish Demography and Statistics at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

²A fuller discussion of the subject can be found in U.O. Schmelz, "Jewish Survival: The Demographic Factors," AJYB, Vol. 81, 1981, pp. 61–117.

Consequently, though Jews tend to cluster in large cities, they are greatly exposed to assimilation. While the assimilatory process leads to demographic losses for the Jewish population, there may also be gains through affiliation of persons who were born as non-Jews. It is the net balance of the affiliative changes that matters demographically; in the longer run, the cohesion of a Diaspora population may be affected as well.

The Jews in most countries of the Diaspora are demographically characterized by very low fertility, considerable out-marriage (which may involve losses of children to the Jewish population),³ some other net assimilatory losses, and great aging. Since an increased proportion of elderly in the population usually implies not only many deceased but also a reduced proportion of persons of reproductive age—and therefore relatively fewer births—the aging factor has the effect of reducing the birthrate and raising the death rate. There are differences in the levels of these demographic factors among the Jews in various regions and countries of the world. In all the major Diaspora populations the joint balance of the natural and affiliative changes is now close to nil or outrightly negative, with the Jewish deceased frequently outnumbering newborn Jews. These negative tendencies have been taken into account in updating the estimates of Jews in many countries.

With regard to the balance of external migrations, there is no regularity among the various Diaspora populations or even in the same population over time. Where the migratory balance is positive—e.g., in North America—it counteracts or even outweighs any numerically negative influence of internal demographic developments. Where the migratory balance is negative, it may cause, or aggravate, the decrease of a Jewish population. In 1983–1984, the overall volume of international migrations of Jews was rather restricted, primarily because of the virtual cessation of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

In contrast, Jews in Israel incur virtually no out-marriages and direct assimilatory losses. Moreover, they have so far had a positive migration balance almost continually. They have a younger age structure than Diaspora Jews and the general population of the developed countries and exhibit a fairly high level of fertility. The previously substantial fertility differentials between Jews in-gathered in Israel from Asia-Africa and Europe-America are no longer in evidence. Remarkably, European Jews in Israel have not participated in the drastic fertility decline that has characterized the developed nations and Diaspora Jews during the last few decades, but have actually raised their fertility. In recent years, both major origin groups among Israel's Jews have displayed a fertility level surpassing not only the vast majority of Diaspora Jewry but also the general populations in the developed countries.

In the overall demographic balance of world Jewry, the natural increase of Israel has, until recently, made up for losses in the Diaspora. But such compensation will not be possible for much longer. As a consequence of the intensifying demographic

³If less than half of the children of the out-married are themselves Jews.

deficit in the Diaspora, a trend for some reduction in the total number of the world's Jews may soon be setting in.⁴

Difficulties in Estimating Jewish Population Size in the Diaspora⁵

Some of the difficulties involved in estimating the size of Jewish Diaspora populations are common to all aspects of the study of Diaspora demography. They are mainly due to the great geographical scattering of Jews (a factor that makes multiple data collection mandatory but also hinders its feasibility); their unusually strong demographic dynamics in many respects—migrations, social mobility, family formation patterns (including out-marriage), etc.; and to lacunae of available demographic information, which is deficient in both quantity and quality.

More specific difficulties in estimating the up-to-date size of Jewish populations are due to conceptual and measurement problems.

When mixed couples and households are not infrequent, it is necessary to distinguish between the "actually Jewish population" and the "enlarged Jewish population." The latter comprises also the non-Jewish household members (spouses, children, etc.) of the Jews. However socially significant the non-Jewish household members (and more distant non-Jewish relatives) of the Jews may be, they should not be included in a count of Jews. The paradoxical situation that exists is that growth of an enlarged Jewish population may be associated with contraction of the respective actually Jewish population.

Another vexing problem is affiliative changes among Jews. Under present conditions, there are Jews who have not formally embraced another religion, yet are either very estranged ("marginal") or have even become resolutely alienated from Judaism and the Jewish community and, if questioned, disclaim being Jews any longer. When a census or survey is taken which inquires into religion or ethnicity, these individuals have an opportunity to define their current status subjectively.⁶ In general, the practice of self-determination is followed in all relevant censuses and surveys. This applies to marginal individuals, converts to Judaism (although some of the conversions may be contested between the various ideological trends—Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform), and to all other persons who claim to be Jews. In estimating the size of a Jewish population, it is usual to include, in principle, all marginal individuals who have not ceased to be Jews.⁷

Not a few Jews (like other persons) have some residential status in more than one country.⁸ This may be due to business requirements, professional assignments in

⁴*Aliyah* and *yeridah*—immigration to, and emigration from, Israel—obviously constitute only internal transfers within the global Jewish framework.

⁵Reliable figures are currently forthcoming for the Jews of Israel from official statistics.

⁶Misreporting of Jews in official censuses is a different issue; see below.

⁷Even persons who disclaim being Jews at some stage of life may change their minds later.

⁸The problem is even more acute with regard to residential status in more than one locality of the same country, but this does not affect the population estimates for entire countries.

foreign countries, climatic differences between countries, migrants staying temporarily in prolonged transit, etc. The danger of double-counting or omissions is inherent in such situations. As far as possible we have tried to account for such persons only once, giving precedence to the usual country of residence.

Figures on Jews from population censuses are unavailable for most Diaspora communities. Even where census statistics on Jews are forthcoming, they are usually scant, because the Jews are a small minority. There have been instances where detailed tabulations on Jews have been undertaken, through Jewish initiative, from official census material; examples are Canada, South Africa, and Argentina. In some countries serious problems exist, or are feared to exist, in the reporting of Jews as such: individuals may prefer not to describe themselves as Jews, or non-Jews may be erroneously included as Jews (as has happened in Latin American countries). These problems require statistical evaluation whose feasibility and conclusiveness depend on the relevant information available.

Surveys are the only way of obtaining comprehensive information on Jewish populations in the absence of official censuses. Jewish-sponsored surveys have the additional advantage of being able to inquire into matters of specifically Jewish interest, e.g., Jewish education, observances, and attitudes. However, since they address themselves to a small and scattered minority with identification problems, they are not easy to conduct competently and may encounter difficulties with regard to both coverage and response, especially with regard to marginal Jews. Again, these aspects require evaluation. Countrywide surveys have been undertaken in the United States, South Africa, France, Italy, Netherlands, etc. Local surveys have been carried out in many U.S. cities, in the United Kingdom, Latin America, Australia, etc. However, these local initiatives have so far been uncoordinated with regard to content and method.

Many estimates of Jewish populations for which no solid data from censuses or surveys exist are regrettably of unspecified or dubious source and methodology.

Besides the conceptual and measurement difficulties affecting the figures for a Jewish population at any base date, similar problems recur with regard to the updating information which should account for all the various types of changes in the time elapsed since that base date. For natural and affiliative changes, age-sex-specific models can be of use; these may be applied after studying the evolution of the respective or similar Jewish populations. With regard to the migratory balance in any updating interval, concrete information must be gathered, because of the above-mentioned irregularity, over time, in the intensity of many migratory streams.

Presentation of Data

The detailed estimates of Jewish population distribution in each continent (Tables 2–6 below) refer to residents in countries with at least 100 Jews. A residual estimate of “other” Jews living in smaller communities, or staying temporarily in transit accommodations, supplements some of the continental totals. For each of the reported countries, the four columns in the table provide the United Nations estimate

of mid-year 1983 total population,⁹ the estimated end-1984 Jewish population, the proportion of Jews per 1,000 total population, and a rating of the accuracy of the Jewish population estimates.

There is wide variation in the quality of the Jewish population estimates for different countries. For many Diaspora countries it would be best to indicate a range (minimum-maximum) rather than a definite figure for the number of Jews. It would be confusing, however, for the reader to be confronted with a long list of ranges; this would also complicate the regional and world totals. Yet, the figures actually indicated for most of the Diaspora countries should be understood as being the central value of the plausible range. The relative magnitude of this range varies inversely with the accuracy of the estimate.

The three main elements which affect the accuracy of each estimate are the nature of the base data, the recency of the base data, and the method of updating. A simple code, combining these elements, is used to provide a general evaluation of the reliability of the Jewish population figures reported in the detailed tables below. The code indicates different quality levels of the reported estimates: (A) base figure derived from countrywide census or relatively reliable Jewish population survey; updated on the basis of full or partial information on Jewish population movements in the intervening period; (B) base figure derived from less accurate but recent countrywide Jewish population investigation; partial information on population movements in the intervening period; (C) base figure derived from less recent sources, and/or unsatisfactory or partial coverage of Jewish population in country; updating according to demographic information illustrative of regional demographic trends; and (D) base figure essentially conjectural; no reliable updating procedure. In categories (A), (B), and (C), the years in which the base figures or important partial updates were obtained are also stated.

For countries whose Jewish population estimate of 1984 was not only updated but also revised in the light of improved information, the sign "X" is appended to the accuracy rating.

Distribution of World Jewish Population by Major Regions

Table 1 gives an overall picture for 1984 as compared to 1982. For 1982, the originally published estimates are presented along with somewhat revised figures that take into account, retrospectively, the corrections made in 1984 in certain country estimates, in the light of improved information. These corrections resulted in a net reduction of world Jewry's estimated size by 44,700 or 0.3 percent, mainly due to Israel and Great Britain (explanations for these two countries are given below).

⁹These were the latest official estimates available at the time of writing. See United Nations, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office, *Population and Vital Statistics Report; Data Available as of January 1, 1985*. Statistical Papers, Series A, Vol. 37, No. 1, New York, 1985.

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, BY CONTINENTS AND MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS, 1982 AND 1984

Region	1982			1984		% Change 1982-1984
	Original	Revised		Abs. Nos.	Percent	
		Abs. Nos.	Percent	Abs. Nos.	Percent	
Diaspora	9,614,300	9,594,300	74.1	9,491,600	73.2	- 1.1
Israel	3,374,300	3,349,600	25.9	3,471,700	26.8	+ 3.6
World	12,988,600	12,943,900	100.0	12,963,300	100.0	+ 0.2
America, Total	6,477,700	6,477,600	50.1	6,469,000	49.9	- 1.3
North ^a	6,013,000	6,015,000	46.5	6,015,000	46.4	—
Central	46,800	46,800	0.4	47,300	0.4	+ 1.1
South	417,900	415,800	3.2	406,700	3.1	- 2.2
Europe, Total	2,842,700	2,825,100	21.8	2,758,600	21.3	- 2.6
West	1,070,900	1,053,300	8.1	1,048,900	8.1	- 1.0
East & Balkans ^b	1,771,800	1,771,800	13.7	1,709,700	13.2	- 3.5
Asia, Total	3,417,200	3,392,500	26.2	3,509,300	27.1	+ 3.4
Israel	3,374,300	3,349,600	25.9	3,471,700	26.8	+ 3.6
Rest ^b	42,900	42,900	0.3	37,600	0.3	-12.4
Africa, Total	172,000	169,700	1.3	147,400	1.1	-13.3
North	21,250	19,950	0.2	16,700	0.1	-17.5
South	120,250	119,250	0.9	119,100	0.9	- 0.1
Rest ^c	30,500	30,500	0.2	11,600	0.1	-62.0
Oceania	79,000	79,000	0.6	79,000	0.6	—

^aU.S.A. and Canada.

^bThe Asian territories of USSR and Turkey are included in "East Europe and Balkans."

^cIncluding Ethiopia.

The size of world Jewry is assessed at slightly below 13 million. According to the revised figures, the estimated growth between 1982 and 1984 was negligible—about one-tenth of a percent annually. Despite all the imperfections in the estimates, it is clear that world Jewry is in the state of "zero population growth," with the natural increase in Israel compensating for the demographic losses in the Diaspora.

While the number of Jews in Israel rose from a revised figure of 3,349,600 in 1982 to 3,471,700 at the end of 1984, Diaspora Jewry declined from 9,594,300 (according to the revised figures) to approximately 9,491,600. By the end of 1984, Israel's Jews constituted nearly 27 percent of total world Jewry.

About half of the world's Jews reside in the Americas, with 46 percent in North America. Twenty-seven percent live in Asia (excluding the Asian territories of the USSR and Turkey), nearly all of them in Israel. Europe (including the Asian territories of the USSR and Turkey) accounts for 21 percent of the total. The proportions of the world's Jews who live in Africa and Oceania are very small.

Among the major geographical regions listed in Table 1, Israel—and, in consequence, total Asia—increased by more than 3 percent in the two-year span 1982–1984. The total number of Jews estimated for North America, South Africa, and Oceania virtually did not change. With the probable exception of Central America, all the other regions sustained decreases in Jewish population size.

Individual Countries

THE AMERICAS

In 1984 the total number of Jews in the American continents was somewhat less than six and a half million. The overwhelming majority (about 93 percent) reside in the United States and Canada, less than 1 percent live in Central America (including Mexico), and about 6 percent live in South America, where Argentina and Brazil have the largest Jewish communities (see Table 2).

The Jewish population in the United States is estimated to have increased from 5,690,000 in 1980 to 5,705,000 in 1982, as a consequence of immigration. Several local surveys taken in recent years provide evidence of very low “effectively Jewish” birthrates and of increasing aging among the Jewish population. Thus, it is possible that the influence of internal evolution on the size of U.S. Jewry may be negative, though there is no consensus with regard to this assessment. Any negative internal balance in U.S. Jewry was more than offset for several years by an undoubtedly positive balance of external migrations. This latter has been greatly reduced, however, by the virtual cessation of Soviet Jewish immigration. Pending further research, we have repeated for 1984 the figure of 5,705,000 already reported for 1982.¹⁰ This figure does not include non-Jewish members of Jewish households, who are included in the detailed U.S. Jewish population estimates which are reported elsewhere in this volume.

In Canada an official population census held in 1981 enumerated 296,425 Jews according to religion. If the persons are added who responded “Jewish” (as a *single* reply) to the census question on ethnic groups, while not indicating any religious affiliation (i.e., they were not Christians, etc.), the figure rises to 306,375. There were additional persons who did not indicate religion but mentioned “Jewish” as part of a *multiple* response to the question on ethnic groups; however, the full number of these people was not published. It is likely that some of them were merely thinking in terms of ancestry but did not actually consider themselves as Jews at the time

¹⁰For derivation of the estimate for U.S. Jewry from the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) of 1970–1971, see U.O. Schmelz, *World Jewish Population: Regional Estimates and Projections* (Jerusalem, 1981), pp. 32–36. For a discussion of U.S. Jewish population dynamics and perspectives, see U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola, “The Demographic Consequences of U.S. Jewish Population Trends,” *AJYB*, Vol. 83, 1983, pp. 141–187.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE AMERICAS, 1984

Country	Total Population	Jewish Population	Jews per 1,000 Population	Accuracy Rating
Canada	24,907,000	310,000	12.4	A 1981 X
United States	234,496,000	5,705,000	24.3	B 1971-83
Total Northern America		6,015,000		
Bahamas	222,000	500	2.2	C 1970
Costa Rica	2,379,000	2,500	1.0	C 1984
Cuba	9,884,000	700	0.1	D
Dominican Republic	5,962,000	100	0.0	D
Guatemala	7,932,000	800	0.1	A 1983
Haiti	5,201,000	100	0.0	D
Jamaica	2,258,000	800	0.1	B 1982
Mexico	75,103,000	35,000	0.5	C 1980
Netherlands Antilles	256,000	700	2.7	D
Panama	2,089,000	3,800	1.8	D
Puerto Rico	3,350,000	2,500	0.7	D
Other		300		D
Total Central America		47,300		
Argentina	29,627,000	228,000	7.7	C 1960-75
Bolivia	6,082,000	600	0.1	C 1984 X
Brazil	129,662,000	100,000	0.8	B 1980
Chile	11,682,000	17,000	1.5	C 1982 X
Columbia	27,515,000	7,000	0.2	C 1977
Ecuador	9,251,000	1,000	0.1	C 1982
Paraguay	3,472,000	900	0.3	C 1984 X
Peru	18,707,000	5,000	0.3	C 1982
Surinam	351,000	200	0.6	B 1984
Uruguay	2,988,000	27,000	9.1	D
Venezuela	16,394,000	20,000	1.2	D
Total Southern America		406,700		
Total		6,469,000		

of the census. By making some allowance for others who considered themselves as Jews but were identified in the census by multiple ethnicity only, a round total of 310,000 is arrived at for 1981, as compared to the previous 1982 estimate of 308,000 for Canadian Jewry. The figure of 310,000 was also adopted for 1984, as a migratory surplus may have roughly offset the probably negative balance of internal evolution since the census.

The estimate for Mexico has been kept unchanged at 35,000. While the official Mexican censuses have given widely varying figures—(1950) 17,574; (1960) 100,750; (1970) 49,277; (1980) 61,790—it is generally admitted that the last three censuses erroneously included many thousands of non-Jews among the Jews.

The Jewish population of Argentina is marked by a negative balance in both internal evolution and external migrations. The estimate has been reduced, therefore, from 233,000 in 1982 to 228,000 in 1984, allowing for some return migration since the present democratic regime came to power.

The official population census of Brazil in 1980 showed a figure of 91,795 Jews, thus confirming the lower order of magnitude of the authors' estimates as compared to the exaggerated figures previously circulated. Since it is possible that some Jews failed to declare themselves as such in the census, the estimate for 1984 has been kept at the round figure of 100,000. On the strength of fragmentary information that is accumulating, the admittedly quite tentative estimates for Uruguay and Chile have been revised downward, while that for Venezuela has not been changed.¹¹

EUROPE

Of Europe's estimated 2,759,000 Jews, 38 percent live in Western Europe and 62 percent in Eastern Europe and the Balkan countries (including the Asian territories of the USSR and Turkey).

France has the largest Jewish population in Western Europe, estimated at 530,000, as in 1982.¹² Monitoring of the plausible trends in the internal evolution and the external migrations of Jews in France renders it likely that there has been little net change in this two-year interval. A reestimation of the size of British Jewry was carried out by the research unit of the Board of Deputies, based on an analysis of Jewish deaths during 1975–1979. The revised population figure for 1977, first announced as 354,000, was later amended to 336,000, with a margin of error of

¹¹For a more detailed discussion of the region's Jewish population trends, see U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola, "The Demography of Latin American Jewry," *AJYB*, Vol. 85, 1985, pp. 51–102.

¹²This estimate is empirically based on the detailed analysis of the French Jewish Population Study. See Doris Bensimon and Sergio DellaPergola, *La population juive de France: socio-démographie et identité* (Jerusalem and Paris, 1984).

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN EUROPE, 1984

Country	Total Population	Jewish Population	Jews per 1,000 Population	Accuracy Rating
Austria	7,549,000	6,500	0.9	A 1981
Belgium	9,856,000	32,200	3.3	D
Bulgaria	8,939,000	3,300	0.4	C 1965
Czechoslovakia	15,415,000	8,500	0.5	D
Denmark	5,114,000	6,800	1.3	C 1984
Finland	4,863,000	1,000	0.2	A 1984
France	54,652,000	530,000	9.7	B 1972-78
Germany, East	16,699,000	800	0.0	D
Germany, West	61,421,000	33,000	0.5	B 1984
Gibraltar	29,000	600	20.1	A 1981
Great Britain	56,377,000	330,000	5.8	B 1984 X
Greece	9,848,000	5,000	0.5	B 1984
Hungary	10,690,000	61,500	5.7	D
Ireland	3,508,000	2,300	0.7	A 1984 X
Italy	56,836,000	32,000	0.6	B 1982
Luxemburg	366,000	700	1.9	C 1970
Netherlands	14,362,000	26,200	1.8	C 1984
Norway	4,129,000	1,000	0.2	A 1982
Poland	36,571,000	4,600	0.1	D
Portugal	10,099,000	600	0.1	D
Rumania	22,553,000	26,000	1.1	B 1984
Spain	38,228,000	12,000	0.3	D
Sweden	8,329,000	15,000	1.8	C 1982
Switzerland	6,505,000	19,000	2.9	A 1980
Turkey ^a	47,279,000	20,000	0.4	C 1984
USSR ^a	272,500,000	1,575,000	5.8	B 1979
Yugoslavia	22,800,000	5,000	0.2	B 1980
Total		2,758,600		

^aIncluding Asian regions.

± 34,000.¹³ Allowing for an excess of deaths over births, some assimilatory losses, and emigration, the update for 1984, as elaborated by the board's research unit,

¹³S. Haberman, B. A. Kosmin, and C. Levy, "Mortality Patterns of British Jews 1975-79: Insights and Applications for the Size and Structure of British Jewry," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Ser. A*, Vol. 146, Pt. 3 (1983), pp. 294-310.

came to 330,000. Western Germany, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands each have Jewish populations ranging around 30,000. There is an internal tendency toward shrinkage of all these Jewries, but in some instances this is offset partly or perhaps even wholly (Italy) by immigration. Switzerland's Jews are estimated at below 20,000, on the strength of the 1980 census. While there is evidence of a negative balance of births and deaths (connected *inter alia* with great aging) and of frequent out-marriage, in this instance, also, immigration may have offset the internal losses.

By far the largest Jewish population in Eastern Europe is concentrated in the Soviet Union, including its Asian territory. Only about 2,000 Jews were permitted to leave for abroad in 1983–1984, but the heavy deficit of internal population dynamics continued and even grew, due to the great aging which prevailed. Under these circumstances the estimate has been reduced from 1,630,000 in 1982 to 1,575,000 in 1984. The Jewish populations in Hungary and Rumania and the small remnants extant in Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, and Bulgaria are all reputed to be very overaged. Their inevitable numerical decline, accelerated by relatively large emigration in the case of Rumania, is reflected in reduced estimates. The Jewish population of Turkey is being eroded by both emigration and a probable deficit of births versus deaths.

ASIA

Israel accounts for 99 percent of all the Jews in Asia, excluding the Asian territories of the USSR and Turkey. Israel held its fourth national population census in June 1983. After evaluation of the results by the Central Bureau of Statistics, in light of all available information the benchmark figure (which serves as the base of subsequent updating until the next census) for the Jewish population as of census date was placed at 3,371,000. This represented a downward revision by some 20,000, or 0.6 percent, of the "old" estimate of 3,392,400 (ultimately based on the previous census, taken in 1972). The corresponding figure for end of 1982 was revised from 3,374,300 to 3,349,600, and the bureau's current estimate for the end of 1984 was 3,471,700. Israel's Jewish population grew over those two years by more than 120,000; 81 percent of this growth was due to natural increase. The Jewish population of Iran continued to dwindle.

AFRICA

Somewhat fewer than 150,000 Jews are estimated to remain now in Africa. The Republic of South Africa accounts for an ever-increasing share (81 percent in 1984) of total Jews in that continent.

According to the 1980 census of the Republic of South Africa, the final figure for Jews (by religion, among the white population) was 117,963. Pending analysis of the

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN ASIA, 1984

Country	Total Population	Jewish Population	Jews per 1,000 Population	Accuracy Rating
Hong-Kong	5,313,000	1,000	0.2	C 1980
India	732,256,000	4,300	0.0	C 1971
Iran	42,071,000	25,000	0.6	D X
Iraq	14,654,000	200	0.0	D
Israel	4,200,000 ^a	3,471,700	826.6	A 1984
Japan	119,259,000	1,000	0.0	C 1984
Lebanon	2,635,000	100	0.0	D
Philippines	52,055,000	100	0.0	C 1982
Singapore	2,502,000	300	0.1	C 1984
Syria	9,611,000	4,000	0.4	D
Thailand	49,459,000	300	0.0	C 1980
Yemen	6,232,000	1,000	0.2	D X
Other		300		D
Total		3,509,300		

^aEnd 1984.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA, 1984

Country	Total Population	Jewish Population	Jews per 1,000 Population	Accuracy Rating
Egypt	45,915,000	200	0.0	D
Ethiopia	33,680,000	10,000	0.3	D
Kenya	18,774,000	100	0.0	B 1984 X
Morocco	22,109,000	13,000	0.6	D X
South Africa	30,802,000	118,000	3.8	B 1980
Tunisia	6,886,000	3,500	0.5	C 1982
Zaire	31,151,000	200	0.0	D
Zambia	6,242,000	300	0.0	D
Zimbabwe	7,740,000	1,100	0.1	D
Other		1,000		D
Total		147,400		

data from this census, the 1984 estimate is still given as 118,000 Jews. While the Jews of Ethiopia were affected by calamitous conditions, more than 10,000 succeeded in reaching Israel. In the absence of solid information, the number of those still in Ethiopia is estimated at 10,000. The remnant of Moroccan Jewry continued

to shrink through emigration. It should be pointed out, though, that not a few Jews have a foothold both in Morocco (or Tunisia) and in France, and their geographical attribution is uncertain.

OCEANIA

The major country of Jewish residence in this geographical region is Australia, where 95 percent of the estimated total of somewhat below 80,000 Jews live.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN OCEANIA, 1984

Country	Total Population	Jewish Population	Jews per 1,000 Population	Accuracy Rating
Australia	15,369,000	75,000	4.9	B 1981
New Zealand	3,203,000	4,000	1.2	B 1981
Total		79,000		

The figures for Australia and New Zealand have not been changed from 1982 to 1984, since a migratory surplus may have largely offset an internal deficit caused by low fertility, aging, and out-marriage.

Dispersion and Concentration

Table 7 demonstrates the magnitude of Jewish dispersion. The individual countries listed above as each having at least 100 Jews are scattered over five continents. More than half (40 out of 74 countries) have fewer than 5,000 Jews apiece.

In relative terms, too, the Jews are now thinly scattered nearly everywhere in the Diaspora. There is not a single Diaspora country where they amount even to 3 percent of the total population. In most countries they constitute a far smaller fraction. Probably only three Diaspora countries have 10–25 Jews per 1,000 of total population; and only nine countries have more than 5 Jews per 1,000 of population. The respective nine countries are, in descending order of the proportion—but regardless of the absolute number—of their Jews: United States (24.3), Gibraltar (20.1), Canada (12.4), France (9.7), Uruguay (9.1), Argentina (7.7), USSR (5.8), Great Britain (5.8), Hungary (5.7). This list includes all the Diaspora countries with Jewries of 100,000 or more, except for South Africa and Brazil (in the latter's large population the Jews form only 0.8 per 1,000). In the State of Israel, by contrast, the Jewish majority amounted to 82.7 percent in 1984.

While Jews are widely dispersed, they are also concentrated to some extent (Table 8). In 1984 over 95 percent of world Jewry lived in the nine countries with the largest Jewish populations, each comprising about 100,000 Jews or more; 83 percent lived in the three countries that have at least a million Jews each (United States, Israel,

TABLE 7. DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S JEWS, BY NUMBER AND PROPORTION (PER 1,000 POPULATION) IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

Number of Jews in Country	Jews per 1,000 Population					
	Total	Below 1	1-5	5-10	10-25	25 and over
	Number of Countries					
Total	74 ^a	50	14	6	3	1
Below 1,000	23	19	3	—	1	—
1,000-5,000	17	14	3	—	—	—
5,000-10,000	7	6	1	—	—	—
10,000-50,000	16	10	5	1	—	—
50,000-100,000	2	—	1	1	—	—
100,000-1,000,000	6	1	1	3	1	—
1,000,000 and over	3	—	—	1	1	1
	Jewish Population Distribution (Absolute Numbers)					
Total	12,963,300	389,500	333,400	2,751,500	6,015,600	3,471,700
Below 1,000	11,000	6,900	1,900	—	600	—
1,000-5,000	41,900	31,600	10,300	—	—	—
5,000-10,000	43,800	37,000	6,800	—	—	—
10,000-50,000	362,400	214,000	121,400	27,000	—	—
50,000-100,000	136,500	—	75,000	61,500	—	—
100,000-1,000,000	1,616,000	100,000	118,000	1,088,000	310,000	—
1,000,000 and over	10,751,700	—	—	1,575,000	5,705,000	3,471,700
	Jewish Population Distribution (Percent of World's Jews)					
Total	100.0	3.0	2.6	21.2	46.4	26.8
Below 1,000	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
1,000-5,000	0.3	0.2	0.1	—	—	—
5,000-10,000	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	—	—
10,000-50,000	2.8	1.6	0.9	0.2	—	—
50,000-100,000	1.1	—	0.6	0.5	—	—
100,000-1,000,000	12.5	0.8	0.9	8.4	2.4	—
1,000,000 and over	82.9	—	—	12.1	44.0	26.8

^aExcluding countries with fewer than 100 Jews.

TABLE 8. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS (100,000 JEWS AND ABOVE), 1984

Rank	Country	Jewish Population	% of Total Jewish Population			
			In the Diaspora		In the World	
			%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
1	United States	5,705,000	60.1	60.1	44.0	44.0
2	Israel	3,471,700	—	—	26.8	70.8
3	Soviet Union	1,575,000	16.6	76.7	12.1	82.9
4	France	530,000	5.6	82.3	4.1	87.0
5	Great Britain	330,000	3.5	85.8	2.5	89.5
6	Canada	310,000	3.3	89.1	2.4	91.9
7	Argentina	228,000	2.4	91.5	1.8	93.7
8	South Africa	118,000	1.2	92.7	0.9	94.6
9	Brazil	100,000	1.0	93.7	0.8	95.4

Soviet Union). Similarly, the United States alone accounted for 60 percent of total Diaspora Jewry; two countries (United States and Soviet Union) for 77 percent; and the eight Diaspora countries with 100,000 Jews or more together comprised 94 percent of the Diaspora Jewish population.

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