

World Jewish Population

THERE ARE NO PRECISE DATA on Jewish population in the various countries. The figures presented below represent the best possible estimates for 1977. They are based on local censuses, communal registration figures, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in Spring, 1977 (AJYB, 1978 [Vol. 78], p. 517). Some figures were obtained from local informants, mostly people involved in Jewish communal affairs. These figures are of varying degrees of accuracy, and are subject to a substantial margin of error. They will be revised when more precise data become available.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1977 was 14,286,000. Of the total number, about 6,698,000 (47 per cent) lived in the Americas, some 4,163,000 (29 per cent) in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the USSR, and over 3,172,000 (22 per cent) in Asia. Only some 177,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa, and 75,000 (0.5 per cent) in Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS, 1977

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	4,163,370	29.0
America, (North, Central, and South)	6,698,070	47.0
Asia	3,172,410	22.0
Africa	177,770	1.5
Australia and New Zealand	75,000	0.5
TOTAL	14,286,620*	100.0

*Because sources and dates were not always identical, there may be discrepancies between figures given in the tables below and those in other sections of this volume.

Europe

Of the approximately 4,163,000 Jews in Europe, some 2,840,000 were in the Communist area, including 2,678,000 in the Soviet Union, 80,000 in Hungary, some 60,000 in Rumania, and about 6,000 in Poland. There was a continuing debate about the number of Jews in the USSR (see the article "Soviet Jewry Since the Death of

Stalin" in this volume). Some 1,320,000 Jews lived in non-Communist countries. France had about 650,000, making it not only the largest Jewish community in Western Europe, but also the fourth largest in the world. Great Britain had 410,000; Belgium, 41,000; Italy, 39,000, and Germany (including both West and East Germany) 34,000, about 5,500 of whom lived in West Berlin.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1977

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	2,550,000	300
Austria	7,510,000	13,000 ^x
Belgium	9,890,000	41,000
Bulgaria	8,760,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	14,920,000	13,000
Denmark	5,070,000	7,500 ^x
Finland	4,730,000	1,320
France	52,920,000	650,000
Germany	79,210,000 ^b	34,000 ^b
Gibraltar	30,000	650 ^x
Great Britain	55,930,000	410,000 ^x
Greece	9,170,000	6,000
Hungary	10,600,000	80,000
Ireland	3,160,000	4,000
Italy	56,170,000	39,000 ^x
Luxembourg	360,000	1,000
Malta	300,000	50
Netherlands	13,770,000	30,000 ^x
Norway	4,030,000	950
Poland	34,360,000	6,000
Portugal	9,450,000	600
Rumania	21,450,000	60,000
Spain	35,970,000	10,000
Sweden	8,220,000	16,000 ^x
Switzerland	6,350,000	21,000
Turkey	40,160,000	27,000 ^{xc}
USSR	256,670,000	2,678,000 ^c
Yugoslavia	21,560,000	6,000
TOTAL		4,163,370

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

^bIncludes West Germany, East Germany, and both sectors of Berlin.

^cIncludes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

^xReply to 1977 inquiry.

North, Central, and South America

The number of Jews in the United States, including all persons living in Jewish households, was estimated at about 5,781,000 (see the article "Jewish Population in the United States, 1978" in this volume). Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, and Central America about 574,000. The Jewish population figure for Argentina was 300,000. While this estimate was accepted by some local informants, it was contested by others.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1977

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	23,140,000	305,000 ^x
Mexico	62,330,000	37,500
United States	215,120,000	<u>5,781,000</u>
Total North America		6,123,500
Barbados	250,000	70 ^x
Costa Rica	2,020,000	2,500 ^x
Cuba	9,460,000	1,500
Curacao	150,000	700
Dominican Republic	4,840,000	200
El Salvador	4,120,000	350 ^x
Guatemala	6,260,000	2,000
Haiti	4,670,000	150
Honduras	2,830,000	200
Jamaica	2,060,000	500
Nicaragua	2,230,000	200
Panama	1,720,000	2,000
Trinidad	1,080,000	<u>300</u>
Total Central America and West Indies		10,670
Argentina	25,720,000	300,000
Bolivia	5,790,000	2,000
Brazil	109,180,000	150,000 ^x
Chile	10,450,000	27,000
Colombia	24,330,000	12,000
Ecuador	7,310,000	1,000
Paraguay	2,720,000	1,200
Peru	16,090,000	5,200 ^x
Surinam	440,000	500
Uruguay	2,800,000	50,000
Venezuela	12,360,000	<u>15,000</u>
Total South America		<u>563,900</u>
TOTAL		6,698,070

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

The Jewish population of Asia was over 3,171,000. Of these, 3,076,000, or approximately 97 per cent, were in Israel, the second largest Jewish population center in the world. There were 80,000 Jews in Iran and 8,000 in India. It was difficult to ascertain if events in Lebanon had any impact on the number of Jews in Lebanon and Syria.

The Jewish population of Australia was estimated at about 70,000, and that of New Zealand at 5,000.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1977

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan	19,800,000	200
Burma	30,830,000	200
China	852,130,000	30
Cyprus	640,000	30
Hong Kong	4,380,000	250
India	610,080,000	8,000 ^a
Indonesia	139,620,000	100
Iran	33,400,000	80,000
Iraq	11,510,000	350
Israel	3,650,000	3,076,000
Japan	112,420,000	400 ^a
Lebanon	2,960,000	400
Pakistan	72,370,000	250
Philippines	43,750,000	200
Singapore	2,280,000	500
Syria	7,600,000	4,500
Yemen	6,870,000	1,000
TOTAL		3,172,410

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1977

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	13,640,000	70,000 ^a
New Zealand	3,140,000	5,000
TOTAL		75,000

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa stood at about 177,000, including some 118,000 in South Africa. It was not clear whether events in Rhodesia had a substantial impact on the number of Jews there. An estimated 28,000 were in Ethiopia. The Jewish communities of the Maghreb were very small—some 18,000 in Morocco, 7,000 in Tunisia, and about 1,000 in Algeria. Egypt had 400 Jews and Libya 20.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1977

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	17,300,000	1,000
Egypt	38,070,000	400
Ethiopia	28,680,000	28,000
Kenya	13,850,000	400
Libya	2,440,000	20
Morocco	17,830,000	18,000
Republic of South Africa	26,130,000	118,000 ^b
Rhodesia	6,530,000	3,800 ^c
Tunisia	5,740,000	7,000
Zaire	25,630,000	750
Zambia	5,140,000	400
TOTAL		177,770

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^bSee Table 2, note^a.

COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

The largest Jewish community was in the United States, followed by Israel and the Soviet Union. Together they accounted for some 81 per cent of the world Jewish population. France, Great Britain, Canada, and Argentina had Jewish communities of 300,000 or over. Brazil had a Jewish population of 150,000, while that of South Africa stood at 118,000. The balance of the countries had Jewish communities of less than 100,000 each.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,781,000
Israel	3,076,000
Soviet Union	2,678,000
France	650,000
Great Britain	410,000
Canada	305,000
Argentina	300,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES*

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Adelaide	1,600 ^a
Amsterdam	20,000 ^a
Ankara	550 ^a
Antwerp	13,000
Athens	2,800
Auckland	1,500
Basel	2,300
Belgrade	1,500
Berlin (both sectors)	6,000
Bern	800
Bogota	5,500
Bombay (and district)	6,970 ^a
Bordeaux	6,400 ^a
Brisbane	1,500 ^a
Brussels	24,500
Bucharest	40,000
Budapest	65,000
Calcutta	300 ^a
Cape Town	25,650 ^a
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	7,000 ^a
Durban	5,990 ^a
Florence	1,400
Geneva	3,250
Glasgow	13,000 ^a
Goteborg	4,000 ^a
Guatemala City	1,500
Haifa	210,000
Helsinki	1,000
Istanbul	23,000 ^a

Izmir	2,500*
Jerusalem	266,000
Johannesburg	57,500*
Kiev	170,000
Kobe	80*
Leeds	18,000*
Leningrad	165,000
Lima	5,000*
Lisbon	550
Liverpool	6,500*
London (greater)	280,000*
Luxembourg	850
Lyons	20,000
Madrid	3,000
Malmo	4,000*
Manchester (greater)	35,000*
Manila	300
Marseille	65,000
Melbourne	34,000
Mexico, D. F.	32,500
Milan	9,000*
Montevideo	48,000
Montreal	115,000*
Moscow	285,000
Nice	20,000
Oslo	750
Ottawa	7,500*
Paris	300,000
Perth	3,200*
Plovdiv	1,000
Porto Alegre	12,000*
Prague	3,000
Rabat	2,500
Recife	3,000*
Rio de Janeiro	55,000*
Rome	10,000*
Salisbury	2,000*
Salonika	1,300
San Jose	2,500*
Sao Paulo	75,000*
Sarajevo	1,100
Sofia	4,000

Stockholm	8,000*
Strasbourg	12,000
Subotica	250
Sydney	28,500*
Teheran	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	394,000
Tokyo	320*
Toronto	115,000*
Toulouse	18,000
Trieste	1,200
Vancouver	12,000*
Valparaiso	4,000
Vienna	9,000
Wellington	1,500
Warsaw	4,500
Winnipeg	20,000*
Zagreb	1,200
Zurich	6,150

*For cities in the United States, see Table 3 of section, "Jewish Population in the United States" in this volume.

^See Table 2, note^.

LEON SHAPIRO