

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 1978. They are based on local censuses, communal registration figures, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1977 (See AJYB, 1978, Vol. 78, p. 517). Some figures were obtained from local informants, mostly people involved in Jewish communal affairs. The figures are of varying degrees of accuracy and are subject to substantial margins of error. Where students of Jewish population differ significantly as to the estimated number of Jews in a particular country, this is so indicated. The figures will be revised when more accurate data become available.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1978 was 14,396,000. Of the total number, about 6,783,000 (47 per cent) lived in the Americas, some 4,142,000 (29 per cent) in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the USSR, and over 3,221,000 (22 per cent) in Asia. Only some 174,000 (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, 1978

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	4,142,450	29.0
America (North, Central, and South)	6,783,220	47.0
Asia	3,221,010	22.0
Africa	174,320	1.5
Australia and New Zealand	75,000	0.5
TOTAL	14,396,000*	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.

Various estimates have been put forward for the Jewish populations of the Soviet Union, the United States, Argentina, and France. If the lower estimate were accepted in each case, the total world Jewish population would be smaller by about one million than the estimate offered here.

Europe

Of the approximately 4,142,000 Jews in Europe, over 2,800,000 were in the Communist area, including 2,666,000 in the Soviet Union, 80,000 in Hungary, some 45,000 in Rumania, and about 6,000 in Poland. There was a continuing debate about the number of Jews in the USSR. Some Israeli scholars accepted the official Soviet figure, and suggested that, with continuing Jewish emigration, the number of Soviet Jews was below 2,000,000. Without going into details, it seems that a figure of about 2,600,000 is nearer to the actual situation (See "Soviet Jewry Since the Death of Stalin," AJYB, 1979, Vol. 79, pp. 79-80).

Over 1,300,000 Jews lived in non-Communist countries. France had about 650,000, making it the largest Jewish community in Western Europe. (Other sources estimated the French Jewish population as being 550,000). Great Britain had 410,000, Belgium 41,000, Italy 41,000, and Germany (including both East and West Germany) 38,000.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1978

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	2,620,000	300
Austria	7,520,000	13,000 ^a
Belgium	9,830,000	41,000
Bulgaria	8,800,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	15,030,000	13,000
Denmark	5,090,000	7,500 ^a
Finland	4,740,000	1,350
France	53,080,000	650,000
Germany	79,210,000	38,000 ^b
Gibraltar	30,000	650 ^a
Great Britain	55,850,000	410,000
Greece	9,280,000	6,000
Hungary	10,650,000	80,000
Ireland	3,190,000	4,000
Italy	56,450,000	41,000
Luxembourg	360,000	1,000
Malta	330,000	50
Netherlands	13,850,000	30,000 ^a
Norway	4,040,000	1,000
Poland	34,700,000	6,000
Portugal	9,730,000	600
Rumania	21,660,000	45,000
Spain	36,670,000	10,000
Sweden	8,260,000	16,000 ^a
Switzerland	6,330,000	21,000
Turkey	42,130,000	27,000 ^{ac}

USSR	258,930,000	2,666,000
Yugoslavia	21,910,000	6,000
TOTAL		4,142,450

^aUnited 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.

^dReply 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 5,860,900 (see the article "Jewish Population in the United States, 1979" in this volume.) Some Israeli demographers disagreed with this figure and suggested an estimate one quarter million smaller. Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, and Central and South America about 580,000. 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, 1978

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	23,280,000	305,000 ^a
Mexico	64,590,000	37,500
United States	216,820,000	5,860,900
Total North America		6,203,400
Barbados	250,000	70 ^a
Costa Rica	2,060,000	2,500 ^a
Cuba	9,600,000	1,500
Curacao	150,000	700
Dominican Republic	4,980,000	250
El Salvador	4,260,000	350 ^a
Guatemala	6,440,000	2,000
Haiti	4,750,000	150
Honduras	2,830,000	200
Jamaica	2,090,000	500
Nicaragua	2,310,000	200
Panama	1,770,000	2,000
Trinidad	1,100,000	500
Total Central America and West Indies		10,920
Argentina	26,060,000	300,000
Bolivia	5,950,000	2,000
Brazil	112,240,000	150,000 ^a

Chile	10,660,000	28,000
Colombia	25,050,000	14,000
Ecuador	7,560,000	1,000
Paraguay	2,800,000	1,200
Peru	16,360,000	5,200*
Surinam	450,000	500
Uruguay	2,850,000	50,000
Venezuela	12,740,000	17,000
Total South America		568,900
TOTAL		6,783,220

See Table 2, note.

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Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

The Jewish population of Asia was 3,221,410. Of this figure, 3,135,000, or approximately 97 per cent, were in Israel, the second largest Jewish population center in the world. There were 70,000 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, 1978

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan	17,450,000	200
Burma	31,510,000	200
China	865,680,000	30
Cyprus	640,000	30
Hong Kong	4,510,000	250
India	625,820,000	8,000*
Indonesia	143,280,000	100
Iran	34,270,000	70,000
Iraq	11,910,000	450
Israel	3,730,000	3,135,000
Japan	113,860,000	400*
Lebanon	3,060,000	400
Pakistan	75,280,000	250
Philippines	54,030,000	200
Singapore	2,310,000	500
Syria	7,840,000	4,500
Yemen	7,080,000	500
TOTAL		3,221,010

See Table 2, note.

See Table 2, note.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1978

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	14,070,000	70,000 ^a
New Zealand	3,111,000	5,000
TOTAL		<u>75,000</u>

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa stood at about 175,770, 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 22,000 were in Ethiopia. The Jewish communities of the Maghreb were very small—some 22,000 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, 1978

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	17,300,000	1,000
Egypt	38,070,000	400
Ethiopia	28,680,000	22,000
Kenya	13,850,000	300
Libya	2,440,000	20
Morocco	17,830,000	22,000
Republic of South Africa	26,130,000	118,000 ^a
Rhodesia	6,530,000	3,000
Tunisia	5,740,000	7,000
Zaire	25,630,000	200
Zambia	5,140,000	400
TOTAL		<u>174,320</u>

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^aSee 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	5,860,900
Israel	3,135,000
Soviet Union	2,666,000
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	7,500
Brisbane	1,500 ^a
Brussels	24,500
Bucharest	40,000
Budapest	65,000
Calcutta	300 ^a

Cape Town	25,650*
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	7,000*
Durban	5,990*
Florence	1,400
Geneva	3,250
Glasgow	13,000*
Goteborg	4,000*
Grenoble	8,000
Guatemala City	1,500
Haifa	210,000
Helsinki	1,000
Istanbul	23,000*
Izmir	2,500*
Jerusalem	272,000
Johannesburg	57,500
Kharkov	80,000
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
Odessa	120,000
Oslo	750
Ottawa	7,500*
Paris	300,000

Perth	3,200 ^a
Plovdiv	1,000
Porto Alegre	12,000 ^a
Prague	3,000
Rabat	2,500
Recife	3,000 ^a
Rio de Janeiro	55,000 ^a
Rome	12,000
Salisbury	2,000 ^a
Salonika	1,300
San Jose	2,500 ^a
Sao Paulo	75,000 ^a
Sarajevo	1,100
Sofia	4,000
Stockholm	8,000 ^a
Strasbourg	12,000
Subotica	250
Sverdlovsk	40,000
Sydney	28,500 ^a
Teheran	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	394,000
Tokyo	320 ^a
Toronto	115,000 ^a
Toulouse	18,000
Trieste	1,200
Vancouver	12,000 ^a
Valparaiso	4,000
Vienna	10,000
Wellington	1,500
Warsaw	4,500
Winnipeg	20,000 ^a
Zagreb	1,200
Zhitomir	20,000
Zurich	6,150

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

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

LEON SHAPIRO