

World Jewish Population

THERE IS NO way of ascertaining the exact number of Jews in the various countries of the world. The figures presented below are the best possible estimates for the year 1972. They are based on local censuses, communal registration, estimates of informed residents, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted during the year. Questionnaires were sent to 58 major Jewish organizations in selected countries eliciting information on (a) the number of Jews in the country, including nationals and refugees; (b) figures for principal cities; (c) sources of the data (census, communal registration, estimate), and (d) the methods used in arriving at estimates. Reports were received from 19 countries.¹

The figures provided here are subject to a substantial margin of error, and will have to be revised when more precise data become available. It should be noted that some figures given in earlier volumes were used again because while there may have been changes in the size of the Jewish population in a number of the countries due to natural increase or migration, there was no way of arriving at a new valid estimate. Only changes reflected in figures received in responses to the special inquiry have been taken into account. There were no mass departures of Jews from any one country to another during the period under review, although substantial numbers of Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel and small groups emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States, Canada, and other Western countries.

In the tables below, figures obtained from the 1972 special inquiry are indicated by an x. Figures obtained through the 1969 and 1970 inquiries are indicated by a z.

¹Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jews; Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Center; Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress; Dominican Republic: Parroquia Israelita; Ecuador: Asociación de Beneficencia Israelita; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; Finland: Soumen Juntalaisien Seurakuntien Keskusneuvosto; Honduras: Comunidad Hebrea de Tegucigalpa; Italy: Unione della Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; New Zealand: United Synagogues of New Zealand; Portugal: Comunidad Israelita de Lisboa; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews; Uruguay: Comité Central Israelita; Venezuela: Asociación Israelita.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1972 stood at about 14,370,000. Of the total, about 7,220,000 (some 51 per cent) were in the Americas; over 4,050,000 (28 per cent) were in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the Soviet Union; and some 2,820,000 (19 per cent) were in Asia. Only approximately 176,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa, and about 74,000 (0.5 per cent) were in Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent, 1972</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	4,055,905	28.0
America: North, Central, and South	7,237,345	51.0
Asia	2,826,900	19.0
Africa	176,500	1.5
Australia and New Zealand	74,000	0.5
TOTAL	<u>14,370,650</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Europe

Of the more than 4,000,000 Jews in Europe, over 2,850,000 were in the Communist area. This figure included an estimated 2,648,000 in the Soviet Union (p. 481; AJYB, 1972 [Vol. 73], pp. 535-36); 90,000 Jews in Rumania; 80,000 in Hungary, and only 8,000 Jews in Poland.

About 1,200,000 Jews lived in non-Communist countries. France, with a substantial number of Sephardi Jews who entered the country after World War II and later from North Africa, had a Jewish population of some 550,000, the largest in Western Europe. Great Britain had 410,000 Jews; Belgium, 40,500; Italy, 35,000; Germany, 32,000, including West Germany (26,500), East Germany (5,500), and Berlin (6,000).

North, Central, and South America

Pending the completion of the ongoing study, the estimated Jewish population of the United States, was about 6,115,000. This figure, particularly that for New York, may have to be adjusted. Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, Central and South America, some 777,000. There

was migration of Jews from some of the countries of Latin America, but it was not sufficiently large to change the population figure for the area.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

Country	Total Population ^a	Jewish Population
Albania	2,023,000	300
Austria	7,460,000	9,400 ^x
Belgium	9,680,000	40,500
Bulgaria	8,540,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	14,500,000	14,000
Denmark	4,960,000	6,000 ^z
Finland	4,680,000	1,150 ^x
France	51,250,000	550,000 ^z
Germany	78,340,000	32,000 ^y
Gibraltar	30,000	625
Great Britain	55,570,000	410,000 ^x
Greece	8,850,000	6,500
Hungary	10,350,000	80,000
Ireland	2,970,000	4,000
Italy	54,080,000	35,000 ^x
Luxembourg	340,000	1,000
Malta	330,000	50
Netherlands	13,190,000	30,000
Norway	3,900,000	800
Poland	32,750,000	8,000
Portugal	8,950,000	580 ^x
Rumania	20,470,000	90,000
Spain	34,130,000	9,000
Sweden	8,110,000	15,000 ^z
Switzerland	6,310,000	20,000 ^z
Turkey	36,110,000	30,000 ^b
USSR	245,090,000	2,648,000 ^b
Yugoslavia	20,550,000	7,000 ^z
TOTAL	743,513,000	4,055,905

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

^bIncludes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

^xReply to 1972 inquiry.

^yIncludes West Germany, East Germany, and Berlin.

^zReply to 1969 or 1970 inquiry.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	21,600,000	305,000 ^x
Mexico	50,830,000	40,000 ^z
United States	207,050,000	6,115,000 ^b
Total North America	279,480,000	6,460,000
Barbados	240,000	85 ^x
Costa Rica	1,790,000	1,500
Cuba	8,660,000	1,500
Curaçao	150,000	700
Dominican Republic	4,180,000	110 ^x
El Salvador	3,650,000	300 ^x
Guatemala	5,350,000	1,900 ^z
Haiti	4,970,000	150
Honduras	2,580,000	200 ^x
Jamaica	1,900,000	600 ^x
Nicaragua	1,980,000	200
Panama	1,480,000	2,000
Trinidad	1,030,000	250
Total Central America and West Indies	37,960,000	9,495
Argentina	23,550,000	500,000
Bolivia	5,060,000	2,000 ^z
Brazil	95,410,000	150,000 ^z
Chile	8,990,000	30,000
Colombia	21,770,000	13,000
Ecuador	6,300,000	850 ^x
Paraguay	9,390,000	1,200
Peru	14,010,000	5,300 ^z
Surinam	410,000	500
Uruguay	2,920,000	50,000 ^x
Venezuela	10,400,000	15,000 ^x
Total South America	198,210,000	767,850
TOTAL	515,650,000	7,237,345

^aSee Table 2, note a.

^bThe national Jewish population study conducted under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has not yet been completed. When the results of the study become available, this figure may have to be adjusted.

^xSee Table 2, note x.

^zSee Table 2, note z.

Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

Of the 2,826,400 Jews in Asia, 2,723,000 were in Israel, a number now exceeding the estimated Jewish population of the Soviet Union. There were 80,000 Jews in Iran, and some 14,000 in India. No other country in Asia, except Turkey and the Asian areas of the USSR, had as many as 4,000 Jews. Syria had 3,500 and Lebanon 2,000. The number of Jews in any of the other Asian countries did not exceed 800.

The Jewish population of Australia was estimated at about 70,000, that of New Zealand at 4,000.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa continued to decline, except for South Africa where it has reached about 118,000. The North African Jewish communities were, in fact, in the process of liquidation. Only 50 Jews remained in Libya, 500 in Egypt, 1,000 in Algeria, and 8,000 in Tunisia. Morocco had 31,000 Jews. The Jewish communities of the Maghreb, which were among the early Jewish settlements, were disappearing.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan	17,480,000	500
Burma	27,580,000	200
China	787,180,000	20
Cyprus	640,000	30
Hong Kong	4,050,000	200
India	550,370,000	14,000
Indonesia	124,890,000	100
Iran	29,780,000	80,000
Iraq	9,750,000	500 ^x
Israel	3,200,000	2,723,000
Japan	104,660,000	500
Lebanon	2,870,000	2,000
Pakistan	53,510,000	250
Philippines	37,960,000	500 ^z
Singapore	2,110,000	600 ^z
Syria	6,450,000	4,000
Yemen	5,910,000	500
TOTAL	1,768,390,000	2,826,900

^aSee Table 2, note a.^xSee Table 2, note x.^zSee Table 2, note z.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	12,730,000	70,000 ^x
New Zealand	2,850,000	4,000 ^x
TOTAL	15,580,000	74,000

^aSee Table 2, note a.

^xSee Table 2, note x.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	14,770,000	1,000
Congo Republic	17,100,000	250
Egypt	34,130,000	500
Ethiopia	25,250,000	12,000
Kenya	11,690,000	200 ^z
Libya	2,010,000	50
Morocco	15,230,000	31,000
Republic of South Africa	19,618,000	117,900 ^x
Rhodesia	5,500,000	5,200 ^x
Tunisia	5,140,000	8,000
Zambia (Northern (Rhodesia))	4,280,000	400
TOTAL	154,718,000	176,500

^aSee Table 2, note a.

^xSee Table 2, note x.

^zSee Table 2, note z.

COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

The largest Jewish communities were in the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union. Together they accounted for about 80 per cent of the world Jewish population. Only four other countries, France, Argentina, Great Britain, and Canada had Jewish populations exceeding 200,000.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	6,115,000
Israel	2,723,000
Soviet Union	2,648,000
France	550,000
Argentina	500,000
Great Britain	410,000
Canada	305,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES^a

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam	12,000
Antwerp	13,000
Athens	2,800
Auckland	1,500 ^x
Basle	2,300
Belgrade	1,600 ^z
Berlin (both sectors)	6,000 ^z
Berne	800
Bordeaux	6,400
Brussels	24,500
Bucharest	50,200
Budapest	65,000
Buenos Aires	350,000
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	6,000
Florence	1,400 ^x
Geneva	3,250 ^z
Glasgow	13,400 ^x
Guatemala City	1,500
Haifa	210,000
Helsinki	875 ^x
Istanbul	22,000
Jerusalem	266,000
Johannesburg	57,500 ^x
Kiev	220,000
Leeds	19,400 ^x
Leningrad	165,000
Lima	5,250
Lisbon	565 ^x
London (greater)	280,000 ^x
Luxembourg	850
Lyons	20,000

TABLE 8 (continued)

Madrid	3,000
Malmö	2,000
Manchester	36,000 ^x
Manila	300
Marseille	65,000 ^z
Melbourne	34,000 ^x
Mexico D.F.	30,000
Milan	9,500 ^x
Montevideo	48,000 ^x
Montreal	113,000
Moscow	285,000
Nice	20,000
Oslo	600
Ottawa	6,000
Paris	300,000 ^z
Perth	3,000 ^x
Plovdiv	1,000
Rabat	2,500
Rio de Janeiro	50,000 ^z
Rome	15,000 ^x
Salonika	1,300
São Paulo	65,000 ^z
Sarajevo	1,100 ^x
Sofia	4,000
Stockholm	8,000
Strasbourg	12,000
Subotica	400
Sydney	28,000 ^x
Teheran	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	394,000
Tokyo	400 ^x
Toronto	97,000
Toulouse	18,000
Trieste	1,200
Vancouver	8,000
Valparaiso	4,000
Vienna	9,000
Warsaw	5,000
Wellington	1,500
Winnipeg	21,000
Zagreb	1,350
Zurich	6,150 ^z

^aFor cities in the United States, see p. 310.

^xSee Table 2, note x.

^zSee Table 2, note z.