

World Jewish Population¹

DURING the period under review, the dynamics of the Jewish world population were influenced by the opening of the two significant outlets for immigration: Israel and the United States. In addition, numbers of Jews were resettled in Australia, Canada, Latin America, and other countries.²

Under the impact of these movements important changes occurred in the distribution of the Jewish population in various areas. The Jewish settlement in Israel grew substantially and amounted to 891,000 persons on May 31, 1949, as compared with 713,000 on November 8, 1948. On the other hand, Jewish communities behind the "Iron Curtain" and, to a lesser degree, in Moslem countries and the Middle East, decreased. Especially affected by the migration movement during the past year were the displaced Jews. As a result of their resettlement in various countries, the specific problem of Jewish displaced persons entered the phase of a final solution.

In Eastern Europe, a gradual liquidation of Jewish communities in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and a substantial decline of the Jewish population in Czechoslovakia took place. It was estimated that as of the end of August, 1949, there were 7,000 Jews in Bulgaria, 3,500 in Yugoslavia, and 18,000 in Czechoslovakia. Corresponding figures for the same countries in July-August, 1948, were 45,000, 10,000, and 42,000, respectively. Unfortunately, no data were available on the age structure and occupational distribution of the remaining population. It was also difficult to venture an opinion on the chances of survival of Jewish settlements in the countries mentioned above. If there was little change in the size of the Jewish population in Rumania and Hungary, the reason for this fact was to be found in the policy of the Rumanian and Hungarian governments in restricting emigration. Despite these restrictions, numbers of Hungarian Jews managed to infiltrate into Austria during the period under review.

Among the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, the Jewish communities of Yemen, Tripoli, and Turkey were particularly affected. Unbearable conditions in Yemen had been driving local Jewry from its native land since 1939-40. The establishment of the Jewish state gave an impetus to this displacement. The Jewish population in Yemen in September, 1949, was estimated at 30,000 and in Aden at about 2,000.

The Tripoli Jewish communities numbered 30,000 members after World War II. At the time of writing there were some 25,000 members. The Jewish population in Turkey was 55,000 in 1949 as against 80,000 in 1948. With almost no help from the outside and overcoming many difficulties, the Turkish Jews began to move to Israel toward the end of 1948. Consequently, many

¹ For background material, see "Jewish Population of the World," *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK* Vol. 50, p. 691; also articles on individual countries for more detailed statistics.

² For sources of immigration to Israel, see p. 406.

small Jewish communities in Turkey lost virtually all their members. The large community of Izmir had 6,000-7,000 Jews early in 1949 as compared to 14,000 in 1948 (*La Boz de Turkiye*, 222, April 1, 1949).

The Jewish population in Western Europe (England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Scandinavia, Greece) remained relatively stable.

As of May 31, 1949, a total of 431,896 displaced persons (DP's) received care and maintenance from the International Refugee Organization (IRO). In addition, 227,912 DP's benefited from IRO services only. Among those who were maintained and cared for by IRO were 58,127 Jews.

Europe

At the time of writing there were about 3,500,000 Jews in Europe. The largest Jewish community was situated in the USSR with an estimated 2,000,000 Jews. Outside the USSR there were in Eastern Europe about 640,000 Jews, approximately one-sixth of the European total. The largest Jewish community in that area was in Rumania, with some 350,000 Jews. In Western Europe and Scandinavia, the total number of Jews was about 700,000, including 345,000 in England and 235,000 in France.

Asia and Australasia

Out of about 1,247,000 Jews in Asia, 950,000 were in Israel, which was the third largest Jewish center in the world. Of the remaining 300,000, the principal Jewish communities were in Iraq (110,000) and Iran (90,000).

There were about 40,000 Jews in Australia and 4,000 in New Zealand.

Israel

According to available data from a registration of population conducted in Israel on November 8, 1948, there were at that time 782,000 residents in Israel, of whom 713,000 were Jews and 69,000 Arabs and others.³

TABLE I
DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	3,505,800	31.0
America (North and South)	5,782,850	51.0
Asia	1,247,200	11.0
Africa	723,500	6.5
Australia and New Zealand	44,000	0.5
TOTAL	11,303,350 ^a	100.0

^a Compared with 1948, the total Jewish population in 1949 showed a decrease of 70,000. This decrease was not a real one and reflects the fact that 1948 figures for some countries were overestimates; this was true particularly for Rumania and Jewish DP's in Germany. The immigration to the United States was not accounted for in the 1949 data because the available estimates on United States Jewish population varied from 4,500,000 to 5,000,000. (See AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK Vol. 50, p. 651.) It must be pointed out that in compiling the data the natural increase could not be taken into account, a task that would be hardly feasible.

³ *Statistical Bulletin of Israel*, I, 1, July, 1949, Hakiryia, Israel.

TABLE 2

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES ^a

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Albania	1,175,000	300
Austria	6,953,000	21,500 ^b
Belgium	8,557,000	42,000
Bulgaria	7,048,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	12,339,000	18,000
Denmark	4,190,000	5,500
England	50,033,000	345,000
Finland	3,958,000	1,800
France	40,800,000	235,000
Germany	66,007,000	55,000 ^b
Greece	7,780,000	8,000
Hungary	9,165,000	160,000
Irish Free State	2,997,000	4,500
Italy	45,706,000	38,500 ^b
Luxembourg	292,000	1,000
Netherlands	9,794,000	28,000
Norway	3,181,000	1,200
Poland	23,900,000	80,000
Portugal	8,402,000	4,000
Rumania	15,873,000	350,000
Soviet Union	193,000,000	2,000,000 ^c
Spain	27,761,000	3,000
Sweden	6,883,000	15,000
Switzerland	4,609,000	23,000
Turkey	19,500,000	55,000 ^c
Yugoslavia	15,752,000	3,500
TOTAL	595,655,000	3,505,800

^a Data on the total population were taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, Statistical Office of the United Nations, September 1949, Vol. III, 9, Great Neck, N. Y. These data represent available figures for 1947 and 1948. Where such material was not available data were taken from various United Nations publications and other sources. The data on Jewish population are mostly for 1948-49 and are based on information derived from local sources.

^b These numbers include not only local residents but displaced Jews as well.

^c Including Asiatic USSR and Asiatic Turkey.

At the end of 1948, according to the estimates of the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel, of a total population of 859,000, 759,000 were Jews and 100,000 Arabs and others.⁴

During 1949 about 200,000 Jews ⁵ entered Israel, bringing its Jewish population to 957,000 (as of September 30, 1949) and its total population to over 1,050,000.

Africa

It was estimated that more than 720,000 Jews were residing in Africa. The largest Jewish community was Morocco (280,000), followed by Algeria (130,000) and Tunisia (90,000).

⁴ Includes results of the additional registration in January, 1949 in Western Galilee (the areas of Nazareth and Acre); does not include areas of Majdal, Beer-Sheba, and Arab villages in the Sharon.

⁵ *Israel Economist*, July, 1949; Jewish Agency Report 17; ONA, September 5, 1949; *New York Herald Tribune*, October 5, 1949.

A sizeable Jewish migratory movement toward Israel from the Moslem countries began in 1949. For some time to come, its effects, however, would be counterbalanced by considerable natural increase, which in this area still showed an upward trend. Outside of Moslem countries, a substantial Jewish community was to be found in the Union of South Africa (100,000).

North and South America

Out of a total of approximately 5,782,000 Jews in the Western Hemisphere, an estimated 5,000,000 lived in the United States and about 185,000 in Canada. There were no recent estimates on Latin American countries. It was known, however, that during 1948-49 numbers of Jews entered various Latin American countries from Europe and from Asia (China and the Shanghai area).

The countries with the largest Jewish populations in 1949 are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH
AND SOUTH AMERICA, BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	12,883,000	185,000
United States	146,571,000 ^b	5,000,000
TOTAL North America	159,454,000	5,185,000
Argentina	16,109,000	360,000
Bolivia	3,922,000	4,000
Brazil	48,450,000	110,750
Chile	5,621,000	25,000
Colombia	10,777,000	6,000
Costa Rica	813,000	100
Cuba	5,195,000	10,000
Curaçao	105,000	1,000
Dominican Republic	2,214,000	600
Dutch Guiana	189,000 ^c	1,000
Ecuador	3,362,000	3,500
El Salvador	2,100,000	200
Guatemala	3,717,000	800
Haiti	3,500,000	200
Honduras	1,260,000	150
Jamaica	1,350,000	2,000
Mexico	24,447,000	25,000
Nicaragua	1,160,000	150
Panama	746,000	1,000
Paraguay	1,270,000	3,000
Peru	7,246,000	3,000
Trinidad	590,000	400
Uruguay	2,300,000	37,000
Venezuela	4,490,000	3,000
TOTAL South America	150,926,000	597,850
GRAND TOTAL	310,387,000	5,782,850

^a See footnote a, Table 2.

^b Exclusive of Alaska.

^c Data on the small Jewish community in British Guiana are not available. There had been an exodus of Jewish refugees who had found temporary sanctuary in that country.

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Aden	730,880	2,000 ^b
Afghanistan	12,000,000	5,000
China	463,493,000	5,000
Dutch East Indies	72,000,000	2,000
French Indo-China	25,000,000	1,500
India	342,114,000	25,000
Iran	17,000,000	90,000
Iraq	4,800,000	110,000
Israel	1,050,000	950,000
Japan	80,697,000	2,000
Manchuria	36,949,972	10,000
Pakistan	73,321,000	2,000
Philippines	19,964,000	700
Syria-Lebanon	4,166,000	12,000
Yemen	3,500,000	30,000
TOTAL	1,156,785,852	1,247,200

^a Excluding Asiatic provinces of the USSR and Turkey; see footnote a, Table 2.

^b In addition, at this writing, there were in Aden some 12,000 Yemenite Jews en route to Israel.

TABLE 5
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Abyssinia	9,500,000	20,000
Algeria	7,600,000	130,000
Egypt	19,528,000	75,000
Libya	888,000	25,000
Morocco (including Tangiers)	9,082,000	280,000
Southern Rhodesia	1,979,000	3,500
Tunisia	3,015,000	90,000
Union of South Africa	11,790,000	100,000
TOTAL	63,382,000	723,500

^a See footnote a, Table 2.

TABLE 6
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	7,710,000	40,000
New Zealand	1,841,000	4,000
TOTAL	9,551,000	44,000

^a See footnote a, Table 2.

TABLE 7
COUNTRIES OF LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,000,000
Soviet Union	2,000,000
Israel	950,000
Argentina	360,000
Rumania	350,000
England	345,000
Morocco	280,000
France	235,000

TABLE 8

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN SELECTED CITIES ^a

<i>Cities</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Alexandria	28,000
Algiers	30,000
Amsterdam	14,000
Athens	3,700
Belgrade	1,900
Berlin	7,000
Bialystok	660
Bucharest	160,000
Budapest	110,000
Cairo	36,000
Casablanca	100,000
Cologne	650
Constantine	15,000
Cracow	5,900
Damascus	2,500
Dzierzoniow	6,120
Florence	1,500
Frankfort-on-Main	1,620
Haifa	128,000
Hamburg	1,390
Harbin	1,400
Helsinki	1,350
Jassy	27,500
Jerusalem	95,000
Johannesburg	30,000
La Paz	3,500
Legnica	3,350
Leipzig	360
Lodz	14,000
London	234,000
Melbourne	18,000
Milan	5,000
Montreal	55,000
Oran	22,000
Oslo	500
Paris	125,000
Rio de Janeiro	40,000
Rome	12,000
Salonika	1,620
São Paulo	30,000
Shanghai	4,100
Sydney	18,000
Teheran	25,000
Tel Aviv	250,000
Trieste	1,500
Tripoli	20,000
Tunis	50,000
Turin	2,300
Vienna	11,700
Walbrzych	4,890
Warsaw	4,400
Wroclaw	9,200
Zagreb	1,700

^a Mostly for 1947-48; for population of cities in the United States. *see* Jewish Population Estimates of Selected Cities, p. 71 ff.