

Israel

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS

DURING 1949, 239,076 Jews entered Israel. This number was almost four times that of the total number of Jewish immigrants to Israel in any single year during the mandatory period, and almost half (47 per cent) of the total of approximately one-half million Jews who entered Palestine during that period. During the twenty-five and one-half months from May 15, 1948, to July, 1950, the total immigration to Israel was 413,346, or about 80 per cent of the previous thirty year total.¹ At the end of 1949, there were one million Jews in Israel.

TABLE I
JEWISH IMMIGRATION BY MONTH, JULY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1948; 1949;
JANUARY THROUGH JUNE, 1950^a

<i>Month</i>	<i>1948</i> <i>No.</i>	<i>1949</i> <i>No.</i>	<i>1950</i> <i>No.</i>
January	—	23,533	12,930
February	—	24,472	10,938
March	—	30,731	13,347
April	—	23,291	8,186
May	—	23,163	12,373
June	—	16,353	14,373
July	17,266	16,315	—
August	8,451	13,947	—
September	10,786	20,254	—
October	10,691	19,206	—
November	20,369	13,470	—
December	27,829	14,341	—
TOTAL	95,392	239,076	72,147

^a Figures for March through June, 1950, are based on the *Statistical Bulletin* of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department in Jerusalem.

Table I reveals that during 1949 immigration reached its peak in the month of March when it attained the figure of 30,731. This was the height of the flood of immigrants which began at the end of August, 1948, to stream out of the displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria, and from Cyprus, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and North Africa. In April, 1949, the stream of immi-

¹ Statistical tables and other data included in this survey are based on information provided by the *Statistical Bulletin of Israel*, I, 5-6, unless otherwise specified.

gration began to subside. After reaching the low point of 8,186 in April, 1950, the number of immigrants to Israel began to rise in June, 1950.

This pattern is also reflected in terms of semi-annual totals. During the first six months of 1949, there were 141,543 immigrants. During the second half of 1949 the figure decreased to 97,533. The first six months of 1950 saw an immigration of 72,147.

The decline in immigration and the monthly fluctuations were due to a number of factors: the need on the part of the Jewish Agency temporarily to regulate the immigration because of the mounting congestion in the immigrant camps at the beginning of 1949; the inadequacy of the returns from the campaigns for Israel to supply funds with which to maintain the newcomers; and the varying positions with relation to emigration taken by the various governments involved. [For a detailed account of developments in immigration to Israel during 1949-50, see article on specific country, under section "Emigration."]

Origin of Immigrants

The larger number of immigrants during 1949-50 came as part of mass movements that aimed at rescuing and rehabilitating complete Jewish communities. In addition to these mass movements, there was a migration on a smaller scale from other parts of the world where the Jewish communities were not in danger, such as Western Europe, America, South Africa and Australia, and even from such small and remote communities as those in India and China.

Table 2 provides information regarding the countries of birth of the immigrants who arrived during 1949.

This table indicates that there has occurred an appreciable change in the areas from which the immigration originated during 1949 as compared with 1948. The percentage of natives of Asia and North Africa rose, whereas the percentage of European-born dropped, particularly during the second half of 1949.

Immigrants from Turkey and Yemen occupied a particularly prominent place among immigrants from the countries of the Middle East. Among immigrants from North Africa the highest relative increases were among the Jews of Libya and of Egypt.

The decline of the proportion of immigration from Europe was particularly noticeable in the case of Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Hungary. On the other hand, the participation of Jews from Czechoslovakia in the migration to Israel increased during 1949. Despite the decline in the proportion of Jewish immigrants from Poland during 1949, immigrants born in Poland (as distinct from those coming directly from Poland) continued to occupy first place among all immigrants of European birth, and among immigrants born in any other country.

The growing proportion of Jewish immigrants from Asia and Africa which was evident in 1949 continued also during the first half of 1950, when the North African and Asiatic immigrants accounted for 60 per cent of the total immigration.

TABLE 2
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *

<i>Country of Birth</i>	<i>1949 No.</i>	<i>1949 Per Cent</i>	<i>1948 No.</i>	<i>1948 Per Cent</i>
TOTAL ALL COUNTRIES.....	239,141	100.0	118,993	100.0
Neighboring Countries in Asia.....	1,570	0.7	5	0.0
Lebanon.....	251	—	3	—
Syria.....	1,319	—	2	—
Other Middle East Countries in Asia.....	67,679	28.8	4,805	4.6
Iraq.....	1,709	—	15	—
Turkey.....	26,295	—	4,388	—
Iran.....	1,778	—	44	—
Cyprus.....	102	—	59	—
Yemen.....	35,138	—	298	—
Other Countries (mainly Aden).....	2,657	—	1	—
Other Countries in Asia.....	2,022	0.9	52	0.0
Afghanistan.....	446	—	25	—
Other Countries (except U.S.S.R.).....	1,576	—	27	—
North Africa.....	39,135	16.8	8,268	8.0
Egypt.....	7,145	—	129	—
Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco.....	17,924	7.7	7,074	6.9
Other Countries (mainly Libya).....	14,066	—	1,065	—
Other Countries in Africa.....	307	0.1	187	0.2
Union of South Africa.....	217	—	180	—
Other Countries.....	90	—	7	—
U.S.S.R. and Poland.....	50,655	21.6	33,608	32.5
U.S.S.R. not otherwise specified.....	2,528	—	726	—
European Russia.....	51	—	41	—
Estonia, Latvia.....	91	—	71	—
Lithuania.....	567	—	521	—
Transcaucasia, Bokhara.....	75	—	4	—
Poland.....	47,343	20.2	32,245	31.2
Balkan Countries.....	37,439	16.1	44,784	43.3
Rumania.....	13,596	5.8	24,780	23.9
Bulgaria.....	20,008	8.6	15,676	15.2
Yugoslavia.....	2,470	—	4,136	—
Albania.....	1	—	1	—
Greece.....	1,364	—	191	—
Central European Countries.....	29,493	12.6	8,865	8.6
Germany.....	5,333	—	1,585	—
Austria.....	1,620	—	446	—
Czechoslovakia.....	15,689	6.7	2,558	2.5
Hungary.....	6,844	2.9	4,266	4.2
Other Countries.....	7	—	10	—
United Kingdom.....	758	0.3	505	0.5
Other Countries in Europe.....	3,520	1.6	1,841	1.8
Scandinavian Countries.....	120	—	54	—
Netherlands.....	367	—	203	—
Belgium.....	465	—	162	—
France.....	1,654	—	678	—
Switzerland.....	123	—	26	—
Italy.....	501	—	671	—
Other Countries.....	290	—	47	—
America and Oceania.....	1,358	0.5	491	0.5
United States.....	538	—	305	—
Canada.....	64	—	37	—
Countries in South and Central America	711	—	138	—
Oceania.....	45	—	11	—
Not stated.....	5,205	—	15,582	—

* Includes travelers later registered as immigrants.

Distribution by Communities

During the twenty-six years from 1919 to 1945 the oriental communities comprised less than 15 per cent of the total Jewish immigration. The percentage of Ashkenazic Jews in the community was constantly on the increase during the period from 1918 to 1945, whereas the percentage of the oriental communities constantly decreased. However, as a consequence of the new immigration, in July, 1950, the oriental communities in Israel were estimated to comprise over 30 per cent of the total Jewish population.

The composition of the immigration during the first six months of 1950 (January through June) according to the countries of origin of the immigrants is given in Table 3 and is based on the figures of the Statistical Bulletin of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. ("Country of origin" means in this context the country in which the immigrant spent at least six months before coming to Israel.)

TABLE 3
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, JANUARY-JUNE, 1950

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number</i>
ALL COUNTRIES	72,546 ^a
Rumania	14,054
Poland	10,159
Hungary	1,150
Germany	814
France	699
Iraq	8,748
Yemen	8,111
Iran	4,690
Turkey	1,168
India	714
Syria and Lebanon	683
Libya	6,663
Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia	5,410
Egypt	4,896
Other Countries	4,287

^a This figure does not include 300 immigrants, details on whom have not been available.

Countries of Main Residence

Data released by the Central Statistical Bureau of the Government of Israel with regard to the composition of the immigrants on the basis of the countries of their principal residence refer to the months May through December, 1949. These data demonstrate the existence of an important discrepancy between the countries of main residence and the countries of birth of the immigrants. The discrepancy is particularly noticeable in the case of the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany. Whereas the number of natives of the Soviet Union arriving during the period from May through December, 1949,

was 1,268, the number of immigrants for whom the Soviet Union was the chief country of residence was but one-twelfth of this number, or 105. For Poland the figures were 20,017 as against 3,522, or one-sixth.

The reverse was true of immigrants from the West (Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, and Italy). The number of immigrants for whom these countries were the lands of main residence far surpassed the number born there. In the case of Germany it was five to one, of Italy four to one, of Austria three and a half to one, and of Belgium approximately three to one.

This manifestation can be explained by the fact that Russia and Poland had been countries of Jewish emigration and that a large number of the immigrants born in Poland had resided outside that country after World War II, mainly in displaced persons camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy. On the other hand, in the Western European countries there was a large number of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and a concentration of the survivors of the Nazi campaign of extermination.

COMPOSITION ACCORDING TO SEX

During 1949 there was a noticeable rise in the percentage of females among the immigrants in comparison with 1948, though the number of females was still less than that of males: 948 females to 1,000 males in 1949, as compared to 835 females to 1,000 males in 1948.

COMPOSITION ACCORDING TO AGE

During 1949 there was a change in the age composition of the immigrants as well. The percentage of children 0-14 years of age rose from 21.6 per cent in 1948 to 28.3 per cent in 1949. This was to be accounted for to a certain extent by the mass immigration from oriental countries which contained numerous large families. The birth rate among Jews from Europe and the West as a whole was far lower than that of Jews from the oriental communities. There were few families among the survivors of the European catastrophe and in most cases new family units were not set up among the survivors until after the downfall of the Nazis in 1945.

In the age-group 15-29 there was a decrease from 42.1 per cent in 1948 to 30.8 per cent in 1949. There was no appreciable change in the 30-40 age-group; this group of immigrants decreased from 28.4 per cent in 1948 to 27.7 per cent in 1949. The age-group over 50, on the other hand, increased from 7.9 per cent in 1948 to 13.2 in 1949.

COMPOSITION ACCORDING TO MARITAL STATUS

The distribution of immigration during 1949 showed a relative decrease in the percentage of unmarried men and women of more than 15 years of age in comparison with 1948, and an increase in the percentage of married men and widows, whereas the percentage of married women remained substantially the same. The ratio of unmarried men decreased from 424 per 1,000 males in 1948 to 337 per 1,000 in 1949. The ratio of unmarried women decreased from 251 per 1,000 females in 1948 to 189 per 1,000 in 1949. On the other hand, the ratio of married men rose from 551 per 1,000 males in 1948 to 624 per

1,000 in 1949. The ratio of widows rose from 89 per 1,000 females in 1948 to 151 per 1,000 in 1949.

These changes may be attributed to the rise in the proportion of the age groups over 15 in 1949 and the increase in the proportion of the immigrants from oriental countries where early marriages are common. During 1949 there was also a marked increase in the number of families entering Israel and a decrease in the percentage of unmarried persons.

TABLE 4
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS BY OCCUPATION AND SEX
JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1949

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
ALL OCCUPATIONS	122,747	116,394
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,021	95
Mines and quarries	18	—
Textile work	1,455	187
Leather work	853	19
Wood work	2,422	16
Metal work	2,566	32
Ceramic work	114	16
Chemical production	220	18
Manufacture of food and tobacco	2,126	62
Dress and toilet	6,153	2,058
Building	4,304	19
Industries relating to books and fine arts	1,657	55
Transport and communications	2,033	24
Commerce and Finance	5,166	68
Clerical service	3,233	656
Public services	101	5
Liberal professions	3,051	765
Religion	303	10
Law	179	9
Medicine	1,033	442
Education	458	218
Engineering	669	14
Arts	268	56
Other liberal professions	141	16
Domestic services	141	92
Students (16 years and over)	1,239	532
Occupation inadequately defined	2,534	187
Occupation not stated or no occupation	46,601	78,614
Children (up to 15 years)	34,739	32,874

Occupational Distribution of the Immigrants

Table 4 provides a picture of the occupational distribution of the immigrants of 1949. Even a cursory glance reveals the disturbing social aspect of the immigration during this period and the severe financial and economic problems borne by the young state—especially by the Jewish Agency which had the responsibility for the absorption of the immigrants. Even by a

conservative estimate the state of Israel was bearing two-thirds of the costs of absorbing the immigration.

If we deduct from the total number of male immigrants the male children under fifteen years of age, it becomes apparent that the number of males of working age was approximately 88,000 in 1949. But of this number about 49,000 lacked any occupation: 46,601 lacked any occupation or had undefined occupations; and 2,534 had occupations which had not been adequately defined. This means that about 55 per cent of the males of working age could not enter the processes of economic production or engage in any skilled occupation, at any rate not without training.

Among those possessing occupations, the largest group were engaged in the clothing industry. The next largest group were engaged in trade and financial enterprises. Then follow construction, clerical work, liberal professions, metal work, wood work, food and tobacco, agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The large number and percentage of unskilled women results from the inclusion of housewives in this category. The clothing industry occupies first place among the skilled women's occupations, as it does among the men's occupations; then follow professions, clerical work, teaching.

Size of Families

In July, 1950, data on the size of families in the immigration of 1949 was available only for the first nine months of 1949 (January through September) and this appears in Table 5. There are insufficient grounds to draw final conclusions from these data. However, since the size of immigrants' families is largely influenced by the country of origin of the immigrants, the increase in the immigration from the oriental countries during the last quarter of 1949 will no doubt affect the final statistics regarding family size. As a basis for partial comparison Table 5 provides the corresponding data for 1948.

TABLE 5
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS BY SIZE OF FAMILY
JANUARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1948, 1949

<i>Size of Family</i>	<i>January through September, 1948^a</i>				<i>January through September, 1949^b</i>			
	<i>Families</i>		<i>Persons</i>		<i>Families</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
1	38,031	60.2	38,031	34.1	40,932	45.8	40,923	21.3
2	10,376	16.4	20,752	18.6	18,793	21.0	37,586	19.6
3	9,166	14.5	27,498	24.7	15,814	17.7	47,442	24.7
4	4,031	6.4	16,124	14.5	7,918	8.9	31,672	16.5
5	1,001	1.6	5,005	4.5	3,233	3.6	16,165	8.4
6 and over	564	0.9	4,019	3.6	2,719	3.0	18,320	9.5
TOTAL	63,169	100.0	111,429	100.0	89,400	100.0	192,108	100.0

^a Excluding 7,564 immigrants because of absence of details on the size of their families.

^b Includes travelers later registered as immigrants, except 16 travelers registered in March, 1949.

These data indicate an appreciable decline in the number of single immigrants. On the other hand, there was an appreciable increase in the number of families of four persons and over, particularly in the number of families with five and six persons. This is accounted for by two factors: the mass character of the immigration from certain countries which amounted to a total liquidation of the Jewish population of those countries; and the high percentage of newcomers from oriental lands. These two factors also explain the increase in the average family size of the immigrants who came to Israel during the first nine months of 1949.

Means of Transportation

The year 1949 marked a radical departure in the means used to transport the immigrants to Israel. During preceding years the sea had been virtually the only path by which immigrants came to Israel. In 1949 air communication assumed great importance. More than 50,000 immigrants, or more than 20 per cent of the total immigration of 1949, arrived by plane. The entire migration from Yemen came by plane (Operation Magic Carpet). The same was true of the migration from Iraq (Operation Ali Baba). Smaller groups, consisting of refugees from Afghanistan, via India, as well as European refugees resident in Shanghai, arrived by plane. Air transport appreciably increased the cost of transportation which was financed by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

TOURISTS AND MIGRATION OF ISRAELI RESIDENTS

From May 15, 1948, till the end of February, 1950, 24,929 Jewish tourists entered Israel and 20,162 departed. Thus, at the end of February, 1950, there were 4,767 Jewish tourists in Israel. Other tourists, including United Nations representatives and diplomatic personnel, numbered 5,708 entries and 4,724 departures.

The number of Jewish residents leaving the country from the time of the establishment of the state of Israel in May, 1948, until March, 1950, was 24,551. During this period 16,654 Jewish residents returned; 7,897 Israeli Jewish residents were still outside Israel in July, 1950.

Of non-Jewish residents of Israel 719 departed during this period and 1,377 returned to Israel. This number includes Arabs repatriated to rejoin their families.

No appreciable changes occurred in the number of residents who returned to Israel during the months of January and February, 1950. The number of Jewish tourists reaching Israel during this period rose from 946 in December, 1949, to 1,555 in February, 1950. On the other hand, the number of residents who departed from Israel dropped from 2,244 in October, 1949, to 1,723 in February, 1950.

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