
World Jewish Population *

THE figures in this summary are mainly estimates by local communal bodies and informed persons. Changes brought about by emigration and natural increase were taken into consideration only to the extent that they were reflected in the figures supplied by local communities.

During the period under review (July 1, 1958, to June 30, 1959) there was little that could be called Jewish mass migration.

Distribution by Continents

There were no substantial changes in the geographic distribution of the world Jewish population. There were about 12,300,000 Jews in all, of whom some 6,300,000 were in North, Central, and South America. About 3,440,000 were in Europe, 1,970,000 in Asia, including Israel, 550,000 in Africa, and 68,000 in Australia and New Zealand.

EUROPE

In Europe 2,000,000 were estimated to be in the Soviet Union and 390,000 in the other countries of the Soviet bloc, while over 1,000,000 were in non-Communist countries. There were still no precise data on the number of Jews in the Soviet Union,¹ and some students estimated their number at 2,500,000 or even 3,000,000. Hopes for freer emigration from Rumania were disappointed. After 15,000 Jews left for Israel (see p. 274) the Rumanian Jewish community of some 220,000 was still the second largest in the Soviet area. Hungary was next, with 100,000. Fewer than 600 Jews returned to Germany in the first half of 1959.

TABLE 1
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE,
BY COUNTRIES *

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	1,507,000	300
Austria	7,021,000	10,500
Belgium	9,053,000	35,000
Bulgaria	7,728,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	13,469,000	18,000
Denmark	4,515,000	6,500
England	51,680,000	450,000
Finland	4,376,000	1,900
France	44,500,000	350,000

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 359.

¹ Early in 1960, Soviet census data disclosed that there were 2,268,000 Jews in the Soviet Union. These data will be evaluated in the AJYB, 1961 (Vol. 62).

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Germany	71,533,000	30,000
Gibraltar	22,500	650
Greece	8,173,000	6,500
Hungary	9,857,000	100,000
Ireland	2,853,000	5,400
Italy	48,735,000	32,000
Luxembourg	320,000	1,000
Netherlands	11,186,000	26,000
Norway	3,526,000	1,000
Poland	28,783,000	41,000
Portugal	8,981,000	750
Rumania	18,059,000	220,000
Spain	29,662,000	3,000
Sweden	7,415,000	13,000
Switzerland	5,185,000	19,050
Turkey	25,932,000	60,000 ^b
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	200,200,000	2,000,000 ^b
Yugoslavia	18,189,000	7,000
TOTAL	642,460,500	3,445,550

^a Data on general population were taken from the Statistical Office of the United Nations, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, XIII, October 1959. They represent census figures or available estimates, mostly for 1957 and 1958. Where necessary, use was made also of other sources, including local publications.

^b Including Asian regions; for Turkey, see p. 282; for the Soviet Union, see p. 351, n. 1.

NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA

The Jewish population of the United States was currently estimated at 5,367,000 (see p. 3). There were 250,000 Jews in Canada, and an estimated 680,000 in Latin America. Estimates of the number of Jews in various Latin American countries, however, seemed likely to need revision when more adequate data were available. In particular, some Argentine observers believed that the actual number of Jews in that country might be considerably above the current estimate of 400,000.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND
SOUTH AMERICA, BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	17,048,000	250,000
Mexico	32,348,000	25,700
United States	174,064,000	5,367,000
TOTAL North America	223,460,000	5,642,700
Costa Rica	1,072,000	1,500
Cuba	6,466,000	11,000
Curaçao	148,000	1,000
Dominican Republic	2,797,000	600
Guatemala	3,546,000	1,000
Haiti	3,424,000	200
Honduras	1,828,000	150
Jamaica	1,630,000	2,200

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Nicaragua	1,578,000	200
Panama	995,000	2,500
Trinidad	789,000	400
TOTAL Central America and West Indies	24,273,000	20,750
Argentina	20,248,000	400,000
Bolivia	3,311,000	4,000
Brazil	62,725,000	125,000
British Guiana	532,000	130
Chile	7,298,000	30,000
Colombia	13,522,000	9,000
Ecuador	4,007,000	2,000
El Salvador	2,434,000	250
Paraguay	1,677,000	2,000
Peru	10,213,000	3,500
Surinam	223,000	1,000
Uruguay	2,700,000	50,000
Venezuela	6,320,000	8,000
TOTAL South America	135,210,000	634,880
GRAND TOTAL	382,943,000	6,298,330

* See Table 1, note a.

ASIA AND AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND

The estimated 1,970,000 Jews in Asia included some 1,837,000 in Israel (as of June 1959). In Australia the Jewish population was 64,000, and in New Zealand 4,500.

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA,
BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Aden	730,000	800
Afghanistan	12,000,000	4,000
Burma	20,255,000	500
China	640,000,000	400
Cyprus	549,000	170
Hong Kong	2,748,000	200
India	397,540,000	25,400
Indonesia	86,900,000	500
Iran	19,723,000	80,000
Iraq	4,842,000	5,000
Israel	2,062,000	1,837,000
Japan	91,760,000	1,000
Lebanon	1,525,000	6,000
Pakistan	85,635,000	400
Philippines	24,010,000	500
Singapore	1,515,000	1,000
Syria	4,280,000	5,500
Yemen	3,500,000	3,500
TOTAL	1,399,574,000	1,971,870

^a For Turkey and USSR see Table 1; see also Table 1, note a.

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	9,846,000	64,000
New Zealand	2,282,000	4,500
TOTAL	12,128,000	68,500

^a See Table 1, note a.

AFRICA

Of about 550,000 Jews in Africa, some 200,000 were in Morocco. Morocco's situation did not change substantially, as the small emigration was easily offset by natural increase. The number of Jews in Algeria was estimated at 135,000, in Tunisia 65,000, and Egypt 15,000. The Jewish population of South Africa was about 110,000.

TABLE 5

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA,
BY COUNTRIES ^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	10,265,000	135,000
Belgian Congo	13,559,000	2,500
Egypt	24,781,000	15,000
Ethiopia	15,000,000	12,000
Kenya	6,351,000	1,000
Libya	1,072,000	3,750
Morocco (including Tangiers)...	10,330,000	200,000
Northern Rhodesia	2,128,000	1,500
Southern Rhodesia	2,399,000	5,500
Tunisia	3,815,000	65,000
Union of South Africa	14,418,000	110,000
TOTAL	104,118,000	551,250

^a See Table 1, note a.*Countries with Largest Jewish Population*

The United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel had about three quarters of the total Jewish population of the world. Six countries had Jewish communities between 200,000 and 450,000.

TABLE 6
COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,367,000
Soviet Union	2,000,000
Israel	1,837,000
England	450,000
Argentina	400,000
France	350,000
Canada	250,000
Rumania	220,000
Morocco	200,000

TABLE 7
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES ^a

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam	14,000	Manila	300
Ankara	1,000	Marrakech	18,500
Antwerp	12,000	Melbourne	25,000
Athens	3,000	Milan	6,000
Basle	2,471	Montreal	102,000
Belgrade	1,451	Oslo	620
Berlin	6,000	Paris	175,000
Berne	792	Rio de Janeiro	45,000
Bombay	18,000	Rome	12,000
Bordeaux	5,000	Salonika	1,200
Brussels	20,000	Santiago	25,000
Calcutta	2,500	São Paulo	40,000
Casablanca	65,000	Stockholm	6,000
Cochin	500	Sydney	22,000
Florence	1,500	Teheran	30,000
Geneva	2,642	Tel-Aviv-Jaffa	365,000
Glasgow	13,400	Tokyo	250
Haifa	160,000	Toronto	82,000
Havana	9,000	Trieste	1,500
Helsinki	1,333	Tunis	55,000
Ismir	5,000	Valparaiso	2,000
Istanbul	33,000	Vancouver	7,500
Jerusalem	149,000	Vienna	9,230
Johannesburg	50,000	Warsaw	5,000
Leeds	2,500	Winnipeg	21,000
London (Greater)	280,000	Zagreb	1,286
Luxembourg	800	Zurich	6,169
Manchester	31,000		

^a Mostly for 1957-58.