

# World Jewish Population

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**I**T WAS NOT possible to ascertain the exact number of Jews in the various countries of the world in 1969. The figures presented below are based on local censuses, communal registrations, estimates of informed residents, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1969–1970. In our inquiry, questionnaires were sent to 43 major Jewish bodies in selected countries, requesting information about (a) the number of Jews in the country, including nationals and refugees; (b) figures for principal cities; (c) source of the data (census, communal registration, estimate); and (d) method used in arriving at the estimate. Responses were received from 14 organizations.<sup>1</sup> All the figures below are of varying degrees of accuracy and will have to be revised when more precise data become available. The following remarks are in order: In many cases, figures obtained from our informants for 1969 repeated the estimates given previously. While there might have been changes in the Jewish population of this or that country, due to natural increase or emigration, there was no way of arriving at a meaningful estimate, and therefore the figure was repeated. About 40,000 Jews emigrated to Israel in the course of 1969, but this migration was somewhat offset by those who left the country.

## DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population, at the end of 1969, was about 13,875,000. Of this total, about 6,968,000 (more than one half) were in the Americas; over 4,000,000 (30 per cent) were in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the Soviet Union, and 2,600,000 (19 per cent) were in

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<sup>1</sup> Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jewry; Brazil: Confederação Israelita do Brasil—Dr. Alfred Hirschberg; Denmark: Mosaiske Troessamfund; Finland: Helsingin Juutalainen Seurakunta; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; Mexico: Kehila Ashkenazi de Mexico; Singapore: Welfare Board, Singapore; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Sweden: Mosaiska Firsamlingen; Switzerland: Federation Suisse des Communautés Israélites; Yugoslavia: Savez Jevrejskih Opstina Jugoslavije.

Asia. Only some 119,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa, and 77,000 (less than 0.5 per cent) were in Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey) .....	4,030,950	29.0
America, North, Central and South .....	6,968,250	50.0
Asia .....	2,605,500	19.0
Africa .....	193,950	1.5
Australia and New Zealand ....	77,000	0.5
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>13,875,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### *Europe*

Of the 4,030,000 Jews in Europe, over 2,800,000 were in the Communist area, including an estimated 2,620,000 in the USSR. The Jewish population figure for the Soviet Union will have to be adjusted when the results of the new census will be available (see article on Soviet Union, p. 463). Over 1,220,000 Jews were in the non-Communist countries. France, with an estimated 535,000, had the largest Jewish community in Western Europe. In Great Britain, there were an estimated 410,000 Jews. Some 100,000 Jews were in Rumania, and about 80,000 in Hungary. Belgium had a Jewish population of about 40,000, and Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany had 30,000 each. Except for Turkey (both European and Asiatic), all countries in Europe had a Jewish population of less than 25,000.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Figures in the tables below are rounded to the nearest 50, except in the case of Cyprus, where the number was obtained through the 1966 inquiry. Because of differences in sources and dates, some figures given here may not agree with figures in other sections of this volume.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1969

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania .....	2,075,000	300
Austria .....	7,371,000	8,200 <sup>b</sup>
Belgium .....	9,646,000	40,500
Bulgaria .....	8,436,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia .....	14,418,000	14,000
Denmark .....	4,910,000	6,000 <sup>b</sup>
Finland .....	4,703,000	1,450 <sup>b</sup>
France .....	50,330,000	535,000
Germany .....	77,717,000	30,000
Gibraltar .....	22,000	650
Great Britain .....	55,534,000	410,000
Greece .....	8,835,000	6,500
Hungary .....	10,295,000	80,000
Ireland .....	2,921,000	5,400
Italy ..	53,170,000	30,000 <sup>b</sup>
Luxembourg .....	337,000	1,000
Malta .....	323,000	50
Netherlands .....	12,873,000	30,000
Norway .....	3,851,000	750
Poland .....	32,555,000	15,000
Portugal .....	9,560,000	650
Rumania .....	20,010,000	100,000
Spain .....	32,949,000	7,000
Sweden .....	7,978,000	15,000 <sup>b</sup>
Switzerland .....	6,230,000	20,000 <sup>b</sup>
Turkey .....	34,375,000	39,000 <sup>c</sup>
USSR .....	240,233,000	2,620,000 <sup>c</sup>
Yugoslavia .....	20,351,000	7,500 <sup>b</sup>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>732,008,000</b>	<b>4,030,950</b>

<sup>a</sup> United Nations, Statistical Office, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* and other sources, including local publications.

<sup>b</sup> Questionnaire.

<sup>c</sup> Includes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

### *North, Central, and South America*

There was no new estimate for the Jewish population of the United States. The available figure was 5,870,000 (see article on the U.S.A., p. 344); 280,000 Jews were in Canada, and about 780,000 in Central and South America. While there was some emigration from Latin America, as well as internal shifting of Jewish population (accurate figures were not available), our informants mostly repeated estimates previously submitted. Thus, the estimated Jewish population of Argentina stood at 500,000, of Brazil at 150,000, and of Uruguay at 54,000. There were only some 1,700 Jews in Cuba.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1969

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada .....	21,089,000	280,000
Mexico .....	48,933,000	36,000 <sup>b</sup>
United States .....	203,216,000	5,870,000
Total North America ..	273,238,000	6,186,000
Barbados .....	254,000	100
Costa Rica .....	1,695,000	1,500
Cuba .....	8,250,000	1,700
Curaçao .....	150,000	700
Dominican Republic .....	4,174,000	350
El Salvador .....	3,390,000	300
Guatemala .....	5,014,000	1,500
Haiti .....	4,768,000	150
Honduras .....	2,495,000	150
Jamaica .....	1,959,000	600 <sup>b</sup>
Nicaragua .....	1,915,000	200
Panama .....	1,417,000	2,000
Trinidad .....	1,040,000	300
Total Central America and West Indies .....	36,521,000	9,550
Argentina .....	23,983,000	500,000
Bolivia .....	4,804,000	4,000
Brazil .....	90,840,000	150,000 <sup>b</sup>
Chile .....	9,566,000	35,000
Colombia .....	20,463,000	10,000
Ecuador .....	5,890,000	2,000
Paraguay .....	2,303,000	1,200
Peru .....	13,172,000	4,000
Surinam .....	389,000	500
Uruguay .....	2,852,000	54,000
Venezuela .....	10,035,000	12,000
Total South America ...	184,297,000	772,700
TOTAL .....	494,056,000	6,968,250

<sup>a</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>b</sup>.

### *Asia, Australia, and New Zealand*

Of the 2,600,000 Jews in Asia, over 2,497,000 lived in Israel. 80,000 were in Iran, and some 15,000 in India. No other country in Asia (except for Turkey and Asian USSR) had as many as 5,000 Jews. There were virtually no Jews in China, and, according to latest reports, there were some 500 in Yemen. Previous information had it that all Jews had left Yemen, but apparently some small communities remained. The Jewish population in Asia was steadily increasing. While this increase was essentially in Israel, one has

to take into consideration the Jewish communities in the Asiatic part of Soviet Union, where a process of continuous growth also took place. The Jewish population of Australia was 72,000; that of New Zealand was 5,000.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1969

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan .....	16,516,000	800
Burma .....	26,980,000	200
China .....	740,006,000	20
Cyprus .....	630,000	30
Hong Kong .....	3,836,000	200
India .....	536,983,000	15,000
Indonesia .....	116,000,000	100
Iran .....	27,892,000	80,000
Iraq .....	8,840,000	2,500
Israel .....	2,919,000 <sup>d</sup>	2,497,000
Japan .....	102,322,000	600 <sup>b</sup>
Lebanon .....	2,645,000	3,000
Pakistan .....	111,830,000	250
Philippines .....	37,178,000	500
Singapore .....	2,017,000	800 <sup>b</sup>
Syria .....	5,866,000	4,000
Yemen .....	4,555,000	500
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,747,015,000</b>	<b>2,605,500</b>

<sup>a</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>b</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Excluding population under Israeli control after the 1967 war.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1969

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia .....	12,296,000	72,000 <sup>b</sup>
New Zealand .....	2,777,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>15,073,000</b>	<b>77,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>b</sup>.

### *Africa*

The Jewish population of Africa dwindled to some 194,000. An estimated 48,000 Jews were still in Morocco. Most other countries had fewer than 15,000: Ethiopia had 12,000, and Tunisia, 10,000. Only 1,500 remained in Algeria, 1,000 in Egypt, and about 100 in Libya. Most of the Jewish communities in North Africa, some among the oldest Jewish settlements, clearly were about to disappear. South Africa had about 114,000 Jews.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1969

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria .....	13,349,000	1,500
Congo Republic .....	17,100,000	300
Egypt .....	32,501,000	1,000
Ethiopia .....	24,769,000	12,000
Kenya .....	10,506,000	700
Libya .....	1,869,000	100
Morocco .....	15,050,000	48,000
Republic of South Africa .....	19,618,000	114,750 <sup>b</sup>
Rhodesia .....	5,090,000	4,800
Tunisia .....	4,800,000	10,000
Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) ..	4,208,000	800
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>148,860,000</b>	<b>193,950</b>

<sup>a</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>a</sup>.<sup>b</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>b</sup>.

### COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS

The three largest Jewish communities in 1969 were in the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel. Together they accounted for more than 79 per cent of the world Jewish population. Only in four other countries were there Jewish communities of over 200,000: France, Great Britain, Argentina, and Canada.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States .....	5,870,000
Soviet Union .....	2,620,000
Israel .....	2,497,000
France .....	535,000
Argentina .....	500,000
Great Britain .....	410,000
Canada .....	280,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam .....	12,000
Antwerp .....	13,000
Athens .....	2,850
Basle .....	2,300 <sup>b</sup>
Belgrade .....	1,600 <sup>b</sup>
Berlin .....	6,000
Berne .....	800
Bordeaux .....	6,400
Brussels .....	24,000
Budapest .....	65,000
Buenos Aires .....	360,000
Cochin .....	500
Copenhagen .....	6,000
Florence .....	1,500
Geneva .....	3,250 <sup>b</sup>
Glasgow .....	13,400
Guatemala City .....	1,500
Haifa .....	207,500
Helsinki .....	1,100
Istanbul .....	32,000
Izmir .....	4,000
Jerusalem .....	195,000
Johannesburg .....	57,800 <sup>b</sup>
Kiev .....	220,000
Leeds .....	18,000
Leningrad .....	165,000
London (greater) .....	280,000
Luxembourg .....	850
Lyons .....	25,000
Malmö .....	2,000 <sup>b</sup>
Manchester .....	28,000
Manila .....	300
Marseilles .....	65,000
Melbourne .....	35,000 <sup>b</sup>
Milan .....	8,000 <sup>b</sup>
Montreal .....	110,000
Moscow .....	285,000
Nice .....	20,000
Oslo .....	600
Paris .....	300,000
Plovdiv .....	1,000
Rio de Janeiro .....	50,000 <sup>b</sup>
Rome .....	15,000 <sup>b</sup>
Salonika .....	1,300
Santiago .....	30,000
São Paulo .....	65,000 <sup>b</sup>
Sarajevo .....	1,100 <sup>b</sup>

Sofia .....	4,000
Stockholm .....	7,500 <sup>b</sup>
Strasbourg .....	14,000
Subotica .....	400 <sup>b</sup>
Sydney .....	28,000 <sup>b</sup>
Teheran .....	30,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa .....	394,000
Tokyo .....	400 <sup>b</sup>
Toronto .....	88,000
Toulouse .....	20,000
Trieste .....	1,500
Valparaiso .....	4,000
Vienna .....	8,200 <sup>b</sup>
Warsaw .....	5,000
Zagreb .....	1,350 <sup>b</sup>
Zurich .....	6,150 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> For cities in the United States, see p. 448.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>b</sup>.

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