

# World Jewish Population

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IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE to ascertain the exact number of Jews in the various countries of the world in 1970. The figures presented below are the best available estimates, based on local censuses, communal registrations, estimates of informed residents and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1969 and 1970. In 1970, questionnaires were sent to 56 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 29 organizations.<sup>1</sup> All figures below are of varying degrees of accuracy, and will have to be revised when more precise data become available.

The following should be noted: Some of the figures obtained from our informants repeated estimates given before. While there were some changes in the Jewish population of a number of the countries listed below, the earlier figure was repeated because there was no way at arriving at a meaningful new estimate. Only changes reflected in figures received from the respondents have been taken into consideration. In the tables below, figures obtained from the 1970 inquiry were indicated by an x. Where no reply to the questionnaire of 1970 was received, and a figure from 1969 inquiry was available, the latter was listed with a z.

<sup>1</sup> Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Center; Bolivia: Comunidad Israelita de Bolivia; Brazil: Confederação Israelita do Brazil; Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress—Louis Rosenberg; Denmark: Det Mosaiske Troessamfund; Finland: Suomen Juntalaisten Seurakuntien Keskusneuvosto; France: Fonds Social Juif Unifié; Germany (F.R.): Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland; Guatemala: Sociedad Israelita Maguen David; Gibraltar: Managing Board Jewish Community; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; Kenya: Nairobi Hebrew Congregation; Luxembourg: Consistoire Israélite de Luxembourg; Mexico: Mr. Tuvie Maisel; Peru: Asociación de Sociedades Israelitas de Peru; Philippines: Jewish Community of the Philippines; Portugal: Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; Singapore: Jewish Welfare Board; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Sweden: Jewish Community of Stockholm; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews; Uruguay: Comité Central Israelita; Venezuela: Asociación Israelita; Yugoslavia: Federation of Jewish Communities.

## DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population, at the end of 1970, stood at about 13,951,000. Of this total, about 6,963,000 (some 50 per cent) were in the Americas; over 4,000,000 (29 per cent) were in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the Soviet Union, and some 2,668,000 (19 per cent) were in Asia. Only some 196,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa and about 77,000 (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) .....	4,046,150	29.0
America, North, Central and South .....	6,962,925	50.0
Asia .....	2,668,200	19.0
Africa .....	196,600	1.5
Australia and New Zealand ....	77,000	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<u>13,950,875</u>	<u>100.0</u>

*Europe*

Of the over 4,000,000 Jews in Europe, more than 2,800,000 were in the Communist area, including an estimated 2,620,000 in the Soviet Union. According to the 1970 Soviet census, the Jewish population in the USSR was about 2,151,000, or some 116,000 less than in 1959. A more detailed discussion of the results of the Soviet census will be found on page 403. Suffice it to say here that, since there was no substantial emigration of Russian Jews or similar mass phenomena, a decrease of 116,000 in the course of some 10 years seems at best very much questionable and cannot be justified on purely statistical grounds. Pending further clarification, it was therefore deemed necessary to repeat the figure used in the 1970 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, i.e., 2,620,000. The Jewish community in Poland shrank considerably, to some 9,000 in 1970.

More than 1,200,000 Jews were in non-Communist countries. France, with a current Jewish population of 550,000, had the largest Jewish community in Western Europe. The influx of North African Jews thoroughly transformed French Jewry from a traditionally Ashkenazi community to one with a large Sephardi sector. Great Britain had an estimated Jewish population of 410,000. Some British sources claimed the actual number of Jews was larger, since many nonaffiliated Jews escaped the record. There were about 100,000 Jews in Rumania, and 80,000 in Hungary. Belgium had a Jewish population of some 40,000; Italy 35,000, Germany 30,000, and

the Netherlands 30,000. Except for Turkey (both Asiatic and European), all other countries in Europe had a Jewish population of less than 25,000.<sup>2</sup>

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

Country	Total Population <sup>a</sup>	Jewish Population
Albania .....	2,075,000	300
Austria .....	7,373,000	8,000 <sup>x</sup>
Belgium .....	9,646,000	40,500
Bulgaria .....	8,434,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia .....	14,418,000	14,000
Denmark .....	4,891,000	6,000 <sup>x</sup>
Finland .....	4,703,000	1,450 <sup>x</sup>
France .....	50,320,000	550,000 <sup>x</sup>
Germany .....	77,918,000	30,000 <sup>x</sup>
Gibraltar .....	27,000	600 <sup>x</sup>
Great Britain .....	55,534,000	410,000 <sup>x</sup>
Greece .....	8,838,000	6,500
Hungary .....	10,295,000	80,000
Ireland .....	2,921,000	5,400
Italy .....	53,170,000	35,000 <sup>x</sup>
Luxembourg .....	338,000	1,000 <sup>x</sup>
Malta .....	323,000	50
Netherlands .....	12,873,000	30,000
Norway .....	3,851,000	750
Poland .....	32,555,000	9,000
Portugal .....	9,560,000	600 <sup>x</sup>
Rumania .....	20,010,000	100,000
Spain .....	32,949,000	9,000
Sweden .....	7,978,000	15,000 <sup>x</sup>
Switzerland .....	6,224,000	20,000 <sup>x</sup>
Turkey .....	34,375,000	39,000 <sup>b</sup>
USSR .....	241,720,000	2,620,000 <sup>b</sup>
Yugoslavia .....	20,351,000	7,000 <sup>x</sup>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>733,670,000</b>	<b>4,046,150</b>

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

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

<sup>x</sup> Reply to 1970 inquiry.

<sup>z</sup> Reply to 1969 inquiry.

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

No new estimate for the Jewish population of the United States was available since the national Jewish population study conducted under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has not yet been completed. The estimate for 1968 was 5,870,000. There were approximately 280,000 Jews in Canada and 778,000 in Central and South America. No

<sup>2</sup> Because of differences in sources and dates, some figures given here may not agree with figures in other sections of this volume.

new estimates were available for Argentina (500,000), and Brazil (150,000). There was some emigration from Latin America, but its extent will be recorded later.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada .....	21,089,000	280,000 <sup>z</sup>
Mexico .....	48,933,000	35,000 <sup>z</sup>
United States .....	203,216,000	5,870,000 <sup>b</sup>
Total North America ..	273,238,000	6,185,000
Barbados .....	253,000	75 <sup>c</sup>
Costa Rica .....	1,685,000	1,500
Cuba .....	8,250,000	1,700
Curaçao .....	150,000	700
Dominican Republic .....	4,174,000	350
El Salvador .....	3,390,000	300 <sup>c</sup>
Guatemala .....	5,014,000	1,900 <sup>c</sup>
Haiti .....	4,768,000	150
Honduras .....	2,495,000	150
Jamaica .....	1,952,000	600 <sup>c</sup>
Nicaragua .....	1,915,000	200
Panama .....	1,417,000	2,000
Trinidad .....	1,040,000	300
Total Central America and West Indies .....	36,503,000	9,925
Argentina .....	23,983,000	500,000
Bolivia .....	4,804,000	2,000 <sup>d</sup>
Brazil .....	90,840,000	150,000 <sup>d</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	5,300 <sup>e</sup>
Surinam .....	389,000	500
Uruguay .....	2,852,000	50,000 <sup>f</sup>
Venezuela .....	10,035,000	12,000 <sup>g</sup>
Total South America ...	184,297,000	768,000
TOTAL .....	494,038,000	6,962,925

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

<sup>b</sup> We repeat the figure from AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1970, pending completion of the statistical study of the U.S. Jewish population.

<sup>c</sup> Including 5,000 recorded members of the community.

<sup>d</sup> See Table 2, note <sup>x</sup>.

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

Of the 2,668,000 Jews in Asia, 2,560,000 lived in Israel, 80,000 in Iran, and some 15,000 in India. No other country in Asia (except Turkey and

Asian USSR) had as many as 5,000 Jews. Syria had 4,000, Lebanon 3,000, Iraq 2,500 and the Jewish population in all other countries did not exceed 800. The increase in the total Jewish population in Asia was due essentially to the growth of the Jewish community in Israel. About 35,000 Jews emigrated to Israel in the course of 1970, but this migration was somewhat offset by those who left the country. The Jewish population of Australia was 72,000; that of New Zealand was 5,000.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

<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 .....	740,000,000	20
Cyprus .....	630,000	30
Hong Kong .....	3,990,000	200
India .....	536,983,000	15,000
Indonesia .....	116,000,000	100
Iran .....	27,892,000	80,000
Iraq .....	9,350,000	2,500
Israel .....	2,999,000	2,560,000 <sup>b</sup>
Japan .....	102,321,000	500 <sup>x</sup>
Lebanon .....	2,645,000	3,000
Pakistan .....	111,830,000	250
Philippines .....	37,178,000	500 <sup>x</sup>
Singapore .....	2,017,000	600 <sup>x</sup>
Syria .....	5,866,000	4,000
Yemen .....	5,000,000	500
TOTAL .....	1,748,197,000	2,668,200

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

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

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

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1970

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

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

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

## *Africa*

The Jewish population of Africa continued to dwindle to a present estimated total of some 196,000. This total may have to be adjusted when the

census figure for South Africa becomes available. It was estimated that the South African Jewish population increased to 119,900. The Maghreb area was gradually losing the remnants of its Jewish community: Morocco had 45,000 Jews, Tunisia 10,000, Algeria 1,500, and Libya some 100 Jews. The North African Jewish communities, some among the oldest Jewish settlements, were about to disappear.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1970

<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	13,000
Kenya .....	10,506,000	200 <sup>x</sup>
Libya .....	1,869,000	100
Morocco .....	15,050,000	45,000
Republic of South Africa ....	19,618,000	119,900 <sup>x</sup>
Rhodesia .....	5,090,000	5,200 <sup>x</sup>
Tunisia .....	5,027,000	10,000
Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) ..	4,208,000	400
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>149,087,000</b>	<b>196,600</b>

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

**COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS**

The largest Jewish communities in 1970 were in the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel. Together they accounted for over 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 .....	2,560,000
France .....	550,000
Argentina .....	500,000
Great Britain .....	410,000
Canada .....	280,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES\*

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam .....	12,000
Antwerp .....	13,000
Athens .....	2,850
Basle .....	2,300 <sup>a</sup>
Belgrade .....	1,600 <sup>a</sup>
Berlin .....	6,000 <sup>a</sup>
Berne .....	800
Bordeaux .....	6,400
Brussels .....	24,000
Budapest .....	65,000
Buenos Aires .....	350,000
Cochin .....	500
Copenhagen .....	6,000
Florence .....	1,400
Geneva .....	3,250 <sup>a</sup>
Glasgow .....	13,400 <sup>a</sup>
Guatemala City .....	1,500
Haifa .....	207,500
Helsinki .....	1,100
Istanbul .....	32,000
Izmir .....	4,000
Jerusalem .....	195,000
Johannesburg .....	57,800 <sup>a</sup>
Kiev .....	220,000
Leeds .....	18,000 <sup>a</sup>
Leningrad .....	165,000
Lima .....	5,250
London (greater) .....	280,000 <sup>a</sup>
Luxembourg .....	850
Lyons .....	20,000
Malmö .....	2,000
Manchester .....	31,000
Manila .....	300
Marseilles .....	65,000 <sup>a</sup>
Melbourne .....	35,000 <sup>a</sup>
Mexico, D.F. ....	30,000
Milan .....	9,500
Montreal .....	113,000
Moscow .....	285,000
Nice .....	20,000
Oslo .....	600
Paris .....	300,000 <sup>a</sup>
Plovdiv .....	1,000
Rio de Janeiro .....	50,000 <sup>a</sup>
Rome .....	15,000 <sup>a</sup>
Salonika .....	1,300
Santiago .....	30,000
São Paulo .....	65,000 <sup>a</sup>

Sarajevo .....	1,100 <sup>x</sup>
Sofia .....	4,000
Stockholm .....	8,000
Strasbourg .....	12,000
Subotica .....	400
Sydney .....	28,000 <sup>x</sup>
Teheran .....	30,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa .....	394,000
Tokyo .....	400 <sup>x</sup>
Toronto .....	100,000
Toulouse .....	18,000
Trieste .....	1,200
Vancouver .....	8,000
Valparaiso .....	4,000
Vienna .....	8,200
Warsaw .....	5,000
Winnipeg .....	21,000
Zagreb .....	1,350
Zurich .....	6,150 <sup>a</sup>

\* For cities in the United States see AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 71 (1970), pp. 348-353. New figures will be available after the completion of the demographic study of the U. S. Jews, now being conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

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

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

LEON SHAPIRO