

World Jewish Population

THERE ARE NO PRECISE DATA ON Jewish population in the various countries. The figures presented below represent the best possible estimates for 1976. They are based on local censuses, communal registration, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1977. Fifty-eight questionnaires were sent to major Jewish bodies in selected countries requesting information on: a) the number of Jews in the country, including nationals and refugees; b) the figures for principal cities; c) source of the data and method used in arriving at the estimate. Responses were received from 19 countries.¹ These figures are of varying degrees of accuracy, are subject to a substantial margin of error, and will be revised when more reasonable and precise data become available. In the tables below, figures obtained by the 1977 inquiry are indicated by an "x".

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1976 was 14,259,525. Of the total number, about 6,693,000 (some 47 per cent) lived in the Americas, some 4,158,000 (29 per cent) in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and USSR, and over 3,154,000 (22 per cent) in Asia. Only some 177,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa and 75,000 (0.5 per cent) in Australia and New Zealand.

¹Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jewry; Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Center; Brazil: Confederação Israelita do Brasil; Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress; Costa Rica: Centro Israelita Sionista de Costa Rica; Denmark: Det Mosaiske Troessamfund; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; Gibraltar: Managing Board, Jewish Community; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; India: Central Jewish Board of India; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Netherlands: Nederlands-Israëlietisch Kerkgenootschap; Peru: Asociación Judía del Perú; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Sweden: Mosaiska Forsamlingen; Turkey: Chief Rabbinate of Turkey; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS, 1976

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	4,158,870	29.0
America, North, Central, and South	6,693,005	47.0
Asia	3,154,860	22.0
Africa	177,790	1.5
Australia and New Zealand	75,000	0.5
TOTAL	14,259,525*	100.0

*Because sources and dates were not always identical, there may be discrepancies between figures given in the tables below and those in other sections of this volume.

Europe

Of the approximately 4,158,000 Jews in Europe, some 2,850,000 were in the Communist area, including 2,678,000 in the Soviet Union. There were about 80,000 Jews in Hungary and, according to the 1975 communal registration, some 60,000 in Rumania. Some 6,000 Jews remained in Poland. About 1,300,000 were in non-Communist countries. France, with a substantial number of Sephardi Jews from the Maghreb, had a Jewish population of some 650,000, the largest in Western Europe. Great Britain had 410,000; Belgium, 41,000; Italy, 38,500, and Germany (including both West and East Germany) 33,000, of whom 5,500 lived in West Berlin.

There was a debate among students of the Soviet Union concerning the number of Jews in USSR. In this connection it is important to report that the *Sovetish Heymland*, No. 7, 1977, p. 176, published an item on the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK article on "World Jewish Population," accepting without comment the 2,680,000 USSR figure for 1975. Thus, the *Sovetish Heymland*, unlike some Israeli and Western students, obviously does not put too much faith in the official census figure of 2,151,000. It is also important to report that a recent survey made in France put the Jewish population there at about 650,000–700,000. We do not know at this writing the details of the survey, the criteria used for determining its scope, and who was considered a Jew. Pending the publication of the findings, we are accepting the lower figure of 650,000. The French survey was prepared by the Sofres organization for the Consistoire Central des Israélites de France, L'Appel Unifié Juif de France, and Fonds Social Juif Unifié de France.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1976

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	2,480,000	300
Austria	7,520,000	12,000 ^a
Belgium	9,800,000	41,000
Bulgaria	8,760,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	14,800,000	12,000
Denmark	5,070,000	7,500 ^a
Finland	4,730,000	1,320
France	52,920,000	650,000
Germany	79,210,000 ^b	33,000 ^b
Gibraltar	30,000	650 ^a
Great Britain	55,930,000	410,000 ^a
Greece	9,050,000	6,000
Hungary	10,600,000	80,000
Ireland	3,130,000	4,000
Italy	56,190,000	38,500 ^a
Luxembourg	360,000	1,000
Malta	330,000	50
Netherlands	13,770,000	30,000 ^a
Norway	4,030,000	950
Poland	34,360,000	6,000
Portugal	8,760,000	600
Rumania	21,250,000	60,000
Spain	35,970,000	9,000
Sweden	8,220,000	16,000 ^a
Switzerland	6,400,000	21,000
Turkey	40,160,000	27,000 ^{a,c}
USSR	256,700,000	2,678,000 ^c
Yugoslavia	21,520,000	<u>6,000</u>
TOTAL		4,158,870

^aUnited Nations Statistical Office, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and other sources, including local publications.

^bIncludes West Germany, East Germany, and both sectors of Berlin.

^cIncludes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

^aReply to 1977 inquiry

North, Central, and South America

The number of Jews in the United States, including all persons living in Jewish households, was estimated at about 5,775,000 (see article, "Jewish Population in the United States, 1977" in this volume). Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, and Central and South America about 573,000. The 1976 Jewish population figure for

Argentina, given by the informant from that country, was 300,000 (see AJYB, 1977 [Vol. 77], pp. 517-18).

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1976

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	23,140,000	305,000 ^x
Mexico	62,330,000	37,500
United States	215,120,000	5,775,935
Total North America		6,118,435
Barbados	250,000	70 ^x
Costa Rica	2,010,000	2,500 ^x
Cuba	9,330,000	1,500
Curaçao	150,000	700
Dominican Republic	4,840,000	200
El Salvador	4,010,000	350 ^x
Guatemala	6,260,000	2,000
Haiti	4,670,000	150
Honduras	3,040,000	200
Jamaica	2,030,000	500
Nicaragua	2,230,000	200
Panama	1,720,000	2,000
Trinidad	1,080,000	300
Total Central America and West Indies		10,670
Argentina	25,720,000	300,000
Bolivia	5,790,000	2,000
Brazil	109,180,000	150,000 ^x
Chile	10,450,000	27,000
Colombia	23,540,000	12,000
Ecuador	6,730,000	1,000
Paraguay	2,720,000	1,200
Peru	16,090,000	5,200 ^x
Surinam	420,000	500
Uruguay	3,100,000	50,000
Venezuela	12,360,000	15,000
Total South America		563,900
TOTAL		6,693,005

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

The Jewish population of Asia stood at over 3,154,000. Of these, 3,059,000, or over 96 per cent, were in Israel, now the second largest Jewish population in the world. There were 80,000 Jews in Iran and 10,000 in India. At the time of writing, it was difficult to ascertain if events in Lebanon had any impact on the number of Jews in Lebanon and Syria.

The Jewish population of Australia was estimated at about 70,000 and that of New Zealand at 5,000.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1976

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan	19,280,000	200
Burma	31,000,000	200
China	838,800,000	30
Cyprus	640,000	30
Hong Kong	4,400,000	200
India	610,080,000	8,000 [†]
Indonesia	136,040,000	100
Iran	33,020,000	80,000
Iraq	11,120,000	350
Israel	3,618,000	3,059,000
Japan	112,770,000	400 [†]
Lebanon	2,870,000	400
Pakistan	70,260,000	250
Philippines	43,750,000	200
Singapore	2,280,000	500
Syria	7,600,000	4,500
Yemen	6,670,000	500
TOTAL		3,154,860

*See Table 2, note³.

[†]See Table 2, note⁵.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1976

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population*</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	13,500,000	70,000 [†]
New Zealand	3,090,000	5,000
TOTAL		75,000

*See Table 2, note ⁶

[†]See Table 2, note⁵.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa was very small. It remained at 118,000 in South Africa, and decreased to 3,800 in Rhodesia. The process of liquidation in the once great Jewish communities of the North African Maghreb continued with Morocco showing the greatest decline to some 18,000 Jews and Tunisia to 7,000. No changes were indicated for Algeria, with some 1,000 Jews; Egypt, with 400, and Libya, with 40.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1976

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	17,300,000	1,000
Egypt	38,070,000	400
Ethiopia	28,680,000	28,000
Kenya	13,850,000	400
Libya	2,440,000	40
Morocco	17,830,000	18,000
Republic of South Africa	25,470,000	118,000 ^x
Rhodesia	6,100,000	3,800 ^x
Tunisia	5,970,000	7,000
Zaire	25,630,000	750
Zambia	4,980,000	400
TOTAL		177,790

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

The largest Jewish community was in the United States, followed by Israel and the Soviet Union. Together they accounted for some 86 per cent of the world Jewish population. France, Great Britain, Canada, and Argentina had Jewish communities of 300,000 or over.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,775,935
Israel	3,059,000
Soviet Union	2,678,000
France	650,000
Great Britain	410,000
Canada	305,000
Argentina	300,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES*

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Adelaide	1,600 ^x
Amsterdam	20,000 ^x
Ankara	550 ^x
Antwerp	13,000
Athens	2,800
Auckland	1,500
Basle	2,300
Belgrade	1,500
Berlin (both sectors)	6,000
Berne	800
Bogota	5,500
Bombay (and district)	6,970 ^x
Bordeaux	6,400 ^x
Brisbane	1,500 ^x
Brussels	24,500
Bucharest	40,000
Budapest	65,000
Calcutta	300 ^x
Cape Town	25,650 ^x
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	7,000 ^x
Durban	5,990 ^x
Florence	1,400
Geneva	3,250
Glasgow	13,000 ^x
Goteborg	4,000 ^x
Guatemala City	1,500
Haifa	210,000
Helsinki	1,000
Istanbul	23,000 ^x

TABLE 8. (Continued)

Izmir	2,500 ^x
Jerusalem	266,000
Johannesburg	57,500 ^x
Kiev	170,000
Kobe	80 ^x
Leeds	18,000 ^x
Leningrad	165,000
Lima	5,000 ^x
Lisbon	550
Liverpool	6,500 ^x
London (greater)	280,000 ^x
Luxembourg	850
Lyons	20,000
Madrid	3,000
Malmö	4,000 ^x
Manchester (greater)	35,000 ^x
Manila	300
Marseille	65,000
Melbourne	34,000
Mexico, D. F.	32,500
Milan	9,000 ^x
Montivideo	48,000
Montreal	115,000 ^x
Moscow	285,000
Nice	20,000
Oslo	750
Ottawa	7,500 ^x
Paris	300,000
Perth	3,200 ^x
Plovdiv	1,000
Porto Alegre	12,000 ^x
Prague	3,000
Rabat	2,500
Recife	3,000 ^x
Rio de Janeiro	55,000 ^x
Rome	10,000 ^x
Salisbury	2,000 ^x
Salonika	1,300
San-Jose	2,500 ^x
Sao Paulo	75,000 ^x
Sarajevo	1,100
Sofia	4,000

TABLE 8. (Continued)

Stockholm	8,000 ^x
Strasbourg	12,000
Subotica	250
Sydney	28,500 ^x
Teheran	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	394,000
Tokyo	320 ^x
Toronto	115,000 ^x
Toulouse	18,000
Trieste	1,200
Vancouver	12,000 ^x
Valparaiso	4,000
Vienna	9,000
Wellington	1,500
Warsaw	5,000
Winnipeg	20,000 ^x
Zagreb	1,200
Zurich	6,150

*For cities in the United States, see Table 3 of section, "Jewish Population in the United States, 1977" in this volume.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

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