

World Jewish Population

IN THE ABSENCE of exact information on the Jewish population in the various countries, we presented below the best possible estimates for 1974. They were based on local censuses, communal registration, estimates of local informants, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted in 1975 for the year 1974. 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) figures for principal cities; c) source of the data and method used in arriving at the estimate. Responses were received from twenty countries.¹

These figures are of varying degrees of accuracy, are subject to a substantial margin of error, and will be revised when more precise data become available. It should be noted that some figures were taken from previous volumes, since there was no way of arriving at a valid new estimate. During the period under review, a substantial number of Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel, and a small number to the United States, Canada, and other Western countries.

In the tables below, figures obtained from the inquiry are indicated by an x.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1974 was 14,230,000. Of the total number, about 6,900,000 (some 48 per cent) lived in the Americas; over 4,080,000 (29 per cent) in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the

¹Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress; Colombia: Centro Israelita de Bogotá; Dominican Republic: Parroquia Israelita; Finland: Suomen Juntalaisten Seurakuntien Keskusneuvosto; Germany (F.R.): Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland; Honduras: Comunidad Hebrea de Tegucigalpa; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; Mexico: Mr. Tuvie Maisel; Netherlands: Nederlands-Israëlietisch Kerkgenootschap; Norway: Det Mosaiske Trossamfund; Philippines: Jewish Association of the Philippines, Inc.; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Switzerland: Fédération Suisse des Communautés Israélites; Turkey: Grand Rabbinat de Turquie; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews; Yugoslavia: Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union, and some 2,990,000 (21 per cent) were in Asia. Only some 184,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa, and about 76,000 (0.5 per cent) 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)	4,081,325	29.0
America, North, Central, and South	6,899,045	48.0
Asia	2,989,510	21.0
Africa	184,390	1.5
Australia and New Zealand	<u>76,200</u>	<u>0.5</u>
TOTAL	14,230,470*	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 more than 4,090,000 Jews in Europe, over 2,880,000 were in the Communist area, including an estimated 2,680,000 in the Soviet Union (p. 376).² There were

²The *Jewish Journal of Sociology* [London], Vol. XVI, No. 2, 1974, carried a piece on the Jewish population in the USSR, indicating that "one must view with reserve the widely circulated population estimates of the Soviet Jews by the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK." There is no need for such special appeals, since the YEAR BOOK has always been careful to point out that its population figures are estimates to be corrected, if and when better figures become available. The piece published in the *Journal of Sociology* is based on uncertain data, involves assumptions that should be tested and used with utmost discretion, and, in addition, shows a lack of familiarity with Soviet conditions. The author accepts the 1970 Soviet census (2,151,000 Jews) and constructs a rather elaborate statistical structure to explain this figure, although he, himself, asked the very pertinent question why the more detailed data on Soviet Jews was not published (except for RSFSR). The author also mentioned the "thorny conceptual problem, who is a Jew?", but quite apparently it did not influence his conclusions. Maksimov, the well-known Soviet demographer, indicated that the decrease in the Soviet Jewish population shown in the 1970 census (5.2 per cent) was due to the "process of fusion of nations, which, under the conditions of a socialist society, has the character of friendship and bears no resemblance to assimilation in bourgeois society." (*Istoriia USSR*, Moscow, No. 5, 1971). The matter is then to define properly who is a Jew, and not to engage in exercises in futility—which do not prove helpful in this very important question. It should be pointed out that if the official Soviet 1970 figures on the Jews are accepted without the necessary critical evaluation, the Jewish population in the Soviet Union will very soon disappear, at least statistically, obviously with grave consequences for the Russian Jews.

some 80,000 Jews in Rumania and 80,000 in Hungary. Only 8,000 Jews remained in Poland. About 1,200,000 were in non-Communist countries. France, with a substantial number of North African Sephardi Jews who came after World War II from Morocco and Tunisia, and later from Algeria, had a Jewish population of some 550,000, the largest in Western Europe. Great Britain had 410,000; Belgium, 40,000; Italy, 35,000; and Germany had 32,000: 26,500 in West Germany, 5,500 in East Germany. Of the total, 5,500 lived in West Berlin.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1974

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	2,350,000	300
Austria	7,530,000	12,000
Belgium	9,760,000	40,000
Bulgaria	8,620,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	14,560,000	14,000
Denmark	5,030,000	7,000
Finland	4,660,000	1,320 ^x
France	52,130,000	550,000
Germany	78,950,000 ^b	32,000 ^{b^x}
Gibraltar	30,000	625
Great Britain	55,930,000	410,000 ^x
Greece	8,970,000	6,500
Hungary	10,430,000	80,000
Ireland	3,030,000	4,000
Italy	54,890,000	35,000 ^x
Luxembourg	350,000	1,000
Malta	320,000	50
Netherlands	13,440,000	30,000 ^x
Norway	3,960,000	950 ^x
Poland	33,360,000	8,000
Portugal	8,560,000	580
Rumania	20,830,000	80,000
Spain	34,860,000	9,000
Sweden	8,140,000	15,000
Switzerland	6,440,000	21,000 ^x
Turkey	37,360,000 ^c	30,000 ^{c^x}
USSR	249,750,000 ^c	2,680,000 ^c
Yugoslavia	<u>20,960,000</u>	<u>6,000^x</u>
TOTAL	755,200,000	4,081,325

^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.

^xReply to 1974 inquiry.

North, Central, and South America

The estimate of the number of Jews in the United States, made by the National Jewish Population Study, is 5,800,000, including all persons living in Jewish households.³ Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, and Central and South Amer-

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1974

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	22,130,000	305,000 ^x
Mexico	54,300,000	37,500 ^x
United States	<u>210,400,000</u>	<u>5,800,000</u>
Total North America ..	286,830,000	6,142,500
Barbados	240,000	85
Costa Rica	1,870,000	1,500
Cuba	8,920,000	1,500
Curaçao	150,000	700
Dominican Republic	4,430,000	200 ^x
El Salvador	3,860,000	310 ^x
Guatemala	5,540,000	1,900
Haiti	4,440,000	150
Honduras	2,780,000	200 ^x
Jamaica	1,980,000	500 ^x
Nicaragua	2,010,000	200
Panama	1,570,000	2,000
Trinidad	<u>1,060,000</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Central America and West Indies	38,850,000	9,545
Argentina	24,290,000	475,000
Bolivia	5,330,000	2,000
Brazil	101,430,000	155,000
Chile	10,230,000	30,000
Colombia	23,210,000	12,000 ^x
Ecuador	6,730,000	1,000
Paraguay	2,670,000	1,200
Peru	14,910,000	5,300
Surinam	430,000	500
Uruguay	2,990,000	50,000
Venezuela	<u>11,290,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total South America ..	<u>203,510,000</u>	<u>747,000</u>
TOTAL	529,190,000	6,899,045

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

³For a discussion, see "Jewish Population in the United States, 1974," p. 229.

ica some 747,000. There was migration of Jews from some of the countries of Latin America, but this has not yet substantially changed the Jewish population figures for the area.

Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

The Jewish population of Asia continued to increase. Of the 2,990,000 Jews in Asia, 2,888,000 were in Israel, whose total Jewish population was now larger than the estimated Jewish population of the Soviet Union. There were 80,000 Jews in Iran and some 12,000 in India. No other country in Asia, except Turkey and the Asian areas of the USSR, had as many as 5,000 Jews. Syria had 4,500 and Lebanon 1,800. The number of Jews in any of the other Asian countries did not exceed 500.

The Jewish population of Australia was estimated at about 72,000, that of New Zealand at 4,200.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1974

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan	18,290,000	200
Burma	29,560,000	200
China	814,280,000	30
Cyprus	660,000	30
Hong Kong	4,016,000	200
India	574,220,000	12,000
Indonesia	124,600,000	100
Iran	31,300,000	80,000
Iraq	10,410,000	500
Israel	3,402,000	2,888,000
Japan	108,350,000	500 ^x
Lebanon	3,060,000	1,800
Pakistan	66,750,000	250
Philippines	40,220,000	200 ^x
Singapore	2,190,000	500
Syria	6,890,000	4,500
Yemen	<u>6,060,000</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	1,844,258,000	2,989,510

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1974

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	13,130,000	72,000
New Zealand	<u>2,960,000</u>	<u>4,200</u>
TOTAL	16,090,000	76,200

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

Africa

The Jewish population of Africa was very small, except for South Africa where it remained at about 118,000. The process of gradual liquidation continued in the North African Jewish communities. Only 40 Jews remained in Libya, 500 in Egypt, 1,000 in Algeria, and 8,000 in Tunisia. Morocco had 31,000 Jews. The Jewish communities of the Maghreb, which were among the old Jewish settlements, were disappearing.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1974

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population^a</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	15,770,000	1,000
Egypt	35,620,000	500
Ethiopia	26,080,000	20,000
Kenya	12,480,000	400
Libya	2,160,000	40
Morocco	16,310,000	31,000
Republic of South Africa	23,720,000	118,000 ^x
Rhodesia	5,900,000	4,800 ^x
Tunisia	5,510,000	8,000
Zaire	23,560,000	250
Zambia	<u>4,640,000</u>	<u>400</u>
TOTAL	171,750,000	184,390

^aSee Table 2, note^a.

^xSee Table 2, note^a.

COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

The largest Jewish communities in 1974 were in the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union. Together they accounted for about 78 per cent of the world Jewish population. Only four other countries, France, Argentina, Great Britain, and Canada, had Jewish communities of over 200,000.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,800,000
Israel	2,888,000
Soviet Union	2,680,000
France	550,000
Argentina	475,000
Great Britain	410,000
Canada	305,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES^a

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam	20,000 ^x
Ankara	500 ^x
Antwerp	13,000
Athens	2,800
Auckland	1,500
Basle	2,300
Belgrade	1,500 ^x
Berlin (both sectors)	6,000
Berne	800
Bogotá	5,500 ^x
Bordeaux	6,400
Brussels	24,500
Bucharest	40,000
Budapest	65,000
Buenos Aires	350,000
Cape Town	25,650 ^x
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	6,000
Florence	1,400
Geneva	3,250
Glasgow	13,000 ^x
Guatemala City	1,500
Haifa	210,000
Helsinki	1,000 ^x

TABLE 8 (Continued)

Istanbul	22,000 ^x
Izmir	2,500 ^x
Jerusalem	266,000
Johannesburg	63,000 ^x
Kiev	170,000
Leeds	18,000 ^x
Leningrad	165,000
Lima	5,250
Lisbon	565
London (greater)	280,000 ^x
Luxembourg	850
Lyons	20,000
Madrid	3,000
Malmö	2,000
Manchester	35,000 ^x
Manila	300
Marseille	65,000
Melbourne	34,000
Mexico D.F.	32,500 ^x
Milan	10,000 ^x
Montivideo	48,000
Montreal	114,000 ^x
Moscow	285,000
Nice	20,000
Oslo	750 ^x
Ottawa	7,000 ^x
Paris	300,000
Perth	3,000
Plovdiv	1,000
Prague	3,000
Rabat	2,500
Rio de Janeiro	50,000
Rome	15,000
Salisbury	2,600 ^x
Salonika	1,300
São Paulo	65,000
Sarajevo	1,100 ^x
Sofia	4,000
Stockholm	8,000
Strasbourg	12,000
Subotica	250
Sydney	28,000

TABLE 8 (Continued)

Teheran	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	394,000
Tokyo	400
Toronto	110,000 ^x
Toulouse	18,000
Trieste	1,200
Vancouver	8,000
Valparaiso	4,000
Vienna	9,000
Wellington	1,500
Warsaw	5,000
Winnipeg	18,500 ^x
Zagreb	1,200 ^x
Zurich	6,150

^xFor cities in the United States, see p. 233.

^xSee Table 2, note^x.