
World Jewish Population

THERE WAS NO WAY of ascertaining with any degree of accuracy the number of Jews residing in various countries during 1953-54. This was true not only with respect to Jewish communities behind the Iron Curtain and in far-away countries in Asia and Africa, but also with respect to Jewish communities in the West.

In certain countries, the census, particularly with regard to Jewish population, was not reliable; in others, the official census contained no indication of religious affiliation. To determine the Jewish population in various countries, the author used data obtained by official censuses, local registrations for communal purposes, and figures supplied by responsible local bodies. On the basis of this information he then established conservative estimates, taking into consideration changes resulting from migration.

These estimates have taken natural increase into consideration only to the degree that such increase was reflected in the source material.

It is estimated that the world Jewish population in 1954 was about 11,866,000, with over 6,000,000, or approximately 51 per cent of the total, residing in North and South America. Europe had some 3,439,000 Jews, or 29 per cent, and the Jewish population in Israel, 1,488,000, represented approximately 12.5 per cent of the total.

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (incl. Asiatic USSR and Turkey)	3,439,650	29.0
America (North and South)	6,061,730	51.1
Asia	1,629,240	13.7
Africa	677,750	5.7
Australia and New Zealand	58,250	0.5
TOTAL	11,866,620	100.0

Europe

There were about 3,439,000 Jews in Europe in 1953-54, including an estimated 2,000,000 in the Soviet Union and 433,800 in other countries in the Soviet orbit. There was considerable discussion as to the number of Jews in the Soviet Union, as well as in some of the Soviet satellite countries. The estimates for the Soviet Union varied from 1,700,000 to 2,000,000. Although

there was no way of arriving at a precise figure, the figure of 2,000,000 seemed justified, first because the number of Soviet Jews exterminated under the Nazi regime was uncertain, and second because recent information indicated an increase in Jewish communities in the Asiatic portions of the Soviet Union. Although the estimates of Jewish population in Poland varied from 35,000 to 72,000, the figure of 45,000 seemed to be borne out by the data on the postwar Jewish community in Poland and figures on migrations which had taken place in recent years (*see* AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1950 [Vol. 51] and succeeding volumes).

About 950,000 Jews resided in Western Europe and Scandinavia, with England continuing to be the largest Jewish center in Western Europe (450,000), and France occupying the second place (300,000).

North and South America

There were about 6,000,000 Jews in North and South America. Recent inquiries with regard to the number of Jews in the United States tended to indicate that earlier figures represented somewhat of an underestimate, and that the Jewish population in the United States was over the 5,000,000 mark (*see* AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1954 [Vol. 55], p. 3 and f; *see also* p. 171). The figure of 5,200,000 given in this summary is an approximate figure which will have to be checked in the light of further research.

Estimates for the Jewish population in Argentina varied from 340,000 to 400,000. As the available material seemed to be incomplete and fragmentary, until such time as new data indicates the necessity of change, the figure used in this summary will continue to be 360,000. Recent reliable information from Bolivia indicated a considerable decrease in the Jewish population of that country—from an estimated 4,000 in 1953 to 2,700 in 1954.

Asia and Australia

Of the approximately 1,629,000 Jews in Asia, the largest part, some 1,488,000, resided in Israel. The Jewish population in Iran was 80,000. There were 53,750 Jews in Australia (1953).

There was no mass migration to Israel in the period under review. According to official figures, the total population of Israel as of February 1954 stood at 1,675,644. This number included 1,488,472 Jews and 187,172 others.¹

Africa

No changes were recorded in Africa, where the total Jewish population remained about 677,000. At the time of writing (November 1954), however, a migration of some size was under way from French North Africa, though it was too early to assess its importance.

The largest Jewish population in Africa was in Morocco (255,000), the second largest in Algeria (140,000).

Outside of the Moslem countries, the only sizable Jewish community was that of the Union of South Africa (110,000).

¹ Statistical Bulletin of Israel, vol. 5, no. 5, May 1954. For a fuller treatment of the Jewish population of Israel, *see* p. 467.

Countries With Largest Jewish Population

The three largest Jewish communities in 1954 were located, respectively, in the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel. These three countries together represented over 73 per cent of the total Jewish population of the world. Only six other countries had Jewish populations of 225,000 or more, the range being from 225,000 to 450,000.

With the obvious exception of Israel, the Jewish ratio in every other country was below 5 per cent, in most countries much below that figure. (In some countries the Jewish population was so small as to represent less than 1 per 1,000.) This was a striking phenomenon created in Eastern Europe by the wholesale extermination of Jewish centers by the Nazis (1940-44). Before World War II the Jewish population in Poland had represented about 10 per cent of the total population, in Lithuania about 8 per cent, in Hungary over 5 per cent.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES^a

Country	General Population	Jewish Population	Per Cent
Albania	1,175,000	300	0.0
Austria	6,949,000	10,600	0.2
Belgium	8,706,000	40,000	0.5
Bulgaria	7,160,000	6,500	0.1
Czechoslovakia	12,340,000	17,000	0.1
Denmark	4,372,000	6,500	0.1
England	50,857,000	450,000	0.9
Finland	4,144,000	1,800	0.0
France	42,800,000	300,000	0.7
Germany	67,032,000	23,000	0.0
Gibraltar	22,500	650	2.8
Greece	7,865,000	7,000	0.1
Hungary	9,600,000	140,000	1.4
Irish Free State	2,942,000	5,400	0.2
Italy	47,021,000	34,400	0.1
Luxembourg	303,000	800	0.3
Netherlands	10,488,000	25,000	0.2
Norway	3,359,000	1,200	0.0
Poland	24,977,000	45,000	0.2
Portugal	8,621,000	4,000	0.0
Rumania	15,873,000	225,000	1.4
Soviet Union	193,000,000	2,000,000 ^b	1.0
Spain	28,528,000	3,000	0.0
Sweden	7,172,000	15,000	0.2
Switzerland	4,884,000	21,000	0.4
Turkey	22,461,000	50,000 ^b	0.2
Yugoslavia	17,004,000	6,500	0.0
TOTAL	609,655,500	3,439,650	0.6

^a Data on general population were taken from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, July 1954, Vol. 8, No. 7, United Nations, New York. They represent census figures or available estimates, mostly for 1952 and 1953. Where necessary, use was also made of other sources, including local publications.

^b Including Asiatic regions of the USSR and Turkey.

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH AND
SOUTH AMERICA, BY COUNTRIES^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Canada	14,781,000	230,000	1.6
United States	159,629,000	5,200,000	3.3
TOTAL NORTH AMERICA	174,410,000	5,430,000	3.1
Argentina	18,379,000	360,000	2.0
Bolivia	3,089,000	2,700	0.1
Brazil	55,772,000	120,000	0.2
Chile	6,077,000	40,000	0.7
Colombia	12,033,000	9,000	0.1
Costa Rica	881,000	1,500	0.2
Cuba	5,807,000	11,000	0.2
Curacao	148,000	1,000	0.7
Dominican Republic	2,291,000	600	0.0
Dutch Guiana	223,000	1,000	0.4
British Guiana	459,000	130	0.0
Ecuador	3,439,000	2,000	0.1
El Salvador	2,054,000	200	0.0
Guatemala	3,048,000	1,000	0.0
Haiti	3,112,000	200	0.0
Honduras	1,557,000	150	0.0
Jamaica	1,457,000	2,200	0.2
Mexico	28,053,000	25,000	0.1
Nicaragua	1,166,000	150	0.0
Panama	864,000	2,500	0.3
Paraguay	1,464,000	3,000	0.2
Peru	9,035,000	3,000	0.0
Trinidad	678,000	400	0.1
Uruguay	2,525,000	40,000	1.6
Venezuela	5,440,000	5,000	0.1
TOTAL SOUTH AMERICA	169,051,000	631,730	0.4
GRAND TOTAL	343,461,000	6,061,730	1.8

^a See footnote (a) Table 2.

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Aden	730,000	800	0.1
Afghanistan	12,000,000	4,000	0.0
Burma	16,823,000	1,500	0.0
Cyprus	506,000	170	0.0
China	463,493,000	4,000	0.0
Indonesia	78,163,000	1,200	0.0
French Indo-China	27,030,000	1,500	0.0
India	367,000,000	25,000	0.0
Iran	19,519,000	80,000	0.4
Iraq	5,100,000	6,000	0.1
Israel	1,675,640	1,488,470	89.0
Japan	86,700,000	2,200	0.0
Lebanon	1,320,000	6,000	0.5
Pakistan	75,842,000	400	0.0
Philippines	21,023,000	700	0.0
Singapore	1,080,000	800	0.1
Syria	3,535,000	3,000	0.1
Yemen	3,500,000	3,500	0.1
TOTAL	1,185,039,640	1,629,240	0.1

^a See footnote (a) Table 2.

TABLE 5
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Abyssinia	15,000,000	12,000	0.1
Algeria	9,367,000	140,000	1.5
Belgian Congo	11,700,000	2,000	0.0
Egypt	21,741,000	40,000	0.2
Kenya	5,851,000	1,000	0.0
Libya	1,072,000	3,750	0.3
Morocco (including Tangiers)	9,591,000	255,000	2.7
Northern Rhodesia	1,700,000	1,000	0.1
Southern Rhodesia	2,158,000	8,000	0.4
Tunisia	3,231,000	105,000	3.2
Union of South Africa	13,153,000	110,000	1.0
TOTAL	94,564,000	677,750	0.7

^a See footnote (a) Table 2.

TABLE 6
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND^a

<i>Country</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Australia	8,829,000	53,750	0.6
New Zealand	2,047,000	4,500	0.2
TOTAL	10,876,000	58,250	0.5

^a See footnote (a) Table 2.

TABLE 7
COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,200,000
Soviet Union	2,000,000
Israel	1,488,470
England	450,000
Argentina	360,000
France	300,000
Morocco	255,000
Canada	230,000
Rumania	225,000

TABLE 8
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN
SELECTED CITIES^a

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam	14,000
Antwerp	12,000
Athens	4,000
Belgrade	3,000
Berlin	6,000
Bordeaux	5,000
Bombay	15,000
Brussels	20,000
Cairo	20,000
Casablanca	65,000
Florence	1,500
Haifa	154,000
Istanbul	38,000
Jerusalem	143,000
Johannesburg	50,000
La Paz	3,500
London (Greater)	280,000
Marrakech	18,500
Melbourne	25,000
Milan	6,000
Montreal	92,000
Paris	175,000
Rio de Janeiro	45,000
Rome	12,000
São Paulo	40,000
Sydney	22,000
Teheran	30,000
Tel Aviv	350,000
Toronto	74,500
Trieste	1,500
Turin	2,700
Vienna	10,600
Warsaw	5,000

^a Mostly for 1952-1953.

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