

# World Jewish Population

AS PRECISE data on Jewish population were not available, the figures presented below must be considered as estimates, of varying degree of accuracy, which need to be checked and revised as new information from local sources becomes available.

In this summary, natural increase has been accounted for only to the extent that it was reflected in the source material. On the other hand, the migratory movements were recorded as figures on departures of Jews were made available and could be checked (though not always adequately) against the arrivals in the countries of immigration, particularly Israel.

It is important to note that in connection with mass migration, estimates on Jewish communities in certain countries had to be revised upward, as was the case previously with Yemen and as is now the case with Iraq. The estimated Jewish population of Iraq, before the beginning of mass migration, was apparently closer to 130,000 than to the 110,000 stated by local observers.<sup>1</sup> It also seems that the previously cited figure of 90,000 Jews in Iran (before the emigration started) was an underestimate and must be revised accordingly.

It has been estimated that the world Jewish population in 1951 was close to 11,532,000; of this total approximately 5,820,000, or over 50 per cent, were living in North and South America.

TABLE 1  
DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey) . . . . .	3,463,500	30.0
America (North and South) . . . . .	5,828,030	50.6
Asia . . . . .	1,491,100	13.0
Africa . . . . .	694,000	6.0
Australia and New Zealand . . . . .	56,000	0.4
TOTAL . . . . .	11,532,630	100.0

## *Europe*

There were about 3,460,000 Jews in Europe. Under the impact of Jewish emigration to Israel, the Jewish settlements in some countries behind the Iron Curtain decreased considerably. Thus, the Jewish community in Rumania declined from 335,000 in 1950 to 280,000 in mid-1951, and in Poland, for the corresponding period, from 65,000 to 45,000.

<sup>1</sup> See AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1951 (Vol. 52), p. 199.

Altogether there were, in 1951, some 500,000 Jews in Eastern Europe outside of the USSR.

Little was known about the Jews in the USSR, and it is estimated that their total was around 2,000,000. It must be stated, however, that this figure may be revised considerably if and when adequate statistical data become available.

No changes were registered in the area of Western Europe and Scandinavia, where the total Jewish population was over 800,000. The largest Jewish community in Europe was in the USSR, with an estimated 2,000,000, followed by England, with 450,000, Rumania, 280,000, and France, 235,000.

### *Asia and Australia*

Out of some 1,490,000 Jews in Asia, 1,330,000, or about 89 per cent, resided in Israel. During the period under review, several changes occurred in the distribution of Jewish population in the area. About 100,000 Jews left Iraq for Israel, and some 10,000 Jews were brought to Israel from Iran. At the time of writing, the emigration process continued, affecting considerably these communities, two of the oldest Jewish settlements in the world.

Due to postwar emigration, an increase in Jewish population was recorded in Australia, where the Jewish community stood at 52,000.

### *Israel*

According to the latest figures supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics of the State of Israel, the total population of the state, as of December 31, 1950, amounted to 1,370,000 (in round figures).<sup>2</sup> This included 1,203,000 Jews and 167,000 Arabs and others. As of December 31, 1950, the Jewish population, according to settlement, was distributed as follows:

TABLE 2  
JEWISH POPULATION IN ISRAEL, BY SETTLEMENT,  
DECEMBER 31, 1950

Town population . . . . .	938,448
Rural population . . . . .	224,382
Immigration camps . . . . .	40,365
TOTAL . . . . .	1,203,195

In the course of 1950, 169,405 emigrants came to Israel, and from January through June, 1951, another estimated 130,000 entered the state.<sup>3</sup> As there was a continuous influx of emigrants, it is estimated that the Jewish population rose to some 1,330,000 in July, 1951.

<sup>2</sup> *Facts and Figures on Israel Population and Economy*, No. 29, March-April, 1951, Jerusalem, Israel.

<sup>3</sup> From January through April, 79,719. *Jewish Agency Report* No. 5, May, 1951, New York; 50,000 were expected in June and July.

## *Africa*

There were about 690,000 Jews in Africa, where, during the period under review, the Jewish communities on the whole were less affected by emigration. The largest Jewish settlement was in Morocco (260,000)<sup>4</sup>, and the next largest in Algeria (140,000); 110,000 Jews resided in South Africa.

## *North and South America*

Out of a total of over 5,820,000 Jews in North and South America, an estimated 5,000,000 were in the United States and 201,000 in Canada. Some students estimated the total Jews in the United States as close to 4,700,000.<sup>5</sup> While reasonably accurate estimates of the number of Jews in the United States is of immediate importance to all concerned, the higher figure of 5,000,000 was tentatively accepted here as a rough approximation. It is of course possible that previous estimates were overstated, but one must take into consideration not only the general trend, showing continuous increase in population of the country, but also the fact that from 1945 through 1950 several tens of thousands of Jewish refugees came to the United States.

About 627,000 Jews were residing in other areas of the Western hemisphere, with the largest community in Argentina (360,000).

## *Countries with Largest Jewish Population*

Countries with largest Jewish population are shown in Table 8. It is interesting to note that the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel together harbored over 72 per cent of the total world Jewish population.

<sup>4</sup> The 1947 Moroccan census indicated a total of 203,839 Jews in French Morocco, which, together with the Spanish area and Tangiers, would give a figure somewhat less than 260,000. There are, however, higher estimates, which seem to be borne out by the exceedingly high rate of natural increase. See: *La Condition Juridique de l'Israélite Marocain*, by André Chouraqui, Paris, 1950, pp. 29, 30, 36, 211.

<sup>5</sup> See AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1950 (Vol. 51), p. 4.

TABLE 3  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE,  
BY COUNTRIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>General population</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Albania . . . . .	1,175,000	300
Austria . . . . .	7,000,000	18,000
Belgium . . . . .	8,614,000	42,000
Bulgaria . . . . .	7,160,000	6,500
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	12,463,000	17,000
Denmark . . . . .	4,271,000	5,500
England . . . . .	50,618,000	450,000
Finland . . . . .	4,016,000	1,800
France . . . . .	41,550,000	235,000
Germany . . . . .	67,032,000	37,000
Greece . . . . .	7,960,000	7,000
Hungary . . . . .	9,207,000	155,000
Irish Free State . . . . .	3,006,000	5,400
Italy . . . . .	46,272,000	35,000
Luxembourg . . . . .	295,000	800
Netherlands . . . . .	10,103,000	27,000
Norway . . . . .	3,265,000	1,200
Poland . . . . .	24,448,000	45,000
Portugal . . . . .	8,618,000	4,000
Rumania . . . . .	15,873,000	280,000 <sup>b</sup>
Soviet Union . . . . .	193,000,000	2,000,000 <sup>c</sup>
Spain . . . . .	28,287,000	3,000
Sweden . . . . .	7,017,000	12,500
Switzerland . . . . .	4,700,000	21,000
Turkey . . . . .	20,935,000	50,000 <sup>c</sup>
Yugoslavia . . . . .	16,250,000	3,500
TOTAL . . . . .	603,135,000	3,463,500

<sup>a</sup> Data on general population were derived from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, May, 1951, Vol. 5, United Nations, New York. They represent available figures, mostly for 1948, 1949, 1950. Use was made also of other sources, including other United Nations publications. Figures for Jewish population are for 1950 and 1951 and are based on information supplied by local sources.

<sup>b</sup> Considerable emigration to Israel is going on.

<sup>c</sup> Including Asiatic regions of the Soviet Union and Turkey.

TABLE 4  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH AND SOUTH  
AMERICA, BY COUNTRIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>General population</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Canada . . . . .	13,845,000	201,000
United States . . . . .	151,772,000	5,000,000
TOTAL North America . . . . .	165,617,000	5,201,000
Argentina . . . . .	17,111,000	360,000
Bolivia . . . . .	3,990,000	4,000
Brazil . . . . .	50,350,000	120,000
Chile . . . . .	5,809,000	40,000
Colombia . . . . .	11,260,000	7,500
Costa Rica . . . . .	794,000	1,500
Cuba . . . . .	5,348,000	10,000
Curacao . . . . .	148,530	1,000
Dominican Republic . . . . .	2,121,000	600
Dutch Guiana . . . . .	211,870	1,000
British Guiana . . . . .	390,000	130
Ecuador . . . . .	3,077,000	2,000
El Salvador . . . . .	1,858,000	200
Guatemala . . . . .	2,787,000	1,000
Haiti . . . . .	3,500,000	200
Honduras . . . . .	1,534,000	150
Jamaica . . . . .	1,374,000	2,200
Mexico . . . . .	25,368,000	25,000
Nicaragua . . . . .	1,053,000	150
Panama . . . . .	801,000	1,000
Paraguay . . . . .	1,406,000	3,000
Peru . . . . .	8,405,000	3,000
Trinidad . . . . .	611,000	400
Uruguay . . . . .	2,353,000	40,000
Venezuela . . . . .	4,595,000	3,000
TOTAL South America . . . . .	156,255,400	627,030
GRAND TOTAL . . . . .	321,872,400	5,828,030

<sup>a</sup> See footnote <sup>a</sup>, Table 3.

TABLE 5  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA,  
BY COUNTRIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>General population</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Aden . . . . .	730,880	1,500
Afghanistan . . . . .	12,000,000	3,500
Cyprus . . . . .	484,000	200
China . . . . .	463,493,000	4,000
Indonesia . . . . .	76,000,000	1,200
French Indo-China . . . . .	27,030,000	1,500
India . . . . .	346,000,000	25,000
Iran . . . . .	17,000,000	80,000 <sup>b</sup>
Iraq . . . . .	4,800,000	25,000 <sup>b</sup>
Israel . . . . .	1,500,000	1,330,000
Japan . . . . .	83,196,000	2,000
Pakistan . . . . .	80,000,000	1,500
Philippines . . . . .	19,518,000	700
Singapore . . . . .	961,856	1,000
Syria . . . . .	3,400,000	6,000
Lebanon . . . . .	1,200,000	5,000
Yemen . . . . .	3,500,000	3,000
TOTAL . . . . .	1,140,813,736	1,491,100

<sup>a</sup> See footnote <sup>a</sup>, Table 3. Excluding Asiatic regions of the Soviet Union and Turkey.

<sup>b</sup> Considerable emigration to Israel is going on.

TABLE 6  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA,  
BY COUNTRIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>General population</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Abyssinia . . . . .	15,000,000	12,000
Algeria . . . . .	8,676,000	140,000
Egypt . . . . .	20,045,000	50,000
Kenya . . . . .	29,500	1,000
Libya . . . . .	1,072,000	12,000 <sup>b</sup>
Morocco (including Tangiers) . . . . .	9,591,000	260,000
Southern Rhodesia . . . . .	2,022,000	4,000
Tunisia . . . . .	3,231,000	105,000
Union of South Africa . . . . .	12,112,000	110,000
TOTAL . . . . .	71,778,500	694,000

<sup>a</sup> See footnote <sup>a</sup>, Table 3.

<sup>b</sup> Considerable emigration to Israel is going on.

TABLE 7  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA  
AND NEW ZEALAND <sup>a</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>General population</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Australia . . . . .	8,186,000	52,000
New Zealand . . . . .	1,920,000	4,000
TOTAL . . . . .	10,106,000	56,000

<sup>a</sup> See footnote <sup>a</sup>, Table 3.

TABLE 8  
COUNTRIES OF LARGEST JEWISH  
POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
United States . . . . .	5,000,000
Soviet Union . . . . .	2,000,000
Israel . . . . .	1,330,000
England . . . . .	450,000
Argentina . . . . .	360,000
Rumania . . . . .	280,000
Morocco . . . . .	260,000
France . . . . .	235,000
Canada . . . . .	201,000
Hungary . . . . .	155,000
Algeria . . . . .	140,000
Brazil . . . . .	120,000
Union of South Africa . . . . .	110,000
Tunisia . . . . .	105,000
Iran . . . . .	80,000
Australia . . . . .	52,000
Egypt . . . . .	50,000
Turkey . . . . .	50,000
Poland . . . . .	45,000
Belgium . . . . .	42,000
Chile . . . . .	40,000
Uruguay . . . . .	40,000

TABLE 9  
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN SELECTED  
CITIES<sup>a</sup>

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish population</i>
Amsterdam.....	14,000
Athens.....	4,000
Belgrade.....	1,900
Berlin.....	6,700
Bordeaux.....	5,000
Bombay.....	15,000
Casablanca.....	90,000
Copenhagen.....	6,600
Florence.....	1,500
Haifa.....	154,000
Helsinki.....	1,350
Jerusalem.....	117,000
Johannesburg.....	50,000
La Paz.....	3,500
London (Greater).....	280,000
Melbourne.....	16,000
Milan.....	6,000
Montreal.....	80,000
Paris.....	125,000
Rio de Janiero.....	45,000
Rome... ..	12,000
Sao Paulo.....	30,000
Sydney.....	18,500
Teheran... ..	30,000
Tel-Aviv.....	310,000
Toronto.....	65,000
Trieste.....	1,500
Turin.....	2,700
Vienna.....	11,500

<sup>a</sup> Mostly for 1949-50.

LEON SHAPIRO