
World Jewish Population

IT was practically impossible to ascertain the precise number of Jews in the various countries of the world in 1960. Even where census data were generally reliable, many Jews might not be recorded.

The figures given here are based on censuses, communal registrations, and estimates by informed respondents. In addition, questionnaires were sent to 79 major Jewish bodies in 73 countries requesting information about a) the number of Jews in each country, including nationals, resident aliens, and refugees, b) figures for principal cities, c) the source of such data (e.g., census, communal registration, estimate), and d) methods used in making estimates. Responses were received from 32 organizations.¹

Most of the figures returned by local organizations were estimates. Especially when based on communal registrations, they may have overlooked the unaffiliated. In a few cases, census figures were adjusted to take into account changes since the census.

Distribution by Continents

The world Jewish population in 1960 was about 12,800,000. There were about 6,450,000 Jews in North, Central, and South America; about 3,710,000 in Europe; somewhat more than 2,000,000 in Asia, including Israel; about 540,000 in Africa, and about 68,000 in Australia and New Zealand. In the tables that follow, all figures are rounded to the nearest 50.

EUROPE

Of some 3,710,000 Jews in Europe, 2,268,000 were in the Soviet Union (see p. 284), 390,000 in the Soviet satellites, and over 1,000,000 in the non-Communist countries. Rumania, with about 225,000, had the largest Jewish population of any Soviet satellite. Because of continued Jewish emigration from Poland, that country's small Jewish community was still declining.

¹ Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jewry; Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Centre; Belgium: Centrale d'Oeuvres Sociales Juives and Consistoire Central Israélite de Belgique; Colombia: United HIAS Service, Bogotá; Cyprus: Jewish Community of Cyprus; Denmark: Mosaiske Troessamfund i Kobenhavn; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador; Finland: Helsingin Juutalainen Seurakunta; Germany: Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland; Guatemala: Sociedad Israelita de Beneficencia; Italy: Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; Luxembourg: Consistoire Israélite de Luxembourg; Malta: Jewish Community of Malta; Norway: Mosaiske Troessamfund; Panama: Sociedad Israelita Shevet Ahim; Paraguay: Consejo Representativo Israelita del Paraguay; Philippines: Jewish Community of the Philippines; Portugal: Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa; Rhodesia (Northern and Southern): Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies; Singapore: Jewish Welfare Board; Sweden: Mosaiska Församlingen i Stockholm; Switzerland: Fédération Suisse des Communautés Israélites; Turkey: Türkiye Hahambasiligi; Union of South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Uruguay: Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay; Venezuela: Unión Israelita de Caracas; Yugoslavia: Savez Jevrejskih Opština Jugoslavije.

TABLE I
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE,
BY COUNTRIES

<i>Country</i>	<i>Population</i> ^a	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Albania	1,556,000	300
Austria	7,049,000	10,200 ^b
Belgium	9,104,000	35,150 ^b
Bulgaria	7,798,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia	13,559,000	18,000
Denmark	4,547,000	6,000 ^b
Eire	2,846,000	5,400
Finland	4,457,000	1,500 ^b
France	45,097,000	350,000
Germany (incl. East Germany) ..	78,000,000	30,000 ^b
Gibraltar	22,500	650
Great Britain	51,985,000	450,000
Greece	8,258,000	6,500
Hungary	10,002,000	100,000
Italy	49,052,000	35,000 ^b
Luxembourg	324,000	1,000 ^b
Malta	325,000	50 ^b
Netherlands	11,346,000	27,000 ^c
Norway	3,556,000	900 ^b
Poland	29,257,000	40,000
Portugal	9,124,000	750 ^b
Rumania	18,256,000	225,000
Spain	30,128,000	3,000
Sweden	7,454,000	14,000 ^b
Switzerland	5,298,000	19,050 ^b
Turkey	27,619,000	50,000 ^{b, d}
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	210,500,000	2,268,000 ^{d, e}
Yugoslavia	18,655,000	7,000 ^{b, f}
TOTAL	665,174,000	3,711,450

^a United Nations, Statistical Office, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, November 1960, and other sources, including local publications.

^b Questionnaire.

^c Estimate of Stichting Joods Maatschappelijk Werk in London *Jewish Chronicle*, December 9, 1960.

^d Including Asian regions.

^e 1959 census.

^f Including 6,200 registered with the Jewish communities.

NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA

The Jewish population of the United States was estimated at 5,531,500 (see p. 56). About 250,000 Jews were in Canada and about 670,000 in Latin America. The Cuban Jewish community decreased from 11,000 in 1959 to about 8,000 in 1960, as a result of emigration due to the Castro regime's economic policies (see p. 224). For Argentina some informed observers believed that the current estimate of 400,000, given here, was too low.

TABLE 2

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA,
AND WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES

<i>Country</i>	<i>Population</i> ^a	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada	17,814,000	250,000
Mexico	33,204,000	26,000
United States	180,529,000	5,531,500
TOTAL North America.	231,547,000	5,807,500
Barbados	237,000	100 ^b
Costa Rica	1,173,000	1,500
Cuba	6,743,000	8,000
Curaçao	148,000	1,000
Dominican Republic	2,994,000	600
Guatemala	3,759,000	900 ^b
Haiti	3,505,000	200
Honduras	1,887,000	150
Jamaica	1,671,000	1,400 ^b
Nicaragua	1,424,000	200
Panama	1,053,000	2,000 ^b
Trinidad	817,000	400
TOTAL Central America and West Indies	25,411,000	16,450
Argentina	20,956,000	400,000
Bolivia	3,462,000	4,000
Brazil	65,743,000	125,000
Chile	7,465,000	30,000
Colombia	14,132,000	10,000 ^{b, c}
Ecuador	4,298,000	2,000
El Salvador	2,613,000	300 ^b
Paraguay	1,760,000	1,200 ^b
Peru	10,857,000	3,500
Surinam	255,000	1,000
Uruguay	2,700,000	45,000 ^b
Venezuela	6,709,000	8,500 ^{b, d}
TOTAL South America	140,950,000	630,500
TOTAL	397,908,000	6,454,450

^a See Table 1, note a.^b Questionnaire.^c Other sources suggested a somewhat higher figure.^d Estimates were from 7,000 to 10,000.**ASIA AND AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND**

The estimated 2,000,000 Jews in Asia included about 1,880,000 in Israel and 80,000 in Iran.

Australia had 64,000 Jews and New Zealand 4,500.

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA,
BY COUNTRIES

<i>Country</i>	<i>Population</i> ^a	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Aden	730,000	800
Afghanistan	12,000,000	4,000
Burma	20,622,000	500
China	669,000,000	250
Cyprus	558,000	150 ^b
Hong Kong	2,981,000	200
India	408,050,000	25,400
Indonesia	89,600,000	200
Iran	20,633,000	80,000
Iraq	6,952,000	6,000
Israel	2,114,000	1,880,000
Japan	93,600,000	1,000 ^{b, c}
Lebanon	1,550,000	7,000
Pakistan	86,823,000	400
Philippines	25,448,000	500 ^{b, d}
Singapore	1,580,000	750 ^b
UAR, Northern Region (Syria)	4,539,000	5,000
Yemen	3,500,000	3,500
TOTAL	1,450,280,000	2,015,650

^a See Table 1, note a.

^b Questionnaire.

^c About 190 families.

^d Including 300 registered with the Jewish community.

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND

<i>Country</i>	<i>Population</i> ^a	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia	10,281,000	64,000 ^b
New Zealand	2,372,000	4,500
TOTAL	12,653,000	68,500

^a See Table 1, note a.

^b Questionnaire, 63,500; other local estimates to 67,000 (see p. 372).

AFRICA

Of some 540,000 Jews in Africa, about 200,000 were in Morocco, 130,000 in Algeria, and 110,000 in South Africa. According to *La Vie Economique* (Casablanca), December 2, 1960, statistical reports showed only 160,000 Jews in

Morocco, but that figure appears too low, apparently excluding Jews of foreign nationality. There was no way of obtaining a dependable figure for Algeria, but reports gave 130,000 as a rough estimate. In the newly independent Congo the number of Jews fell from 2,500 in 1959 to some 1,000 in 1960.

TABLE 5
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA,
BY COUNTRIES

<i>Country</i>	<i>Population</i> ^a	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	10,930,000	130,000
Congo (formerly Belgian Congo)	13,559,000	1,000
Ethiopia	15,000,000	12,000
Kenya	6,551,000	1,000
Libya	1,072,000	3,750
Morocco (incl. Tangier)..	10,550,000	200,000
Northern Rhodesia	2,430,000	1,500 ^b
Southern Rhodesia	3,070,000	5,000 ^b
Tunisia	3,925,000	65,000
Union of South Africa...	14,929,000	110,000 ^{b, c}
UAR, Southern Region (Egypt)	24,781,000	13,500
TOTAL	106,797,000	542,750

^a See Table 1, note a.

^b Questionnaire.

^c 108,496 in the 1951 census.

COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS

The three largest Jewish communities in 1960 were in the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel, which together had about three-fourths of the total Jewish population of the world. Six other countries had Jewish communities of 200,000 or more.

TABLE 6
COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States	5,531,500
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	2,268,000
Israel	1,880,000
Great Britain	450,000
Argentina	400,000
France	350,000
Canada	250,000
Rumania	225,000
Morocco	200,000

TABLE 7

ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam	14,000
Ankara	1,000 ^a
Antwerp	10,000 ^a
Athens	2,850
Basle	2,450 ^a
Belgrade	1,500 ^a
Berlin	6,000
Berne	800
Bombay	18,000
Bordeaux	5,000
Brussels	23,000 ^a
Calcutta	2,500
Casablanca	65,000
Cochin	500
Copenhagen	6,000 ^a
Florence	1,500
Geneva	2,650 ^a
Glasgow	13,400
Haifa	160,000
Helsinki	1,100 ^a
Istanbul	40,000 ^a
Ismir	4,000 ^a
Jerusalem	149,000
Johannesburg	53,450 ^a
Leeds	2,500
London (Greater)	280,000
Luxembourg	850
Manchester	31,000
Manila	300 ^a
Marrakech	18,500
Melbourne	27,500 ^a
Milan	8,000 ^a
Montreal	102,000
Oslo	700 ^a
Paris	175,000
Rio de Janeiro	40,000
Rome	12,000
Salonika	1,300
Santiago	25,000
São Paulo	50,000
Stockholm	7,000 ^a
Sydney	23,000 ^a
Teheran	30,000
Tel-Aviv—Jaffa	365,000

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Toronto	82,000
Trieste	1,500
Tunis	55,000
Valparaiso	2,000
Vancouver	7,500
Vienna	9,250 ^a
Warsaw	5,000
Winnipeg	21,000
Zagreb	1,400 ^a
Zurich	6,150 ^a

^a Questionnaire.

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