

# World Jewish Population

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**T**HERE IS NO way of ascertaining the exact number of Jews in the various countries of the world. The figures presented below are the best possible estimates for the year 1972. They are based on local censuses, communal registration, estimates of informed residents, and data obtained from a special inquiry conducted during the year. Questionnaires were sent to 58 major Jewish organizations in selected countries eliciting information on (a) the number of Jews in the country, including nationals and refugees; (b) figures for principal cities; (c) sources of the data (census, communal registration, estimate), and (d) the methods used in arriving at estimates. Reports were received from 19 countries.<sup>1</sup>

The figures provided here are subject to a substantial margin of error, and will have to be revised when more precise data become available. It should be noted that some figures given in earlier volumes were used again because while there may have been changes in the size of the Jewish population in a number of the countries due to natural increase or migration, there was no way of arriving at a new valid estimate. Only changes reflected in figures received in responses to the special inquiry have been taken into account. There were no mass departures of Jews from any one country to another during the period under review, although substantial numbers of Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel and small groups emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States, Canada, and other Western countries.

In the tables below, figures obtained from the 1972 special inquiry are indicated by an x. Figures obtained through the 1969 and 1970 inquiries are indicated by a z.

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<sup>1</sup>Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jews; Austria: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien; Barbados: Jewish Community Center; Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress; Dominican Republic: Parroquia Israelita; Ecuador: Asociación de Beneficencia Israelita; El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita; Finland: Soumen Juntalaisien Seurakuntien Keskusneuvosto; Honduras: Comunidad Hebrea de Tegucigalpa; Italy: Unione della Comunità Israelitiche Italiane; Jamaica: United Congregation of Israelites; Japan: Jewish Community of Japan; New Zealand: United Synagogues of New Zealand; Portugal: Comunidad Israelita de Lisboa; Rhodesia: Central African Jewish Board of Deputies; South Africa: South African Jewish Board of Deputies; United Kingdom: Board of Deputies of British Jews; Uruguay: Comité Central Israelita; Venezuela: Asociación Israelita.

## DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS

The estimated world Jewish population at the end of 1972 stood at about 14,370,000. Of the total, about 7,220,000 (some 51 per cent) were in the Americas; over 4,050,000 (28 per cent) were in Europe, including the Asian parts of Turkey and the Soviet Union; and some 2,820,000 (19 per cent) were in Asia. Only approximately 176,000 (1.5 per cent) remained in Africa, and about 74,000 (0.5 per cent) were in Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION BY CONTINENTS

<i>Continent, 1972</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Turkey) .....	4,055,905	28.0
America: North, Central, and South .....	7,237,345	51.0
Asia .....	2,826,900	19.0
Africa .....	176,500	1.5
Australia and New Zealand .....	74,000	0.5
TOTAL	<u>14,370,650</u>	<u>100.0</u>

### *Europe*

Of the more than 4,000,000 Jews in Europe, over 2,850,000 were in the Communist area. This figure included an estimated 2,648,000 in the Soviet Union (p. 481; AJYB, 1972 [Vol. 73], pp. 535-36); 90,000 Jews in Rumania; 80,000 in Hungary, and only 8,000 Jews in Poland.

About 1,200,000 Jews lived in non-Communist countries. France, with a substantial number of Sephardi Jews who entered the country after World War II and later from North Africa, had a Jewish population of some 550,000, the largest in Western Europe. Great Britain had 410,000 Jews; Belgium, 40,500; Italy, 35,000; Germany, 32,000, including West Germany (26,500), East Germany (5,500), and Berlin (6,000).

### *North, Central, and South America*

Pending the completion of the ongoing study, the estimated Jewish population of the United States, was about 6,115,000. This figure, particularly that for New York, may have to be adjusted. Canada had an estimated 305,000 Jews, Central and South America, some 777,000. There

was migration of Jews from some of the countries of Latin America, but it was not sufficiently large to change the population figure for the area.

TABLE 2. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

Country	Total Population <sup>a</sup>	Jewish Population
Albania .....	2,023,000	300
Austria .....	7,460,000	9,400 <sup>x</sup>
Belgium .....	9,680,000	40,500
Bulgaria .....	8,540,000	7,000
Czechoslovakia .....	14,500,000	14,000
Denmark .....	4,960,000	6,000 <sup>z</sup>
Finland .....	4,680,000	1,150 <sup>x</sup>
France .....	51,250,000	550,000 <sup>z</sup>
Germany .....	78,340,000	32,000 <sup>y</sup>
Gibraltar .....	30,000	625
Great Britain .....	55,570,000	410,000 <sup>x</sup>
Greece .....	8,850,000	6,500
Hungary .....	10,350,000	80,000
Ireland .....	2,970,000	4,000
Italy .....	54,080,000	35,000 <sup>x</sup>
Luxembourg .....	340,000	1,000
Malta .....	330,000	50
Netherlands .....	13,190,000	30,000
Norway .....	3,900,000	800
Poland .....	32,750,000	8,000
Portugal .....	8,950,000	580 <sup>x</sup>
Rumania .....	20,470,000	90,000
Spain .....	34,130,000	9,000
Sweden .....	8,110,000	15,000 <sup>z</sup>
Switzerland .....	6,310,000	20,000 <sup>z</sup>
Turkey .....	36,110,000	30,000 <sup>b</sup>
USSR .....	245,090,000	2,648,000 <sup>b</sup>
Yugoslavia .....	20,550,000	7,000 <sup>z</sup>
TOTAL .....	743,513,000	4,055,905

<sup>a</sup>United Nations Statistical Office, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and other sources including local publications.

<sup>b</sup>Includes Asian regions of the USSR and Turkey.

<sup>x</sup>Reply to 1972 inquiry.

<sup>y</sup>Includes West Germany, East Germany, and Berlin.

<sup>z</sup>Reply to 1969 or 1970 inquiry.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND THE WEST INDIES, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Canada .....	21,600,000	305,000 <sup>x</sup>
Mexico .....	50,830,000	40,000 <sup>z</sup>
United States .....	207,050,000	6,115,000 <sup>b</sup>
Total North America .....	279,480,000	6,460,000
Barbados .....	240,000	85 <sup>x</sup>
Costa Rica .....	1,790,000	1,500
Cuba .....	8,660,000	1,500
Curaçao .....	150,000	700
Dominican Republic .....	4,180,000	110 <sup>x</sup>
El Salvador .....	3,650,000	300 <sup>x</sup>
Guatemala .....	5,350,000	1,900 <sup>z</sup>
Haiti .....	4,970,000	150
Honduras .....	2,580,000	200 <sup>x</sup>
Jamaica .....	1,900,000	600 <sup>x</sup>
Nicaragua .....	1,980,000	200
Panama .....	1,480,000	2,000
Trinidad .....	1,030,000	250
Total Central America and West Indies .....	37,960,000	9,495
Argentina .....	23,550,000	500,000
Bolivia .....	5,060,000	2,000 <sup>z</sup>
Brazil .....	95,410,000	150,000 <sup>z</sup>
Chile .....	8,990,000	30,000
Colombia .....	21,770,000	13,000
Ecuador .....	6,300,000	850 <sup>x</sup>
Paraguay .....	9,390,000	1,200
Peru .....	14,010,000	5,300 <sup>z</sup>
Surinam .....	410,000	500
Uruguay .....	2,920,000	50,000 <sup>x</sup>
Venezuela .....	10,400,000	15,000 <sup>x</sup>
Total South America .....	198,210,000	767,850
TOTAL .....	515,650,000	7,237,345

<sup>a</sup>See Table 2, note a.

<sup>b</sup>The national Jewish population study conducted under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has not yet been completed. When the results of the study become available, this figure may have to be adjusted.

<sup>x</sup>See Table 2, note x.

<sup>z</sup>See Table 2, note z.

*Asia, Australia, and New Zealand*

Of the 2,826,400 Jews in Asia, 2,723,000 were in Israel, a number now exceeding the estimated Jewish population of the Soviet Union. There were 80,000 Jews in Iran, and some 14,000 in India. No other country in Asia, except Turkey and the Asian areas of the USSR, had as many as 4,000 Jews. Syria had 3,500 and Lebanon 2,000. The number of Jews in any of the other Asian countries did not exceed 800.

The Jewish population of Australia was estimated at about 70,000, that of New Zealand at 4,000.

*Africa*

The Jewish population of Africa continued to decline, except for South Africa where it has reached about 118,000. The North African Jewish communities were, in fact, in the process of liquidation. Only 50 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 early Jewish settlements, were disappearing.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Afghanistan .....	17,480,000	500
Burma .....	27,580,000	200
China .....	787,180,000	20
Cyprus .....	640,000	30
Hong Kong .....	4,050,000	200
India .....	550,370,000	14,000
Indonesia .....	124,890,000	100
Iran .....	29,780,000	80,000
Iraq .....	9,750,000	500 <sup>x</sup>
Israel .....	3,200,000	2,723,000
Japan .....	104,660,000	500
Lebanon .....	2,870,000	2,000
Pakistan .....	53,510,000	250
Philippines .....	37,960,000	500 <sup>z</sup>
Singapore .....	2,110,000	600 <sup>z</sup>
Syria .....	6,450,000	4,000
Yemen .....	5,910,000	500
TOTAL .....	1,768,390,000	2,826,900

<sup>a</sup>See Table 2, note a.<sup>x</sup>See Table 2, note x.<sup>z</sup>See Table 2, note z.

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Australia .....	12,730,000	70,000 <sup>x</sup>
New Zealand .....	2,850,000	4,000 <sup>x</sup>
TOTAL .....	15,580,000	74,000

<sup>a</sup>See Table 2, note a.

<sup>x</sup>See Table 2, note x.

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES, 1972

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Population<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Algeria	14,770,000	1,000
Congo Republic .....	17,100,000	250
Egypt .....	34,130,000	500
Ethiopia .....	25,250,000	12,000
Kenya .....	11,690,000	200 <sup>z</sup>
Libya .....	2,010,000	50
Morocco .....	15,230,000	31,000
Republic of South Africa .....	19,618,000	117,900 <sup>x</sup>
Rhodesia .....	5,500,000	5,200 <sup>x</sup>
Tunisia .....	5,140,000	8,000
Zambia (Northern (Rhodesia) .....	4,280,000	400
TOTAL .....	154,718,000	176,500

<sup>a</sup>See Table 2, note a.

<sup>x</sup>See Table 2, note x.

<sup>z</sup>See Table 2, note z.

### COMMUNITIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

The largest Jewish communities were in the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union. Together they accounted for about 80 per cent of the world Jewish population. Only four other countries, France, Argentina, Great Britain, and Canada had Jewish populations exceeding 200,000.

TABLE 7. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
United States .....	6,115,000
Israel .....	2,723,000
Soviet Union .....	2,648,000
France .....	550,000
Argentina .....	500,000
Great Britain .....	410,000
Canada .....	305,000

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, SELECTED CITIES <sup>a</sup>

<i>City</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
Amsterdam .....	12,000
Antwerp .....	13,000
Athens .....	2,800
Auckland .....	1,500 <sup>x</sup>
Basle .....	2,300
Belgrade .....	1,600 <sup>z</sup>
Berlin (both sectors) .....	6,000 <sup>z</sup>
Berne .....	800
Bordeaux .....	6,400
Brussels .....	24,500
Bucharest .....	50,200
Budapest .....	65,000
Buenos Aires .....	350,000
Cochin .....	500
Copenhagen .....	6,000
Florence .....	1,400 <sup>x</sup>
Geneva .....	3,250 <sup>z</sup>
Glasgow .....	13,400 <sup>x</sup>
Guatemala City .....	1,500
Haifa .....	210,000
Helsinki .....	875 <sup>x</sup>
Istanbul .....	22,000
Jerusalem .....	266,000
Johannesburg .....	57,500 <sup>x</sup>
Kiev .....	220,000
Leeds .....	19,400 <sup>x</sup>
Leningrad .....	165,000
Lima .....	5,250
Lisbon .....	565 <sup>x</sup>
London (greater) .....	280,000 <sup>x</sup>
Luxembourg .....	850
Lyons .....	20,000

TABLE 8 (continued)

Madrid .....	3,000
Malmö .....	2,000
Manchester .....	36,000 <sup>x</sup>
Manila .....	300
Marseille .....	65,000 <sup>z</sup>
Melbourne .....	34,000 <sup>x</sup>
Mexico D.F. ....	30,000
Milan .....	9,500 <sup>x</sup>
Montevideo .....	48,000 <sup>x</sup>
Montreal .....	113,000
Moscow .....	285,000
Nice .....	20,000
Oslo .....	600
Ottawa .....	6,000
Paris .....	300,000 <sup>z</sup>
Perth .....	3,000 <sup>x</sup>
Plovdiv .....	1,000
Rabat .....	2,500
Rio de Janeiro .....	50,000 <sup>z</sup>
Rome .....	15,000 <sup>x</sup>
Salonika .....	1,300
São Paulo .....	65,000 <sup>z</sup>
Sarajevo .....	1,100 <sup>x</sup>
Sofia .....	4,000
Stockholm .....	8,000
Strasbourg .....	12,000
Subotica .....	400
Sydney .....	28,000 <sup>x</sup>
Teheran .....	50,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa .....	394,000
Tokyo .....	400 <sup>x</sup>
Toronto .....	97,000
Toulouse .....	18,000
Trieste .....	1,200
Vancouver .....	8,000
Valparaiso .....	4,000
Vienna .....	9,000
Warsaw .....	5,000
Wellington .....	1,500
Winnipeg .....	21,000
Zagreb .....	1,350
Zurich .....	6,150 <sup>z</sup>

<sup>a</sup>For cities in the United States, see p. 310.

<sup>x</sup>See Table 2, note x.

<sup>z</sup>See Table 2, note z.