

EUROPEAN JEWISH POPULATION SIZES (2015)

Defining who is, and who is not Jewish, is notoriously complex. There are multiple definitions – those made according to *halacha* (Jewish law) and various interpretations of it, those based on self-definition, those based on parentage or heritage, and those based on religion and/or ethnicity. Counting European Jewish populations is especially complicated due to 20th Century European Jewish history – particularly in countries that experienced communism, there are many people who have one Jewish and one non-Jewish parent, or who only discover their Jewishness as adults. Thus the counts according to different definitions of Jewishness vary considerably.

Country	Total population	Core Jewish population ^a	Jews per total 1,000 in population	Accuracy rating ^b	Population with Jewish parents ^c	Enlarged Jewish population ^d	Law of Return Jewish population ^e
Europe total	816,890,000	1,407,200	1.72		1,769,700	2,188,100	2,735,900
Austria	8,500,000	9,000	1.06	B2011	14,000	17,000	20,000
Belgium	11,200,000	29,800	2.66	C2002	35,000	40,000	45,000
Bulgaria	7,200,000	2,000	0.28	C2011	4,000	6,000	7,500
Croatia	4,200,000	1,700	0.40	C2001	2,400	3,000	3,500
Cyprus	1,200,000	100	0.08	D2012	150	200	250
Czech Republic	10,500,000	3,900	0.37	C2011	5,000	6,500	8,000
Denmark	5,600,000	6,400	1.14	C2001	7,500	8,500	9,500
Estonia	1,300,000	2,100	1.62	B2014	2,600	3,400	4,500
Finland	5,500,000	1,300	0.24	B2010	1,500	1,800	2,500
France	64,140,000	467,500	7.29	B2012	530,000	600,000	700,000
Germany	80,900,000	117,500	1.45	B2013	150,000	250,000	275,000
Greece	11,000,000	4,400	0.40	B2000	5,500	6,000	7,000
Hungary	9,900,000	47,700	4.82	C2001	75,000	95,000	150,000
Ireland	4,600,000	1,600	0.35	B2011	2,000	2,400	2,800
Italy	61,300,000	27,600	0.45	B2011	33,000	40,000	45,000
Latvia	2,000,000	5,200	2.60	B2014	8,000	12,000	16,000
Lithuania	2,900,000	2,800	0.97	B2011	4,700	6,500	10,000
Luxembourg	600,000	600	1.00	B2000	750	900	1,000
Malta	400,000	100	0.25	D2012	150	200	250
Netherlands	16,900,000	29,900	1.77	B2000	43,000	50,000	57,000
Poland	38,500,000	3,200	0.08	C2001	5,000	7,500	10,000
Portugal	10,400,000	600	0.06	C2001	800	1,000	1,200
Romania	20,000,000	9,300	0.47	B2001	13,500	17,000	20,000
Slovakia	5,400,000	2,600	0.48	C2001	3,600	4,500	6,000
Slovenia	2,100,000	100	0.05	C2003	150	200	300
Spain	46,500,000	11,900	0.26	D2007	15,000	18,000	20,000
Sweden	9,700,000	15,000	1.55	C2007	20,000	25,000	30,000
United Kingdom	64,700,000	290,000	4.48	B2011	330,000	370,000	410,000
Total European Union	507,140,000	1,093,900	2.16		1,312,300	1,592,600	1,862,300

Belarus	9,500,000	10,600	1.12	B2009	18,000	25,000	33,000
Moldova	4,100,000	3,600	0.88	B2004	5,700	7,500	11,000
Russian Federation	143,700,000	183,000	1.27	C2010	290,000	380,000	570,000
Ukraine	42,900,000	60,000	1.40	C2001	97,000	130,000	200,000
Total FSU Republics	200,200,000	257,200	1.28		410,700	542,500	814,000
[Total FSU in Europe]	206,400,000	267,300	1.30		426,000	564,400	844,500
Gibraltar	30,000	600	20.00	B2001	700	800	900
Norway	5,100,000	1,300	0.25	B2010	1,500	2,000	2,500
Switzerland	8,200,000	18,900	2.30	B2012	22,000	25,000	28,000
Total other Western Europe	13,850,000	20,800	1.50		24,200	27,800	31,400
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3,800,000	500	0.13	C2001	800	1,000	1,200
Macedonia	2,100,000	100	0.05	C1996	150	200	250
Serbia	7,100,000	1,400	0.20	C2001	2,100	2,800	3,500
Turkey	77,200,000	17,100	0.22	B2002	19,300	21,000	23,000
Other	5,400,000	100	0.02	D	150	200	250
Total Balkans	95,600,000	19,200	0.20		22,500	25,200	28,200

Data source: Sergio DellaPergola, [World Jewish Population 2015](#). Berman Jewish Data Bank in association with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry.

Notes

- The “**core**” Jewish population includes people who self-identify as Jewish in social surveys, and do not have another monotheistic religion. It also includes people who may not recognise themselves as Jewish, but have Jewish parents and have not adopted a different religious identity. It further includes all converts to Judaism by any procedure, as well as other people who declare themselves to be Jewish even without having undergone conversion.
- Data on the size of different Jewish populations vary in quality. The accuracy rating is based on an A to D scale, with ‘A’ being highly accurate (based, for example, on indisputable census data) to ‘D’ (an approximate estimate based on weak sources). It also contains the year of the data from which the Jewish population size is assessed.
- The “**enlarged**” Jewish population includes the sum of (a) the “core” Jewish population; (b) all other people of Jewish parentage who, by “core” Jewish population criteria, are not currently Jewish (e.g. they have adopted another religion or otherwise opted out); and (c) all respective non-Jewish household members (spouses, children, etc.)
- Sum of (i) core Jewish population; (ii) persons reported as partly Jewish; and (iii) all others not currently Jewish with a Jewish parent.
- The ‘**Law of Return**’ or (*Chok Ha-Shvut*) definition is based on Israeli legislation determining who, under Israeli law, is entitled to migrate to Israel and receive Israeli citizenship. Anybody with at least one Jewish grandparent is entitled to do this.