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# The first Jews of New York went to USA in 1654 from Recife, Brazil



In Recife, Brazil, they founded Kahal Zur Israel, the first synagogue of the New World. In 1654, when they arrived in New York, then known as New Amsterdam, they founded Shearith Israel, the first Jewish congregation in North America. These pioneer Jews had to fight for the creation of Jewish temples of worship, schools, and cemeteries in a time when there was no freedom of religion.

During this arduous process, they had a tremendous influence in the battle for equal rights. Today, the achievements of these Jews represent a victory for people of all faiths.

They were able to escape to New York at a time when there was strong anti-Semitism from the Portuguese and a war between Portugal and Holland.

# The Dutch Brazilian Origins of the First 23 Jewish Settlers of New York: Where did they come from?

It seems that Jewish history keeps repeating itself: threat and persecution over the centuries obligated the Jews to move and settle in safer places. The first Dutch Jewish settlers of New York came from Brazil, but in fact their peregrination started in Holland. Before Holland, they came from **Portugal**, Spain, and France, among other countries.

In Brazil, because of the complaints of the *Classis* (governing body of the Dutch Reformed Church in Brazil), Judaism was tolerated but the Jews were ordered to conduct their services in seclusion (Wiznitzer, "Earliest" 54). In 1642, a group of 200 Jews came to Recife under the leadership of Rabbi Aboab (Bloom, Economic 130). Holland and its colonies attracted immigrants (Shulvass 22).



# The Dutch Brazilian Origins of the First 23 Jewish Settlers of New York: Where did they come from? *(cont.)*

The Dutch tolerance towards the Jews was based on the large amount of capital invested in Holland in shares of the West India Company, W.I.C. (Schappes 4).

In 1654, the Portuguese recovered the city. At that time, Holland was engaged in a war with Britain, and the Portuguese used this situation to recapture Recife (Sandler 41). The Portuguese executed thirteen Jews, even burning one alive, despite the agreement to consider the Jews equal to the Dutch (Emmanuel, "Light" 11). Rabbi Aboab was rescued by the Dutch and went back to live in Amsterdam where he persuaded the wealthy members of the community to build the great synagogue of Amsterdam (Enciclopédia 23). Other 23 went to New Amsterdam

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



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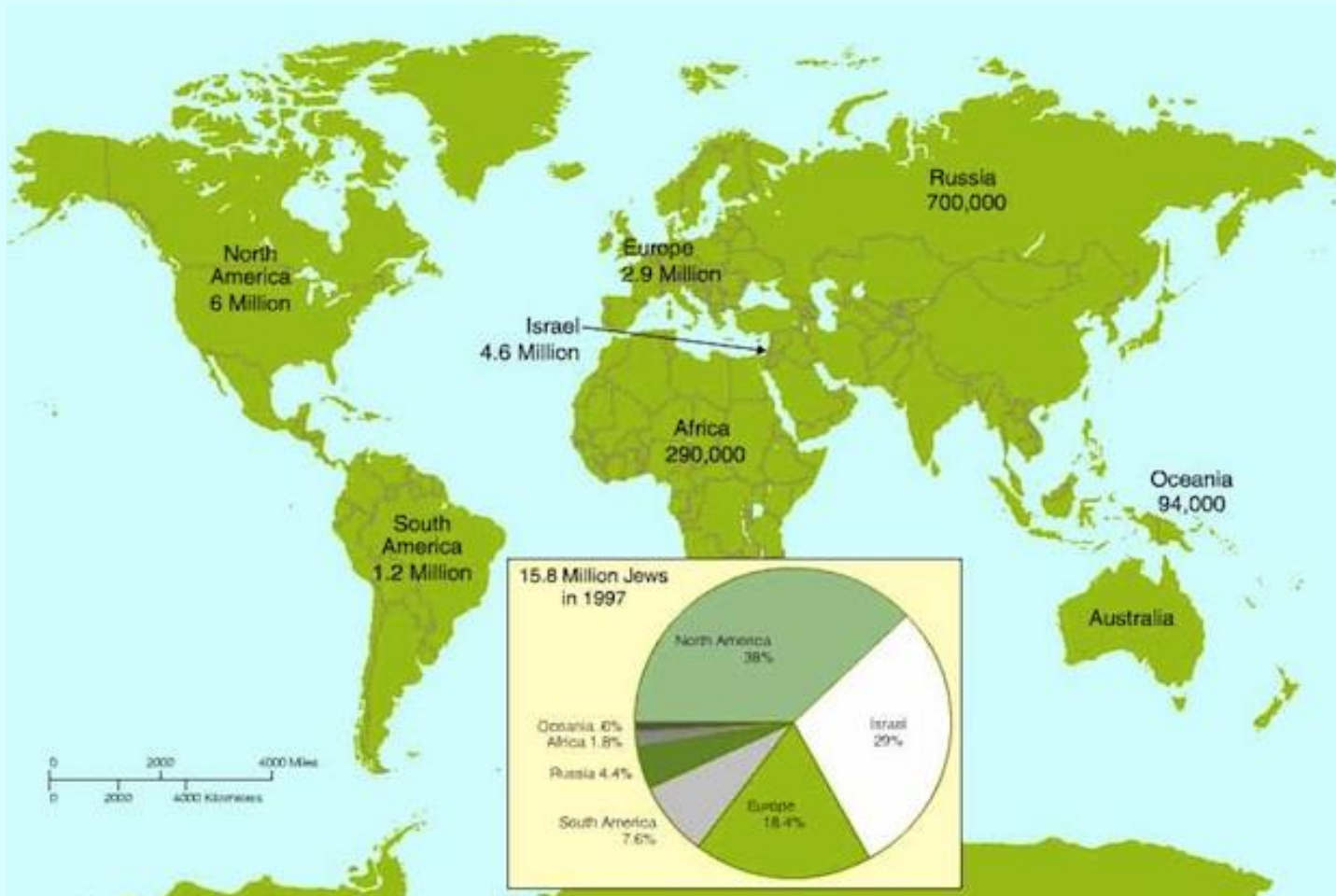
# World Jewish Population

Country	Core Jewish Population	Proportion of country population	Enlarged Jewish Population	Proportion of country population	Law of Return population
Earth	13,854,800	0.196%	18,197,400	0.257%	21,649,500
 Israel	6,014,300	75.4%	6,332,900	79.394%	6,332,900
 United States	5,425,000	1.728%	8,300,000	2.644%	11,000,000
 European Union	1,105,700	0.220%	1,574,300	0.313%	1,833,300
 France	478,000	0.751%	600,000	0.943%	700,000
 Canada	380,000	1.089%	500,000	1.433%	600,000
 United Kingdom	290,000	0.459%	360,000	0.570%	400,000
 Russia	190,000	0.133%	380,000	0.266%	570,000
 Argentina	181,500	0.445%	330,000	0.809%	350,000
 Germany	118,000	0.144%	250,000	0.305%	270,000
 Brazil	107,329 <sup>[7]</sup>	0.049%	125,000	0.064%	135,000
 Australia	97,335 <sup>[8]</sup>	0.3% <sup>[9]</sup>	135,000	0.613%	150,000
 South Africa	70,000	0.137%	80,000	0.157%	85,000
 Ukraine	65,000	0.143%	130,000	0.286%	210,000
 Hungary	48,000	0.485%	95,000	0.960%	150,000
 Mexico	40,000	0.034%	50,000	0.043%	65,000
 Belgium	30,000	0.270%	40,000	0.360%	45,000
 Netherlands	29,900	0.179%	50,000	0.299%	55,000
 Italy	28,100	0.046%	37,000	0.061%	40,000
 Chile	18,500	0.106%	26,000	0.149%	30,000
 Switzerland	17,400	0.218%	25,000	0.313%	27,000
 Turkey	17,300	0.023%	21,000	0.028%	23,000



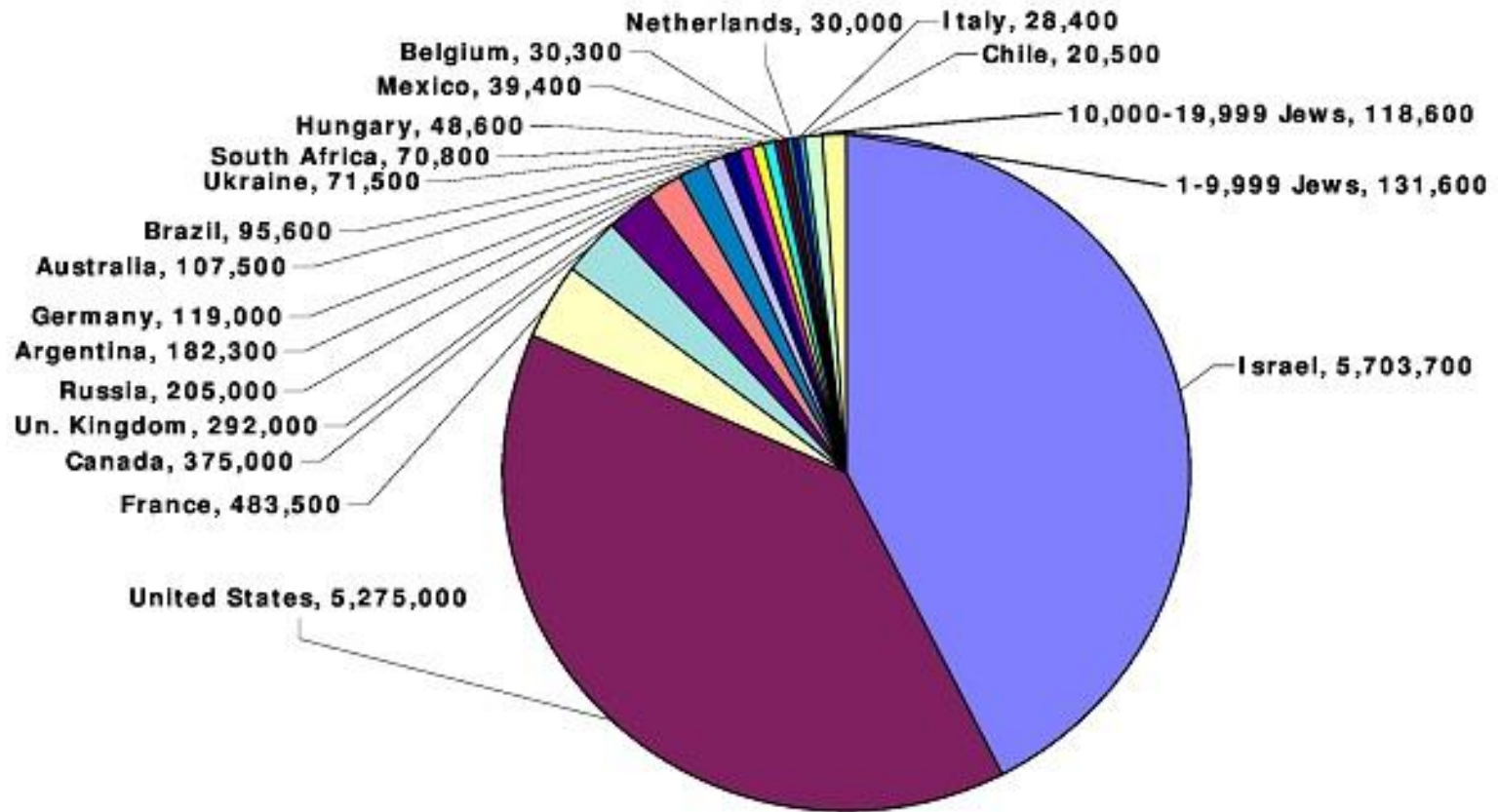


# World Jewish Population





# World Jewish Population (cont.)



# How many Jews live in NY today?

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## Jewish Population Is Up in the New York Region

By SHARON OTTERMAN  
Published: January 17, 2013

[Borough Park](#) in Brooklyn, with its preponderance of Orthodox synagogues and kosher restaurants, is the most Jewish area in the New York City region, with 78 percent of households there identifying as Jewish. Close behind is Great Neck, Long Island, with its thriving enclave of Persian Jews, and then the Five Towns, also on Long Island, where a higher percentage of Jews identify as modern Orthodox than anywhere else in the region, according to a Jewish demographic study released Tuesday.

The Jewish population in the New York area grew by 9 percent over the last decade, reversing a longstanding trend of decline, the study found. But the growth did not affect all Jewish neighborhoods equally. Two-thirds of the rise was propelled by two deeply Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn with high birthrates — Williamsburg and Borough Park. Some of the city's more affluent areas, like Brownstone Brooklyn and the Upper East Side, saw declines in their Jewish population, according to the study.

“There is no typical Jewish community,” said Dr. Pearl Beck, lead author of [“The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011.”](#) sponsored by the [UJA-Federation of New York](#). “We found significant differences from area to area.”

Brownstone Brooklyn, the study found, was the most secular of the region's Jewish enclaves. In its neighborhoods, from Park Slope and Carroll Gardens to Brooklyn Heights, 43 percent of Jews identified themselves as nonreligious or secular.

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The New York metropolitan area is home to the largest Jewish population in the world outside Israel. Until late 2005 or early 2006, when Israel surpassed the United States as having the largest Jewish population in the world, the New York metropolitan area had more Jews than Tel Aviv. After dropping from a peak of 2.5 million in the 1950s to a low of 1.4 million in 2002 the population of Jews in the New York metropolitan area grew to 1.54 million in 2011.



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## New York Places Jewish Spaces

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## The Jewish Denominations

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Not too long ago, one's Jewish affiliation was marked by a specific denominational categorization.

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That remains true today for many Jews, but the picture is more complicated in an age where people tend to shun labels and are less likely than in the past to define themselves via institutions and mainstream categories.

One ramification of recent trends is the growth of "transdenominationalism," an outlook that is inclusive of all the different denominations. In some cases, transdenominationalism is a necessity--creating a community high school, for example, in a place in which individual synagogues don't have the resources available to start denominationally affiliated schools. Transdenominational [day schools](#) have popped up in mid-size Jewish communities that don't have the numbers to support a day school for individual denominations.

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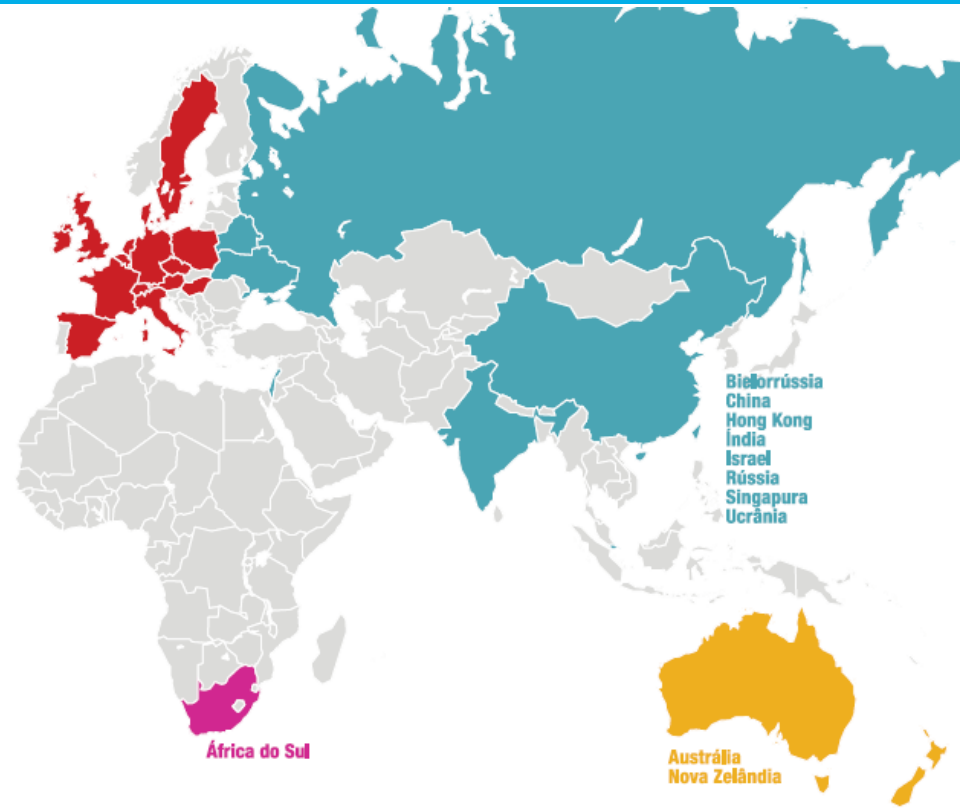
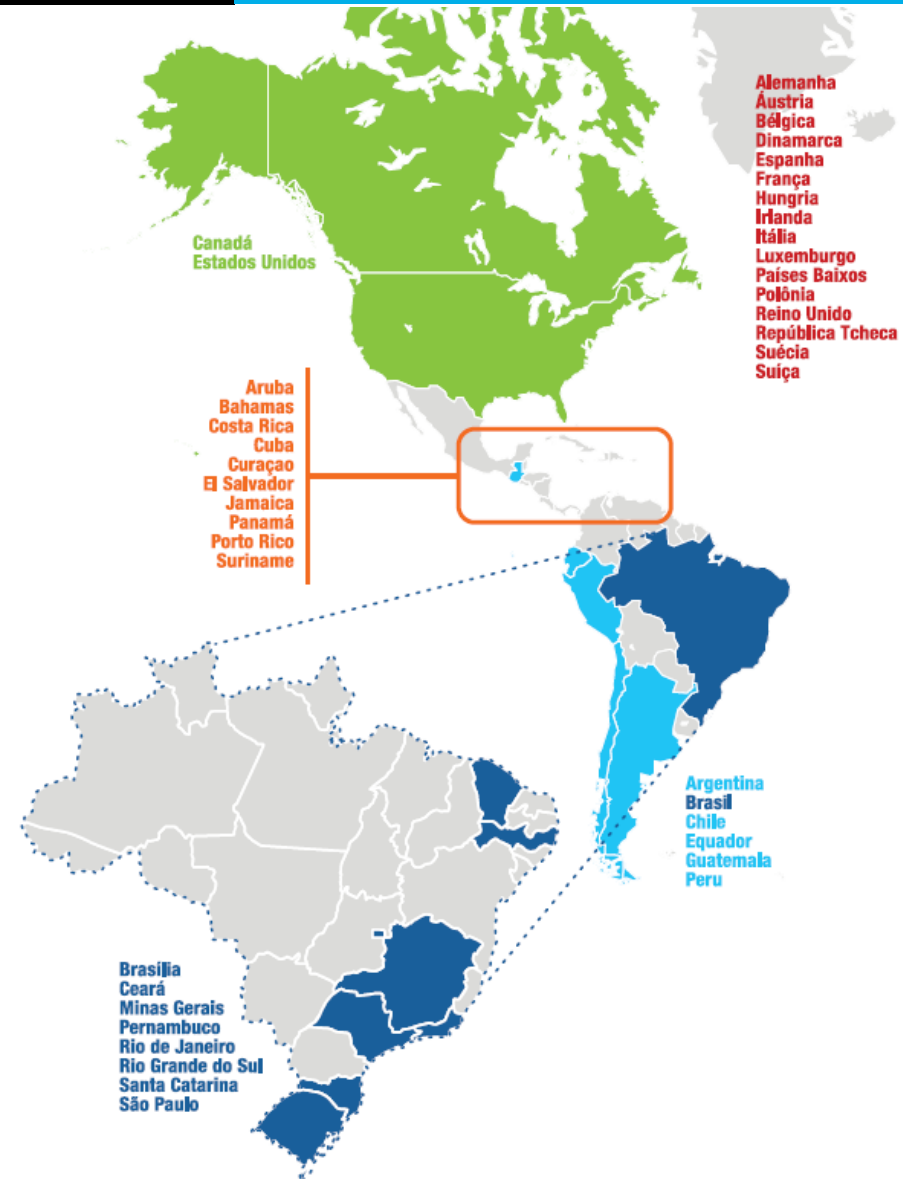
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