

~~GOVERNMENT STATISTICS~~  
D. P. W.

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VILLAGE STATISTICS

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# EXPLANATORY NOTE.

This is a revision of the "Village Statistics" prepared in 1943 and shows the position on April 1st, 1945.

2. The difference between this book and that of 1943 is that whereas the latter gives particulars of areas owned by Jews and Non-Jews, the present book divides holdings according to :—Arabs

- Jews
- Public (Government, Municipalities and Local Authorities)
- Others (Other than Arabs and Jews)

3. The village names are in accordance with the Administrative Divisions (Amendment) Proclamation, 1945, as published in Palestine Gazette No. 1415 dated June 7th, 1945. Where more than one name appears under the same serial number the following examples explain the system adopted :—

- (a) Where a territorial unit includes two or more administrative units which are not territorially separated from one another and they are of equal importance  
Sur Bahir and Umm Tuba.
- (b) A unit which includes a Khirbat or previously declared village which is no longer recognised as a separate village entity  
Beit Kahil (includes Khirbat Jamrura).
- (c) Change of name  
'Ein hash Shofet (previously Ji'ara).
- (d) An entity known by two names  
Khirbat Samah (Eilon).

## "A" POPULATION.

The population estimates given in "Village Statistics" show for each inhabited place in Palestine the number of persons, classified by religion at the end of 1944. A summary of the data by sub-districts is given on page 3. In this table the population is further classified in three categories — viz., urban, rural and nomad.

2. The classification of the population according to religion viz., Moslems, Jews, Christians and Others is that used in the censuses and in vital statistics and is socially necessary by reason of the complete jurisdiction enjoyed by religious communities in matters of the personal status of their members. In the current life of Palestine the further distinction between "Arabs", "Jews", and "Others" which may be described as "racial" or "national" has also been found to be necessary. In the absence of basic data, however, statistics of the distribution of the population of each locality according to "race" cannot be compiled, and only a rough estimate of the total population according to the "racial" classification may be given as at the end of 1944 :—

	<i>Settled Population</i>	<i>Total Population</i>
	(Excluding Nomads)	
Arabs	1,112,000	1,179,000
Jews	554,000	554,000
Others	32,000	32,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,698,000</b>	<b>1,765,000</b>

3. The classification of the population into "urban", "rural" and "nomadic" is that used in current population statistics. The population considered as "urban" is (a) that of the four large towns (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jaffa); (b) that of the *cheflieu* of each sub-district, after which the sub-district is named (Gaza, Beersheba, Ramle, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Nablus, Jenin, Nazareth, Beisan, Tiberias and Safad); (c) that of certain Municipalities and local councils, both Arab and Jewish (Petah Tiqva, Lydda, Khan Yunis, Rehovot, Majdal, Bethlehem, Rishon-le-Zion, Hadera, Natanya, Beit Jala, Shafa 'Amr, Affula). The population considered as "rural" is the settled population of all other localities.

The "Nomadic" population is that considered as such by the Census of 1931, which enumerated, by special methods, all the Beduins of the tribes normally resident in the Beersheba Sub-District.

4. The population estimates are prepared as far as possible by taking into consideration municipal, local council and other administrative boundaries. Nevertheless in certain places there is an incomplete correspondence between the areas to which the population figures refer and those to which the land figures refer.

5. The last population census taken in Palestine was that of 1931. Since that year, the population has grown considerably both as a consequence of Jewish immigration and of the high rate of natural increase among all sections of the population. The rapidity of the change in the size of the population and the length of the period elapsed since the census rendered difficult the task of estimating the population. The population estimates published here are the result of a very detailed work conducted by the Department of Statistics, by using all the statistical material available on the subject. They cannot, however, be considered as other than rough estimates which in some instances may ultimately be found to differ even considerably, from the actual figures. The estimates for the whole of Palestine are to be considered as more reliable than those for sub-districts, while the sub-district estimates can, in turn, be considered as more reliable than those of the individual localities.

6. The method of estimating the population figures has been somewhat different from that used in the previous issues of "Village Statistics" and may be briefly described as follows :—

The data have been prepared in three stages : (a) first of all, an estimate of the total number of inhabitants of each religion for the whole of Palestine has been compiled; (b) this total has then been distributed by sub-districts, distinguishing between population of each town and rural population of the sub-district "en bloc"; (c) in the third stage the rural population of each religion in each sub-district has been allocated to each locality.

(a) The estimated *settled* population in the whole of Palestine has been obtained by adding to the *settled* population enumerated *de facto* by the 1931 Census the natural increase and the net *recorded* migratory increase in the period between the census data and the end of 1944. Whilst natural increase records are presumably on the whole fairly complete data on net migratory increase are less reliable. These data are calculated too, as far as possible on a *de facto* basis, by subtracting the recorded departures from Palestine from the recorded arrivals. However, (i) net immigration is the residuum of a vast movement of arrivals and departures. In 1932-44 out of 2,119,732 arrivals and 1,861,510 departures, net recorded immigration was 258,222. In so large a movement account must be taken of the possibility of cumulative errors. (ii) Not all the migratory movements are recorded. It is well known that a considerable movement of illegal immigration occurs across the borders of Palestine. Since 1939 records are kept of illegal immigrants enumerated in ships, arrested, or inferred from reliable evidence, and are included in population estimates. These records are, however, incomplete for 1939-44 and no such records exist for 1932-38.

For the Jewish population it has been possible to correct, to a certain extent, the estimate of population, by taking into consideration detailed estimates by locality prepared by the Jewish Agency and the Food Controller. By compiling all available data a revised conservative *de facto* estimate has been obtained which amounts to 553,600 at the end of 1944 as compared with the unrevised estimate of 528,700 which excluded persons whose arrival in the country had gone unrecorded.

For the Moslem and Christian population it has not been possible to take account of unrecorded movements; but these movements are not considered to be such as to involve very substantial errors in the estimate.

(b) A first and provisional estimate of the population of each religion by sub-district, was obtained by adding to the population enumerated in 1931 the natural increase in the sub-district up to the end of 1944 and by allotting to the sub-district a part of the migratory increase of the whole country. Afterwards, a detailed correction of the provisional estimate data was made in order to allow for the consequences of internal migratory movements between sub-districts (which are not recorded in Palestine). This correction was made as follows :—

i. Birth and death rates for each sub-district (separately for the urban and rural population of each religion) were compiled for the period 1938-44 on the basis of the figures of births and deaths in those years, and of the current estimates of population in the same year. Calculations were made of the ratios existing

between the natality and mortality of the sub-district populations of each religion and the natality and mortality of the corresponding population in the whole of Palestine.

ii. Indices of fertility and of child mortality for each religion and sub-district were calculated, by a method wholly independent of the population estimates and based only on vital statistics.

iii. The indices obtained from (i) above and from (ii) revealed systematic differences. In many instances it was possible to find reliable evidence that these differences were due to under-estimates or over-estimates of the population figures used in the calculation of the indices obtained as in sub-para(i). These figures were therefore corrected. Data compiled by the Food Controller were also used for comparison, account being taken of the fact that in certain sub-districts, and in particular, in non-pointed areas, the figures were considerably exaggerated.

For the Jewish population, data compiled by the Statistical Department of the Jewish Agency have also been employed for further correction of the estimates of the population by sub-district.

(c) The general framework of the population estimates according to religion, sub-district, rural and urban areas being completed, the allocation of population to individual localities was obtained as follows. For each locality a sheet was prepared showing the population figures as at the Census of 1931, the estimates for "Village Statistics" at the end of 1942, the estimates of the Food Controller for the end of 1942 and 1944, and the estimates of Jewish Agency at various dates. On the basis of a detailed comparison of all the figures available, a provisional estimate was reached for each locality. This estimate was finally corrected to adjust the total of the estimates for each locality of the sub-district to the estimate already reached for the whole sub-district. The final estimates were then rounded off to the nearest digit of tens.

7. Estimates of population have been prepared only for the settled population. No reliable data are available for the nomadic population at the end of 1944 as no records of their vital occurrences or migrations are kept. To indicate the order of magnitude of this population, the data of the Census of 1931 have been inserted in the tables. It should, however, be pointed out that these figures may be very far from being representative of the nomadic population in 1944, since the size of this population as a whole has probably been changed by natural increase, migrations and settlement. In addition, the distribution of this population by locality is a very transient one.

## "B" AREAS AND OWNERSHIP.

1. The areas and ownership have been extracted from the Tax Distribution Lists, prepared under the provisions of the Rural Property Tax Ordinance, 1942, the Valuation Lists prepared under the Urban Property Tax Ordinance, 1940, and the Commuted Tithe records for Beersheba Sub-District, in the Gaza District.

2. The areas shown as planted with citrus or other fruits do not necessarily represent the total area so planted as they omit certain plantations within urban areas or classified within Category 4 (built-on area or land reserved therefor) of the Schedule to the Rural Property Tax Ordinance.

3. The tax figures are based on the basic rates in force on April 1st 1945, which were as follows :—

### I. URBAN PROPERTY TAX :

- (a) House property, including the site, except house property constructed and used solely for an industrial undertaking in which mechanically-driven machinery is used 10% of the net annual value.
- (b) House property constructed and used for the purpose of an industrial undertaking in which mechanically-driven machinery is used 15% -do-
- (c) Land which is not the site of house property 10% -do-

### II. RURAL PROPERTY TAX :—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Basic Tax Mils</i>
1	Citrus (excluding Acre Sub-District)	400 per dunum or part thereof.
2	Citrus (Acre Sub-District)	40 -do-
3	Bananas	560 -do-
4	Village built-on area or land reserved therefor and any area which in the opinion of the Official Valuer is reserved for the erection of buildings	160 per dunum
5	1st Grade Irrigated Land & *1st Grade Fruit Plantation	40 per dunum or part thereof.
6	2nd Grade Irrigated Land & *2nd Grade Fruit Plantation	35 -do-
7	3rd Grade Irrigated Land & *3rd Grade Fruit Plantation	30 -do-
8	1st Grade Ground Crop Land 4th Grade Irrigated Land & *4th Grade Fruit Plantation	25 -do-
9	2nd Grade Ground Crop Land 5th Grade Irrigated Land & *5th Grade Fruit Plantation	20 -do-
10	3rd Grade Ground Crop Land 6th Grade Irrigated Land & *6th Grade Fruit Plantation	18 -do-
11	4th Grade Ground Crop Land 7th Grade Irrigated Land & *7th Grade Fruit Plantation	15 -do-
12	5th Grade Ground Crop Land 8th Grade Irrigated Land & *8th Grade Fruit Plantation	12 -do-
13	6th Grade Ground Crop Land 9th Grade Irrigated Land & *9th Grade Fruit Plantation	8 -do-
14	7th Grade Ground Crop Land & 10th Grade Irrigated Land	4 -do-
15	8th Grade Ground Crop Land	2 -do-
16	Forests planted and indigenous and uncultivable land	NIL
17	Fish Ponds	560 -do-

In addition, house property, used for the purpose of an industrial undertaking in which mechanically-driven machinery is used, is taxed at the rate of 15% of the net annual value.

4. The rates actually payable for the financial year 1945-46 are four times the rates shown above except in the case of land in categories 1 and 2 (citrus).

Land in categories 1 and 2 (citrus) was not taxable for the financial year 1945-46 and therefore the column of "Tax Payable" in the Schedules does not include any tax on citrus. If any tax had been payable on citrus the total tax for 1945-46 would have been £P.964,926.—

5. Under the column "Public" in the statistics has been shown Government-owned properties as well as Municipal-owned properties in the mixed towns of Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, Tiberias and Safad. Municipal and Local Council properties in the towns occupied wholly by Arabs or Jews have been shown under their respective denomination.

\*Other than Citrus and Bananas.