

Appendix

Population Projections of Young Diaspora Jews (Aged 18-26), 2010-2025

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The Taglit/Birthright program offers a free educational trip to Israel to all young Jewish diaspora Jews aged 18-26 who never visited Israel before. This report presents the results of population projections aimed at estimating the number of young adult Jews in the Diaspora, aged 18-26, for the period 2010-2025. The projections were conducted for 12 countries or areas: the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, other South America, Central America, France, the United Kingdom, other West-Central Europe, the Former Soviet Union (FSU), Australia, and South Africa. These projections focus on those who ***identify themselves as Jews and have at least one Jewish parent***. An exception is the FSU which covers the "enlarged" Jewish population, namely all those who meet the criteria of the Law of Return.

Population projections are a reliable demographic procedure, routinely executed on the basis of the best available data about population size and composition, professional assumptions about expected population change, and appropriate software. Age-specific changes are projected from an initial date to the next date, thus creating the slightly older population baseline for the next date. This chain procedure is repeated until the final date of the projection is reached.

The point of departure for these projections was estimating the size of Jewish populations, and their composition by age and sex for each area at the end of 2010. For each country or region we determined the best possible population baseline, sometimes relying on initial data available from sources for a somewhat earlier point in time. The 2010 estimates were arrived at based on the best possible assumptions regarding the direction and intensity of the demographic components of change in the size and composition of the population – namely births (reflecting total fertility levels), deaths (reflecting life expectancy), and international migration (reflecting the different position of countries in the global system).

Once the 2010 baseline was determined for the Jewish population of each projection area, by sex and detailed age groups, a set of projections was performed. Components of future demographic change were estimated based on existing evidence of the current demographic patterns in each country or area, along with some conservative estimates

regarding their future evolution, especially regarding with life expectancy and international migration. In broad generalization, life expectancy was expected to improve gradually over time, while the volume of international migration was presumed to remain relatively low as in recent years. No fertility assumptions were necessary, since the youngest cohort, aged 18 in 2025, was already born in 2010.

Projections were first prepared for the entire age gamut of Jewish population in each of the abovementioned countries or areas. A second set of projections concerned those who had never visited Israel as of 2010. Here we provide the results for the cohorts who constitute the potential for the *Taglit* programs and trips to Israel, namely those in the age bracket of 18 to 26 for each single age who never visited Israel before, for each five-year period between 2010 and 2025.

Overall, in 2010 there were 942,000 young Jews aged 18-26 who lived out of Israel. Of these, slightly more than three-quarters of a million had not visited Israel in any educational program. This figure is anticipated to gradually decline to some seven hundred thousand in 2015, six hundred thousand in 2020, and down to slightly more than half a million at the end of the projection period in 2025. The change from 2010 to 2025 reflects a decline of nearly one third.

This percent change, however, embodies very different trajectories according to country or area. Substantial decline is anticipated in such areas as Argentina, Rest of South America, France, and the FSU. Moderate decline is expected in the UK and South Africa; and small changes are expected in Canada, Brazil, Central America, and Australia.

The United States has by far the largest reservoir of candidates for *Taglit*. There is a group of countries, including the FSU (based on an "enlarged" Jewish population definition), France, Canada, and Other West-Central Europe, each with several tens of thousands of young Jews in the appropriate age bracket for *Taglit*. Argentina and the United Kingdom each have slightly more than fifteen thousand potential candidates. Brazil, Other South America, Australia, and South Africa, each have several thousand potential *Taglit* candidates. Central America – which mainly reflects the Jewish community of Mexico where most Jewish children attend Jewish education and within those programs visit Israel – has a very small group of young Jews who did never visit Israel.

Despite the expected numerical decline, reflecting demographic trends and assuming fixed definitional criteria, the next years promise supply of a large number of young Jews spread across different continents and countries. We believe that visiting Israel through *Taglit* will strengthen their Jewish identification and attachment to Israel and can contribute to the vitality of Jewish life in their home communities.

Summary Table. Population Projections of Jews Aged 18-26, 2010-2025

Country or Area	Total 2010	Did Not Visit Israel					% already visited Israel 2010
		2010	2015	2020	2025	% Change 2010-2025	
Total	942,165	777,788	698,671	591,066	528,254	-32.1	17.4
USA	653,075	563,604	499,635	421,291	387,036	-31.3	13.7
Canada	38,096	29,463	29,117	28,665	26,948	-8.5	22.7
Central America	6,983	684	735	680	625	-8.6	90.2
Argentina	22,756	16,862	13,535	9,937	7,278	-56.8	25.9
Brazil	7,798	4,866	4,631	4,991	4,812	-1.1	37.6
Other South America	7,030	4,921	3,909	3,100	2,717	-44.8	30.0
France	50,994	42,835	39,403	30,272	22,302	-47.9	16.0
UK	30,615	17,326	15,294	14,605	14,593	-15.8	43.4
Other Europe	36,482	31,739	28,208	23,777	20,479	-35.5	13.0
FSU (enlarged)	69,670	52,392	50,590	40,313	28,880	-44.9	24.8
Australia	11,060	7,565	7,839	7,934	7,606	0.5	31.6
South Africa	7,546	5,531	5,775	5,501	4,978	-10.0	26.7

Endnotes:

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