

II - Population

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TABLE I gives the total population of Palestine at the end of 1944 as about 1,765,000 persons.

In its accompanying *Explanatory Note* to the 'Village Statistics 1945' the Department of Statistics had the following to say on the method used in arriving at the population figures:

"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-district is given on page 3 (of the book). 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>(Excluding Nomads)</i>	<i>Total Population</i>
Arabs	1,112,000	1,179,000
Jews	554,000	554,000
Others	32,000	32,000
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Total	1,698,000	1,765,000

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,