

18 1948, the fact remains that the Jewish population (legal and illegal) of Palestine on the eve of the partition of the country stood at about one-third the estimated total population of 2,030,000 persons.⁵

As regards the nomadic population of the Beersheba sub-district, the figure of 47,980 persons appearing in the 'Village Statistics 1945' is a gross under-estimation for the reasons given by the Department of Statistics in paragraph 7 above. The Palestine Government made no effort to settle the bedouin inhabitants outside the Beersheba sub-district, and there is no evidence that they emigrated to surrounding Arab countries. Although it was difficult to obtain accurate figures for a constantly moving population, the local administrative authorities which had daily contacts with the tribes and sub-tribes estimated the bedouin population of the Beersheba sub-district as well over 100,000 persons.

(5) As regards the Jewish population prior to the period of the Mandate, the Palestine Government, in its memoranda to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, stated that "reliable statistical data collected during the second part of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century, estimated the Jewish population of Palestine as follows:

1882	24,000
1895	47,000
1900	50,000
1910	81,000
1914	85,000
1916-1918	56,000
1922 (census)	83,794"

Source: *A Survey of Palestine 1945-1946*, Vol. I, p. 114.