

definition generates several difficulties, one of which is that the determining period is generally brief. The labor force participation figures are thus subject to considerable seasonal fluctuations, which are particularly sharp in agriculture and construction, where Arabs are primarily employed. Further, where there is no organized labor market, the distinction between unemployed and non-participants is not always clear, and some of the unemployed slip out of the labor force.²¹ Another problem in this definition is one regarding persons employed other than through the market mechanism; hence their labor power is not exchanged for capital. This is especially true in the case of unpaid employment on family farms, especially women, both in domestic work and subsistence agricultural production. This is also true in the cases of illegal employment, which was often applied to Palestinian-Arab citizens in the earlier stage of the country's development, when their penetration into the labor market was regulated by military administration rules and work permits. The same applies today to labor smuggled in from the territories occupied in 1967.

A further problem lies in the dependence of the rates of labor force participation on the demand for labor, so that they cannot correctly reflect the supply of labor.²² Most important, however, are the problems this definition of the labor force poses in regard to understanding the dynamics of the labor market and the employment structure, let alone the problems it poses regarding class analysis and transformation.

According to Y. Ben Porath:²³

"In 1961 the ratio of labor force to total population was 25.3 percent among Arabs (43.5 percent for men); for the Jewish population the figures are 36.8 and 53.1 percent respectively, and these cannot be considered high, either. Among the Arabs of Palestine, in 1931 the proportion of active population was also higher. In most European countries, the active population constitutes over 40 percent of the total population (over 60 percent of men), and in Africa and South America over 30 per-