

eligible for job opportunities and more competitive in the labor market than Arab labor. Hence, the higher rates of labor force participation among Jews than Arabs in the older age groups.

Comparing the participation rates within the civilian labor force of Arabs and Jews before and after 1967, indicates a persisting difference; the participation rate of Jews is still higher than that of Arabs. In 1975, for example, 49.4 percent of the 2,077,800 total Jewish population of working age belonged to the civilian labor force, compared with 39.5 percent of the 280,000 total Arab population of working age.²⁵ Although it includes the population of East Jerusalem, the latter figure does not take into account the 69,000 other workers from occupied territories employed in Israel during that year.

In recent years, a constant decline is witnessed in the share of the civilian labor force in the total population of working age. In 1975, only 48.3 percent of this population belonged to the civilian labor force, compared with 48.5 percent in 1974 and 49.7 percent in 1973.²⁶ The Ministry of Labor attributes this decline partly to the crisis in immigration, coupled with increased emigration in recent years.²⁷ This decline is especially true in male participation.

A trend of decrease in the percentage of men in the civilian labor force has persisted over time: 77.3 percent in 1964, 70.4 percent in 1969, 68.3 percent in 1973, and 66 percent in 1974. The number of men in the civilian labor force decreased even in absolute terms, reaching 758,500 in 1974, as compared with 764,600 in 1973 (a decrease of 0.8 percent). Although their number in the civilian labor force increased by 3.1 percent and reached 364,000 persons in 1974, women's participation