

B. The Post-1967 Industrial Structure of Employment of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Palestinian Labor Force

In this analysis we have to deal not only with changes in industrial structures of the labor force employed within the occupied territories, but also of those in Israel. Not only that, a distinctively different industrial structure of employment peculiar to Palestinian commuter workers has emerged, but also further changes have disrupted the very employment structures of the portion of the labor force remaining in the West Bank and Gaza. According to Table FB figures, which come from Israeli sources, the distortions that have characterized the employment structures of these two regions in the pre-1967 War period seem to be further reinforced in the first two years of Israel's military occupation; that is, polarization has intensified, as evidenced in the disproportionate concentration of the labor force in agriculture, on the one hand, and in trade, transportation, and service economic branches, on the other. Later, in 1973, expansion seems to shift from the former branch into the latter; this polarization seems to be accompanied by a decline in the relative size of the local industrial and construction labor force of both regions; and the emerging and expanding of a new economic branch, i.e., public and community services, which already by 1973 had absorbed a very significant portion of the labor force, more noticeably in the Gaza Strip. In part, this reflects Israeli efforts to develop and foster a local Palestinian authority or administration instrumental for social control,