

## Stabilisation of the New Structure

To the extent that structural change did occur in the occupied territories, it was the result of the rupture in the basic links connecting the system with Jordan (and Egypt) and the subsequent reintegration of the system in the industrial network of Israeli society. The Palestinian labour force was incorporated into the lower sectors of the Israeli labour force such that both underemployment in agriculture and the disguised and nonproductive employment in the urban sectors were eliminated. This integration fluctuated in response to market forces in the Israeli economy itself -- but always within the context of political-demographic constraints -- as well as to "pull" factors from the Jordanian economy. By 1980, however, the distribution of workers over the various economic sectors, with minor exceptions (such as seasonal agricultural workers from Gaza), had acquired a stable character (see table 4:2).

The relative stability of the employment structure suggested by table 4:2 withstood both the increased demand for labour in Jordan after 1975, as well as a minor boom in private construction in the West Bank (evidenced in the 10 percent decline in building employment between 1972 and 1980; similar tendencies appear in the employment of Palestinians within the West and Gaza (Table 4:3) -- i.e., excluding those who commute for work in Israel. The latter aggregates illustrate the dominance of the nonproductive sectors (construction and services) in the total employment figures within the occupied territories.