

of Arab citizens employed in construction being (8.3 years) in the case of the former compared with (5.8 years) in the case of the latter. Also, and more importantly, in the very differential in the level of training among Arabs and Jews who share the same occupation in the construction industry. For example, Jews who belong to the top occupational positions in construction have on the average 16.2 years of schooling, while Arabs in the same occupational position within this industry have on the average only 8 years of schooling.³⁰

The important detail that we need to know, however, is the number of Jews and Arabs in each occupational category within this industry and, for that matter, within the other economic branches. We may be able to get these details later, but for the meantime one thing is obvious to us; in absolute terms and despite their apparent under-representation in relative terms, the number of Jews who are employed in the construction industry does by far exceed that of Arab citizens, and it is greater than both citizen and non-citizen Palestinians combined.

In 1972, for example, 7.7 percent of the employed Jewish labor force was in construction, corresponding in absolute terms to 69,434 workers, compared with 26.1 percent of citizen Palestinians corresponding to 26,831 workers, and 50 percent of non-citizen Palestinians corresponding to 26,000 workers. This is to say, approximately 60 percent of the labor force employed in the construction industry, including all its occupational categories, are Jews; the majority of these are likely to be wage workers.

The latter point can be further reinforced by the fact that in 1974, for example, there were 84,500 employees posted in the construction branch, 73,600 of these are related to contracting and subcontracting, with an