



**Main Characteristics of the Civilian Labour Force, 1946-58.**—At the beginning of June 1958 the civilian non-institutional population 14 years of age or over was 11,333,000, an increase of 29 p.c. over the June 1, 1946, population of 8,768,000. In the same period the civilian labour force increased 26 p.c. from 4,862,000 to 6,120,000. The proportion of the population 14 years of age or over in the labour force at the beginning of June 1958 was 54.0 p.c. as compared with 55.5 p.c. in June 1946. A higher average school-leaving age and an increased proportion of the population in the age group 65 years or over were mainly responsible for this decrease in the rate of labour-force participation. The effect of these factors was modified by the increased proportion of married women having jobs outside the home.

Persons with jobs increased 21 p.c. to 5,750,000 at the beginning of June 1958 from 4,738,000 in 1946. Employment in agriculture declined continuously over the period from 1,271,000 in 1946 to 739,000 in 1958, a decrease of 42 p.c. Non-agricultural employment, on the other hand, increased 45 p.c. from 3,467,000 in 1946 to 5,011,000 in 1958; paid workers employed in non-agricultural industries increased by 50 p.c. from 1946 to 1958. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work fluctuated over the period; the proportion of the labour force in this category at the beginning of June 1958 was 6.0 p.c. as compared with 2.6 p.c. at June 1, 1946.