

**Characteristics of the Civilian Labour Force, 1946-61.**—During the year 1961, the civilian non-institutional population 14 years of age or over averaged 12,010,000, a growth of 36.8 p.c. since 1946. The labour force increased 35.0 p.c. from 1946 to an estimated total of 6,518,000 in 1961. This somewhat slower growth of the labour force is reflected in the labour force participation rate; in 1961, the proportion of the population 14 years of age or over in the labour force was 54.3 p.c. compared with 55.0 p.c. in 1946. The chief factors contributing to the decrease in the labour force participation rate were a higher average school-leaving age for children, a higher proportion of persons 65 years or over in the population, and a lower average retirement age. The net effect of these factors was reduced by the higher proportion of women having jobs outside the home.

There were 6,049,000 persons employed in 1961, an increase of 29.6 p.c. since 1946. Employment in agriculture, which averaged 1,186,000 in 1946, declined by 43.2 p.c. to 674,000 in 1961. At the same time, employment in non-agricultural industries increased 54.5 p.c. from 3,480,000 in 1946 to 5,375,000 in 1961; non-agricultural paid workers increased 60.5 p.c. from 1946 to 1961. The level of unemployment fluctuated greatly during the years since 1946; in that year, the unemployment rate averaged 3.4 p.c. of the labour force compared with 7.2 p.c. in 1961.

In 1961, the number of persons outside the labour force averaged 5,492,000, an increase of 39.0 p.c. over the 1946 figure of 3,950,000. This increase, relatively greater than that of the total population 14 years of age or over, was affected by the same factors that contributed to the decrease in labour force participation over the same period. Participation by males 14 years of age or over in the labour force declined from 85.2 p.c. in 1946 to 80.0 p.c. in 1961. On the other hand, the proportion of females of working years in the labour force went up from 24.7 p.c. in 1946 to 28.8 p.c. in 1961. Married women constituted 48.0 p.c. of all employed women in 1961 compared with 27.2 p.c. in 1946.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION IN THE  
LABOUR FORCE AND NON-LABOUR FORCE CATEGORIES, 1946-61  
(CIVILIAN POPULATION 14 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER)

