

CHAPTER XVII.—CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING*

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii of this volume.

This Chapter provides data on the capital expenditures made by all sectors of the Canadian economy on construction and on machinery and equipment, together with summaries of other available statistics for the construction industry. Section 1 shows the amounts spent by each of the various industrial or economic sectors. Section 2 brings together a number of summaries of related series on construction activity—value of work performed by type of structure, value of materials used, salaries and wages paid and numbers employed, contracts awarded and building permits issued. Government aid to house-building, construction of dwelling units and housing statistics of the 1961 Census are covered in Section 3.

Section 1.—Capital Expenditures on Construction and on Machinery and Equipment

Capital expenditures† in all sectors of the economy amounted to \$10,827,000,000 in 1964, an increase of 15.3 p.c. over the 1963 total of \$9,393,000,000. The over-all increase resulted from a 17.9-p.c. rise in the purchase of machinery and equipment and a 13.9-p.c. increase in construction expenditures. Throughout most of the period after 1946, capital outlays in Canada increased each year, reaching a peak in 1957. A four-year decline followed but a significant increase was shown in 1962 and a further strengthening occurred in 1963 and 1964. Capital spending in current dollars exceeded the 1957 total in both 1963 and 1964 but, in constant dollars, the 1957 level was not exceeded until 1964 when the capital program was recorded at 8.5 p.c. above the previous peak. These expenditures on the expansion, modernization or renewal of the nation's production facilities represented 23 p.c. of the gross national product and thus provide a significant indicator of economic activity in Canada.

* Except where otherwise noted, prepared in the Business Finance Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† Capital expenditure figures for 1963 and earlier years are final and those for 1964 are preliminary and subject to revision at a later date. Capital expenditures for 1963 and 1964, as well as intentions for 1965, appear in greater detail in the publication *Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1965*, available from the Queen's Printer (Catalogue No. 61-205).