

dwelling, and the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories the lowest at 4.3. A "crowded" dwelling, for census purposes, is considered to be any dwelling in which the number of persons exceeds the number of rooms. Using this rough measure, the number of crowded dwellings decreased by 24.2% in the decade between 1961 and 1971. Perhaps even more significant is the fact that crowded dwellings fell from 16.5% of the total housing stock in 1961 to only 9.4% in 1971. This dramatic improvement, which was only slightly apparent in the 1951-61 period, appears to result from both a decline in the average number of persons per household and an increase in the average number of rooms per dwelling, with the former likely exerting the greater influence.

Provincially, the smallest proportions of crowded dwellings in relation to total housing stock were in Ontario and British Columbia, where only 6.8% of all dwellings had less than one room per person in 1971. The relatively largest proportions were in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, ranging from 12.4% in Nova Scotia and Quebec to 23.6% in Newfoundland.

14.2.3 Household facilities and equipment

14.2.3.1 Census data

Decennial censuses provide an inventory of a variety of household facilities and equipment to measure advances in living standards and to provide data for market research. The 1971 Census covered items such as plumbing and sanitary facilities, heating equipment and fuel, and accessories such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes dryers and television sets. Data on the first of these subjects, i.e., the incidence of homes with running water, bath and toilet facilities, are shown by province in Table 14.8.

Continuing the rising trend in recent decades, there was again a marked improvement in the number of dwellings equipped with plumbing and sanitary facilities during the 1961-71 period. Dwellings with running water increased from 89.1% of all dwellings in 1961 to 96.0% in 1971. Similarly, households reporting a bath or shower for their exclusive use advanced from 77.1% to 90.9%, and households with exclusive use of a flush toilet from 79.0% to 93.3%.

Although nine of every ten Canadian dwellings were supplied with these amenities in 1971, in rural localities the ratios were considerably lower than the national percentages. Table 14.8 shows that in rural areas of the Prairie Provinces, for example, one of every three dwellings still lacked running water and installed bath or shower facilities, and closer to one of every two lacked a flush toilet. Rural Newfoundland showed similar ratios, but in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories only about one rural dwelling in every three was equipped with these facilities.

14.2.3.2 Annual estimates

Table 14.9 presents some summary statistics derived from the latest in a series of annual sample surveys conducted by Statistics Canada. The survey was carried out in conjunction with the May 1972 labour force survey and about 30,000 households, chosen by area sampling methods, were included in the sample. Unlike decennial censuses, the sample survey cannot produce data for the smaller localities and areas, but much of the information shown in Table 14.9 for Canada is available also by individual provinces and metropolitan areas. Moreover, a much wider range of household facility and equipment items is covered in the annual survey than can be accommodated in a general census.

Table 14.9 shows that possession of colour television sets and FM radios by Canadian households increased more than any other item of equipment between May 1971 and May 1972. Households with colour TV sets increased to 24.2% of the total from 18.4%, and 62.4% had FM radios compared to 57.6% a year earlier. In 1972, data were collected for the first time on adult-size bicycles, 27.9%; pianos, 13.3%; portable humidifiers, 13.4%; and snow blowers, 4.6%. At the other end of the scale, several items of equipment now appear to be present in almost all Canadian households: electric refrigerators were reported in 98.7%; telephones in 94.6%; radios in 97.6%; and TV sets in 95.8%.

14.3 Construction

14.3.1 Value of construction work

The data on the construction industry represent the estimated total value of all new and repair construction performed by contractors and by the labour forces of utility, manufacturing, mining and logging firms, government departments, home-owner builders and other persons or firms not primarily engaged in the construction industry. Table 14.10