



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 the number of 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 in a household and an increase in the average number of rooms in a 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 largest proportions were in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, ranging from 12.4% in Nova Scotia and Quebec to 23.6% in Newfoundland.

14.3.3 Period of construction and length of occupancy

Period of construction. Figures from the 1971 Census for occupied dwellings indicate that 28.8% of the occupied housing stock was built after 1960. Consistent with the increase in rented dwellings since 1961, the proportion of rented dwellings in 1971 which were built after 1960 was 34.0%, compared to 25.4% for owned dwellings. The proportion of dwellings built after 1960 was particularly low in rural farm areas, at 11.6%.

Table 14.7 shows the percentage distribution in 1971 of period of construction by province and by census metropolitan area. There were significant variations from province to province in the proportion of new dwellings. The lowest percentages of dwellings built after 1960 were found in the Atlantic Provinces, Prince Edward Island having the lowest at 19.0%. Newfoundland was an exception, however, its 28.6% being close to the national average. Figures above the national average were found only in Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, which reported, respectively, 34.5%, 35.3%, and 58.4% of dwellings built after 1960. Values for census metropolitan areas ranged from 19.3% for Windsor to 40.9% for Edmonton.