



Manufacturing, particularly durable goods manufacturing, has been a leading contributor to the growth of the Canadian economy over most of the period (Table 21.11). The burgeoning motor vehicles and motor vehicles parts industries have been prime movers in the rapid increase in the output of durables. A severe interruption in the strong upward trend in motor vehicle production occurred early in 1966 and persisted until the final quarter of 1966. It has been variously attributed to changes in the general economic conditions in North America and specifically to the 1966 credit squeeze and the upward climb of prices, combined with consumer concern about car safety. Since 1968 production has been hit, directly or indirectly, by strikes and parts shortages and in 1970 output declined markedly as a result of a slump in consumer spending compounded by the impact of the automobile strike in the latter part of the year. There was a strong recovery early in 1971 which raised the level for the year well above that for 1969. In 1972 and 1973 the industry continued to grow although at lower rates than during the 1971 period. An interruption occurred in 1972 when a major producer altered its product lines. In 1973, production was restricted by strikes in two important companies. Cana-