

Although nine of every 10 Canadian dwellings were supplied with these amenities in 1971, in rural localities the ratios were considerably lower than the national percentages. Table 14.10 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 three was so equipped.

Annual estimates. Table 14.11 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 April 1974 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 14.11 for Canada is available also for individual provinces and selected metropolitan areas. Moreover, a much wider range of household facilities and equipment items is covered in the annual survey than can be accommodated in a general census.

Table 14.11 shows that possession of colour television sets by Canadian households increased more than any other household facilities. Between April 1973 and April 1974, households with colour TV sets increased to 44.5% of the total from 33.2%, while possession of black and white TV sets decreased to 73.3% compared to 79.2% a year earlier. During the same period, ownership of automatic dishwashers increased 2.2% to reach a level of 12.9% while that of floor polishers decreased between May 1972 and April 1974 to 48.3% from 53.4%.

In April 1974, more than one household in 10 reported air conditioning facilities: 495,000 households owned window-type air conditioners and 166,000 households were equipped with central unit air conditioners.

14.4 Construction

14.4.1 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 14.12 shows the value of new and repair construction work and Table 14.13 the value of such work performed by contractors and others during the period 1970-74, preliminary expenditures for 1973 and intentions for 1974. Table 14.14 gives estimates of total expenditures in Canada on each type of construction for which information is available.

Principal statistics of the construction industry are shown by province and for contractors, utilities, governments and others in Table 14.15. The statistics given for Canada as a whole may be considered as relatively accurate but those for individual provinces and by class of builder are approximations only. All estimates given for cost of materials used are based on ratios of this item to total value of work performed, derived from annual surveys of construction work performed by contractors and others and applied to the total value-of-work figures. Estimates of labour content are similarly based but, in addition, are adjusted to include working owners and partners and their withdrawals. Although the ratios were calculated in some detail by type of industry, still further refinements are required. There are also some difficulties in obtaining the precise location of projects undertaken or to be undertaken by large companies operating in a number of provinces. However, if used with these qualifications in mind, the Table provides useful estimates.

Chapter 21 includes detailed price index numbers of construction and capital goods, which measure price changes in residential and non-residential building materials and changes in construction wage rates; price indexes of highway construction which show annual costs to provincial governments in contracts awarded for highway construction as a percentage of prices paid in 1961; and price indexes of electrical utility construction (distribution systems, transmission lines, transformer stations) which provide an estimate of the impact of price change on the cost of materials, labour and equipment used in constructing and equipping such utilities.