

price sample are major builders who construct 100 or more housing units a year (or possibly fewer units if comparable models can be priced through time). Prices cover dwelling structure, land and services to land if these are not provided separately by municipality; they exclude legal fees, provincial land transfer tax and similar costs to buyer for property acquisition. Prices are for single unit houses except in Toronto and Ottawa where single, semi-detached and row condominium units are priced.

The index uses a fixed-weighted formula. Weights reflect the relative importance of individual models in a firm's total output, and the relative importance of individual companies in the single family housing market. New firms brought into the sample are assigned weights reflecting their importance at time of entry. Quality changes not reflected in the index include model substitutions, changes in size and location of building lots, design and construction techniques and provision of such extra features as appliances. When actual cost data are not available quality changes are assumed to be proportional to differences in selling prices at a selected point in time. Indexes for the periods covered are shown in Table 21.24. Indexes for six other cities are also available, beginning in January 1975.

**Highway construction indexes.** These relate to prices paid by provincial governments in contracts awarded for highway construction. They are base-weighted indexes and measure the effect of price change on the cost of specified new highway construction projects represented by contracts of approximately \$50,000 or more awarded by provincial governments. Indexes for the period 1956-75 are given in Table 21.39.

Prices contained in the index are for units of construction work put in place, such as a cubic yard (0.76 m<sup>3</sup>) of earth excavation or a ton (0.907 t) of bituminous hot-mix paving. Also included are prices of some materials, such as culvert pipe, usually supplied to the contractor by the highways department. *Prices and price indexes* (Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 62-002) for December 1967 contains details of the problems of estimating price change for highway construction.

**Electrical utility construction indexes.** The price indexes of electrical utility construction, which include those of distribution systems, transmission lines, transformer stations and hydro-electric generating stations, give an estimate of the impact of price change on the cost of materials, labour and equipment used in constructing and equipping electrical utilities. The index provides an estimate of how much more, or less, it would cost to reproduce the base-period program of construction in another period using the same construction technology and assuming similar rates of profit and productivity. Price indexes for the years 1971-75 are presented in Table 21.25.

**Price indexes of machinery and equipment.** Table 21.26 shows base-weighted price indexes of machinery and equipment purchased by the construction and by the forestry industries. Prices used for the indexes are, for the most part, selling prices reported monthly by manufacturers, although in some cases distributors' prices are used. Prices of imported machinery and equipment are included in the index, represented either by commodity price indexes of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics or by prices collected directly from foreign manufacturers. All prices have been adjusted as relevant to include duty, exchange and federal sales tax.

#### 21.3.4 Farm input price indexes

Farm input price indexes measure, through time, changes in prices of commodities and services used as inputs into the agriculture industry. The weights for the indexes are based on the 1958 Farm Income and Expenditure Survey. The time base is 1961 = 100. Indexes for 41 series are published quarterly for eastern, western and total Canada. Annual averages for the total index are provided from 1967 to 1976 in Table 21.27.