

dwellings which were electrically heated and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of dwellings heated by wood.

Table 14.8 gives the percentage distribution of dwellings by principal heating fuel, by province and by metropolitan area. There was a sharp difference between Quebec and Ontario in the proportions of dwellings heated principally by oil and by gas. In Quebec and the Atlantic provinces the proportion using gas as fuel was never higher than 6.9% (Quebec), while the proportion using oil was 70.5% or higher in all cases. In Ontario and the western provinces the proportion using gas was never lower than 45.1% (Ontario and British Columbia) and went as high as 89.7% for Alberta, while the proportion using oil was never above 41.8% and was as low as 4.6% in Alberta.

Household facilities and equipment

14.4.5

Survey data. The annual survey of household facilities and equipment provides an inventory to measure advances in living standards and to provide data for market research. The 1976 survey covered items such as plumbing and sanitary facilities, heating equipment, and accessories such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes dryers and television sets. Only the data on the first of these subjects, that is, the incidence of homes with running water, bath and toilet facilities, are shown by province in Table 14.9.

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 1961-76 period. Dwellings with running water increased from 89.1% of all dwellings in 1961 to 99.0% in 1976. Similarly, households reporting a bath or shower for their exclusive use advanced from 77.1% to 97.6%, and households with exclusive use of a flush toilet from 79.0% to 98.1%.

Annual estimates. Table 14.10 presents some summary statistics from the 1976 sample survey on household facilities and equipment. About 36,000 households, chosen by area sampling methods, were included. Unlike decennial censuses, the sample survey cannot produce data for the smaller localities and areas, but much of the information shown in Table 14.10 for Canada is available also for individual provinces and selected metropolitan areas. This table shows that the percentage of households having colour TVs has risen from 44.5% in 1974 to 53.4% in 1975 and 60.6% in 1976. Households with black and white TVs decreased correspondingly over the same three-year period to 62.4% in 1976 from 67.8% a year earlier and 73.3% two years earlier. Households with dishwashers increased to 18.6% in 1976 from 12.9% in 1974; and those with two or more cars increased 24.4% in 1976 from 23.0% a year earlier and 21.6% in 1974.

In May 1976, more than one household in 10 reported air conditioning facilities: 670,000 households owned window-type air conditioners and 254,000 households were equipped with central unit air conditioners.

Construction

14.5

Value of construction work

14.5.1

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 14.11 shows the value of new and repair construction work and Table 14.12 the value of such work performed by contractors and others during the period 1973-77, preliminary expenditures for 1976 and intentions for 1977. Table 14.21 gives estimates of total expenditures in Canada on each type of construction for which information is available.

Principal statistics of the construction industry for 1975-77 are shown by province and for contractors, utilities, governments and others in Table 14.13. 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