

nation as a whole, Prince Edward Island had the highest average in 1976 at 5.89 rooms per dwelling, and Manitoba the lowest at 5.06.

9.4.3 Period of construction and length of occupancy

Period of construction. Figures from the 1971 Census indicate that 28.8% of the occupied housing stock was built after 1960. Table 9.7 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%. 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, Yukon 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.

Length of occupancy. The 1971 Census data on length of occupancy of household heads, displayed in Table 9.7, indicate the mobility of Canadians. Of all household heads in 1971, 66.8% had lived for 10 years or less in the dwelling in which they were enumerated, and 17.8% for less than one year — little changed from the 68.6% and 15.3%, respectively, in 1961.

The pattern of provincial variation for length of occupancy was similar to that for period of construction. The proportion of household heads occupying their present dwelling for 10 years or less was lowest in the Maritimes, ranging from 50.2% in Prince Edward Island to 55.0% in New Brunswick. The highest percentages were 70.6% in Alberta, 74.1% in British Columbia, and 90.7% in Yukon and Northwest Territories. For census metropolitan areas the range extended from 59.5% for Windsor to 76.1% for Calgary and 76.1% for Edmonton. Fully 25.7% of household heads in Calgary had occupied their dwellings for less than one year.

9.4.4 Heating fuel

In view of world energy shortages, data on home heating fuels are of particular interest. The 1976 survey data show that 47.5% of occupied Canadian dwellings were heated principally by oil or other liquid fuels, while 36.7% used gas. The major change since 1961 was a strong increase in the proportion of dwellings heated by gas, from 18.0% to 36.7%. This was offset by a correspondingly large decrease, from 10.6% to just 0.2%, in the proportion of dwellings using coal or coke. The category of other fuels declined from 14.3% to 2.4%, largely as a result of an increase from 0.7% to 13.1% in the proportion of dwellings which were electrically heated and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of dwellings heated by wood.

Table 9.8 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.

9.4.5 Household facilities and equipment

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 1978 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 9.9.