

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 1961-78 period. Dwellings with running water increased from 89.1% of all dwellings in 1961 to 99.1% in 1978. Similarly, households reporting a bath or shower for their exclusive use advanced from 77.1% to 97.3%, and households with exclusive use of a flush toilet from 79.0% to 98.0%.

Annual estimates. Table 9.10 presents some summary statistics from the 1978 sample survey on household facilities and equipment. About 34,000 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 9.10 for Canada is available for individual provinces and selected metropolitan areas.

This survey also provides estimates on heating fuels, indicating that electricity has been gaining in popularity, generally at the expense of oil. The proportion of Canadian households using electric heat (15.6% in May 1978) is still far below that of households using oil (43.6%). Corresponding percentages for 1977 were 13.8% using electricity and 45.1% using oil. The percentage of households using gas remained relatively stable at about 38% in both years. Five years earlier, in 1973, the figures were: oil 55.5%; gas 34.8%; and electricity 7.0%.

The 1978 survey provided a number of other findings. The percentage of households with overnight camping equipment was 27.1%, up from 23.5% two years earlier. Skiing proved to be a popular sport with 16.9% of households owning at least one pair of cross-country skis and 14.2% owning downhill skis. While 70.1% of homes had five or more rooms, half of the 70.1% were occupied by small households of three persons or less. The survey also showed that 63.2% of private dwellings were owner-occupied, including 121,000 condominiums.

Construction

9.5

Value of construction work

9.5.1

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 9.11 shows the value of new and repair construction work and Table 9.12 the value of such work performed by contractors and others during 1974-78, preliminary expenditures for 1977 and intentions for 1978. Table 9.21 gives estimates of total expenditures in Canada on various types of construction.

Table 9.13 shows the principal statistics of the construction industry for 1976-78 by province and by contractors, utilities, governments and others. 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.

Chapter 23 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 1971; 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.

Building permits issued

9.5.2

The estimated value of proposed construction is indicated by the value of building permits issued. Figures of building permits are collected from approximately 2,000