

5.37). Some significant shifts took place in the overall expenditure patterns. Income taxes as a percentage of total expenditure increased from 13.7% in 1969 to 16.9% in 1978, security from 4.4% to 5.4%, transportation from 13.1% to 14.0%, and miscellaneous expenses from 1.6% to 2.4% (mainly in categories such as lottery tickets and interest on consumer debt). The share of total expenditure decreased over the nine years in the following categories: food fell from 18.8% in 1969 to 16.6% in 1978; medical and health care from 3.4% to 1.9% (resulting from changes in the coverage and financing of provincial health insurance plans); clothing from 8.3% to 6.9%, and tobacco and alcoholic beverages from 3.7% to 3.1%. All other major expenditure categories were within 0.5% of the proportions which they consumed of the family budget in the 1969 survey year. For this comparison the 1978 data were adjusted to have the same grouping of items as for 1969.

Analysis by income quintile. Considering 1978 survey families by income quintiles (families ranked in ascending order of income size and then divided

into five equal groups) the average net income before taxes of the 20% of families in the lowest quintile was \$7,866. The average was \$40,165 for the 20% of families forming the highest quintile.

Percentages of total expenditure on specific items in the family budget showed significant differences. The 20% of families in the lowest group spent on the average 46.2% of their total expenditures on food and shelter alone. The proportion ranged downward to 26.7% for the 20% of families in the highest group. An offsetting difference was the amount for personal taxes, only 3.4% of total expenditures for families in the lowest group but 23.8% for those in the highest quintile. The better financial position of families in the higher quintiles, despite their much larger tax expenditures, is evident in the net change in assets and liabilities for 1978, ranging from an average decrease of \$633 for families in the lowest quintile group to an increase of \$5,190 for those in the highest group. Other differences from the low- to high-income ranges: homeowners, from 56.9% of families to 86.6%; and car or truck owners, from 65.4% to 93.9%.

Sources

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- 5.5.1 Labour Force Survey Division, Statistics Canada.
- 5.5.2 Census Characteristics Division, Statistics Canada.
- 5.6.1 - 5.6.3 Labour Division, Statistics Canada.
- 5.7.1 Labour Division, Statistics Canada; Information Division, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.
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- 5.7.3 Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Department of Labour.
- 5.8 Labour Force Activities Section, Census and Household Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.
- 5.9 - 5.10 Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada.

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