

In summary, the period 1981 to 1986 has seen a continuation of previously established trends in households and families.

7.4.2 Household facilities and equipment

The annual household facilities and equipment survey provides a wide range of information on both the characteristics of Canadian dwellings and the facilities and equipment that they contain. It provides a changing picture of the physical standard of living in Canada. The survey also reveals trends in consumer preferences for household equipment and it charts changes in the types of dwellings Canadians inhabit. The 1986 survey covered items such as type of heating equipment and heating fuel used, and household equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, microwave ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers, television sets and video-cassette recorders. The sample included about 35,000 households, representing virtually all private households in Canada. Unlike decennial Censuses, the sample survey cannot produce data for smaller localities and areas, but much of the information is available for individual provinces and selected metropolitan areas.

In 1986, piped gas was used as the principal heating fuel in 45.0% of homes, electricity in 28.3% and oil in 20.1%. Oil, predominant during the 1970s, was surpassed by gas in 1980 and subsequently by electricity in 1985. The rate of decline in recent years in the usage of oil has slowed (1.8 percentage points in 1986 and 3.4 percentage points in 1985).

7.5 Construction

7.5.1 Value of construction work

Data on construction activity represents the estimated total value of all new and repair construction put in place by contractors and by the labour forces of utility, manufacturing, mining and logging firms, government departments, homeowner builders and other persons or firms not primarily engaged in the construction industry.

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 are also adjusted to include working owners and partners and their withdrawals.

7.5.2 Building permits issued

The estimated value of proposed construction is indicated by the value of building permits issued.

Building permit data are collected by Statistics Canada from approximately 2,400 municipalities across the country and are available for individual municipalities, metropolitan areas, provinces, economic areas and Census divisions.

The total value of permits issued for building construction in 1985 was about \$19.5 billion, up from \$15.5 billion in 1984 and \$14.5 billion in 1983. Residential construction value was \$10.9 billion in 1985 compared to \$8.5 billion in 1984 and \$8.9 billion in 1983.

7.6 Capital expenditures

Total capital expenditures in Canada during 1986 were expected to reach \$85.8 billion, an increase of 4.6% over the \$82.1 billion in 1985, which was an 8.9% increase over the \$75.4 billion in 1984. These estimates were in current dollars without any adjustment for price increase and reflected the intended outlays by respondents in a Statistics Canada capital and repair expenditures survey. The survey covered about 28,000 business establishments, educational and other institutions and governments at all levels.

The 1986 total for the acquisition of machinery and equipment was estimated at \$33.8 billion, 6.0% above the \$31.9 billion in 1985 which was 7.7% higher than the \$29.6 billion in 1984. Total construction was estimated to increase by only 3.7% in 1986 to \$52.0 billion, after a gain of 9.7% in the 1985 total of \$50.2 billion compared with the \$45.8 billion in 1984. These estimates included \$16.6 billion, \$14.4 billion and \$12.6 billion for residential construction in 1986, 1985 and 1984, respectively. Non-residential construction was estimated to be \$35.3 billion in 1986, \$35.8 billion in 1985 and \$33.2 billion in 1984.

Capital expenditures in one region may have income-giving effects in others. For example, spending millions of dollars on plant and equipment in Western Canada may generate considerable activity in machinery industries in Ontario and Quebec as well as construction activity in the western provinces.

7.7 Price indexes

Statistics Canada compiles price indexes relating to outputs of industries specializing in construction work, selected categories of capital expenditure and other related indexes. These data are available in summary in a monthly publication, *Construction price statistics*, and in detail from the Canadian socio-economic information management system (CANSIM), a Statistics Canada computer data bank.