

By the mid-1980s, less than two of every 10 dwellings still used oil and kerosene as the principal fuels for heating.

The principal replacement fuels for oil were piped gas and electricity. Piped gas, in use by less than 20% of dwellings in 1961, heated over 40% in 1986, while electricity, almost unknown for home heating in 1961, was used as the principal energy source for home heating by one in every three dwellings in 1986.

7.4.5 Period of construction.

Information from the 1986 Census recorded that six out of every 10 dwellings had been constructed in the 25 years preceding the 1986 Census. One-quarter occupied dwellings were constructed in the 10 years prior to the Census.

Among the provinces, Alberta had the largest proportion (39%) of dwellings that were built in the 10 years prior to the 1986 Census. Ontario had the lowest proportion of its dwellings built between 1976 and 1986, at just over two in every 10.

Prince Edward Island, with almost one-quarter of its dwellings constructed before 1921, had the highest proportion of very old dwellings in its housing stock, while Alberta, with 3% of older dwellings, had the lowest proportion.

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 and homeowner builders, and by 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 1987 was about \$31.0 billion, up from \$24.7 billion in 1986 and \$19.5 billion in 1985. Residential construction value was \$18.8 billion in 1987 compared to \$14.2 billion in 1986 and \$10.9 billion in 1985.

7.6 Capital expenditures

Total capital expenditures in Canada during 1988 were expected to reach \$122.9 billion, an increase of 13.3% over the \$108.5 billion in 1987, which was an 11.8% increase over the \$97.1 billion in 1986. 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 1988 total for the acquisition of machinery and equipment was estimated at \$46.9 billion, 20.5% above the \$38.9 billion in 1987 which was 8.2% higher than the \$35.9 billion in 1986. Total construction was estimated to increase 9.2% in 1988 to \$76.1 billion, after a gain of 13.9% in the 1987 total of \$69.6 billion, compared with the \$61.1 billion in 1986. These estimates included \$33.3 billion, \$32.8 billion and \$25.8 billion for residential construction in 1988, 1987 and 1986, respectively. Non-residential construction was estimated to be \$42.8 billion in 1988, \$36.8 billion in 1987 and \$35.3 billion in 1986.

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.

New housing price indexes measure changes in selling prices of new houses constructed by large- and medium-volume builders in metropolitan areas. Prices used are the selling prices agreed upon between builder and buyer at the time a