

## Section 2.—Statistics of the Construction Industry

### Subsection 1.—Construction in Canada

In collecting statistics for the capital expenditures surveys for 1951 a new method was used. Previous to that year, the capital expenditures surveys, which provide basic information on private and public investment in Canada, asked only for total expenditures on construction and machinery and equipment. For 1951, a classification of construction totals by type of structure was secured and this method proved so successful that the same procedure was followed in the 1953 capital expenditures forecast surveys which collect preliminary data for 1952 along with the 1953 forecast. Thus, early in 1953, estimates of construction by type of structure were available for 1951, 1952 and 1953. The other principal statistics of the construction industry—cost of materials used, numbers employed, and salaries and wages paid—are derived from ratios of these items to value of work performed. The ratios are established from sample surveys of contractors and owner-builders.\*

The summary statistics given in the following tables are not comparable with those published in earlier Year Books, the basic difference being that the earlier figures were based largely on reports from construction contractors while the current data were reported by the various industries or sectors of the economy actually paying for the work done by contractors as well as construction work done by the labour force of the particular industries. In the latter instance, all expenditures which constituted part of the total capital cost of a structure, such as architect's fees, legal fees, etc., are included. Such items would not, as a rule, be included in figures reported by construction contractors. In addition, the coverage of the capital expenditure surveys is more comprehensive.

Tables 7 to 11 provide data on capital and repair and maintenance expenditures on construction and machinery and equipment in all sectors of the Canadian economy for 1951, 1952 and 1953. All data are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification. The 1953 construction statistics given in these capital expenditures tables do not agree exactly with those given in Section 2 of this Chapter. The capital expenditures estimates of construction outlay are more up-to-date, having been based on revised forecast estimates released in July 1953, while the Construction series for 1953 are based on the original forecast estimates released in March 1953. However, the differences between the two estimates are of relatively minor importance.

The total value of the intended construction program in Canada for 1953, both new and repair, is estimated at \$4,359,000,000. This estimate covers all sectors of the Canadian economy—business, institutions, governments and housing. Although the 1953 estimate is about 7 p.c. above 1952, it is the smallest increase since 1946 in terms of both value and volume. Thus, the program for 1953 would not be expected to have the same impact on the expanded capacity of the construction industry as have those for some of the other post-war years, particularly 1946,

\* Detailed figures resulting from these surveys are published in DBS annual report, *Construction in Canada*.