

1972 as compared to 15.6% in 1969. Food (17.1% in 1972), shelter (15.6%), clothing (7.4%), travel and transportation (12.1%) and other major items of expenditure were all within a fraction of 1% of the proportions which they consumed of the family budget in the earlier 1969 survey year.

Expenditure patterns by income, 1972. Table 6.10 shows the expenditure patterns in 1972 of survey families of two or more persons arranged by income quintiles (families ranked in ascending order of income size and then divided into five equal groups). For example, the average net income before taxes of the 20% of all families comprising the lowest quintile was \$5,035 as compared to an average of \$22,696 for the 20% of families forming the highest quintile.

As might be expected the percentages of total expenditure on specific items in the family budget showed some significant differences throughout the five income quintiles. The 20% of families in the lowest group spent on the average 47.2% of their total expenditures on food and shelter alone. The proportion ranged downward to only 26.9% for the 20% of families in the highest group. The latter group spent a slightly higher proportion of their total budget on such items as clothing, furnishings, travel and recreation. But the major offsetting difference was the amount for personal taxes which represented only 6.8% of total expenditures for families in the lowest group compared with 23.5% for those in the highest quintile. Evidence of the better financial position of families in the higher quintiles, despite their much larger tax expenditures, can be seen from the net change in assets and liabilities for 1972 which ranged from an average deficit of \$305 for families in the lowest quintile group to a gain of \$2,263 for those in the highest group. Other interesting differences in the characteristics of families over the low to high-income ranges as shown in Table 6.10 were the following percentages: home-owners, from 34.2% of all families to 72.6%; car or truck ownership, from 43.6% to 89.3%; and wife employed full-time in the labour force, from 3.9% to 31.6%. It should be noted also that the successive income classes are not homogeneous as a group with respect to family size or number of full-time earners; average family size rose from 2.80 persons in the lowest class to 4.07 persons in the highest, and the number of full-time earners from 0.32 to 1.53 persons.

6.3 Federal welfare and income security programs

A wide range of income security and social service programs is provided by the federal, provincial and local governments. The Department of National Health and Welfare has the major federal role in income security and welfare. Other federal agencies with important social security functions include the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The publicly funded and administered programs are complemented by a wide range of services provided by voluntary agencies.

The Department of National Health and Welfare administers the Canada Pension Plan, the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement programs, and Family Allowances. Through the Canada Assistance Plan, the federal government also shares in the financing of provincial social assistance programs, child welfare services, services for the elderly, including institutional care, and a variety of social services for needy persons. The National Council of Welfare provides a channel of communication between citizens' groups and the Department of National Health and Welfare. It consists of 21 private citizens selected from organizations of consumers of welfare services and from institutions involved, directly or indirectly, in providing those services.

In January 1973 the federal government called for a joint federal-provincial review of the social security system. The first meeting of the ministers of welfare took place in April of that year. The principal aims of the review are to ascertain that, first, the primary source of social security should be a job and earnings from a job; second, the first line of defence against temporary loss of earnings should be wage-related income insurance (i.e. unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation); third, the income of those who are working, but at unacceptably low earnings, should be supplemented; fourth, for those who genuinely are unable to work there should be a guaranteed income; and fifth, for those who need it, there should be a range of social services which enables them to live fuller and more productive lives. The Conference agreed to set up three federal-provincial working parties: on income maintenance, on employment, and on social services; and agreed to complete the review by