

principally by oil or other liquid fuels, while 32.1% used gas as the main heating fuel. The major change since 1961 was a strong increase in the proportion of dwellings heated by gas, from 18.8% to 32.1%. This was offset by a correspondingly large decrease, from 10.6% to just 1.1%, in the proportion of dwellings using coal or coke as the main heating fuel. The category "other fuels" declined from 14.3% to 9.8% as a result of an increase from 0.7% to 5.8% in the proportion of dwellings which were electrically heated and a decrease from 13.0% to 3.5% in the proportion of dwellings heated by wood. The use of gas as a heating fuel was less predominant in rural areas, 13.4% compared to 37.2% in urban areas.

Table 14.9 gives the percentage distribution of dwellings by principal heating fuel, by province and by metropolitan area. There was a sharp difference between Quebec and Ontario in the proportions of dwellings heated principally by oil and by gas. In Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces the proportion using gas as fuel was never higher than 8.0% (Quebec), while the proportion using oil was 79.3% or higher in all cases. In Ontario and the western provinces the proportion using gas was never lower than 37.1% (Ontario) and went as high as 83.6% for Alberta, while the proportion using oil was never above 54.0% and was as low as 9.4% in Alberta. Among census metropolitan areas, Victoria was an exception to this east-west rule, its 2.4% of dwellings heated principally by gas being one of the lowest proportions in the country.

#### 14.3.6 Household facilities and equipment

**Census data.** Decennial censuses provide an inventory of a variety of household facilities and equipment to measure advances in living standards and to provide data for market research. The 1971 Census covered items such as plumbing and sanitary facilities, heating equipment, and accessories such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes dryers and television sets. Only the data on the first of these subjects, i.e. the incidence of homes with running water, bath and toilet facilities, are shown by province in Table 14.10. More recent information on other items is available from annual sample surveys (see below).

Continuing the rising trend in recent decades, there was again a marked improvement in the number of dwellings equipped with plumbing and sanitary facilities during the 1961-71 period. Dwellings with running water increased from 89.1% of all dwellings in 1961 to 96.1% in 1971. Similarly, households reporting a bath or shower for their exclusive use advanced from 77.1% to 90.8%, and households with exclusive use of a flush toilet from 79.0% to 93.1%.

Although nine of every 10 Canadian dwellings were supplied with these amenities in 1971, in rural localities the ratios were considerably lower than the national percentages. Table 14.10 shows that in rural areas of the Prairie Provinces, for example, one of every three dwellings still lacked running water and installed bath or shower facilities, and closer to one of every two lacked a flush toilet. Rural Newfoundland showed similar ratios, but in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories only about one rural dwelling in every three was equipped with these facilities.

**Annual estimates.** Table 14.11 presents some summary statistics derived from the latest in a series of annual sample surveys conducted by Statistics Canada. The survey was carried out in conjunction with the April 1973 labour force survey and about 30,000 households, chosen by area sampling methods, were included in the sample. Unlike decennial censuses, the sample survey cannot produce data for the smaller localities and areas, but much of the information shown in Table 14.11 for Canada is available also by individual provinces and metropolitan areas. Moreover, a much wider range of household facilities and equipment items is covered in the annual survey than can be accommodated in a general census.

Table 14.11 shows that, for the second consecutive year, possession of colour television sets and FM radios by Canadian households increased more than any other household facilities. Between May 1972 and April 1973, households with colour TV sets increased to 33.2% of the total from 24.2% while possession of black and white TV sets decreased to 79.2% compared to 83.8% a year earlier. During the same period, ownership of FM radios increased 4.8% to reach a level of 67.2%.

In 1973, data were collected for the first time on the incidence of vacation homes which were reported by only 7.2%. At the other end of the scale, several items of equipment now appear to be present in almost all Canadian households: electric refrigerators were reported in 98.6%; telephones in 95.0%; radios in 97.7%; and TV sets in 96.0%.