

revisions in the trade and financial services area. In the latter case, some downward revisions in construction spending have been more than offset by expanded plans to purchase equipment.

The 1969 house-building program is expected to reach \$3,258 million, nearly 15 percent above the 1968 level and some 2 percent greater than had been expected earlier in the year.

LESS BUOYANT AREAS

In other areas of investment, namely agriculture, institutions and governments, the outlook is less favorable. Present indications are that spending on new farm facilities, including equipment, will decline further in 1969 and be about 6 percent below the 1968 level. Spending plans by institutions have also been revised downwards since the beginning of the year, and the dollar value of such investment in 1969 is now expected to exceed that of 1968 by about 4 per cent. In this sector, a smaller expenditures program for schools other than universities is the principal restraining factor. Only minor revisions have been made in the capital expansion plans by all levels of government and these are likely to involve a 7 percent increase over the previous year's level.

The investment program now expected for 1969 represents the first significant increase in capital spending since 1966. While part of the expected 11 percent gain is due to higher prices, there will still be a substantial advance in the physical volume of investment. Indications are that the capital-expenditure program now planned is reasonably well within the scope of existing productive resources. At the same time, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce cautioned against the further build-up at this time of less-essential capital programs, in order to avoid excessive pressure on investment resources.

MENTAL HEALTH

There were 188 mental institutions in operation in Canada in 1967, an increase of 11 from 1966. Despite this increase, rated bed capacity decreased from 68,570 (3.4 per 1,000 population) to 68,103 (3.3 per 1,000 population). Beds set up and the ratio of beds set up to rated beds also declined, the former going from 71,108 to 69,442 and the latter from 1.04 to 1.02.

Patient-days of care, numbering 23.8 million in 1967, dropped by 1.0 million from those of the previous year. The average number of patients in institutions was 65,000 (3.2 per 1,000 population) in 1967, compared to the 1966 average of 67,000 (3.4 per 1,000 population). Percentage occupancy decreased from 98.5 per cent in 1966 to 96.2 per cent in 1967 and patients reported on books of Canadian mental institutions at December 31 numbered 73,630 (3.6 per 1,000 population), representing a decrease

of 3.5 per cent from 76,273 patients in 1966.

In 1967, total personnel employed by reporting mental hospitals numbered 46,331, of whom 55.4 per cent were nursing staff. The ratio of full-time personnel per 100 average number of patients climbed from 59.3 in 1966 to 69.5 in 1967.

The total reported operating expenditure amounted to \$274.9 million, with gross salaries and wages accounting for 72.9 per cent. The cost per patient-day climbed to \$12.23 in 1967 from \$10.08 in 1966.

MANPOWER TRAINING IN QUEBEC

Agreements providing for a 16 percent increase this fiscal year in the volume of adult training purchased in Quebec were announced jointly recently by Manpower and Immigration Minister Allan MacEachen and Regional Economic Expansion Minister Jean Marchand. The agreements call for the expenditure of up to \$77 million in federal funds in 1969-70 to give Quebec workers better trades skills and to pay allowances to those taking training.

Two agreements were signed by Mr. MacEachen and Mr. Maurice Bellemare, Quebec Minister of Labor and Manpower, under the Federal Government's Occupational Training for Adult (OTA) Program. The Federal Government will buy from Quebec during 1969-70 up to \$23,621,000-worth of courses for general occupational training of adults. The selection and placing of adults in these courses is made by manpower counsellors at 93 Canada Manpower Centers in the province. Another \$6,485,000 has been allocated to buy courses from the province for the training of apprentices.

The Federal Government will also disburse up to \$47 million for allowances to adults referred to training under the OTA program. Training allowances are paid to trainees who have been three years in the labor force or have one or more dependents. Similar agreements with the other provinces are to be announced soon.

Last year in Quebec, 51,000 adults took skill training, retraining or upgrading under the Federal Government's OTA programs. The courses were from one week to one year long, and took up 3,980,000 training days; this year, 610,000 more training days are planned. Also, a total of 23,800 Quebec apprentices trained under the OTA program last year, including 19,000 taking part-time training, which involved 415,000 training days; an increase to 440,000 training days is expected in the current year.

The Occupational Training for Adults Program, which came into operation in April 1967, is aimed at giving adults in the labor force the chance to increase their earning capacity or their chances for jobs. Applicants have to be one year older than the school-leaving age in the province in which they live.