
Canadians buy more luxuries

Canadian families have more luxuries now than they had in 1972, according to Statistics Canada.

A survey of 35,000 households shows that Canadians by early 1978 were finding it easier than in the early 1970s to own a home, a colour television set and a second car.

The survey seems to show that, despite rising energy and food prices during the 1970s, Canadian households still had enough left over to boost their holdings of the non-essentials.

For instance, only 24 per cent of Canadian households had a colour television set in 1972, but this had increased to 72.4 per cent six years later. What is more, better than 50 per cent of low-income families had colour television sets: 51.4 per cent of families earning under \$4,000; 58.2 per cent of those earning between \$4,000 and \$7,999; and 65.2 per cent of those earning between \$8,000 and \$11,999.

Statistics Canada noted that in 1972, households had to have an income 34 per cent higher than the national average in order to own a colour TV. But by 1978, their income needed to be only 9 per cent above average.

Average household income, including families and unattached individuals, was \$18,221 in 1978, almost double the \$9,646 level six years earlier.

The proportion of households owning homes rose to 63.9 per cent in 1978 from 61.1 per cent six years earlier, with most of the gain in semi-detached units and condominiums.

In the six years, the percentage of households with automatic washing machines rose to 59.4 from 41.4; clothes dryers to 59.8 from 41.8; record players to 78.8 from 70.8; television sets of all kinds to 97.3 from 95.6; cars to 78.7 from 76.7; and two cars to 24 from 17.6.

News briefs

Heward Grafftey, Minister of State for Social Programs since June has been appointed Minister of State for Science and Technology. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology has been the responsibility of Ray Hnatyshyn, who is also Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Prime Minister said that the Social Programs portfolio is being disbanded.

Canadians can look forward to some relief from inflation, despite the world energy crisis, the Bank of Montreal says in its October Business Review. Food prices provide the primary reason for optimism because much of the increase was brought on by a series of unusual and temporary conditions. It adds that if the Federal Government can curb the growth of the money supply, higher oil prices would not be met by printing more money, but by cutbacks on spending elsewhere.

The bank rate has been raised to a record 14 per cent from 13 per cent, effective October 25.

Brascan Limited of Toronto has bought 10.5 per cent of Noranda Mines Limited for about \$190 million through combined private and public share purchases. The whole deal was secured with a promissory note. The money is payable in ten years with interest payable half yearly.

Canadian manufacturing investments in the U.S. during 1977, 1978 and the first quarter of 1979 totalled 122, compared with 43 U.S. investments in Canada during the same period, according to a report released on October 10 by the New York-based Conference Board. Canadians directed 89 per cent of their total foreign investments to the U.S. while the U.S. directed 12 per cent of investments to Canada, compared with 18 per cent to Britain.

The Federal Government has agreed to provide the Northwest Territories with more road maintenance money to keep the Dempster Highway open this winter. The Yukon and Northwest Territories governments' interim management plan to safeguard the environment and wildlife will close the highway from April 15 to May 30 and from October 15 to November 30 to protect migrating caribou. The Dempster, the first all-weather road to cross the Arctic Circle, was officially opened in August.

Air Canada will be allowed to remain at London's Heathrow Airport, John Nott, the British Secretary of State for Trade has announced. He said the government was abandoning attempts to shift Canadian flights by both Air Canada and British Airways to Gatwick, London's second airport. The attempt had provoked a protest by the Canadian Government. Air Canada had claimed the move would cost it \$274 million in profits in the 1980s, mainly in lost revenue from passengers with connections through the major airport, Heathrow.

Nineteen U.S. states have been added to the list of provinces, states and nations with which Manitoba has reciprocal enforcement of maintenance arrangements. The additions are part of a continuing effort by the provincial government to enforce the payment of maintenance orders. Under the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, a person who has a maintenance order in their favour may apply to a court in a reciprocating state, in which the respondent resides, to enforce payment as stipulated in a maintenance order of a Manitoba court. If the court in a reciprocating state finds the respondent in default of the order then it will enforce the maintenance order.

British Columbia Tree Fruits Ltd. of Kelowna, British Columbia has completed a deal with Taiwan, involving the largest export of apples there in the firm's history. A spokesman said Taiwan interests would purchase \$2 million in red Delicious apples from B.C. Tree Fruits, or about 90,000 boxes weighing 42 pounds each, an increase of 10,000 boxes over last year's order.

Louis Victor Gibeault, Ringo Starr and Max are headed for Mexico. They figure the trip will take two or three years. Gibeault is an incense importer from Lachute, Quebec; Ringo is a three-year-old horse and Max is an eight-week-old puppy. In July Gibeault left his business in the hands of friends and set out on horseback for Mexico, via New York and North Carolina. The group has travelled about 650 kilometres so far but Gibeault sees the stretch from Albany to New York City as being the real test of man and animal. His trip is being sponsored by the Foundation Claude St. Jean in Montreal which hopes to give money raised by the trip for research into a paralysing spinal disorder.

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