

CLIFF-DWELLERS SHORT OF SPACE

There is a continuing dearth of vacancies in apartments in Canadian metropolitan centers. There are indications, however, that the supply of apartment accommodation is increasing in some areas, notably Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton.

This information is contained in the annual survey of apartment vacancies in 11 metropolitan areas undertaken in June by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Surveys are conducted on a sample basis and include only apartment buildings with six or more dwelling units. Apartment buildings containing less than six units are excluded, as are single-detached, duplex and row dwellings.

The surveys also show that the vacancy rate in Montreal rose for the second consecutive year from 4.7 per cent in 1968 to 7.2 per cent in 1969. The second largest year-to-year increase was recorded in Edmonton, where vacancy rates had risen from 2.3 per cent in 1968 to 3.7 per cent in 1969. In Toronto, where vacancy rates had remained close to 1 per cent from 1966 to 1967, there was an increase to 2.4 per cent in 1969 from 1.4 per cent in 1968. Vacancy rates declined in Windsor, to less than 1 per cent in 1969 from 1.5 per cent in 1968. Rates remained virtually unchanged in Winnipeg and Halifax.

LABOR FORCE

From June to July, Canada's labor force increased by 147,000, to 8,550,000, a substantially smaller increase than is usual for this time of year. Employment rose by 181,000 to 8,201,000, an advance that is somewhat smaller than usual. Unemployment declined more than usual at this season by 34,000 to 349,000.

Compared to that of a year earlier, the labor force was up 227,000 or 2.7 per cent. Employment showed a gain of 249,000, or 3.1 per cent. There were 22,000 fewer unemployed than at the same time last year.

EMPLOYMENT

The 181,000-increase in employment from June to July was the result of a 198,000-gain in the employment of teenagers and a decrease of 17,000 in the employment of persons 20 years of age and over. The employment of teenagers has increased by

363,000 since April this year, compared to an increase of 370,000 during the same period last year. The decline in adult employment from June to July was related to the withdrawal of substantial numbers of married women from the labor force during the summer vacation period.

Farm employment was up by 64,000 from June to July. Among other industries the largest increases were in manufacturing (53,000), construction (48,000) trade (43,000) and public administration (32,000). Employment in community, business and personal service declined by 48,000.

All regions except British Columbia, where there was little change, shared in the June-to-July increase. Ontario and Quebec had employment gains of 73,000 and 65,000. Smaller increases were reported in the Prairies (25,000) and the Atlantic Provinces (22,000). Relatively, however, the Atlantic Provinces had the largest gain (3.5 per cent).

In contrast to a year ago, the largest increase by far in employment occurred in manufacturing (116,000). Smaller gains occurred in public administration (40,000), trade (35,000), community, business and personal service (34,000), finance, insurance and real estate (29,000) and construction (13,000). Farm employment was down by 12,000.

The largest relative increase in employment over the year took place in British Columbia (4.5 per cent). This compares to gains of 4.0 per cent in Ontario, 2.8 per cent in Quebec, and 2.3 per cent in the Prairies. There was virtually no change in the Atlantic region.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of the unemployed declined substantially by 24,000 from June to July with about a third of this reduction occurring among teenagers.

Compared to a year ago, there were 22,000 fewer unemployed persons in Canada. Nearly half of this decline took place among teenagers.

Of the total unemployment in July this year, 122,000, or 35 per cent, had been unemployed for less than a month, 38 per cent from one to three months, and 27 per cent for four months or more.

Unemployment in July 1969, represented 4.1 per cent of the labor force, compared to 4.5 in July 1968, and 3.5 per cent in July 1967.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July 1969 was 4.7 per cent.