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crisis had a considerable influence on travelling Canadians. The production of passports in 1974, 542,960, dropped 3.6 percent below the final figure of 1973, 563,302. Issue of certificate of identity and refugee travel documents in 1974 was 2,068 compared to the 1973 figure of 2,463.

It is estimated that there were in current use 2,493,980 passports as of December 31, 1974. Of these, 2,333,283 were issued in Canada and 160,697 at posts abroad.

In Canada the total number of passports issued in 1974 was 507,834. The six regional offices in Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, which were responsible for issue of 247,577 of the above total, continued to provide an essential service in assisting Canadians who appeared in person with their applications. Their presence in large urban centres which are major international points of departure provided a fast, efficient and personalized service and, where necessary, emergency facilities for Canadians obliged to travel abroad on short notice. In addition, the offices played an expanding role in public relations for the Department as a whole. They represented it in centres outside Ottawa in such matters as meeting and assisting dignitaries visiting the community, assistance to groups of foreign students and others sponsored by the Department, and in contacts with families of Canadians in distress abroad.

Because of the great demands made on the regional office in Toronto, a small sub-office was established in North York in April 1974.

After extensive prior study, the Passport Office in 1974 embarked on the installation of equipment to computerize all indices. The program, although requiring a period of considerable preliminary testing, was expected to be in operation late in 1975.