



than national figures in all five-year periods between 1951 and 1971. However, a decline in the rate of growth over the past 20 years occurred in all provinces as birth rates began to fall in the mid-1950s. The most spectacular change took place in Quebec where the rate of growth declined by about 70% between 1951-56 and 1966-71 (i.e., from 14.1% to 4.3%). The growth rate in Quebec in 1966-71 was less than half of the rate during the preceding five-year period.

The slow population growth of 1966-71 was not shared equally among the provinces. The lowest rates occurred in the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan registered an actual decline in population during this period. British Columbia had the highest growth rate (16.6%) in 1966-71, followed by Alberta and Ontario. The uneven rates of increase among the provinces in 1966-71 imply that during this period net migration reinforced the natural growth of population in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia and depressed it in all others (see Table 5.5).

Provincial estimates, 1972. In addition to the five-year census counts, estimates are constructed for the total population of Canada and for each province on both an annual and