



numbers of students at the beginning of the 1960s resulting from the high birth rates prevailing during the war and postwar years. Secondary school enrolments are growing in every province almost without exception as pupils attending elementary school in the 1960s move into the higher grades. This increase is also related in part to the fact that students are staying in school longer and larger numbers of them are planning to go on to some form of post-secondary education. In addition, the greater diversification of courses offered which better prepare students for entry into the labour force and which more adequately fulfil the needs of the community, as well as the greater accessibility to further education, appears to affect school retention rates.

Table 7.3 shows enrolment in all elementary and secondary schools in Canada and in National Defence schools overseas in 1970-71 by grade, and Table 7.4 shows the same enrolment by age.

Only 2.5% of all elementary-secondary school students were enrolled in private schools in 1971-72. In almost every province, these schools are being integrated into the public school system, possibly because of the improving quality of public education throughout the country, rising costs associated with private education and increasing democratization of education. Table 7.5 shows that in the five-year period 1967-68 to 1971-72 enrolment in private schools in all provinces except Newfoundland and Ontario declined substantially, although there were year-to-year fluctuations within the period in most provinces. Quebec, however, reported a significant increase in 1971-72 over the previous year.