

Industry

Prince Edward Island has about 150 manufacturing establishments employing approximately 3,000 people. The majority of the island's secondary industry is involved in the processing of agricultural and fisheries products although there has been continuing expansion into light manufacturing. Examples of manufacturing in the province are: boat building, commercial printing, dairy products, fiberglass products, metal fabricating, paint manufacturing, wool and cloth milling and production of agricultural implements.

Manufacturing is becoming increasingly important. The provincial government has established new industrial malls in Charlottetown and Summerside and has introduced incentive grant programs to help small industries throughout the province. Several of the firms that have located in the Charlottetown industrial site are involved with high-technology metal working. Fashion garments, electronic equipment and sunglasses are examples of products now being manufactured on the island.

Tourism

Tourism too, is important. Prince Edward Island is a superb holiday resort year-round. The island is a favourite spot for many mainland Canadians and thousands of visitors from the United States of America

who appreciate the white sandy beaches, rolling green farmland and the opportunity to sample home cooking and enjoy lobster suppers. Although Cavendish National Park is the country's smallest, it is the second most popular in Canada. Two ferry-boat services connect the island to the mainland and three scenic routes introduce visitors to the beauty of the province and its people.

Energy

Until 1977 the island relied on oil imports for 98 per cent of its energy needs. But the fast-rising cost of oil compelled the provincial government to develop new energy sources and actively promote energy conservation. Two submarine power cables linking the island to New Brunswick were laid in a seabed trench during the summer of 1977. At present consumption rates, the cable link provides 80 to 90 per cent of the island's minimum night load. The province is hampered by geography and limited population in its search for new energy sources. Some interesting projects are now underway. The "Ark", a self-sufficient life-supporting house that relies almost completely on solar and wind energy, opened in 1976. A wood gasification unit helps heat a correctional centre, and garbage from the city of Charlottetown will help provide the energy needs of the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital. One new school is fitted with solar panels and a roof-top windmill.