

1961	1966	1971	1976
7300	5100	4600	3500

Fig. 7.13. *Employment in agriculture, Prince Edward Island*

(Source: Estimates of Value Added and Employment by Sector 1961-76 by R.S. Harvey)

	1951	1976
Less than 35 years	895	454
55 years and over	1691	1103
Total	5253	3054

Fig. 7.14. *Age of operator in agriculture, Prince Edward Island*

(Source: 1976 Census of Canada Vol. 11, Agriculture, Prince Edward Island Table 6)

In the 1970s, thanks in part to government incentives and development programmes, giving financial and technical assistance, the gradual decrease in land under crops was halted. The reduction in farm numbers slowed and new programmes to assist new young farmers to enter agriculture promise to reverse this downward trend as well. After a period of disruption brought about by mechanisation and farm consolidation, Island agriculture appears now to be settling into a period of increasing prosperity and slow growth.

CONCLUSIONS

One might assume that a change in the demand for farm labour would lead to a corresponding change in the settlement pattern and distribution of population on Prince Edward Island. In addition, changes in agriculture have repercussions for the pattern of employment generally because, for example, agriculture generates employment in such activities as the manufacture of fertilizer and machinery, the processing of farm products and in transportation.

The broad distribution of the increased population of Prince Edward Island during the period 1971-76 is shown by Fig. 7.15.

- 12.(a) Where has the increase in population been accommodated?
- (b) With reference to Fig. 7.7, consider to what extent this increase has been evenly distributed between the three counties.
- (c) What hypotheses might explain the conclusions reached in answer to (a) and (b) above?