

TABLE 3.—*Comparison: Average annual wages in manufacturing, 1964*

[Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, other manufacturing in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard study area, State of New Hampshire, and State of Maine]

Area	Average annual manufacturing wage	Percent of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard annual wage
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.....	\$6,999	100.0
Other manufacturing in study area.....	4,838	69.1
State of New Hampshire.....	4,802	68.6
State of Maine.....	4,527	64.6

Source: Shipyard figures: Shipyard commander, 1964 card count; State data: New Hampshire Department of Employment Security, employment and wages in each job center, 4th quarter, 1964 (includes covered employment only); Maine Department of Labor and Industry, Census of Maine Manufactures, 1964.

Thus, the Portsmouth area must attempt to capitalize on (1) the pool of skills potentially available when released from the shipyard; (2) the shipyard's buildings and land; and (3) its coastal location. In the postwar period one of the area's most important private manufacturing firms was attracted through its need for deep channel and ice-free harbor facilities. The firm's wage level and skill requirements have provided the type of industrial alternatives that might prevent substantial outmigration from the area.

The economic resources of the region are now being studied by the area's Seacoast Regional Development Association in cooperation with the University of New Hampshire. The results will provide the detailed statistics needed for a full-scale economic development program.

That Portsmouth faces difficult adjustment problems cannot be denied. Still other, smaller and more isolated communities have made successful adjustments to similar situations. One such community was Presque Isle, Maine.

THE PRESQUE ISLE STORY

Presque Isle is situated in the northeastern corner of Aroostook County, the most northern county in the State of Maine. When the closing of its Air Force base was announced in 1961, the 1,250 military personnel and the 250 civilian workers affected received a payroll of \$2.5 million representing more than half the economic base of the community.

With the aid of the development agency of the State of Maine, the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense, the Area Redevelopment Administration of the Department of Commerce, as well as aggressive local leadership, the airbase property was developed in a number of ways. Representatives from all these groups worked together to develop the manufacturing potential of the natural resources in the area. With the aid of an ARA industrial loan a potato grading and processing plant was established. This plant has helped the local farmers capitalize on the recent nationwide potato shortage and the resulting high prices. Also a plywood manufacturing plant was set up to develop the hardwood potential of the area. Altogether about 900 new manufacturing jobs were created. (See table 4.)