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CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT  
on the  
BUTTON INDUSTRY  
in  
CANADA  
1924

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Published by authority of the Hon. James Malcolm,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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OTTAWA

1926

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

## DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

OTTAWA - CANADA

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S.(Hon.), F.R.S.C.  
 Chief, Census of Industry: J. C. Macpherson.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1924.

Ottawa, October 1926.- A report is herewith presented on the Button Industry in Canada for the calendar year 1924. There were 13 establishments in operation of which 11 were in the province of Ontario and 2 in Quebec. A summary of the principal statistics compared for the years 1923 and 1924 is given in Table 1. The decrease in the number of establishments reporting in the industry during 1924 was due to the transfer of six establishments to another classification and to another that ceased manufacturing.

Table 1.- Principal Statistics compared for 1923 and 1924.

		1 9 2 3	1 9 2 4
Establishments	No.	20	13
Capital investment	\$	1,414,602	1,317,378
Employees on salaries -			
Male	No.	56	49
Female	No.	15	14
Salaries	\$	154,287	141,865
Employees on wages - average number-			
Male	No.	206	219
Female	No.	232	219
Wages	\$	332,423	333,040
Outside piece workers -			
Male	No.	-	10
Female	No.	24	95
Amount paid	\$	3,364	13,563
Cost of fuel	\$	12,378	11,500
Power installation - Units	No.	88	36
Capacity	H.P.	528	403
Cost of materials	\$	313,099	312,620
Gross value of products	\$	1,099,035	958,363
Net value of products	\$	785,936	645,743



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
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ANALYTICAL DATA

Elemental analysis of the compound C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (molar mass 170.2) gave the following results: C, 70.58%; H, 5.94%; O, 13.48%. The calculated values are C, 70.58%; H, 5.94%; O, 13.48%. The infrared spectrum shows a strong absorption at 1715 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O) and a weak absorption at 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C). The mass spectrum shows a molecular ion peak at m/e 170.2.

ANAL. Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 70.58%; H, 5.94%; O, 13.48%. Found: C, 70.5%; H, 5.9%; O, 13.5%.

Element	Calcd.	Found
C	70.58%	70.5%
H	5.94%	5.9%
O	13.48%	13.5%

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1924.

PRODUCTION

The quantity and value of the various products of the industry will be found in Table II for the calendar year 1924. The total value of production in 1923 was \$1,099,035, whilst for the period covered by this report the amount reported was \$958,363, a net decrease of \$140,672 over the two year period.

Table II. - Production - 1924.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Value \$
Fresh water pearl buttons	gross	204,835	66,160
Metal buttons	gt.gross	12,313	50,630
Ivory buttons	gross	468,604	411,951
Pearl buttons	"	66,389	96,243
Horn buttons	"	21	67
Patent detachable and bachelor buttons	"	11,567	15,871
Patent separable cuff buttons	"	56	667
Celluloid buttons	"	31,477	81,525
All other buttons	"	38,445	76,215
Metal fasteners	gt.gross	15,663	11,817
Metal loops	D.gross	7,715	1,609
Metal slides	" "	4,604	4,564
Caps	dozen	6,418	56,146
Boxes	C	109	4,177
Tags	M	3,170	12,664
Shrinking cloth	yards	1,559,493	39,463
Covered buttons	gross	14,468	11,575
Moulds and dies	"	40,457	10,114
Tufts	gt.gross	2,965	2,445
All other products	-	-	4,460
		-	958,363

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1924 fell from \$1,414,602 in 1923 to \$1,317,378 in 1924, a decrease of \$97,224, over the two year period. Of this total fixed capital which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$647,431 whilst working capital which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable was reported at \$669,947..

EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES

The number of persons employed in the industry during the calendar year 1924 is shown in Table III by (a) classes of employment (b) sex and (c) salary and wage payments. The total number of persons employed rose from 533 in 1923 to 606 in 1924, an increase of 73. On the other hand the total payroll which in 1923 was \$490,074 only amounted to \$488,477, being a decrease of \$1,597.

Table III.- Employees, salaries and wages - 1924.

	Male	Female	Salaries and wages \$
Employees on salaries	49	14	141,865
Employees on wages (average number)	219	219	333,049
Outside piece workers	10	95	13,563
Total	278	328	488,477





OTHER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1924 together with the number of hours normally worked by wage earners per day and per week will be found in Table IV(a). The number of wage earners employed throughout the year is given by sex and by months in Table IV(b). The maximum number employed was 476 in the month of October whilst the minimum number reported was 400 in February.

Table IV(a).- Days in operation and hours worked, 1924.

Number of establishments in operation	13	
	Total	Average per establishment
Days in operation on full time	3,287	252.9
Days in operation on part time	434	33.3
Days idle	231	17.8
Hours worked by wage earners per day or shift	4,694	8.9
Hours worked by wage earners per week	621	47.8

Table IV(b).- Wage earners by months, 1924.

Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	203	193	July	221	227
February	198	202	August	208	217
March	207	208	September	231	238
April	213	212	October	233	243
May	211	221	November	235	230
June	222	225	December	242	218
			Total	2,624	2,634
Average number employed during the year				219	219

MATERIALS USED

The total cost of all materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1924 was \$312,620 whilst the amount reported for the previous year was \$313,099, a decrease of \$479. For the period covered by this report manufacturers of buttons were not required to furnish details of the different kinds and quantities of materials used.

FUEL STATISTICS

The quantity and cost value of the various kinds of fuel used in the industry during the calendar year 1924 will be found in Table V. The total expenditure for all fuel during 1923 was \$12,378 whilst for 1924 the amount reported was \$11,500, a decrease of \$878. Bituminous coal was again the principal fuel used with 1,440 tons valued at \$9,723, whilst fuel oil takes second place in importance with \$1,604.

Table V.- Fuel Consumption, 1924.

Kinds of fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost value \$
Bituminous coal	ton	1,440	9,723
Anthracite coal	"	10	43
Oil (fuel)	gallon	18,905	1,604
Gas	m.c.ft.	94	130
		-	11,500







INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1924.

POWER INSTALLATION

The industry is given in Table VI by (a) classes of power, (b) number of units in each class and (c) the horse power capacity according to manufacturers' reports.

Table VI.- Power Installation, 1924.

Classes of power	Number of units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and turbines	1	30
Electric motors operated by purchased power	35	323
Total	36	403

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The value of all raw or partly manufactured materials together with the various kinds of buttons imported into and exported from Canada during the calendar year 1924 will be found in Table VII by principal countries.

Table VII(a).- Imports by principal countries, 1924.

Materials and articles imported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries
	\$	\$	\$
<u>Raw and partly manufactured materials:-</u>			
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	-	5,743	13,929
Pearl, mother of - unmanufactured	-	23,912	190
<u>Manufactured articles:-</u>			
Buttons, shoe papier mache	64	7,203	230
" " n.o.p.	129	9,888	137
" vegetable ivory	5,139	4,217	56,018
" collar and cuff	381	41,730	607
" recognition and label	18	2,514	-
" all kinds covered or not, n.o.p.	49,887	267,123	216,873
Total	55,678	362,130	287,934

Table VII(b).- Exports by principal countries, 1924.

Articles exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries
	\$	\$	\$
Buttons	1,285	197	816

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