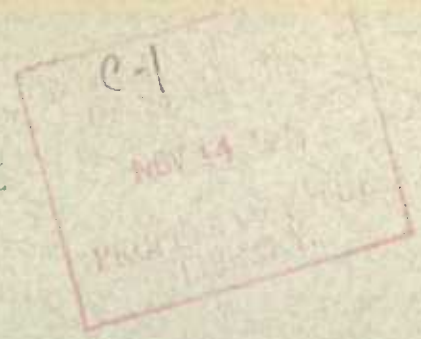


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CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT
ON THE
BUTTON INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1932

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Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA
1933

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL MANUFACTURES DIVISION
OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

There were fourteen factories in active operation during the period covered by this report, an increase of three over the number reporting in 1931. These plants were located by provinces as follows: - Quebec four and Ontario ten.

These fourteen plants had a capital investment of \$1,218,881 and a payroll comprising 458 persons who received \$369,721 in salaries and wages. The cost of the materials used amounted to \$281,329 and the value of the output \$991,754 leaving the value added by manufacture at \$710,425.

The principal items of production in order of importance were: - vegetable ivory buttons with an output of 413,243 gross valued at \$239,013, followed by pearl buttons of all kinds with 427,260 gross valued at \$179,472 while celluloid buttons took third place with 69,431 gross valued at \$105,564.

For the second consecutive year this industry reported increased activity. Compared with 1931 there was an increase of three in the number of establishments reporting with an increase of \$41,308 in the capital invested. There was also an increase of forty-five in the total number of employees with an increase in the annual payroll of \$16,616. The gross value of production rose to the extent of \$218,044 or 28.2 per cent while the cost of materials used and the value added by manufacture were greater by \$63,819 and \$154,225 respectively.

In addition to the buttons made in Canada large quantities are also imported annually from abroad. In 1932 the imports of buttons of all kinds were valued at \$226,157, a decrease of \$80,328 as compared with the previous year. Exports are small, amounting to only \$10,197 in 1932 and \$7,389 in 1931.

Detailed statistics of production, capital, employment, materials used, power equipment and fuel consumption, imports and exports are given in the tables following.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921-1932.

Year and Provinces	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production	Value added by Manufacture
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$
1921	20	1,212,229	490	423,288	359,661	1,239,814	880,153
1922	21	1,363,340	522	498,156	369,643	1,203,240	833,597
1923	20	1,414,602	509	486,710	313,099	1,099,035	785,936
1924	13	1,317,378	501	474,914	312,620	958,363	645,743
1925	13	1,273,041	547	458,881	316,170	1,030,514	714,344
1926	13	1,390,717	556	459,040	358,979	1,088,953	729,974
1927	13	1,393,132	484	412,670	306,498	955,397	648,899
1928	13	1,468,361	472	401,768	263,480	937,326	673,846
1929	13	1,517,123	458	386,456	278,825	955,256	676,431
1930	12	1,408,331	397	339,591	199,766	702,470	502,704
1931	11	1,177,573	413	353,105	217,510	773,710	556,200
<u>1 9 3 2</u>							
CANADA	14	1,218,881	458	369,721	281,329	991,754	710,425
Quebec	4	122,809	115	83,857	95,545	264,579	169,034
Ontario	10	1,096,072	343	285,864	185,784	727,175	541,391

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Table 2. - Production, 1932.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Value
			\$
Vegetable ivory buttons	Gross	413,243	239,013
Pearl buttons and fresh water pearl buttons	"	427,260	179,472
Covered buttons	"	10,965	6,784
Celluloid buttons	"	69,431	105,564
All other buttons (artificial horn, metal, leather, fibre, etc.)	"	574,228	216,603
All other products	-	-	244,318
TOTAL	-	-	991,754

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1932.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value at the Factory
			\$
Pearl shell	Lb.	48,410	13,521
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	862,174	35,158
Galalith	"	84,796	43,567
Celluloid	"	85,761	48,378
Steel and brass	"	114,695	7,877
Blanks	Gross	500,318	52,802
Wire	Lb.	62,530	3,148
All other materials	-	-	71,803
Containers	-	-	5,075
TOTAL	-	-	281,329

Size of Establishments.

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a series of tables have been prepared presenting in a three-fold way the size of establishments in the button industry measured by (a) capital investment, (b) gross value of production and (c) the number of persons employed. The tables compared for a number of years indicate the movement of capital, production and employment within the industry.

In 1932 the number of establishments reporting was fourteen with a total capital investment of \$1,218,881, a gross value of production of \$991,754 and a total employment of 458. Four establishments had a total capital investment of \$884,432 or seventy-three per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

\$221,108 per establishment. In gross value of production four establishments had a total production of \$645,346 or sixty-five per cent of the total output with an average production of \$161,337 per establishment. In employment three establishments had 266 persons on the payroll or fifty-eight per cent of the total employment and an average of eighty-nine persons per establishment.

Size of Establishments Measured by Capital Invested.

Establishments having a Capital Investment of: -	1931			1932		
	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab-lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	4	94,401	23,600	7	116,920	16,703
\$50,000 to under (\$100,000)	7	1,083,172	154,739	3	217,529	72,510
\$100,000 and over. (4			4	884,432	221,108
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	11	1,177,573	107,052	14	1,218,881	87,063

Size of Establishments Measured by Gross Value of Production.

Establishments having a Production of: -	1931			1932		
	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Production	Average Production per Estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Production	Average Production per Estab-lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	4	75,471	18,868	7	134,882	19,289
\$50,000 to under (\$100,000)	4	268,133	67,033	3	211,526	70,509
\$100,000 and over.	3	430,106	143,369	4	645,346	161,337
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	11	773,710	70,337	14	991,754	70,839

Size of Establishments Measured by Number of Employees.

Establishments having an Average Employment of: -	1931			1932		
	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Employees	Average Employees per estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab-lishment
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 employees ..	4	31	8	6	35	6
20 but under 50	4	121	30	5	157	31
50 and over	3	261	87	3	266	89
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	11	413	38	14	458	33

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Capital Investment.

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1932 rose from \$1,177,573 in 1931 to \$1,218,881 in 1932, an increase of \$41,308 during the two year period. Of this total, fixed capital, which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$730,517, whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$488,364.

Table 4. -- Capital Invested, 1926-1932.

Year	Fixed Capital	Working Capital			Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Materials on hand, Stocks in process, Fuel and Mis-cellaneous supplies, etc.	Inventory value of finished products on hand	Cash, bills and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, etc.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1926	758,671		434,166	197,880	1,390,717
1927	757,057		399,417	236,658	1,393,132
1928	769,667		399,284	299,410	1,468,361
1929	777,060		437,250	302,813	1,517,123
1930	776,987		294,369	336,975	1,408,331
1931	721,885	176,101	124,345	155,242	1,177,573
1932	730,517	159,217	110,246	218,901	1,218,881

Employment.

Table 5. -- Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1932.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	47	11	107,995
Employees on wages (average number)	217	183	261,726
TOTAL	264	194	369,721

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Table 6. - Wage-earners by Months, 1932.

Months	Male	Female	Months	Male	Female
	No.	No.		No.	No.
January	198	159	July	230	195
February	211	171	August	240	184
March	198	177	September	250	198
April	207	178	October	238	192
May	216	199	November	194	181
June	222	190	December	197	177
Total			2,601	2,201	
Average number employed during year			217	183	

Table 7. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours per Week were: -

Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees
40 hours or less	30	51-53 hours	-
41-43 hours	92	54 hours	-
44 hours	5	55 hours	154
45-47 hours	41	56-59 hours	-
48 hours	52	60 hours	-
49-50 hours	108	Over 60 hours	-

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption.

Table 8. - Fuel Consumption, 1932.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value
			\$
Bituminous coal	Ton	801	4,788
Anthracite coal	"	324	2,285
Gas	M cu. ft.	418	499
Electricity	-	-	9,186
TOTAL	-	-	16,758

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Power Equipment.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1932.

Classes of Power	Number of Units	Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and turbines	2	86
Electric motors operated by purchased power	71	495
TOTAL	73	581

Imports and Exports.

Table 10(a). - Imports by Principal Countries, 1932.

Materials and Articles Imported	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -						
Ivory nuts, vegetable ..	-	37,602	-	-	-	37,602
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	-	644	10,477	45,647	-	56,768
Pearl, mother of, un-manufactured	1,907	13,205	-	-	27	15,139
Celluloid, xylonite, etc., in sheets	57,703	989,217	-	-	131,788	1,178,708
Manufactured articles -						
Buttons, shoe papier maché	-	1,709	-	-	28	1,737
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p. ..	-	205	-	-	-	205
Buttons, vegetable ivory	-	44	-	-	254	298
Buttons, cuff and collar	990	10,516	-	-	542	12,048
Buttons, recognition and lapel	205	628	-	-	-	833
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p. ..	11,358	68,326	-	80,804	50,548	211,036
TOTAL	72,163	1,122,096	10,477	126,451	183,187	1,514,374

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932.

Table 10(b). - Exports by Principal Countries, 1932.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buttons	9,176	76	945	10,197

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1932.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited,	2091 Beaudry Street, Montreal.
Governor Fastener Company Reg'd.,	1030 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
N. Y. Rhinestone Novelty Company,	1449 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Stein Button Company,	40 Dufferin Square, Montreal.

ONTARIO

Dominion Button Manufacturers Limited,	57 Water Street, Kitchener.
Kitchener Buttons Limited,	Cor. Edwards & Victoria Streets, Kitchener.
Mitchell Button Company Limited,	97 Victoria Street, Kitchener.
The Canada Button and Buckle Company,	260 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
The T. Eaton Company Limited,	190 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Toronto Button Company Limited,	356 Clinton Street, Toronto.
Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada Limited,	240 Walker Road, Walkerville.
Richard Roschman & Bros. Limited,	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo.
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited,	521 Glengarry Avenue, Windsor.
Filcher Manufacturing Company Limited,	310 Albert Street, Windsor.

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