

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

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1933.

There were eighteen factories in active operation during the period covered by this report, an increase of four over the number reporting in 1932. These plants were located by provinces as follows: - Quebec five and Ontario thirteen.

These eighteen plants had a capital investment of \$1,326,745 and a payroll comprising 568 persons who received \$434,561 in salaries and wages. The cost of the materials used amounted to \$389,858 and the value of the output \$1,135,624 leaving the value added by manufacture at \$745,766.

The principal items of production in order of importance were: - vegetable ivory buttons with an output of 454,119 gross valued at \$231,906, followed by pearl buttons of all kinds with 586,999 gross valued at \$204,085, while celluloid buttons took third place with 178,582 gross valued at \$183,285.

For the third consecutive year this industry reported increased activity. Compared with 1932 there was an increase of four in the number of establishments reporting with an increase of \$107,864 in the capital invested. There was also an increase of 110 in the total number of employees with an increase in the annual payroll of \$64,840. The gross value of production rose to the extent of \$143,870 or 14.5 per cent, while the cost of materials used and the value added by manufacture were greater by \$108,529 and \$35,341 respectively.

In addition to the buttons made in Canada large quantities are also imported annually from abroad. In 1933 the imports of buttons of all kinds were valued at \$167,241, a decrease of \$58,916 as compared with the previous year. Exports are small, amounting to only \$10,197 in 1932 and \$13,980 in 1933.

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

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Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921-1933.

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
<u>1 9 3 3</u>							
CANADA .....	18	1,326,745	568	434,561	389,858	1,135,624	745,766
Quebec .....	5	171,645	147	105,834	141,351	335,500	194,149
Ontario .....	13	1,155,100	421	328,727	248,507	800,124	551,617

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Table 2. - Production, 1933.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value
			\$
Vegetable ivory buttons .....	Gross	454,119	231,906
Pearl buttons and fresh water pearl buttons ...	"	586,999	204,085
Covered buttons .....	"	8,625	5,745
Celluloid buttons .....	"	178,582	183,285
All other buttons (artificial horn, metal, leather, fibre, etc.) .....	"	771,474	298,811
All other products .....	-	-	211,792
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,135,624</b>

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1933.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
			\$
Pearl, shell .....	Lb.	52,840	14,011
Vegetable ivory nuts .....	"	836,637	30,175
Galalith .....	"	131,245	62,453
Celluloid .....	"	170,659	93,446
Steel and brass .....	"	140,525	11,362
Blanks .....	Gross	622,498	77,517
Wire .....	Lb.	56,650	3,762
All other materials .....	-	-	90,927
Containers .....	-	-	6,205
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>389,858</b>

Size of Establishments.

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a series of tables have been prepared presenting in a threefold 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 1933 the number of establishments reporting was eighteen with a total capital investment of \$1,326,745, a gross value of production of \$1,135,624 and a total employment of 568. Four establishments had a total capital investment of \$886,175 or 67 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$221,544 per establishment. In gross value of production three establishments had a

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total production of \$479,011 or 42 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$159,670 per establishment. In employment three establishments had 261 persons on the payroll or 46 per cent of the total employment and an average of eighty-seven persons per establishment.

Size of Establishments Measured by Capital Invested.

Establishments having a Capital Investment of: -	1 9 3 2			1 9 3 3		
	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 .....	7	116,920	16,703	10	155,232	15,523
\$50,000 to under \$100,000 .....	3	217,529	72,510	4	285,338	71,334
\$100,000 and over ..	4	884,432	221,108	4	886,175	221,544
TOTAL AND AVERAGE.	14	1,218,881	87,063	18	1,326,745	73,708

Size of Establishments Measured by Gross Value of Production.

Establishments having a Production of: -	1 9 3 2			1 9 3 3		
	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 .....	7	134,882	19,269	8	135,251	16,906
\$50,000 to under \$100,000 .....	3	211,526	70,509	7	521,362	74,480
\$100,000 and over ...	4	645,346	161,337	3	479,011	159,670
TOTAL AND AVERAGE .	14	991,754	70,839	18	1,135,624	63,090

Size of Establishments Measured by Number of Employees.

Establishments having an Average Employment of: -	1 9 3 2			1 9 3 3		
	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	6	35	6	7	44	6
20 but under 50 employees .....	5	157	31	8	263	33
50 employees and over	3	266	89	3	261	87
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	14	458	33	18	568	32

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Capital Investment.

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1933 rose from \$1,218,881 in 1932 to \$1,326,745 in 1933, an increase of \$107,864. Of this total, fixed capital, which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools, amounted to \$716,803, whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$609,942.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1926-1933.

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
1933 .....	716,803	205,514	119,458	284,970	1,326,745

Employment.

Table 5. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1933.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries .....	68	16	140,199
Employees on wages (average number) .....	259	225	294,362
TOTAL .....	327	241	434,561

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Table 6. - Wage-earners by Months, 1933.

Months	Male	Female	Months	Male	Female
	No.	No.		No.	No.
January .....	230	204	July .....	252	226
February .....	232	210	August .....	277	249
March .....	252	203	September .....	292	250
April .....	253	227	October .....	282	243
May .....	242	211	November .....	259	226
June .....	246	224	December .....	269	232
Total .....				3,086	2,705
Average number employed during year .....				259	225

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

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees
40 hours or less .....	3	51-53 hours .....	-
41-43 hours .....	97	54 hours .....	-
44 hours .....	104	55 hours .....	136
45-47 hours .....	30	56-59 hours .....	-
48 hours .....	78	60 hours .....	-
49-50 hours .....	149	Over 60 hours .....	-

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption.

Table 8. - Fuel Consumption, 1933.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value
			\$
Bituminous coal .....	Ton	915	5,803
Anthracite coal .....	"	357	2,015
Gas .....	M cu. ft.	499	588
Electricity .....	-	-	9,630
TOTAL .....	-	-	18,036

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Power Equipment.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1933.

Classes of Power	Number of Units	Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and turbines .....	2	86
Electric motors operated by purchased power .....	83	514
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>600</b>

Imports and Exports.

Table 10(a). - Imports by Principal Countries, 1933.

Materials and Articles Imported	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -						
Ivory nuts, vegetable .	-	32,468	-	-	637	33,105
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough ...	-	605	10,328	58,882	456	70,271
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured .....	1,381	13,674	-	-	-	15,055
Celluloid, xylonite, etc., in sheets .....	62,558	910,550	-	10,354	35,538	1,019,000
Manufactured articles -						
Buttons, shoe, papier maché .....	-	2,866	-	-	-	2,866
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p. .	-	297	-	-	-	297
Buttons, vegetable ivory .....	75	136	-	-	11	222
Buttons, cuff and collar .....	387	5,371	-	-	298	6,056
Buttons, recognition and lapel .....	24	443	-	-	-	467
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p.	11,152	65,176	-	41,340	39,665	157,333
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS ....</b>	<b>75,577</b>	<b>1,031,586</b>	<b>10,328</b>	<b>110,576</b>	<b>76,605</b>	<b>1,304,672</b>

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Table 10(b). - Exports by Principal Countries, 1933.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	British South Africa	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buttons .....	8,759	47	4,824	350	13,980

A P P E N D I X.

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1933.

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.
Patent Button Company Limited,	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal.
Stein Button Company,	40 Dufferin Square, Montreal.
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited,	Ste. Therese.

ONTARIO

Button Sales Limited,	252-260 Richmond Street West, Toronto.
The Canada Button & Buckle Company,	260 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Dominion Button Manufacturers Limited,	57 Water Street North, Kitchener.
The T. Eaton Company Limited,	190 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Kitchener Buttons Limited,	Corner Edwards & Victoria Streets, Kitchener.
Mitchell Button Company Limited,	97 Victoria Street, Kitchener.
Pilcher Manufacturing Company Limited,	310 Albert Street, Windsor.
Richard Roschman & Bros. Limited,	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo.
Superior Trimming & Embroidery Co. Ltd.,	110 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Toronto Button Company Limited,	356 Clinton Street, Toronto.
Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada Limited,	240 Walker Road, Walkerville.
York Button Company,	90 Portland Street, Toronto.

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