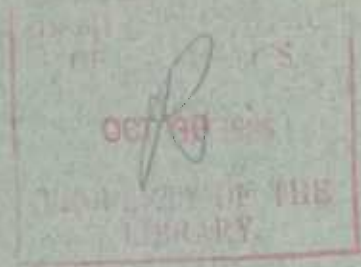


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**CANADA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**  
**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**CENSUS OF INDUSTRY**

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**REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**BUTTON INDUSTRY**  
**IN**  
**CANADA**  
**1934**

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NOTE:

The statistics published in this statement include only the statistics of manufacturing establishments whose principal products are buttons, fasteners, buckles, etc. Statistics relating to specific products are, therefore, not to be regarded as comprehensive since some of these products may also be produced in other industries. Hooks and eyes and metal fasteners, for example, are also manufactured in the "non-ferrous metal industries".

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

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

There were seventeen establishments engaged principally in the manufacture of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc., in Canada in 1934<sup>x</sup>. This was one less than the number reported in 1933. Seven of the factories were located in the province of Quebec and ten in Ontario, and the total capital invested in them amounted to \$1,455,681. In 1934 they produced goods to the gross value of \$1,298,914 and gave employment to 640 persons.

There has been an appreciable improvement in the condition of this industry during 1934. The number of employees increased from 568 to 640 or more than 12 per cent, while the total salaries and wages paid rose from \$434,561 to \$501,379 or over 13 per cent. The gross value of production also increased by \$163,290, but this is due in part to an increase of \$77,077 in the cost of materials used. The increase in the value added by manufacture amounted to \$9,136. There has also been an increase of \$128,936 in the capital invested.

Vegetable ivory buttons to the value of \$281,338 formed the most important single item of production, and were followed by pearl buttons valued at \$260,658. These items, respectively, form 21.6 and 20.0 per cent of the total value of all production. Celluloid buttons to the value of \$183,821 held third place in rank of importance. The various items are shown in table 2.

The size of establishments measured by (a) capital investment, (b) gross value of production and (c) the number of persons employed is shown in an accompanying table. It will be noted that there has been a reduction in the average capital invested in the larger establishments but an increase of the average capital in the smaller factories. In the matter of employment we find that all establishments, large and small, show a slight increase in the average number of employees per establishment.

Employment in this industry is fairly uniform throughout the year, there being no marked seasonal fluctuations. Males to the number of 325 formed 68.9 per cent of the total wage-earners; the female wage-earners numbered 235. The average wage paid in 1934 was \$647, an increase as compared to \$608 paid in 1933. The average salary also shows an increase, from \$1,719 in 1933 to \$1,812 in 1934.

The export of buttons is of minor importance in Canada's export trade, it totalled only \$5,044 in 1934. A considerable quantity of buttons are, however, imported, and those brought in during 1934 had a value of \$1,729,388, somewhat higher than the value of the buttons produced in Canada. A larger part of the imported buttons come from the United States, but a considerable quantity are received from Japan.

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<sup>x</sup> Metal fasteners, hooks and eyes are also manufactured in the non-ferrous metal industries and are not included in this report.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921-1934.

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
1932 .....	14	1,218,881	458	369,721	281,329	991,754	710,425
<u>1933</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
<u>1934</u>							
CANADA .....	17	1,455,681	640	501,379	466,935	1,298,914	831,979
Quebec .....	7	328,835	234	159,087	248,230	509,604	261,374
Ontario .....	10	1,126,846	406	342,292	218,705	789,310	570,605

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 2. - Production, 1934.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value
			\$
Vegetable ivory buttons .....	Gross	535,325	281,338
Pearl buttons and fresh water pearl buttons .	"	834,995	260,658
Galalith buttons .....	"	114,480	155,867
Celluloid buttons .....	"	196,636	183,821
All other buttons, metal, fibre, etc. ....	-	-	164,403
All other products .....	-	-	252,827
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,298,914</b>

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1934.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
			\$
Pearl, shell .....	Lb.	61,167	20,381
Vegetable ivory nuts .....	"	1,516,760	35,205
Galalith .....	"	197,302	82,573
Celluloid .....	"	169,115	91,264
Steel and brass .....	"	147,050	12,606
Blanks .....	Gross	1,040,674	135,775
All other materials .....	-	-	80,291
Containers .....	-	-	8,840
<b>TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>466,935</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 1934 the number of establishments reporting was seventeen with a total capital investment of \$1,455,681, a gross value of production of \$1,298,914 and a total employment of 640. Five establishments had a total capital investment of \$1,115,872 or 76 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

\$223,174 per establishment. In gross value of production five establishments had a total production of \$850,433 or 65 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$170,087 per establishment. In employment four establishments had 357 persons on the payroll or 56 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: -	1933			1934		
	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 .....	10	155,232	15,523	9	129,182	14,354
\$50,000 to under \$100,000 .....	4	285,338	71,334	3	210,627	70,209
\$100,000 and over .	4	886,175	221,544	5	1,115,872	223,174
<b>TOTAL AND AVERAGE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,326,745</b>	<b>73,708</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,455,681</b>	<b>85,628</b>

Size of Establishments Measured by Gross Value of Production.

Establishments having a Production of: -	1933			1934		
	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 .....	8	135,251	16,906	7	90,719	12,960
\$50,000 to under \$100,000 .....	7	521,362	74,480	5	357,762	71,552
\$100,000 and over .	3	479,011	159,670	5	850,433	170,087
<b>TOTAL AND AVERAGE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,135,624</b>	<b>63,090</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,298,914</b>	<b>76,407</b>

Size of Establishments Measured by Number of Employees.

Establishments having an Average Employment of: -	1933			1934		
	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 ..	7	44	6	7	51	7
20 but under 50 employees .....	8	263	33	6	232	39
50 employees and over	3	261	87	4	357	89
<b>TOTAL AND AVERAGE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>38</b>

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Capital Investment.

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1934 rose from \$1,326,745 in 1933 to \$1,455,681 in 1934, an increase of \$128,936. Of this total, fixed capital, which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools, amounted to \$784,533, whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$671,148.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1926-1934.

Year	Fixed Capital	Working Capital			Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Materials on hand, Stocks in process, Fuel and Miscellaneous 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
1934 .....	784,533	284,350	125,710	261,088	1,455,681

Employment.

Table 5. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1934.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries .....	61	19	145,022
Employees on wages (average number) .....	325	235	356,357
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>386</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>501,379</b>

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 6. - Wage-earners by Months, 1934.

Months	Male	Female	Months	Male	Female
	No.	No.		No.	No.
January .....	305	181	July .....	320	243
February .....	320	215	August .....	345	255
March .....	324	227	September .....	338	260
April .....	325	240	October .....	327	245
May .....	328	235	November .....	308	229
June .....	334	237	December .....	328	239
Total .....				3,902	2,806
Average number employed during the year .....				325	235

Table 7. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours of Work in 1934 were: -

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees
40 hours or less .....	41	51-53 hours .....	109
41-43 hours .....	5	54 hours .....	45
44 hours .....	63	55 hours .....	33
45-47 hours .....	56	56-59 hours .....	-
48 hours .....	88	60 hours .....	-
49-50 hours .....	222	Over 60 hours .....	2

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption.

Table 8. - Fuel Consumption, 1934.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value
			\$
Bituminous coal .....	Ton	831	5,068
Fuel oil .....	Imp. Gal.	21,654	2,057
Gas .....	M cu. ft.	512	605
Electricity .....	-	-	12,986
<b>TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY .</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,716</b>



THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Power Equipment.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1934.

Classes of Power	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and turbines .....	1	6
Electric motors operated by purchased power .....	109	655
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>661</b>

Imports and Exports.

Table 10(a). - Imports by Principal Countries, 1934.

Materials and Articles Imported	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Raw and partly manufactured materials -</b>						
Ivory nuts, vegetable..	-	13,920	-	-	5,543	19,463
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough ...	-	240	16,905	137,347	-	154,492
Pearl, mother of, un-manufactured .....	986	20,686	-	-	-	21,672
Celluloid, xylonite, etc., in sheets .....	37,628	1,133,728	-	77,486	40,666	1,289,508
<b>Manufactured articles -</b>						
Buttons, shoe, papier maché .....	-	2,695	-	-	-	2,695
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p. .	-	305	-	-	-	305
Buttons, vegetable ivory .....	-	223	-	-	1,255	1,478
Buttons, cuff and collar .....	801	10,101	-	-	1,494	12,396
Buttons, recognition and lapel .....	21	1,810	-	-	14	1,845
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p.	10,877	93,535	-	61,377	59,745	225,534
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS ....</b>	<b>50,313</b>	<b>1,277,243</b>	<b>16,905</b>	<b>276,210</b>	<b>108,717</b>	<b>1,729,388</b>

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 10(b). - Exports by Principal Countries, 1934.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	British South Africa	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buttons .....	4,437	18	323	266	5,044

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1934.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited,	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal.
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.,	1434 De Bullion Street, Montreal.
Governor Fastener Company, Reg'd.,	1030 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Jiffy Join Incorporated,	1449 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Patent Button Company Limited,	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal.
Stein Button Company,	745 St. Maurice Street, Montreal.
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited,	Ste. Therese.

ONTARIO

Button Sales Limited,	252-260 Richmond Street West, Toronto.
Dominion Button Manufacturers Limited,	57 Water Street North, Kitchener.
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 & Brothers Limited,	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo.
The Canada Button & Buckle Company,	260 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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