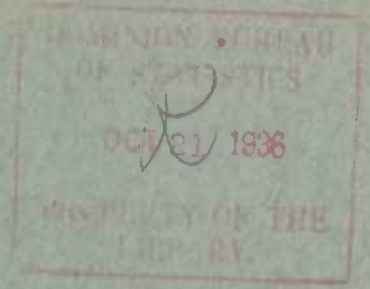


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CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH

REPORT
ON THE
BUTTON INDUSTRY
(IN
CANADA
1935

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Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA
1936

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 the total for Canada 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, 1935.

There were seventeen establishments in Canada in 1935 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc. This is the same number as reported in 1934. Eight of these factories were located in the province of Quebec and nine in Ontario. The capital invested in this industry in 1935 amounted to \$1,429,340, employment was furnished to 699 persons who received \$542,015 in salaries and wages and the value of the products made totalled \$1,370,706.

There has been a further improvement in this industry during 1935. Compared with the previous year, the number of employees increased from 640 to 699 or 9 per cent with an increase in salary and wage payments from \$501,379 to \$542,015 or 8 per cent. The increase in the gross value of production was, however, not so high, viz, an increase of \$71,792 or 5.5 per cent. In keeping with the general improvement, the investment in fixed assets (land, buildings, machinery and tools) was \$90,278 higher. This was, however, offset by a decrease of \$116,619 in inventories and other current assets, making a net decrease of \$26,341 in the total capital investment of the industry.

Pearl buttons to the value of \$338,645 is the most important single item of production. This is followed by vegetable ivory buttons valued at \$250,497 and celluloid buttons valued at \$159,614. These items form, respectively, 24.7, 18.3 and 11.6 per cent of the total value of production. Details of the various products made by the industry are given in Table 2.

It should be remembered that the statistics published in the present report refer only to manufacturing establishments whose principal products are buttons, fasteners, buckles, etc. Statistics relating to specific products are, therefore, not to be regarded as the total for Canada, since some of these products are also produced in other industries. Hooks and eyes and metal fasteners, for example, are also manufactured in the "non-ferrous metal industries".

Employment in this industry is fairly uniform throughout the year, there being no marked seasonal fluctuations. Of the wage-earners employed, 360 or 58.7 per cent were males. The average salary in 1935 amounted to \$1,835 while the average wages were only \$627. Compared with the previous year average salaries advanced \$22 while wages were \$9 lower.

The export of buttons is of minor importance in Canada's export trade, shipments in 1935 totalling only \$12,729. Imports were much higher, viz, \$218,700, a decrease of \$25,553 over the previous year.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921 - 1935.

Year and Provinces	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Capital Invested	Em-ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1921	20	1,212,229	490	423,288	359,661	1,239,814
1922	21	1,363,340	522	498,156	369,643	1,203,240
1923	20	1,414,602	509	486,710	313,099	1,099,035
1924	13	1,317,378	501	474,914	312,620	958,363
1925	13	1,273,041	547	458,881	316,170	1,030,514
1926	13	1,390,717	556	459,040	358,979	1,088,953
1927	13	1,393,132	484	412,670	306,498	955,397
1928	13	1,468,361	472	401,768	263,480	937,326
1929	13	1,517,123	458	386,456	278,825	955,256
1930	12	1,408,331	397	339,591	199,766	702,470
1931	11	1,177,573	413	353,105	217,510	773,710
1932	14	1,218,881	458	369,721	281,329	991,754
1933	18	1,326,745	568	434,561	389,858	1,135,624
<u>1 9 3 4</u>						
CANADA	17	1,455,681	640	501,379	466,935	1,298,914
Quebec	7	328,835	234	159,087	248,230	509,604
Ontario	10	1,126,846	406	342,292	218,705	789,310
<u>1 9 3 5</u>						
CANADA	17	1,429,340	699	542,015	477,788	1,370,706
Quebec	8	384,128	276	185,908	265,031	570,217
Ontario	9	1,045,212	423	356,107	212,757	800,489

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 2. - Production, 1935.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value
			\$
Vegetable Ivory Buttons	gross	515,707	250,497
Pearl Buttons and Fresh Water Pearl Buttons	"	1,278,724	338,645
Artificial Horn or Galalith Buttons	"	54,735	96,672
Celluloid Buttons	"	152,471	159,614
Metal Buttons	"	373,714	89,294
Buckles of all kinds	"	28,249	26,898
All Other Buttons, fibre, lactoid, etc.	"		253,350
All Other Products			155,736
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION			1,370,706

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1935.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
			\$
Pearl, shell	Lb.	64,009	17,639
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	1,303,219	38,490
Artificial Horn or Galalith	"	203,742	84,468
Celluloid	"	156,073	82,054
Steel and brass	"	199,065	16,788
Blanks	Gross	1,238,973	138,176
All other materials	-	-	90,133
Containers	-	-	10,040
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED			477,788

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 1935 the number of establishments reporting was seventeen with a total capital investment of \$1,429,340, a gross value of production of \$1,370,706 and a total employment of 699. Six establishments had a total capital investment of \$1,151,627 or 80 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

\$191,938 per establishment. In gross value of production five establishments had a total production of \$940,458 or 68 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$188,091 per establishment. In employment four establishments had 407 persons on the payroll or 58 per cent of the total employment and an average of 102 per establishment.

Size of Establishments Measured by Capital Invested.

Establishments having a Capital Investment of:	1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5		
	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	9	129,182	14,354	9	142,126	15,792
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	210,627	70,209	2	135,587	67,793
\$100,000 and over.	5	1,115,872	223,174	6	1,151,627	191,938
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	17	1,455,681	85,628	17	1,429,340	84,080

Size of Establishments Measured by Gross Value of Production.

Establishments having a Production of:	1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5		
	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	90,719	12,960	9	183,487	20,387
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	5	357,762	71,552	3	246,761	82,254
\$100,000 and over.	5	850,433	170,087	5	940,458	188,091
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	17	1,298,914	76,407	17	1,370,706	80,630

Size of Establishments Measured by Number of Employees.

Establishments having an Average Employment of:	1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5		
	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	51	7	8	95	12
20 but under 50 employees	6	232	39	5	197	39
50 employees and over	4	357	89	4	407	102
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	17	640	38	17	699	41

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Capital Investment.

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1935 decreased from \$1,455,681 in 1934 to \$1,429,340 in 1935 a decrease of \$26,341. Of this total, fixed capital, which comprises land, building, fixtures, machinery and tools, amounted to \$874,811 whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$554,529.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1926-1935.

Year	Fixed Capital	Working Capital			Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Materials on hand, Stocks in process, Fuel and Mis-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
1935	874,811		361,031	193,498	1,429,340

Employment

Table 5. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1935.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	69	17	157,789
Employees on wages (average number)	360	253	384,226
TOTAL	429	270	542,015

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 6. - Wage-earners by Months, 1935.

Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	343	250	July	339	251
February	361	252	August	360	246
March	368	255	September	375	251
April	391	262	October	363	247
May	360	262	November	354	243
June	368	254	December	352	247
Total				4,334	3,020
Average number employed during the year				360	253

Table 7. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours of Work in 1935 were: -

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees
40 hours or less	53	51-53 hours	3
41-43 hours	2	54 hours	41
44 hours	25	55 hours	67
45-47 hours	63	56-59 hours	1
48 hours	138	60 hours and over.....	18
49-50 hours	283	TOTAL	684

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption.

Table 8. - Fuel Consumption, 1935.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value \$
Bituminous coal	Ton	1,006	6,683
Fuel oil	Imp. Gal.	24,735	2,295
Gas	M. cu. ft.	572	685
Electricity	-	-	16,006
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	25,669

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Power Equipment.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1935.

Classes of Power	Ordinarily in use		In reserve or idle	
	Number of Units	Manufacturer's Rating of Horse-power Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturer's Rating of Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and turbines	1	6	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power	118	702	-	-
TOTAL	119	708	-	-

Imports and Exports.

Table 10. - Imports, Calendar Year, 1934 and 1935.

Materials and Articles Imported	1934	1935
	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -		
Ivory nuts, vegetable	19,463	26,842
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	154,492	139,178
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured.	21,672	20,244
Celluloid, xylonite or xylonite in sheets, bars, blocks, etc. .	1,289,508	1,314,473
Manufactured articles -		
Buttons, shoe, papier maché	2,695	768
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p.	305	390
Buttons, vegetable ivory	1,478	907
Buttons, cuff and collar	12,396	8,803
Buttons, recognition and lapel ..	1,845	2,963
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not n.o.p.	225,534	204,869
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,729,388	1,719,437

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 11. - Exports, Calendar Years, 1934 and 1935.

Articles Exported	1934	1935
Buttons	5,044	12,729

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1935.

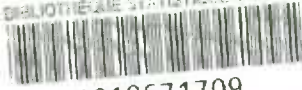
QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited,	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal.
F. Belisle,	1365 Jeannotte St., Montreal.
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.,	423 Mayor 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,	St. 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.
Richardson Roschman & Brothers Limited,	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo.
The Canada Button & Buckle Company,	260 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Toronto Button Company Limited,	110 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada, Limited,	240 Walker Road, Walkerville,
York Button Company,	90 Portland Street, Toronto.

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