

47-202

0-1

Historical File Copy



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

REPORT
ON THE
BUTTON INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1936

Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA
1937

Price 15 cents

252-7

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

Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, General Manufactures Branch:	A. Cohen, B.Com.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

There were eighteen establishments in Canada in 1936 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc., an increase of one over the number reporting in 1935. Nine of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec and nine in Ontario. Goods amounting to \$1,467,414 were produced from materials costing \$522,570, and the 800 persons employed received \$630,576 in salaries and wages.

A further improvement was evident in this industry during 1936. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 101 persons or 14.4 per cent in the number employed, with a corresponding increase in salaries and wages paid of \$88,561 or 16.3 per cent. The rise in the gross value of production was not quite so marked, being \$96,708 or 7.0 per cent. There was a decrease of \$65,023 or 4.5 per cent in the capital invested, due mainly to charges for depreciation.

Pearl buttons to the value of \$328,353 was the most important single item of production in 1936, followed by vegetable ivory buttons valued at \$225,540 and celluloid buttons valued at \$131,065. These items represent respectively 22.4, 15.4 and 8.9 per cent of the total value of production.

Referring to table 4 it may be noted that six establishments represented a capital investment of \$1,037,340 or 76 per cent of the total, six establishments produced goods valued at \$1,083,493 or 74 per cent of the total and five establishments employed 496 persons or 62 per cent of the total number employed.

Employment in this industry is fairly uniform throughout the year, there being no marked seasonal variations. Of the wage-earners employed in 1936, 456 or 64.9 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 360 or 58.7 per cent of the total wage-earners in 1935. The average salary in 1936 amounted to \$1,810 or \$25 less than in 1935, but the average wage paid in 1936, \$647, was \$20 higher than the 1935 average.

The export of buttons is of minor importance in Canada's export trade, shipments in 1936 totalling only \$32,195. Imports were much higher, the \$300,299 so recorded in 1936 being an increase of \$81,599 over the previous year.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921-1936.

Year and Provinces	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Capital Invested	Employees	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	1,300,717	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
1934	17	1,455,681	640	501,379	466,935	1,298,914
<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
<u>1 9 3 6</u>						
CANADA	18	1,364,317	800	630,576	522,570	1,467,414
Quebec	9	462,543	352	250,014	271,515	638,670
Ontario	9	901,774	448	380,562	251,055	828,744

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 2. - Production, 1935 and 1936.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1935		1936	
		Quantity	Selling Value	Quantity	Selling Value
			\$		\$
Vegetable Ivory Buttons	gross	515,707	250,497	483,576	225,540
Pearl Buttons and Fresh Water Pearl Buttons	"	1,278,724	338,645	1,256,335	328,353
Artificial Horn or Galalith Buttons..	"	54,735	96,672	46,050	95,743
Celluloid Buttons	"	152,471	159,614	140,635	131,065
Metal Buttons	"	373,714	89,294	402,168	102,916
Buckles of all kinds	"	28,249	26,898	32,077	27,602
All Other Buttons, fibre, lactoid, etc.	"	-	253,350	-	281,685
All Other Products		-	155,736	-	274,510
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION		-	1,370,706	-	1,467,414

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1935 and 1936.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1935		1936	
		Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
			\$		\$
Pearl, shell	lb.	64,009	17,639	53,960	19,247
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	1,303,219	38,490	1,260,862	38,618
Artificial Horn or Galalith	"	203,742	84,468	126,405	107,084
Celluloid	"	156,073	82,054	135,336	65,295
Steel and brass	"	199,065	16,788	225,892	17,786
Blanks	gross	1,238,973	138,176	1,169,840	132,399
All other materials	-	-	90,133	-	126,862
Containers	-	-	10,040	-	15,279
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED ..		-	477,788	-	522,570

Size of Establishments.

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a table has 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 sections compared for a number of years indicate the movement of capital, production and employment within the industry. See table 4 on following page.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 4(a). - Size of Establishments Measured by Capital Invested.

Establishments having a Capital Investment of:	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	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	142,126	15,792	10	181,133	18,113
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	2	135,587	67,793	2	145,844	72,922
\$100,000 and over ...	6	1,151,627	191,938	6	1,037,340	172,890
TOTAL AND AVERAGE..	17	1,429,340	84,080	18	1,364,317	75,785

(b) Size of Establishments Measured by Gross Value of Production.

Establishments having a Production of:	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	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	9	183,487	20,387	9	174,618	19,402
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	246,761	82,254	3	207,303	69,101
\$100,000 and over ...	5	940,458	188,091	6	1,085,493	180,915
TOTAL AND AVERAGE..	17	1,370,706	80,630	18	1,467,414	81,523

(c) Size of Establishments Measured by Number of Employees.

Establishments having an Average Employment of:	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	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...	8	95	12	7	61	9
20 but under 50 employees	5	197	39	6	243	41
50 employees and over	4	407	102	5	496	99
TOTAL AND AVERAGE ..	17	699	41	18	800	44

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1926-1936.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Stocks of raw materials and finished products on hand, goods in process, fuel and miscellaneous supplies, etc.	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	300,446	155,242	1,177,573
1932	730,517	269,463	218,901	1,218,881
1933	716,803	324,972	284,970	1,326,745
1934	784,533	410,060	261,088	1,455,681
<u>1 9 3 5</u>				
CANADA	874,811	361,031	193,498	1,429,340
Quebec	194,321	112,251	77,556	384,128
Ontario	680,490	248,780	115,942	1,045,212
<u>1 9 3 6</u>				
CANADA	738,344	389,404	236,569	1,364,317
Quebec	222,239	128,360	111,944	462,543
Ontario	516,105	261,044	124,625	901,774

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1935 and 1936.

	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	69	17	157,789	76	21	175,522
Employees on wages (average number)	360	253	384,226	456	247	455,054
TOTAL	429	270	542,015	532	268	630,576

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 7. - Wage-earners by Months, 1935 and 1936.

Months	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	343	250	593	441	250	691
February	361	252	613	470	249	719
March	368	255	623	475	250	725
April	391	262	653	462	255	717
May	360	262	622	443	245	688
June	368	254	622	466	250	716
July	339	251	590	449	236	685
August	360	246	606	468	240	708
September	375	251	626	486	235	721
October	363	247	610	454	250	704
November	354	243	597	426	249	675
December	352	247	599	417	268	685
Total	4,334	3,020	7,354	5,457	2,977	8,434
Average number employed during the year	360	253	613	456	247	703

Table 8. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours of Work in 1935 and 1936 were:-

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worker per Week	Number of Employees	
	1935	1936		1935	1936
	40 hours or less	53		49	51-53 hours
41-43 hours	2	17	54 hours	41	54
44 hours	25	144	55 hours	67	88
45-47 hours	63	83	56-59 hours	1	9
48 hours	138	137	60 hours and over ...	18	13
49-50 hours	283	193	TOTAL	684	803

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption

Table 9. - Fuel Consumption, 1935 and 1936.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 5		1 9 3 6	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal	Ton	1,006	6,683	1,154	7,490
Fuel oil	Imp.Gal.	24,735	2,295	28,660	2,466
Gas	M.cu.ft.	572	685	734	829
Electricity	-	-	16,006	-	17,418
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	25,669	-	28,203

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Power Equipment

Table 10. - Power Installation, 1935 and 1936.

Classes of Power	1935		1936	
	Ordinarily in use		Ordinarily in use	
	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	1	6
Electric motors operated by purchased power	118	702	143	816
TOTAL	119	708	144	822

Note:- No power equipment was reported under the heading "In reserve or idle".

Imports and Exports

Table 11. - Imports, Calendar Year, 1935 and 1936.

Materials and Articles Imported	1935	1936
	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -		
Ivory nuts, vegetable	26,842	32,922
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	139,178	98,779
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured	20,244	18,183
Celluloid, xylonite or xylonite in sheets, bars, blocks, etc.	1,314,473	1,144,956
Manufactured articles -		
Buttons, shoe, papier maché	768	964
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p.	390	2,022
Buttons, vegetable ivory	907	550
Buttons, cuff and collar	8,803	12,966
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not n.o.p. including recognition button, and button blanks, etc.	207,832	283,797
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,719,437	1,595,139

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 12. - Exports, Calendar Years, 1935 and 1936.

Articles Exported	1 9 3 5	1 9 3 6
Buttons	12,729	32,195

A P P E N D I X

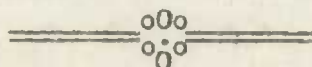
Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1936.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited,	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal.
F. Belisle,	1365 Jeannotte Street, 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,	Cor. Edwards & Victoria Sts., 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,	1076 Walker Road, Walkerville.
Universal Ornament & Buckle Manufacturing Company Limited,	963 St. George Street, Montreal.
York Button Company,	90 Portland Street, Toronto.



STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010671710