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

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**REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**BUTTON INDUSTRY**  
**IN**  
**CANADA**  
**1937**

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OTTAWA  
1938

Price 15 cents

The statistics published in this report 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, 1937.

There were twenty one establishments in Canada in 1937 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc., an increase of three over the number reporting in 1936. Twelve of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec and nine in Ontario. Goods amounting to \$1,590,442 were produced from materials costing \$634,647 while the 839 persons employed received \$670,814 in salaries and wages.

A further improvement was reported by this industry in 1937. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 39 persons or 4.9 per cent in the number employed with a corresponding increase in salaries and wages paid of \$40,238 or 6.4 per cent. The rise in the gross value of production was even more marked, being \$123,028 or 8.4 per cent. There was also an increase of \$68,026 or 5.0 per cent in the capital invested, \$19,045 being in the fixed and \$48,981 in the working capital.

Pearl buttons to the value of \$373,632 was the most important single item of production in 1937, followed by artificial horn or galalith buttons valued at \$289,937 and vegetable ivory buttons at \$205,328. These items represent respectively 23.5, 18.2 and 12.9 per cent of the total value of production.

Referring to table 4 it may be noted that six establishments represented a capital investment of \$1,081,602 or 75 per cent of the total, six establishments produced goods valued at \$1,157,725 or 73 per cent of the total and five establishments employed 494 persons or 59 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 1937, 431 or 60.4 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 456 or 64.9 per cent of the total wage earners in 1936. The average salary in 1937 amounted to 1,667 or 143 less than in 1936 and the average wage paid in 1937, \$646, was \$1 less than the 1936 average.

The export of buttons is of minor importance in Canada's export trade shipments in 1937 totalling only \$43,894. Imports were much higher but the \$290,978 so recorded in 1937 showed a decrease of \$9,321 over the previous year.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1921-1937.

Year and Provinces	Establishments Reporting	Capital Invested	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1921 .....	20	1,212,229	490	423,238	359,661	1,239,814
1922 .....	21	1,363,340	522	498,156	369,643	1,203,240
1923 .....	20	1,414,602	509	436,710	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	399,858	1,135,624
1934 .....	17	1,455,681	640	501,379	466,935	1,298,914
1935 .....	17	1,429,340	699	542,015	477,788	1,370,706
<u>1936</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
<u>1937</u>						
CANADA .....	21	1,432,343	839	670,814	634,647	1,590,442
Quebec .....	12	503,247	383	278,697	331,726	748,933
Ontario .....	9	929,096	456	392,117	302,921	841,509

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

**Table 2. - Production, 1936 and 1937.**

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Selling Value	Quantity	Selling Value
Vegetable Ivory Buttons .....	gross	483,576	225,540	445,775	205,328
Pearl Buttons and Fresh Water Pearl Buttons .....	"	1,256,335	328,353	1,410,312	373,632
Artificial Horn or Galalith Buttons .....	"	46,050	95,743	243,891	289,937
Celluloid Buttons .....	"	140,635	131,065	78,462	83,675
Metal Buttons .....	"	402,168	102,916	447,286	137,424
Buckles of all kinds .....	"	32,077	27,602	19,157	41,897
All Other Buttons, fibre, lactoid, bakelite, etc. ....	"	-	281,685	-	179,597
All Other Products .....	-	-	274,510	-	278,952
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION .....</b>			<b>1,467,414</b>		<b>1,590,442</b>

**Table 3. - Materials Used, 1936 and 1937**

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
Pearl, shell .....	lb.	53,960	19,247	64,023	23,512
Vegetable ivory nuts .....	"	1,260,862	38,618	991,821	34,760
Artificial Horn or Galalith .....	"	126,405	107,084	251,971	123,952
Celluloid .....	"	135,336	65,295	88,992	52,610
Steel and brass .....	"	225,892	17,786	314,692	34,551
Blanks .....	gross	1,169,840	132,399	1,485,009	166,242
All other materials .....	-	-	126,862	-	184,318
Containers .....	-	-	15,279	-	14,702
<b>TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED .....</b>			<b>522,570</b>		<b>634,637</b>

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, 1937.

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

Establishments having a Capital Investment of:	1936			1937		
	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	181,133	18,113	13	209,136	16,087
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	2	145,844	72,922	2	141,587	70,794
\$100,000 and over	6	1,037,340	172,890	6	1,081,620	180,270
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	18	1,364,317	75,785	21	1,432,343	68,207

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

Establishments having a Production of:	1936			1937		
	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Produc-tion	Average Production per Estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments Report-ing	Total Produc-tion	Average Production per Estab-lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	9	174,618	19,402	13	298,173	22,936
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	207,303	69,101	2	134,544	67,272
\$100,000 and over	6	1,085,493	180,915	6	1,157,725	192,954
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	18	1,467,414	81,523	21	1,590,442	75,735

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

Establishments having an Average Employment of:	1936			1937		
	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	61	9	9	81	9
20 but under 50 employees	6	243	41	7	264	38
50 employees and over	5	496	99	5	494	99
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	18	800	44	21	839	40

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1926-1937.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		Total Capital
	Land buildngs, 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
1935 .....	874,811	361,031	193,498	1,429,340
<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
<u>1 9 3 7</u>				
CANADA .....	757,389	501,720	173,234	1,432,343
Quebec .....	236,339	187,413	79,495	503,247
Ontario .....	521,050	314,307	93,739	929,096

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1936 and 1937.

	1 9 3 6			1 9 3 7		
	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries .....	76	21	175,522	95	31	210,029
Employees on wages (average number) .....	456	247	455,054	431	282	460,785
TOTAL .....	532	268	630,576	526	313	670,814

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 7. -- Wage-earners by Months, 1936 and 1937.

Months	1936			1937		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January .....	441	250	691	426	267	693
February .....	470	249	719	461	291	752
March .....	475	250	725	451	312	763
April .....	462	255	717	433	309	742
May .....	443	245	688	428	293	721
June .....	466	250	716	434	269	703
July .....	449	236	685	418	276	694
August .....	468	240	708	447	262	709
September .....	486	235	721	424	270	694
October .....	454	250	704	422	280	702
November .....	426	249	675	411	282	693
December .....	417	268	685	405	273	678
Total .....	5,457	2,977	8,434	5,160	3,384	8,544
Average number employed during the year .....	456	247	703	431	282	713

Table 8. -- Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours of Work in 1936 and 1937 were:--

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worker per Week	Number of Employees	
	1936	1937		1936	1937
40 hours or less .....	49	55	51-53 hours .....	16	12
41-43 hours .....	17	5	54 hours .....	54	39
44 hours .....	144	135	55 hours .....	88	85
45-47 hours .....	83	78	56-59 hours .....	9	21
48 hours .....	137	115	60 hours and over..	13	--
49-50 hours .....	193	316	TOTAL .....	803	861

The above table does not include overtime.

Fuel Consumption

Table 9. -- Fuel Consumption, 1936 and 1937.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Bituminous coal .....	Ton	1,154	7,490	1,139	7,650
Fuel oil .....	Imp.Gal.	28,660	2,466	27,600	2,387
Gas .....	M.cu.ft.	734	829	1,457	1,287
Electricity .....	--	--	17,418	--	18,740
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY .....	--	--	28,203	--	30,064



Table 9. - Power Equipment, 1936 and 1937.

Classes of Power	1 9 3 6			
	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 steam turbines...	1	6	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power .....	143	816	-	-
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....	144	822	-	-
Boiler installation .....	6	295	-	-

Classes of Power	1 9 3 7			
	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 steam turbines...	1	6	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power .....	169	962	1	5
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....	170	968	1	5
Boiler installation .....	5	235	1	60

Imports and Exports

Table 11. - Imports, Calendar Year, 1936 and 1937.

Materials and Articles Imported	1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7
	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -		
Ivory nuts, vegetable .....	32,922	31,894
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough .....	98,779	143,352
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured .....	18,183	17,123
Celluloid, xylonite or xylonite in sheets, bars, blocks, etc. ....	1,144,956	342,724
Manufactured articles -		
Buttons, shoe, papier maché .....	964	882
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p. ....	2,022	1,117
Buttons, vegetable ivory .....	550	519
Buttons, cuff and collar .....	12,966	11,823
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not n.o.p. including recognition button, and button blanks, etc. ....	283,797	276,637
TOTAL IMPORTS .....	1,595,139	826,071

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 12. Exports, Calendar Years, 1936 and 1937.

Articles Exported	1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7
Buttons .....	32,195	43,894

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1937.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited,	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal.
Canadian Trimming Co.,	85 Dorchester Street, West, Montreal.
Dominion Ornament Mfg. Co.	430 St. Helene Street, Montreal.
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.	423 Mayor Street, Montreal.
Governor Fastener Company, Reg'd.	1030 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Ideal Button Company,	Rm. 23, 1193 Phillips Place Bldg. Montreal.
Jiffy Join Incorporated,	649 Notre Dame Street, West, Montreal.
Patent Button Company Limited,	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal.
Record Slide Fastener, Limited,	Rm. 506, 366 Mayor Street, Montreal.
Stein Button Company,	745 St. Maurice Street, Montreal.
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited,	St. Therese.
Universal Ornament, Buckle Mfg. Co. Ltd.,	540 Beaudry Street, Montreal.

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.
Richard 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.
York Button Company,	90 Portland Street, Toronto.





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