

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

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

There were twenty-four establishments in Canada in 1939 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc. Fourteen of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec and ten in Ontario. Total production amounted to \$1,697,788. The cost of materials was \$598,352 while the 811 persons employed received \$662,403 in salaries and wages.

The operations of the button industry in 1939 were at a higher level. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of \$359,205 or 26.8 per cent in the gross value of production, 75 in the number of persons employed and \$89,545 in the amount of salaries and wages paid. The physical volume of production was also higher.

Buttons, of plastic materials to the value of \$443,357 was the most important single item of production in 1939, followed by pearl and fresh water pearl buttons valued at \$311,761 and metal buttons at \$221,923. These items represent respectively 26.1, 18.3 and 13.0 per cent of the total value of production.

Referring to Table 4 it may be noted that 6 establishments represented a capital investment of \$1,417,823 or 76 per cent of the total. The output of these establishments was valued at \$1,182,114 or 70 per cent of the total and employed 534 persons or 66 per cent of the total number.

Employment in this industry is fairly uniform throughout the year, there being no marked seasonal variations. Of the wage-earners employed in 1939, 435 or 65 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 373 or 60.9 per cent of the total wage-earners in 1938. The average salary in 1939 amounted to \$1,636, \$130. less than in 1938, and the average wage paid in 1939, \$643 was \$65 more than the 1938 average.

The export of buttons is of growing importance in Canada's export trade shipments in 1939, totalling \$69,792. Imports were much higher, the \$226,398 so recorded in 1939 showed an increase of \$21,180 over the previous year.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

TABLE 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry, 1922-1939

Year and Provinces	Establishments Reporting	Capital Invested	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1922	21	1,363,340	522	498,156	369,643	1,203,240
1923	20	1,414,602	509	486,710	315,039	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 ²⁰
1933	18	1,326,745	568	434,561	389,858	1,135,624 ¹
1934	17	1,455,681	640	501,379	466,935	1,298,914
1935	17	1,439,340	699	542,015	477,788	1,370,706
1936	18	1,364,317	800	630,576	522,570	1,467,414
1937	21	1,432,343	839	670,814	634,647	1,590,442
<u>1938</u>						
CANADA	21	1,579,532	736	572,858	493,674	1,338,583
Quebec	12	464,992	328	230,906	289,467	630,020
Ontario	9	1,114,540	408	341,952	209,207	708,563
<u>1939</u>						
CANADA	24	1,850,892	811	652,403	598,352	1,697,788
Quebec	14	597,547	396	295,813	362,763	842,151
Ontario	10	1,253,345	415	366,590	235,589	855,637

Note: Profits or losses cannot be estimated from Census figures as no data are collected for certain expense items, such as interest, rent, depreciation, taxes, insurance, advertising.

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939

Table 2. - Production, 1938 and 1939

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
		Quantity	Selling Value	Quantity	Selling Value
Buttons, vegetable ivory..	Gross	409,810	178,768	424,742	183,258
" pearl and fresh water pearl ..	"	1,102,302	311,389	991,355	311,761
" of plastic materials	"	482,908	335,295	693,214	443,357
" metal	"	319,560	119,006	848,514	221,923
" covered	"	48,500	9,367	13,415	8,401
" celluloid	"	35,309	72,125	47,566	73,955
" all other, fibre, leather, etc. .	"	184,753	39,175	488,741	102,296
Buckles, of all kinds	-	-	52,823	-	23,904
Fasteners, zipper	-	-	-	-	112,457
Fasteners, other	-	-	63,935	-	75,067
Clips and other ornaments..	-	-	16,828	-	43,551
Pins	-	-	20,409	-	18,641
All other products	-	-	119,463	-	78,767
Amount received for custom work	-	-	-	-	450
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION			1,338,583		1,697,788

Note: The statistics in the above table do not necessarily represent the total production in Canada, as some of the products listed above are also manufactured by other industries. For total production figures, see "Alphabetical List of Products Manufactured in Canada" published annually by the Bureau.

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1938 and 1939

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
		Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
Pearl, shell	lb.	50,448	14,637	53,254	15,323
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	852,682	28,903	809,852	27,414
Plastic materials (artificial horn, galalith, lactoid, casein, bakelite, catalin)	"	537,708	166,787	561,664	167,916
Celluloid	"	45,442	25,800	42,377	26,401
Iron, steel, brass, etc. .	-	-	24,674	-	39,440
Blanks	gross	983,893	126,381	951,417	140,822
All other materials	-	-	99,116	-	166,128
Containers	-	-	12,376	-	14,908
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED			498,674		598,352

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Table 4. - Principal Statistics of the Button Industry in Canada for
1938 and 1939, Grouped According to the Size of Establishment.

Establishments having a production of	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	En- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
1938	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
Under \$5,000	2)		59	36,805	49,892	111,507
\$5,000 to \$25,000	7)	80,464	170	118,650	82,416	242,177
\$25,000 to \$50,000	6	320,945	507	417,403	366,366	984,899
\$50,000 to \$100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$100,000 to \$500,000	6	1,270,123	-	-	-	-
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	21	1,579,532	736	572,858	498,674	1,338,583
1939						
Under \$5,000	2)		66	47,552	52,543	111,229
\$5,000 to \$25,000	7)	88,427	211	156,232	142,018	404,445
\$25,000 to \$50,000	7)	344,642	534	458,619	403,791	1,182,114
\$50,000 to \$100,000	2)		-	-	-	-
\$100,000 to \$500,000	6	1,417,823	-	-	-	-
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	1,850,892	811	662,403	598,352	1,697,783

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1927 - 1939.

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.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
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	192,498	1,429,340
1936	738,344	384,404	236,569	1,364,317
1937	757,389	501,720	173,234	1,432,343
<u>1938</u>				
CANADA.....	752,041	492,614	334,877	1,579,532
Quebec	235,005	170,430	59,557	464,992
Ontario	517,036	322,184	275,320	1,114,540
<u>1939</u>				
CANADA.....	760,579	588,614	501,699	1,850,892
Quebec	240,668	243,825	108,054	597,547
Ontario	519,911	339,789	393,645	1,253,345

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1938 and 1939

	1938			1939		
	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	101	23	218,959	114	28	232,350
Employees on wages (average number).....	373	239	353,899	435	234	430,053
TOTAL	474	262	572,858	549	262	662,403

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Table 7. - Wage-earners by Months, 1938 and 1939

	1938			1939		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	373	253	626	420	223	643
February	402	259	661	438	232	670
March	402	255	657	441	226	667
April	380	251	631	431	221	652
May	362	247	609	418	221	639
June	372	223	595	414	224	638
July	366	228	594	401	224	625
August	381	227	608	430	228	658
September	379	243	622	458	244	702
October	359	230	589	476	258	734
November	347	223	570	446	247	693
December	357	214	571	448	247	695
Total	4,480	2,853	7,333	5,221	2,795	8,016
Average number employed during the year ...	373	239	612	435	234	669

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners in the Month of Normal Employment, and Their Regular Hours of Work, 1938 and 1939

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number		Number	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1938		1939	
30 hours or less	21	4	8	8
31-43 hours	47	41	44	27
44 hours	25	8	22	6
45-47 hours	54	80	15	54
48 hours	106	88	164	76
49-50 hours	30	3	50	24
51-54 hours	104	45	108	43
55 hours	-	-	-	-
56-64 hours	-	-	17	5
65 hours and over	1	-	3	-
Average hours per week	47	46	48.1	46.7
Average weekly earnings	\$14.72	\$10.89	\$15.82	\$10.65

The above table does not include overtime.

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Fuel Consumption

Table 9. - Fuel Consumption, 1938 and 1939.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Bituminous coal	Ton	1,091	7,168	1,096	7,542
Fuel oil	Imp. Gal.	28,200	2,335	32,885	2,681
Gas	M.cu.ft.	895	884	1,754	1,756
Electricity	-	-	17,456	-	19,408
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	27,843	-	31,387

Table 10. - Power Equipment, 1938 and 1939

Classes of Power	1 9 3 8			
	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	974	-	-
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	170	980	-	-
Boiler installation	5	235	1	60

Classes of Power	1 9 3 9			
	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	281	943	1	1
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	282	949	1	1
Boiler installation	6	240	1	60

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Imports and Exports

Table 11. Imports, Calendar Years 1938 and 1939

Materials and Articles Imported	1 9 3 8	1 9 3 9
	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -		
Ivory nuts, vegetable	12,391	22,097
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	90,845	106,200
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured	3,834	6,249
Cellulose nitrate or pyroxylin plastics, in cylinders, balls, strips, sheets, plates, blocks, bars, rods, angles, channels, tees or other shapes or sections, not further manufactured than moulded or pressed, when for use in Canadian manu- factures	889,203	773,297
Manufactures of pyroxylin plastics, or of of which pyroxylin plastic is the com- ponent or chief value n.o.p.	373,858	401,722
Manufactured articles -		
Buttons, shoe, papier maché	414	511
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p.	460	771
Buttons, vegetable ivory	3,167	352
Buttons, cuff and collar	17,138	17,042
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p. including recognition button, and button blanks, etc.	184,039	207,722
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,575,349	1,535,963

Table 12. - Exports, Calendar Years, 1938 and 1939

Articles Exported	1 9 3 8	1 9 3 9
Buttons	29,299	69,792

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1938

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal
Dominion Ornament Manufacturers Co.	442 St. Helen St., Montreal
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.	686 Notre Dame Street West, 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
London Button & Buckle Mfg. Co.	270 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal
Patent Button Company Limited	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal
Premier Button & Buckle Co.	1485 Bleury Street, Montreal
Record Slide Fastener, Limited	Rm. 321, Ontario Bldg., 10 Ontario Street West, Montreal
Shur-Lok Zipper Co. of Canada	1193 Phillips Place Bldg., Montreal
Stein Button Company	745 St. Maurice Street, Montreal
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited	Ste. Therese
14 Universal Ornament & Buckle 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	70 Victoria St. N., Kitchener
Mitchell Button Company Limited	97 Victoria Street, Kitchener
Novelty Products Reg'd.	110 Spadina Ave., Toronto
Richard Roschman & Brothers Limited	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo
Schnarr, Geo.	141 King St. East, Kitchener
Toronto Button Company Limited	110 Spadina Avenue, Toronto
Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada Limited	1076 Walker Road, Walkerville
10 York Button Company	604 King Street West, Toronto

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