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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, BUCKLE, AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

There were twenty-two establishments in Canada in 1940 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, and fasteners, etc. Eleven of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec, ten in Ontario, and one in British Columbia. The industry as a whole reported a capital investment in fixed and current assets of \$1,877,541 and a value of production of \$2,524,388. Persons employed numbered 988 and salaries and wages paid \$887,602.

The output of the button industry was considerably higher in 1940. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of \$326,600 or 48.6 per cent in the gross value of production, 177 in the number of persons employed and \$225,199 in the amount of salaries and wages paid. The physical volume of production was also materially higher. The expansion of this industry during 1940 was not, however, as marked as the above figures would indicate. Although there is an actual increase, the main increase is due to the transfer of a large button manufacturer from the "Miscellaneous Chemical" to this industry. In view of this transfer definite comparisons with 1939 cannot be made without disclosing the operations of an individual establishment.

Buttons, of plastic materials to the value of \$962,708 was the most important and single item of production in 1940 followed by metal buttons valued at \$358,109 and pearl and fresh water pearl buttons valued at \$357,450. These items represent respectively 38.1, 14.2 and 14.2 per cent of the total value of production.

Referring to Table 4 it may be noted that 7 establishments represented a capital investment of \$1,499,472 or 79.8 per cent of the total. The output of these establishments was valued at \$2,102,522 or 83.2 per cent of the total and employed 747 persons or 75.6 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 1940, 509 or 61.7 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 435 or 65 per cent of the total wage-earners in 1939. The average salary in 1940 amounted to \$1,616 \$20 less than in 1939 and the average wage paid in 1940, \$756 was \$113 more than the 1939 average.

The export of buttons is of growing importance in Canada's foreign trade, shipments in 1940 totalling \$580,697, an increase of \$510,905. Imports were also higher, the \$326,392 so recorded represent an increase of \$99,994 over the previous year. Imports of buckles, clasps and other fasteners amounted to \$369,196 while exports of buckles and slide fasteners were valued at \$57,982.

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners Industry, 1925 - 1940 (1)

Year, Province and Industry	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Capital Invested	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1925	13	1,273,041	547	458,881	316,170	1,030,514
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
1935	17	1,429,340	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
1938	21	1,579,532	736	572,858	498,674	1,338,583
1939	24	1,850,892	811	662,403	598,352	1,697,788
1940	22	1,877,541	988	887,602	1,025,774	2,524,388
<u>1940</u>						
Quebec	11	761,068	538	427,683	689,824	1,458,216
Ontario and British Columbia	11	1,116,473	450	459,919	335,950	1,066,172
CANADA	22	1,877,541	988	887,602	1,025,774	2,524,388
Buttons (2)	17	1,832,579	934	849,024	969,483	2,406,009
Fasteners, buckles, etc. (2)	5	44,962	54	38,578	56,291	118,379

1 - 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.

2 - Establishments classified in accordance with their main products.

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THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

Table 2. - Production, 1939 and 1940.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1939		1940	
		Quantity	Selling Value	Quantity	Selling Value
			\$		\$
Buttons, vegetable ivory	Gross	424,742	183,258	418,143	197,846
" pearl and fresh	"				
water pearl	"	991,355	311,761	1,206,334	357,450
" of plastic materials	"	693,214	443,357	3,240,787	962,708
" metal	"	848,514	221,923	1,421,800	358,109
" covered	"	13,415	8,401	12,866	5,953
" celluloid x	"	47,566	73,955	43,510	70,489
" all other, fibre, leather, etc. x	"	488,741	102,296	475,988	128,887
Buckles, of all kinds x	-	-	23,904	-	24,148
Fasteners, zipper x	-	-	112,457	(40,487	(73,729
Fasteners, other xx	-	-	75,067))
Clips and other ornaments x	-	-	43,551	-	(39,406
Pins	-	-	18,641	-)
All other products	-	-	78,767	-	305,303
Amount received for custom work	-	-	450	-	360
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION		-	1,697,788	-	2,524,388

x The figures in the above table do not represent the total production in Canada, as this product is also manufactured in other industries, For total production figures, see "Alphabetical List of Products Manufactured in Canada" published annually by the Bureau.

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1939 and 1940.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1939		1940	
		Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at the Factory
			\$		\$
Pearl, shell	lb.	53,254	15,323	68,400	20,679
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	809,852	27,414	945,327	33,770
Plastic materials (artificial horn, galalith, lactoid, casein, bakelite, catalin)	"	561,664	167,916	722,392	199,474
Celluloid	"	42,377	26,401	26,645	15,080
Iron and metal	-	-	39,440	-	72,637
Blanks	gross	951,417	140,822	1,379,477	188,381
All other materials	-	-	166,128	-	468,840
Containers	-	-	14,908	-	26,913
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED		-	598,352	-	1,025,774

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Table 4. - Principal Statistics of the Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners Industry in Canada for 1939 and 1940 Grouped According to the Size of Establishment.

Establishments having a production of	Estab-lish-ments	Capital Invested	Em-ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
<u>1939</u>						
Under \$5,000	2)	88,427	66	47,552	52,543	111,229
\$5,000 to \$25,000	7)	344,642	211	156,232	142,018	404,445
\$25,000 to \$50,000	7)	1,417,823	534	458,619	403,791	1,182,114
\$50,000 to \$100,000	2)	-	-	-	-	-
\$100,000 to \$500,000	6	-	-	-	-	-
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	1,850,892	811	662,403	598,352	1,697,788
<u>1940</u>						
Under \$5,000	3	26,114	10	5,670	8,565	12,732
\$5,000 to \$25,000	6	87,428	58	39,745	42,762	99,809
\$25,000 to \$50,000	3	61,911	58	44,270	41,877	104,600
\$50,000 to \$100,000	3	202,616	115	80,825	46,656	204,725
\$100,000 to \$500,000	6)	1,499,472	747	717,092	885,914	2,102,522
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	1)	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	22	1,877,541	988	887,602	1,025,774	2,524,388

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1939 - 1940.

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	193,498	1,429,340
1936	738,344	384,404	236,569	1,364,317
1937	757,389	501,720	173,234	1,432,343
<u>1 9 3 9</u>				
CANADA	760,579	588,614	501,699	1,850,892
Quebec	240,668	248,825	108,054	597,547
Ontario	519,911	339,789	393,645	1,253,345
<u>1 9 4 0</u>				
CANADA.....	808,351	646,340	422,850	1,877,541
Quebec	282,827	282,278	195,963	761,068
Ontario and British Columbia	525,524	364,062	226,887	1,116,473

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1939 and 1940.

	1 9 3 9			1 9 4 0		
	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	114	28	232,350	126	37	263,441
Employees on wages (average number)	435	234	430,053	509	316	624,161
TOTAL	549	262	662,403	635	353	887,602

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Table 7. - Wage-earners by Months, 1939 and 1940.

	1939			1940		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	420	223	643	489	308	797
February	438	232	670	519	317	836
March	441	226	667	512	312	834
April	431	221	752	505	314	819
May	418	221	639	520	322	842
June	414	224	638	509	308	817
July	401	224	625	510	303	813
August	430	228	658	519	310	829
September	458	244	702	532	327	859
October	476	258	734	509	325	834
November	446	247	693	495	323	818
December	448	247	695	490	324	814
Total	5,221	2,795	8,016	6,109	3,793	9,902
Average number employed during the year	435	234	669	509	316	825

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners in the month of Highest Employment, and their Regular Hours of Work, 1939 and 1940.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number		Number	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1939		1940	
30 hours or less	8	8	19	12
31-43 hours	44	27	43	22
44 hours	22	6	21	16
45-47 hours	15	54	23	35
48 hours	164	76	146	121
49-50 hours	50	24	26	56
51-54 hours	108	43	115	40
55 hours	-	-	12	9
56-64 hours	17	5	133	55
65 hours and over	3	-	13	-
Average hours per week ..	48.1	46.7	50.7	48.9
Average weekly earnings..	\$15.82	\$10.65	\$16.99	\$12.17

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Fuel Consumption

Table 9. - Fuel Consumption, 1939 and 1940.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1939		1940	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Bituminous coal	Ton	1,096	7,542	1,560	8,427
Anthracite coal	"	-	-	16	123
Fuel oil	Imp. Gal.	32,885	2,681	36,995	3,148
Gas	M.cu.ft.	1,754	1,756	2,890	2,164
Electricity	-	1,327,522	19,408	1,641,296	26,418
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	31,387	-	40,280

Table 10. - Power Equipment, 1939 and 1940.

Classes of Power	1939			
	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

Classes of Power	1940			
	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	-	-
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels	7	42	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power	356	1,136	5	11
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	364	1,184	5	11
Boiler installation	7	290	1	60

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

Imports and Exports

Table 11. -Imports, Calendar Years, 1939 and 1940.

Materials and Articles Imported	1 9 3 9	1 9 4 0
	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -		
Ivory nuts, vegetable	22,097	20,554
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough...	106,200	172,627
Pearl, mother of, unmanufactured	6,249	13,826
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	773,297	1,003,334
Manufactures of pyroxylin plastics, or of of which pyroxylin plastic is the com- ponent or chief value n.o.p.	401,722	440,260
Manufactured articles -		
Buttons, shoe, papier maché	511	714
Buttons, shoe, n.o.p.	771	447
Buttons, vegetable ivory	352	558
Buttons, cuff and collar	17,042	14,591
Buttons, all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p. . including recognition button, and button blanks, etc.	207,722	310,082
Buckles, clasps, eyelets, hooks and eyes, dome, snap, or other fasteners of iron, steel, brass or other metal, coated or not, n.o.p. (not being jewellery)	273,859	369,196
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,809,822	2,546,189

Table 12. - Exports, Calendar Years, 1939 and 1940.

Articles Exported	1 9 3 9	1 9 4 0
	\$	\$
Buttons	69,792	580,697
Buckles and slide or hookless fasteners of all kinds	37,220	57,932

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940.

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners in Canada, 1940.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal	B. & O. P.
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.	686 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal	B. & F.
Governor Fastener Company, Reg'd.	1030 St. Alexander Street, Montreal	O. P.
Ideal Button Company	Rm. 23, 1193 Phillips Place Bldg., Montreal	B. & F.
Jiffy Join Incorporated	649 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal	F. & O.P.
Patent Button Company Limited	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal	B.
Premier Button & Buckle Co.	1485 Bleury Street, Montreal	B. & F.
Stein Button Company	745 St. Maurice Street, Montreal	B.
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited	Ste. Therese	B.
Universal Ornamental & Buckle Mfg. Co., Limited	540 Beaudry Street, Montreal	B.
Mack Molding, Limited	33 Taylor Street, Waterloo	B. & O. P.

ONTARIO

Button Sales Limited	125-33 Niagara Street, Toronto	B.
Dominion Button Manufacturers Limited	57 Water Street North, Kitchener	B.
Kitchener Buttons Limited	70 Victoria St. N., Kitchener	B. & O. P.
Mitchell Button Company Limited	97 Victoria Street, Kitchener	B.
Novelty Products Reg'd.	110 Spadina Ave., Toronto	F. & B.
Richard Roschman & Brothers Limited	27 Queen Street South, Waterloo	B.
Schnarr, Geo.	141 King St. East, Kitchener	B. & F.
Toronto Button Company Limited	110 Spadina Avenue, Toronto	B. & O. P.
Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada Limited	1076 Walker Road, Walkerville	B. & F.
York Button Company	604 King Street West, Toronto	B.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Button Works	369 E. Hastings St. Vancouver	B.
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Code for Products Made


B - Buttons

F - Fasteners and Buckles

O.P. - Other Products

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