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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, BUCKLE**  
**AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY**  
**IN**  
**CANADA**  
**1941**

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OTTAWA  
1943

Price 15 cents

REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

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THE BUTTON, BUCKLE, AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

There were twenty-five establishments in Canada in 1941 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, and fasteners, etc. Thirteen of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec, 11 in Ontario, and 1 in British Columbia. The industry as a whole reported a capital investment in fixed and current assets of \$2,312,517 and a value of production of \$3,192,915. Persons employed numbered 1,144 and salaries and wages paid \$1,064,805.

The output of the button industry was considerably higher in 1941. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of \$674,527 or 27 per cent in the gross value of production, 150 in the number of persons employed and \$177,203 in the amount of salaries and wages paid.

Buttons, of plastic materials to the value of \$733,027 was the most important single item of production in 1941. Metal buttons valued at \$417,391 and pearl and fresh water pearl buttons valued at \$459,013 comprized the other principal items.

Referring to Table 2 it may be noted that 8 establishments represented a capital investment of \$1,903,926 or 82.3 per cent of the total. The output of these establishments was valued at \$2,705,010 or 84.5 per cent of the total and employed 375 persons or 76.5 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 1941, 570 or 59.5 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 509 or 61.7 per cent of the total wage-earners in 1940. The average salary in 1941 amounted to \$1,053, being \$42 more than in 1940 and the average wage paid in 1941, \$763 was \$33 more than the 1940 average.

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

Table 1.—Principal Statistics of the Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners Industry, 1929-1941.

Year, Province	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Capital Invested	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1929 .....	13	1,517,123	458	336,456	278,825	355,256
1930 .....	12	1,408,331	397	339,591	199,768	792,470
1931 .....	11	1,177,573	413	353,195	217,510	773,710
1932 .....	14	1,213,981	458	369,721	281,329	991,754
1933 .....	13	1,326,745	568	434,531	339,358	1,135,624
1934 .....	17	1,455,621	640	521,279	466,935	1,298,914
1935 .....	17	1,429,340	699	542,913	477,733	1,370,706
1936 .....	13	1,364,317	300	630,578	522,570	1,467,414
1937 .....	21	1,432,343	859	670,314	634,647	1,590,442
1938 .....	21	1,579,532	736	572,353	493,674	1,333,533
1939 .....	24	1,850,392	811	662,403	592,352	1,397,733
1940 .....	22	1,377,541	933	337,602	1,025,774	2,524,393
<u>1 9 4 1</u>						
Quebec .....	13	931,105	613	546,537	797,530	1,333,135
Ontario and British Columbia ...	12	1,321,412	526	518,268	470,333	1,505,760
CANADA .....	25	2,312,517	1,144	1,064,805	1,274,223	3,193,915

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.

Table 2.—Principal Statistics of the Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners Industry in Canada Grouped According to the Size of Establishment, 1941.

Establishments having a pro- duction of	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
<u>1 9 4 1</u>						
Under \$5,000 ....	4	29,389	14	6,264	3,934	3,930
\$5,000 to \$25,000	4	33,302	42	31,667	32,905	36,263
\$25,000 to \$50,000	7)	239,900	213	157,415	155,364	393,712
\$50,000 to \$100,000	2)					
\$100,000 to \$500,000	5	739,771	425	330,940	402,455	1,076,363
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	3	1,164,155	435	433,299	679,665	1,623,147
TOTAL .....	25	2,312,517	1,144	1,064,805	1,274,223	3,193,915



THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

Table 3. - Production, 1940 and 1941.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1940		1941	
		Quantity	Selling Value	Quantity	Selling Value
Buttons, vegetable ivory ....	Gross	418,143	197,846	293,029	204,170
" pearl and fresh water pearl .....	"	1,206,334	357,450	1,025,512	450,013
" of plastic materials	"	3,240,737	932,708	1,510,436	733,027
" metal .....	"	1,421,800	353,109	1,400,918	417,331
" covered .....	"	12,363	5,953	42,332	13,173
" celluloid x .....	"	43,510	70,439	50,045	71,210
" all other, fibre, moulded, leather, etc. x .....	"	475,933	123,337	2,751,394	472,000
Buckles, of all kinds x .....	-	-	24,143	-	56,123
Fasteners, zipper x .....	-	{ 40,437	{ 73,729	50,963	47,567
Fasteners, other x .....	-			402,134	124,721
Clips and other ornaments x .	-	-	{ 30,400	-	39,820
Pins .....	-	-	-	-	99,531
All other products .....	-	-	305,303	-	266,420
Amount received for custom work .....	-	-	360	-	192,166
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION....</b>			<b>2,524,333</b>		<b>3,193,313</b>

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 4. - Materials Used, 1940 and 1941.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1940		1941	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Pearl, shell .....	lb.	68,400	20,379	(x)	(x)
Vegetable ivory nuts .....	"	945,327	33,770	957,767	32,351
Plastic materials (artificial horn, galalith, lactoid, casein, bakelite, catalin).	"	722,332	190,474	531,493	191,363
Celluloid .....	"	23,645	15,030	43,332	23,932
Iron and metal .....	-	-	72,337	-	105,350
Blanks .....	gross	1,379,477	133,331	343,999	173,346
All other materials .....	-	-	403,340	-	713,170
Containers and shipping materials .....	-	-	26,913	-	25,352
<b>TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED</b>			<b>1,025,774</b>		<b>1,374,223</b>

(x) Less than 3 establishments reportings -- included under "All other Materials".

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1929 to 1941.

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.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1929 .....	777,360	437,250	302,813	1,517,473	
1930 .....	776,937	294,369	326,975	1,402,281	
1931 .....	721,885	300,446	155,242	1,177,573	
1932 .....	730,517	269,463	213,901	1,213,881	
1933 .....	716,303	324,972	224,970	1,266,245	
1934 .....	724,533	410,060	231,033	1,465,626	
1935 .....	874,311	361,031	193,493	1,428,835	
1936 .....	733,344	334,404	226,569	1,334,317	
1937 .....	757,339	501,720	172,234	1,431,293	
1938 .....	752,041	492,614	334,877	1,579,532	
1939 .....	760,579	533,614	501,399	1,795,592	
<u>1940</u>					
CANADA .....	303,351	643,340	422,850	1,372,541	
Quebec .....	232,327	232,273	195,963	660,563	
Ontario and British Columbia	525,524	304,062	226,887	1,056,471	
<u>1941</u>					
CANADA .....	1,077,033	742,433	402,933	2,222,400	
Quebec .....	330,251	364,657	176,197	871,105	
Ontario and British Columbia	686,737	377,323	226,736	1,290,800	

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1940 and 1941.

	1940			1941		
	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	126	37	263,441	141	45	302,423
Employees on wages (average number) .....	539	316	624,131	570	333	756,332
TOTAL .....	665	353	887,572	711	378	1,058,755

THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

Table 7. - Wage-earners by Months, 1940 and 1941.

	1940			1941		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January .....	439	308	797	534	350	690
February .....	519	317	830	589	307	926
March .....	512	312	854	500	300	932
April .....	505	314	819	540	302	902
May .....	520	322	842	520	309	905
June .....	509	308	817	544	300	910
July .....	510	303	813	573	377	955
August .....	519	310	829	533	412	1,005
September .....	532	327	859	530	424	1,010
October .....	509	325	834	601	419	1,020
November .....	495	323	818	602	419	1,021
December .....	430	324	814	602	415	1,017
Total .....	6,100	3,793	9,902	6,341	4,632	11,493
Average number employed during the year .....	509	313	825	570	333	958

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners in the month of Highest Employment, and their Regular Hours of Work, 1940 and 1941.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	1940		1941	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
30 hours or less .....	19	12	12	8
31-43 hours .....	43	22	39	35
44 hours .....	21	16	13	19
45-47 hours .....	23	35	30	32
48 hours .....	140	121	163	126
49-50 hours .....	20	30	32	12
51-54 hours .....	115	40	57	27
55 hours .....	12	9	103	35
56-64 hours .....	133	35	32	30
65 hours and over .....	13	-	10	-
Average hours per week..	50.7	48.9	51.1	48.3
Average weekly earnings.	\$13.99	\$12.17	\$13.50	\$13.13



THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

Fuel Consumption

Table 9. - Fuel Consumption, 1940 and 1941.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1940		1941	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Bituminous coal .....	Ton	1,350	8,427	1,380	15,622
Anthracite coal .....	"	16	122	30	222
Gasoline .....	Imp. Gal.	-	-	2,250	703
Fuel oil .....	" "	26,395	3,143	42,122	5,972
Gas .....	M. cu. ft.	2,890	2,154	2,832	2,577
Electricity .....	-	1,041,220	22,413	1,864,776	25,935
<b>TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY .....</b>	-	-	<b>42,260</b>	-	<b>48,831</b>

Table 10. - Power Equipment, 1940 and 1941.

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
<u>1940</u>				
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
<b>TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>
Boiler installation .....	7	290	1	60
<u>1941</u>				
Steam engines and steam turbines	1	6	-	-
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels .....	7	42	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power .....	413	1,216	12	33
<b>TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>
Boiler installation .....	7	365	2	170



THE BUTTONS, BUCKLES AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941.

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners in Canada, 1941.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons Limited	1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal	B. & O. P.
Ginn Brothers, Reg'd.	686 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal	B. & F.
Ideal Button Company	Rm. 25, 1198 Phillips Place Bldg. Montreal	B. & F.
Modern Art Works	51 St. Andre St., Longueuil	F. & O. P.
Mack Molding, Limited	33 Taylor Street, Waterloo	B. & O. P.
Meteor Manufacturing Ltd.	1178 St. Antoine St. Montreal	F.
Patent Button Company Limited	2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal	B.
Premier Button & Buckle Co.	1435 Blouin 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.
United Buckle and Ornament Mfg. Co.	333 Notre Dame St. East	F. & 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.	366 Adelaide St. W., 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.
Capital Ornament Co.	116 Spadina Avenue, Toronto	F. & O. P.

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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