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# THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENER INDUSTRY 1957



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## NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: **Volume I** – The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; **Volume II** – Manufacturing; **Volume III** – Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries or provinces which they comprise.

Volume II consists of the following parts, the first two of which deal with manufacturing as a whole and the balance with the major manufacturing groups.

- I – General Review of the Manufacturing Industries
- II – The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, (7 sections, as follows):
  - Section A. Summary for Canada
  - Section B. Atlantic Provinces
  - Section C. Quebec
  - Section D. Ontario
  - Section E. Prairie Provinces
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- III – Foods and Beverages
- IV – Tobacco and Tobacco Products
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- VII – Textile Mills
- VIII – Knitting Mills
- IX – Clothing
- X – Wood and Paper Products
- XI – Printing Trades
- XII – Iron and Steel Products
- XIII – Transportation Equipment
- XIV – Non-ferrous Metal Products
- XV – Electrical Apparatus and Supplies
- XVI – Non-metallic Mineral Products
- XVII – Products of Petroleum and Coal
- XVIII – Chemicals and Allied Products
- XIX – Miscellaneous Manufactures

The present report belongs in Part XIX, Miscellaneous Manufactures. It is punched to permit of filing in a ring binder along with others of the group. The reports in this group are:

- A – The Button, Buckle and Fastener Industry
- B – The Broom, Brush and Mop Industry
- C – The Musical Instrument Industry
- D – The Sporting Goods Industry
- E – The Miscellaneous Industries

*Prices of most reports released after January 1, 1959 have been increased. Information on the new prices of particular issues is available on request from the Information Services Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.*

# THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENER INDUSTRY

## 1957

In 1957 reports were received from 46 establishments, engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, fasteners, etc. Thirty-three of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec and thirteen in Ontario. Although Quebec led in the number of establishments, the level of operations for the two provinces was very little different. The value of factory shipments was \$6,466,960 in Ontario and \$6,735,869 in Quebec while employees numbered 723 and 889, respectively, in the two provinces.

The factory selling value of the goods shipped by the industry during the year amounted to \$13,202,829, the highest on record. This was \$73,199 or 0.6 per cent more than that of the previous year. Employment totalled 1,612 persons, 57 more than in 1956, while the payroll increased by \$166,163 or 3.7 per cent. Materials used cost \$5,626,162, a decrease of \$379,631 or 6.3 per cent from the previous year.

Zipper fasteners continued to be the industry's most important commodity with shipments valued at \$7,595,262. Shipments of other commodities in order of importance were plastic (other than moulded) buttons valued at \$1,615,543; moulded buttons at \$1,357,291; metal buttons at \$365,426; and celluloid buttons at \$196,158. For further details of products shipped, see Table 4.

Reference to Table 10 will show that, in 1957, the 3 largest establishments reported shipments valued at \$6,065,038 or 46 per cent of the total. They also reported 712 or 44 per cent of all persons employed by this industry.

Beginning with 1954, information on the value of year-end inventory holdings at plant and plant warehouses has been collected as part of the Annual Census of Industry. This data was formerly collected by a separate survey. The summarized results for the Button, Buckle and Fastener Industry for the year under review will be found in Table 3.

**TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Button, Buckle and Fastener Industry,  
Representative Years, 1926 - 1957**

Year and Province	Estab- lishments reporting	Em- ployees	Salaries and wages	Cost at plant of fuel and electricity	Cost at plant of materials used	Value added by manufacture	Gross value of production <sup>1</sup>
	number				dollars		
1926 .....	13	556	459,040	19,107	358,979	710,867	1,088,953
1930 .....	12	397	339,591	15,727	199,766	486,977	702,470
1937 .....	21	839	670,814	30,064	634,647	925,731	1,590,442
1938 .....	21	736	572,858	27,843	498,674	862,066	1,388,583
1939 .....	24	811	662,403	31,387	598,352	1,068,049	1,697,788
1940 .....	22	988	887,602	41,477	1,025,774	1,457,137	2,524,388
1941 .....	25	1,144	1,064,805	46,881	1,274,223	1,877,811	3,198,915
1943 .....	25	1,032	1,313,899	55,163	1,428,330	2,337,689	3,821,182
1944 .....	20	896	1,259,446	60,398	1,280,740	2,096,745	3,437,883
1945 .....	21	944	1,348,191	55,116	1,479,301	2,214,270	3,748,687
1946 .....	18	986	1,468,667	59,309	1,757,419	2,480,099	4,296,827
1947 .....	29	1,966	3,301,975	82,731	3,447,013	5,759,715	9,289,459
1948 .....	31	1,844	3,373,681	69,301	3,078,233	5,888,891	9,036,425
1949 .....	34	1,682	3,374,644	69,598	3,115,444	4,821,028	8,006,070
1950 .....	38	1,698	3,529,893	80,849	3,455,976	6,239,707	9,776,532
1951 .....	41	1,622	3,706,435	84,492	3,882,116	6,121,090	10,087,698
1952 .....	45	1,679	3,969,929	94,487	4,436,224	6,486,117 <sup>2</sup>	11,016,828
1953 .....	45	1,741	4,460,154	104,386	4,598,548	6,751,442 <sup>2</sup>	11,454,376
1954 .....	44	1,592	4,138,450	115,798	4,420,926	6,249,338	10,759,859
1955 .....	45	1,569	4,102,266	124,701	5,096,486	6,583,795	12,096,620
1956							
Quebec .....	34	827	1,939,187	63,753	3,457,092	3,376,857	6,768,760
Ontario .....	13	728	2,481,748	76,990	2,548,701	3,226,143	6,360,870
<b>Canada .....</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>4,420,935</b>	<b>140,743</b>	<b>6,005,793</b>	<b>6,603,000</b>	<b>13,129,630</b>
1957							
Quebec .....	33	889	2,068,491	62,869	3,252,872	3,506,371	6,735,869
Ontario .....	13	723	2,518,607	73,931	2,373,290	4,337,617	6,466,960
<b>Canada .....</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>4,587,098</b>	<b>136,800</b>	<b>5,626,162</b>	<b>7,843,988</b>	<b>13,202,829</b>

<sup>1</sup> Commencing with 1952 gross value of production has been replaced by value of factory shipments.

<sup>2</sup> Because of insufficient inventory data in 1952 and 1953, these figures have been calculated from value of factory shipments and are, therefore, only approximations to true value added by manufacture.

TABLE 2. Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1956 and 1957

Item	1956	1957	+Increase -Decrease
Establishments reporting .....	No. 47	46	- 1
Employees on salaries:			
Total .....	333	323	- 10
Male .....	208	205	- 3
Female .....	125	118	- 7
<b>Total salaries .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,447,353</b>	<b>1,553,407</b>	<b>+106,054</b>
Employees on wages:			
Total (monthly average) .....	No. 1,222	1,289	+ 67
Male .....	548	556	+ 8
Female .....	674	733	+ 59
<b>Total wages .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,973,582</b>	<b>3,033,691</b>	<b>+ 60,109</b>
Cost of fuel and electricity .....	\$ 140,743	136,800	- 3,943
Cost of materials used .....	\$ 6,005,793	5,626,162	-379,631
Value of factory shipments .....	\$ 13,129,630	13,202,829	+ 73,199

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.

TABLE 3. Inventories,<sup>1</sup> 1957

	Raw materials and supplies	Goods in process	Finished goods of own manufacture	Total
	dollars			
Opening: <sup>2</sup>				
Quebec .....	742,067	311,478	374,801	1,428,346
Ontario .....	1,068,959	597,104	526,363	2,192,426
<b>Canada .....</b>	<b>1,811,026</b>	<b>908,582</b>	<b>901,164</b>	<b>3,620,772</b>
Closing:				
Quebec .....	683,461	263,860	508,662	1,455,983
Ontario .....	872,345	529,555	911,790	2,313,690
<b>Canada .....</b>	<b>1,555,806</b>	<b>793,415</b>	<b>1,420,452</b>	<b>3,769,673</b>

<sup>1</sup> Book value of all manufacturing inventories held at plant and plant warehouses.

<sup>2</sup> The opening inventory for 1957 differs from the closing inventory published for 1956 because of the receipt of revised data, the inclusion of new firms and the removal of figures for firms which did not operate during 1957.

TABLE 4. Factory Shipments, 1956 and 1957

Products	1956		1957	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	gross	\$	gross	\$
Buttons:				
Moulded (including moulded plastic) .....	4,109,396	1,584,324	3,778,082	1,357,291
Pearl and fresh water pearl .....	47,950	90,480	51,377	81,200
Metal .....	385,111	364,357	311,785	365,426
Covered .....	30,350	143,470	34,000	165,051
Celluloid .....	48,225	207,760	46,306	196,158
Plastic, other .....	911,879	1,135,331	1,222,848	1,615,543
All other (vegetable ivory, etc.) .....	—	269,746	—	93,623
Buckles, all kinds .....	—	250,438	—	336,864
Fasteners, zipper .....	—	7,765,434	—	7,595,262
Fasteners, other .....	—	—	—	—
Clips and other ornaments .....	—	201,306	—	206,058
All other products .....	—	1,116,984	—	1,190,353
<b>Total value of products .....</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13,129,630</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13,202,829</b>

<sup>1</sup> Included with "All other products".

Note: The above table includes only the statistics of those manufacturing establishments whose principal products are buttons, buckles and fasteners. The figures do not necessarily represent Canadian totals as these commodities are also made as secondary products by firms in other industries. For total figures reference should be made to the alphabetical list of products published annually in the report *General Review of the Manufacturing Industries*.

TABLE 5. Materials Used, 1956 and 1957

Materials	1956		1957	
	Quantity	Cost at factory	Quantity	Cost at factory
		\$		\$
Pearl, shell .....	lb. 1	1	1	1
Vegetable ivory nuts .....	" 1	1	1	1
Celluloid .....	" 51,500	52,475	47,905	49,761
Plexiglas and lucite .....	sq. ft. 12,075	14,835	8,440	10,250
Plastic materials, other (artificial horn, galalith, lactoid, moulding powder, casein, bakelite, catalin).....	lb. 1,502,702	652,779	1,516,327	639,684
Button and buckle blanks .....	—	345,393	—	341,389
Button backs and parts .....	—	150,071	—	92,350
Buttons for further processing .....	gross —	123,397	59,500	214,793
Zipper chain .....	ft. 31,942,221	1,005,913	32,368,881	869,913
Zipper tape .....	" 148,194,039	959,579	155,173,756	938,721
Other zipper parts .....	—	269,632	—	205,668
All other materials (metals, wire, etc.).....	—	1,711,687	—	1,591,958
Containers and shipping materials .....	—	178,585	—	199,520
Operating maintenance and repair supplies .....	—	450,282	—	400,077
Amount paid out for contract work .....	—	91,165	—	72,078
<b>Total cost of materials used .....</b>	—	<b>6,005,793</b>	—	<b>5,626,162</b>

<sup>1</sup> Included under "All other materials", as less than three establishments reported.

TABLE 6. Imports of Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners, 1956 and 1957

Items	1956		1957	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	gross	\$	gross	\$
Button blanks of animal shells, in the rough.....	—	308	—	632
Buttons and button blanks other than in the rough, of vegetable ivory.....	124	193	206	257
Buttons, collar and cuff .....	15,702	434,537	12,384	314,827
Buttons of all kinds, covered or not, n.o.p., including recognition buttons, and button blanks other than in the rough.....	1,559,333	1,169,635	1,493,073	1,259,972
Buckles, claspa, 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) .....	—	1,752,795	—	1,787,803
Metal parts for the manufacture of covered buttons .....	—	90,432	—	88,875
Slide, hookless and zipper fasteners .....	—	77,002	—	108,319

TABLE 7. Exports of Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners, 1956 and 1957

Items	1956	1957
	Value	Value
	dollars	
Buckles and slide or hookless fasteners of all kinds .....	80,409	75,951
Buttons .....	43,919	42,544

TABLE 8. Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1956 and 1957

		1956	1957
Salaried employees:			
Total .....	No.	333	323
Male .....	"	208	205
Female .....	"	125	118
<b>Total salaries</b> .....	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,447,353</b>	<b>1,553,407</b>
Wage-earners:			
Total (monthly average) .....	No.	1,222	1,289
Male .....	"	548	556
Female .....	"	674	733
<b>Total wages</b> .....	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,973,582</b>	<b>3,033,691</b>
All employees:			
Total .....	No.	1,555	1,612
Male .....	"	756	761
Female .....	"	799	851
<b>Total salaries and wages</b> .....	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,420,935</b>	<b>4,587,098</b>

TABLE 9. Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1956 and 1957

Months	1956			1957		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	number					
January .....	547	685	1,232	580	709	1,289
February .....	543	692	1,235	576	739	1,315
March .....	540	703	1,243	570	753	1,323
April .....	563	676	1,239	577	763	1,340
May .....	555	657	1,212	567	756	1,323
June .....	532	660	1,192	555	723	1,278
July .....	558	681	1,239	533	730	1,263
August .....	554	695	1,249	553	755	1,308
September .....	565	696	1,261	550	747	1,297
October .....	563	701	1,264	541	729	1,270
November .....	574	669	1,243	547	696	1,243
December .....	543	609	1,152	525	684	1,209
<b>Monthly average</b> .....	<b>548</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1,289</b>

TABLE 10. Principal Statistics of the Button, Buckle and Fastener Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1956 and 1957

Establishments with factory shipments of	Estab- lish- ments	Em- ployees	Salaries and wages	Cost of fuel and electricity	Cost of materials used	Value of factory shipments
Under \$25,000 .....	8	18	37,921	1,699	41,931	98,869
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	7	50	91,697	3,437	107,157	249,770
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	7	85	189,163	5,784	192,043	472,864
\$100,000 to \$199,999 .....	9	153	386,395	15,916	759,608	1,367,971
\$200,000 to \$499,999 .....	11	445	988,207	40,447	1,944,217	3,833,460
\$500,000 to \$999,999 .....	2	804	2,727,552	73,460	2,960,837	7,106,696
\$1,000,000 and over .....	3					
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>47</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>4,420,935</b>	<b>140,743</b>	<b>6,005,793</b>	<b>13,129,630</b>
1957						
Under \$25,000 .....	7	15	26,848	1,047	46,602	90,707
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	7	53	100,190	2,324	122,554	269,031
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	7	88	197,089	6,910	210,371	498,987
\$100,000 to \$199,999 .....	8	127	294,048	5,936	668,620	1,189,963
\$200,000 to \$499,999 .....	12	617	1,612,600	63,821	2,272,291	5,089,103
\$500,000 to \$999,999 .....	2					
\$1,000,000 and over .....	3	712	2,356,323	56,762	2,305,724	6,065,038
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>46</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>4,587,098</b>	<b>136,800</b>	<b>5,626,162</b>	<b>13,202,829</b>

## APPENDIX

## List of Firms Manufacturing Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners in Canada, 1957

Name	Address	Main products
<b>Quebec:</b>		
Acme Slide Fastener Co. Ltd. ....	1740 St. Antoine St., Montreal .....	F
Alnor Button Co. ....	400 Ontario St. W., Montreal .....	B, F, G
Approved Accessories Inc. ....	1435 Bleury St., Montreal .....	G, OP
B. and L. Brothers Co. ....	278 rue St. Jean, Longueuil .....	B
Berkeley Novelty Co. ....	1435 St. Alexander St., Montreal .....	B
Buttons and Ornaments Ltd. ....	151 Lagauchetière St. W., Montreal .....	B, G, OP
Button Craft .....	423 Mayor St., Montreal .....	B
Canadian Buttons Limited .....	1850 St. Antoine St., Montreal .....	B
Canadian Spangle Mfg. Co. Inc. ....	2095 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal .....	OP
Clix Fastener Corporation .....	425 River St., Verdun .....	F, G, OP
Dubarry Ornament Co. ....	1449 St. Alexander St., Montreal .....	OP
The Export Corporation (of Canada) Ltd. ....	282 Ontario St. W., Montreal .....	F
Fashler Fastener Co. ....	1485 Bleury St., Montreal .....	F
Gibson, Samuel, Inc. ....	420 Lagauchetière St. W., Montreal .....	B, G, OP
Ginn Brothers, Ltd. ....	280 Regina Ave., Verdun .....	G, OP
Herman Button & Ornaments Inc. ....	116 St. Paul St. West, Montreal .....	B
Ideal Button Company .....	4600 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal .....	B, G, OP
Jet Fastener Corp. ....	363 Lemoyne St., Montreal .....	F
Jiffy Join Inc. ....	762 St. Paul St. West, Montreal .....	OP
Karavas Mfg., Co. ....	2093 Bleury St., Montreal .....	G
Komo Fasteners Ltd. ....	1 Christophe Colombe, Rivière du Loup ...	OP
Lightning Fastener Co. Ltd. ....	Bedford .....	F
Lion Fastener Co. Ltd. ....	4530 Clark St., Montreal .....	F
Mack Molding Ltd. ....	33 Taylor St., Waterloo .....	B
Montreal Ornament & Button Mfg. Co. ....	2023 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal .....	G
William Prym Co. of Canada Ltd. ....	1255 Phillips Square, Montreal .....	B, G
Rapid Belt Co. Ltd. ....	307 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal .....	B, G, OP
Rojac Novelty Products Inc. ....	371 Dowd St., Montreal .....	B, G, OP
H. Shiller Inc. ....	460 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal .....	B, OP
Shur-Lok Zipper Co. of Canada .....	460 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal .....	F
Star Fasteners of Canada Ltd. ....	5530 Casgrain St., Montreal .....	F
Stein Button Company .....	745 St. Maurice St., Montreal .....	B
Trek Manufacturing Co. of Canada Ltd .....	5 St. Anne St., Rivière du Loup .....	F
<b>Ontario:</b>		
Albert Button Co. ....	460 Richmond St. W., Toronto .....	B, OP
American Trimming Co. Ltd. ....	460 Richmond St. W., Toronto .....	F
Button Sales Limited .....	133 Niagara St., Toronto .....	B, G
Capitol Ornament Co. Ltd. ....	104 Spadina Ave., Toronto .....	B
Dominion Button Manufacturers Ltd. ....	57 Water St. North, Kitchener .....	B
Famous Button Company .....	18 Haymarket St., Hamilton .....	B, G, OP
Flash Fasteners of Canada, Ltd. ....	300 Lake Shore Rd., Toronto .....	F
Kitchener Button Industries Ltd. ....	70 Victoria St. N., Kitchener .....	B
Lightning Fastener Co. Ltd. ....	50 Niagara St., St. Catharines .....	F, OP
Majestic Button & Ornament Co. ....	116 Spadina Ave., Toronto .....	B
The Mitchell Button Co. Ltd. ....	97 Victoria St. N., Kitchener .....	B, OP
Royal Button Co. ....	108 King St. W., Kitchener .....	B, G
Universal Button Company of Canada, Ltd. ....	1076 Walker Road, Walkerville .....	B, F, G

Note: Code for products made: B-Buttons; F-Fasteners; G-Buckles; OP-Other products.

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