CANADA

THE CORDAGE ROPE AND TWINE INDUSTRY

1955

Published by Authority of
The Right Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Industry and Merchandising Division
Textiles and Miscellaneous Products Section

6503-541-125 Price 25 cents Vol. 2—Part VII—H-1

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1956.

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, $1.50
II – The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, (7 sections, as follows:)
- Section A. Summary for Canada, 25¢
- Section B. Atlantic Provinces, 25¢
- Section C. Quebec, 25¢
- Section D. Ontario, 25¢
- Section E. Prairie Provinces, 25¢
- Section F. British Columbia, 25¢
- Section G. The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, Regional Distribution, 75¢

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
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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 VII, Textile Mills. It is punched to permit of filing in a ring binder along with others of the group. The reports in this group are:

A – General Review, 25¢
B – The Cotton Textile Industries, 25¢
C – The Wool Textile Industries, 25¢
D – The Synthetic Textiles and Silk Industry, 25¢
E – The Narrow Fabrics Industry, 25¢
F – The Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods Industry, 25¢
G – The Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 25¢
H – The Cordage, Rope and Twine Industry, 25¢
I – The Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 25¢
J – The Miscellaneous Textiles Industries, 25¢

THE CORDAGE ROPE AND TWINE INDUSTRY

1955

After three successive years of decline in the value of factory shipments, the cordage, rope and twine industry in 1955 was able to report an increase. Total value of goods shipped amounted to $15,571,556, $526,533 or 3.5 per cent above the preceding year's $15,045,023. Binder twine was the only important commodity to show a reduction. Baler twine, rope and other twine shipments were all higher in terms of both volume and value.

Shipments of binder twine were down to 27,349,550 pounds valued at $3,572,944 from 30,799,050 pounds worth $4,159,039 in 1954. Baler twine, on the other hand, showed an important increase from 20,962,540 pounds worth $3,378,636 in 1954 to 30,692,920 pounds worth $3,829,147 in 1955. Rope was shipped to the extent of 11,831,462 pounds with a selling value of $4,114,124 as against 10,270,582 pounds valued at $4,095,196 in 1954. Twine shipments rose to 7,476,677 pounds worth $2,256,899 from 6,581,848 pounds worth $2,190,136 a year earlier.

Allowing for a negligible $7,413 reduction in finished goods inventory during the year places the value of production for 1955 at $15,564,143. This amount compares with the preceding year's figure of $14,731,476 and represents an increase of 6 per cent. According to an index[1] prepared by the Bureau from data obtained by this annual survey, the volume of output for the industry was up 20 per cent over the previous year. The disparity between the volume index and value index reflects the generally lower level of prices obtaining for the industry's products in the year under review, particularly for binder and baler twine. From 1954 to 1955 the wholesale price of the first fell from $21,875 to $18,539 per cwt. and of the second from $9,183 to $7,673 per 40 lb. bale according to information compiled by the Prices Statistics Branch of D.B.S.

The expanded production was accomplished with 7 less employees, 1191 as against 1198 a year earlier. Salaries and wages, however, were slightly ahead having advanced to $3,735,936 from $3,701,430. The cost of materials consumed in manufacture rose from $7,901,107 in 1954 to $8,089,835 in 1955.

A new establishment in Quebec brought the industry total to 17. They were located provincially as follows: Newfoundland 1, Nova Scotia 1, Quebec 5, Ontario 7, and British Columbia 3. Ontario dominated the industry, accounting for 77 per cent of factory shipments and 76 per cent of employment.

Hard fibres such as Manila hemp, African sisal, Mexican sisal, etc. constitute the principal materials used by the industry. The quantity consumed in 1955 was valued at $5,940,083 or 73 per cent of the total cost of materials used.

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 cordage, rope and twine industry for the year under review will be found in Table 3.

Full details of factory shipments and materials consumed are to be found in Tables 4 and 6 of this report.

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1. Based on 1949 equals 100, the Bureau's volume of production index for the cordage, rope and twine industry is as follows: 1950 – 104.5; 1951 – 143.8; 1952 – 136.3; 1953 – 83.4; 1954 – 97.0; 1955 – 116.0.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1924-1955

Year and province	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost at factory of fuel and electricity	Cost at factory of materials and supplies used	Value added by manufacture	Gross value of production[2]
	No.	No.	$	$	$	$	$
1924	9	1,359	1,486,702	123,415	5,096,892	3,656,479	8,876,786
1929	13	1,368	1,518,280	122,249	7,798,893	3,877,023	11,798,165
1930	13	1,058	1,182,568	108,798	6,059,887	2,382,664	8,551,349
1933	11	1,015	1,027,460	103,453	2,461,395	2,175,764	4,740,612
1937	10	1,030	1,132,435	106,246	3,907,340	2,565,381	6,578,967
1939	10	978	1,055,702	101,436	2,710,778	2,153,860	4,966,074
1940	11	1,285	1,533,026	129,940	4,903,793	4,159,212	9,192,945
1941	11	1,346	1,668,462	141,875	5,684,207	5,069,912	10,895,994
1942	11	1,590	2,243,872	158,069	8,350,266	5,249,890	13,758,225
1943	11	1,531	2,279,708	153,053	8,197,636	4,300,242	12,650,931
1944	10	1,741	2,637,162	159,897	10,594,964	5,422,835	16,177,696
1945	10	1,678	2,477,765	164,878	8,814,693	5,440,375	14,419,946
1946	10	1,740	2,669,236	170,710	8,058,127	5,641,043	13,869,880
1947	10	1,607	2,837,339	176,154	11,053,378	6,999,873	18,229,405
1948	10	1,470	2,999,745	167,114	11,575,748	6,253,058	17,995,920
1949	10	1,302	2,805,837	186,041	10,732,750	5,999,147	16,917,938
1950	10	1,370	3,030,188	198,775	10,989,236	6,271,560	17,459,571
1951	11	1,774	4,576,300	216,893	19,736,188	9,756,163	29,709,244
1952	11	1,720	4,930,896	189,836	21,655,091	6,996,413[3]	28,841,340
1953	14	1,188	3,570,086	205,596	7,336,124	10,324,294[3]	17,866,014
1954							
Canada	**16**	**1,198**	**3,701,430**	**203,673**	**7,901,107**	**6,626,696**	**15,045,023**
Quebec	4	18	48,603	4,216	145,326	64,085	212,027
Ontario	7	949	2,984,866	144,885	6,350,625	5,185,159	12,000,537
Other provinces[1]	5	231	667,961	54,572	1,405,156	1,377,452	2,832,459
1955							
Canada	**17**	**1,191**	**3,735,936**	**204,560**	**8,089,835**	**7,269,748**	**15,571,556**
Quebec	5	41	79,643	6,338	175,696	104,915	285,549
Ontario	7	901	2,842,421	137,989	6,397,649	5,582,274	11,990,379
Other provinces[1]	5	249	813,872	60,233	1,516,490	1,582,559	3,295,628

1. Includes one establishment in Newfoundland, one in Nova Scotia and three in British Columbia.
2. Beginning with 1952 the value of factory shipments has been collected instead of the gross value of production.
3. 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, 1954 and 1955

Item		1954	1955	+ Increase - Decrease	
Establishments reporting	No.	16	17	+	1
Supervisory and office employees:					
Total	No.	187	203	+	16
Male	"	126	134	+	8
Female	"	61	69	+	8
Total salaries	$	**865,866**	**995,695**	+	**129,829**
Production workers:					
Monthly average	No.	1,011	988	-	23
Male	"	703	690	-	13
Female	"	308	298	-	10
Total wages	$	**2,835,564**	**2,740,241**	-	**95,323**
Cost of fuel and electricity	$	203,673	204,560	+	887
Cost of materials used	$	7,901,107	8,089,835	+	188,728
Value of factory shipments	$	15,045,023	15,571,556	+	526,533

Profits or losses cannot be estimated from the figures published in this report as no data are collected for overhead expenses, such as interest, rent, depreciation, taxes, insurance, advertising, etc.

TABLE 3. Inventories[1], 1955

	Raw materials and supplies	Goods in process	Finished goods of own manufacture	Total
	$	$	$	$
Opening:				
Quebec	24,378	–	12,300	36,678
Ontario	1,730,811	243,742	1,685,689	3,660,242
Other Provinces	485,275	64,474	736,811	1,286,560
Canada	**2,240,464**	**308,216**	**2,434,800**	**4,983,480**
Closing:				
Quebec	62,936	–	13,700	76,636
Ontario	1,253,958	247,511	1,813,222	3,314,691
Other Provinces	492,109	68,670	600,465	1,161,244
Canada	**1,809,003**	**316,181**	**2,427,387**	**4,552,571**

1. Book value of all manufacturing inventories held at plant and plant warehouses.

TABLE 4. Factory Shipments, 1954 and 1955

Principal products	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	lb.	$	lb.	$
Binder twine	30,799,050	4,159,039[1]	27,349,550	3,572,944[1]
Baler twine – All sisal	20,962,540	3,378,636	30,692,920	3,829,147
Twines for sale:				
Hemp	125,973	114,635	129,119	97,240
Jute	1,473,702	556,857	1,511,339	514,280
Sisal	4,752,159	1,295,492	5,572,754	1,409,042
All other	230,014	223,152	263,465	236,337
Rope:				
Manila	5,650,321	2,337,861	7,165,208	2,556,737
Sisal	4,097,715	1,242,080	4,240,304	1,155,835
Cotton, Jute	243,374	170,180	147,593	118,823
Hemp	121,228	77,869	153,500	91,812
All other	157,944	267,206	124,857	190,917
Yarns:				
Flax, hemp, jute, etc.	1,533,900	415,075	1,374,833	420,753
All other products, unable to specify	–	806,941	–	1,377,689
Total factory shipments	–	**15,045,023**	–	**15,571,556**

1. Selling value at factory in this case does not represent sales at a definite level as it includes sales to wholesalers at wholesale prices along with sales to dealer organizations at manufacturer's cost of production. As a guide to selling prices of binder twine, reference may be had to the wholesale prices as published by Prices Statistics Branch of the Bureau of Statistics which for the years 1954 and 1955 were $21.875 and $18.539 per cwt., respectively.

TABLE 5. Consumption of Binder Twine in Canada for the Years, 1952-1955

	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Production	632,882	254,516	311,093	274,491
Imports	12,386	21,529	37,387	41,134
Total	**645,268**	**276,045**	**348,480**	**315,625**
Exports	174,778	229,582	138,233	94,152
Available for consumption	**470,490**	**46,463**	**210,247**	**221,473**

TABLE 6. Materials Used, 1954 and 1955

Principal materials	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Cost value at factory	Quantity	Cost value at factory
	lb.	$	lb.	$
Hard fibres:				
Manila hemp	5,526,330	1,168,240	6,366,666	1,099,356
Java sisal	455,387	65,477	1,043,641	106,439
Mexican sisal	5,442,584	503,975	4,428,204	365,028
African sisal	18,018,508	2,200,562	19,096,911	2,010,181
Cuban	3,331,282	311,638	3,219,703	280,686
Haitian	1	1	1	1
Brazilian	10,925,650	1,142,619	16,277,118	1,521,110
Other hemp and sisal	3,863,880	451,349	5,285,903	557,283
Soft fibres:				
Hemp, hemp tow, flax, flax tow and jute	3,136,965	401,885	2,697,736	339,266
Twines, cotton and other	226,954	245,752	223,128	350,852
Yarns purchased:				
Flax, hemp and jute	897,940	218,814	914,425	234,400
Cotton and other / Nylon	—	488,811	517,813	472,495
Oils	—	191,080	—	242,206
Wax	—	4,483	—	9,101
Degras	—	16,999	—	11,882
All other materials and supplies	—	221,783	—	194,778
Packing and shipping materials	—	267,640	—	294,772
Total cost of materials used	—	**7,901,107**	—	**8,089,835**

1. Included in "Other hemp and sisal".

TABLE 7. Imports of Materials Used and Products Made by the Cordage Rope and Twine Industry, 1954 and 1955

Articles imported	Unit of measure	1954		1955	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			$		$
Fibrilla, flax fibre and flax tow	cwt.	2,322	43,274	956	29,027
Hemp, dressed or undressed	"	2,951	45,800	1,880	49,850
Manila fibre	"	54,480	1,002,289	65,954	1,095,432
Vegetable fibres, n.o.p.	"	10,236	126,613	9,848	87,818
Sisal, istle and tampico fibre	"	572,466	5,551,190	656,262	5,823,701
Jute and jute butts	"	21,057	275,148	26,331	244,047
Okum of flax, hemp and jute	"	26,672	400,813	26,741	413,919
Coir and coir yarn	"	6,253	51,664	6,710	63,921
Yarns, vegetable fibres, singles, n.o.p.	lb.	512,095	110,108	172,617	62,004
Yarns, cords and twines, vegetable fibres, plied, n.o.p.	"	2,608,289	570,276	1,290,276	321,282
Yarns, cords and twines, jute, plied, n.o.p.	"	607,586	119,872	263,809	64,206
Yarns, jute, singles, n.o.p.	"	1,478,268	263,994	1,194,216	216,928
Cords and twine, cotton, n.o.p.	"	433,560	348,469	414,117	393,477
Thread, twines, marlines, fishing lines of vegetable fibre for commercial fishing purposes or for the construction or repair of fishing nets	"	751,701	618,928	943,812	791,036
Cordage, manila, sisal and New Zealand fibre, exceeding one inch in circumference	"	1,619,038	407,447	1,550,685	355,666
Cordage exceeding one inch in circumference, wholly of vegetable fibre, n.o.p.	"	416,019	126,003	626,521	174,572
Rope and cordage not exceeding one and one half inches in circumference, to be used for commercial fishing purposes, or for the construction and repair of fishing nets	"	2,433,869	599,817	2,706,563	625,403
Binder twine	cwt.	37,387	589,389	41,134	528,233
Fish nets and nettings	lb.	1,051,562	1,864,434	1,538,705	2,540,643
Jute manufactures, n.o.p.	"	44,154	27,661	87,853	39,923
Vegetable fibre manufactures, n.o.p.	"	2,381,553	2,485,684	3,143,736	3,075,010

TABLE 8. Exports of Cordage, Rope and Twine, etc., 1954 and 1955

Articles exported	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	cwt.	$	cwt.	$
Fibre and tow of flax or hemp	12,309	223,171	2,853	78,407
Binder twine	138,233	2,252,516	94,152	1,388,634
Rope	445	34,337	479	16,579
Cordage and twine, n.o.p.	154,114	2,793,299	177,063	2,846,060
Nets, twines, lines and rope for commercial fishing	—	351,387	—	930,319

TABLE 9. Employees and their Earnings, by Provinces, 1954 and 1955

	Average number					Earnings		
	Supervisory and office employees		Production workers		Total	Supervisory and office employees	Production workers	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	$	$	$
1954								
Quebec	5	2	7	4	18	21,263	27,340	48,603
Ontario	85	48	569	247	949	644,985	2,339,881	2,984,866
Other[1]	36	11	127	57	231	199,618	468,343	667,961
Canada	**126**	**61**	**703**	**308**	**1,198**	**865,866**	**2,835,564**	**3,701,430**
1955								
Quebec	7	4	14	16	41	30,664	48,979	79,643
Ontario	83	50	543	225	901	635,403	2,207,018	2,842,421
Other[1]	44	15	133	57	249	329,628	484,244	813,872
Canada	**134**	**69**	**690**	**298**	**1,191**	**995,695**	**2,740,241**	**3,735,936**

1. Includes one establishment in Newfoundland, one in Nova Scotia, and three in British Columbia.

TABLE 10. Monthly Employment of Production Workers, 1953-1955

	1953			1954			1955		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number								
January	755	412	1,167	697	326	1,023	720	317	1,037
February	762	403	1,165	747	319	1,066	705	322	1,027
March	718	364	1,082	719	314	1,033	700	308	1,008
April	713	357	1,070	700	314	1,014	706	309	1,015
May	701	334	1,035	691	303	994	704	312	1,016
June	691	318	1,009	709	309	1,018	700	311	1,011
July	610	261	871	694	304	998	689	300	989
August	546	233	779	687	292	979	673	274	947
September	583	280	863	687	302	989	670	280	950
October	596	301	897	689	293	982	660	275	935
November	616	305	921	711	305	1,016	672	296	968
December	614	306	920	697	301	998	663	272	935
Monthly average	**657**	**324**	**981**	**703**	**308**	**1,011**	**690**	**298**	**988**

TABLE 11. Estimated Capital, Repair and Maintenance Expenditures 1946-1955

(Thousand of dollars)

Year	Capital expenditures			Repair and maintenance expenditures			Capital, repair and maintenance expenditures		
	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Sub-total	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Sub-total	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total
1946	..	..	340	..	..	469	..	..	809
1947	..	..	125	111	424	535	173	549	722
1948	..	..	361	..	..	519	108	772	880
1949	..	..	226	127	372	499	133	592	725
1950	..	..	222	152	293	445	173	494	667
1951	215	363	578	174	464	638	389	827	1,216
1952	..	..	551	154	461	615	232	934	1,166
1953	..	..	625	..	..	437	137	925	1,062
1954	..	..	415	..	..	505	122	798	920
1955[1]	..	..	304	..	..	442	145	601	746

1. Figures for 1955 are preliminary.

TABLE 12. Mechanical Equipment, 1954 and 1955

—	1954	1955
	No.	No.
Spindles which consumed fibre during the year	3,595	3,414
Spindles which consumed no fibre during the year	510	623
Twisting and doubling spindles	757	789
Looms	—	—
Braiding machines	293	301
Rope machines	146	138
Winding machines	284	300
Netting	22	25

List of Cordage, Rope and Twine Manufacturers Operating in Canada in 1955

Name of firm	Location	Products made
Newfoundland:		
Colonial Cordage Company Ltd.	St. John's	Rope, twine, yarn, lines
Nova Scotia:		
Plymouth Cordage Co. of Canada, Ltd. (H.O. Welland, Ontario)	Wyse Road, Dartmouth	Binder twine, Rope, twine
Quebec:		
Beaver Mfg. Co. Reg.	1,000 Charles Garner St., Drummondville	Rope
Bolduc, C.N. Manufacturing Co.	12 College St., Lennoxville	Rope
Braided Products Ltd.	530 Greene Ave., Montreal	Fishing lines, etc.
Dominion Wire Rope & Cable Co., Ltd. (Synthetic Cordage Div.)	175 St. Joseph St., Lachine	Rope
Kenyon William, & Sons (Canada) Ltd.	Cabana & Berard St., Granby	Rope
Ontario:		
Algonquin Line & Thread Co. Ltd.	6 Bartlett Avenue, Toronto	Fishing lines etc.
Brantford Cordage Co. Ltd., The	111 Brant St., Brantford	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine
Brooks Limited, John S.	722 Broad St., E., Dunville	Fish netting
Derrett Cordage Co.	6 Bartlett Avenue, Toronto	Twines, lines
Doon Twines Ltd.	50 Ottawa St., S., Kitchener	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine, yarn
International Harvester Co. of Canada Ltd.	208 Hillyard Street, Hamilton	Baler twine, binder twine
Plymouth Cordage Co. of Canada Ltd.	229 Plymouth Road. Welland	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine
British Columbia:		
Canada Ropes Ltd.	377 No. 3 Road, Lulu Island	Rope
Canada Western Cordage Co., Ltd. (H.O. 20 Water St., Vancouver	Braid St., New Westminster	Rope, twine
First Vancouver Net Factory Ltd.	121 Main St., Vancouver	Fish nets, twines