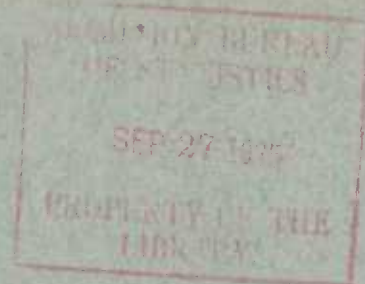


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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT

ON THE

CORSET INDUSTRY

IN

CANADA

1934

Published by Authority of the HON. R. B. HANSON, K.C.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA
1935

NOTE:-The statistics published in this report include only those of such manufacturing establishments which have corsets and kindred articles as their principal product. Statistics relating to specific products such as corsets, combination garments, brassieres, bandeaux, waists, etc., are not to be regarded as comprehensive for they are also produced to some extent in the women's clothing, men's furnishings, rubber goods, hats and caps and other industries.

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.)
Acting Chief, General Manufactures Branch:	A. Cohen, B.Com.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Reports were received in 1934 from twenty-three establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles. This represents an increase of three over the previous year. These establishments represent a capital investment of \$3,550,473 in fixed and current assets. They furnished employment to 1,598 persons who received \$1,274,845 in salaries and wages. They also produced goods with a selling value at the factory of \$4,461,409 from materials costing \$2,062,352, leaving the value added by manufacture at \$2,399,057.

This industry is confined to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec with the latter having the greater share of the output. In 1934, 60 per cent of the employees, 62 per cent of the capital and 53 per cent of the value of production were reported by firms located in the province of Quebec.

Conditions in 1934 were materially better than in the previous year. The number of employees was increased by 100 with an increase of \$119,866 in the amount paid out in salaries and wages. The value of production was \$292,824 higher which is in part due to an increase of \$180,990 for the cost of materials used. The increase in the value added by manufacture was, therefore, only \$111,834. In spite of increased production, the capital invested was \$189,703 lower. This is partly accounted for by current charges for depreciation in fixed assets.

The principal item of production in this industry is, of course, corsets, and in 1934 production totalled 140,999 dozen valued at \$2,373,727. an average price of \$16.83 per dozen. This represents 53.2 per cent of the total production in 1934. Figures for 1933 were: 136,472 dozen valued at \$2,256,651 or \$16.61 per dozen, representing 54.1 per cent of the total production. The output of combination garments in 1934 was 55,941 dozen worth \$1,106,653, while the corresponding figures for 1933 were: 64,117 dozen valued at \$1,125,073. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$560,292 in 1934 and \$503,695 in 1933. These various items are shown in detail in table 3.

By referring to table 6 it will be observed that in 1934 ten establishments had a production valued at \$3,650,162 or 81.8 per cent of the total, that seven establishments supplied \$2,583,666 or 72.8 per cent of the total capital investment, and also that four establishments furnished employment to 771 persons or 48.2 per cent of the total number employed.

Employment in this industry is steady throughout the year, there being but moderate monthly variations. Employment is at its height in the fall of the year with December and January being the months of lowest employment. The great majority of wage-earners in this industry are females who represent 88.7 per cent of the total. In view of the large number of women employed, the average wage is, therefore, considerably lower than the average for all manufacturing industries; the average in 1934 was \$572 as compared with an average of \$545 the previous year.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Imports of corsets are very small compared with the Canadian production. In 1934 only \$14,292 worth were imported. Exports are, however, much higher. Exports of corsets and brassieres were valued at \$44,936 in 1934 as against \$28,404 in 1933. Newfoundland, Sweden, British South Africa and New Zealand were the principal importers.

The tables that follow give detailed statistics on production, materials used, employment, imports, exports, etc.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1924-1934.

Year and Provinces	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production	Value added by Manufacture
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$
1924	16	4,108,057	1,397	978,687	2,134,564	4,038,985	1,904,421
1925	17	4,224,722	1,461	1,110,282	2,330,165	4,314,309	1,984,144
1926	16	4,129,882	1,307	1,060,989	2,241,554	4,048,926	1,807,372
1927	16	4,806,157	1,351	1,009,495	1,925,962	3,791,748	1,865,786
1928	16	4,917,408	1,418	1,124,284	2,055,416	4,246,948	2,191,532
1929	17	5,327,991	1,405	1,084,231	2,098,351	4,219,019	2,120,668
1930	19	5,277,642	1,482	1,097,037	2,221,313	4,578,847	2,357,534
1931	20	4,812,464	1,508	1,124,990	2,054,461	4,187,647	2,133,186
<u>1 9 3 2</u>							
CANADA ..	19	3,961,935	1,517	1,202,228	1,812,233	4,267,671	2,455,438
Quebec	6	2,173,283	856	585,109	1,045,598	2,245,601	1,200,003
Ontario	13	1,788,652	661	617,119	766,635	2,022,070	1,255,435
<u>1 9 3 3</u>							
CANADA ..	20	3,740,176	1,498	1,154,979	1,881,362	4,168,585	2,287,223
Quebec	8	2,139,046	868	594,922	1,092,156	2,265,387	1,173,231
Ontario	12	1,601,130	630	560,057	789,206	1,903,198	1,113,992
<u>1 9 3 4</u>							
CANADA ..	23	3,550,473	1,598	1,274,845	2,062,352	4,461,409	2,399,057
Quebec	9	2,189,930	952	656,709	1,202,483	2,370,789	1,268,306
Ontario	14	1,360,543	646	618,136	859,869	2,090,620	1,130,751

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1933 and 1934.

Items	1 9 3 3	1 9 3 4	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting No.	20	23	+ 3
Capital invested \$	3,740,176	3,550,473	- 189,703
Employees on salaries -			
Total No.	291	369	+ 78
Male No.	139	172	+ 33
Female No.	152	197	+ 45
Total salaries \$	497,065	571,615	+ 74,550
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average No.	1,207	1,229	+ 22
Male No.	137	139	+ 2
Female No.	1,070	1,090	+ 20
Total wages \$	657,914	703,230	+ 45,316
Power equipment -			
Units No.	121	201	+ 80
Horse-power capacity H.P.	414	590	+ 176
Cost of fuel and electricity \$	19,384	20,008	+ 624
Cost of materials used \$	1,881,362	2,062,352	+ 180,990
Gross value of production \$	4,168,585	4,461,409	+ 292,824
Value added by manufacture \$	2,287,223	2,399,057	+ 111,834

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 3. - Production, 1933 and 1934.

Table 3. — Production, 1933 and 1934.					
Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1933		1934	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Corsets -					
Cotton	Dozen	20,411	423,879	38,307	639,681
Silk and satin	"	1,031	28,607	551	16,287
Artificial silk and mixtures.	"	11,492	305,423	10,871	317,797
Elastic	"	4,838	93,614	13,144	193,355
Not specified	"	98,700	1,405,128	78,126	1,206,607
Combination garments -					
Cotton	Dozen	9,050	214,766	4,028	121,015
Silk and satin	"	489	18,196	390	10,534
Artificial silk and mixtures.	"	7,801	179,344	6,971	171,171
Not specified	"	46,777	712,767	44,552	803,933
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton	Dozen	23,048	116,623	15,074	94,824
Silk and satin	"	4,314	25,393	7,173	25,823
Artificial silk and mixtures.	"	14,025	63,081	20,274	102,008
Not specified	"	56,801	298,598	70,970	337,637
Surgical belts and other					
surgical garments	Dozen	-	-	805	41,261
Children's waists	"	5,713	23,135	4,733	18,126
Underwear, silk, artificial silk and other	"	3,485	38,929	5,155	43,438
Garters	"	9,132	29,960	23,844	46,354
Girdles, suspender	"	8,674	94,630	15,141	185,257
Sanitary belts	-	-	13,435	-	18,679
Shoulder braces and straps	Dozen	-	-	4,278	12,360
All other products	-	-	80,732	-	53,141
Repairs and replacements	-	-	2,345	-	2,121
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS ...		-	4,168,585	-	4,461,409

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 4. - Materials Used, 1933 and 1934.

		1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory \$	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory \$
Fabrics ..					
Cotton and coutil	Yards	1,128,005	294,613	1,389,006	340,023
Silk and satin	"	294,208	128,644	216,669	117,741
Artificial silk	"	387,901	141,901	370,877	132,657
Sateen and brocade	"	132,555	127,397	156,331	148,298
All other	"	263,905	66,006	275,494	57,863
Elastic webbing	-	-	491,815	-	547,614
Lace, ribbon and embroidery .	-	-	50,384	-	54,207
Tapes and bindings	Gross	52,452	98,814	49,984	101,828
Hook and eye tape	-	-	85,034	-	49,130
Corset laces	Gross	6,678	22,297	9,767	26,016
Steels	-	-	70,340	-	77,297
Boning wire	-	-	56,701	-	69,277
Trimmings	-	-	12,133	-	12,655
Buttons	-	-	8,316	-	7,688
Eyelets, clasps, loops and buckles	-	-	49,842	-	48,270
Garter parts	-	-	44,982	-	47,605
Thread	-	-	27,525	-	29,134
Knitted goods	-	-	30,390	-	27,761
All other materials	-	-	35,170	-	140,647
Packing and shipping materials	-	-	39,058	-	26,641
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS.		-	1,881,362	-	2,062,352

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1927-1934.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital			Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Materials on hand, Stocks in process, Fuel and Mis- cellaneous supplies, etc.	Inventory value of finished products on hand	Cash, bills and accounts receivable, Prepaid expenses, etc.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1927	1,296,761	1 179,510		2,329,886	4,806,157
1928	1,248,304	1,260,251		2,408,853	4,917,408
1929	1,334,252	1,234,056		2,759,683	5,327,991
1930	1,715,402	1,357,547		2,204,693	5,277,642
1931	1,772,949	780,817	389,000	1,869,698	4,812,464
<u>1 9 3 2</u>					
CANADA	1,635,486	693,211	339,667	1,293,571	3,961,935
Quebec	795,683	394,317	231,646	751,637	2,173,283
Ontario	839,803	298,894	108,021	541,934	1,788,652
<u>1 9 3 3</u>					
CANADA	1,770,535	812,856	377,778	779,007	3,740,176
Quebec	932,792	529,052	241,383	435,819	2,139,046
Ontario	837,743	283,804	136,395	343,188	1,601,130
<u>1 9 3 4</u>					
CANADA	1,344,600	841,918	381,096	982,859	3,550,473
Quebec	897,407	556,139	247,369	489,015	2,189,930
Ontario	447,193	285,779	133,727	493,844	1,360,543

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 6. - Size of Establishments, 1933 and 1934.

Establishments having a Production of: -	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	6	144,404	24,067	7	168,277	24,040
\$50,000 to under \$200,000	4	372,081	93,020	6	642,970	107,162
\$200,000 and over ..	10	3,597,890	359,789	10	3,650,162	365,016
TOTAL AND AVERAGE.	20	4,114,375	205,719	23	4,461,409	193,975

Establishments having a Capital Investment of: -	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab- lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	6	102,171	17,029	8	152,359	19,045
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	200,452	66,817	4	278,170	69,543
\$100,000 to under \$200,000	6	936,244	156,041	4	536,278	134,070
\$200,000 and over ..	5	2,501,309	500,262	7	2,583,666	369,095
TOTAL AND AVERAGE.	20	3,740,176	187,008	23	3,550,473	154,368

Establishments having an Average Employment of: -	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments Report- ing	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 employees .	5	48	9.6	7	80	11.4
20 to under 100 employees	10	602	60.2	12	747	62.3
100 employees and over	5	848	169.6	4	771	192.7
TOTAL AND AVERAGE.	20	1,498	74.9	23	1,598	69.5

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 7. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1933 and 1934.

		1 9 3 3	1 9 3 4
Salaries -			
Total	No.	291	369
Male	No.	139	172
Female	No.	152	197
Total salaries	\$	497,065	571,615
Wage-earners -			
Monthly average	No.	1,207	1,229
Male	No.	137	139
Female	No.	1,070	1,090
Total wages	\$	657,914	703,230
All Employees -			
Total	No.	1,498	1,598
Male	No.	276	311
Female	No.	1,222	1,287
Total salaries and wages	\$	1,154,979	1,274,845

Table 8. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1932-1934.

	1 9 3 2			1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
Months	Male No.	Female No.	Total No.	Male No.	Female No.	Total No.	Male No.	Female No.	Total No.
January	125	1,034	1,159	137	1,002	1,139	137	1,040	1,177
February	133	1,069	1,202	134	1,066	1,200	139	1,094	1,233
March	135	1,099	1,234	134	1,081	1,215	139	1,114	1,253
April	134	1,097	1,231	135	1,073	1,208	138	1,093	1,231
May	133	1,112	1,245	134	1,090	1,224	138	1,105	1,243
June	133	1,068	1,201	135	1,101	1,236	137	1,080	1,217
July	134	1,036	1,170	135	1,065	1,200	139	1,088	1,227
August	134	1,076	1,210	136	1,081	1,217	142	1,084	1,226
September	132	1,088	1,220	138	1,081	1,219	143	1,107	1,250
October	132	1,038	1,170	138	1,100	1,238	142	1,115	1,257
November	133	1,041	1,174	139	1,075	1,214	143	1,086	1,229
December	131	1,032	1,163	139	1,031	1,170	143	1,029	1,172
MONTHLY AVERAGE.	133	1,066	1,199	137	1,070	1,207	139	1,090	1,229

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 9. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment and Their Regular Hours of Work in 1933 and 1934.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	
	1933	1934		1933	1934
40 hours or less ..	74	79	51-53 hours	90	96
41-43 hours	82	82	54 hours	16	16
44 hours	627	459	55 hours	109	95
45-47 hours	19	328	56-59 hours	1	1
48 hours	1	177	60 hours	1	1
49-50 hours	294	119	Over 60 hours	1	1

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 10. - Power Installation, 1933 and 1934.

Classes of Power	1933		1934	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horse-power Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines	1	100	1	110
Electric motors operated by purchased power	120	314	200	480
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	121	414	201	590
Electric motors operated by power generated in the establishment	1	1	1	1
Total Electric Motors ..	120	314	200	480
Boiler installation	4	410	4	370

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 11. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1933 and 1934.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
			at Factory		at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous	(2000 Lb.)	924	6,122	1,009	6,759
Anthracite	"	69	738	137	1,486
Gasoline	Imp. Gal.	5	2	5	1
Kerosene or coal oil	Gal.	40	9	40	10
Fuel or diesel oil	"	18,989	1,250	3,166	285
Gas -					
Manufactured	M cu. ft.	39	45	72	45
Natural	M cu. ft.	-	-	-	-
Wood	Cords	3	18	2	12
TOTAL COST OF FUEL ..		-	8,184	-	8,598
Electricity purchased (including service charges)	Kw. H.	520,667	11,200	527,069	11,410
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY		-	19,384	-	20,008

Table 12. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, by Principal Countries, Calendar Years 1933 and 1934.

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corset clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires, cut to length, tipped or un- tipped; reed, rattan or horn covered -					
United Kingdom	-	-	5,918	-	3,663
United States	-	-	7,321	-	7,024
TOTAL	-	-	13,239	-	10,687
Metal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires -					
United Kingdom	-	-	19	-	192
United States	-	-	6,597	-	5,797
TOTAL	-	-	6,616	-	5,989

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 12. -- Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, by Principal Countries, Calendar Years 1933 and 1934. -- (Cont'd.)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Sheets, hoop, band or strip, for use exclusively in the manufacture of buckle clasps, bedfasts, furniture casters, corset steels, clock springs, shoe shanks, phonograph motor springs or ball bearings --					
United Kingdom	Cwt.	110	911	119	612
United States	"	3,605	25,896	6,640	48,183
Belgium	"	1,491	3,713	369	1,162
Other Countries	"	--	--	242	756
TOTAL	"	5,206	30,520	7,370	50,713
Wire of steel, flat or woven flat, including steel strip in the coil, coated or not, .064 inch in thickness or thinner, with tolerance not to exceed .002 inch, for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps, steels, wires and dress stays --					
United Kingdom	Cwt.	200	3,341	407	9,876
United States	"	3,014	42,051	2,171	34,286
Other Countries	"	--	--	40	784
TOTAL	"	3,214	45,392	2,618	44,946
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets, shoe eyelet hooks and shoe lace wire fasteners --					
United Kingdom	"	--	1,933	--	167
United States	"	--	125,011	--	134,609
Germany	"	--	25,068	--	23,333
Italy	"	--	6,253	--	4,114
TOTAL	"	--	158,265	--	162,223

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 12. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, by Principal Countries, Calendar Years 1933 and 1934. - (Concl'd.)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1933		1934	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Hoop, band or strip, being tagging metal, coated or not, for use exclusively in the manufacture of shoe and corset laces -					
United Kingdom	-	-	391	-	1,143
United States	-	-	7,132	-	5,794
Other Countries	-	-	-	-	85
TOTAL	-	-	7,523	-	7,022
Corsets of cotton -					
United Kingdom	Lb.	242	237	66	61
United States	"	3,897	10,193	3,648	11,853
France	"	888	5,264	217	1,469
Other Countries	"	4	18	-	-
TOTAL	"	5,031	15,712	3,931	13,383
Corsets of silk -					
United Kingdom	Oz.	56	69	-	-
United States	"	257	198	646	317
Other Countries	"	462	267	167	92
TOTAL	"	775	534	813	409
Corsets of artificial silk -					
United Kingdom	Oz.	1,040	79	-	-
United States	"	4,708	949	1,038	410
Other Countries	"	1,198	442	203	100
TOTAL	"	6,946	1,470	1,241	510

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

Table 13. - Exports of Corsets, by Principal Countries,
Calendar Years 1933 and 1934.

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Corsets and brassieres -					
United Kingdom	No.	6,605	9,485	11,646	17,725
United States	"	16	42	13	39
British West Indies	"	1,237	2,163	1,553	2,202
Newfoundland	"	13,322	9,914	16,344	10,966
New Zealand	"	2,914	4,578	1,403	3,350
British South Africa	"	306	597	4,272	3,439
Sweden	"	-	-	3,900	3,613
Italy	"	-	-	889	1,526
Other Countries	"	1,268	1,625	1,350	2,076
TOTAL EXPORTS	"	25,668	28,404	41,370	44,936

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1934.

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Company,	463 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal.
Fit to Form Fabrics Incorporated,	463 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal.
C. J. Grenier & Cie,	4853 Colonial Avenue, Montreal.
The Rubber Specialty Company,	3457 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal.
Dominion Corset Company Limited,	45 Dorchester Street, Quebec.
Parisian Corset Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,	599 St. Valier, Quebec.
Perfection Corset Company Limited,	38 rue Champlain, Quebec.
Spencer Corsets (Canada) Limited,	Rock Island.
The E. T. Corset Company Limited,	46 Laframboise Street, St. Hyacinthe.

ONTARIO

Spirella Company of Canada Limited,	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls.
The Nu-Bone Corset Company of Canada Ltd.,	64 Niagara Street, St. Catharines.
F. J. Allward Company Limited,	600 Bay Street, Toronto 2.
The Canadian H. W. Gossard Company Limited,	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.
Charis Limited,	864 Lake Shore Road, New Toronto.
The T. Eaton Company Limited,	190 Yonge Street, Toronto 2.
Eisman & Company Limited,	144 Front Street West, Toronto 2.
Grecian Health Corsets Company,	82 Chestnut Street, Toronto.
Kops Brothers Limited of Canada,	559 College Street, Toronto.
Lady Mac of Canada Limited,	91 Wellington Street West, Toronto.
A. Stein & Company Limited,	41 Peter Street, Toronto.
Tru-Form Corset Company Limited,	182 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934.

ONTARIO - (Concl'd.)

M. J. Walsh (Miss),
Woolnough Limited,

601 College Street, Toronto 4.
63 Wellington Street West, Toronto 4.

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