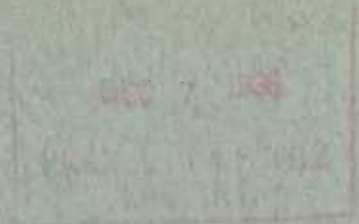


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CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH

REPORT
ON THE
CORSET INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1935

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OTTAWA
1936

NOTE:- The statistics published in this report cover only those 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 the total for Canada 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.).
Chief, General Manufactures Branch:	A. Cohen, B.Com.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Reports were received in 1935 from twenty-two establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles. This represents a decrease of one over the previous year. These establishments represent a capital investment of \$3,318,490 in fixed and current assets. They furnished employment to 1,607 persons who received \$1,234,468 in salaries and wages. They also produced goods with a selling value at the factory of \$4,357,362 from materials costing \$1,970,414.

This industry is confined to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with the latter having the greater share of the output. In 1935, 59 per cent of the employees, 65 per cent of the capital and 53 per cent of the value of production were reported by firms located in the province of Quebec.

The corset industry did not keep pace with the general improvement attained by the manufacturing industries in 1935. With the exception of a slight increase in the number of employees, all the other factors of production were somewhat lower than in the previous year. The value of production decreased by 2.3 per cent, salaries and wages paid 3.2 per cent and capital employed 3.7 per cent.

The principal item of production in this industry is corsets, and in 1935 production totalled 138,232 dozen valued at \$2,347,188, an average price of \$16.99 per dozen. This represents 53.8 per cent of the total production in 1935. Figures for 1934 were: 140,999 dozen valued at \$2,373,727, or \$16.83 per dozen, representing 53.2 per cent of the total production. The output of combination garments in 1935 was 52,613 dozen worth \$1,112,672, while the corresponding figures for 1934 were: 55,941 dozen valued at \$1,106,653. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$536,352 in 1935 and \$560,292 in 1934. These various items are shown in detail in table 3.

By referring to table 6, it will be observed that in 1935 nine establishments had a production valued at \$3,354,946, or 77 per cent of the total, that four establishments supplied \$1,911,409, or 57.6 per cent of the total capital investment, and also that four establishments furnished employment to 766 persons, or 47.7 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 spring of the year with July and August being the months of lowest employment. The great majority of wage-earners in this industry are females who represent 88.1 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 1935 was \$573 as compared with an average of \$572 the previous year.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Imports of corsets are very small compared with the Canadian production. In 1935 only \$1,848 worth were imported. Exports are, however, much higher. Exports of corsets and brassieres were valued at \$49,399 in 1935 as against \$44,936 in 1934.

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

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1924 to 1935.

Year and Provinces	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1924	16	4,108,057	1,397	978,687	2,134,564	4,038,985
1925	17	4,224,722	1,461	1,110,282	2,330,165	4,314,309
1926	16	4,129,882	1,307	1,060,989	2,241,554	4,048,926
1927	16	4,806,157	1,351	1,009,495	1,925,962	3,791,748
1928	16	4,917,408	1,418	1,124,284	2,055,416	4,246,948
1929	17	5,327,991	1,405	1,084,231	2,098,351	4,219,019
1930	19	5,277,642	1,482	1,097,037	2,221,313	4,578,847
1931	20	4,812,464	1,508	1,124,990	2,054,461	4,187,647
1932	19	3,961,935	1,517	1,202,228	1,812,233	4,267,671
<u>1 9 3 3</u>						
CANADA	20	3,740,176	1,498	1,154,979	1,881,362	4,168,585
Quebec	8	2,139,046	868	594,922	1,092,156	2,265,387
Ontario	12	1,601,130	630	560,057	789,206	1,903,198
<u>1 9 3 4</u>						
CANADA	23	3,550,473	1,598	1,274,845	2,062,352	4,461,409
Quebec	9	2,189,930	952	656,709	1,202,483	2,370,789
Ontario	14	1,360,543	646	618,136	859,869	2,090,620
<u>1 9 3 5</u>						
CANADA	22	3,318,490	1,607	1,234,468	1,970,414	4,357,362
Quebec	8	2,165,168	956	608,078	1,106,267	2,316,374
Ontario	14	1,153,322	651	626,390	864,147	2,040,988

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1934 and 1935.

Items	1 9 3 4	1 9 3 5	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting No.	23	22	- 1
Capital invested \$	3,550,473	3,318,490	- 231,983
Employees on salaries -			
Total No.	369	369	-
Male No.	172	159	- 13
Female No.	197	210	+ 13
Total salaries \$	571,615	524,756	- 46,859
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average No.	1,229	1,238	+ 9
Male No.	139	147	+ 8
Female No.	1,090	1,091	+ 1
Total wages \$	703,230	709,712	+ 6,482
Power equipment -			
Units No.	201	204	+ 3
Horsepower capacity H.P.	590	595	+ 5
Cost of fuel and electricity ... \$	20,008	18,942	- 1,066
Cost of materials used \$	2,062,352	1,970,414	- 91,938
Gross value of production \$	4,461,409	4,357,362	- 104,047

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 3. - Production, 1934 and 1935.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1934		1935	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Corsets -					
Cotton	Dozen	38,307	639,681	43,705	763,232
Silk and satin	"	551	16,287	1,405	34,758
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	10,871	317,797	13,609	373,976
Elastic	"	13,144	193,355	16,218	203,037
All other, material not specified	"	78,126	1,206,607	63,295	972,205
Combination garments -					
Cotton	Dozen	4,028	121,015	4,076	122,231
Silk and satin	"	390	10,534	899	28,249
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	6,971	171,171	16,537	334,759
All other, material not specified	"	44,552	803,933	31,101	627,433
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton	Dozen	15,074	94,824	21,279	106,990
Silk and satin	"	7,173	25,823	7,961	33,058
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	20,274	102,008	21,170	117,242
All other, material not specified	"	70,970	337,637	53,929	281,062
Surgical belts and other surgical garments	Dozen	805	41,261	1,888	49,902
Children's waists	"	4,733	18,126	6,507	22,205
Underwear, silk, artificial silk and other	"	5,155	43,438	5,619	44,168
Garters	"	23,844	46,354	22,001	42,939
Girdles, suspender, etc. .	"	15,141	185,257	12,496	140,172
Sanitary belts	"	-	18,679	-	14,067
Shoulder braces and straps	Dozen	4,278	12,360	3,648	12,667
All other products	-	-	53,141	-	34,323
Repairs and replacements .	-	-	2,121	-	707
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS	-	-	4,461,409	-	4,357,362

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 4. - Materials Used, 1934 and 1935.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Fabrics -					
Cotton and coutil ..	Yard	1,389,006	340,023	1,302,841	327,246
Silk and satin	"	216,669	117,741	216,125	106,428
Artificial silk	"	370,877	132,657	355,951	133,277
Sateen and brocade ..	"	156,331	148,298	152,561	133,794
All other	"	275,494	57,863	-	113,546
Elastic webbing	-	-	547,614	-	488,399
Lace, ribbon and embroidery	-	-	54,207	-	55,872
Tapes and bindings	Gross	49,984	101,828	-	90,948
Hook and eye tape	-	-	49,130	-	47,615
Corset laces	Gross	9,767	26,016	-	27,041
Steels	-	-	77,297	-	78,176
Boning wire	-	-	69,277	-	69,015
Trimmings	-	-	12,655	-	15,826
Buttons	-	-	7,688	-	6,518
Eyelets, clasps, loops and buckles	-	-	48,270	-	47,839
Garter parts	-	-	47,605	-	43,953
Thread	-	-	29,134	-	30,570
Knitted goods	-	-	27,761	-	-
All other materials ..	-	-	140,647	-	122,336
Packing and shipping materials	-	-	26,641	-	32,015
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED	-	-	2,062,352	-	1,970,414

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1927 to 1935.

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
1932	1,635,486	693,211	339,667	1,293,571	3,961,935
<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
<u>1 9 3 5</u>					
CANADA	1,428,779	1,136,306		753,405	3,318,490
Quebec	962,087	754,377		448,704	2,165,168
Ontario	466,692	381,929		304,701	1,153,322

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 6. - Size of Establishments, 1934 and 1935.

Establishments Having a Production of: -	1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5		
	Estab- lish- ments	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	7	168,277	24,040	6	161,676	26,946
\$50,000 to under \$200,000	6	642,970	107,162	7	840,740	120,106
\$200,000 and over .	10	3,650,162	365,016	9	3,354,946	372,772
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	23	4,461,409	193,975	22	4,357,362	198,062
Establishments having a Capital Investment of: -	Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab- lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	8	152,359	19,045	7	167,702	23,958
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	4	278,170	69,543	5	366,929	73,386
\$100,000 to under \$200,000	4	536,278	134,070	6	872,450	145,408
\$200,000 and over .	7	2,583,666	369,095	4	1,911,409	477,852
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	23	3,550,473	154,368	22	3,318,490	150,840
Establishments having an Average Employment of: -	Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 employees.	7	80	11.4	6	72	12.0
20 to under 100 employees	12	747	62.3	12	769	64.0
100 employees and over	4	771	192.7	4	766	191.5
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	23	1,598	69.5	22	1,607	73.0

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 7. - Employees by Sex and Remmeration, 1934 and 1935.

		1 9 3 4	1 9 3 5
Salaried Employees -			
Total	No.	369	369
Male	No.	172	159
Female	No.	197	210
Total salaries	\$	571,615	524,756
Wage-earners -			
Monthly average	No.	1,229	1,238
Male	No.	139	147
Female	No.	1,090	1,091
Total wages	\$	703,230	709,712
All Employees -			
Total	No.	1,598	1,607
Male	No.	311	306
Female	No.	1,287	1,301
Total salaries and wages	\$	1,274,845	1,234,468

Table 8. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1933 to 1935.

	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5		
Months	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	137	1,002	1,139	137	1,040	1,177	142	1,121	1,263
February	134	1,066	1,200	139	1,094	1,233	149	1,106	1,255
March	134	1,081	1,215	139	1,114	1,253	151	1,140	1,291
April	135	1,073	1,208	138	1,093	1,231	147	1,087	1,234
May	134	1,090	1,224	138	1,105	1,243	145	1,092	1,237
June	135	1,101	1,236	137	1,080	1,217	145	1,069	1,214
July	135	1,065	1,200	139	1,088	1,227	145	1,068	1,213
August	136	1,081	1,217	142	1,084	1,226	145	1,065	1,210
September	138	1,081	1,219	143	1,107	1,250	146	1,070	1,216
October	138	1,100	1,238	142	1,115	1,257	145	1,078	1,223
November	139	1,075	1,214	143	1,086	1,229	145	1,089	1,234
December	139	1,031	1,170	143	1,029	1,172	145	1,084	1,229
MONTHLY AVERAGE	137	1,070	1,207	139	1,090	1,229	147	1,091	1,238

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 9. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment and Their Regular Hours of Work in 1934 and 1935.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	
	1934	1935		1934	1935
40 hours or less	79	64	51-53 hours	96	75
41-43 hours	-	22	54 hours	-	-
44 hours	459	322	55 hours	95	103
45-47 hours	328	408	56-59 hours	1	1
48 hours	177	227	60 hours and over ...	-	-
49-50 hours	119	116			

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 10. - Power Installation, 1934 and 1935.

Classes of Power	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines	1	110	1	110
Electric motors operated by purchased power ...	200	480	203	485
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	201	590	204	595
Boiler installation	4	370	4	370

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 11. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1934 and 1935.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
		Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
			at Factory		at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous	(2000 Lbs.)	1,009	6,759	525	3,374
Anthracite	"	137	1,486	288	2,117
Coke	"	-	-	315	1,967
Gasoline	Imp. Gal.	5	1	5	2
Kerosene or coal oil ...	Gal.	40	10	40	10
Fuel or diesel oil	"	3,166	285	3,700	352
Gas -					
Manufactured	M cu. ft.	72	45	35	38
Wood	Cord	2	12	2	14
TOTAL COST OF FUEL.	-	-	8,598	-	7,874
Electricity purchased (including service charges)	Kw. H.	527,069	11,410	517,656	11,068
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	20,008	-	18,942

Table 12. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1934 and 1935.

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corset clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires, cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	-	-	10,687	-	9,136
Metal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires	-	-	5,989	-	5,737

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

Table 12. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1934 and 1935. - (Concl'd.)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
		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	Cwt.	7,370	50,713	8,978	51,518
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	Cwt.	2,618	44,946	3,122	50,181
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets, shoe eyelet hooks and shoe lace wire fasteners	-	-	162,223	-	186,051
Hoop, band or strip, being tagging metal, coated or not, for use exclusively in the manufacture of shoe and corset laces	-	-	7,022	-	5,004
Corsets of cotton	Lb.	3,931	13,383	612	1,378
Corsets of silk	Oz.	813	409	117	220
Corsets of artificial silk ..	"	1,241	510	576	250

Table 13. - Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1934 and 1935.

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corsets and brassieres	No.	41,370	44,936	43,166	49,399

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1935.

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1935.

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Company,	463 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal.
C. J. Grenier & Cie,	4835 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 Street, Quebec.
Perfection Corset Company Limited,	38 Champlain Street, 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 Ltd.,	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.
Charis Limited,	364 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.
M. J. Walsh (Miss),	601 College Street, Toronto 4.
Woolnough Limited,	63 Wellington Street West, Toronto 4.

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