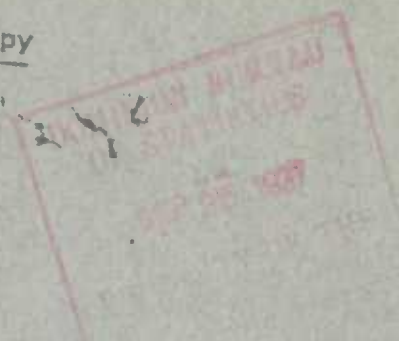


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CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH

REPORT
ON THE
CORSET INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1936

Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA
1937

Price 15 cents

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

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THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

In 1936 reports were received from twenty-three establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, an increase of one over the number reporting in 1935. Goods with a selling value at the factory of \$4,397,141 were produced, and the 1,555 persons employed received \$1,289,015 in salaries and wages. Materials used cost \$1,956,071. The total capital investment in both fixed and current assets was \$3,318,953.

This industry is confined to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with the latter having the greater share of the output. In 1936 62.9 per cent of the employees, 70.3 per cent of the capital and 56.4 per cent of the value of production were reported by firms located in the Province of Quebec.

In 1935 the corset industry did not keep pace with the general improvement attained by the manufacturing industries as a whole and in 1936 only minor variations from the previous year are evident. The value of production increased by .9 per cent, salaries and wages paid 4.4 per cent and capital employed .01 per cent, while the number of persons employed decreased by 3.2 per cent and the cost of materials used .7 per cent. The \$1,289,015 paid out in salaries and wages in 1936, however, was the largest amount ever disbursed for that purpose in the industry.

The principal item of production in this industry is corsets, and in 1936 production totalled 133,774 dozen valued at \$2,295,842, an average price of \$17.16 per dozen. This represented 52.2 per cent of the total production in 1936. In 1935 138,232 dozen valued at \$2,347,188, or \$16.98 per dozen, were produced, representing 53.8 per cent of the total production. The output of combination garments in 1936 was 58,676 dozen worth \$1,237,589 while the corresponding production in 1935 was 52,613 dozen valued at \$1,112,672. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$606,097 in 1936 and \$536,352 in 1935. The various items are shown in detail in table 3.

By referring to table 5, it will be observed that in 1936 ten establishments had a production valued at \$3,713,106, or 84.4 per cent of the total, that four establishments supplied \$2,037,482 or 61.4 per cent of the total capital investment, and that five establishments furnished employment to 895 persons or 57.5 per cent of the total number employed.

Employment in this industry is fairly steady throughout the year, there being but moderate monthly variations. In 1936 employment was at its height in October, with January and December being the months of lowest employment. The great majority of wage-earners in this industry are females, and they represented 88.5 per cent of the total in 1936. Because of the large number of women employed, the average wage paid is considerably lower than the average in all manufacturing industries. The average wage paid in 1936 was \$600 as compared with \$573 in 1935.

Imports of corsets are very small compared with the Canadian production. In 1936 only \$1,283 worth were imported. Exports are, however, much higher. Exports of corsets and brassieres were valued at \$54,261 in 1936 as against \$49,399 in 1935.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

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

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1924 to 1936.

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
1933	20	3,740,176	1,498	1,154,979	1,881,362	4,168,585
<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
<u>1 9 3 6</u>						
CANADA.....	23	3,318,953	1,555	1,289,015	1,956,071	4,397,141
Quebec.....	10	2,332,083	978	689,741	1,161,915	2,480,499
Ontario.....	13	986,870	577	599,274	794,156	1,916,642

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1935 and 1936.

Items		1 9 3 5	1 9 3 6	+ Increase	
				- Decrease	
Establishments reporting.....	No.	22	23	+	1
Capital invested	\$	3,318,490	3,318,953	+	463
Employees on salaries					
Total.....	No.	369	368	+	1
Male.....	No.	159	162	+	3
Female.....	No.	210	206	-	4
Total salaries.....	\$	524,756	575,756	+	51,000
Employees on wages					
Monthly average.....	No.	1,238	1,187	-	51
Male.....	No.	147	136	-	11
Female.....	No.	1,091	1,051	-	40
Total wages.....	\$	709,712	713,259	+	3,547
Power equipment					
Units.....	No.	204	207	+	3
Horsepower capacity.....	H.P.	595	604	+	9
Cost of fuel and electricity....	\$	18,942	20,000	+	1,058
Cost of materials used.....	\$	1,970,414	1,956,071	-	14,343
Gross value of production.....	\$	4,357,362	4,397,141	+	39,779

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 3. - Production, 1935 and 1936.

Principal Products		1935		1936	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Corsets -					
Cotton.....	Dozen	43,705	763,232	40,331	776,754
Silk and satin.....	"	1,405	34,738	3,667	109,321
Artificial silk and mixtures.....	"	13,609	373,976	15,693	459,545
Elastic.....	"	16,218	203,037	24,733	358,895
All other, material not specified.....	"	63,295	972,205	49,350	591,327
Combination garments -					
Cotton.....	Dozen	4,076	122,231	4,105	138,492
Silk and satin.....	"	899	28,249	4,043	125,500
Artificial silk and mixtures.....	"	16,537	334,759	16,101	341,707
Elastic.....	"	3,305	86,630	6,693	204,717
All other, material not specified.....	"	27,796	540,803	21,070	328,248
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton.....	Dozen	21,279	106,990	31,290	152,544
Silk and satin.....	"	7,961	31,058	16,733	70,308
Artificial silk and mixtures.....	"	21,170	117,242	26,420	168,499
All other, material not specified.....	"	53,929	281,062	49,831	214,746
Surgical belts and other surgical garments....					
Children's waists.....	Dozen	1,888	49,902	1,601	49,404
Underwear, silk, artificial silk and other.....	"	6,507	22,205	6,664	98,925
Garters.....	"	5,619	44,168	7,824	55,010
Girdles, suspender, etc....	"	22,001	42,939	21,838	41,726
Sanitary belts.....	"	12,496	140,172	6,122	58,848
Shoulder braces and straps.....	-	-	14,067	-	12,576
All other products.....	Dozen	3,648	12,667	4,056	8,053
Repairs and replacements...	-	-	34,323	-	31,462
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS.....					
		-	4,357,362	-	4,397,141

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1927 to 1936.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Inventory value of materials on hand, stocks in process, finished products, fuel and miscel- laneous supplies on hand.	Operating Capital (Cash, bills and accounts receivable Prepaid ex- penses, 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	1,169,817	1,869,698	4,812,464
1932.....	1,635,486	1,032,878	1,293,571	3,961,935
1933.....	1,770,535	1,190,634	779,007	3,740,176
<u>1 9 3 4</u>				
CANADA.....	1,344,600	1,223,014	982,859	3,550,473
Quebec.....	897,407	803,508	489,015	2,189,930
Ontario.....	447,193	419,506	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
<u>1 9 3 6</u>				
CANADA.....	1,379,463	1,269,713	669,777	3,318,953
Quebec.....	1,019,602	895,609	416,872	2,332,083
Ontario.....	359,861	374,104	252,905	986,870

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 5. - Size of Establishments, 1935 and 1936.

Establishments having a production of:	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	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.....	6	161,676	26,946	7	140,080	20,011
\$50,000 to under \$200,000.....	7	840,740	120,106	6	543,955	90,659
\$200,000 and over.	9	3,354,946	372,772	10	3,713,106	371,311
TOTAL AND AVERAGE.	22	4,357,362	198,062	23	4,397,141	191,180

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.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000.....	7	167,702	23,958	11	270,572	24,597
\$50,000 to under \$100,000.....	5	366,929	73,386)	8	1,010,899	126,362
\$100,000 to under \$200,000.....	6	872,450	145,408)			
\$200,000 and over.	4	1,911,409	477,852	4	2,037,482	509,370
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	22	3,318,490	150,840	23	3,318,953	144,302

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.
Under 20 employees	6	72	12.0	8	76	9.5
20 to under 100 employees.....	12	769	64.0	10	584	58.4
100 employees and over.....	4	766	191.5	5	895	179.
TOTAL AND AVERAGE	22	1,607	73.0	23	1,555	67.6

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1935 and 1936.

		1 9 3 5	1 9 3 6
Salaried Employees -			
Total	No.	369	368
Male.....	No.	159	162
Female.....	No.	210	206
Total salaries.....	\$	524,756	575,756
Wage-earners -			
Monthly average.....	No.	1,238	1,187
Male.....	No.	147	136
Female.....	No.	1,091	1,051
Total wages.....	\$	709,712	713,259
All Employees -			
Total.....	No.	1,607	1,555
Male.....	No.	306	298
Female.....	No.	1,301	1,257
Total salaries and wages....	\$	1,234,468	1,289,015

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1934 to 1936.

Months	1 9 3 4			1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January.....	137	1,040	1,177	142	1,121	1,263	136	994	1,130
February.....	139	1,094	1,233	149	1,106	1,255	138	1,037	1,175
March.....	139	1,114	1,253	151	1,140	1,291	137	1,022	1,159
April.....	138	1,093	1,231	147	1,087	1,234	136	1,033	1,169
May.....	138	1,105	1,243	145	1,092	1,237	135	1,068	1,203
June.....	137	1,080	1,217	145	1,069	1,214	134	1,061	1,195
July.....	139	1,088	1,227	145	1,068	1,213	135	1,066	1,201
August.....	142	1,084	1,226	145	1,065	1,210	138	1,078	1,216
September.....	143	1,107	1,250	146	1,070	1,216	136	1,082	1,218
October.....	142	1,115	1,257	145	1,078	1,223	136	1,094	1,230
November.....	143	1,086	1,229	145	1,089	1,234	135	1,075	1,210
December.....	143	1,029	1,172	145	1,084	1,229	135	1,019	1,154
MONTHLY AVERAGE.	139	1,090	1,229	147	1,091	1,238	136	1,051	1,187

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 8. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment and Their Regular Hours of Work in 1935 and 1936.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	
	1935	1936		1935	1936
40 hours or less.....	64	-	51-53 hours.....	75	79
41-43 hours.....	22	-	54 hours.....	-	-
44 hours.....	322	371	55 hours.....	103	103
45-47 hours.....	408	448	56-59 hours.....	1	1
48 hours.....	227	193	60 hours and over.....	-	-
49-50 hours.....	116	97			

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1935 and 1936.

Classes of Power	1935		1936	
	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.... +	203	485	202	486
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING....	204	595	203	596
Boiler installation.	4	370	4	375

+ In addition to these figures, there were also in 1936, 4 motors with a rating of 8 horse-power in reserve or idle.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1935 and 1936.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1935		1936	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous.....	(2000 lbs.)	525	3,374	598	3,844
Anthracite.....	"	288	2,117	208	1,558
Coke.....	"	315	1,967	378	2,787
Gasoline.....	Imp. Gal.	5	2	5	1
Kerosene or coal oil...	Gal.	40	10	40	10
Fuel or diesel oil.....	"	3,700	352	3,600	324
Gas -					
Manufactured.....	M cu. ft.	35	38	182	23
Wood.....	Cord	2	14	3	24
TOTAL COST OF FUEL.....	-	-	7,874	-	8,571
Electricity purchased (including service charges).....	Kw. H.	517,656	11,068	542,891	11,429
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY.....	-	-	18,942	-	20,000

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, Calendar Years 1935 and 1936.

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1935		1936	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corset clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires, cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered.....	-	-	9,136	-	6,827
Metal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires.....	-	-	5,737	-	5,834

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1935 and 1936 - (Concl'd)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 5		1 9 3 6	
		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.	8,978	51,518	11,367	61,068
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.	3,122	50,181	3,326	49,557
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets, shoe eyelet hooks and shoe lace wire fasteners.....	-	-	186,051	-	174,790
Hoop, band or strip, being tagging metal, coated or not, for use exclusively in the manufacture of shoe and corset laces.....	-	-	5,004	-	5,858
Corsets of cotton.....	Lb.	612	1,378	466	1,127
Corsets of silk.....	Oz.	117	220	72	132
Corsets of artificial silk..	"	576	250	92	24

Table 12. - Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1935 and 1936.

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1935		1936	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Corsets and brassieres.....	No.	43,166	49,399	51,429	54,261

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1936.

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1936.

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Company,	1187 Bleury Street, Montreal.
La Brassiere Marveilleuse	1448 Amherst St., Montreal
C. J. Grenier & Cie,	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal.
Lois Brassiere Co.	1449 St. Alexander St., 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,	864 Lake Shore Road, New Toronto.
The T. Eaton Company, Limited,	190 Yonge Street, Toronto 2.
Flexees (Canada) Limited,	240 Richmond St., West, 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)	290 Coxwell St., Toronto 4.
A. P. Hayward Limited,	50 York St., Toronto.

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