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

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**REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**CORSET INDUSTRY**  
**IN**  
**CANADA**  
**1937**

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OTTAWA  
1938

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, 1937.

In 1937 reports were received from twenty-three establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, nine of which were located in Quebec and fourteen in Ontario. Quebec, however, occupied the leading position in the industry with 70 per cent of the capital invested, 57 per cent of the gross value of production and 63 per cent of the number of persons given employment.

Goods with a selling value at the factory of \$4,567,707 were produced in 1937, this amount representing an increase of \$170,566 or 3.9 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 1,684 persons, 129 persons or 8.3 per cent more than in 1936 and the payroll, \$1,328,019, was enlarged by \$39,004 or 3.0 per cent. Materials used cost \$2,100,321, an increase of \$144,250 or 7.4 per cent. Capital invested in fixed and current assets totalled \$3,437,503, the increase of \$118,550 or 3.6 per cent being accounted for largely by a greater inventory value of materials on hand, stocks in process, finished products, etc.

The 136,073 doz. corsets produced were valued at \$2,348,808 and this amount represented 51 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per doz. of \$17.26 differed only very slightly from the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 55,924 doz. valued at \$1,221,975 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$648,256.

As may be observed in table 5, of the 23 establishments reporting, 10 were responsible for a production of \$3,844,821 or 84 per cent of the total value, 4 supplied \$2,089,348 or 61 per cent of the entire capital investment, and 6 furnished employment to 1,066 persons or 63 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was September, when 1,341 persons were so reported and January with 1,206 was the month of minimum employment. Since females represent 88 per cent of the wage-earners in this industry the average wage paid, \$565, was considerably lower than the average in all manufacturing industries.

Imports of corsets are very small compared with the Canadian production and in 1937 only \$1,168 were imported. Exports of corsets and brassieres totalled \$62,070.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1924 to 1937.

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
1934 .....	23	3,550,473	1,598	1,274,845	2,062,352	4,461,409
<u>1 9 3 5</u>						
CANADA .....	22	3,318,490	1,607	1,234,468	1,970,414	4,357,362
Quebec .....	6	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
<u>1 9 3 7</u>						
CANADA .....	23	3,437,503	1,684	1,328,019	2,100,321	4,567,707
Quebec .....	9	2,398,094	1,058	743,886	1,277,486	2,615,760
Ontario .....	14	1,039,409	626	584,133	822,835	1,951,947

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1936 and 1937.

Items		1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting .....	No.	23	23	-
Capital invested .....	\$	3,318,953	3,437,503	+ 118,550
Employees on salaries -				
Total .....	No.	368	386	+ 18
Male .....	No.	162	171	+ 9
Female .....	No.	206	215	+ 9
Total salaries .....	\$	575,756	594,718	+ 18,962
Employees on wages -				
Monthly average .....	No.	1,187	1,298	+ 111
Male .....	No.	136	154	+ 18
Female .....	No.	1,051	1,144	+ 93
Total wages .....	\$	713,259	733,301	+ 20,042
Power equipment -				
Units .....	No.	207	208	+ 1
Horsepower capacity .....	H.P.	604	606	+ 2
Cost of fuel and electricity .....	\$	20,000	21,191	+ 1,191
Cost of materials used .....	\$	1,956,071	2,100,321	+ 144,250
Gross value of production .....	\$	4,397,141	4,567,707	+ 170,566

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 3. - Production, 1936 and 1937.

Principal Products		1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory \$	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory \$
Corsets -					
Cotton .....	Dozen	40,331	776,754	40,475	850,399
Silk and satin .....	"	3,667	109,321	3,017	74,050
Artificial silk and mixtures .....	"	15,693	459,545	18,398	490,408
Elastic .....	"	24,733	358,895	23,540	316,921
All other, material not specified .....	"	49,350	591,327	50,643	617,030
Combination garments -					
Cotton .....	Dozen	4,105	138,492	20,525	422,527
Silk and satin .....	"	4,043	125,500	1,919	53,601
Artificial silk and mixtures .....	"	16,101	341,707	18,344	437,915
Elastic .....	"	6,693	204,717	7,580	239,932
All other, material not specified .....	"	21,070	328,248	7,556	68,000
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton .....	Dozen	31,290	152,544	29,551	159,711
Silk and satin .....	"	16,733	70,308	6,961	37,566
Artificial silk and mixtures .....	"	26,420	168,499	32,374	177,715
All other, material not specified .....	"	49,831	214,746	60,131	273,264
Surgical belts and other surgical garments .....	Dozen	1,601	49,404	2,017	69,699
Children's waists .....	"	6,664	98,925	3,408	14,537
Underwear, silk, artificial silk and other .....	"	7,824	55,010	7,049	62,757
Garters .....	"	21,838	41,726	(1) 19,584	38,478
Girdles, suspenders, etc. ....	"	6,122	58,848	5,854	54,701
Sanitary belts .....	-	-	12,576	(2)	(2)
Shoulder braces and straps ....	Dozen	4,056	8,053	(2)	(2)
All other products .....	-	-	31,462	-	108,496
Repair and replacements .....	-	-	534	-	-
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS .....	-	-	4,397,141	-	4,567,707

(1) A small number of doz. garters are included in "all other products".

(2) Included in "all other products".

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1927 to 1937.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		Total Capital
	Present value of land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, and other equipment	Inventory value of materials on hand, Stocks in process finished products, Fuel and Miscellaneous supplies on hand	Cash trading and operating accounts, 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
1934 .....	1,344,600	1,223,014	982,859	3,550,473
<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
<u>1 9 3 7</u>				
CANADA .....	1,398,176	1,394,418	644,909	3,437,503
Quebec .....	1,025,916	993,270	378,908	2,398,094
Ontario .....	372,260	401,148	266,001	1,039,409

THE COREST INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 5. - Size of Establishments, 1936 and 1937.

	1 9 3 6			1 9 3 7		
	Estab- lish- ments	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Production	Average Production per Estab- lishment
Establishments having a production of:	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000 .....	7	140,080	20,011	7	151,551	21,650
\$50,000 to under \$200,000 .....	6	543,955	90,659	6	571,335	95,222
\$200,000 and over ...	10	3,713,106	371,311	10	3,844,821	384,482
TOTAL AND AVERAGE ...	23	4,397,141	191,180	23	4,567,707	198,596
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 .....	11	270,572	24,597	9	202,243	22,471
\$50,000 to under \$100,000 .....	-	-	-	5	361,280	72,256
\$100,000 to under \$200,000 .....	8	1,010,899	126,362	5	784,632	156,926
\$200,000 and over ...	4	2,037,482	509,370	4	2,089,348	522,337
TOTAL AND AVERAGE ...	23	3,318,953	144,302	23	3,437,503	149,457
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 ..	8	76	9.5	7	80	11.4
20 to under 100 employees .....	10	584	58.4	10	538	53.8
100 employees and over .....	5	895	179.0	6	1,066	177.7
TOTAL AND AVERAGE ...	23	1,555	67.6	23	1,684	73.2

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1936 and 1937.

		1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7
Salaried Employees -			
Total .....	No.	368	386
Male .....	No.	162	171
Female .....	No.	206	215
Total salaries .....	\$	575,756	594,718
Wage-earners -			
Monthly average .....	No.	1,187	1,298
Male .....	No.	136	154
Female .....	No.	1,051	1,144
Total wages .....	\$	713,259	733,301
All Employees -			
Total .....	No.	1,555	1,684
Male .....	No.	298	325
Female .....	No.	1,257	1,359
Total salaries and wages .....	\$	1,289,015	1,328,019

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1935 to 1937.

Months	1 9 3 5			1 9 3 6			1 9 3 7		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January .....	142	1,121	1,263	136	994	1,130	146	1,060	1,206
February .....	149	1,106	1,255	138	1,037	1,175	154	1,120	1,274
March .....	151	1,140	1,291	137	1,022	1,159	149	1,132	1,281
April .....	147	1,087	1,234	136	1,033	1,169	147	1,133	1,280
May .....	145	1,092	1,237	135	1,068	1,203	150	1,135	1,285
June .....	145	1,069	1,214	134	1,061	1,195	165	1,147	1,312
July .....	145	1,068	1,213	135	1,066	1,201	160	1,148	1,308
August .....	145	1,065	1,210	138	1,078	1,216	157	1,150	1,307
September .....	146	1,070	1,216	136	1,082	1,218	150	1,191	1,341
October .....	145	1,078	1,223	136	1,094	1,230	152	1,175	1,327
November .....	145	1,089	1,234	135	1,075	1,210	153	1,168	1,321
December .....	145	1,084	1,229	135	1,019	1,154	151	1,165	1,316
MONTHLY AVERAGE	147	1,091	1,238	136	1,051	1,187	154	1,144	1,298

THE COREST INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 8. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment and Their Regular Hours of Work in 1936 and 1937.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	
	1936	1937		1936	1937
40 hours or less .....	-	196	51-53 hours .....	79	89
41-43 hours .....	-	1	54 hours .....	-	-
44 hours .....	371	274	55 hours .....	103	120
45-47 hours .....	448	397	56-59 hours .....	1	1
48 hours .....	193	203	60 hours and over .....	-	-
49-50 hours .....	97	137			

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1936 and 1937.

Classes of Power	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines .....	1	110	1	100
Electric motors operated by purchased power -				
In use .....	202	486	206	505
Idle .....	4	8	1	1
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....	207	604	208	606
Boiler installation -				
In use .....	3	325	4	380
Idle .....	1	50	1	50

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1936 and 1937.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
Coal -	Ton		\$		\$
Bituminous .....	(2000 lbs.)	598	3,844	926	6,124
Anthracite .....	"	208	1,558	191	1,439
Coke .....	"	378	2,787	55	688
Gasoline .....	Imp. Gal.	5	1	5	1
Kerosene or coal oil ...	Gal.	40	10	40	10
Fuel or diesel oil .....	"	3,600	324	4,300	398
Gas -					
Manufactured .....	M cu. ft.	182	23	199	48
Wood .....	Cord	3	24	3	24
TOTAL COST OF FUEL .....	-	-	8,571	-	8,732
Electricity purchased (including service charges) .....	Kw. H.	542,891	11,429	551,942	12,459
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY .....	-	-	20,000	-	21,191

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, Calendar Years 1936 and 1937.

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Corset clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires, cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	-	-	\$ 6,827	-	\$ 6,202
Metal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires	-	-	5,834	-	7,352

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,  
Calendar Years 1936 and 1937 - (Concl'd.)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
		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.	11,367	61,068	11,373	63,693
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.	3,326	49,557	2,716	47,000
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets, shoe eyelet hooks and shoe lace wire fasteners .....	-	-	174,790	-	183,668
Hoop, band or strip, being tagging metal, coated or not, for use exclusively in the manufacture of shoe and corset laces .....	-	-	5,858	-	-
Corsets of cotton .....	Lb.	466	1,127	150	492
Corsets of silk .....	Oz.	72	132	402	145
Corsets of artificial silk .....	"	92	24	965	531

Table 12. - Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1936 and 1937.

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corsets and brassieres .....	No.	51,429	54,281	60,520	62,070

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1937.

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1937.

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Company,	1187 Bleury Street, Montreal.
C. J. Grenier & Cie,	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal.
Lois Brassiere Co.,	1449 St. Alexander St., Montreal.
Dominion Corset Company Limited,	45 Dorchester Street, Quebec.
Form Craft Brassiere Company,	3457 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal.
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 Co. of Canada, Ltd.,	64 Niagara St., 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.
J. Eisman and Company, Limited,	144 Front Street West, 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 Street, Toronto.





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