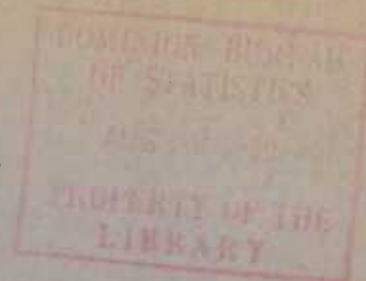


Published by Authority of the HON. W.D. EULER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.



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

REPORT
ON THE
CORSET INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1938



OTTAWA
1939

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.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH
OTTAWA - CANADA

Dominion Statistician:
Chief, General Manufactures Branch:

R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
A. Cohen, B.Com.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

In 1938 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 69 per cent of the capital invested, 58 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 \$4,321,254 were produced in 1938, this amount representing a decrease of \$246,453 or 5.4 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 1,632 persons, 52 persons or 3.1 per cent less than in 1937 and the payroll, \$1,313,711, was smaller by \$14,308 or 1.0 per cent. Materials used cost \$1,939,519, a decrease of \$160,802 or 7.7 per cent. Capital invested in fixed and current assets totalled \$3,377,292, the decrease of \$60,211 or 1.7 per cent being accounted for by a decrease of \$127,645 in the inventory value of materials on hand, stocks in process, finished products and an increase of \$67,434 in the value of the fixed assets.

The 121,488 doz. corsets produced were valued at \$2,125,286 and this amount represented 49 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per doz. of \$17.49 differed only very slightly from the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 49,562 doz. valued at \$1,164,838 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$655,174.

As may be observed in Table 5, of the 23 establishments reporting, the six largest were responsible for a production of \$2,661,139 or 61 per cent of the total and also supplied \$2,312,050 or 68 per cent of the entire capital investment and furnished employment to 1,016 persons or 62 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was March, when 1,276 persons were reported and January with 1,227 was the month of minimum employment. Females represent 88 per cent of the wage-earners in this industry and the average wage paid was \$18.72 per week for males and \$10.86 for females. (See Table 8)

Imports of corsets are very small compared with the Canadian production and in 1938 only \$1,096 were imported. Exports of corsets and brassieres totalled \$68,370.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1920 to 1938

Year and Provinces	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
1920	14	6,679,088	2,170	1,325,299	3,690,025	6,392,472
1922	16	6,021,963	1,733	1,246,321	2,634,153	5,284,986
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
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
1935	22	3,318,490	1,607	1,234,468	1,970,414	4,357,362
<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
<u>1 9 3 8</u>						
CANADA ...	23	3,377,292	1,632	1,313,711	1,939,519	4,321,254
Quebec	9	2,303,237	1,023	746,251	1,197,530	2,480,996
Ontario	14	1,074,055	609	567,460	741,989	1,840,258

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1937 and 1938

Items	1 9 3 7	1 9 3 8	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting No.	23	23	-
Capital invested \$	3,437,503	3,377,292	- 60,211
Employees on salaries -			
Total No.	386	388	+ 2
Male No.	171	162	- 9
Female No.	215	226	+ 11
Total salaries \$	594,718	593,388	- 1,330
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average No.	1,298	1,244	- 54
Male No.	154	150	- 4
Female No.	1,144	1,094	- 50
Total wages \$	733,301	720,323	- 12,978
Power equipment -			
Units No.	208	206	- 2
Horsepower capacity H.P.	606	617	+ 11
Cost of fuel and electricity \$	21,191	21,263	+ 72
Cost of materials used \$	2,100,321	1,939,519	- 160,802
Gross value of production \$	4,567,707	4,321,254	- 246,453
Value added by manufacture \$	2,446,195	2,360,472	- 85,723

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 3. - Production, 1938

Principal Products	Unit of measure	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
Corsets -			
Cotton	Dozen	59,748	1,051,090
Silk and satin	"	2,614	73,433
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	39,213	710,782
Elastic	"	19,913	289,981
Combination garments -			
Cotton	"	11,487	244,046
Silk and satin	"	1,475	42,409
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	30,072	668,867
Elastic	"	6,378	206,416
All other, material not specified	"	150	3,100
Bandeaux and brassieres -			
Cotton	"	53,317	292,757
Silk and satin	"	12,445	63,595
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	53,423	285,672
All other, material not specified	"	3,649	13,150
Surgical belts and other surgical garments	"	1,502	57,255
Children's waists	"	5,004	19,624
Underwear, artificial silk and other	"	12,452	96,760
Garters	"	(1)	(1)
Girdles, suspender	"	11,201	117,835
Sanitary belts	"	(2)	(2)
Shoulder braces and straps	"	(2)	(2)
All other products			84,482
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS			4,321,254

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

(2) Included in "all other products".

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1928 to 1938

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.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
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	1,544,600	1,223,014	982,859	3,550,473
1935	1,428,779	1,136,306	753,405	3,318,490
<u>1936</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>1937</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
<u>1938</u>				
CANADA ...	1,465,610	1,267,636	644,046	3,377,292
Quebec	1,067,515	851,925	383,797	2,303,237
Ontario	398,095	415,711	260,249	1,074,055

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 5. - Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, 1938,
Grouped According to the Size of Establishment

Establishments having a production of -	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
Under \$25,000	5	45,327	28	18,131	20,980	44,125
\$25,000 to under \$100,000 ...	5	192,898	99	85,403	117,330	279,773
\$100,000 to under \$200,000 ..	3	239,739	116	115,029	123,664	322,983
\$200,000 to under \$300,000 ..	4	587,278	373	340,914	354,220	1,013,234
\$300,000 and over	6	2,312,050	1,016	754,234	1,323,325	2,661,139
	23	3,377,292	1,632	1,313,711	1,939,519	4,321,254

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1937 and 1938

		1 9 3 7	1 9 3 8
Salaried Employees -			
Total	No.	386	388
Male	No.	171	162
Female	No.	215	226
Total salaries	\$	594,718	593,388
Wage-earners -			
Monthly average	No.	1,298	1,244
Male	No.	154	150
Female	No.	1,144	1,094
Total wages	\$	733,301	720,323
All Employees -			
Total	No.	1,684	1,632
Male	No.	325	312
Female	No.	1,359	1,320
Total salaries and wages	\$	1,328,019	1,313,711

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1936 to 1938

Months	1 9 3 6			1 9 3 7			1 9 3 8		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	136	994	1,130	146	1,060	1,206	145	1,082	1,227
February	138	1,037	1,175	154	1,120	1,274	148	1,120	1,268
March	137	1,022	1,159	149	1,132	1,281	149	1,127	1,276
April	136	1,033	1,169	147	1,133	1,280	149	1,114	1,263
May	135	1,068	1,203	150	1,135	1,285	149	1,085	1,234
June	134	1,061	1,195	165	1,147	1,312	150	1,078	1,228
July	135	1,066	1,201	160	1,148	1,308	150	1,080	1,230
August	138	1,078	1,216	157	1,150	1,307	160	1,071	1,231
September	136	1,082	1,218	150	1,191	1,341	155	1,117	1,272
October	136	1,094	1,230	152	1,175	1,327	151	1,084	1,235
November	135	1,075	1,210	153	1,168	1,321	154	1,096	1,250
December	135	1,019	1,154	151	1,165	1,316	152	1,083	1,235
MONTHLY AVERAGE	136	1,051	1,187	154	1,144	1,298	150	1,094	1,244

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners
in the Month of Normal Employment, and Their
Regular Hours of Work, 1938

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
30 hours or less	2	15	51-54 hours	-	-
31-43 hours	20	89	55 hours	1	-
44 hours	30	310	56-64 hours	-	-
45-47 hours	61	416	65 hours and over	-	-
48 hours	37	282	Average hours per week.	44.7	45
49-50 hours	2	-	Average weekly earnings	\$18.72	\$10.86

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1937 and 1938

Classes of Power	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines ..	1	100	1	100
Electric motors operated by purchased power -				
In use	206	505	205	516
Idle	1	1	1	1
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING ...	208	606	207	617
Boiler installation				
In use	4	380	4	380
Idle	1	50	1	65

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1937 and 1938

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous	(2000 lbs.)	926	6,124	1,045	7,216
Anthracite	"	191	1,439	43	373
Coke	"	55	688	51	693
Gasoline	Imp. Gal.	5	1	10	3
Kerosene or coal oil..	Gal.	40	10	40	11
Fuel or diesel oil ...	"	4,300	398	4,000	344
Gas -					
Manufactured	M cu. ft.	199	48	94	94
Wood	Cord	3	24	3	24
TOTAL COST OF FUEL ...	-	-	8,732	-	8,758
Electricity purchased (including service charges)	Kw. H.	551,942	12,459	455,923	12,505
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	21,191	-	21,263

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1937 and 1938

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corset clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires, cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	-	-	6,202	-	5,578
Metal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires	-	-	7,352	-	5,453

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1937 and 1938 - (Concl'd.)

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
		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.	11,373	63,693	7,395	47,048
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.	2,716	47,000	2,772	45,129
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets, shoe eyelet hooks and shoe lace wire fasteners			183,668	-	149,529
Hoop, band or strip, being tagging metal, coated or not, for use exclusively in the manufacture of shoe and corset laces	-	-	-	-	-
Corsets of cotton	Lb.	150	492	110	438
Corsets of silk	Oz.	402	145	418	424
Corsets of artificial silk	"	965	531	311	234

Table 12. - Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1937 and 1938

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corsets and brassieres	No.	60,520	62,070	69,031	68,370

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1938

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1938

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Company	1187 Bleury Street, Montreal
C. J. Grenier & Cie	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal
Lois Brassiere Co.	1449 St. Alexander Street, 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, The	38 Champlain Street, Quebec
Spencer Corsets (Canada) Limited	Rock Island
E. T. Corset Company Limited, The	46 Laframboise Street, St. Hyacinthe

ONTARIO

Spirella Company of Canada Limited, The	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls
Nu-Bone Corset Co. of Canada, Ltd., The	64 Niagara Street, St. Catharines
F. J. Allward Company Limited, The	600 Bay Street, Toronto 2
Canadian H. W. Gossard Company, Ltd., The	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
Charis Limited	864 Lake Shore Road, New Toronto
J. Eisman and Company, Limited	144 Front Street West, Toronto
T. Eaton Company, Limited, The	33-59 Teraulay Street, Toronto
Flexees (Canada) Limited	240 Richmond Street West, Toronto
Kops Brothers Limited	559A 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 Street, Toronto 4
A. P. Hayward Limited	50 York Street, Toronto

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010755914