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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**  
**1939**

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OTTAWA  
1940

Price 15 cents



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

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THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

In 1939 reports were received from twenty-three establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, eleven of which were located in Quebec and twelve in Ontario. Quebec, however, occupied the leading position in the industry with 68 per cent of the capital invested, 59 per cent of the gross value of production and 65 per cent of the number of persons given employment.

Goods with a selling value at the factory of \$4,706,947 were produced in 1939, this amount representing an increase of \$385,693 or 8.9 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 1,768 persons, 136 persons or 8.3 per cent more than in 1938 and the payroll \$1,430,514, was greater by \$116,803 or 8.9 per cent. Materials used cost \$2,121,694, an increase of \$182,175 or 9.4 per cent. Capital invested in fixed and current assets totalled \$3,820,719, the increase of \$443,427 or 13.1 per cent being accounted for by an increase of \$360,453 in the working capital and an increase of \$82,974 in the value of the fixed assets.

The 133,205 doz. corsets and girdles produced were valued at \$2,419,490 and this amount represented 51 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per doz. of \$18.16 was 67 cents higher than the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 52,156 doz. valued at \$1,196,689 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$701,100.

As may be observed in Table 5, of the 23 establishments reporting, the 12 largest were responsible for a production of \$1,975,887 or 93 per cent of the total and also supplied \$3,559,991 or 93 per cent of the entire capital investment and furnished employment to 1,658 persons or 93.7 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was November, when 1,502 persons were reported and January with 1,252 was the month of minimum employment. Females represent 87 per cent of the wage-earners in this industry and the average wage paid was \$20.87 per week for males and \$11.04 for females. (See Table 8)



THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1920 to 1939.

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
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
1936 .....	23	3,318,953	1,555	1,289,015	1,956,071	4,397,141
<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
<u>1 9 3 9</u>						
CANADA ....	23	3,820,719	1,768	1,430,514	2,121,694	4,706,947
Quebec .....	11	2,590,759	1,144	828,836	1,357,161	2,794,068
Ontario .....	12	1,229,960	624	601,678	764,533	1,912,879

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1938 and 1939.

Items	1 9 3 8	1 9 3 9	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting ..... No.	23	23	-
Capital invested ..... \$	3,377,292	3,820,719	+ 443,427
Employees on salaries -			
Total ..... No.	388	405	+ 17
Male ..... No.	162	171	+ 9
Female ..... No.	226	234	+ 8
Total salaries ..... \$	593,388	627,768	+ 34,380
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average ..... No.	1,244	1,363	+ 119
Male ..... No.	150	174	+ 24
Female ..... No.	1,094	1,189	+ 95
Total wages ..... \$	720,323	802,746	+ 82,423
Power equipment -			
Units ..... No.	206	201	- 5
Horsepower capacity ..... H.P.	617	598	- 19
Cost of fuel and electricity ..... \$	21,263	22,666	+ 1,403
Cost of materials used ..... \$	1,939,519	2,121,694	+ 182,175
Gross value of production ..... \$	4,321,254	4,706,947	+ 385,693
Value added by manufacture ..... \$	2,360,472	2,562,587	+ 202,115

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.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 3. - Production, 1938 and 1939. (3)

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
Corsets and girdles -					
Cotton .....	Doz.	59,748	1,051,090	53,597	1,033,193
Silk and satin .....	"	2,614	73,433	3,454	96,285
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	39,213	710,782	41,979	823,035
Elastic .....	"	19,913	289,981	34,175	466,977
Combination garments -					
Cotton .....	"	11,487	244,046	5,767	161,887
Silk and satin .....	"	1,475	42,409	2,011	52,359
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	30,072	668,867	36,555	761,463
Elastic .....	"	6,378	206,416	7,823	220,980
All other, material not specified .....	"	150	3,100	-	-
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton .....	"	53,317	292,757	49,572	287,458
Silk and satin .....	"	12,445	63,595	11,243	79,567
Artificial silk and mixtures	"	53,423	285,672	53,214	328,356
All other, material not specified .....	"	3,649	13,150	1,707	5,719
Surgical belts and other surgical garments .....	"	1,502	57,255	1,474	57,270
Children's waists .....	"	5,004	19,624	4,537	18,040
Underwear, artificial silk .....	"	12,452	96,760	12,850	98,890
Underwear, all other .....	"			5,412	16,982
Garters .....	"	(1)	(1)	21,045	42,490
Girdles, suspender .....	"	11,201	117,835	6,036	59,144
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.) .....	"	(2)	(2)	-	16,720
Shoulder braces and straps .....	"	(2)	(2)	4,048	10,388
All other corset supplies .....	"	-	84,482	-	44,408
All other products .....	"	-		-	25,336
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS .....		-	4,321,254	-	4,706,947

- (1) A small number of doz. garters are included in "all other products".
- (2) Included in "all other products".
- (3) 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.



THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 4. - Capital Invested, 1920 to 1939.

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.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1920 .....	910,756	2,356,920	3,411,412	6,679,088
1923 .....	1,004,810	1,678,103	3,472,541	6,155,454
1925 .....	1,041,217	1,641,254	1,542,251	4,224,722
1926 .....	982,983	1,415,265	1,731,634	4,129,882
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
1931 .....	1,772,949	1,169,817	1,869,698	4,812,464
1934 .....	1,344,600	1,223,014	982,859	3,550,473
1936 .....	1,379,463	1,269,713	669,777	3,318,953
<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
<u>1939</u>				
CANADA .....	1,548,584	1,528,598	743,537	3,820,719
Quebec .....	1,105,582	1,080,208	404,969	2,590,759
Ontario .....	443,002	448,390	338,568	1,229,960

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 5. - Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishment, 1938 and 1939.

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.	\$	\$	\$
<u>1938</u>						
Under \$5,000 .....	3	14,900	8	4,435	3,058	7,999
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	2)					
\$25,000 " " \$50,000	3)	223,325	119	99,099	135,252	315,899
\$50,000 " " \$100,000	2)					
\$100,000 " " \$500,000	12)					
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	1)	3,139,067	1,505	1,210,177	1,801,209	3,997,356
TOTAL .....	23	3,377,292	1,632	1,313,711	1,939,519	4,321,254
<u>1939</u>						
Under \$5,000 .....	4	22,092	12	6,306	4,864	12,117
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	2)					
\$25,000 " " \$50,000	2)	238,636	98	82,915	140,943	307,312
\$50,000 " " \$100,000	2)					
\$100,000 " " \$500,000	12)					
\$1,000,000 and over ...	1)	3,559,991	1,658	1,341,293	1,975,887	4,387,518
TOTAL .....	23	3,820,719	1,768	1,430,514	2,121,694	4,706,947



THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1938 and 1939.

	1938	1939
<b>Salaried Employees -</b>		
Total ..... No.	388	405
Male ..... No.	162	171
Female ..... No.	226	234
Total salaries ..... \$	593,388	627,768
<b>Wage-earners -</b>		
Monthly average ..... No.	1,244	1,363
Male ..... No.	150	174
Female ..... No.	1,094	1,189
Total wages ..... \$	720,323	802,746
<b>All Employees -</b>		
Total ..... No.	1,632	1,768
Male ..... No.	312	345
Female ..... No.	1,320	1,423
Total salaries and wages ..... \$	1,313,711	1,430,514

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1937 to 1939.

Months	1937			1938			1939		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January .....	146	1,060	1,206	145	1,082	1,227	165	1,087	1,252
February .....	154	1,120	1,274	148	1,120	1,268	167	1,155	1,322
March .....	149	1,132	1,281	149	1,127	1,276	169	1,159	1,328
April .....	147	1,133	1,280	149	1,114	1,263	170	1,114	1,284
May .....	150	1,135	1,285	149	1,085	1,234	170	1,121	1,291
June .....	165	1,147	1,312	150	1,078	1,228	175	1,128	1,303
July .....	160	1,148	1,308	150	1,080	1,230	176	1,159	1,335
August .....	157	1,150	1,307	160	1,071	1,231	176	1,211	1,387
September .....	150	1,191	1,341	155	1,117	1,272	182	1,240	1,422
October .....	152	1,175	1,327	151	1,084	1,235	184	1,276	1,460
November .....	153	1,168	1,321	154	1,096	1,250	183	1,319	1,502
December .....	151	1,165	1,316	152	1,083	1,235	183	1,305	1,488
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE ..</b>	154	1,144	1,298	150	1,094	1,244	174	1,189	1,363

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners  
in the Month of Normal Employment, and Their  
Regular Hours of Work, 1939.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number		Number of Hours Worked per Week	Number	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
30 hours or less	1	1	51-54 hours .....	-	-
31-43 hours .....	20	90	55 hours .....	1	-
44 hours .....	31	316	56-64 hours .....	-	-
45-47 hours .....	61	469	65 hours and over .....	-	-
48 hours .....	65	310	Average hours per week	45.4	45.3
49-50 hours .....	4	15	Average weekly earnings	\$20.87	\$11.04

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1938 and 1939.

Classes of Power	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
	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 purchase power -				
In use .....	205	516	197	493
Idle .....	1	1	3	5
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING .....	207	617	201	598
Boiler installation				
In use .....	4	380	5	445
Idle .....	1	65	-	-

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1938 and 1939.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous .....	(2000 lbs)	1,045	7,216	1,266	8,712
Anthracite .....	"	43	373	66	492
Coke .....	"	51	693	53	701
Gasoline .....	Imp. Gal.	10	3	10	3
Kerosene or coal oil..	Gal.	40	11	40	11
Fuel or diesel oil ...	"	4,000	344	3,900	331
Gas -					
Manufactured .....	M cu. ft.	94	94	96	101
Wood .....	Cord	3	24	5	38
TOTAL COST OF FUEL ...		-	8,758	-	10,389
Electricity purchased (including service charges) .....	Kw. H.	455,923	12,505	484,392	12,277
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY ...		-	21,263	-	22,666



THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1939.

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1939.

QUEBEC

Best Form Brassiere Co.	390 Craig Street W., Montreal
Better Brand Brassiere	7118 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Form Craft Brassiere Co.	3457 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Formcraft Fabrics Ltd.	4530 Clark Street, Montreal
C. J. Grenier & Cie	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal
Dominion Corset Company Limited	45 Dorchester Street, Quebec
Parisian Corset Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	599 St. Valier Street, Quebec
Perfection Corset Company Limited, The	38 Champlain Street, Quebec
Spencer Corsets (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island
E. T. Corset Company Limited, The	46 Laframboise Street, St. Hyacinthe
G. C. Knitting Reg'd.	13 St. Catherine Street, St. Hyacinthe

ONTARIO

Spirella Company of Canada Limited, The	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls
Nu-Bone Corset Co. of Canada, Limited, The	Davidson Street, St. Catharines
A. P. Hayward Limited	50 York Street, Toronto
F. J. Allward Company Limited, The	600 Bay Street, Toronto 2
Canadian H. W. Gossard Company, Limited, The	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
Charis Limited	864 Lake Shore Road, New 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



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