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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
1940



OTTAWA
1941

Price 15 cents

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, 1940

In 1940 reports were received from twenty-five establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, twelve of which were located in Quebec and thirteen in Ontario. Quebec, however, occupied the leading position in the industry with 68 per cent of the capital invested, 61 per cent of the gross value of production and 67 per cent of the number of persons given employment.

Goods with a selling value at the factory of \$5,158,146 were produced in 1940, this amount representing an increase of \$451,199 or 9.6 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 1,886 persons, 118 persons or 6.7 per cent more than in 1939 and the payroll \$1,556,419, was greater by \$125,905 or 8.8 per cent. Materials used cost \$2,377,079, an increase of \$255,385 or 12 per cent. Capital invested in fixed and current assets totalled \$3,817,487, the decrease of \$3,232, being accounted for by an increase of \$226,394 in the working capital and a decrease of \$229,626 in the value of the fixed assets.

The 138,763 doz. corsets and girdles produced were valued at \$2,605,439 and this amount represented 51 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per doz. of \$18.78 was 62 cents higher than the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 50,570 doz. valued at \$1,221,614 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$926,511.

As may be observed in Table 5, of the 25 establishments reporting, the 14 largest were responsible for a production of \$4,768,127 or 92 per cent of the total and also supplied \$3,535,303 or 93 per cent of the entire capital investment and furnished employment to 1,735 persons or 92 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was January, when 1,438 persons were reported and July with 1,400 was the month of minimum employment. Females represent 89 per cent of the wage-earners in this industry and the average wage paid was \$19.57 per week for males and \$11.42 for females. (See Tables 7 and 8)

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 1. Principal Statistics representative years, 1920 - 1940.

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	6,679,038	2,170	1,325,299	3,690,025	6,392,472
1924	16	4,108,057	1,397	978,687	2,134,564	4,038,385
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	4,246,348
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
1937	23	3,437,503	1,684	1,328,019	2,100,321	4,567,707
<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	2,480,936
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
<u>1 9 4 0</u>						
CANADA ..	25	3,817,487	1,886	1,556,419	2,377,079	5,158,146
Quebec	12	2,587,439	1,268	934,672	1,558,234	3,157,004
Ontario	13	1,230,048	618	621,747	818,845	2,001,142

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1939 and 1940

Items	1 9 3 9	1 9 4 0	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting No.	23	25	+ 2
Capital invested \$	3,820,719	3,817,487	- 3,232
Employees on salaries -			
Total No.	405	434	+ 29
Male No.	171	175	+ 4
Female No.	234	259	+ 25
Total salaries \$	627,768	718,564	+ 90,796
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average No.	1,363	1,452	+ 89
Male No.	174	169	- 5
Female No.	1,189	1,283	+ 94
Total wages \$	802,746	837,855	+ 35,109
Power equipment -			
Units No.	201	203	+ 2
Horsepower capacity H.P.	598	604	+ 6
Cost of fuel and electricity \$	22,666	23,323	+ 657
Cost of materials used \$	2,121,694	2,377,079	+ 255,385
Gross value of production \$	4,706,947	5,158,146	+ 451,199
Value added by manufacture \$	2,562,587	2,757,744	+ 195,157

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, 1940.

Table 3. - Production, 1939 and 1940⁽¹⁾

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1 9 3 9		1 9 4 0	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
Corsets and girdles -					
Cotton	Doz.	53,597	1,033,193	55,515	1,100,097
Silk and satin	"	3,454	96,285	3,654	109,024
Rayon and mixtures	"	41,979	823,035	42,991	862,601
Elastic	"	34,175	466,977	36,603	533,717
Combination garments -					
Cotton	"	5,767	161,387	5,721	154,941
Silk and satin	"	2,011	52,359	1,786	54,411
Rayon and mixtures	"	36,555	761,463	34,748	778,219
Elastic	"	7,823	220,980	8,315	234,043
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton	"	49,572	287,458	64,297	395,314
Silk and satin	"	11,243	79,567	23,321	105,549
Rayon and mixtures	"	53,214	328,356	75,617	423,772
All other, material not specified	"	1,707	5,719	584	1,876
Surgical belts and other surgical garments	"	1,474	57,270	(2)	(2)
Children's waists	"	4,537	18,040	4,224	17,474
Underwear, artificial silk	"	12,850	98,890	(2)	(2)
Underwear, all other	"	5,412	16,982	-	-
Garters	"	21,045	42,490	22,498	86,816
Girdles, suspender	"	6,036	59,144	(2)	(2)
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	"	-	16,720	-	17,723
Shoulder braces and straps	"	4,048	10,388	(2)	(2)
All other corset supplies	"	-	44,408	-	64,060
All other products	"	-	25,336	-	218,509
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS			4,706,947		5,158,146

(1) 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.

(2) Included in "all other products".

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 4. - Capital Invested representative years, 1920-1940.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		Total Capital
	Present value of land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, and other equipment	Inventory value of materials, 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	1,159,317	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
1937	1,398,176	1,394,418	644,909	3,437,503
<u>1 9 3 8</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>1 9 3 9</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
<u>1 9 4 0</u>				
CANADA	1,318,958	1,673,781	824,748	3,817,487
Quebec	975,096	1,182,305	430,038	2,587,439
Ontario	343,862	491,476	394,710	1,230,048

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 5. - Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishment, 1939 and 1940.

Establishments having a pro- duction of -	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
<u>1 9 3 9</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)					
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	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
<u>1 9 4 0</u>						
Under \$5,000	1)					
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	4)	72,586	43	22,818	21,321	52,500
\$25,000 " " \$50,000	2)					
\$50,000 " " \$100,000	4)	209,598	108	97,455	159,720	337,519
\$100,000 " " \$500,000	12)					
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	1)	3,535,303	1,735	1,436,146	2,196,038	4,768,127
\$1,000,000 and over	1)					
TOTAL	25	3,817,487	1,886	1,556,419	2,377,079	5,158,146

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration 1938 to 1940.

	1938	1939	1940
Salaried Employees -			
TotalNo.	388	405	434
MaleNo.	162	171	175
FemaleNo.	226	234	259
Total salaries\$	593,388	627,768	718,564
Wage-earners -			
Monthly averageNo.	1,244	1,363	1,452
MaleNo.	150	174	169
FemaleNo.	1,094	1,189	1,283
Total wages\$	720,323	802,746	837,855
All Employees -			
TotalNo.	1,632	1,768	1,886
MaleNo.	312	345	344
FemaleNo.	1,320	1,423	1,542
Total salaries and wages..No.	1,313,711	1,430,514	1,556,419

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1938 to 1940

Months	1938			1939			1940		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	145	1,082	1,227	165	1,087	1,252	174	1,314	1,488
February	148	1,120	1,268	167	1,155	1,322	171	1,289	1,460
March	149	1,127	1,276	169	1,159	1,328	172	1,301	1,473
April	149	1,114	1,263	170	1,114	1,284	171	1,297	1,468
May	149	1,085	1,234	170	1,121	1,291	163	1,258	1,421
June	150	1,078	1,228	175	1,128	1,303	161	1,250	1,411
July	150	1,080	1,230	176	1,159	1,335	164	1,236	1,400
August	160	1,071	1,231	176	1,211	1,387	165	1,265	1,430
September	155	1,117	1,272	182	1,240	1,422	169	1,303	1,472
October	151	1,084	1,235	184	1,276	1,460	182	1,305	1,487
November	154	1,096	1,250	183	1,319	1,502	179	1,277	1,456
December	152	1,083	1,235	183	1,305	1,488	170	1,288	1,458
MONTHLY AVERAGE ...	150	1,094	1,244	174	1,189	1,363	169	1,283	1,452

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 8. - Number of Wage-earners with their Regular Hours of Work per Week and Average Weekly Earnings, 1939 and 1940.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	1939 ⁽¹⁾		1940 ⁽²⁾	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
30 hours or less	1	1	1	22
31-43 hours	20	90	7	76
44 hours	31	316	29	195
45-47 hours	61	469	77	614
48 hours	65	310	38	241
49-50 hours	4	15	8	104
51-54 hours	-	-	19	45
55 hours	1	-	2	5
56-64 hours	-	-	7	94
65 hours and over	-	-	-	-
Average hours per week	45.4	45.3	47.1	46.8
Average weekly earnings	\$20.87	\$11.04	\$19.57	\$11.42

(1) Month of normal employment, overtime not included.

(2) Month of highest employment, overtime included.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1939 and 1940

Classes of Power	1939		1940	
	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	197	493	202	504
Idle	3	5	-	-
TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING	201	598	203	604
Boiler installation				
In use	5	445	5	445
Idle	-	-	-	-

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1939 and 1940

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1939		1940	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous	(2000 lbs)	1,266	8,712	1,195	8,303
Anthracite	"	66	492	102	992
Coke	"	53	701	68	873
Gasoline	Imp.Gal.	10	3	10	3
Kerosene or coal oil..	Gal.	40	11	40	11
Fuel or diesel oil ...	"	3,900	331	4,431	380
Gas -					
Manufactured	M cu. ft.	96	101	115	109
Wood	Cord	5	38	2	18
TOTAL COST OF FUEL ...	-	-	10,389	-	10,689
Electricity purchased (including service charges)	Kw. H.	484,392	12,277	513,498	12,634
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY ...	-	-	22,666	-	23,323

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1940

Quebec

Best Form Brassiere Company	390 Craig Street West, Montreal
Better Brand Brassiere	7118 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Corset, The E.T. Company, Ltd.	46 Laframboise Street, Montreal
Dominion Corset Company, Ltd.	45 Dorchester Street, Montreal
Form Craft Brassiere Company	3457 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Formcraft Fabrics Limited	4530 Clarke Street, Montreal
Grenier, C.J. and Company	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal
Knitting, C.C. Reg'd	13 St. Catherine Street, St. Hyacinthe
Parisian Corset Manuf., Co., Ltd.	599 St. Valier Street, Quebec
Perfection Corset Company, Ltd., The	38 Champlain Street, Quebec
Spencer Corsets (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island

Ontario

Allward, The F.J. Company, Ltd.	600 Bay Street, Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Company, Ltd., The	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
Charis Limited	864 Lake Shore Road, New Toronto
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	33-59 Teraulay Street, Toronto
Flexes (Canada) Limited	240 Richmond Street West, Toronto
Gordon and Mason	93 $\frac{1}{2}$ Church Street, Toronto
Hayward, A.P., Limited	50 York Street, Toronto
Kops Brothers Limited	559A College Street, Toronto
Lady Mac of Canada Ltd.	91 Wellington Street West, Toronto
Lagnon Manufacturing Company	37 McCaul Street, Toronto
Nu Bone Corset Co. of Canada, Ltd., The	Main Street, Port Dalhousie
Spirella Co. of Canada Ltd., The	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls
Stein and Company Ltd., The	41 Peter Street, Toronto

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