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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
1941



OTTAWA
1942

Price 15 cents

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

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THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

In 1941 reports were received from twenty-four establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, ten of which were located in Quebec and fourteen in Ontario. Quebec, however, occupied the leading position in the industry with 67 per cent of the capital invested, 32 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 \$6,171,383 were produced in 1941, this amount representing an increase of \$1,013,537 or 19.3 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 2,263 persons, 377 persons or 19.3 per cent more than in 1940 and the payroll \$1,333,133 was greater by \$339,749 or 23.3 per cent. Materials used cost \$2,248,813, an increase of \$571,754 or 24 per cent. Capital invested in fixed and current assets totalled \$4,569,994, an increase of \$752,597 being accounted for by an increase of \$634,632 in the working capital and \$117,965 in the value of the fixed assets.

The 146,574 doz. corsets and girdles produced were valued at \$2,791,990 and this amount represented 45.2 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per doz. of \$19.05 was 27 cents higher than the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 57,304 dozens valued at \$1,479,459 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$1,368,477.

As may be observed in Table 5, of the 24 establishments reporting, the 16 largest were responsible for a production of \$5,933,745 or 96.2 per cent of the total and also supplied \$4,429,891 or 96.9 per cent of the entire capital investment and furnished employment to 2,154 persons or 95.2 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was October, when 1,276 persons were reported and January with 1,532 was the month of minimum employment. Females represent 89 per cent of the wage-earners in this industry and the average wage paid was \$23.04 per week for males and \$11.97 for females. (See Tables 7 & 8)

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

Table 1. Principal Statistics representative years, 1920 - 1941.

Year and Provinces	Estab- lish- ments No.	Capital Invested \$	Em- ployees No.	Salaries and Wages \$	Cost of Materials Used \$	Gross Value of Production \$
1920	14	3,579,088	2,170	1,325,222	3,630,025	6,332,472
1924	15	4,198,057	1,327	978,637	2,134,534	4,038,985
1925	17	4,224,722	1,451	1,119,232	2,330,165	4,314,399
1927	16	4,306,157	1,351	1,008,495	1,925,932	3,791,748
1928	16	4,917,403	1,413	1,124,234	2,055,413	4,242,943
1929	17	5,327,201	1,405	1,094,231	2,038,351	4,319,019
1930	19	5,277,642	1,432	1,097,027	2,221,312	4,576,047
1931	20	4,312,434	1,503	1,124,990	2,054,461	4,187,647
1932	19	3,931,325	1,517	1,202,223	1,612,232	4,237,671
1933	20	3,740,176	1,493	1,154,373	1,631,562	4,133,585
1934	23	3,350,473	1,593	1,274,845	2,032,352	4,431,409
1935	23	3,312,953	1,555	1,289,015	1,956,071	4,327,141
1937	23	3,437,593	1,634	1,323,019	2,100,321	4,567,707
1938	23	3,377,292	1,632	1,312,711	1,939,519	4,321,254
<u>1 9 3 9</u>						
CANADA ...	23	3,820,719	1,738	1,430,514	2,121,694	4,703,247
Quebec.....	11	2,590,759	1,144	828,936	1,337,131	2,734,963
Ontario.....	12	1,229,960	594	601,578	784,563	1,968,284
<u>1 9 4 0</u>						
CANADA ...	25	3,817,487	1,936	1,353,419	2,377,079	5,153,143
Quebec.....	12	2,587,429	1,238	954,672	1,558,234	3,157,004
Ontario.....	13	1,230,058	698	398,747	818,845	2,000,139
<u>1 9 4 1</u>						
CANADA ...	24	4,533,994	2,233	1,323,168	2,349,312	5,171,632
Quebec.....	10	3,069,114	1,527	1,133,423	1,937,403	3,793,077
Ontario.....	14	1,509,380	706	190,745	411,909	1,378,555

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1940 and 1941

Items	1940	1941	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting No.	25	24	- 1
Capital invested \$	3,817,487	4,569,994	+ 752,507
Employees on salaries -			
Total No.	434	494	+ 60
Male No.	175	224	+ 49
Female No.	259	270	+ 11
Total salaries \$	718,564	838,949	+ 119,385
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average No.	1,452	1,739	+ 287
Male No.	169	130	- 39
Female No.	1,283	1,609	+ 326
Total wages \$	837,255	1,099,219	+ 261,964
Power equipment -			
Units No.	203	221	+ 18
Horsepower capacity H.P.	604	622	+ 18
Cost of fuel and electricity \$	23,223	27,044	+ 3,821
Cost of materials used \$	2,277,079	2,948,813	+ 671,734
Gross value of production \$	5,159,146	6,171,683	+ 1,012,537
Value added by manufacture \$	2,757,744	3,195,826	+ 438,082

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, 1941

Table 3 . - Production, 1940 and 1941(1)

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1 9 4 0		1 9 4 1	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
Corsets and girdles -					
Cotton	Doz.	55,515	1,100,097	50,421	1,172,561
Silk and satin	"	3,354	103,034	3,312	30,555
Rayon and mixtures	"	42,291	862,601	55,332	1,135,376
Elastic	"	33,303	533,717	33,353	334,432
Combination garments -					
Cotton	"	5,731	154,341	3,332	130,433
Silk and satin	"	1,733	54,411	1,730	35,333
Rayon and mixtures	"	34,743	773,213	43,352	1,032,410
Elastic	"	3,515	254,043	4,730	150,333
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton	"	34,237	335,314	34,304	315,850
Silk and satin	"	23,321	105,543	23,432	100,332
Rayon and mixtures	"	73,317	423,772	37,214	340,335
All other, material not specified	"	534	1,376	215	2,330
Surgical belts and other surgical garments					
Children's waists	"	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Underwear, artificial silk	"	4,324	17,474	4,740	13,032
Underwear, all other	"	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Garters	"	-	-	-	-
Girdles, suspender	"	22,433	33,313	20,335	47,114
Girdles, suspender	"	(2)	(2)	2,335	2,733
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	"	-	17,722	-	17,343
Shoulder braces and straps	"	(2)	(2)	4,513	12,300
All other corset supplies	"	-	34,030	-	-
All other products	"	-	213,503	-	424,305
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS			5,152,143		3,171,632

(1) The statistics published in this report cover only those manufacturing establishments which have corsets and kindred articles as their principal products. 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, 1941

Table 4. - Capital invested representative years, 1920 - 1941.

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	310,756	2,356,920	3,411,412	6,079,088
1923	1,004,810	1,378,103	3,472,541	6,155,454
1925	1,041,217	1,841,854	1,542,251	4,425,322
1926	982,983	1,415,235	1,731,334	4,129,552
1928	1,248,304	1,260,251	2,408,853	4,917,408
1929	1,334,252	1,234,056	2,759,383	5,327,691
1931	1,772,349	1,169,317	1,369,608	4,311,274
1934	1,344,600	1,225,014	932,859	3,502,473
1936	1,379,463	1,269,713	669,777	3,318,953
1937	1,368,173	1,304,413	344,309	3,016,895
1938	1,465,310	1,237,336	644,046	3,346,692
<u>1939</u>				
CANADA	1,542,584	1,528,508	742,537	3,813,629
Quebec	1,105,532	1,060,203	404,363	2,570,098
Ontario	436,992	468,305	338,174	1,243,471
<u>1940</u>				
CANADA	1,318,953	1,373,731	824,743	3,517,427
Quebec	975,096	1,182,305	430,033	2,587,434
Ontario	343,857	191,426	394,710	1,230,013
<u>1941</u>				
CANADA	1,387,233	2,263,473 ^x	694,233	4,344,939
Quebec	955,465	1,532,527	572,122	3,060,114
Ontario	431,768	730,946	122,111	1,284,825

x Inventory value of "finished products on hand" amounting to \$479,077 included in these figures.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

Table 5. - Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishment, 1940 and 1941.

Establishments having a pro- duction of -	Estab- lish- ments No.	Capital Invested \$	Em- ployees No.	Salaries and wages \$	Cost of Materials Used \$	Gross Value of Production \$
Under \$5,000	1)					
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	4)	75,586	43	22,813	21,321	52,500
\$25,000 " " \$50,000	2)					
\$50,000 " " \$100,000	4)	209,528	108	37,455	159,720	237,519
\$100,000 " " \$500,000	12)					
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	1)	3,525,303	1,735	1,426,143	2,126,028	4,768,127
\$1,000,000 and over ...	1)					
TOTAL	25	3,817,467	1,883	1,533,419	2,377,079	5,153,146
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<u>1 9 4 1</u>						
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	4	47,297	42	25,733	22,904	65,219
\$25,000 " " \$50,000	3)					
\$50,000 " " \$100,000	1)	32,806	67	57,139	78,471	167,719
\$100,000 " " \$500,000	14)					
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	1)	4,429,891	2,154	1,842,223	2,327,328	5,238,745
\$1,000,000 and over ..	1)					
TOTAL	24	4,539,994	2,263	1,925,133	2,448,813	6,171,683

Table 3. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration 1939 to 1941

		1 9 3 9	1 9 4 0	1 9 4 1
Salaried Employees -				
Total	No.	405	474	494
Male	No.	171	175	224
Female	No.	234	299	270
Total salaries	\$	327,738	718,564	826,249
Wage-earners -				
Monthly average	No.	1,363	1,452	1,739
Male	No.	174	169	160
Female	No.	1,189	1,283	1,579
Total wages	\$	802,743	827,355	1,039,219
All Employees -				
Total	No.	1,768	1,926	2,233
Male	No.	345	344	334
Female	No.	1,423	1,582	1,899
Total salaries and wages .	\$	1,470,514	1,556,419	1,926,133

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1939 to 1941

Months	1939			1940			1941		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	165	1,037	1,202	174	1,314	1,488	157	1,370	1,527
February	167	1,155	1,322	171	1,269	1,440	152	1,431	1,583
March	163	1,159	1,322	170	1,301	1,471	153	1,481	1,634
April	170	1,114	1,284	171	1,227	1,408	154	1,303	1,457
May	170	1,121	1,291	163	1,253	1,416	157	1,360	1,517
June	175	1,122	1,297	161	1,250	1,411	151	1,315	1,466
July	176	1,153	1,329	164	1,236	1,400	132	1,324	1,456
August	173	1,211	1,384	165	1,235	1,400	132	1,222	1,354
September	132	1,240	1,422	169	1,303	1,472	163	1,262	1,425
October	134	1,273	1,407	132	1,305	1,437	165	1,771	1,936
November	133	1,313	1,506	170	1,277	1,447	135	1,719	1,854
December	133	1,305	1,438	170	1,232	1,402	163	1,632	1,795
MONTHLY AVERAGE ...	174	1,189	1,363	169	1,232	1,401	160	1,609	1,769

Table 8. - Number of Wage-earners during One Week in Month of Highest Employment with their Hours of Work per Week and Average Weekly Earnings.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	1940		1941	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
30 hours or less	1	22	1	24
31-43 hours	7	73	3	238
44 hours	30	195	4	39
45-47 hours	77	314	37	320
48 hours	33	141	23	201
49-50 hours	3	104	1	35
51-54 hours	19	45	54	172
55 hours	2	5	4	46
56-64 hours	7	24	3	22
65 hours and over	-	-	-	-
Average hours per week	47.1	46.8	48.0	45.6
Average weekly earnings	\$12.57	\$11.42	\$23.04	\$11.97

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1940 and 1941

Classes of Power	1 9 4 0		1 9 4 1	
	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	202	504	216	515
Idle	-	-	4	7
TOTAL POWER AVAILABLE FOR MANUFACTURING	203	604	221	622
Boiler installation				
In use	5	445	5	445
Idle	-	-	-	-

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1940 and 1941

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 4 0		1 9 4 1	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous	(2000 lbs)	1,195	8,303	1,222	9,253
Anthracite	"	102	392	43	920
Coke	"	33	373	71	356
Gasoline	Imp. Gal.	10	3	10	3
Kerosene or coal oil	Gal.	40	11	40	12
Fuel or diesel oil	"	4,431	360	4,423	413
Gas -					
Manufactured	cu. ft.	115	109	122	161
Wood	Cord	2	13	-	-
TOTAL COST OF FUEL	-	-	10,609	-	11,723
Electricity purchased (including service charges).	Kw. H.	513,436	12,334	639,729	15,221
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	22,943	-	27,044

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1941

APPENDIX

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1941

Quebec

Best Form Brassiere Company	300 Craig Street West, Montreal
Better Brand Brassiere	3846 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Form Craft Brassiere Company	3457 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Crenier, C.J. and Company	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal
Corset, The M.T. Company, Ltd.	1700 Laframboise Street, St. Hyacinthe
Dominion Corset Company, Ltd.	45 Dorchester Street, Quebec
Parisian Corset Manuf., Co., Ltd.	599 St. Valier Street, Quebec
Perfection Corset Company, Ltd., The	38 Champlain Street, Quebec
Spencer Corset (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island

Ontario

Alexandra Manufacturing Company	73 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
Allward, The F. J. Company, Ltd.	300 Bay Street, Toronto
Canadian H. W. Cossard Company, Ltd., The	336 Adelaide Street, Toronto
Charis Limited	284 Lake Shore Road, New Toronto
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	190 Yonge Street, Toronto
Flexes (Canada) Limited	240 Richmond Street West, Toronto
Gordon and Mason	33 Church Street, Toronto
Hayward, A.P., Limited	50 York Street, Toronto
Kops Brothers Limited	550A 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
A. Stein and Company Ltd., The	41 Peter Street, Toronto

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