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Minister of Trade and Commerce

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

+++ Industry and Merchandising Division +++

GENERAL MANUFACTURES SECTION

REPORT

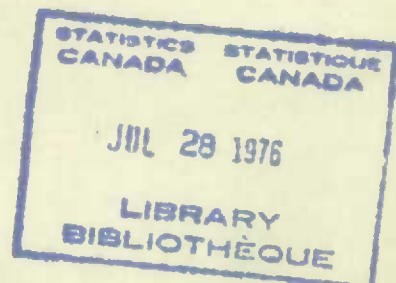
ON THE

CORSET INDUSTRY

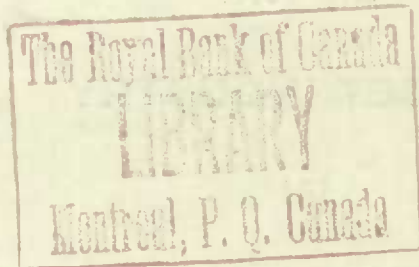
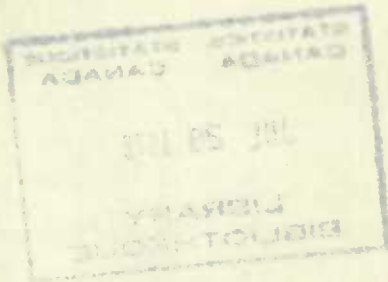
IN

CANADA

1947



OTTAWA
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(21 Feb. 49)

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

GENERAL MANUFACTURES SECTION

OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947

In 1947 reports were received from forty establishments engaged in the production of corsets and kindred articles, 18 of which were located in Quebec and 22 in Ontario. Quebec, however, occupied the leading position in the industry with over 63 per cent of the gross value of production and over 62 per cent of the number of persons given employment.

Goods with a selling value at the factory of \$14,121,811 were produced in 1947, this amount representing an increase of \$2,006,225 or 16.6 per cent over the previous year. Employment was given to 3,259 persons, 432 or 15.3 per cent more than in 1946, and the payroll at \$4,093,288 was greater by \$804,221 or 24.5 per cent. Materials used cost \$6,276,125, an increase of \$1,164,433 or 22.8 per cent.

The 188,774 dozen corsets and girdles produced were valued at \$5,765,336 and this amount represented 40.8 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price per dozen at \$30.54 was \$5.22 higher than the average of the previous year. The output of combination garments amounted to 44,683 dozens valued at \$1,698,719 while bandeaux and brassieres accounted for \$5,292,044.

As may be observed in Table 5, of the 40 establishments reporting the 10 largest were responsible for a production of \$9,910,415 or over 70 per cent of the total and furnished employment to 2,160 persons or over 66 per cent of all persons employed.

The month of highest employment of wage-earners was March, when 2,733 persons were reported and December with 2,533 was the month of minimum employment. Females represent 89.5 per cent of the wage-earners in the industry.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947.

Table 1. Principal Statistics Representative Years, 1925 to 1947

Year and Provinces	Estab-lish-ments	Capital Invested	Em-ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
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
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
1938	23	3,377,292	1,632	1,313,711	1,939,519	4,321,254
1939	23	3,820,719	1,768	1,430,514	2,121,694	4,706,947
1940	25	3,817,487	1,886	1,556,419	2,377,079	5,158,146
1941	24	4,569,994	2,263	1,926,168	2,948,813	6,171,683
1942	26	4,769,208	2,314	2,035,355	3,129,641	6,945,472
1943	27	4,776,317	2,220	2,244,814	2,891,021	7,132,539
1944	28	(1)	2,350	2,451,216	2,965,290	7,957,181
<u>1945</u>						
CANADA	33	(1)	2,527	2,786,015	3,475,601	9,214,536
Quebec	14	-	1,606	1,760,131	2,293,414	5,908,239
Ontario	19	-	921	1,025,884	1,182,187	3,306,297
<u>1946</u>						
CANADA	39	(1)	2,827	3,289,067	5,111,692	12,115,586
Quebec	17	-	1,758	2,019,275	3,089,498	7,541,804
Ontario	22	-	1,069	1,269,792	2,022,194	4,573,782
<u>1947</u>						
CANADA	40	(1)	3,259	4,093,288	6,276,125	14,121,811
Quebec	18	-	2,045	2,424,714	4,120,964	8,967,190
Ontario	22	-	1,214	1,668,574	2,155,161	5,154,621

1. Information not collected since 1943.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1946 and 1947

Items		1946	1947	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting	No.	39	40	+ 1
Employees on salaries -				
Total	No.	511	609	+ 98
Male	No.	183	222	+ 39
Female	No.	328	387	+ 59
Total salaries	\$	1,288,275	1,506,603	+ 218,328
Employees on wages -				
Monthly average	No.	2,316	2,650	+ 334
Male	No.	242	279	+ 37
Female	No.	2,074	2,371	+ 297
Total wages	\$	2,000,792	2,586,685	+ 585,893
Power Equipment -				
Units	No.	302	651	+ 349
Horsepower capacity	H.P.	556	921	+ 365
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$	34,645	45,323	+ 10,678
Cost of materials used	\$	5,111,692	6,276,125	+ 1,164,433
Gross value of production	\$	12,115,586	14,121,811	+ 2,006,225
Value added by manufacture	\$	6,969,249	7,800,363	+ 831,114

Profits or losses cannot be estimated from Census 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, 1947

Table 3. - Production, 1946 (1) and 1947 (1).

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1946		1947	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Corsets and girdles -					
Cotton	Doz.	77,663	2,083,964	69,996	2,154,378
Silk and satin	"	26,354	852,810	30,144	1,061,188
Rayon and mixtures	"	37,184	1,201,285	43,748	1,339,740
Elastic	"	67,711	1,152,477	44,886	1,210,030
Combination garments -					
Cotton	"	9,372	365,189	9,012	386,264
Silk and satin	"	9,113	380,347	10,395	510,570
Rayon and mixtures	"	16,333	581,040	13,105	558,660
Elastic	"	250	10,361	2,627	179,085
Children's waists	"	7,789	49,744	9,544	64,140
Bandeaux and brassieres -					
Cotton	"	207,477	1,855,060	217,498	2,089,650
Silk and satin	"	97,087	967,942	113,690	1,400,867
Rayon and mixtures	"	122,750	1,287,735	140,626	1,650,120
All other materials not specified	"	41,280	252,853	12,224	151,407
Surgical belts and other surgical garments	"	4,392	670,872	4,079	679,149
Underwear, all kinds	"	33,250	208,148	28,923	413,234
Garters	"	-	28,646	49,277	42,302
Girdles, suspender	"	10,855	81,900	12,189	111,170
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	"	-	19,587	-	37,169
Shoulder braces	"	767	6,178	623	5,288
All other products	"	-	59,448	-	77,400
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS	-	-	12,115,586	-	14,121,811

- (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, hosiery and knitted goods and other industries.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947

Table 4. - Capital invested representative years, 1925 to 1943.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working 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.	Total Capital
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1925	1,011,217	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
1937	1,398,176	1,394,418	644,909	3,437,503
1938	1,465,610	1,267,636	644,046	3,377,292
1939	1,548,584	1,528,598	743,537	3,820,719
1940	1,318,958	1,673,781	824,748	3,817,487
1941	1,387,283	2,288,473 x	894,238	4,569,994
<u>1942</u>				
CANADA	1,244,803	2,637,749 x	886,656	4,769,208
Quebec	956,855	1,837,371	557,928	3,352,154
Ontario	287,948	800,378	328,728	1,417,054
<u>1943</u>				
CANADA	1,427,048	2,229,682 x	1,119,587	4,776,317
Quebec	1,132,863	1,530,578	746,408	3,409,849
Ontario	294,185	699,104	373,179	1,366,468

The above information not collected since 1943.

x Includes inventory value of "finished products on hand" amounting to \$479,077 in 1941; \$508,609 in 1942; and \$323,744 in 1943.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947

Table 5. - Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1946 and 1947.

Establishments having a production of -			Estab- lish- ments	Em- ployees	Salaries and wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
			No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
<u>1946</u>							
\$	5,000 to under \$	25,000 ...	8	22	22,586	32,020	73,269
	25,000 "	50,000 ...	7)	163	146,122	228,821	480,110
	50,000 "	100,000 ...	2)				
	100,000 "	500,000 ...	14	866	964,185	1,635,254	3,543,387
	500,000 "	1,000,000 ...	7)	1,776	2,156,174	3,215,597	8,018,820
	1,000,000 and over	1)				
TOTAL			39	2,827	3,289,067	5,111,692	12,115,586
<u>1947</u>							
\$	5,000 to under \$	25,000 ...	5	23	20,104	18,341	46,944
	25,000 "	50,000 ...	6	59	75,133	96,862	220,713
	50,000 "	100,000 ...	3	57	67,147	144,112	241,938
	100,000 "	500,000 ...	16	960	1,178,072	1,612,735	3,701,801
	500,000 "	1,000,000 ...	8)	2,160	2,752,832	4,404,075	9,910,415
	1,000,000 and over	2)				
TOTAL			40	3,259	4,093,288	6,276,125	14,121,811

Table 6. - Employees by Sex and Remuneration 1945 to 1947

		1945	1946	1947
Salaried Employees -				
Total	No.	493	511	609
Male	No.	191	183	222
Female	No.	302	328	387
Total salaries	\$	1,152,883	1,288,275	1,506,603
Wage-earners -				
Monthly average	No.	2,034	2,316	2,650
Male	No.	175	242	279
Female	No.	1,859	2,074	2,371
Total wages	\$	1,633,132	2,000,792	2,586,685
All Employees -				
Total	No.	2,527	2,827	3,259
Male	No.	366	425	501
Female	No.	2,161	2,402	2,758
Total salaries and wages ...	\$	2,786,015	3,289,067	4,093,288

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947

Table 7. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1945 to 1947.

Months	1 9 4 5			1 9 4 6			1 9 4 7		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	160	1,814	1,974	222	2,076	2,298	272	2,339	2,611
February	168	1,835	2,003	223	2,089	2,310	274	2,408	2,682
March	164	1,866	2,030	229	2,062	2,291	272	2,461	2,733
April	159	1,867	2,026	229	2,035	2,264	279	2,436	2,715
May	164	1,854	2,018	234	2,040	2,274	275	2,420	2,695
June	164	1,840	2,004	236	2,092	2,328	277	2,399	2,676
July	164	1,764	1,928	236	2,082	2,318	278	2,326	2,604
August	172	1,824	1,996	236	2,109	2,345	278	2,261	2,539
September	184	1,871	2,055	246	2,097	2,343	274	2,370	2,644
October	186	1,921	2,107	250	2,122	2,372	279	2,402	2,681
November	192	1,945	2,137	259	2,070	2,329	280	2,365	2,645
December	188	1,915	2,103	265	2,016	2,281	278	2,255	2,533
MONTHLY AVERAGES .	175	1,859	2,034	242	2,074	2,316	279	2,371	2,650

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, 1944 and 1945.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	1 9 4 4		1 9 4 5	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
30 hours or less	4	103	2	115
31-43 hours	15	346	12	372
44 hours	13	180	15	272
45-47 hours	67	830	80	810
48 hours	39	292	48	386
49-50 hours	13	162	5	1
51-54 hours	4	-	12	-
55 hours	-	-	-	-
55-64 hours	4	-	2	106
65 hours and over	4	-	-	-
Average hours per week	46.3	43.7	46.2	44
Average weekly earnings	\$28.39	\$14.75	\$29.44	\$16.00

The above information has not been collected since 1945.

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947.

Table 9. - Power Installation, 1946 and 1947

Classes of Power	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity
Electric motors operated by purchased power -				
In use	292	547	631	889
Idle	10	9	20	32
TOTAL POWER AVAILABLE FOR MANUFACTURING PURPOSES	302	556	651	921

Table 10. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1946 and 1947.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Coal	Ton				
Bituminous	(2,000 lb.)	746	7,551	651	6,649
Anthracite	"	111	1,803	153	2,630
Coke	"	1	14	4	51
Gasoline	Imp. Gal.	931	314	325	122
Kerosene or coal oil	Gal.	50	12	50	12
Fuel Oil	"	67,657	5,392	106,915	11,703
Wood	Cord	1	9	1	4
Gas					
Manufactured	M. cu. ft.	14	17	413	445
TOTAL COST OF FUEL	-	-	15,112	-	21,616
Electricity purchased (in- cluding service charges) .	Kw. H.	995,680	19,533	1,306,954	23,707
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY	-	-	34,645	-	45,323

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947.

Table 11. - Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,
Calendar Years 1946 and 1947.

Articles Imported	Unit of Measure	1946		1947	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corsets, Corselettes, Girdles and Brassieres	-	-	141,177	-	457,853
Corsets, Clasps, Busks, Blanks, Steels and Covered Corset wires cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	-	-	30,342	-	40,997
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 the manufacture of corset clasps steels, wires and dress stays	Cwt.	3,983	108,647	4,095	146,424
Tips, studs and eyes of metal for the manufacture of corsets and corset wires	-	-	5,805	-	7,375
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets and corset rivets, shoe eyelet hooks, shoe lace wire fasteners	-	-	315,823	-	266,569
Sheets, hoop band or strip for the manufacture of buckle clasps, bed fasts, furniture casters, corset steels, clock springs, shoe shanks, phonograph motor springs or ball bearings	Cwt.	15,276	108,617	18,911	172,220

Table 12. - Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1946 and 1947

Articles Exported	Unit of Measure	1946		1947	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Corsets	No.	55,858	124,971	317,698	291,638
Brassieres	No.	91,986	66,949	102,763	69,583



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- 10 -

THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947.

A P P E N D I X

Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1947.

Quebec.

Best Form Brassiere Company	147 Paul Street West, Montreal
Canadian Brassieres Inc.	20 rue Chabot St., Levis
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Corset, The E. T. Company, Ltd.	1700 Laframboise St., St. Hyacinthe
Dainty Maid Brassiere Inc.	3643 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Form Craft Product Company	5505 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Grenier, C. J. and Company	4835 Colonial Avenue, Montreal
Janesse Limited	4530 Clarke St., Montreal
La Brassiere Marquise & Cie Enrg.	1268 Laurier East, Montreal
Nature Fit Brassieres	7100 Waverley Street, Montreal
Queen Brassieres Mfg. Co.	4828 De Grandprè St., Montreal
Smart Brassieres Reg'd.	119 Kelly St. West, Montreal
Reidon Mfg. Corporation	9500 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Dominion Corset Company Ltd.,	45 Dorchester Street, Quebec
Parisien Corset Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	599 St. Valier Street, Quebec
Perfection Corset Company, Ltd.	38 Champlain Street, Quebec
Ross Corsets, Ltd.	155 St. Paul St., Quebec
Spencer Supports (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island

Ontario

Alexandra Manufacturing Company	73 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
B & B Company,	860 Richmond St. N., Toronto
Birstock S & Company	95 A King Street West, Toronto
Canadian H. W. Gossard Company Ltd., The	366 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
Charis Limited	747A Lake Shore Road, New Toronto
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	35-59 Teraulay Street, Toronto
Flexees (Canada) Limited,	48 Abel Street, Toronto
Gordon and Mason	93½ Church Street, Toronto
Hayward, A. P., Limited	547 Parliament Street, Toronto
Iris Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	600 Bay Street, Toronto
Jarwoods Limited	368 Victoria St., Toronto
Kops Brothers Limited	559 College Street, Toronto
Lady Mac of Canada Ltd.	91 Wellington Street West, Toronto
Lagnon Manufacturing Limited,	253 Queen Street W., Toronto
Perfect Fit Brassiere Co.,	342 Adelaide W., Toronto
Princess Uplift	760 Bathurst Street, Toronto
Rose Marx Brassieres Limited,	154 Pearl Street, Toronto
Spracklin, J. M.	15 Castlewood Road, Toronto
Stein and Company, Ltd., A.	41 Peter Street, Toronto
Nu Bone Corset Company of Canada, Ltd., The	48 Main Street, Port Dalhousie
Spirella Company of Canada Ltd., The	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls
American Lady Apparel Ltd.	209-215 Sandwich St., Windsor.