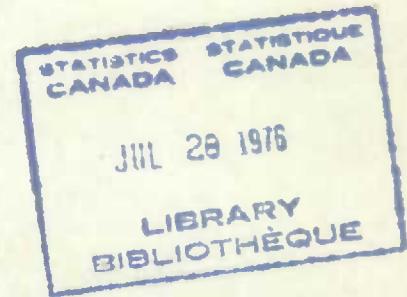


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THE CORSET INDUSTRY  
1950



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## NOTICE

The Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics collects and compiles figures on (a) the primary industries in Canada—mining, forestry and fishing; (b) manufacturing; (c) construction, and (d) merchandising and services.

For the purpose of annual compilation and publication, the manufacturing industries have been classified into major groups, prefaced by two reports of a general nature, as follows:

- I Summary Report on Manufacturing Industries
- II Manufacturing Industries by Geographical Distribution
- III Foods and Beverages
- IV Tobacco and Tobacco Products
- V Rubber Products
- VI Leather Products
- VII Miscellaneous Manufactures
- VIII Textiles
- IX Wood and Paper Products
- X Printing Trades
- XI Operations in the Woods
- XII Iron and Steel Products
- XIII Transportation Equipment
- XIV Non-ferrous Metal Products
- XV Electrical Apparatus
- XVI Non-metallic Mineral Products
- XVII Coke and Gas—Petroleum Refining
- XVIII Chemicals and Allied Products

The present report belongs in Group VIII, Textiles. It is punched to permit of filing in a ring binder along with others of the group. The reports in this group are:

### A General Review of All Textiles, 50¢.

#### Textiles, Except Clothing

- B General Review, 25¢.
- C The Cotton Textile Industry, 40¢.
- D The Woollen Textile Industries, 40¢.
- E The Synthetic Textiles and Silk Industry, 25¢.
- F The Narrow Fabrics Industry, 25¢.
- G The Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods Industry, 25¢.

#### Miscellaneous Textile Products

- H The Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 25¢.
- I The Cordage, Rope and Twine Industry, 25¢.
- J The Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 25¢.
- K The Miscellaneous Textiles Industries, 25¢.

#### Clothing

- L General Review, 25¢.
- M The Men's Factory Clothing Industry, 40¢.
- N The Women's and Children's Factory Clothing Industries, 40¢.
- O The Hosiery, Knitted Goods and Fabric Glove and Mitten Industries, 35¢.
- P The Corset Industry, 25¢.
- Q The Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industries, 25¢.
- R The Hat and Cap Industry, 25¢.
- S The Miscellaneous Clothing Industries, 25¢.

## THE CORSET INDUSTRY

1950

In 1950 the value of production of the corset industry reached \$16,947,544, a gain of 3.4 per cent. There was no general increase, however, either in the physical volume of specific commodities or in employment. There were significant declines in the production of cotton corsets and brassieres and the employment level showed a drop of 6.9 per cent. The industry is now almost entirely dependent on the Canadian market as exports of corsets and girdles dropped from \$16,724 in 1949 to \$1,327 in 1950 and exports of brassieres were reduced from \$53,036 in 1949 to \$15,373 in 1950. At the same time as these reductions in exports took place there was an increase in the importation of corsets, corsellettes, girdles and brassieres from \$205,575 in 1949 to \$467,172 in 1950. The slow shift in the industry toward the utilization of rayon and nylon for corsets and girdles was continued in 1950.

The gain of \$558,536 in the industry's production was accompanied by a rise in the cost of materials from \$7,101,529 in 1949 to \$7,358,186 in 1950. In absolute terms employment showed a decline of 237, from 3,456 in 1949 to 3,219 in 1950. The decline included 165 employees in Quebec and 72 in Ontario. Salaries and wages declined from \$4,818,813 in 1949 to \$4,741,557 in 1950, a drop of 1.6 per cent.

There were thirty-seven establishments in the corset industry in 1950, the same number as in the previous year. Seventeen of these were in Quebec and produced goods to the value of \$11,164,312 or nearly 66 per cent of the total output. The remaining \$5,783,232 was produced by twenty establishments in Ontario. Quebec also dominated in terms of employment with 64 per cent of employees of the industry located in that province.

In terms of size, thirteen establishments each having a value of production in excess of \$500,000, accounted for 74 per cent of the output and 73.5 per cent of the employment of the industry. Of the thirty-seven establishments in the industry, twenty-five had a value of output between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. While a lower level of employment was recorded in the industry there was little seasonal variation and the numbers of wage-earners varied from a high of 2,780 in October to a low of 2,475 in December. The industry gave a large share of employment to females and the number of female wage-earners in 1950 amounted to 87 per cent of total wage-earners.

The 182,685 dozen corsets and girdles produced in 1950 were valued at \$6,411,270 and this amount represented 38 per cent of the total value of production in the corset industry. The average price of corsets and girdles per dozen at \$35.09 was 81 cents higher than the average of the previous year. Bandeaux and brassieres were produced to the extent of \$7,487,861 and accounted for 44 per cent of total production. The output of combination garments amounted to 31,849 dozen valued at \$1,465,611.

## THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1925 to 1950

Year and Provinces	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Gross value of production
			No.	\$	\$
1925.....	17	1,461	1,110,282	2,330,165	4,314,309
1927.....	16	1,351	1,009,495	1,925,962	3,791,748
1928.....	16	1,418	1,124,284	2,055,416	4,246,948
1929.....	17	1,405	1,084,231	2,098,351	4,219,019
1930.....	19	1,482	1,097,037	2,221,313	4,578,847
1931.....	20	1,508	1,124,990	2,054,461	4,187,647
1932.....	19	1,517	1,202,228	1,812,233	4,267,671
1933.....	20	1,498	1,154,979	1,881,362	4,168,585
1934.....	23	1,598	1,274,845	2,062,352	4,461,409
1936.....	23	1,555	1,289,015	1,956,071	4,397,141
1937.....	23	1,684	1,328,019	2,100,321	4,567,707
1938.....	23	1,632	1,313,711	1,939,519	4,321,254
1939.....	23	1,768	1,430,514	2,121,694	4,706,947
1940.....	25	1,886	1,556,419	2,377,079	5,158,146
1941.....	24	2,263	1,926,168	2,948,813	6,171,683
1942.....	26	2,314	2,035,355	3,129,641	6,945,472
1943.....	27	2,220	2,244,814	2,891,021	7,132,539
1944.....	28	2,350	2,451,216	2,965,290	7,957,181
1945.....	33	2,527	2,786,015	3,475,601	9,214,536
1946.....	39	2,827	3,289,067	5,111,692	12,115,586
1947.....	40	3,259	4,093,288	6,276,125	14,121,811
1948					
Canada .....	37	3,154	4,358,510	6,462,015	15,486,766
Quebec .....	16	1,880	2,520,664	4,077,614	9,818,356
Ontario .....	21	1,274	1,837,846	2,384,401	5,668,410
1949					
Canada .....	37	3,456	4,818,813	7,101,529	16,389,008
Quebec .....	18	2,217	2,938,979	4,668,267	10,475,986
Ontario .....	19	1,239	1,879,834	2,433,262	5,913,022
1950					
Canada .....	37	3,219	4,741,557	7,358,186	16,947,544
Quebec .....	17	2,052	2,826,039	4,745,657	11,164,312
Ontario .....	20	1,167	1,915,518	2,612,529	5,783,232

TABLE 2. Production, 1949<sup>1</sup> and 1950<sup>1</sup>

Principal products	1949		1950	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
Corsets and girdles:				
Cotton .....	62,705	2,209,109	53,059	1,944,576
Silk and nylon .....	7,365	380,770	13,930	583,004
Rayon and mixtures .....	63,308	2,584,879	67,068	2,732,906
Elastic .....	49,554	1,096,295	48,628	1,150,784
Combination garments:				
Cotton .....	8,862	446,195	8,108	373,121
Silk .....	19,354	958,865	17,790	936,579
Rayon and mixtures .....	4,875	43,096	790	74,558
Elastic .....	285	33,322	4,693	32,714
Children's waists .....			468	48,639
Nylon .....				

1. The statistics published in this table cover only those manufacturing establishments which have corsets and kindred articles as their principal products. For the total output of corsets, girdles and brassieres see table 3.

TABLE 2. Production, 1949<sup>1</sup> and 1950<sup>1</sup> — Concluded

Principal products	1949		1950	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
<b>Bandeaux and brassieres:</b>				
Cotton.....	243,487	2,721,965	231,080	2,805,404
Silk.....	22,508	253,938	6,077	54,225
Nylon .....	42,736	611,155	69,462	937,901
Rayon and other .....	254,689	3,478,806	279,576	3,690,331
Underwear, all kinds .....	23,453	265,075	35,209	471,349
Garters .....	7,090	66,426	2,107	5,745
Girdles, suspender .....	24,101	224,249	32,421	328,282
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.) .....	{ }	17,548	—	14,347
Shoulder braces.....		—	—	—
All other products .....	—	997,315	—	763,079
Total value of products .....	—	16,389,008	—	16,947,544

1. The statistics published in this table cover only those manufacturing establishments which have corsets and kindred articles as their principal products. For the total output of corsets, girdles and brassieres see table 3.

TABLE 3. Production of Corsets, Girdles, Brassieres and Combination Garments in all Industries in Canada, 1938-1949

Year	Corsets and girdles		Combination garments <sup>1</sup>		Bandeaux, brassieres, etc.	
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
1938.....	121,488	2,125,286	52,562	1,210,338	—	1,002,293
1939.....	133,205	2,419,490	53,156	1,211,689	—	1,043,190
1940.....	149,263	2,725,439	62,236	1,301,545	257,166	1,127,493
1941.....	146,574	2,791,990	58,304	1,494,759	305,294	1,613,360
1942.....	226,757	3,194,608	66,703	1,651,342	353,306	2,009,759
1943.....	143,212	3,298,623	36,781	1,220,102	364,926	2,175,446
1944.....	135,296	3,413,420	37,107	1,187,242	393,795	2,766,411
1945.....	147,530	3,765,101	35,596	1,177,005	419,889	3,603,638
1946.....	215,005	5,406,175	35,068	1,336,937	508,091	4,581,918
1947.....	194,119	5,906,143	35,139	1,634,579	528,564	5,597,069
1948.....	200,710	6,463,732	34,011	1,635,478	540,412	6,292,344
1949.....	197,577	6,421,681	29,080	1,452,845	574,682	7,175,428

1. Excluding children's waists.

## THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

**TABLE 4. Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials,  
Calendar Years 1949 and 1950**

Articles imported	1949		1950	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Corsets, corselettes, girdles and brassieres .....	-	205, 575	-	467, 172
Corsets, clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered .....	-	17, 640	-	17, 148
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, 281	113, 454	2, 841
Tips, studs and eyes of metal for the manufacture of corsets and corset wires .....	-	7, 147	-	8, 108
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets and corset rivets, show eyelet hooks, show lace wire fasteners .....	-	287, 670	-	318, 251
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.	19, 043	201, 493	16, 667
				149, 643

**TABLE 5. Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1949 and 1950**

Articles exported	1949		1950	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		No.		\$
Corsets and girdles .....	4, 834	16, 724	176	1, 327
Brassieres .....	58, 704	53, 036	18, 407	15, 373

**TABLE 6. Employees, Salaries and Wages by Provinces, 1949 and 1950**

	1949			1950		
	Quebec	Ontario	Total	Quebec	Ontario	Total
<b>Salaried Employees:</b>						
Total .....	No. 357	No. 218	\$ 575	No. 356	No. 213	\$ 569
Male .....	No. 161	No. 62	\$ 223	No. 156	No. 60	\$ 216
Female .....	No. 196	No. 156	\$ 352	No. 200	No. 153	\$ 353
Total salaries .....	\$ 967, 181	\$ 570, 760	\$ 1, 537, 941	\$ 957, 528	\$ 597, 227	\$ 1, 554, 755
<b>Wage-earners:</b>						
Monthly average .....	No. 1, 860	No. 1, 021	\$ 2, 881	No. 1, 696	No. 954	\$ 2, 650
Male .....	No. 231	No. 101	\$ 332	No. 231	No. 108	\$ 339
Female .....	No. 1, 629	No. 920	\$ 2, 549	No. 1, 465	No. 846	\$ 2, 311
Total wages .....	\$ 1, 971, 798	\$ 1, 309, 074	\$ 3, 280, 872	\$ 1, 868, 511	\$ 1, 318, 291	\$ 3, 186, 802
<b>All Employees:</b>						
Total .....	No. 2, 217	No. 1, 239	\$ 3, 456	No. 2, 052	No. 1, 167	\$ 3, 219
Male .....	No. 392	No. 163	\$ 555	No. 387	No. 168	\$ 555
Female .....	No. 1, 825	No. 1, 076	\$ 2, 901	No. 1, 665	No. 999	\$ 2, 664
Total salaries and wages .....	\$ 2, 938, 979	\$ 1, 879, 834	\$ 4, 818, 813	\$ 2, 826, 039	\$ 1, 915, 518	\$ 4, 741, 557

TABLE 7. Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1948 to 1950

Months	1948			1949			1950		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January .....	293	2,273	2,566	338	2,624	2,962	334	2,312	2,646
February .....	300	2,297	2,597	325	2,589	2,914	325	2,252	2,577
March .....	301	2,299	2,600	332	2,621	2,953	337	2,284	2,621
April .....	307	2,278	2,585	331	2,565	2,896	331	2,263	2,594
May .....	305	2,193	2,498	335	2,524	2,859	328	2,334	2,662
June .....	304	2,196	2,500	332	2,483	2,815	348	2,326	2,674
July .....	309	2,171	2,480	327	2,409	2,736	343	2,296	2,639
August .....	312	2,232	2,544	333	2,482	2,815	336	2,291	2,627
September .....	321	2,328	2,649	332	2,554	2,886	335	2,398	2,733
October .....	311	2,420	2,731	338	2,639	2,977	339	2,441	2,780
November .....	315	2,480	2,795	332	2,647	2,979	337	2,397	2,734
December .....	311	2,498	2,809	319	2,399	2,718	338	2,137	2,475
Monthly Averages .....	308	2,308	2,616	332	2,549	2,881	339	2,311	2,650

TABLE 8. Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1949 and 1950

Establishments having a production of:	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Gross value of production
			and wages		
1949					
Under \$25,000 .....	4	25	16,207	26,017	52,752
\$25,000 to \$50,000 .....	2	84	102,219	144,516	297,461
\$50,000 to \$100,000 .....	3	782	1,093,970	1,295,040	3,505,043
\$100,000 to \$500,000 .....	15	2,565	3,606,417	5,635,956	12,533,752
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000 .....	12				
\$1,000,000 and over .....	1				
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>4,818,813</b>	<b>7,101,529</b>	<b>16,389,008</b>
1950					
Under \$25,000 .....	4	24	17,355	26,263	54,972
\$25,000 to \$50,000 .....	1	136	182,677	203,491	431,805
\$50,000 to \$100,000 .....	5	692	1,126,072	1,740,932	3,874,734
\$100,000 to \$500,000 .....	14	2,367	3,415,453	5,387,500	12,586,033
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000 .....	11				
\$1,000,000 and over .....	2				
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>4,741,557</b>	<b>7,358,186</b>	<b>16,947,544</b>



## THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

## APPENDIX

## List of Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1953

Name	Address
<b>Quebec:</b>	
Best Form Brassiere Company, Ltd.	750 St. Francois Xavier, Montreal
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Dainty Maid Brassiere Inc.	3643 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Delvoye, R., Inc.	Waterloo
Dominion Corset Company, Ltd.	45 Dorchester St., Quebec
E.T. Corset Company, Ltd.	1700 Laframboise St., St. Hyacinthe
Grenier, C.J. Ltd.	4835 Colonial Ave., Montreal
Janesse Limited	50 Mt Royal Ave. W., Montreal
La Brassière Marquise & Cie Enrg.	1268 Laurier East, Montreal
Marvel-Bra Reg'd.	7100 Waverley, St., Montreal
Parisien Corset Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	599 St. Valier St., Quebec
Perfection Corset Company, Ltd.	38 Champlain St., Quebec
Reldon Mfg. Corporation	4475 Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Ross Corsets, Ltd.	155 St. Paul St., Quebec
Smart Brassieres Reg'd.	119 Kelly St. West, Montreal
Spencer Supports (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island
Vanity Brassiere Co. Ltd.	7255 Alexandra St., Montreal
<b>Ontario:</b>	
Alexandra Manufacturing Company	6 Maud St., Toronto
Birstock, S. and Company	89 Niagara St., Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	366 Adelaide St. West, Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	Port Perry
Charis Limited	150-7th St., New Toronto
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	33-59 Teraulay St., Toronto
Flexees (Canada) Limited	48 Abel St., Toronto
Gordon and Mason	100 Jarvis St., Toronto
Hayward, A.P. Limited	547 Parliament St., Toronto
Iris Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	600 Bay St., Toronto
Kops Brothers Limited	559 College St., Toronto
Lady Mac of Canada Ltd.	91 Wellington St. West, Toronto
Lagnon Manufacturing Ltd.	253 Queen St. West, Toronto
Lovable Brassiere Co. of Canada Ltd.	590 King St. W., Toronto
Nu Bone Corset Company of Canada, Ltd., The	48 Main St., Port Dalhousie
Princess Uplift	760 Bathurst St., Toronto
Rose Marx Brassieres Limited	152-154 Pearl St., Toronto
Spirella Company of Canada Ltd., The	1651 River Road, Niagara Falls
Stein and Company, Ltd., A.	41 Peter St., Toronto
Stella Lucas Co.	918 Main St. E., Hamilton