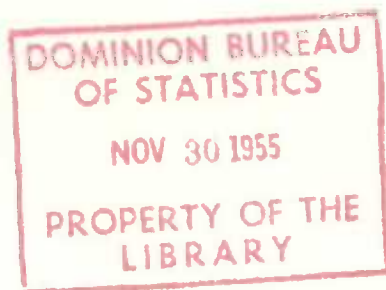


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THE CORSET INDUSTRY

1954



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NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: **Volume I**—The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; **Volume II**—Manufacturing; **Volume III**—Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries or provinces which they comprise.

Volume II consists of the following parts, the first two of which deal with manufacturing as a whole and the balance with the major manufacturing groups.

- I—General Review of the Manufacturing Industries, \$1.50
- II—The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, (7 sections, as follows:)
 - Section A. Summary for Canada, 25¢
 - Section B. Atlantic Provinces, 25¢
 - Section C. Quebec, 25¢
 - Section D. Ontario, 25¢
 - Section E. Prairie Provinces, 25¢
 - Section F. British Columbia, 25¢
 - Section G. The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, Regional Distribution, 75¢
- III—Foods and Beverages
- IV—Tobacco and Tobacco Products
- V—Rubber Products
- VI—Leather Products
- VII—Textile Mills
- VIII—Knitting Mills
- IX—Clothing
 - X—Wood and Paper Products
- XI—Printing Trades
- XII—Iron and Steel Products
- XIII—Transportation Equipment
- XIV—Non-ferrous Metal Products
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- XVI—Non-metallic Mineral Products
- XVII—Products of Petroleum and Coal
- XVIII—Chemicals and Allied Products
- XIX—Miscellaneous Manufactures

The present report belongs in Part IX, Clothing. 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, 25¢
- B—The Men's Factory Clothing Industry, 25¢
- C—The Women's and Children's Factory Clothing Industries, 25¢
- D—The Corset Industry, 25¢
- E—The Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industries, 25¢
- F—The Hat and Cap Industry, 25¢
- G—The Miscellaneous Clothing Industries, 25¢

THE CORSET INDUSTRY

1954

The corset industry in 1954 operated at slightly lower levels than in 1953 in terms of factory shipments and employment. There was, however, a small increase in the cost of materials used. Contrasting changes occurred in the utilization of fabrics in the various kinds of products. For example, the industry reported the shipment of a substantially larger quantity of elastic corsets and girdles while shipments of cotton corsets and girdles dropped considerably. In the case of bandeaux and brassieres, deliveries of cotton garments increased while those of rayon and nylon declined. Shipments of combination garments were generally lower in 1954 as compared with the previous year.

The value of factory shipments amounted to \$21,351,495 in 1954, down slightly from the \$22,028,653 reached a year earlier. Employment which stood at 3,639 in 1953 dropped to 3,484 in 1954, a loss of 4 per cent. Salary and wage payments were down from \$6,556,311 to \$6,465,390 over the two years. The cost of materials used was higher, having risen from \$8,852,984 in 1953 to \$8,903,445 in 1954.

Factory shipments of corsets and girdles in 1954 totalled 205,838 dozen valued at \$7,960,571 compared with 187,611 dozen worth \$7,246,611 in 1953. The average price of \$38.67 per dozen in the year under review was virtually unchanged from the average price of \$38.63 obtained a year before. Bandeaux and brassieres were shipped to the extent of 752,392 dozen worth \$10,615,582, this being somewhat less than the 835,800 dozen garments valued at \$10,954,222 shipped in 1953. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for 50 per cent of the total value of shipments and corsets and girdles for 37 per cent. Shipments of combination garments in 1954, children's waists excluded, amounted to 15,569 dozen with a value of \$939,133.

There were 43 establishments in the corset industry in 1954, one more than the previous year. Twenty three of these were in Quebec and shipped goods to the value of \$13,683,907 or 64 per cent of the total. The remaining \$7,667,588 worth of goods was shipped by 20 establishments in Ontario. Quebec also dominated in terms of employment with 62 per cent of employees of the industry located in that province.

Four establishments each having factory shipments with a value in excess of \$1,000,000 accounted for 49 per cent of the industry's employment and 48 per cent of its shipments. A further 9 establishments with shipments valued between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 accounted for 24 per cent of the employment and 26 per cent of shipments.

Employment in the industry showed little fluctuation from month to month. The number of production workers varied from a low of 2,724 in July, the holiday month, to 3,045 in November. The industry employs a large proportion of females and in 1954 the number of female production workers amounted to 2,554 or 87 per cent of total production workers.

Beginning with 1954 information on the value of year-end inventory holdings at plant and plant warehouses is being collected as part of the annual Census of Industry. This data was formerly collected by a separate survey. The summarized results for the corset industry for the year under review will be found in Table 2.

In 1954 imports of corsets and girdles and brassieres amounted to \$1,189,002 as against \$1,320,398 the previous year. Exports of these commodities, which are negligible, had a value of \$74,919 in the year under review.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1925 to 1954

Year and province	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost at factory of fuel and electricity	Cost of materials used	Value added by manufacture	Gross value of production ¹
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1925	17	1,461	1,110,282	17,580	2,330,165	1,966,564	4,314,309
1927	16	1,351	1,009,495	12,004	1,925,962	1,853,782	3,791,748
1928	16	1,418	1,124,284	11,899	2,055,416	2,179,633	4,246,948
1929	17	1,405	1,084,231	13,808	2,098,351	2,106,860	4,219,019
1930	19	1,482	1,097,037	16,078	2,221,313	2,373,612	4,578,847
1931	20	1,508	1,124,990	17,365	2,054,461	2,115,821	4,187,647
1932	19	1,517	1,202,228	20,292	1,812,233	2,435,146	4,267,671
1933	20	1,498	1,154,979	19,384	1,881,362	2,267,839	4,168,585
1934	23	1,598	1,274,845	20,008	2,062,352	2,379,049	4,461,409
1936	23	1,555	1,289,015	20,000	1,956,071	2,421,070	4,397,141
1937	23	1,684	1,328,019	21,191	2,100,321	2,446,195	4,567,707
1938	23	1,632	1,313,711	21,263	1,939,519	2,360,472	4,321,254
1939	23	1,768	1,430,514	22,666	2,121,694	2,552,587	4,706,947
1940	25	1,886	1,556,419	23,323	2,377,079	2,757,744	5,158,146
1941	24	2,263	1,926,168	27,044	2,948,813	2,975,857	6,171,683
1942	26	2,314	2,035,355	24,741	3,129,641	3,791,090	6,945,472
1943	27	2,220	2,244,814	26,875	2,891,021	4,214,643	7,132,539
1944	28	2,350	2,451,216	29,120	2,965,290	4,962,771	7,957,181
1945	33	2,527	2,786,015	30,881	3,475,601	5,708,054	9,214,536
1946	39	2,827	3,289,067	34,645	5,111,692	6,969,249	12,115,586
1947	40	3,259	4,093,288	45,323	6,276,125	7,800,363	14,121,811
1948	37	3,154	4,358,510	49,327	6,462,015	8,975,424	15,486,766
1949	37	3,456	4,818,813	51,548	7,101,529	9,235,931	16,389,008
1950	37	3,219	4,741,557	55,745	7,358,186	9,533,613	16,947,544
1951	37	3,146	4,916,077	62,986	7,808,061	8,723,243	16,594,290
1952	38	3,310	5,698,588	60,373	7,991,361	11,836,859 ²	19,888,593
1953							
Canada	42	3,639	6,556,311	68,583	8,852,984	13,107,086 ²	22,028,653
Quebec	23	2,232	3,645,089	42,065	5,629,326	8,755,997 ²	14,427,585
Ontario	19	1,407	2,911,222	26,518	3,223,658	4,351,089 ²	7,601,068
1954							
Canada	43	3,484	6,465,390	80,426	8,903,445	12,460,721	21,351,495
Quebec	23	2,172	3,707,582	51,763	5,248,354	8,465,409	13,683,907
Ontario	20	1,312	2,757,808	28,663	3,655,091	3,995,312	7,667,588

1. Commencing with 1952 the value of factory shipments has been collected in place of the gross value of production.

2. Because of insufficient inventory data in 1952 and 1953, these figures have been calculated from value of factory shipments and are therefore, only approximations to true "value added by manufacture".

TABLE 2. Inventories¹, 1954

	Raw materials and supplies	Goods in process	Finished goods of own manufacture	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening:				
Quebec	2,516,939	530,170	1,474,464	4,521,573
Ontario	968,546	267,492	853,289	2,089,327
Canada	3,485,485	797,662	2,327,753	6,610,900
Closing:				
Quebec	2,214,717	429,176	1,556,083	4,199,976
Ontario	888,692	250,828	864,767	2,004,292
Canada	3,103,409	680,004	2,420,850	6,204,263

1. Book value of manufacturing inventories held at plant or at plant warehouse.

TABLE 3. Factory Shipments, 1953¹ and 1954¹

Principal products	1953		1954	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
Corsets and girdles:				
Cotton	64,187	2,737,521	43,029	1,611,362
Silk	17,043	660,515	1,787	128,733
Nylon	59,867	2,713,161	20,805	713,933
Rayon and mixtures	46,514	1,135,414	59,079	2,589,935
Elastic			81,138	2,916,608
Combination garments:				
Cotton	4,331	203,065	3,225	161,044
Silk	14,444	847,651	10,837	681,634
Rayon and mixtures	2,952	184,424	1,036	64,707
Nylon	2,246	106,789	471	31,748
Elastic	3,823	26,079	2	2
Children's waists				
Bandeaux and brassieres:				
Cotton	229,941	2,815,633	357,258	4,365,503
Silk	11,847	267,759	1,063	46,924
Nylon	226,019	2,681,570	90,982	1,402,570
Rayon and other	367,993	5,189,260	303,089	4,800,585
Underwear, all kinds	52,041	527,953	19,974	280,737
Surgical belts	3,007	697,999	4,225	701,148
Garters	2	2	2	2
Garter belts	130,949	938,435	64,592	586,631
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	—	14,353	—	5,893
Shoulder braces	—	281,072	—	261,800
All other products	—	—	—	—
Total value of products	—	22,028,653	—	21,351,495

1. The statistics published in this table cover only those manufacturing establishments which have corsets and kindred articles as their principal products. For total figures for corsets, girdles and brassieres see table 4.
 2. Included in "All other Products".

TABLE 4. Production² of Corsets, Girdles, Brassieres and Combination Garments in all Industries in Canada, 1938-1953

Year	Corsets and girdles		Combination garments ¹		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	253,306	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
1950	187,025	6,453,370	27,156	1,432,897	617,388	7,680,248
1951	191,382	6,093,609	24,007	1,169,632	669,148	8,005,753
1952	182,839	6,650,257	23,543	1,205,875	698,717	9,916,539
1953	196,562	7,348,999	23,973	1,341,929	861,474	11,102,903

1. Excluding children's waists.

2. Commencing with 1952 factory shipments data has been collected instead of production data.

TABLE 5. Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, Calendar Years 1953 and 1954

Articles imported	1953		1954	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Corsets, corsellettes, girdles and brassieres	—	1, 320, 398	—	1, 189, 002
Corsets, clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	—	109, 559	—	16, 259
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. 7, 106	136, 099	1, 767	74, 528
Tips, studs and eyes of metal for the manufacture of corsets and corset wires	—	5, 976	—	3, 343
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets and corset rivets, shoe eyelet hooks, shoe lace wire fasteners	—	264, 133	—	220, 756
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. 25, 564	243, 525	12, 233	147, 386

TABLE 6. Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1953 and 1954

Articles exported	1953		1954	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	No.	\$	No.	\$
Corsets and girdles	2, 444	7, 838	9, 235	33, 842
Brassieres	34, 832	37, 781	35, 262	41, 077

TABLE 7. Employees and their Earnings, by Provinces, 1953 and 1954

	Average number					Earnings		
	Supervisory and office employees		Production workers		Total	Supervisory and office employees	Production workers	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female				
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
1953								
Quebec	149	272	234	1, 577	2, 232	1, 223, 630	2, 421, 459	3, 645, 089
Ontario	62	155	120	1, 070	1, 407	684, 605	2, 226, 617	2, 911, 222
Canada	211	427	354	2, 647	3, 639	1, 908, 235	4, 648, 076	6, 556, 311
1954								
Quebec	141	219	269	1, 543	2, 172	1, 271, 662	2, 435, 920	3, 707, 582
Ontario	66	122	113	1, 011	1, 312	694, 512	2, 063, 296	2, 757, 808
Canada	207	341	382	2, 554	3, 484	1, 966, 174	4, 499, 216	6, 465, 390

TABLE 8. Production Workers, By Months, 1932 to 1934

Months	1932			1933			1934		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number								
January.....	297	2,058	2,355	339	2,559	2,898	385	2,595	2,980
February.....	299	2,124	2,423	346	2,639	2,985	378	2,637	3,015
March.....	302	2,179	2,481	354	2,725	3,079	377	2,616	2,993
April.....	305	2,306	2,611	363	2,736	3,099	373	2,655	3,028
May.....	305	2,381	2,686	364	2,664	3,028	376	2,567	2,943
June.....	314	2,456	2,770	359	2,583	2,942	372	2,448	2,820
July.....	311	2,420	2,731	343	2,429	2,772	372	2,352	2,724
August.....	320	2,548	2,868	354	2,511	2,865	376	2,502	2,878
September.....	318	2,586	2,904	354	2,564	2,918	385	2,594	2,979
October.....	325	2,692	3,017	355	2,559	2,914	379	2,626	3,005
November.....	321	2,723	3,044	352	2,626	2,978	379	2,666	3,045
December.....	324	2,653	2,977	356	2,577	2,933	406	2,405	2,811
Monthly average.....	313	2,439	2,752	354	2,647	3,001	382	2,554	2,936

TABLE 9. Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1933 and 1934

Establishments with factory shipments of	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Value of factory shipments
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
1933					
Under \$25,000.....	6	27	30,579	24,919	63,002
\$25,000 to under \$50,000.....	1	40	59,753	79,923	185,870
\$50,000 " \$100,000.....	2				
\$100,000 " \$500,000.....	18	827	1,593,504	2,200,382	4,848,873
\$500,000 " \$1,000,000.....	10	1,106	1,993,246	2,678,495	6,465,801
\$1,000,000 and over.....	5	1,639	2,879,229	3,869,265	10,465,107
Total.....	42	3,639	6,556,311	8,852,984	22,028,653
1934					
Under \$25,000.....	5	15	14,748	20,130	47,075
\$25,000 to under \$50,000.....	4	48	67,534	54,543	155,687
\$50,000 " \$100,000.....	3	54	86,124	78,025	214,265
\$100,000 " \$500,000.....	18	827	1,759,986	2,075,500	5,165,946
\$500,000 " \$1,000,000.....	9	828	1,677,936	2,110,629	5,501,701
\$1,000,000 and over.....	4	1,712	2,859,062	4,564,618	10,266,821
Total.....	43	3,484	6,465,390	8,903,445	21,351,495



List of Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1934

Name	Address
Quebec:	
Alpa Mfg. Co. Ltd.	4362 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Best Form Brassiere Company, Ltd.	750 St. François Xavier, Montreal
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 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
Grenier C.J. Ltd.	St. John's
Janesse Limited	50 Mt. Royal Ave. W., Montreal
La Brassière Marquise & Cie Enrg.	1268 Laurier East, Montreal
Luv Lee Lady	6713 Casgrain St., Montreal
Marjolaine Lingerie Mfg.	6365 Delorimier Ave., Montreal
Parisian Corset Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	65 St. Vallier St., E., Quebec
Perfection Corset Company, Ltd.	38 Champlain St., Quebec
Peter Pan Foundations (Que) Inc.	195 A Champlain St., St. Johns
Peter Pan Foundations (Que) Inc.	255 De Castelnau St. W., Montreal
Reldan Mfg. Corporation	9500 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Ross Corsets, Ltd.	155 St. Paul St., Quebec
Smart Brassieres Reg'd	7048 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Spencer Supports (Canada) Ltd.	Rock Island
Treo Corseting Inc.	255 De Castelnau W., Montreal
Vanity Brassiere Co. Ltd.	7255 Alexandra St., Montreal
Vogue Corsets Co. Ltd.	1010 St. Catherine St. E., Montreal
Ontario:	
Betty Dear Corsets Ltd.	64-15th St., New Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	366 Adelaide St. West, Toronto
Canadian H. W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	Port Perry
Eastern Rubber Co.	63 Crockford Blvd., P.O. Box 125, Toronto
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	49-51 Teraulay St., Toronto
Exquisite Form Brassiere (Canada) Ltd.	510 King St. W., Toronto
Flexees (Canada) Limited	48 Abell St., Toronto
Gordon and Mason Ltd.	100 Jarvis St., Toronto
Hayward Limited, A.P.	474 Bathurst St., Toronto
Hollywood Maxwell of Canada Ltd.	15 Water St., Belleville
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
Playtex Ltd.	Arnprior
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