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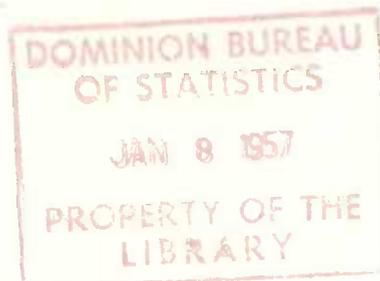
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CANADA

THE CORSET INDUSTRY

1955



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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, 50¢
 - Section C. Quebec, 25¢
 - Section D. Ontario, 25¢
 - Section E. Prairie Provinces, 40¢
 - Section F. British Columbia, 25¢
 - Section G. The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, Regional Distribution, 75¢
- III - Foods and Beverages
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 - 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 1955

The corset industry reported a record level of operations in 1955. Factory selling value of products shipped by the industry reached an all-time high of \$25,185,878. This total represents an increase of 14.3 per cent over the previous high of \$22,028,653 established in 1953 and an increase of 18.0 per cent over the \$21,351,495 worth of goods shipped in 1954.

Employment and payrolls were up sharply from the previous year. Employees numbered 3,779 in 1955 compared with 3,484 in 1954, a gain of 8.5 per cent, while salary and wage payments rose by 13.4 per cent to \$7,332,035 from \$6,465,390. The cost of materials used in manufacture increased from \$8,903,445 in 1954 to \$9,865,903 in 1955, a rise of 10.8 per cent.

In 1955 the industry shipped 239,156 dozen corsets and girdles valued at \$8,921,715 compared with 205,838 dozen worth \$7,960,571 in 1954. The average price of \$37.31 per dozen in the year under review represents a drop of \$1.36 a dozen from the year before. Shipments of bandeaux and brassieres totalled 887,331 dozen worth \$12,111,944, a considerable increase over the 752,392 dozen worth 10,615,582 which were shipped in 1954. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for 48 per cent of the total value of shipments and corsets and girdles for 35 per cent. Shipments of combination garments, children's waists excluded, amounted to 20,120 dozen with a value of \$1,149,043.

The industry which consisted of 42 establishments was confined to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Quebec with 22 establishments occupied the dominant position. Factory shipments by these establishments were valued at \$14,709,387 or 58 per cent of total. Their employees numbered 2,237 or 59 per cent of all persons employed by the industry.

Five establishments each having factory shipments with a value in excess of \$1,000,000 accounted for 51 per cent of the industry's employment and 53 per cent of its shipments. A further 11 establishments with shipments valued between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 accounted for 28 per cent of both employment and shipments.

The employment of male production workers was very stable throughout the year while the number of female production workers was considerably higher in the last quarter. The industry employs a large proportion of women and in 1955 the average monthly employment of female production workers was 2,689 or 86 per cent of total production workers.

Beginning with 1954 information on the value of year-end inventory holdings at plant and plant warehouses has been 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.

Imports of corsets, corsellettes, girdles and brassieres were valued at \$1,175,858, an amount very little different from the \$1,189,002 worth of these commodities imported in 1954. Exports of these articles were valued at \$378,896.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1925 to 1955

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	2,562,587	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.....	42	3,639	6,556,311	68,583	8,852,984	13,107,086 ²	22,028,653
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
1955							
Canada.....	42	3,779	7,332,035	118,428	9,865,903	14,963,484	25,185,878
Quebec.....	22	2,237	3,992,506	53,350	5,720,919	8,616,920	14,709,387
Ontario.....	20	1,542	3,339,529	65,078	4,144,984	6,346,564	10,476,491

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, 1955

	Raw materials and supplies	Goods in process	Finished goods of own manufacture	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening ² :				
Quebec.....	2,190,587	424,601	1,511,230	4,126,418
Ontario.....	943,852	428,317	904,152	2,276,321
Canada.....	3,134,439	852,918	2,415,382	6,402,739
Closing:				
Quebec.....	1,835,940	539,194	1,193,032	3,568,166
Ontario.....	1,007,456	377,108	984,287	2,368,851
Canada.....	2,843,396	916,302	2,177,319	5,937,017

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

2. The opening inventory for 1955 differs from the closing inventory published for 1954 because of the inclusion of new firms and the removal of figures for firms which did not operate during 1955.

TABLE 3. Factory Shipments, 1954¹ and 1955¹

Principal products	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
Corsets and girdles:				
Cotton	43,029	1,611,362	40,106	1,547,989
Silk	1,787	128,733	4,683	137,693
Nylon	20,805	713,933	21,089	704,945
Rayon and mixtures	59,079	2,589,935	51,198	2,499,628
Elastic	81,138	2,916,608	122,080	4,031,460
Combination garments:				
Cotton	3,225	161,044	2,611	145,142
Silk	10,837	681,634	13,348	717,323
Rayon and mixtures				
Nylon	1,036	64,707	2,069	118,345
Elastic	471	31,748	2,092	168,233
Children's waists	2	2	2	2
Bandeaux and brassieres:				
Cotton	357,258	4,365,503	565,896	6,819,142
Silk	1,063	46,924	98,500	1,768,514
Nylon	90,982	1,402,570		
Rayon and other	303,089	4,800,585	222,935	3,524,288
Underwear, all kinds	19,974	280,737	19,973	303,551
Surgical belts	4,225	701,148	4,694	651,150
Garters	2	2	2	2
Garter belts	64,592	586,631	76,593	722,438
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	-	5,893	-	12,837
Shoulder braces			-	7,448
All other products	-	261,800	-	1,305,752
Total factory shipments	-	21,351,495	-	25,185,878

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, 1938-1954

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
1954	207,290	7,987,768	15,569	939,133	774,726	10,756,677

1. Excluding children's waists.

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

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

TABLE 5. Imports of Fully Manufactured Corsets and Materials, Calendar Years 1954 and 1955

Articles imported	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Corsets, corsellettes, girdles and brassieres.....	—	1,189,002	—	1,175,858
Corsets, clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	—	16,259	—	13,875
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.	1,767	74,528	2,274	99,452
Tips, studs and eyes of metal for the manufacture of corsets and corset wires	—	3,343	—	6,431
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets and corset rivets, shoe eyelet hooks, shoe lace wire fasteners	—	220,756	—	301,811
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	12,233	147,386	16,341	181,808

TABLE 6. Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1954 and 1955

Articles exported	1954		1955	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	No.	\$	No.	\$
Corsets and girdles	9,235	33,842	462,185	306,335
Brassieres	35,262	41,077	71,639	72,561

TABLE 7. Employees and their Earnings, by Provinces, 1954 and 1955

	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.	\$	\$	\$
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
1955								
Quebec	135	214	289	1,599	2,237	1,235,129	2,757,377	3,992,506
Ontario	104	194	154	1,090	1,542	1,017,307	2,322,222	3,339,529
Canada	239	408	443	2,689	3,779	2,252,436	5,079,599	7,332,035

TABLE 8. Production Workers, By Months, 1953 to 1955

Months	1953			1954			1955		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number								
January.....	339	2,559	2,898	385	2,595	2,980	471	2,539	3,010
February.....	346	2,639	2,985	378	2,637	3,015	470	2,502	2,972
March.....	354	2,725	3,079	377	2,616	2,993	446	2,619	3,065
April.....	363	2,736	3,099	373	2,655	3,028	440	2,613	3,053
May.....	364	2,664	3,028	376	2,567	2,943	431	2,608	3,039
June.....	359	2,583	2,942	372	2,448	2,820	441	2,601	3,042
July.....	343	2,429	2,772	372	2,352	2,724	417	2,600	3,017
August.....	354	2,511	2,865	376	2,502	2,878	427	2,717	3,144
September.....	354	2,564	2,918	385	2,594	2,979	435	2,850	3,285
October.....	355	2,559	2,914	379	2,626	3,005	446	2,952	3,398
November.....	352	2,626	2,978	379	2,666	3,045	437	2,871	3,308
December.....	356	2,577	2,933	406	2,405	2,811	443	2,776	3,219
Monthly average.....	354	2,647	3,001	382	2,554	2,936	443	2,689	3,132

TABLE 9. Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1954 and 1955

Establishments with factory shipments of	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Value of factory shipments
1954					
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
1955					
Under \$25,000.....	2	27	31,887	99,874	163,462
\$25,000 to under \$50,000.....	4				
\$50,000 " \$100,000.....	4	64	107,794	109,498	290,835
\$100,000 " \$500,000.....	16	711	1,498,079	1,952,239	4,344,348
\$500,000 " \$1,000,000.....	11	1,059	2,072,783	2,889,006	7,100,622
\$1,000,000 and over.....	5	1,918	3,621,492	4,815,286	13,286,611
Total	42	3,779	7,332,035	9,865,903	25,185,878



List of Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1955

Name	Address
Quebec:	
Alpa Mfg. Co. Ltd.	4362 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Best Form Brassiere Company, Ltd.	750 St. Francois Xavier, Montreal
Canadian Lady Corset Company, Ltd.	4475 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Delvoye, R., Inc.	Waterloo
Dominion Corset Company, Ltd.	450 Dorchester St., Quebec
Elite Trading Co.	5933 Hutchison St., Montreal
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
La Brassière Marquise & Cie Enrg.	1268 Laurier East, 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.	255 De Castelnau St. W., Montreal
Reldan Mfg. Corporation	4475 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
Walk-Eze Limited	5680 St. Dominique St., Montreal
Wonder Form Co.	3658 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Ontario:	
Betty Dear Corsets Ltd.	16 Drummond St., Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	366 Adelaide St. West, Toronto
Canadian H.W. Gossard Co. Ltd., The	Port Perry
Eaton, The T. Company Ltd.	Toronto
Exquisite Form Brassiere (Canada) Ltd.	215 Spadina St., Toronto
Flexees (Canada) Limited	48 Abell St., Toronto
Gordon and Mason Ltd.	100 Jarvis St., Toronto
Hayward Limited, A.P.	474 Bathurst St., Toronto
Formfit Co., The	34 Wingold Ave., 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	45 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
Styline Specialties	3034 Yonge St., Toronto