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THE CORSET INDUSTRY

1956

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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
- 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
- XV - Electrical Apparatus and Supplies
- 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 1956

The corset industry reported a record level of operations in 1956. Factory selling value of products shipped by the industry reached an all-time high of \$27,682,743. This total represents an increase of 9.9 per cent over the previous high of \$25,185,878 established in 1955.

Employment and payrolls were also the highest on record. Employees numbered 3,895 in 1956 compared with 3,779 in 1955, a gain of 3.1 per cent, while salary and wage payments rose by 8.1 per cent to \$7,923,989 from \$7,332,035. The cost of materials used in manufacture increased from \$9,865,903 in 1955 to \$11,494,745 in 1956, a rise of 16.5 per cent.

In 1956 the industry shipped 321,306 dozen corsets and girdles valued at \$9,757,950 compared with 289,156 dozen worth \$8,921,715 in 1955. The average price of \$30.37 per dozen in the year under review represents a drop of \$6.94 a dozen from the year before. Shipments of bandeaux and brassieres totalled 925,925 dozen worth \$12,748,256, somewhat higher than the 887,331 dozen worth \$12,111,994 which were shipped in 1955. Bandeaux and brassieres accounted for 46 per cent of the total value of shipments and corsets and girdles for 35 per cent. Shipments of combination garments amounted to 32,545 dozen with a value of \$1,618,125.

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 \$16,200,095 or 59 per cent of total. Their employees numbered 2280, also 59 per cent of the industry's total.

Five 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 52 per cent of its shipments. A further 15 establishments with shipments valued between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 accounted for 36 per cent of both employment and shipments.

The employment of production workers was very stable throughout the year varying from a high of 3346 in April to a low of 3087 in November. The industry employs a large proportion of women and in 1956 the average monthly employment of female production workers was 2,854 or 88 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 \$1,123,099, an amount very little different from the \$1,175,858 worth of these commodities imported in 1955. Exports of these articles were valued at \$474,222.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1925 to 1956

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	13,608	2,098,351	2,106,860	4,219,019
1930	19	1,482	1,097,037	16,073	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	1,259,015	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	3,250	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	19,886,593
1953	42	3,639	6,556,311	68,583	8,852,984	13,107,086 ²	22,028,653
1954	43	3,484	6,465,390	80,426	8,903,445	12,460,721	21,351,495
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
1956							
Canada	42	3,895	7,923,989	126,933	11,494,745	15,836,565	27,682,743
Quebec	23	2,280	4,313,336	56,081	6,510,539	9,513,144	16,200,095
Ontario	19	1,615	3,610,653	70,852	4,984,206	6,323,421	11,482,648

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, 1956

	Raw materials and supplies	Goods in process	Finished goods of own manufacture	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening ² :				
Quebec	1,854,619	544,193	1,196,103	3,594,915
Ontario	1,006,836	382,706	979,589	2,369,131
Canada	2,861,455	926,899	2,175,692	5,964,046
Closing:				
Quebec	1,884,794	489,006	1,130,959	3,504,759
Ontario	964,789	361,163	896,963	2,222,915
Canada	2,849,583	850,169	2,027,922	5,727,674

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

2. The opening inventory for 1956 differs from the closing inventory published for 1955 because of the inclusion of new firms and the removal of figures for firms which did not operate during 1956.

TABLE 3. Factory Shipments, 1955¹ and 1956¹

Principal products	1955		1956	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	Doz.	\$	Doz.	\$
Corsets and girdles:				
Cotton	40,106	1,547,989	40,376	1,664,055
Silk	4,683	137,693	51,431	795,664
Nylon	21,089	704,945		
Rayon and mixtures	51,198	2,499,628		
Elastic	122,080	4,031,460	163,445	4,654,971
Combination garments:				
Cotton	2,611	145,142	7,442	370,384
Silk	13,348	717,323	1,578	62,866
Rayon and mixtures			13,122	691,169
Nylon			3,742	223,508
Elastic	2,092	168,233	2,647	238,047
Children's waists	2	2	4,014	32,151
Bandeaux and brassieres:				
Cotton	565,896	6,819,142	605,952	7,292,863
Silk	98,500	1,768,514	110,280	1,901,708
Nylon			209,693	3,553,685
Rayon and other				
Underwear, all kinds	19,973	303,551	26,400	295,045
Surgical belts	4,694	651,150	3,824	662,260
Garters	2	2	959	11,615
Garter belts	76,593	722,438	113,693	929,562
Sanitary supplies (belts, aprons, etc.)	—	12,837	—	13,385
Shoulder braces	—	7,448	—	—
All other products	—	1,305,752	—	1,646,545
Total factory shipments	—	25,185,878	—	27,682,743

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, 1938-1955

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
1955	239,274	8,924,231	20,120	1,149,043	910,974	12,252,806

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 1955 and 1956**

Articles imported	1955		1956	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Corsets, corselettes, girdles and brassieres	—	1,175,858	—	1,123,099
Corsets, clasps, busks, blanks, steels and covered corset wires cut to length, tipped or untipped; reed, rattan or horn covered	—	18,875	—	24,470
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	2,274 cwt.	99,452	3,211	143,087
Tips, studs and eyes of metal for the manufacture of corsets and corset wires	—	6,481	—	7,249
Shoe eyelets, corset eyelets and corset rivets, shoe eyelet hooks, shoe lace wire fasteners	—	301,811	—	331,467
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	16,341 cwt.	181,808	22,566	278,367

TABLE 6. Exports of Corsets, Calendar Years 1955 and 1956

Articles exported	1955		1956	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	No.	\$	No.	\$
Corsets and girdles	462,185	306,335	680,064	397,647
Brassieres	71,639	72,561	57,033	76,575

TABLE 7. Employees and their Earnings, by Provinces, 1955 and 1956

	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.	\$	\$	\$
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
1956								
Quebec	134	237	217	1,692	2,280	1,386,267	2,927,069	4,313,336
Ontario	103	163	187	1,162	1,615	976,839	2,633,814	3,610,653
Canada	237	400	404	2,854	3,895	2,363,106	5,560,883	7,923,989

TABLE 8. Production Workers, by Months, 1954 to 1956

Months	1954			1955			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number								
January.....	385	2,595	2,980	471	2,539	3,010	410	2,841	3,251
February.....	378	2,637	3,015	470	2,502	2,972	405	2,891	3,296
March.....	377	2,616	2,993	446	2,619	3,065	397	2,883	3,280
April.....	373	2,655	3,028	440	2,613	3,053	401	2,945	3,346
May.....	376	2,567	2,943	431	2,608	3,039	401	2,924	3,325
June.....	372	2,448	2,820	441	2,601	3,042	416	2,894	3,310
July.....	372	2,352	2,724	417	2,600	3,017	395	2,824	3,219
August.....	376	2,502	2,878	427	2,717	3,144	390	2,741	3,131
September.....	385	2,594	2,979	435	2,850	3,285	402	2,803	3,205
October.....	379	2,626	3,005	446	2,952	3,398	398	2,897	3,295
November.....	379	2,666	3,045	437	2,871	3,308	403	2,890	3,293
December.....	406	2,405	2,811	443	2,776	3,219	394	2,693	3,087
Monthly average.....	382	2,554	2,936	443	2,689	3,132	404	2,854	3,258

TABLE 9. Principal Statistics of the Corset Industry, Grouped According to the Size of Establishments, 1955 and 1956

Establishments with factory shipments of	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Value of factory shipments
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
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	25,185,876
1956					
Under \$25,000.....	2	30	43,833	90,929	151,438
\$25,000 to under \$50,000.....	3				
\$50,000 " \$100,000.....	6	91	144,939	175,624	412,573
\$100,000 " \$500,000.....	11	441	964,757	1,219,884	2,904,661
\$500,000 " \$1,000,000.....	15	1,405	2,765,870	4,215,341	9,939,161
\$1,000,000 and over.....	5	1,928	4,004,590	5,792,967	14,274,910
Total.....	42	3,895	7,923,989	11,494,745	27,682,743

TABLE 10. Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1953 and 1956

Kinds of fuel		1953		1956	
		Quantity	Cost value at factory	Quantity	Cost value at factory
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal.....	ton	469	5,813	268	3,369
Gasoline (including gasoline used in cars and trucks) Imp. gal.		8,168	3,499	29,564	12,347
Fuel oil.....		107,403	13,541	379,202	46,874
Other fuel.....	—	—	2,818	—	6,387
Total cost of fuel.....	—	—	25,671	—	68,977
Electricity purchased (including service charges)....	KW. H	3,905,343	42,912	3,022,385	57,956
Total cost of fuel and electricity.....	—	—	68,583	—	126,933



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THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

List of Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1956

Name	Address
Quebec:	
Alpa Mfg. Co. Ltd.	4362 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal
Best Form Brassiere Company, Ltd.	750 St-Francois-Xavier, Montreal
Brassière Jouvence	510, rue Fournier, St-Jérôme
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	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 Brassières Inc.	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
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	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. Ltd.	918 Main St. E. Hamilton
Styleline Specialties	3034 Yonge St., Toronto