

From the latter part of the 19th century, the industry grew steadily over the years, supplying the apparel needs of the American people, both civilian and military. By developing the science of pattern making which made mass production possible, by helping to standardize sizing, by offering a large variety of designs and styles to satisfy a broad spectrum of consumer taste and by promoting the acceptance of ready-to-wear garments as distinguished from made-to-order clothing, the industry built up the existing mass market for apparel. Moreover, it demonstrated to the world that ready-to-wear apparel could be produced economically and, at the same time, meet the highest requirements of fashion. The industry is currently the world's largest producer of ready-to-wear garments. The bulk of its production is sold to domestic consumers. In 1967, the industry's dollar volume of sales approximated \$14 billion at wholesale.

From the March 1968 data compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the apparel (knit and woven) industry can be estimated at 1,400,000 production and non-production employees. For the most recent picture of the distribution of the industry's employment in the various areas, the only available statistics are data compiled in County Business Patterns by the Bureau of the Census from Social Security records. In mid-March 1966, as can be seen from Annex B, the industry was made up of some 29,000 establishments employing approximately 1,600,000 persons in production and non-production jobs.^{2/} Its plants were located in every

^{2/}Variations in data applicable to the apparel (knit and woven) industry arise occasionally because of the unavailability of statistics which conform precisely to the definition of this industry. To approximate the correct figure, data were either combined for SIC 23 and SIC 225 or else data for SIC 239 were subtracted from the total for SIC 23 and SIC 225.