

ley of the Dora, and ferried downriver on barges. By the spring of 1498 the new cathedral was finished.

The city council seems to have had no part in the schemes for beautifying and improving Turin. It was concerned with the tasks of day-to-day administration: maintaining order, managing the city's finances, finding ways to expand the economy. Partly as a result of its efforts a number of new crafts were established in the course of the fifteenth century, contributing to a slow economic revival. In 1425 the council issued a new set of regulations for the woolen textile industry, seeking to halt its decline by reorienting production from the traditional coarse cloths to higher quality fabrics suitable for export. The council offered incentives to experts from Milan to settle in the city and teach Turin's weavers to produce the new type of cloth. The experiment seems to have been successful, and production increased. Similarly in the mid-fifteenth century the council offered subsidies to several silk manufacturers to settle in Turin and practice their craft, again with positive results. By the end of the century the raising of silkworms was spreading in the countryside around Turin and a silk-weaving industry was starting to develop. This marked the beginning of the industry that would become the mainstay of Turin's economy from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. Another initiative by the city council sought to develop the manufacture of paper at Turin; this effort was favored by the copious supply of water and the ready availability of water-power, both essential for this industry, but the results were disappointing. On the other hand printing proved more successful, helped no doubt by the demand for books at the university. In 1474 the first printers, two men originally from Langres in northern France, set up their shop in Turin. During the decade or so that they were in business they turned out a number of religious and legal texts. By 1536 about a dozen firms of printers had plied their trade at different times in Turin, producing a total of about 250 titles. By then there were about ten booksellers in the city, catering primarily to the university. Other retail businesses were prospering too. A survey taken in 1523 listed over two hundred artisans and shopkeepers dealing with the public, and by then the city also had at least fourteen inns offering food and lodging – of varying quality – to travelers.

Some of the stimulus for economic growth came from outside. From the early fifteenth century a number of Milanese merchants established themselves at Turin. Some were in the retail trades, selling metal goods, furs, and other articles. Others traded in hides and leather, which were readily available in the surrounding countryside. Yet others were active