

History

1859 – Established by Philip C. Clausen and Johann Ramm with 30 employees

1863 – The factory invests in a steam engine to power carding machines

1878 – The schoolhouse is built

1896 – The first automatic circular knitting machines are introduced

1900 – About 100 employees at the factory

1920s – Major modernization of the machinery, now powered by electric motors

1950s – 350 employees; a boom in the Norwegian textile industry

1980s – Economic challenges due to declining sales and increased competition

1989 – Production ceases

2001 – The factory reopens as a museum

2020 – The factory complex is protected by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Life in the factory

What was it like to work here?

Factory work was physically demanding and repetitive, and noise was a common problem. In the spinning and carding departments, dust and fibers in the air often led to lung diseases among textile workers.

The workday in the beginning was long: In 1875, from 06:00 to 19:00 in winter and 05:00 to 20:00 in summer. In 1887, a 10-hour workday was introduced. In 1919, the 8-hour workday became standard.

What did the workers earn?

In 1921, the hourly wage was: Men: 1.55 NOK (equivalent to approx. 36 NOK today).
Women: 0.95 NOK.

Seamstress Klara Delph

Klara lived in the workers' housing with her daughter Guri Marie in 1963. During museum opening hours, you can visit their apartment. Outside the main entrance to the museum, you will find signs leading to the workers' housing.



Learn more about
Klara Delph

Salhus Tricotagefabrik (1859-1989)

What can you experience?

The museum's main exhibition is Salhus Tricotagefabrik.

In the factory, you can explore some of the former production areas: the winding loft, the carding/spinning department and the sewing loft.

The museum features QR codes and films about production to provide more information.

Tip! Watch the film "Once Upon a Time, There Was a Factory", which tells the story of the factory. It is shown in the film room in the café.

Important information

This is a protected factory site – for your own safety and that of others, please do not touch objects, wool, thread, or machines. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

What did the factory produce?

The factory covered the entire production line for clothing – from wool and cotton to finished products. "Tricotage" means knitted fabric, and the factory primarily produced underwear, socks, and wool sweaters.

Did you know?

The museum still produces textiles. Fabric, socks, and scarves are knitted in the knitting loft. In the sewing loft, everything is assembled. You can buy these products in the museum shop and online.



The winding loft

Spoleloftet

The winding loft is the first section you encounter in the museum. Here, you can see winding machines, skein winders, and twisting machines.

The factory had separate work areas for men and women, with around 60% of employees being women.

Women in this department would wind the finished thread before it was knitted.

Follow the signs to the carding department (karderi) at the other end of the hall.



The Knitting Loft

Strikkeloftet

The knitting loft is a production area with limited public access. However, you can look through the window at the top of the stairs.

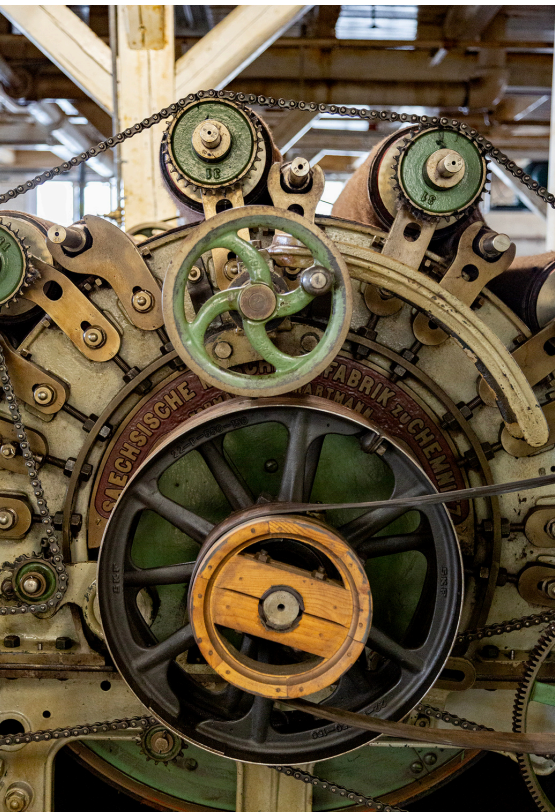
This department was staffed by men who specialized in knitting machines. Workers were responsible for repairing and maintaining the machines.

Here, fabric was knitted for underwear, socks, and wool sweaters. The next steps in production were cutting, sewing, and packing.

You will find the sewing loft to the left of the knitting loft.



See a selection of the products that were produced at the factory.



Carding and Spinning

Karderi og spinneri

When you go downstairs, you will see the oldest part of the factory (from 1900) on the right. Notice how narrow it is between the carding machines.

To the left of the stairs, you'll find the spinning machine and spinning area. Wool was first washed and cleaned in the dye house before being carded and spun into thread.

The next step in production was to wind the thread.

Now, you can return to the winding loft and follow the signs to the sewing loft at the other end of the hall.



The sewing loft

Syloftet

The sewing loft was the largest department in the factory and employed the most women.

In the 1950s, around 200 seamstresses worked here. The women worked on assembly lines, sewing the same seam repeatedly on an assembly-line system.

The final production step was folding and packing the finished garments.

Would you like to know more?

Salhus Tricotagefabrik
on Digitalt Museum

