

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss textiles [English edition]  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss office for the development of trade  
**Band:** - (1961)  
**Heft:** 4

**Artikel:** The swiss wool textile industry  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-798303>

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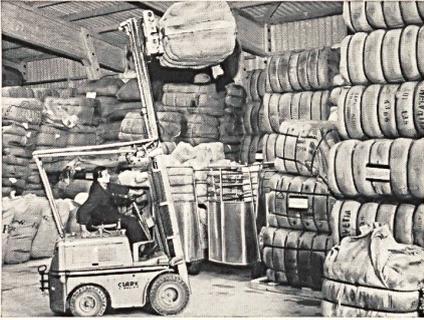
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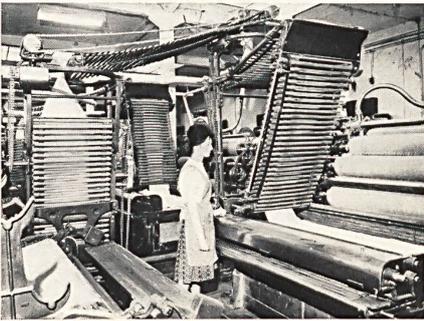
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# The Swiss Wool Textile Industry



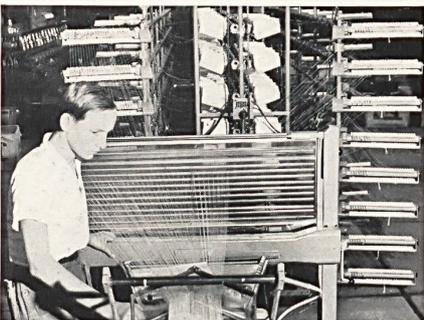
Wool depot



Carding



Ultra-modern frame for fine drawing in a worsted mill

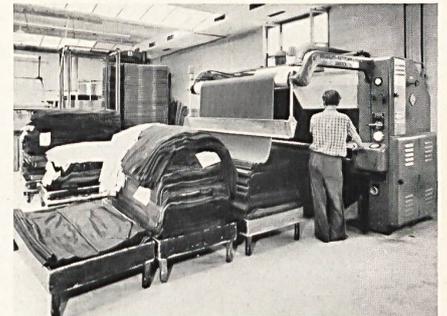


Warping

Spinning on continuous ring frames



Modern wearing ched with 100 looms in a Swiss cloth mill



Decating wollen fabrics

The Swiss Wool Textile Association recently organized a press tour of a number of wool textile establishments. On the occasion of this organized tour, we should like to take the opportunity of recalling certain characteristic features of the Swiss wool textile industry. Before the last world war, this industry worked almost exclusively for the home market, and exports represented only 3 % of the total output. Today the figure is nearly ten times as high, thanks to the efforts of Swiss wool textile manufacturers to improve their production. In Switzerland, the wool textile industry comprises some 80 factories employing over 10,500 workers and office staff. These factories are mostly small and medium-size concerns, situated in widely different parts of the country. They are equipped with 200,000 spindles and 2,600 looms; their output represents approximately 2 % of Europe's total production.

In 1960, the Swiss wool textile industry manufactured :

worsted tops . . . . .	2,300 tons
woollen yarns . . . . .	13,000 tons
woollen fabrics . . . . .	13,000,000 yards
furnishing fabrics . . . . .	110,000 yards
woolen blankets . . . . .	500,000 items
woollen carpets . . . . .	2,000 tons
felt articles . . . . .	700,000 tons

In doing so, it consumed approximately 13,000 tons of wool, only 300 tons of which was available locally from Swiss sheep (200,000 head); to this figure must of course be added the continually increasing quantities of artificial and synthetic fibres used. Whereas Swiss factories' annual consumption of raw wool varies between 120 and 140 million Swiss francs' worth (U.S. dollars 27.9 and 32.9 million), this branch's annual turnover is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 350 million Swiss francs (U.S. dollars 81.4 million) including 130 million Swiss francs (U.S. dollars 32.5 million) for fabrics. In 1960, exports of woollen articles totalled 90 million Swiss francs (U.S. dollars 21 million), 62 % of which went to countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) or Common Market and 23 % to European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

Photos Comet, Zurich; Schönwetter, Glaris