

2020



# Manufacturing: It's Made for You

Fabricating the Future:  
Building Tomorrow's Manufacturing Workforce



Manufacturing is thriving in the London Economic Region, helping grow our economy and providing ample job opportunities. As more companies build production facilities in the London region in the years ahead, the role of manufacturing in local employment will continue to grow.

There's never been a better time to consider a career in manufacturing. Learn more about what jobs in manufacturing have to offer through this series of 5 modules:

1. Manufacturing: It's Made for You
2. Essential Skills for Manufacturing
3. Apprenticeship in Manufacturing
4. Manufacturing Job Postings
5. Dinner Is Served: An Introduction to Food Processing



This curriculum was produced by Literacy Link South Central. For questions about it or what adult literacy programs have to offer, please contact LLSC at (519) 681-7307 or visit [www.llsc.on.ca](http://www.llsc.on.ca)



The development of this curriculum was funded by the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board. For questions about local labour market information and tools, please contact the Planning Board at (519) 672-3499 or visit [www.workforcedevelopment.ca](http://www.workforcedevelopment.ca)



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## Objectives

**By completing this module, you will learn:**

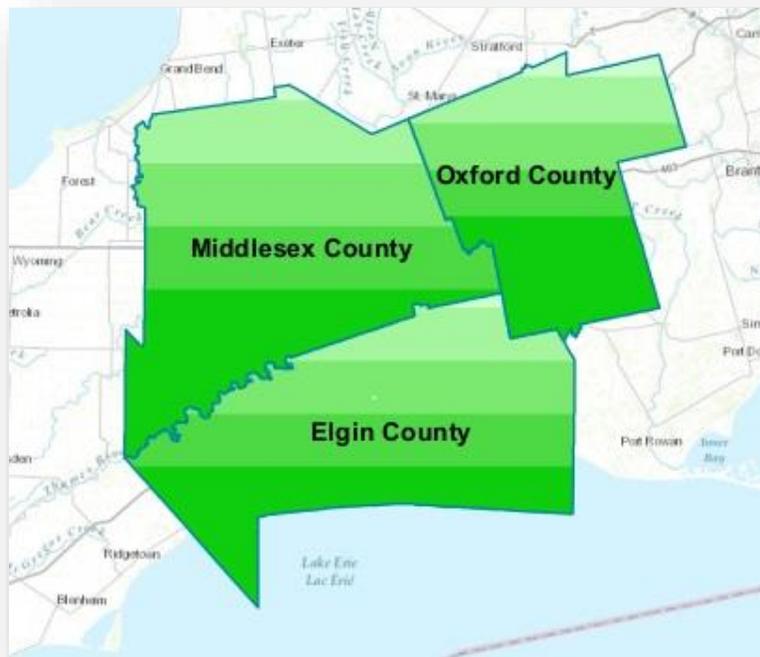
- What manufacturing means
- Common myths about manufacturing
- Different areas of manufacturing



## Introduction:

If you're looking for your next job, think about a career in manufacturing. If you are like many people, manufacturing is a bit of a mystery. What is manufacturing and what jobs are available in manufacturing?

This module will give you a glimpse into different types of manufacturing and what opportunities can be found in this area of work. We will focus mostly on the local realities of the London Economic Region.



The London Economic Region includes the counties of Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex and the cities of Woodstock, St. Thomas and London.

# What is Manufacturing?

According to the website <https://www.oberlo.com/ecommerce-wiki/manufacturing>:

*“Manufacturing refers to a large-scale production of goods that converts raw materials, parts, and components into finished merchandise using manual labour and/or machines.”*

Businesses involved in manufacturing take certain materials or parts and assemble them to make them into another product. Machines, computers and people work together to form the assembly line that takes a product from its original form and turns it into a finished product.

## Activity 1

People often express opinions about work in the manufacturing industry. An important question to ask yourself is whether these opinions about manufacturing are based on **fact**.

Write three statements that reflect your opinions or opinions you’ve heard about working in manufacturing.

### Manufacturing is ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2

Read the following statements and decide whether they are based on fact or if they are myths.

**Statement 1:** Manufacturing is only about making cars and trucks.

When people hear the word “manufacturing” they often think of factories where cars are built. This is only one kind of manufacturing. There are many other kinds. And studies show there are good job opportunities in many areas of manufacturing in the London Economic Region.

Some other areas of manufacturing include:

- Food and beverage manufacturing
- Machinery manufacturing
- Wood product manufacturing
- Chemical manufacturing



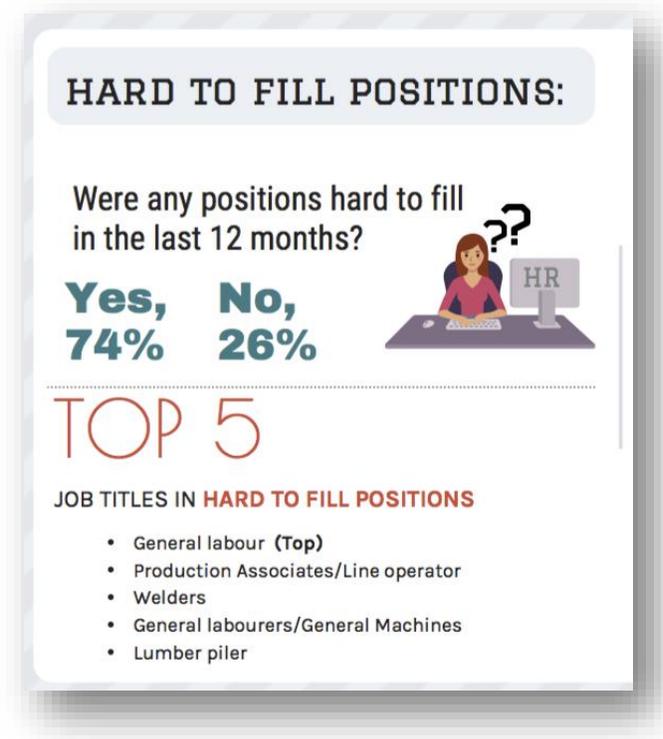
*Source:* “Manufacturing: A Study of Perceptions, Issues and Possibilities for the London Economic Region” Aug. 2013, Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board

Is the statement a myth or a fact?

Myth       Fact

**Statement 2:** There are no jobs in manufacturing.

Manufacturing in the transportation sector was a popular and well-paying job in North America and in Ontario in 2008. But then several major North American automotive producers like Chrysler, Ford and General Motors found themselves on the brink of collapse and locally there were a lot of layoff and plant closures. However, much has changed since 2008, including manufacturing. Manufacturing is currently one of the largest employment sectors in our area.



In 2019, the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board conducted a survey with local employers. The “Employer One” survey results provided insight into the struggles employers are experiencing in the world of manufacturing. This graphic shows that 74% of the manufacturing employers that responded to the “Employer One” survey claimed they were having problems filling positions. The position at the top of the hard-to-fill list was “General labour.”

Source: 2019 Employer One Survey Results –Manufacturing,  
<https://www.worktrends.ca/sites/default/files/EOS%202019%20-%20Manufacturing%20Industry.pdf>

Is the statement a myth or a fact?

Myth       Fact

**Statement 3:** Manufacturing can involve advanced technology and even robots.

Manufacturing is changing, and technology is a big part of that change. In the past, working in manufacturing often meant hands-on, manual labour and repetitive jobs were more likely. Now, manufacturing includes working with computers, technology and different kinds of machinery. Today, it's a different kind of work.



“Robots are changing the face of manufacturing. They are designed to move materials as well as perform a variety of programmed tasks in manufacturing and production settings. They are often used to perform duties that are dangerous or unsuitable for human workers, such as repetitious work that causes boredom and could lead to injuries because of the inattentiveness of the worker.”

*Source:* Manufacturing Tomorrow Online Trade Magazine

Is the statement a myth or a fact?

Myth       Fact

**Statement 4:** Manufacturing jobs are dirty jobs.

“For the most part this is completely false. In today’s workplace and business environment, where efficiency and continual improvement is stressed, there is no place for dirty, littered workplaces. In addition, manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, precision instruments and food and beverages require the utmost sanitary environments. It is not unusual to see employees in lab coats, working in brightly lit, climate-controlled environments.”

*Source:* “Manufacturing: A Study of Perceptions, Issues and Possibilities for the London Economic Region” Aug. 2013, Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board

Is the statement a myth or a fact?

Myth       Fact



**Statement 5:** Manufacturing jobs are dead-end jobs.

Many manufacturing jobs allow for movement between jobs within the same company. Once you get good at what you're doing, there may be room to move on to another part of the business within the same company. With experience and knowledge, you will also be in a position to move up within a company.

In many cases, employees see an opportunity to be sponsored in some area of their work, often leading to certification through an apprenticeship. In all these cases you have to get into the place of work first, and then you can prove you have potential and are worth investing in.



Is the statement a myth or a fact?

Myth       Fact

## The Future of Manufacturing

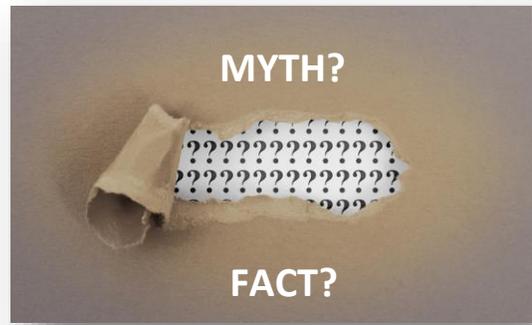


The Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium consists of over a hundred members from the manufacturing community in and around London. This makes up the largest manufacturing group within any single Canadian community. And this group believes the future of manufacturing is bright, suggesting, *“Industries such as automotive, food, and defence are all thriving at the moment. The plants are extremely busy.”*

### Activity 3

Look at the three opinions you wrote on page 5.

In the space provided below, indicate if you think the opinions are based in fact or if they are myths. Explain your answer.



Is the opinion based in fact or a myth?
<b>Opinion #1</b>
<b>Opinion #2</b>
<b>Opinion #3</b>

## Types of Manufacturing

Each day we are surrounded by manufactured products. What we wear, what we eat, what we ride in and what we live in are just some of the results of manufactured products. Let's look closer at some of the different areas of manufacturing.

- *Transportation manufacturing* is not limited to cars and trucks. In the London Economic Region, transportation manufacturing also includes building boats and defence equipment like armoured vehicles.
- *Food manufacturing* is the second largest section of manufacturing in this area where food is made for national and international markets. Think about it – someone made your frozen pizza and chicken fingers!
- *Beverage production* is on the rise. Local beer companies – large and small – are very busy in our area and are creating jobs.
- *Machinery manufacturing* is also providing a lot of job opportunities. As Ontario is trying to be “green and clean,” we see a need for people to make products like wind turbines. As we develop more creative ideas on how to protect the environment, the manufacturing sector can help make this green vision come true.
- *Wood product manufacturing* is providing stable jobs due to the demand for local housing. Various types of flooring, window frames, furniture and so much more contribute to the local housing industry.
- *Chemical manufacturing* includes the production of goods such as paint, tape, fertilizer and pharmaceuticals. The number of local chemical manufacturers is growing due to the increase in healthcare research and the increase in demand for sustainable and environmentally sensitive products.

## Activity 4

Draw lines to match the following products with the area of manufacturing it belongs to.

### Product

### Area of Manufacturing

Kitchen cabinet

Transportation

A bottle of Tylenol

Food

A bottle of mineral water

Machinery

Glue

Wood

Hot dogs

Beverage

Hydraulic system on a cement truck

Chemical

Two-seat airplane

Machinery

Water purification system

Food

Frozen french fries

Transportation

Via Rail train

Chemical

## Activity 5

In the room you're sitting in right now, find 10 items that you think have been manufactured and list them in the left column.

Then, for each item on the left, write what area of manufacturing the item falls under in the column on the right.

<b>Manufactured Item</b>	<b>Area of Manufacturing</b>
<b>1.</b>	
<b>2.</b>	
<b>3.</b>	
<b>4.</b>	
<b>5.</b>	
<b>6.</b>	
<b>7.</b>	
<b>8.</b>	
<b>9.</b>	
<b>10.</b>	

## Reflection

### Do you know:

- What manufacturing means?
- Common myths about manufacturing?
- Different areas of manufacturing?