

Post-Pandemic Recovery Planning Report Summary: Manufacturing Industries in Sarnia Lambton

Detailed findings and recommendations for local stakeholders reported in the Post-Pandemic Workforce & Economic Recovery in Sarnia Lambton are available at www.slwdb.org/pandemic-recovery.



Highlight on Local Impacts

- Majority of manufacturers and fabricators are directly or indirectly tied to the diverse energy and chemical processing organizations in Sarnia Lambton, a sector that experienced great volatility in 2020:
 - a drop in global demand observed due to travel (air, land, sea) grinding to a halt from the early days of the pandemic
 - several large, international oil refineries underwent 'restructuring' during the pandemic, including staff reductions
 - fear of larger job losses as Royal Dutch Shell considers selling their Sarnia site and the future of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline remains unclear
- A number of large-scale projects supported by the skilled labour of local manufacturers were postponed or delayed indefinitely, while others were drastically scaled down to ensure compliance with the additional health and safety regulations developed in response to COVID-19
- Despite being one of the most impacted sectors in the Sarnia-Windsor region at the onset of the pandemic, employment levels for local manufacturing have surpassed 2019 levels by November 2020

Highlights on Labour and Skills Shortages

- Shortages in skilled trades workers reported pre-pandemic persist according to industry leaders and union representatives
 - difficult to quantify overall demand using job board data as many of these are filled by word of mouth or through internal union networks
- Top in demand occupations recorded between June 1 2020 - March 1 2021 are primarily in the energy (oil, gas, chemical) manufacturing sector



Petroleum, gas and chemical process operators (NOC 9232)

18

Industrial instrument technicians and mechanics (NOC 2243)

16

Chemical technologists and technicians (NOC 2211)

13

Job posting data source:

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Recommendations for Strengthening our Local Workforce

- Develop a network of training resources, apprenticeship supports and skilled trade employers to facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent to the local skilled labour force
- Support diversification of the local energy and chemical processing sector
- Micro-credential programs for in demand occupations allowing flexible delivery of training programs to increase accessibility for workers with a broad range of educational backgrounds and lifestyles
- Press to complete of the Oversize Load Corridor to promote the growth of local businesses to access previously inaccessible international markets and increase retention of skilled trades workers