



SECTOR PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufacturing

London's Competitive Advantage

Why London

The Manufacturing industry was home to approximately 434¹ establishments and employed 20,003² people in 2023, making up 9.2%³ of London's total workforce, thus making it one of London's key sectors (top 5) (Lightcast, November 7, 2024, London (CY)). London is at the manufacturing forefront of world-renowned products, investments, and talent. Manufacturing companies in London produce a wide range of products including automotive parts, medical devices, food and beverage products, machinery, and more. From windows, doors, and countertops to car components, goalie pads, water treatment technologies and aircraft, made in London products can be found in many homes, cars, and places⁴.

London is home to the Canadian headquarters for advanced manufacturing sector leaders including 3M Canada, McCormick Canada, Trojan Technologies, Starlim North America, Trudell Medical, Diamond Aircraft, Sodexia North America, and more, thus driving the city's competitive advantage in this industry. The new Volkswagen's massive electric vehicle battery plant in St. Thomas will put the London area on the path to becoming a global leader in electric vehicle parts and manufacturing. Additionally, the presence of Western Advanced Manufacturing Park empowers collaboration between leading-edge research, manufacturing, entrepreneur, and investment partners to rapidly generate high technology, manufacturing innovations, and advanced solutions⁵.

¹ [Industries by Business Location Size « Lightcast Analyst](#)

² [Industry Overview « Lightcast Analyst](#)

³ [Highest Ranked Industries « Lightcast Analyst](#)

⁴ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation \(ledc.com\)](#)

⁵ [The Park – Western Advanced Research Park \(westernadvancedmanufacturingpark.ca\)](#)

Strengths

London has a strong economic history as home to a diverse network of economic sectors and clusters. This range of economic sectors is supported by the City's competitive advantage in location, skilled workforce, and high quality of life. London also has shovel-ready, fully serviced industrial lands. Together with Windsor-Sarnia, London is the manufacturing heartland of Ontario⁶.

Skilled and Talented Workforce

20,003 Employees

This industry comprised 9.2% of London's total workforce in 2023.

London provides a talented workforce specializing in engineering, production, electrical, and quality assurance to support the sector, through a range of manufacturing programs offered by Western University and Fanshawe College.

434 Establishments

Fabricated metal product manufacturing (14.3%); food manufacturing (12.4%); miscellaneous manufacturing (12.4%); machinery manufacturing (9.4%); and printing and related support activities (8.5%) make up 57% of the establishments.

Strategic Location

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario between Toronto and Detroit, London is one of Canada's fastest growing and increasingly diverse cities⁷. London sits within two hours of three major U.S. border crossings - Sarnia/Port Huron, Windsor/Detroit, and Niagara/Buffalo⁸. This strategic location offers easy access to a large consumer base and supply chains, reduces transportation costs, and improves market opportunities for manufacturers. There is also access to a manufacturing supply chain of 12 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Tiers 1-3, logistics, distribution, warehousing, as well as the North American railway system through CN and CP rail⁹. This advantage provides manufacturers with easy access to important transportation networks, including highways, railways, and airports, which makes it easier for manufacturers to transport goods and materials and to sell their products and expand their customer base.

Globally Competitive Advanced Manufacturing

Advanced manufacturing is a critical sector in the London economic region, representing approximately 12%¹⁰ of all employment in the region. More than 500 companies employ people in this sector in the region, which includes manufacturers in aerospace, materials, automotive, transportation, defense, and building products¹¹.

Over the last 10 years there's been a strategic move to diversify the advanced manufacturing sector to include more agri-food and beverage processing companies. This diversification provides more stability in London's economy, as well as opens the sector up for more diversity, inclusion, and equitable employment opportunities¹².

⁶ [Sectoral profile - Manufacturing: Ontario 2020 - Job Bank](#)

⁷ [Why London | London Economic Development Corporation \(ledc.com\)](#)

⁸ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation](#)

⁹ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation](#)

¹⁰ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation](#)

¹¹ [Employment Prospects Report - Manufacturing_0.pdf \(ledc.com\)](#)

¹² London Economic Development Corporation, Activity Update 2022.

Strengths

Collaboration and Innovation

London is home to world-class research institutions including Western University and Fanshawe College. These institutions conduct cutting-edge research in areas such as advanced manufacturing, automation, and robotics, which provides local manufacturers with access to the latest technologies and techniques.

Companies in the advanced manufacturing sector are revolutionizing the way that essential products are produced by using advanced processes including automation, robotics, and state-of-the-art technologies¹³.



Western
Research Parks

[Western Advanced Manufacturing Park](#), founded in 2011, was the result of a unique partnership between Western University, Fanshawe College, and the City of London to ensure the repetitive and continuous competitive advantage for regional industry and economic growth. It is a 30-acre

technology park located in the heart of Canada's largest manufacturing region just minutes from Highway 401.

With an array of globally unique facilities, strong industry partnerships, and with ample room to grow and develop new technologies, Western Advanced Manufacturing Park aims to empower collaboration between leading edge research and manufacturing, entrepreneur, and investment partners to rapidly generate high technology, manufacturing innovations, and advanced solutions.

The park includes [Fraunhofer Innovation Platform for Composites Research](#), [WindEEE Dome](#), and [the Collider](#).

Diversified Manufacturing Capacity

Manufacturing companies in London produce a wide range of products, including automotive parts, medical devices, food and beverage products, machinery, and more. From windows, doors, and countertops to car components, goalie pads, water treatment technologies and aircraft, made in London products can be found in many homes, cars, and places¹⁴. This diversification helps mitigate risks associated with industry-specific fluctuations and allows for cross-sector collaboration and knowledge transfer.

Support for the Sector

London has a supportive business environment with a range of programs and services designed to help manufacturers succeed. These include funding and financing programs, business incubators and accelerators, and networking opportunities.

- In 2022, London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) assisted companies to buy land and make London home, as well as assisted with dozens of manufacturing expansions. LEDC also organizes an annual Manufacturing Matters conference to provide networking opportunities for businesses in the sector¹⁵.

¹³ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation \(ledc.com\)](#)

¹⁴ [Advanced Manufacturing | London Economic Development Corporation \(ledc.com\)](#)

¹⁵ London Economic Development Corporation, Activity Update 2022.

Major Employers

Major Employers	Jobs
Great Lakes Copper Inc.	330-400
McCormick Canada	600
Trojan Technologies	350
Starlim North America Corporation	140
Brose Canada Inc.	274
3M Canada	200+
Labatt Breweries of Canada	375 (+/-)
Cargill Canada	500+
Maple Leaf Foods	500 (+/-)
Diamond Aircraft	200+
General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada	500+
Trudell Medical International	200+
Militex Coatings Inc.	100-200
Sodecia North America (Sodecia London)	200+
Bradken Ltd.	200+
The Original Cakerie (Dessert Holdings)	200+
Nestle Canada Inc.	200+
Dr. Oetker	200+
Accuride Wheels London	100-200
Leggett & Platt	100-200
Jones Healthcare Group	200+
Sterling Marking Products Inc.	100-200

For more information, please see the full Sector Profile.

Opportunities

Investment and Research Collaboration	AI Application	Industrial Land	Labor Force Demand
Based on its growing ecosystem of research institutions and advanced manufacturers, London has opportunities to attract more investment and research collaborations to expand the sector's reach and impact. For example, the federal and provincial governments are contributing \$72 million to support the \$165 million project for a new medical glove manufacturing plant that Medicom Group is building in south London ¹⁶ . Additionally, Linamar Corporation's \$1 billion investment in Ontario offers several potential opportunities for the region, such as new jobs in the supply chain and related industries, increased demand for parts and services from local businesses, and partnerships with educational institutions and research centers.	Manufacturing companies are embracing the age of automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) to transform the industry. From innovative products to improved supply chain processes, companies are leveraging these technologies to achieve greater efficiency, cost reduction, increased profit margins, and better environmental stewardship ¹⁷ . For examples, robotics and AI are being used by food companies to ensure product quality and safety. A notable example is A&L Canada Laboratories in London, Ontario. It uses AI-driven image analysis to detect contaminants and defects in food products, ensuring they meet the highest safety standards.	The Industrial Land Development Strategy (ILDS) was re-evaluated and refreshed in 2023, as such, there may be opportunities related to the City's targeted industrial sectors based on a changing economy and emerging industries. ILDS has been a tremendously successful strategy for the City of London. It had led to an increase in attracting supplier companies and other civic investments that cause spin-off benefits for those living and working in London.	London is projected to need thousands of additional manufacturing workers over the next six years to replace retiring workers and to keep pace with projected levels of employment growth based on the past growth of respective occupations. For example, Volkswagen's \$7-billion electric vehicle battery plant in St. Thomas, with \$13 billion in federal government subsidies, will bring many opportunities for jobs and economic growth in London. It will put the London area on the path to becoming a global leader in electric vehicle and parts manufacturing ¹⁸ . The new plant is projected to create 3,000 workers and 30,000 spinoff jobs in Canada's economic future.

¹⁶ [Feds and province kicking in \\$72M for London medical glove plant | London Free Press \(lfpress.com\)](https://www.lfpress.com/news/2023/07/20/feds-and-province-kicking-in-72m-for-london-medical-glove-plant/)

¹⁷ [Innovation Insights: Six applications of automation, robotics, and AI in Canada - Food In CanadaFood In Canada](https://www.foodincanada.ca/en/innovation-insights/six-applications-of-automation-robotics-and-ai-in-canada)

¹⁸ Conference Board of Canada, Major City Insights London, August 10, 2023.

Sample of Investment Announcements in the Manufacturing Sector between 2022 - 2024

Lead	Project	Investment
Volkswagen (PowerCo SE)	Building a \$7-billion electric vehicle battery plant in St. Thomas, the largest automobile complex in Canada ¹⁹ , with \$13 billion in federal government subsidies (2023)	\$20 billion
Medicom Group (Manikheir)	Opening Canada's first medical-grade nitrile glove plant in London ²⁰ (2023)	\$165 million
Norbec	Opening a new manufacturing plant for insulated metal panels, walk-in coolers, and freezers in Strathroy, Ontario ²¹ (2024)	\$45 million
Tillsonburg Custom Foods	Adding new equipment to increase production and create 78 new, good-paying jobs at Trenton and St. Mary's facilities (2024) ²²	\$35 million
Andriani Ltd.	Building Andriani's first production facility in North America to make gluten-allergen and GMO-free pasta ²³ (2024)	\$33.6 million
EDGE Automation and Takumi Stamping Canada Inc.	Investments to boost local manufacturing and create 78 new good-paying jobs in London and St. Thomas: EDGE Automation in London (\$5.2 million) and Takumi Stamping Canada Inc. in St. Thomas (\$9 million) ²⁴ (2023)	\$14.2 million
Starlim North America Corp.	Investment to enhance the facility in London and create 26 new, good-paying jobs (2024)	\$10.4 million
Aspire Food Group	The federal government's investment for Aspire to support the building of a commercial facility to produce cricket protein (2022)	\$8.5 million
Glen Dimplex Americas	Building a new facility in London which manufactures heating solutions and incorporates a laboratory, warehousing, and office spaces (2022) ²⁵	\$7 million
Nuts for Cheese	Expanding manufacturing and distribution: equipment and facility enhancements, key hires, innovation and marketing initiatives, and implementation of a board of directors (2022) ²⁶	\$5.35 million
ANVO Laboratories	Federal investment to create 45 skilled jobs and strengthen Canada's biomanufacturing production capacity ²⁷ (2023)	\$4 million
Motif Labs	Opening a new manufacturing, distribution, and packaging facility in London to support expansion within the burgeoning pre-roll market and address the increasing demand for its high-quality products (2024) ²⁸	\$1.5 million
Edge Automation	Edge received a \$1.2 million loan from the federal government for its \$2.5 million expansion of plant and addition of new machinery and staff (2024) ²⁹	\$1.2 million

¹⁹ 'Huge': St. Thomas lands VW electric battery plant, more than 2,000 jobs | London Free Press

²⁰ Feds and province kicking in \$72M for London medical glove plant | London Free Press

²¹ Norbec opens \$45M manufacturing plant in Strathroy, Ont. - MRO MagazineMRO Magazine

²² Ontario Welcomes \$35 Million Manufacturing Investment | Ontario Newsroom

²³ Ontario Welcomes \$33.6 Million Manufacturing Investment in London | Ontario Newsroom

²⁴ Ontario Welcomes More Than \$14 Million in New Investments in Southwestern Ontario | Ontario Newsroom

²⁵ Official opening of new Glen Dimplex facility in London, Ontario | Glen Dimplex

²⁶ Nuts For Cheese™ Closes \$5.35 Million Round To Expand Manufacturing & Distribution | London Economic Development Corporation

²⁷ Government of Canada supports growth of London-based pharmaceutical company | London Economic Development Corporation

²⁸ Cannabis Brand House Motif Labs Expands Operations with Second Facility to Meet Surging Demand

²⁹ Six area industries get \$7.7M from feds to support growth, expansion | London Free Press

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