



**ONTARIO
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**

2008 Manufacturing Survey

Ontario Chamber of Commerce
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 505
Toronto, Ontario m5g 1z8
Phone: (416) 482-5222
Fax: (416) 482-5879

2008 Manufacturing Survey

As part of MPP David Ramsay's public consultation process concerning the challenges faced by Ontario's manufacturing sector, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce surveyed its manufacturing members about their changing economic, competitiveness and training needs. The survey was conducted from February 5th to 13th.

The four questions asked of the members are:

- **What are the challenges to your business?**

While the **value of the Canadian dollar** emerged as the main area of concern, six main categories are largely identified by the survey respondents:

- Regulation Compliance (WSIB, Environment, Taxation)
 - Energy Prices
 - Corporate Tax Levels
 - Increasing overseas competition (China, India)
 - Labour Costs
 - Skilled Labour
- **What programs can the Ontario Government implement that would provide assistance to you within the next 24 months?**

The top six responses are as follows:

- Reduce corporate income taxes
 - Innovation & Capital Equipment Investment program
 - Refundable tax credits for all Small- Medium Enterprises
 - Remove PST from purchase price of all equipment
 - Reduce the paper burden on business
 - Increase training tax credits
- **How long would your business need to take advantage of such programs?**
 - 60% of respondents said government programs will need to last up to two years (26% said up to one year; 34% responded one to two years)
 - 28% responded three to five years
 - **How can the Ontario Government provide assistance to provide training opportunities for your employees?**
 - Direct training grants
 - Work with Colleges to bring more young people into the 'trades'
 - Increase the training tax credit
 - Provide management training/consulting grants

Breakdown of the Survey

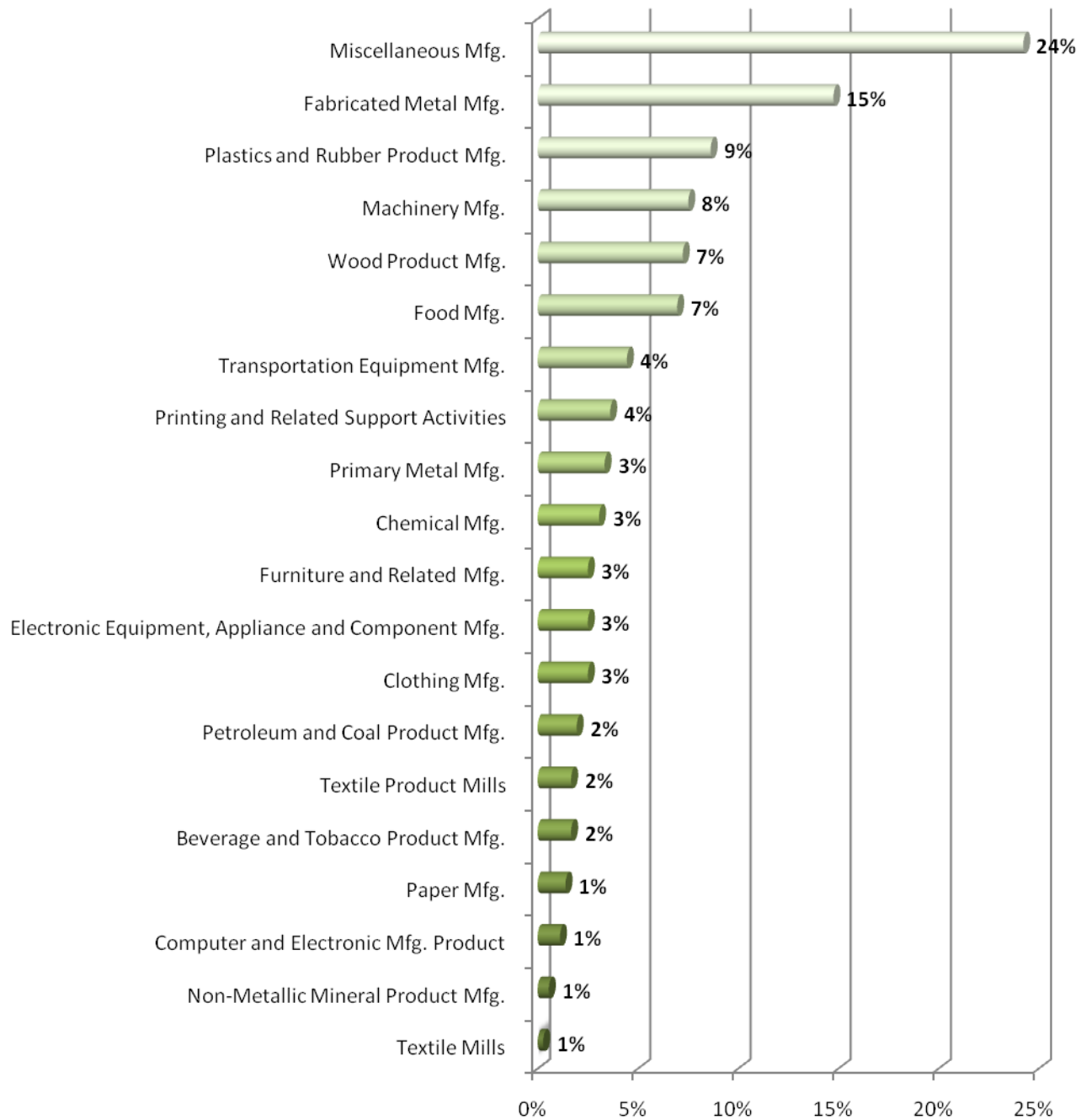
Ontario Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Survey

1. Which Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade you belong to?

Total number of respondents: 360
Number of chambers represented: 71

Number of Respondents

2. Please select the appropriate description of your manufacturing business in Ontario (as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)).



Percentage of Respondents

6. Of the programs chosen in Question 5, how long would your business need to take advantage of this assistance?

Sixty percent of respondents have indicated they would need to take advantage of assistance programs for a short period of less than two years . Twenty -six percent of which indicated they would need assistance for one year or less.

7. How can the Ontario Government provide assistance to provide training opportunities for your employees

A total of eight respondents noted in “Other” from Question 7, that there continues to be a stigma surrounding skilled trades, which reduces its appeal to parents and students. There was consensus from respondents in this category that government should increase funding for colleges to develop more skilled trades, as well as create a formal skilled trades apprenticeship program.

