

Plant Closures In Ontario Over The Last Twenty Years

Introduction

Research Background Information:

Manufacturing is an important part of Ontario's economy, and the closure of manufacturing plants has a very large impact on the economy and society. Studying the causes and effects of the past plant closures enables me to have a better understanding of Ontario's economy, especially the manufacturing industry.

Research Questions:

- Where and when did the plant closures happen in Ontario?
- What were the reasons for the plant closures?

Research Method:

Conducting primary research through news articles gathering method to find out the news articles that related to plant closures, production cuts, and layoffs in Ontario. In total, there are about 1156 news articles that included useful information. Then undertook a content analysis to examine the key points and code them to form frequency tables to conclude.

Top 6 Narratives

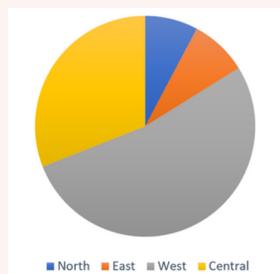
The top 6 narratives for the plant closures are:

- Change in demand (e.g. sales drop, customers moving, products out-of-date)
- Economy (e.g. recession, change in the housing market, market change)
- Consolidating & restructuring (e.g. company's strategic plan)
- Government (e.g. government policy, tax, government aid)
- Canadian dollar (e.g. exchange rate)
- Production & operation cost (Includes labor costs + cost of energy + transportation costs etc.)

Top 6 Narratives	
Change in demand	173
Economy	91
Consolidating & Restructuring	87
Government	71
Canadian dollar	54
Production & Operation cost	53

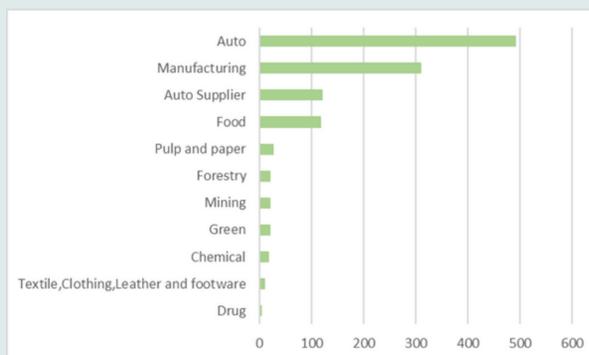
Geographical distribution

From 2000–2019, most of the plant closures happened in West Ontario and Central Ontario. Since most of the manufacturing plants and automakers are concentrated in these areas.



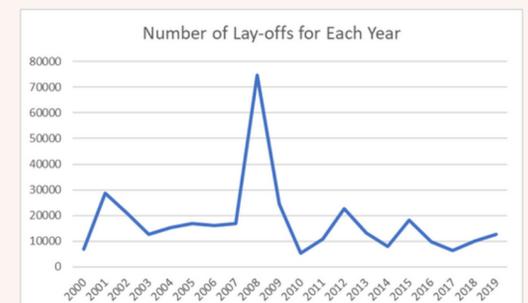
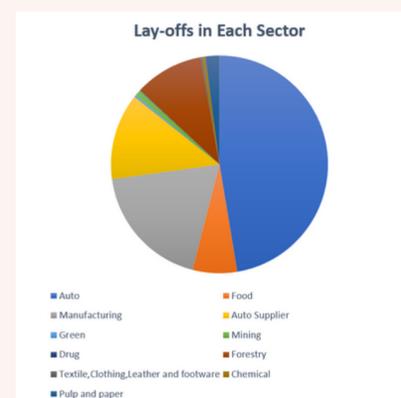
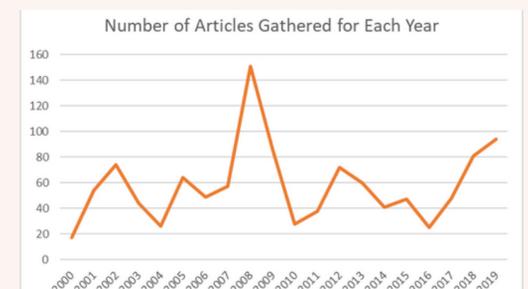
Sector Distribution

Most of the plant closures and lay-offs happened in the auto sector and the manufacturing sector.



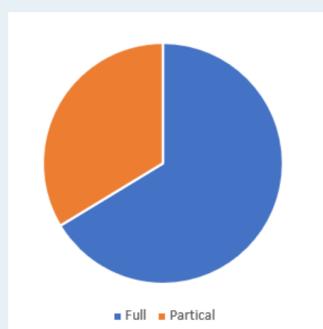
Number of lay-offs

According to the gathered news articles, the massive lay-offs happened in 2008, due to The Great Recession.



Type of Closure

There are two types of plant closures. The first one is the full closure. The second one is the partial closure, which also includes production cuts. Of the 1156 related news articles, there are 742 articles related to full closures, 377 articles related to partial closures, and 36 articles not include the information.



Acknowledgement

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