

Key Sector – Food & Agri-Industrial

Edmonton's Expertise

Food Processing, Food Science, Food Entrepreneurship

Selling Points for Edmonton

Specialities in Food Processing & Food Science: The Edmonton area has specialized facilities to help prepare and train those interested in the agriculture, food processing, and food science industries. In addition, the University of Alberta plays a large role in research related to oilseed biotechnology, bioresource engineering, food microbiology, and food processing.

Large Supply of Agriculture Feedstock: Alberta is the third largest overall crop producer (by GDP) in Canada meaning an abundant supply of unique food ingredients. We come in first place for barley production, second for wheat and canola, and third for oats. This feedstock is used by many local businesses, whether they are food processors or those developing new and innovative agricultural products.

Access to International Markets: Edmonton is located on major transportation corridors for road and rail, and has direct cargo flights internationally to the USA, Asia, and Europe. Alberta is the second largest exporter of agriculture products in Canada and the largest exporter of processed food and beverage products in Western Canada. The province's top export markets for agriculture and food products include the United States, China, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and Indonesia.

Government Funding & Support: The Government of Alberta provides an array of grant and support programs for agriculture producers, food processors, and those interested in biotechnology.

Neato Facts/Stat

- Successful restaurants chains Boston Pizza, Earls, Pizza 73, Booster Juice, Wok Box, and Famoso are among the Edmonton region's best-known success stories in the food service industry.

Comparison to Major Centres

Business Cost Comparison Ranking for Agri-Food/ Food Processing					
(Higher Rank = Lower Cost)					
Cost	Edmonton	Calgary	Vancouver	Toronto	Montreal
Labour	2	5	1	3	3
Facility Lease	4	3	5	1	1
Taxes	1	2	5	3	4
Utilities	5	4	3	2	1
Overall Rank	5	4	3	2	1

Source: KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2016

Industry Players

Champion Petfoods: Champion Petfoods is an award-winning, independent pet food manufacturer based in Edmonton. Their Biologically Appropriate™ nutritional philosophy represents a new standard of pet food designed to nourish dogs and cats according to their evolutionary adaptation to meat and protein-rich diets. The company was founded in 1985 and has since become well-known for their two major pet food lines ACANA and Orijen, which are available across Canada and the United States.

Kinnikinnick: Kinnikinnick is a food manufacturer in Edmonton that focuses on gluten-free products and other alternative food products for special dietary needs. They were one of the first companies in the world to supply perishable food products using the internet and supply retail stores throughout North America) including Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Alaska). Their products include: breads, buns, bagels, donuts, cookies, and pizza and pie crust.

Kitchen Partners: Kitchen Partners is a food manufacturer in Edmonton that specializes soups, sauces, dips, dressings, and frozen entrees. They've collaborated with some of Canada's largest restaurants and food retailers to launch over 100 custom food products, their biggest partner being Boston Pizza.

The Little Potato Company: The Little Potato Company is a farming, processing, and packing company of creamer potatoes. The company started in 1996 with a small one-acre plot just outside of Edmonton and has since grown to produce over 50 million pounds annually, 70 percent of which are grown in Canada and the rest in the United States. They work with breeders from Holland to Central America and supply major grocery chains across North America with a selection of six kinds of smaller potatoes, for which they own exclusive rights.

Major Organizations & Assets

Agri-Food Discovery Place & University of Alberta: The Agri-Food Discovery Place (AFDP) is the University of Alberta's pilot plant that is a world class innovative research, training, and technology transfer facility in the agriculture and food sector. AFDP supports five research platform technologies which include: meat safety and processing; carcass and meat Science; natural health products and functional food; animal nutrient and ingredient development (including pet food formulation and extrusion); and fermentation for optimization and scale up of level 1 microorganism.

Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator (APBI): The Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator is a multi-tenant facility, located in Leduc (part of the greater Edmonton region), that provides the infrastructure and services to support and enhance the establishment and growth of new companies and new business ventures in Alberta. Their mandate includes:

- Assisting with the start-up of new food businesses, providing facilities and programs to help manage the transition from new product development, through commercialization, market launch and growth in sales, resulting in graduation and the establishment of their own facilities.
- Assisting established food manufacturers in new product/process development, refinement, testing and manufacturing of market entry product volumes.

- Attracting product/process development initiatives of established food companies to Alberta.

Crop Diversification Centre North (CDC North): CDC North is an applied research station within the Industry Development Sector of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. CDC North has been a part crop research in Alberta for more than 50 years. The centre boasts researchers and technicians from the Crop Diversification division, and development officers from the Business & Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship divisions. The site has been the home of numerous programs and projects over the years on special crops, crop varieties and diversified production. The Centre has recently focused primarily on pulses, potatoes, apiculture, and crops for bio-industrial uses and natural health products.

Food Processing Development Centre: The Food Processing Development Centre opened in Leduc (part of the greater Edmonton region) in 1984. It is a modern, fully equipped pilot plant and product development laboratory facility. The centre is staffed with experienced food scientists, engineers and technologists. Centre services are designed to strengthen and expand the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the challenges of the marketplace through application of new technology and the development of new or improved products and processes.