

**SUPPLY CHAIN 1-2-3** will work with businesses with at least 10 employees that have domestic and export sales opportunities, as well as employment growth potential.

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCESSING SECTOR

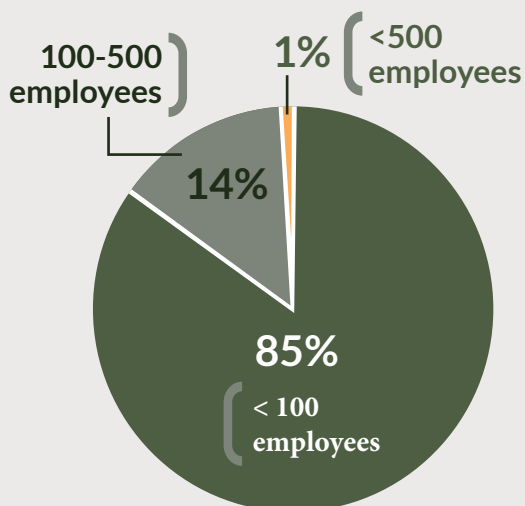
### Sector definition

The food and beverage processing sector is made up of businesses that transform raw agricultural commodities and semi-processed food products into a broad range of food and beverage products that are ready for consumption or for further processing.

This sector includes manufacturers and processors involved in sectors such as fish and seafood, poultry and eggs, beverages (beer, distillery, soft drinks, bottled water and wine), red meat, bakery, processed foods, dairy, snack foods and confections, and fruit and vegetables and bio food tech.

### EMPLOYEE BREAKDOWN

About 900 food and beverage processing establishments exist in Atlantic Canada.



Sources: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Statistics Canada

### Why this sector?

Atlantic Canada's food and beverage processing sector is one of the **region's leading economic and export sectors.**

It encompasses at least **892 food and beverage processing companies**, representing **\$6.6 billion** in total revenues with a **7% increase** in food manufacturing since 2008.

The sector employs over **37,000 people** and generates **over \$2 billion of the region's GDP.**

The food processing industry is one of the largest manufacturing industries in Atlantic Canada and seafood is the most significant segment. Supply chain opportunities for the Atlantic Food and Beverage Processing sector are complex and far reaching.

The supply chain includes primary producers, food and beverage processors, food retailers and wholesalers, and foodservice providers. The activities along this supply chain generate significant economic benefits at both the national and provincial levels.

### Increase in demand

With expansion expected in global food trade over the next 20 years, there are key opportunities for Atlantic Canadian firms to exploit. On the demand side, it is estimated that the world will require 50% more food to meet increasing demand. The rapid growth of emerging economies in Asia is expected to transform the global food industry as the number of middle class consumers is projected to more than double to nearly 5 billion people in the next 20 years. Trade liberalization under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) also offers promise for Atlantic Canadian fish and fruit exporters.