

Agri-food and Food Processing

SECTOR PROFILE



Agri-food and Food Processing

Good food is grown, manufactured, packaged, stored, distributed, shipped and enjoyed in Vaughan

Vaughan’s agri-food and food processing sector runs “farm to fork,” from growing to processing to consumption at a retail or hospitality outlet.

“FGF chose to grow and invest in the city of Vaughan with our new food manufacturing facilities due to its strategic location in the GTA, high-capacity highway network access and its abundance of available talent through the local labour pool. FGF desires to provide our team members the opportunities to live, work and play as they raise their families in a vibrant community. The City of Vaughan’s commitment to working with us every step of the way was instrumental in our moving forward with the projects. We are very proud to be located in and contributing to the economic growth of Vaughan.”

MARTIN NG, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CONSTRUCTION OF FGF BRANDS AND CAPLINK LTD.

Vaughan is at the heart of Toronto region’s food and beverage sector, the largest in North America.

Ontario’s food and beverage cluster generates annual manufacturing revenues of more than **\$37 billion**, making it one of the largest and most competitive in North America. Vaughan’s food industry also comprises a robust business-to-consumer (B2C) element that contributes to the city’s vibrancy and diversity, complementing the promotion and growth of tourism within the city by providing food destinations and amenities attractive to both visitors and residents.

Vaughan’s strengths as an advanced manufacturing hub translate to a destination of choice for food processing, with nearly half of York Region’s food processors located in Vaughan.

Vaughan is one of the largest industrial markets in the Greater Toronto Area. Vaughan had a total industrial inventory of more than 97.6 million square feet in the first quarter of 2023, with an additional **1.5 million square feet** under construction. Vaughan plays a central role in York Region’s agri-food sector – as the fourth largest hub in Canada – supporting **57,000 jobs** regionally.





The Vaughan Advantage

Vaughan’s access to talent, infrastructure, transportation assets and position at the heart of North America’s largest food and beverage sector make it a competitive and attractive destination for investment across the food and beverage supply chain – especially in food processing.

FARM TO FORK

Good food is...
GROWN
MANUFACTURED
PACKAGED
STORED
DISTRIBUTED
SHIPPED and
ENJOYED
 in Vaughan



Leading companies within the agri-food and food processing industry include Voilà by Sobeys’ Customer Fulfilment Centre, Arla Foods, Concord Confectionary, Saputo Dairy Products, Costco Distribution Center, Longo Brothers Fruit Market Inc., Wholesome Harvest Baking Limited, Taylor Farms, United Natural Food Inc. and Ozery Bakery.

Notable industry concentrations include bakeries and tortilla manufacturing, sugar and confectionery product manufacturing, dairy product manufacturing and food merchant wholesalers, which boast a location quotient* of more than 2.0.

*Location quotient (LQ) is a way of quantifying how concentrated a particular industry, cluster, occupation or demographic group is in a region compared to the nation. It can reveal what makes a particular region unique in comparison to the national average. Many economists consider an area’s industry to be concentrated if its LQ is above 1.2.

TAP into a robust and skilled workforce

In 2022, Vaughan was home to nearly **345,000 residents** – that number is expected to increase by 66 per cent by 2051.

73 per cent of Vaughan’s population over 25 years old has a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree – surpassing both the provincial (68 per cent) and national (67 per cent) averages. Vaughan’s location lets you tap into:

- a labour force of **3.9 million** workers within a one-hour drive.
- **25 academic institutions** offering agri-food programs and training for the next generation of talent across the industry.

Access here means access everywhere.

Vaughan's agri-food and food processing sector benefits from being centred in a highly connected location in Ontario. Vaughan offers access to:

- the Ontario Food Terminal, Canada's largest wholesale fruit and produce terminal and the third largest in North America – within a 20-minute drive from Vaughan. The food terminal serves 1.2 billion customers in 44 countries through Canada and the European Union's Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and 12 other free-trade agreements for foreign companies.
- the country's largest international rail carriers – the Canadian National MacMillan Yard and the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway Vaughan Intermodal Terminal.
- major highways: 400, 407 and 427 (including a recently completed 6.6 kilometre expansion in Vaughan), and proximity to highways 401, 404 and 410.
- Canada's busiest airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, which is located within 10 kilometres of Vaughan's southwestern boundary.

Vaughan is Transformative, Ambitious and Purpose-driven

As the go-to source for insight into Vaughan's business community, the Economic Development team can support you with business, real estate and demographic information, highly customized end-to-end site selection assistance, zoning, planning and by-law information, and more!

TAP into your next opportunity.



Connect with us



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Vaughan Economic Development

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