



Greater Richmond, Virginia

# Food + Beverage

**426** FOOD MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN RICHMOND

**\$547m** INVESTED BY FOOD MANUFACTURING FIRMS SINCE 2010

**2,072** KEY DEGREES AWARDED ANNUALLY

**12,781** EXISTING FOOD MANUFACTURING WORKERS IN THE REGION

## SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

### Food Processing

More than 425 food processing companies currently operate in Greater Richmond. From *Fortune* 500 companies like Mondelez to family-owned specialty manufacturers like Fiorucci Foods, Richmond-area businesses produce cookies, cakes, sauces, dips, meats, flavorings and more.

### Beverage

Greater Richmond is home to a variety of bottling and packaging operations, producing cola, coffee, tea and artesian water. Microbreweries and microdistilleries are growing rapidly with a consumer base enthusiastic about locally produced beverages.

### Machinery & Equipment

Companies like AMF Bakery, Blueprint Automation and WestRock support the growing food and beverage industry by supplying machinery, processes, and packaging. These businesses are consistently innovating new solutions to help food and beverage producers become more efficient and less wasteful.

## REPRESENTATIVE COMPANIES



Lowest Overall Cost for an East Coast Food Processing Facility -- The Boyd Company, 2021



A proven food and beverage R&D location with Sabra and WestRock leading the way



Industrial real estate in the Richmond Region is 27% below the U.S. average



Electric industrial costs are 31% below the U.S. average with a 99.9% reliability rate



A history of low labor unionization in a Right-To-Work state



Virginia agriculture supplies livestock and corn canola, soybeans, and more

## GROWING BUSINESSES

Sabra Dipping Company operates the world’s largest hummus facility in the Richmond Region. In June 2018, the company announced the third expansion of its plant, adding 8 new loading docks for 18-wheeler trucks. Previous expansions included \$86 million for additional production capacity and a \$28 million research and development center.

Before the Niagara Bottling Company even announced they were locating a water bottling plant in Greater Richmond, they decided the facility needed 20 percent more production space and 40 percent more workers. It took just 28 weeks from the land purchase to when the first bottle came off the line in November 2017. The company’s 557,000-square-foot manufacturing and bottling operation now serves the southeastern USA.



*Sabra Dipping officials celebrate the groundbreaking of their latest expansion.*

## ACCESS TO MARKET

Whether shipping perishable food products to market or machinery to customers, it’s easy to move goods in any direction from Greater Richmond. Interstates I-64, I-95, and I-85 converge in the metro area, putting nearly 50 percent of the US population and a significant percentage of its manufacturers within a day’s drive. Two of the nation’s largest rail operators, CSX and Norfolk Southern, provide freight service on double-stack Class I rail lines.

The Richmond International Airport (RIC) handles approximately 140 million pounds of cargo annually and is designated as a Foreign Trade Zone #207. The Richmond Marine Terminal provides domestic and international multi-modal shipping opportunities including service to the Port of Virginia, which is the third-largest container port on the U.S. East Coast with service from nearly 30 international shipping lines to 200+ countries.



## INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

Below is a sampling of available incentives for Food + Beverage manufacturing businesses. Contact the Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc. for further information.

Governor’s Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund	A grant available to businesses that add value to Virginia-grown agriculture and forestal products
Commonwealth’s Development Opportunity Fund	A discretionary, “deal closing” fund to secure a company location or expansion in Virginia and create an incentive to create new jobs
Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant	Assists and encourages companies to invest and to provide new employment opportunities
Virginia Jobs Investment Program	Provided to companies creating new jobs or implementing technological change to reduce human resource development costs
Enterprise Zones	Specially designated zones offer additional incentive opportunities
Virginia Talent Accelerator Program	Provides world-class training and recruitment solutions that are fully customized to a company’s unique operations, equipment, standards, and culture
The Port of Va. Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant	Incentivizes companies to locate new maritime-related employment centers or expand existing centers to encourage growth of The Port of Va.
Port Volume Increase Tax Credit	Credits firms using state port facilities and increases cargo volume 5% in a calendar year
Major Business Facility Job Tax Credit	A corporate income tax credit of \$1,000 for each new full-time job created over a threshold number of jobs



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