

KEY FINDINGS

Growing Maine's Food Economy

Shared-Use Food Processing Facilities as a Platform for:
Entrepreneurship • Value-Added Production • Regional Opportunity

[Read the Report](#)



Sector Snapshot: Maine's Food Economy



7,000+
farms,
including
dairy



\$716 million
in annual seafood
production
(Lobster = \$534 million)



2,700+
businesses with a home
kitchen license, mobile
vendor license, or both



\$123,600
average market
value per farm



13%
growth in the
number of caterers
from 2019 to 2024

What is a Shared-Use Food Processing Facility?

A shared-use food processing facility is a licensed commercial food production space that multiple businesses can rent to produce food safely and affordably.



KEY BENEFITS

- Lower startup costs
- Access to commercial equipment
- Regulatory compliance
- Business training & mentorship
- Collaboration among entrepreneurs
- Strengthens regional food systems



KEY USERS



- Caterers, meal prep businesses, & personal chefs
- Consumer packaged goods (CPF) startups
- Home-based kitchens transitioning into licensed, scalable operations
- Farmers and fishermen creating value-added products
- Food trucks & mobile vendors
- Community programs & culinary training



KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

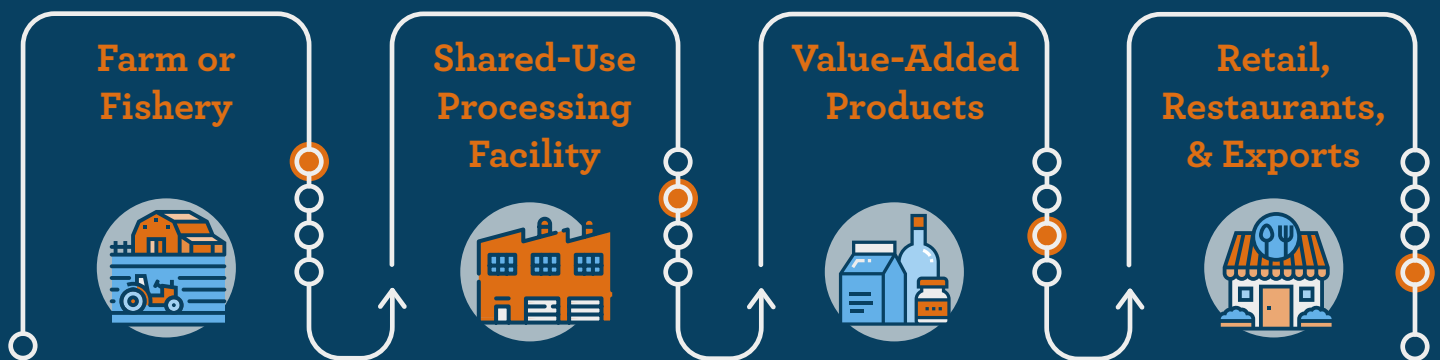
- Small footprints (typically <10,000 SF)
- Cold & freezer capacity
- Three-phase power
- Plumbing, water, gas, & HVAC
- Strategic location & highway access
- Loading docks
- Labeling & packaging rooms

Regional Market Drivers & Opportunities

REGION	 MARKET DRIVER	 OPPORTUNITY
Aroostook	Large-scale agriculture	A specialized processing facility for meat & vegetables
Piscataquis & Somerset	High number of home producers & mobile vendors	A shared kitchen incubator is already being developed in Skowhegan
Hancock, Penobscot, & Washington	Robust seafood economy & untapped potential for freezing vegetables	A dual-purpose facility supporting both vegetable freezing & seafood processing
Androscoggin, Franklin, & Oxford	Smaller in scale, with poultry, eggs, & apples leading production	A shared-use food processing facility to complement existing efforts
Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, & Sagadahoc	Dairy, seafood industries & small-scale food entrepreneurs	Specialized dairy & seafood processing facilities
Cumberland & York	Entrepreneurial hub	Continue to support the long-term stability and success of the Fork Food Lab

Why Shared Facilities Matter for Maine

Shared-use processing facilities help Maine businesses launch, scale, and reach new markets.



Questions?

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