

Why the St. Louis Region?

The St. Louis region is a thriving hub for food manufacturing and distribution for some of the world's biggest brands, like AB InBev, Post, and Purina, and much of this industry's strength is rooted in proximity and accessibility to natural goods. The same rich agricultural heritage and strategic location within America's heartland that drives businesses to locate here is driving the region toward AgTech innovation. With leading research institutions like the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and the Monsanto/Bayer Innovation Center, collaboration is fostered among scientists, entrepreneurs, and investors to pioneer solutions for global agricultural challenges. Supported by a strong network of industry resources including BioSTL, accelerators and venture capital firms, the St. Louis region propels AgTech startups towards success, solidifying its position as a premier destination for agricultural technology innovation and food manufacturing and distribution.

Key Existing Sub-Sectors

Food & Beverage



- **AB InBev**, the leader in the adult beverage industry with over a quarter of the global market share, accounts for **4,500 jobs** and a **\$5.6 billion annual economic impact** across the St. Louis region.
- **Tyson Foods** is investing **\$180 million** to expand its plant in Caseyville, Ill., **retaining 300 existing jobs, creating 400 new jobs**, and adding seven more production lines.
- **American Foods Group** opened a new **\$800 million**, 775,000 sq ft beef processing facility in Warren County, Mo., in 2025 and expects to grow to **1,300 jobs** and an estimated regional impact of **\$1 billion**.
- **Performance Food Group, Inc.** is investing **\$120 million** in a new facility in Ferguson, Mo., and adding **100 new jobs**.
- **Prairie Farms** is building a **\$9 million**, 42,000 sq ft headquarters complex in Edwardsville, Ill.
- **Winland Foods** is investing **\$38 million** at its St. Louis pasta plant, adding a production line, expanding rail access, and creating **25 new jobs**.

Animal Food



- Nearly **3.5 times** as many animal food manufacturing employees as similar sized metros.

Hog & Pig Farming

Leather, Textiles & Footwear

Bakery Items

Food Processing

Our Advantages

Skilled Workforce

- **1,000+ Plant Scientists** - One of the highest concentrations of plant scientists in the world work in the St. Louis region.

Strategic Location

- **50%** of all U.S. crops are produced within a 500-mile radius, or a day's drive, of St. Louis.

Collaboration & Innovation

- **400** Biotech R&D Companies
- **\$87 Million** in National Institutes of Health startup grants
- **\$142 Million** appropriated for new federal commercialization grants

In Good Company



POST HOLDINGS, INC.



KWS



DONALD DANFORTH
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER
DISCOVERY | COMMUNITY | IMPACT

BENSON HILL



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314-982-1562

MCLamie@TheFreightway.com
www.TheFreightway.com

211 North Broadway, Suite 700
St. Louis, MO 63102



One Location. Global Access.



6 Class I Railroads

Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, Canadian National, and CPKCS



5 Regional Airports and 2 International Cargo Airports

St. Louis Lambert International Airport ranks among the top cargo airports in North America. In 2023, the airport moved **160,000 million pounds** of cargo for dedicated freighters such as UPS, FedEx, Amazon, DHL and more as well as belly cargo moved from passenger airlines. It began live animal exports in 2020.



4 Ice-free Ports on the Mississippi River

- **#1 most efficient** inland port in the nation
- Home to the Ag Coast of America, having the highest level of grain handling capacity along the Mississippi River
- 3 ports with container on barge capabilities
- Northernmost lock and ice-free port on the Mississippi River



4 Major Interstates

- I-44 (St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma City)
- I-55 (Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans)
- I-64 (Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia)
- I-70 (Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Columbus, Baltimore)

Transportation that Transforms



Investments & Impact

- The St. Louis Regional Freightway is helping to advance almost **\$9 billion** in planned infrastructure investments (\$3.2 billion already funded).
- 5 Regional Airports deliver an economic impact of more than **\$10 billion**.
- **7,000 acres** of Foreign Trade Zone Sites
- **Top 2** in the nation for mineral & ore exports
- **Top 17** for processed food exports
- **Top 25** for chemical exports

All economic data is sourced from Chmura JobsEQ, Q3 2025 dataset

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