



AGRICULTURE BACKGROUND REPORT

April 24, 2020

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1. PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND REPORT

The purpose of this background report is to provide information about agriculture in the Calgary Metropolitan Region (“CMR”). It will also provide general direction on land planning approaches that are compatible with Board direction and that speak to the requirements of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Regulation. The outcomes of the report will inform the development of the Growth and Servicing Plan, but the recommendations of the background report are not binding on either plan.

This report does not discuss policy implementation tools related to the efficient use of land such as transfer of development credit programs, agricultural conservation areas, growth boundaries, or similar. The use of these tools is a potential aspect of planning for growth areas and within the scope of HDR Calthorpe’s scenario work

The agricultural background report was drafted by municipal experts with backgrounds in both agriculture and land use planning who participated in the CMRB’s Agriculture Subcommittee. Established March 7, 2019, the Subcommittee is mandated to complete the following tasks:

- Identify existing studies, data, and mapping related to agriculture and agricultural land that are relevant to consider as part of the background report,
- Review best practices in planning for agriculture at the regional scale (includes urban and rural best practices),
- Use the best practice review to discuss planning for agriculture within the Calgary Metropolitan Region,
- Define “agriculture” at the regional scale, and
- Provide suggested policy opportunities that are compatible with the values of the CMRB.

The Subcommittee includes representatives from the City of Calgary, Town of Okotoks, Town of Cochrane, Foothills County, Rocky View County, and Wheatland County.

In addition to this expertise, a broad range of research sources were consulted, and a few informal discussions were conducted with economic development organizations and experts. *Appendix A: Policy Framework* provides an overview of the guiding policy documents considered in the development of this report. Public engagement activities were deferred to the Growth and Servicing Plan engagement process as the content of the background report includes recommendations only and is not binding to the outcomes of the Growth and Servicing Plan.

1.1. RECOMMENDED DEFINITIONS OF AGRICULTURE

The Subcommittee reviewed a wide range of definitions focusing on components of a regional agricultural system and recommends the use of the following definition in the Growth and Servicing Plan:

Agriculture: The growing, raising, managing, transporting and/or sale of livestock, crops, foods, horticulture.

Agricultural Areas: Areas identified by member municipalities that form significant parts of the agricultural value chain, such as areas of production, processing, agri-business or agri-tourism.

Agricultural Value Chain: the people and activities that bring agricultural products to the consumer, through stages such as processing, packaging, and distribution; a partnership between producers, processors and marketers created to improve quality, increase efficiencies or develop and market differentiated agricultural products.

Agri-tourism: Tourism that supports commercial agricultural production at a working farm, ranch, or processing facility; tourism that generates supplemental income for an agricultural producer; tourism related to activities that promote or market livestock and agricultural products such as fairs, market gardens and rodeos.

Agri-business – Suppliers/businesses who enable agricultural production by providing inputs, machinery, equipment or services; such as fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, machinery and equipment, services (i.e. machinery maintenance or veterinary services), financial services, data management, grain drying, agronomy advice, agricultural research, transportation services, marketing, traders etc.

Processor – Businesses that process (or transform) primary agricultural products into intermediary or final products for consumption (i.e. seed processors/crushers, milling, slaughterhouses, wool/leather production, milk/cheese production, food manufacturing, fibre production, preservation, packaging etc.)

Producer – Primary producers are ranchers and farmers, greenhouse operators, aqua-culturalists, beekeepers, and other individuals who create primary agricultural products via biological processes.

1.2. REPORT CONTEXT

Agriculture is a foundational industry in Alberta and an important part of Alberta's heritage. Alberta has one of the world's most productive agricultural economies. According to StatsCan, Alberta had 40,638 farms in 2016 and has Canada's largest cattle industry, as well as numerous other types of livestock operations (See: *Table 32-10-0440-01, Total number of farms and farm operators*). The diversity of landscapes allows Alberta to produce a wide variety of crops such as grain, oilseed, pulses and specialty crops such as sugar beets and potatoes. While Alberta's economy has transitioned to a focus on energy and other high-value products, agriculture continues to contribute to the economy and remains deeply rooted in Albertan culture.

As discussed within the Agriculture Subcommittee, key considerations around agriculture in the CMR include:

- Much of the regional farm economy is oriented towards large-scale exports,
- The average age of Alberta farmers has been increasing,
- Automation and technology are changing farming practices,
- Capital requirements can be a financial barrier to entry for new farmers, and
- Consumers in the region may not be aware of foods grown in the region or where to purchase local food.

Agriculture is not only a use of the land. It is also a system of producers, processors, input and machinery suppliers, agri-businesses, agri-tourism and consumers, including both rural and urban components. As noted in the Rocky View County *Agriculture Master Plan*, "a regional perspective can,

over the long term, service a healthy, regional, local food system” (page 114). Producers and processors face many challenges including weather events, climate change, changing public attitudes towards some agricultural products, trade disputes, rising input and operating costs, price uncertainty and a lack of key infrastructure such as high-speed internet or reliable rail access. Supporting agriculture through regional planning will not remove these challenges, but it may establish a better integration of the various components of producing and processing food to create a more resilient agricultural system.

Demand for locally produced food continues to grow in Alberta as more consumers are interested in knowing where their food comes from and how it's produced. Increased interest in locally produced food is an opportunity for Alberta producers and processors. Growing the local food industry will help create jobs, complement Alberta's agricultural export opportunities, and further diversify the provincial economy.

This report focuses on the regional system of agriculture and the ways that individual municipalities can contribute to the strength of the regional agricultural value chain. The goal of a regional approach to agriculture in the CMR is to support the economic growth and diversification of the agriculture system. This emphasis was approved by the CMRB's Land Use Committee on June 6, 2019.

2. THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

The agricultural value chain is an integral feature of the economies of Canada, Alberta, the CMR, and individual municipalities within the CMR. According to the Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute's 2019 *Clean Growth in Agriculture report*, primary agriculture represents about 2% of Canadian GDP (page 7). However, the Agriculture and Agri-Food System is a significant contributor to Canadian GDP, with a stable share of just under 7% of GDP over the past decade (if we account for farm input suppliers, primary agriculture, food and beverage processing, food wholesale and retailing and food service, see CAPI report, page 7). Canada is one of the top net exporters of food products in the world. The Calgary Economic Development *Agribusiness Value Chain* (Deloitte 2017) notes that “Canada is a net exporter of agricultural commodities. 58% of the industry's value is through exports. Canada was the world's 5th largest exporter of agriculture and agri-food products after the European Union, the United States, Brazil and China in 2014” (page 9).

Alberta plays an important role in Canada's success in agriculture. ATB Financial released a 2019 analysis on Alberta's agriculture and agri-food sector. The facts and information presented below are derived from two ATB Economics reports, *Alberta's Agriculture and Agri-food Section, Part 1 and Alberta's Agriculture and Agri-food Section, Part 2*.

- Alberta is home to the third largest agriculture and agri-food sector in the country. Alberta accounted for about 12.6% of Canada's total output in 2018, behind only Ontario (32.4% and Quebec (21.8%).
- Agriculture and agri-food generated 2.5% of Alberta's real GDP in 2018. This puts agriculture ninth on the list in terms of the sector's relative importance to the Provincial economy.

3. AGRICULTURE IN THE CMR

In the CMR, Agriculture and the agricultural value chain are thriving across the region in a diversity of ways from producing to processing to cultural and agri-tourism events and markets. *Appendix B: Agriculture in the CMRB at a Glance* provides a brief overview of agriculture and aspects of the agricultural value chain found within the CMR's member municipalities.

3.1. AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

According to the Calgary Economic Development *Agribusiness Value Chain* report (Deloitte 2017, page 11), the CMR has several strengths as an agricultural ecosystem, including:

- Proximity to high-value farmland which is suitable for ranching in the foothills and western regions while the eastern regions have high-quality soil and irrigated land, making these areas suitable for oilseeds, grains and speciality crops such as pulses.
- Presence of anchor firms such as Dow AgroSciences, Bayer Crop Science, Agrium, Old Dutch and Cargill. These firms are just some examples of premiere employers which provide high value jobs in the sector.
- Transportation networks including intermodal rail terminals, excellent road networks and Calgary International Airport are just some examples of the excellent transportation network which allows distributors access to a market of 4 million consumers within a typical one-day round trip. The Calgary Region hosts Canada's largest inland port.
- Human capital including post-secondary institutions and specialised research centres have produced highly skilled workers with expertise in horticulture, food safety, livestock genetics, crop science and veterinary sciences which agricultural employers can draw upon.
- Strong research capacity provided through strong education system and some of the most advanced agricultural programs in the world.
- Existing food processing clusters in the Calgary region are home to several food and beverage processing and manufacturing companies including large scale meat processors such as Harmony Beef, Cargill and a large range of small and medium enterprises dedicated to agri-processing and food manufacturing.
- The Calgary region provides a high quality of life combined with low cost of living which can attract talent and expertise from around the world.

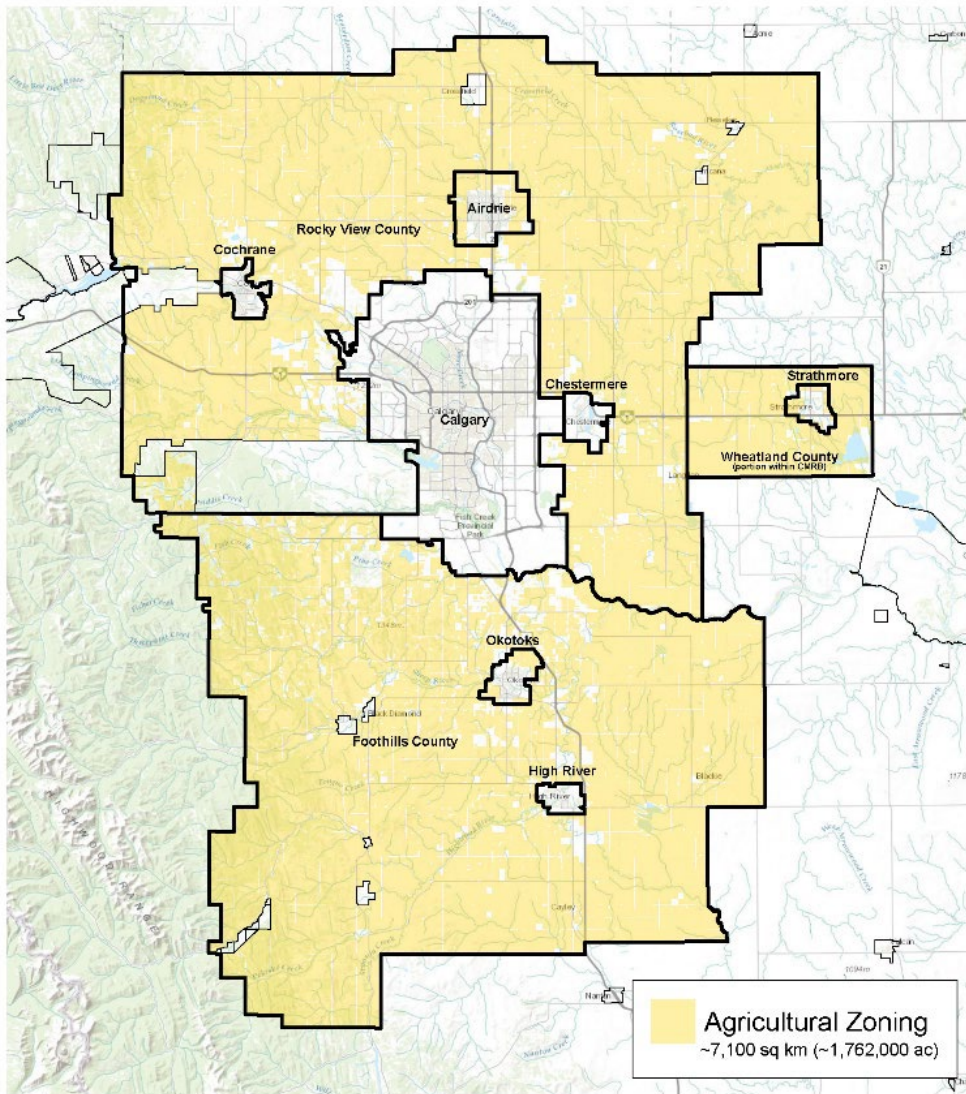
Growth in agriculture is important to the regional economy. *Appendix D: Agribusiness Output, GDP* provides agribusiness-specific outputs from the CMRB's *Regional Employment Analysis*, approved in February 2020. The analysis offers the following conclusions about agribusiness economic activity in the CMR (page 2):

- Agribusiness has been identified as one of a few key sectors that hold potential to lead in the diversification of the Alberta economy,
- In the growth scenarios developed for the CMRB in the *Regional Employment Analysis*, the growth of secondary processing of food products and related activities have been expected to grow at rates above the average for the Calgary Region economy.

- Agribusiness builds on an existing base of activity, resources and experience. The Calgary region and Alberta have a natural advantage in agribusiness pursuits and can compete both nationally and internationally in this area.

3.2. AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

Figure 1: Land Zoned for Agriculture in the CMR



Source: 2018 Municipal Land Use Data Provided by Member Municipalities

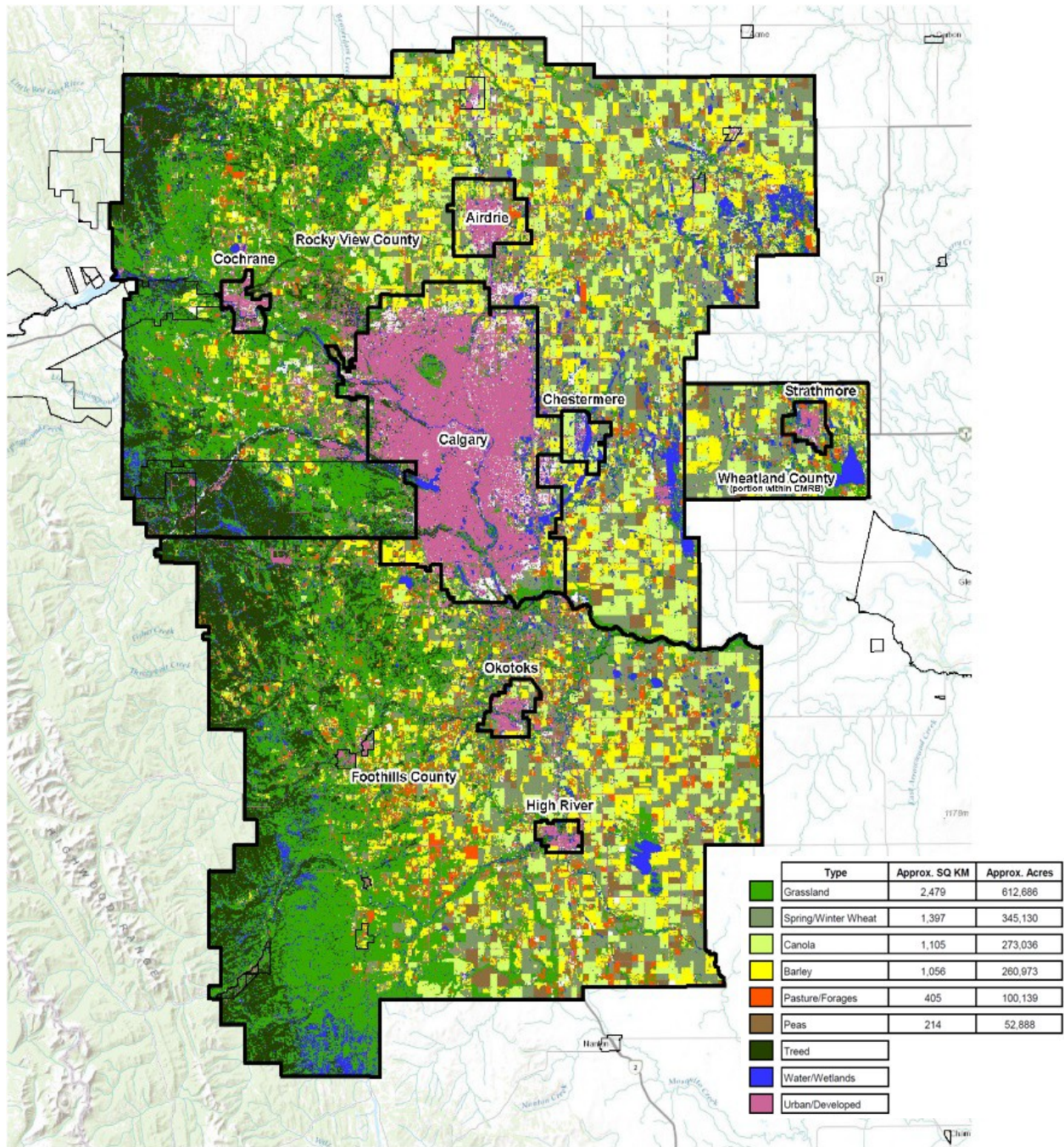
Agriculture is the single largest land use in the CMR. Most of the land, about 7,100 square kilometres or about 80% of the land area of the CMR, is zoned for agricultural production. This does not include lands zoned for agricultural processing or lands that are zoned for other purposes but are currently in agricultural production. Animal agriculture is predominant in the western areas, while crop farming is

more common in the east where high quality soil and irrigation districts lend themselves to grain and oilseeds. Mixed farms, grains, feedlots, chicken barns, dairy, and other agricultural activities such as mushroom farms and smaller vegetable operations can be found throughout all the rural municipalities. In Alberta, farmland assessments are regulated by the Municipal Government Act based on agricultural use value, and the tax rates for farmland are set by the Government of Alberta.

Other aspects of the agricultural value chain, including processors, machinery and equipment stores, agri-business and financial services, distribution centres, and agri-tourism services can be found in clusters throughout the rural and urban municipalities. Agriculture in the rural municipalities is primarily oriented towards high-value export markets and serves as a way of life as well as an economic driver for the region.

This report presents data from the Government of Canada's Annual Crop Inventory (2018 data) to provide an overview of the agricultural production in the CMR. Many regions use soil capability to indicate the quality of agricultural land; however, due to the diversity of agricultural pursuits within the CMR and a desire to value all aspects of the agricultural system, this background report does not define productive farm land by a soil rating systems such as the Canada Lands Inventory (CLI) soil capability system or the Province of Alberta's Land Suitability Rating System (LSRS).

Figure 2: Crop Inventory in the CMR



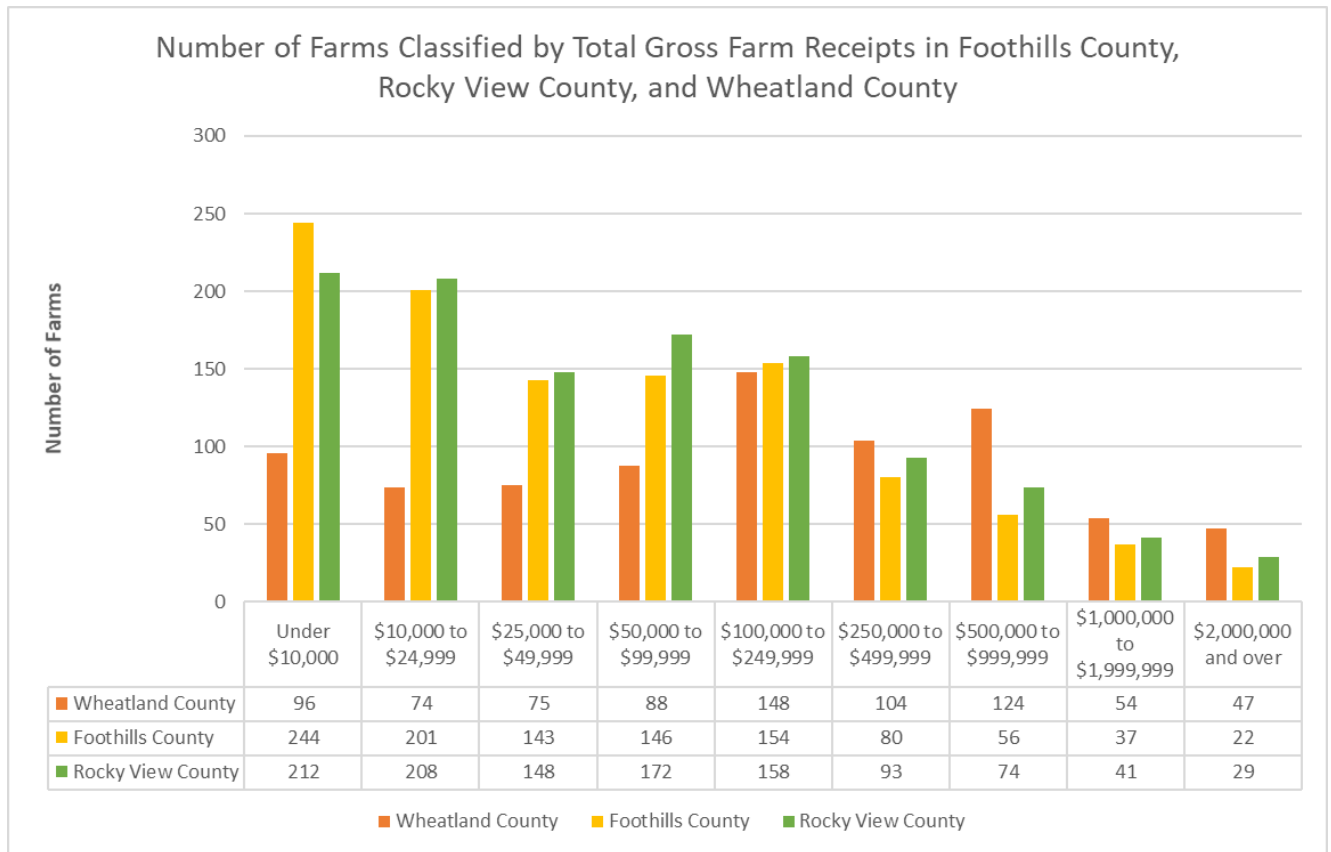
Source: 2018 Crop Inventory, Government of Canada

Urban municipalities such as Airdrie, Calgary, Chestermere, Cochrane, High River, Okotoks and Strathmore are less oriented towards large-scale agriculture but often have large agricultural producers within their boundaries. Urban municipalities often have indoor agricultural operations, community

gardens, farmers markets, beekeeping operations and other urban agricultural activities. Other elements of the agricultural value chain are evident in urban areas as they often act as processing hubs and provide a range of business services.

In the CMR, all member municipalities have a strong appreciation for the agricultural heritage of Southern Alberta, many hosting cultural events rooted in agricultural traditions such as the Calgary Stampede. Although Calgary is often thought of as a purely urban centre, significant agricultural activity occurs within its borders. For example, in the 2016 Ag Census, there were 145 farms in Calgary, 36 of those with gross revenues over \$100,000.

Figure 3: Number of Farms in Rural CMR Municipalities, by Total Gross Farm Receipts



Source: StatsCan, 2016

Note: Represents the entirety Wheatland County. Information for the portion of Wheatland County in the CMR is not available.

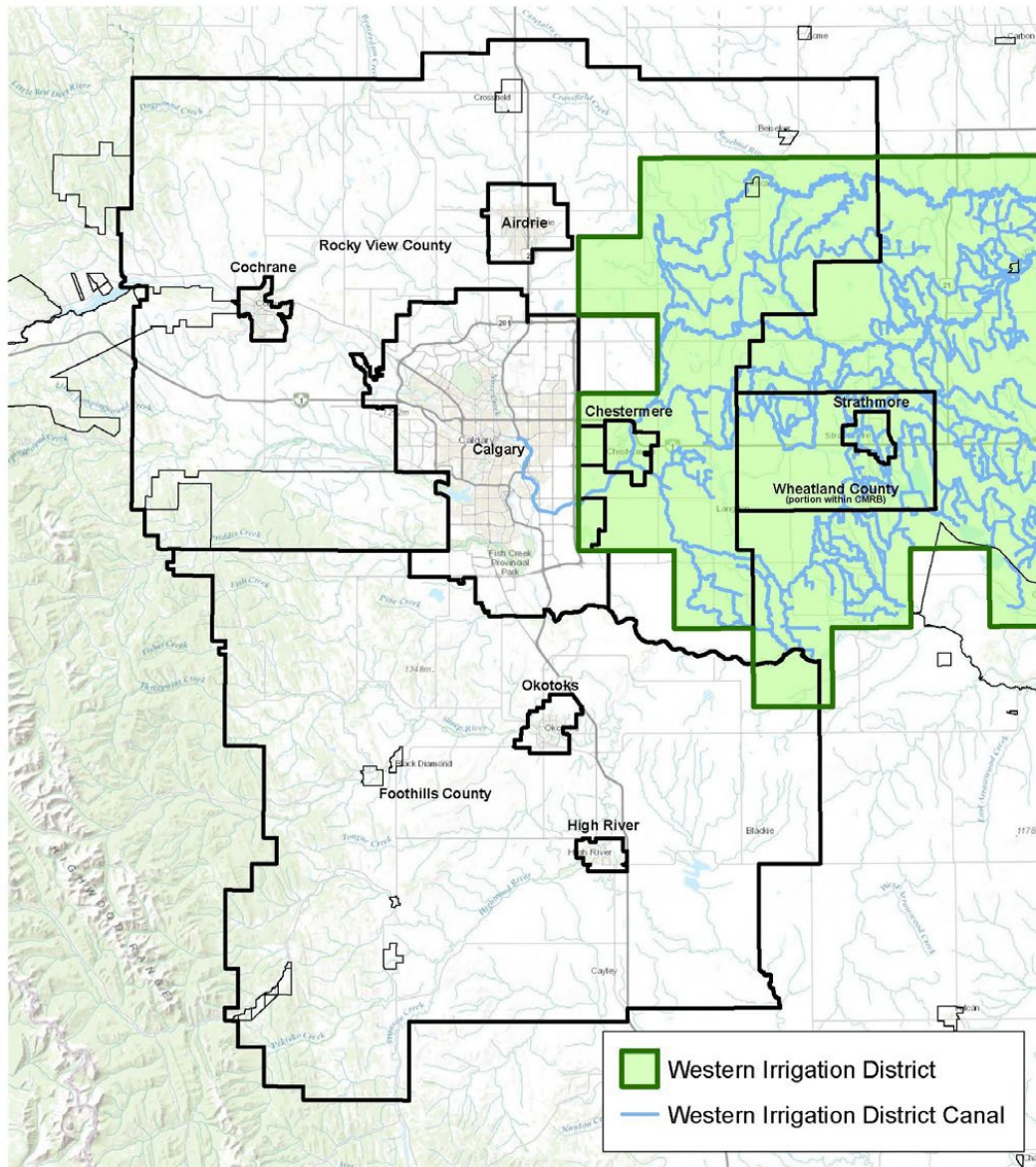
3.3. IRRIGATION

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, the guiding policy plan for the Growth and Servicing Plan, emphasizes the importance of a diverse and innovative irrigated agriculture and agri-food sector (Strategy 1.2, page 44). Irrigation minimizes the risks from drought and weather and allows for the production of a range of specialty products. In southern Alberta, the Western Irrigation District:

- Provides irrigation water to more than 400 farms and 96,000 acres of land,
- Includes 1,200 km of canals and pipelines,
- Is Headquartered in Strathmore (Source: 2018 Western Irrigation District Website)

Water for irrigation is available in the northeast and eastern portion of the CMR within the service area of the Western Irrigation District as shown on *Figure 4: Irrigated Land in the CMR*. About 1,600 square km of land within the CMR is also within the WID service area.

Figure 4: Irrigated Land in the CMR



Source: Western Irrigation District, 2018

4. PROJECT OUTCOMES

Agriculture is a complex system, including both rural and urban components, which operate at local, regional, provincial, national and international scales. Agriculture plays an important cultural and economic role in large and small communities across the CMR. This report provides policy recommendations that address these aspects of the agricultural system. These recommendations are not binding to the Growth and Servicing Plan process but are intended to inform the development of the Growth and Servicing Plan.

Many Canadians possess an idealized, traditional vision of agriculture when, in fact, the sector is dynamic, high-tech and incredibly sophisticated (for more discussion on this, see the Royal Bank of Canada's report, *Farmer 4.0, How the Coming Skills Revolution Can Transform Agriculture*). Advances in technology such as remote sensing, automation, nanotechnology, improved fertilizers and pesticides, precision agriculture, genomics and precision breeding, microbiology, data tools, AI, and improved systems models are resulting in a systemic transformation and digital revolution in the agricultural sector. Many of these technologies were invented outside of the agricultural sector and are now being adopted within the sector.

With respect to agriculture, the challenge for all levels of government, businesses and primary producers will be to position Canadian agriculture such that the sector will remain competitive. Ultimately, farming is a business, and producers will make decisions that allow them to compete in a globalized marketplace. It is important to achieve a balance between conserving agricultural land and promoting other forms of economic development in a manner that promotes new land uses which are compatible with existing ones. Supporting value-added agriculture and related industries in proximity to producers is important for supporting the agricultural industry.

There is evidence that more can be done to elevate our role in providing agricultural and food products to the world. The 2017 *Report of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth* set ambitious targets for Canadian agriculture. The federal government aims to achieve \$85 billion in exports and \$140 billion in domestic sales for the agri-food sector by 2025. This would represent a 32% increase from \$64.6 billion in exports in 2017 and a 27% increase from \$110 billion in domestic sales in 2017. These growth targets, if realized, would position Canada as a global leader in high-value markets.

The member municipalities of the CMRB can support progress towards these targets by providing education to the general public, supporting growth in agricultural value chain supportive land use policies, and reducing land use conflicts. Agriculture is an important opportunity for economic diversification for the CMR. Supporting the success of agriculture in all its forms will ultimately require consideration for the provision of internet to underserved areas, investing in transportation infrastructure to remove bottlenecks, providing supportive land use policies, and encouraging cross-sectoral networks in order to leverage new technologies and other strategies.

4.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION FOCUS

On June 6, 2019, the Land Use Committee approved a Subcommittee recommendation to focus the background report on economic development and diversification. This approach is consistent with South Saskatchewan Region Plan's policy focus on maintaining and diversifying the agricultural industry within

the South Saskatchewan Region (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, pages 44-46). For the member municipalities in the CMR, focusing on economic development and diversification:

- Allows agriculture to become a key consideration in the Growth and Servicing Plan, integrated throughout both documents,
- Acknowledges the important role agriculture could play in the diversification of the CMR's economy in rural and urban areas,
- Acknowledges agriculture as a complex system that includes, but is not limited to, production, processing, input and machinery suppliers, financing services, and consumption of agricultural good and services,
- Supports full discussion of benefits and trade-offs of different land use patterns when many complementary and competing values are layered together (e.g. agricultural areas, growth areas, environmentally sensitive areas), and
- Aligns with Board support for economic wellness and diversification.

4.2. RECOMMENDED GOAL

The Subcommittee recommends the use of the following goal to guide a regional approach to agriculture in the Growth and Servicing Plan:

To foster an innovative, diverse and resilient agriculture sector that contributes to the economic growth of the Region.

4.3. RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES

The Subcommittee recommends the use of the following objectives to guide a regional approach to agriculture in the Growth and Servicing Plan:

1. Build awareness of the benefits, importance and diversity of the regional agricultural ecosystem in the CMR.
2. Promote a coordinated effort to grow and diversify the agricultural industry in the CMR through land use planning policy, strengthening connections between producers, processors and consumers.
3. Support the viability and diversity of the agriculture sector through investment in the critical infrastructure services required to support and grow the regional agricultural ecosystem.
4. Address agriculture as an important land use, viable industry and important service.

4.4. RECOMMENDED POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The following table identifies linkages between the recommended objectives and a strategic approach to enhancing the regional agricultural systems. The table also provides potential policy opportunities and further studies that would support the implementations of the recommended objectives and enable these strategic values to cascade down into on-the-ground development outcomes.

Objective	Approach	Potential Policy Opportunities
<p>Build awareness of the benefits, importance and diversity of the regional agricultural system in the CMR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the important role agriculture plays in an economically strong, resilient and diversified region • Educate CMRB members and the public on the importance of agriculture as a key activity in the CMR 	<p>It is recommended that Growth and Servicing Plan, MDPs and ASPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the important role agriculture plays in supporting a strong, resilient and diversified regional economy <p>It is recommended that the CMRB work together with regional economic development partners, learning institutions, and other agricultural specialists to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish areas of focus where the CMRB can use its mandate to support the growth and diversification of the agriculture industry and local agricultural value chains
<p>Promote a coordinated effort to grow and diversify agriculture in the CMR, strengthening connections between producers, processors and consumers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish more places to grow food, share food and sell food • Integrate consideration for agriculture into policy documents and planning processes in all member municipalities • Create opportunities for agricultural production, processing, agri-business, value-added agriculture, and agri-tourism throughout the CMR 	<p>It is recommended that MDPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include policies that support a continued focus on agriculture and encourage compatible land uses in agricultural areas <p>It is recommended that Growth and Servicing Plan, MDPs and ASPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for growth in agri-business and value-added agriculture and related industries, especially when located in proximity to producers, as appropriate to the local scale and context • Identify opportunities for operating food programs to provide healthy foods and promote food security. These might include promoting growth in local and regional farms, home and community gardens, farmers’ markets, community kitchens, food rescues and other collaborative initiatives, as appropriate to the local scale and context • Identify opportunities for agri-tourism, as appropriate to the local scale and context

Objective	Approach	Potential Policy Opportunities
<p>Support the viability and diversity of the agriculture sector through investment in the critical infrastructure services required to support and grow the agricultural sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish hubs of agricultural activity by encouraging the clustering and colocation of agriculturally related activities and associated support industries • Coordinate land use and key infrastructure to develop hubs of agricultural activity 	<p>It is recommended that the CMRB work together with regional economic development partners, learning institutions, and other agricultural specialists to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify inventories, gaps and priorities for the improvement of infrastructure assets critical to the agricultural sector, such as infrastructure related to internet, transportation, or other as identified. <p>It is recommended that MDPs and ASPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where agricultural production and processing are important or dominant land uses and coordinate those areas with necessary infrastructure services, especially road, rail and utility infrastructure
<p>Address agriculture as an important land use, viable industry and important service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for urban growth in a manner that considers the impacts of that growth on agricultural areas • Ensure growth is managed to be compatible with agricultural areas 	<p>It is recommended that the Growth and Servicing Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for urban growth in a manner that considers the impacts of growth on existing agricultural producers through the more efficient use of land <p>It is recommended that MDPs and ASPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage thoughtful interfaces between land used for agricultural production and urban areas • Encourage coordination with adjacent municipalities to mitigate negative impacts to agriculturally related activities, where applicable • Promote land uses compatible with agriculture in agricultural areas

5. CONCLUSIONS

Agriculture is an integral part of Alberta’s economy and culture, and the CMRB can play an important role in supporting the growth of the agricultural value chain thereby promoting the viability of the industry going forward into the future. Encouraging compatible land uses, building necessary infrastructure in rural areas, and supporting further growth in urban agriculture, processing, value-

added agriculture, and agri-tourism should be key priorities for the CMRB. Educating consumers on how their food is produced and encouraging local food production are also highlighted in this report. This report recommends further study to identify specifically how to encourage further growth in the agricultural value chain and to better understand the regional agri-food ecosystem. The recommendations and information in this report will inform the development of the CMRB Growth and Servicing Plan but are not binding on the Plan.

APPENDIX A: POLICY FRAMEWORK

5.1. PROVINCIAL LAND USE FRAMEWORK

Alberta's Land-use Framework, released in December 2008, sets out an approach to managing the province's land and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. It consists of seven basic strategies to improve land-use decision-making in Alberta, including promoting the efficient use of land to reduce the footprint of human activities on Alberta's Landscape (LUF, page 4). The Alberta Land Stewardship Act supports the Land Use Framework and establishes the legal basis for the development of regional plans, including the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

5.2. SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) identifies strategic directions, objectives and implementation strategies for the area included within the South Saskatchewan River watershed. The SSRP identifies several strategies to support a growing and diversified regional economy in which agriculture is identified as a key industry.

5.3. OTHER AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

5.3.1. SUPPORTING ALBERTA'S LOCAL FOOD SECTOR ACT

The *Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act* was passed on May 30, 2018 by the Provincial Government. There are several key points in this legislation which directly reflect feedback received from local food stakeholders, including:

- setting standards for local organic food
- designating a local food week
- creating a local food council

The local food council (created August 2018) provided a confidential report to the Minister of Agriculture in October 2019, with advice and recommendations on provincial policies, programs, pilot projects and initiatives that will help grow and sustain the local food sector.

5.3.2. A FOOD POLICY FOR CANADA

Launched by the Federal Government in 2018, the Food Policy for Canada focuses on supporting growth for Canadian farmers, producers and food businesses in Canada, and received over \$134M in the 2019 budget.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy/thefoodpolicy.html>

APPENDIX B: AGRICULTURE IN THE CMR AT A GLANCE

Table 1: Agriculture in the CMR at a Glance	
City of Airdrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values agriculture as a path to a healthy and sustainable community • Was designated the 23rd Bee City in Canada (Nov 2018) • Currently completing 2 agriculturally related pilot projects over 18 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban hens (20 properties) ○ Urban beekeeping (20 res & 10 non-res properties) • Home to a community garden and 4 community orchards
City of Calgary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes continued ag production on lands zoned for future urban development (S-FUD) • Has a strategy to increase urban food production with the City • Has focused on emerging models of growing food in urban areas • Supports indoor vertical farms in industrial and commercial districts • Has 9 indoor vertical farms of significance • Allows for small-scale urban farms within the City’s municipal boundary • Is implementing the <i>Calgary Food Action Plan</i>
City of Chestermere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes continued ag production on lands zoned “Urban Transition” • Allows for intensive ag uses such as horticulture, market gardens, beekeeping within the City’s Land Use Bylaw • Is home to the Rocky View Chestermere Agricultural Society • Is host to Annual Country Fair and other events
Town of Cochrane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is known as a western heritage town • Acts as a local ag service hub to surrounding communities • Values traditional ag practices • Is home to Cochrane & District Ag Society and Cochrane Fair, located within the Town’s municipal boundary
Foothills County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes about ~900,000 acres of lands dedicated to agriculture • Has different agricultural “regions” within its boundaries due to the size of the municipality and the varied weather and soil conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is generally home to crop farming in the east and to large grazing leases in the southwest • Also includes feedlots, bison, poultry, eggs, speciality crops and many other types of agricultural production • Contains small- and large-scale processing plants and grain handling facilities. • Recently created an Agriculture Business district to facilitate growth in value added production and support services in the County • Is home to Spruce Meadows and Millarville, High River, and Okotoks Agricultural Societies, which host many events, clinics and 4-H

Town of High River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roots in farming and ranching dating back to the late 1800s • Acts as a regional service hub • Home to a range of leading equipment manufacturers, crop and livestock service providers, and full-scale food distributors
Town of Okotoks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key strategy of Environmental Master Plan is to encourage local food production, including additional community gardens • The Town’s Land Use Bylaw allows for intensive agricultural production (i.e., greenhouses, tree farms, u-pick etc.) within the Land Use Bylaw’s “Agriculture District” • Promotes continued extensive ag activities on recently annexed lands • Urban hens are permitted in accordance with the Urban Hen Bylaw
Rocky View County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 947,896 acres of land within the County about 90% are zoned for agriculture • Extensive agricultural operations within the County are primarily driven by export markets • Has different agricultural “regions” within its boundaries due to the size of the municipality and the varied weather and soil conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is generally home to more grain farming in east and cattle ranching in west ○ Southeast portion of the County has irrigated lands • Includes some dairy, poultry, mushroom, insects and smaller vegetable/ microgreen operations occurring • Balzac area has ag businesses, machinery and food distribution and acts as a food processing and distribution hub
Town of Strathmore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as an agriculture service hub for the surrounding community with significant historical roots in agriculture • Is a key location for agricultural events and tradeshow • The Town’s Land Use Bylaw allows for marijuana production and for urban agriculture in residential and commercial areas • Is home to the Strathmore Ag Society • Has many Farm to Table initiatives (shrimp farming, vegetable farming, food production, and award-winning barley, malting and brewery) • Agricultural production and process is a key focus of the Town’s economic development strategy
Wheatland County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes 1.1 million acres of agricultural lands. About 73,000 acres of agricultural land are within the boundaries of the CMR. • Has different agricultural “regions” within its boundaries due to the size of the municipality and the varied weather and soil conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Higher class soils in west, dryer out to east ○ Includes 11,000 irrigated acres within the boundaries of the CMR • Includes mixed farm, grains, feedlots, chicken barns

APPENDIX C: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX D: AGRIBUSINESS OUTPUT, GDP

Agribusiness Output GDP

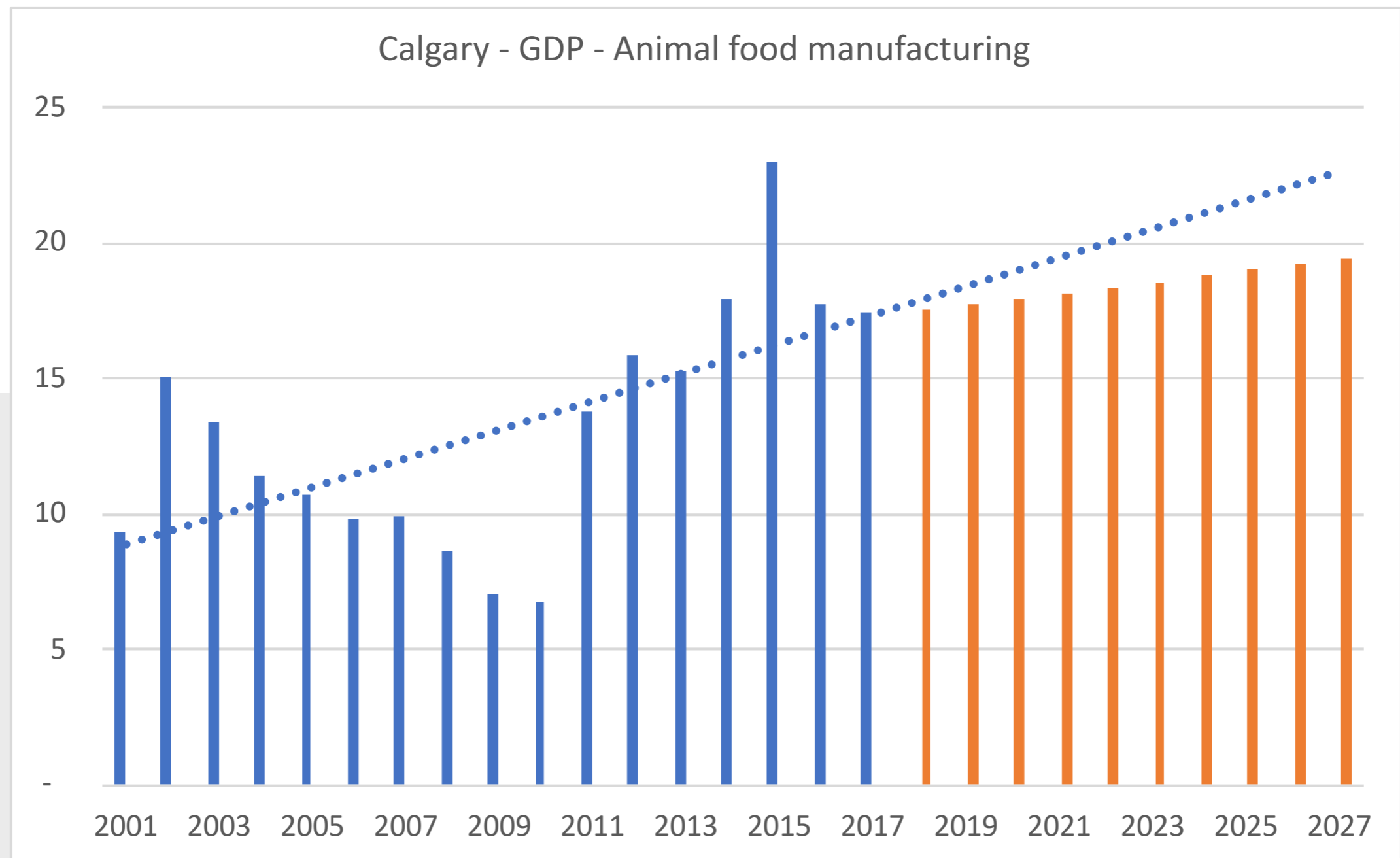
Calgary Metropolitan Region Board
Employment Growth Scenarios - Supplemental Information

June 12, 2019

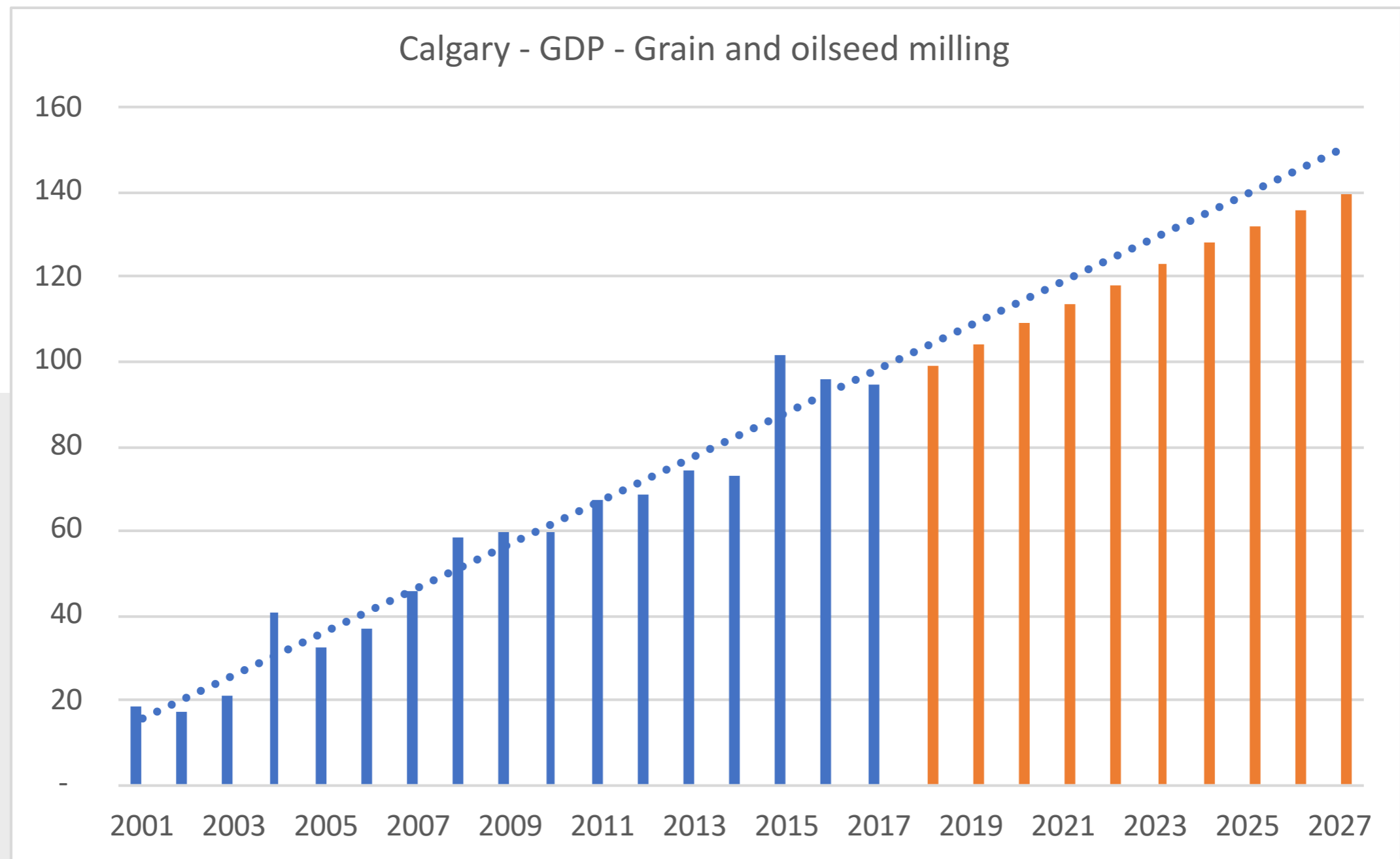
Agribusiness Economic Activity

- Agribusiness has been identified as one of a few key sectors that hold potential to lead in the diversification of the Alberta economy.
- In the Growth Scenarios developed for the CMRB as part of the Regional Employment Analysis, growth of secondary processing of food products and related activities have been expected to grow at rates above the average for the Calgary Region economy.
- Agribusiness builds on an existing base of activity, resources and experience that the Calgary Region and Alberta have a natural advantage in competing both nationally and internationally.
- The following charts show the historical and projected GDP for selected Agribusiness industry groups.

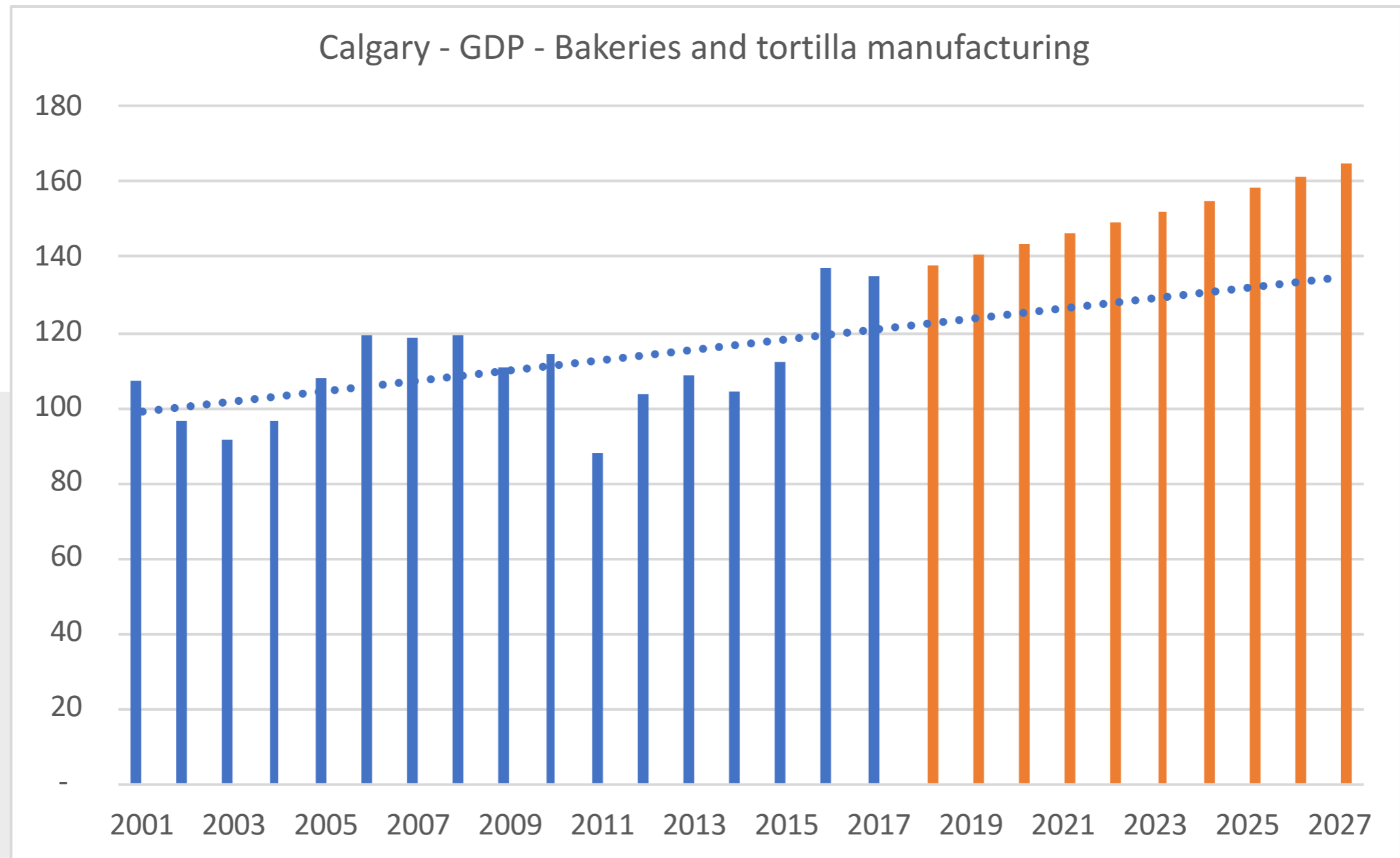
Animal food manufacturing (NAICS 3111)



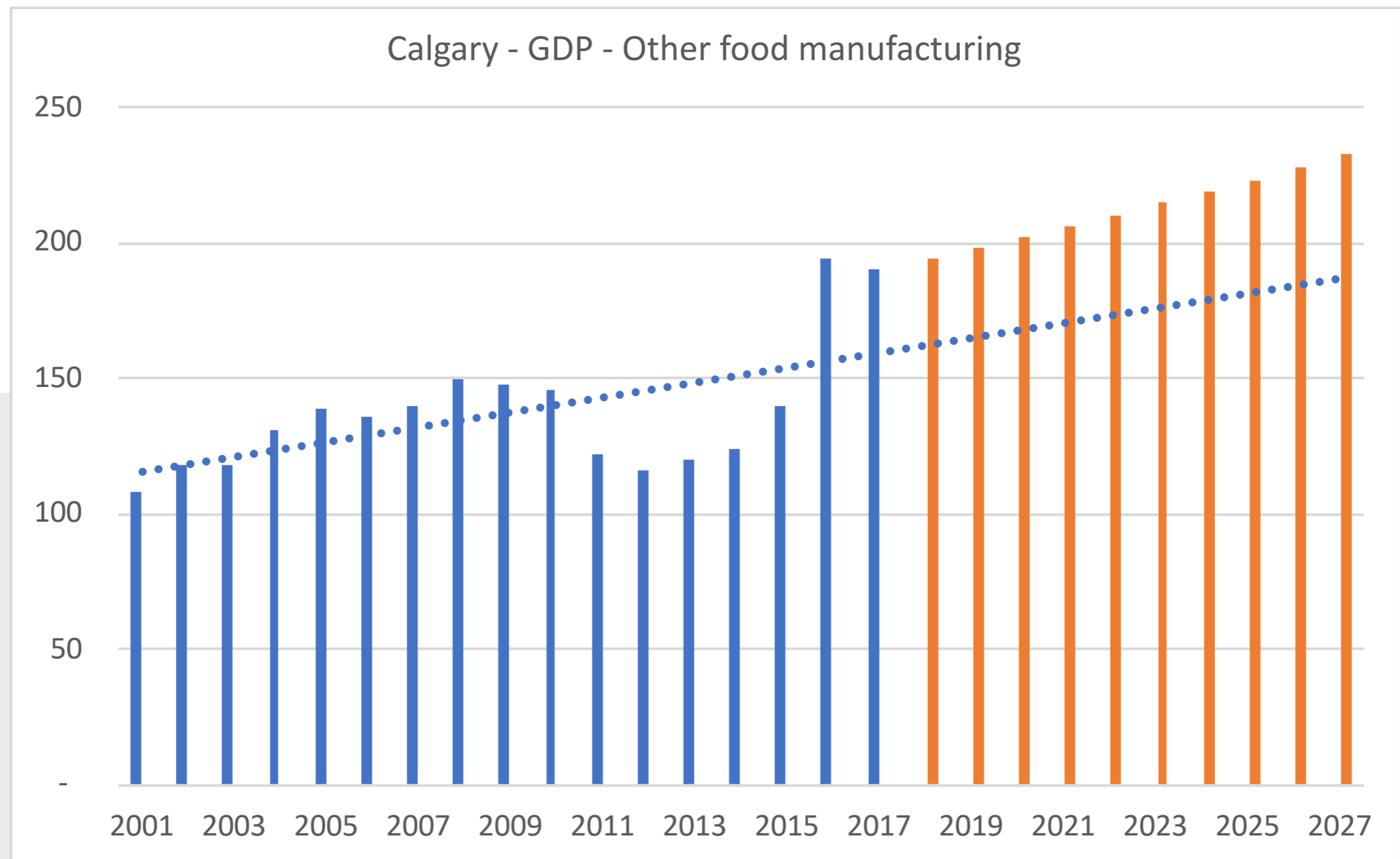
Grain and oilseed milling (NAICS 3112)



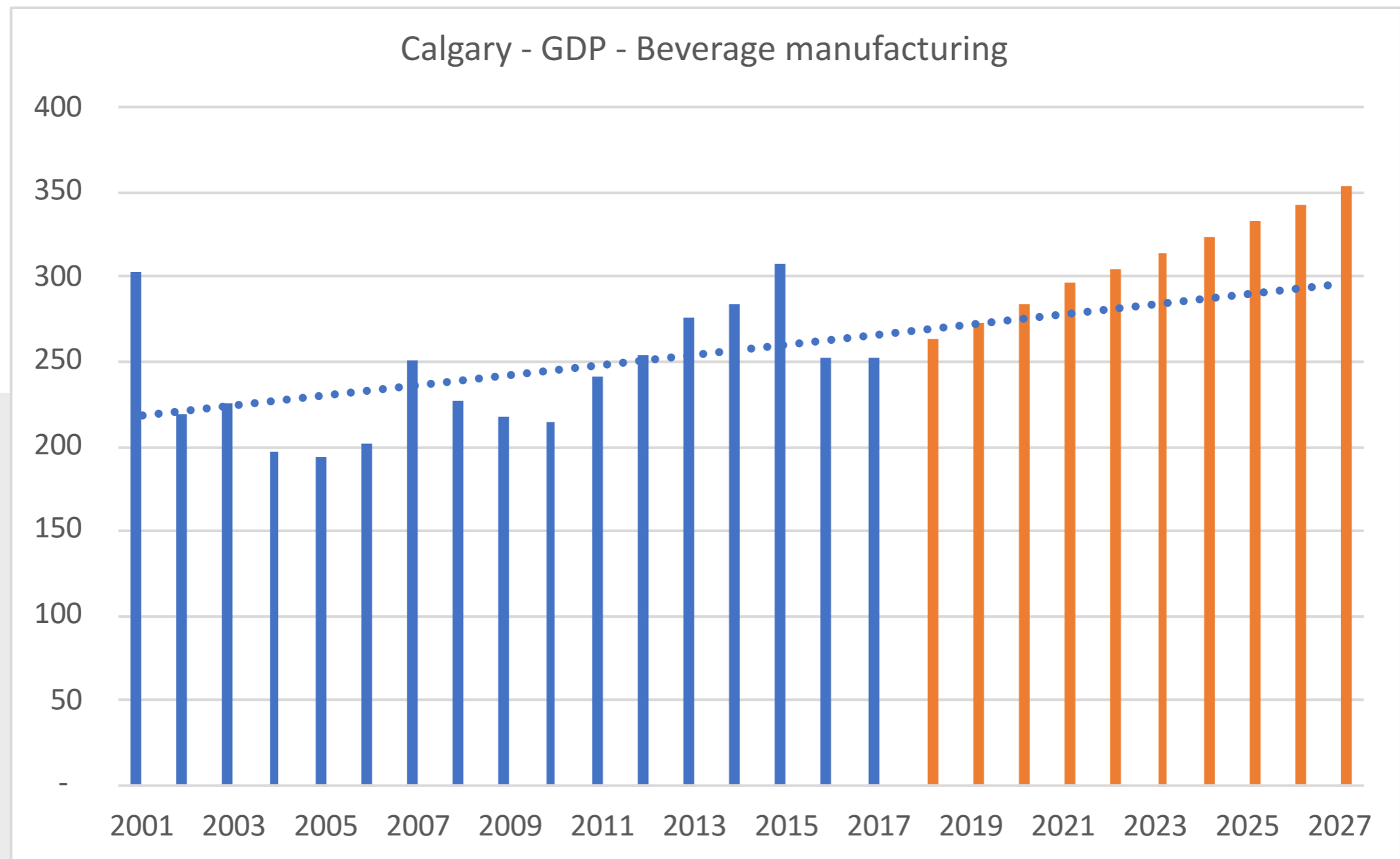
Bakeries and tortilla manufacturing (NAICS 3116)



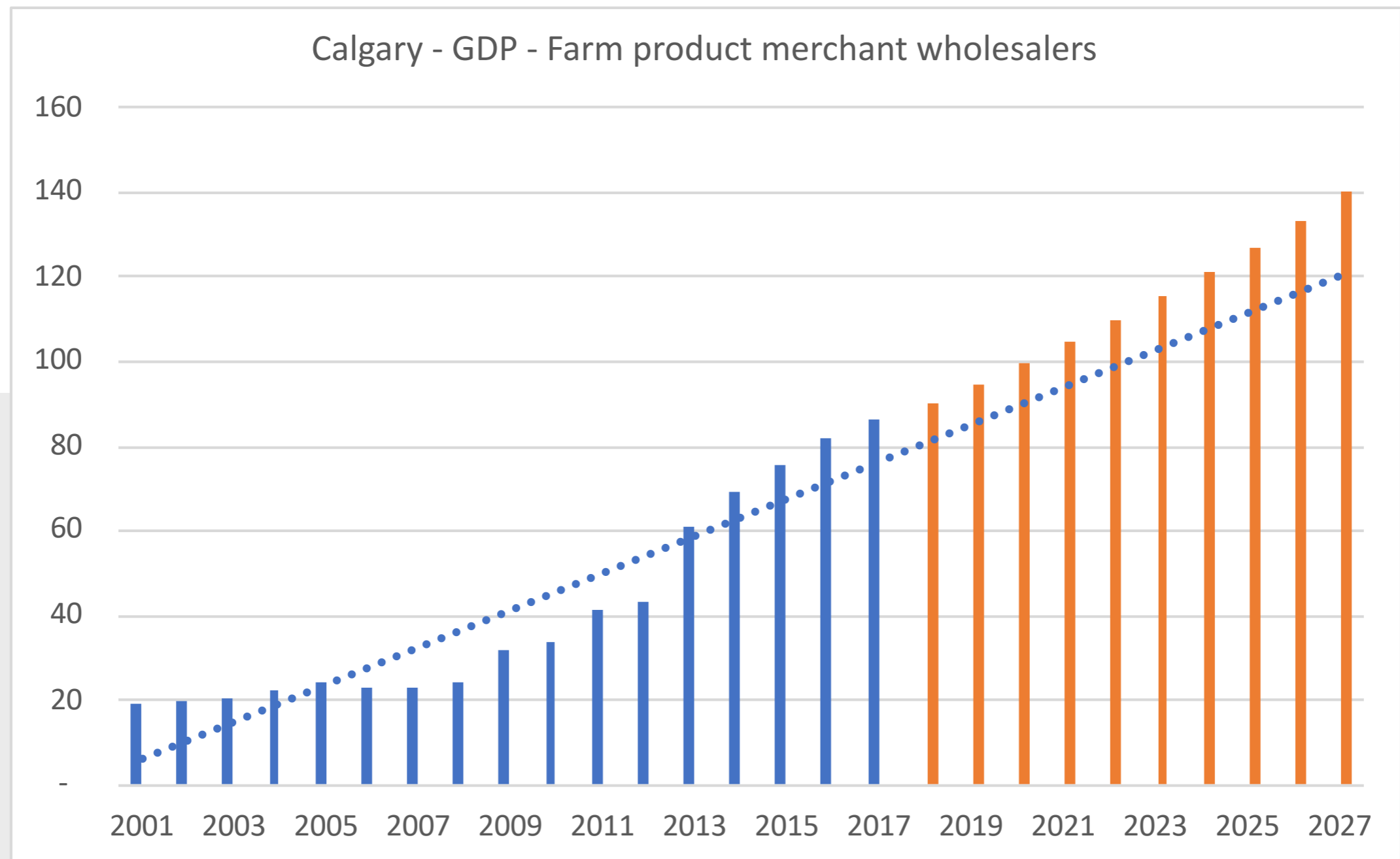
Other food manufacturing (NAICS 3119)



Beverage manufacturing (NAICS 3121)



Farm product merchant wholesalers (NAICS 4111)



Support activities for farms (NAICS 1151-1152)

