



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (UUMEP) CENTER

The University of Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (UUMEP) Center is the statewide manufacturing assistance center funded by NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The UUMEP Center's mission is to deliver customized services to improve all aspects of manufacturing—from the production floor to the front office. Key areas of focus are in food manufacturing, operational excellence, workforce training, advanced manufacturing, growth & innovation, and investment access. The UUMEP Center staff visits clients on-site to discuss their needs, develops a customized solution or project, delivers and manages the custom project, and continuously ensures the project meets the client's desired outcomes. The UUMEP Center is committed to improving and supporting manufacturers success by becoming and remaining Utah's #1 trusted industry resource.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2024



\$150.2 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



830

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$43 Million

New Client Investments



\$16.6 Million

Cost Savings

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

MAKING GOLDFISH CLOSER TO MARKET AT PEPPERIDGE FARMS

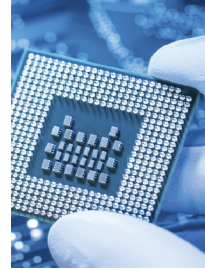
ABOUT PEPPERIDGE FARM. Pepperidge Farm is a well-known American food company celebrated for its premium bakery products. Founded in 1937 by Margaret Rudkin, the brand quickly gained recognition for its delectable cookies, crackers, and bread. Known for using the finest ingredients and traditional baking methods, Pepperidge Farm offers a diverse range of products, from classic cookies like Milano and Goldfish to specialty bread and crackers. With a rich history and commitment to quality, Pepperidge Farm has become a trusted brand for generations. In recent years, the company has focused on sustainability initiatives, such as reducing its environmental impact and supporting responsible sourcing. Pepperidge Farm's popular products include Milano cookies; Goldfish crackers; sausage, egg & cheese bites; and various breads. Their dedication to quality, taste, and tradition has made Pepperidge Farm a staple in many American households.

THE CHALLENGE. AJ Heiner, the plant director of Pepperidge Farm in Richmond, Utah, has been leading a factory transformation that includes a \$160 million investment in new product lines, facilities, and equipment. To maximize the success of this project, AJ reached out to iMPact Utah, a Utah-MEP subrecipient and part of the MEP National Network™, to discover grant opportunities.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. iMPact Utah helped AJ obtain an automation grant to enhance a production line with new equipment. AJ used the grant money to upgrade a piece of equipment to produce 30 oz products, which eliminated the need to ship product from Ohio to meet West Coast supply demands. They purchased a Nimco Cartoner to solve their capacity increase needs.

"I can always count on iMPact Utah, a Utah-MEP subrecipient, to step in and help me gather the resources I need to make critical projects more attainable. The grant funding we received not only relieved some pressure on our budget but also added job opportunities in our community."

-AJ Heiner, Senior Plant Manager



RESULTS



12 created or retained jobs



\$30,000,000 in new or retained sales



\$900,000 in cost savings



\$900,000 in new investment



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