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The Slow Vinegar Company
Barnsley

INDUSTRY GUIDE

ORGANIC FOOD

Organic Food Industry Guide

This guide is designed for anyone starting or running a business related to the Organic Food Industry.

We have highlighted some of the key resources about the Organic Food Industry that you can find at the Business & IP Centre such as general research (statistics, trends and developments), key companies, trade magazines and newsletters.

All you need is a free Reader Pass.

About the Business & IP Centre (BIPC)

The Business & IP Centre is here to help you start and grow your business. We offer one to ones, specialist workshops, inspiring events and access to premium market data and intelligence all for free. We are home to the UK's largest collection of business and intellectual property (IP) information, as well as a thriving community of entrepreneurs. Based in the British Library and over 70 libraries across the UK.

Here to help

If you have any questions, our information specialists at the Business & IP Centre will be happy to help. You can pop into the BIPC reading room on the first floor in the British Library, or email one of the team at bipc@bl.uk

Updated February 2025
Julie Boadilla

bl.uk/bipc



linkedin



Instagram

Start-Up Information



The Cobra database contains practical fact-sheets on all aspects of starting, running and managing a small business – including information on writing business plans, marketing, company structures etc.

It also covers the practical aspects of how to start and run particular types of businesses – outlining necessary skills, regulations, licences and legislation etc. and highlights other sources of information and advice available.

Accessible via electronic resources.

Business Opportunity Profiles (BOP)

Butcher	BOP156
Farm Shop	BOP164
Greengrocer	BOP136

Mini Business Opportunity Profiles (MBP)

Fish and Meat Smokery	MBP257
Fresh Pasta Producer	MBP114
Herb Grower	MBP423
Homemade Sauce Producer	MBP034
Milk Round	MBP066
Vegetable Box Scheme	MBP154
Vegetarian/Vegan Restaurant	MBP181

Sector Updates (SEC)

Agriculture	SEC006
Food and Drink Wholesale	SEC042
Food and Grocery Retail 2023	SEC008
Food and Grocery Retail 2021	SEC052
Wholesale Food and Drink	SEC079

Business Information Factsheets

A guide to the Food Safety Act 1990	BIF070
Summary of Food Safety and Hygiene Legislation	BIF435
Food Business Registration	BIF486
Labelling Requirements for Prepacked Food	BIF182
Food Hygiene Regulations in the UK	BIF193
Producer's Duties Under the WEEE Regulations	BIF544

Sources of Business Information (SOU)

Chartered Trading Standards Institute	SOU0093
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	SOU0079
Food and Drink Federation	SOU0474
Food Standards Agency (FSA)	SOU0080
Guild of Fine Food	SOU0387
Health Food Manufacturers' Association	SOU0629
Institute of Grocery Distribution	SOU0010
Soil Association Certification	SOU0092

Research Brief

Food and Grocery Retail	SRG011
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Market Research and Statistics

If you are planning on starting a business you will need to be aware of the latest trends, developments and opportunities within your industry which can all be found from market research.



EMIS

EMIS is a research database covering markets research, data and news for international markets, companies, and industries.

- Beverages (Organic Food) in the United Kingdom: Market Snapshot to 2027
- Europe – Food & Grocery Retail 2024
- Europe – Organic Food 2024
- Global Adjuvant Market 2024-2028
- Global Baby Food Packaging Market 2024-2028
- Global Baby Food and Infant Formula Market 2025-2029
- Global – Organic Food, 2024
- Global Organic Baby Food Packaging Market 2024-2028
- Global Organic Fertilizers Market, 2024-2028
- Global Organic Packaged Food Market 2024-2028
- Global United Kingdom Organic Selenium Yeast for Feed Market to 2031
- Global UK Demineralized Whey Powder Market to 2031
- HW Staple Foods in the United Kingdom 2024
- Organic Food (Agriculture & Forestry) in United Kingdom: Market Snapshot to 2027
- Organic Food in Europe 2024
- Prepared Food (Organic Food) in United Kingdom: Market Snapshot to 2027
- United Kingdom Agricultural Products 2024
- United Kingdom - Sustainable Packaging 2025
- United Kingdom - Food & Grocery Retail 2024

- United Kingdom Crop Protection Chemicals Market - Growth, Trends, COVID-19 Impact and Forecasts 2022-2027
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GlobalData

GlobalData is a market research platform that offers consumer and retail information and trends, and actual and forecast sales data for Fast Moving Consumer Goods businesses.

- Consumer Survey Results - Interactive Data: Consumer Perceptions of Organic and Healthy
 - Retail Sector Series: The UK Food & Grocery 2023-2028
 - Strategic & Topical Insights: Innovation Trends in Organic and Natural Products
 - Success Case Study: Neat Burger 2022
 - United Kingdom Baby Food – Market Assessment and Forecasts to 2030
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IBISWorld

Market research also covers market size and forecasts, consumer demographics and attitudes, the key players and products and will often include SWOT and PEST analysis showing areas of strength, weakness, opportunities etc. IBIS World provides trusted industry research on thousands of industries worldwide. Their analysts leverage economic, demographic and market data, then add analytical and forward-looking insight, to help organizations of all types make better decisions.

- Catering Services in the UK 156.210
- Food & Beverage Processing Machinery Manufacturing in The UK - C28.930
- Fruit Growing in the UK - A01.200
- Fruit & Vegetable Processing in the UK - C10.390
- Fruit & Vegetable Retailers in the UK - G47.210
- Fruit & Vegetable Wholesaling in the UK - G46.310

- Grocery Markets in the UK G47.810
 - Milk & Cream Production in the UK – C10.511
 - Number of Organic Operators in the UK – K2311
 - Organic Food Retailing in The UK – SP0.371
 - Vegetable Growing in the UK - A01.130
-



Mintel

Mintel provides market research and consumer intelligence solutions to consumer-focused businesses with a combination of syndicated tools and custom insight solutions.

- Attitudes towards Cooking in the Home - UK – 2024
 - Attitudes towards Healthy Eating – UK – 2024
 - Baby Food and Drink UK 2024
 - Brand overview: Food UK 2024
 - Global Outlook on Sustainability: A Consumer Study 2024-25 + Beauty and Personal Care + Food and Drink + Household Focus.
 - Healthy Lifestyles - UK – 2021
 - Food and Drink Influences UK 2024
 - Food & Drink Trends: Latam (Insight)
 - Food and Drink Packaging UK 2022
 - Food and Non-food Discounters 2024
 - Specialist Food and Drink Retailers - UK - March 2021
 - Sustainability in Food UK 2024
 - The Ethical Food Consumer – UK – 2021
-

Statista

Statista is a global data and business intelligence platform with an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries.

- Food and Nutrition in the UK 2024
- Brand KPIs for Organic Food: Marigold in The United Kingdom 2025
- Brand KPIs for Organic Food:365 by Whole Foods Market in the United Kingdom 2025
- Brand KPIs for Organic Food: ORGAN in the United Kingdom 2025
- Brand KPIs for Organic Food: Viridian in the United Kingdom 2025
- Brand KPIs for Organic Food: Eversfield Organic in The United Kingdom 2025
- Organic Food Market In The United Kingdom 2025
- Organic Farming In The United Kingdom 2024
- Target Audience: Organic Food Store Shoppers In The United Kingdom 2024
- Target Audience: Regional Food Purchasers in The United Kingdom 2024

Trade Magazines and Journals

Useful for gaining inside knowledge, recent trends, industry news, company profiles, reviews of new Products and services. Some contain annual reviews and company contact list. Ordered via Explore the British Library (please ask for help)



AgraFood Europe (Agra Europe, monthly)

[(P) DL 230 -E (11) (Science 2)]

Monthly newsletter on all aspects of European agriculture.



Food and Drink International (Business Link Magazine Group)

[(P) 338.47664 -E(1) – E(2) Science 2]

News and market research focused on food and drink manufacturing and regulatory compliance.

fdiforum.net/mag



Organic & natural business (Previously known as Organic Business) (Target Publishing, Monthly)

[(P) HP 13 -E (26) (Science 2)]

Trade magazine looking at the farming, retailing and marketing of organic Produce. Also contains new product developments and an ingredient and raw materials directory. 2003-



**Organic Farming Magazine
(Soil Association)**

[(P) DM 38-E (7) Science 2]

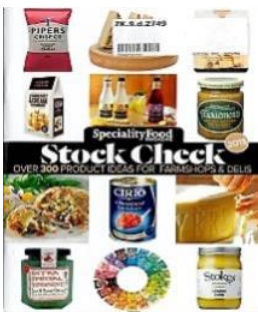
Covers news, features and technical information for farmers and growers.



**Organic Market Report
(Bristol: Soil Association)**

[(P) DM 38 - E (11) (Science 2)]

Covers producer trends, market statistics, consumer attitudes, policy support, organic farming, processed organic products, natural foods, and statistics and market surveys.



**Speciality Food: Fine foods, organic produce,
ethnic & deli ranges
(Colchester Castle House, Monthly)**

[ZK.9.d.2749 – Must be ordered via the catalogue –
Explore the British Library]

Food industry and trade periodicals.

Business News and Journals



Factiva

In order to find the latest news on your topic it is always worth searching Factiva, Business Source Complete and EMIS.

Business Source Complete

You will find articles from specialist business and academic journals, as well as newspapers and magazines. You may also find market research reports and case studies. As well as profiles of leading industry figures.

EMIS

You will also find articles covering recent developments and predicting future trends in your industry.

Small Business Help Books

This is a collection of books with practical information aimed at those starting and running a business. Located in the Centre, unless otherwise stated.

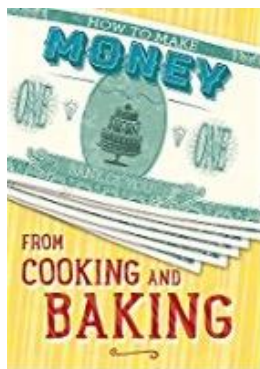


Cook, wrap, and sell: a guide to starting and running a successful food business from your kitchen by Bruce McMichael

(Petersfield: Brightword, c2012.)

[SBH BT 16 Small Business Help]

The book provides real-life stories of people making money from cooking, baking and blogging. It also offers information on funding, tax, insurance, branding and packaging.

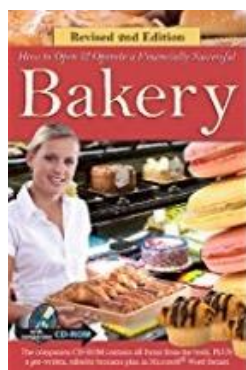


How to make money from cooking and baking

(Rita Storey, London: Franklin Watts, 2017)

[SBH. BT.52]

The book is aimed at anyone with a love of cooking and baking, or those who wish to develop a business idea in this industry.

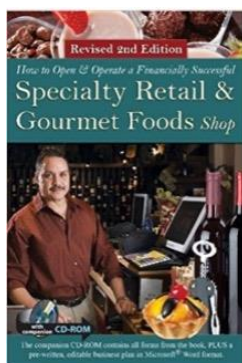


How to open a financially successful bakery

(Zachary Humphrey, Ocala, Florida: Atlantic Publishing Group Inc., 2015)

[SBH. BT.56]

This book provides practical information on the bakery business such as; legal concerns, food safety, how to buy or sell a bakery, kitchen management, cost control, product planning and pricing, creating a successful business plan and much more.



How to open & operate a financially successful specialty retail & gourmet foods shop by Sharon Fullen

(Ocala, Florida: Atlantic Publishing Group, 2017)

[SBH. BT.54]

Covers detailed information to help you start, operate and manage a profitable speciality store.

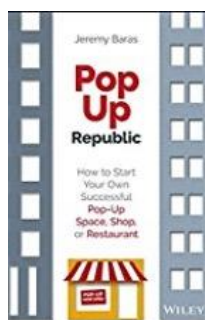


Opening and operating a retail bakery by Rick Douglas

(Crawford, Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley, 2014)

[SBH. BT.85]

Covers tools, advice and best practices based on the author's experience for opening and operating a successful bakeshop.

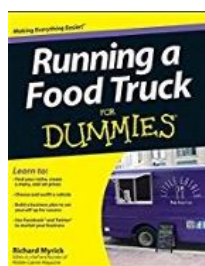


Pop up republic: how to start your own successful pop-up space, shop, or restaurant by Jeremy Baras

(Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley, 2016)

[SBH. BT.88]

Comprehensive guide to the pop-up industry also covers success stories, examples, anecdotes and case studies.

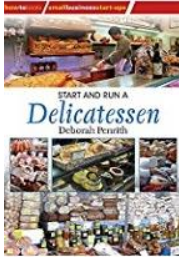


Running a food truck for dummies by Richard Myrick

(For Dummies, 2016)

[(Digital Content) Non-Print Legal Deposit Access.] Via Explore the British Library Catalogue.

The book provides information to help you create a successful business plan. Explains how PR and social media can be used to build up a following, outlines how to stay in profit and expand. Helpfully the book also uses several icons such as warnings icons which clarifies how to protect against potential pitfalls, whilst other icons are used to provide indications of methods or ideas which will give you an advantage on the road to food truck success.



Start and run a delicatessen

(Deborah Penrith, Oxford: How To Books, 2009)

[SBH. BT.102]

Provides all the information required to start and run a delicatessen.



Plimsoll Summary Analysis

(Plimsoll Publishing Limited, 2020) [SBH. PLIM. 07]

UK Food & Drink Importers – An industry overview.

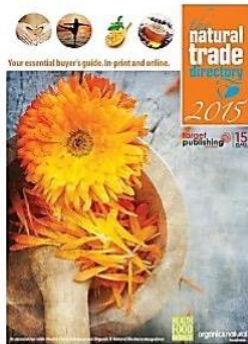
Directories



The Grocer Directory of Manufacturers and Suppliers (William Reed Publishing, 2020)

[(B) DIR 380.1456402541 BUS]

Not specifically concerned with organic food but the index lists 150 companies producing organic foods: Also provides lists of suppliers, wholesalers and A – Z of organic products.



The Natural Trade Directory (Target Publishing Ltd, 2023)

[(B) DIR 641.30202541 BUS]

Buyers guide for the natural and organic trade industry with listings of companies, products and services, trade names and other useful contacts.

Internet Sources

Websites containing free sources of policy, industry statistics, information and contacts.

All Organic Links – A Partner of Organic.org

A listing system for the organic industry - organic information, associations, growers, and retailers.

allorganiclinks.com

Local-farmers-markets.co.uk

The UK's farmers' market listings site.

urlm.co.uk

local-farmers-markets.co.uk

Local Food Directory

A listing of a wide range of food activities from free range eggs, a local food business, a café that sells locally grown or vegan treats, a supplier of local organic produce in Lancaster District.

foodfutures.org.uk/directory

London Farmers Market

Provides details of nearest farmers markets via their locator, covers latest news and in - season produce, website also features a blog.

lfm.org.uk

Organic Food Federation

Association embraces farmers, growers, manufacturers, importers and retailers.

orgfoodfed.com

Simon Wright – the Organic Consultancy

Website of a private consultant but contains useful free information on the organics industry and advice on going organic.

ofplus.com

Soil Association

Main pressure group and certification body for organic food and farming. Website has information about the association, news, and an online version of the Organic Directory.

soilassociation.org

startupdonut.co.uk

A website providing news, articles, funding information and startup guides for those starting and growing a business:

startupdonut.co.uk

startups.co.uk

A website giving many articles and fact-sheets on all aspects of starting a business from writing a business plan to funding etc. Many practical guides are available:

startups.co.uk/guides/how-to-start-a-takeaway-business/

Sustain

Pressure group promoting better food and farming techniques also publish reports.

sustainweb.org

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms

WWOOF is dedicated to helping those who would like to volunteer on organic farms internationally.

wwoof.net

WWOOF in The United Kingdom

This is the National Organization helping to create local WWOOFing opportunities in the United Kingdom and to promote sustainable farming as a lifestyle.

foodfutures.org.uk/directory

Disclaimer

Please note that every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, however some recently acquired items may since have been added to the collection. Please ask for help at the enquiry desk or check the online catalogue “Explore the British Library” explore.bl.uk for more details.

The Business & IP Centre is here to help you start and grow your business. We offer one-to-ones, specialist workshops, inspiring events and access to premium market data and intelligence - all for free. We are home to the UK's largest collection of business and intellectual property (IP) information, as well as a thriving community of entrepreneurs. Based in the British Library and over 70 libraries across the UK. Visit the Business & IP Centre or bl.uk/bipc to find out more.