‘Applications Are Surging’: Small Business Administration Reports Significant Growth in Loan Approvals



Small businesses are getting approved for manufacturing loans in greater numbers this year, according to data from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Its flagship program, the 7(a) business loan, offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to buy real estate, purchase machinery, and obtain furniture and supplies, and guarantees up to 85% of 7(a) loans of $150,000 or less, and up to 75% of loans above $150,000.

According to new data by the SBA, 74% more business owners were approved for 7(a) manufacturing loans in the first 90

days of President Donald Trump's administration than during the first 90 days of former President Joe Biden's administration in 2021.

From Jan. 20 to April 17, the SBA has approved more than 1,120 7(a) manufacturing loans totaling $677 million. During the same period in 2021, the SBA approved fewer than 650 7(a) loans, equivalent to $497 million in funds.

Related: More People Are Exploring Entrepreneurship Because of This Unexpected Reason

"Loan applications and approvals for small manufacturers are surging — a clear sign that American manufacturing is roaring back," SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler stated in a press release.

The SBA launched its Made in America Manufacturing Initiative last month, which aims to cut $100 billion worth of regulations for manufacturers and create a pipeline of skilled workers to take on manufacturing jobs.

Related: 'Strategy All Along': President Donald Trump Pauses Most Tariffs for 90 Days — Except One. Here's What We Know.

Trump is promoting Made in America manufacturing through a combination of tax cuts, deregulation, and trade policies, including tariffs of up to 145% on imports from China, and a blanket tariff of 10% for other countries until July. As of Wednesday, however, Trump has indicated that he would consider lowering China tariffs.

"As part of our tax cuts, we want to cut taxes on domestic production and all manufacturing," Trump stated in remarks to Congress last month.

According to the SBA's Office of Advocacy, about 98% of American manufacturers are deemed small businesses and collectively employ 4.8 million U.S. workers.

The SBA offers other small business loans besides the 7(a), including 504 loans of up to $5.5 million and microloans of up to $50,000.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/business-news/small-business-administration-surging-application-approvals/490492

What You Need to Know Before Investing in a Company That's Preparing to Go Public



Opinions expressed by Entrepreneur contributors are their own.

Late-stage private companies once flew under the radar. Today, they're at the center of investor attention. As companies stay

private longer — often reaching $1 billion to $10 billion valuations before ever touching public markets — the opportunities in pre-IPO investing have become not only more visible but also more accessible.

Yet, with more access comes more noise. And for investors entering during these final stages, whether through secondaries or direct late-stage deals, the risk isn't just about valuation. It's about clarity.

Because in the pre-IPO world, *not every high-growth company is ready for what's next*.

Having reviewed hundreds of late-stage opportunities and worked with operators behind the scenes, I've learned that filtering these companies requires a different kind of pattern recognition. One rooted in maturity, not momentum. One is based on structure, not stories. Here's what that playbook looks like when done right.

Related: Investor Shares 5 Key Strategies For a Successful Startup IPO

Filter for growth that actually leads somewhere

At the pre-IPO stage, growth alone isn't impressive — it's expected. What matters is the quality of that growth.

Instead of looking at top-line revenue alone, focus on margin health, customer expansion and consistency. According to Bessemer Venture Partners, top-performing SaaS companies preparing for IPO typically report net revenue retention above 130% and gross margins exceeding 70%. These metrics show customers are not only staying — they're spending more.

Declining customer acquisition costs and increasing payback efficiency are also important signals. If a company is still

over-relying on paid marketing to generate pipeline, it may not have the kind of durable growth needed to thrive post-IPO.

Finally, exit-ready companies usually demonstrate repeatable, forecastable growth — something that becomes visible in clean financials, audited statements and consistent reporting across investor updates.

Don’t ignore what’s hiding beneath the cap table

I’ve seen companies with flashy growth metrics — $100 million in ARR, a stacked investor roster and even buzz around an imminent IPO. But when you peel back the layers, what you sometimes find is a company that’s running hot but not necessarily running well.

Late-stage doesn’t mean low risk. In fact, the risk just changes shape. One of the biggest things I look for isn’t in the revenue line or the customer logos — it’s in the people running the business. I once walked away from a deal because the company had gone through two CFOs in less than a year, and the third was already “interim.” That might not show up as a bullet point in a pitch deck, but it told me everything I needed to know.

When leadership can’t stick, it’s not just a turnover problem; it’s usually a control problem. It means someone, often the founder, is running the show in a way that makes it hard for anyone else to do their job. You don’t lose multiple senior execs that close to an IPO unless there’s tension, disorganization or worse.

At that stage, the job isn’t about vision anymore. It’s about execution. If the team isn’t aligned internally, you can bet they’re not ready for the kind of scrutiny that comes with going public.

People love looking at balance sheets and growth charts at this stage, but honestly? That's not where the risk hides. The real risk is in the stuff that doesn't show up in a deck.

Cap tables are the same. I've seen deals fall apart when it turned out the structure was a mess — layers of preferred shares, backdoor secondaries, phantom equity. Founders and early insiders already had their payout locked in, while new investors were unknowingly last in line. But it was all buried. You'd never know unless you asked the uncomfortable questions.

This is why diligence matters — real diligence, not just flipping through a data room. Ask where the bodies are buried. If the answers come with too many footnotes or "we'll circle back," take a beat. You might still do the deal, but at least you'll walk in with your eyes open.

Related: **How to Get Your Business IPO Ready**

Real IPO readiness is about operating like they already are public

The best late-stage companies don't just talk about going public; they operate like they already are.

A strong indicator of IPO readiness is a finance team with actual public company experience. In its 2023 IPO Readiness Report, EY found that nearly 80% of successful tech IPOs had CFOs or finance leads with previous exit experience. These leaders bring essential rigor to budgeting, compliance, forecasting and internal controls.

Other signs of readiness include audit-compliant financials, consistent board reporting, cross-functional alignment on KPIs and clean, investor-friendly communication. If a company still

needs to “get its books in order” before going public, it likely isn’t ready yet.

Also, pay attention to optionality. While IPO may be the stated path, smart investors understand that strategic M&A or structured secondaries can offer equal — or faster — liquidity. Ask questions about what Plan B looks like and whether the board supports more than one exit strategy.

Use your own thesis to decide if there’s still an upside

It’s easy to get excited about big names, especially when they’re only one or two steps away from going public. But valuation entry points matter just as much as fundamentals.

Ask yourself: Does this company still have room to compound value? Have public markets already priced in this story based on comps? And how strong is the company’s differentiation once public-market scrutiny kicks in?

According to Crunchbase data, over 50 late-stage unicorns delayed IPOs or raised down rounds in 2022 and 2023 due to shifting macro conditions — not poor businesses but poor timing. That’s why your thesis — about the market, the model, and the exit window — has to be clear before you commit capital.

Smart investors don’t just filter companies. They filter entry points, timing and structure because all three affect outcomes.

Pre-IPO investing offers powerful opportunities, but only if you know what to look for.

Related: Key Companies to Go Public in 2025 As Investor Appetite Rises

Late-stage companies can grow fast, burn big and grab headlines. But the ones that truly scale — and reward investors — are those with structure beneath the story. They've built strong financials, prepared for scrutiny and aligned their teams for a real exit.

Before you wire capital, ask yourself: Is this company really built to go public? Or is it just talking like one?

Filtering for the right answer is what separates disciplined investors from hopeful ones.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/money-finance/what-to-know-before-investing-in-a-pre-ipo-company/489266

YouTube's First Video Turns 20 — Here's How Much the Video Giant Would Be Worth Today as a Stand-Alone Company



YouTube turns 20 this year, and if it were a standalone business, it would be worth between $475 billion and $550 billion, according to analysts at MoffettNathanson, per CNBC.

As of press time, that would place it on the biggest companies in the world list around No. 16, in between No. 15 Visa ($656B market cap) and No. 17 Mastercard ($494B market cap). For context, JPMorgan, the largest bank in the U.S., is No. 14 with a $680B market cap.

Related: This Platform Beats Apple and Spotify With 1 Billion Podcast Viewers Every Month

The first video on YouTube was cofounder Jawed Karim's "Me at the Zoo". The 19-second spot of Karim jokingly describing the elephant's "cool" trunks at the San Diego Zoo launched the company to nearly overnight success: A year later, in 2006, Google bought YouTube for $1.65 billion.

The video has more than 355,000,000 views.

[embedded content]

Meanwhile, YouTube is now the No. 2 most visited website in the world, per SEMRush, behind Google. Both companies are currently owned by Alphabet.

However, since Google has been ruled a “monopolist” twice in less than a year (last week and in August 2024) and is back in court this week regarding the DOJ’s request for the tech giant to sell its Chrome browser, or other assets, like YouTube, to remedy, it’s unclear if the video giant will stay a part of Alphabet.

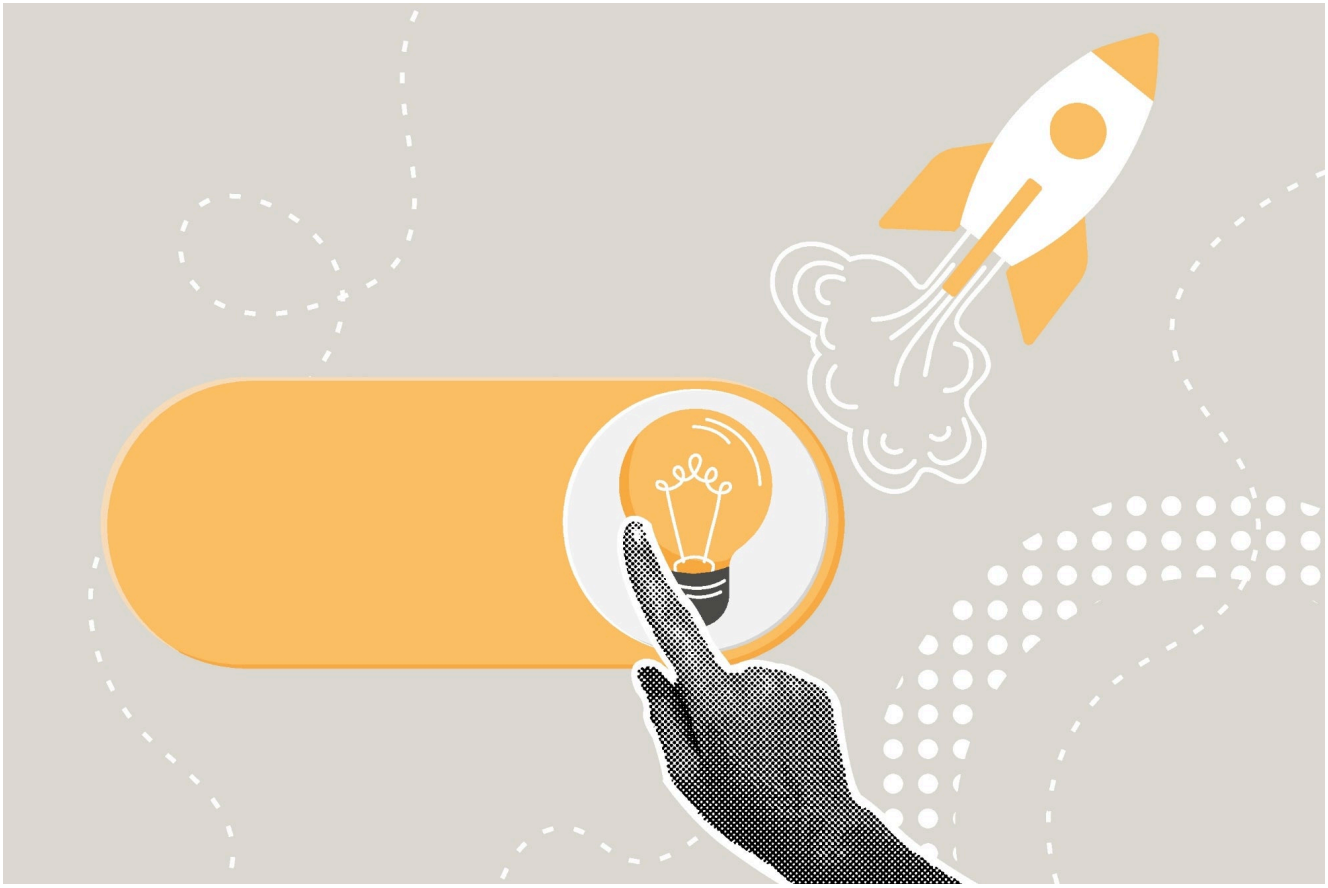
A judge will decide by August.

Related: ‘Views May Be Higher’: YouTube Just Made a Change to Shorts That Will Increase View Counts — and Possibly Earnings

https://www.entrepreneur.com/business-news/how-much-is-youtube-worth-see-valuation-as-company-turns-20/490479

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5 Business Truths I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before I Built a Startup



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When my twin brother Eli and I first decided to build Bask Health, we had zero background in healthcare and way too much confidence. We thought launching a telehealth brand would be just like any other ecommerce business — it wasn't.

We hit wall after wall, failed fast and almost gave up more than once. But through that chaos, we uncovered a playbook that helped us build a SaaS platform that now powers over 100 telehealth companies.

If you're building a SaaS company or launching an app, here are the five things I wish someone had told me sooner.

Related: 5 Business Truths I Wish Someone Had Told Me 5 Years Ago

1. Launch before you're ready

I used to think we needed a perfect product before we could

launch. That mindset almost bankrupted us.

Early on, we built a telehealth platform focused on eyelash enhancement. We spent months developing the site, obsessing over the design, working out regulatory issues and then realized we had no customers. Worse, we couldn’t get any because we didn’t even know if our idea worked.

Eventually, we scrapped the perfectionism and put up a bare-bones demo of our new vision, an all-in-one SaaS platform to launch telehealth companies. Within a week, we had paying customers, real feedback and a clear path forward.

If you’re building something, get it into users’ hands as fast as humanly possible. You’ll learn more from one real user than from months of whiteboarding.

2. Differentiate and simplify

The first business we tried to launch failed hard. We built a decent platform, but we underestimated how hard it would be to compete in a crowded market without anything unique.

That experience taught us to focus on differentiation. We didn’t want to be another “telehealth tech” provider. We wanted to be the Shopify for telehealth, simple, customizable and built for founders like us. We also realized that the more complex a solution is to launch, the less competition you’ll face. And that’s your opportunity.

We built Bask to remove the friction: self-serve onboarding, drag-and-drop tools and API integrations. No need for a developer. No prior healthcare experience required.

SaaS is competitive. If you’re not solving a very specific problem better than anyone else, you’re just another tool in a sea of tools.

Related: 5 Free Tools That Simplify Work And Save Time

3. Do one thing extremely well

In the early days, we tried to say yes to every feature request. We spread ourselves thin, building tools we couldn’t maintain and promising customizations we didn’t have time to support.

Eventually, we realized our core product was more than enough. The deeper we focused on that one thing, the faster we grew. Word-of-mouth exploded. Support tickets dropped. Customers were happier.

Focus wins. Build one thing that solves one pain point better than anything else. Once you dominate that space, you can layer on more.

4. Work seven days a week (at least at first)

This isn’t hustle culture advice. It’s just reality. If you’re competing with companies working 40 hours a week, and you’re working 70, you will outpace them.

For the first year of Bask, Eli and I worked every day. No weekends. No breaks. And we still felt behind. But that intensity helped us ship fast, adapt faster, and serve customers directly while we built in real-time.

The window where your startup needs you to work nonstop won’t last forever. But if you’re not willing to outwork everyone in the beginning, you’re gambling on luck instead of effort.

5. Building and scaling are two different games

Building a product is all about focus, creativity and agility. Scaling it requires structure, systems and delegation.

We learned this the hard way. Once our customer base grew, support tickets exploded, onboarding became inconsistent, and our three-person team couldn’t keep up. We thought the product alone would solve these problems, but it didn’t.

It wasn’t until we started hiring (slowly and intentionally) that things clicked. We brought on technically adept customer success reps who could troubleshoot without needing engineers. We invested in internal tools. We built documentation. Scaling is about infrastructure, not just code.

Understand this early: your first 10 hires are not just filling roles. They’re building the foundation for the next 100.

Building Bask has been the wildest ride of my life. We’ve gone from nearly broke with a failed eyelash startup to helping companies launch telehealth brands serving millions of patients.

But it didn’t happen because we were lucky. It happened because we learned from every mistake, listened to our users, and kept going when things looked hopeless.

If you’re building a SaaS product, know this: It’s not about having the perfect idea. It’s about executing relentlessly, staying focused, and building something people actually need.

And when in doubt, launch it, talk to users, and keep shipping.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/starting-a-business/i-wish-i-knew-these-5-things-before-i-built-my-startup/489786

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10 Surprising Expenses That Blindside Business Owners



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Most individuals and entrepreneurs start a business with the excitement of financial freedom and being their own boss to build something meaningful. Everyone knows the obvious business costs, such as rent, payroll and marketing.

However, there are hidden business costs that can erode profit margins, strain cash flow and catch even the most experienced founders off guard.

Related: 4 Expenses You Can Avoid When You First Start Your Company

1. Employee turnover and hiring costs

According to studies, replacing an employee can cost 50% to 200% of their annual salary. This factor is underestimated by many people who face further cost, workflow and productivity loss. Recruitment fees, training, lost productivity and cultural impact all add up.

The reasons why employee turnover is expensive:

- This includes the fees to post a job on LinkedIn and Indeed
- The commission of a recruitment agency (mostly 20-30% of a new hire’s salary)
- Time spent on interviewing and onboarding
- It reduces efficiency as new employees ramp up

To reduce these costs, businesses must invest in retention strategies. You must offer competitive salaries, create a strong company culture and make employees feel valued.

2. Office space and utility costs

Securing office space is a crucial decision for any business, but it’s essential to assess your needs before committing to a lease or purchase. Consider how much space you require now and how it may change as your business grows.

If you’re a startup with an uncertain future, opting for flexible office solutions like Regus, ShareDesk or LiquidSpace can be a cost-effective alternative to long-term leases. These shared workspaces provide scalability without the financial burden of a permanent office.

Beyond rent, there are additional expenses to factor in, including office furniture, equipment, utility bills, receptionist services and meeting spaces.

3. Equipment maintenance and upgrading

As an entrepreneur, you likely know the essential equipment required to provide a service or for item production. But mostly, smaller equipment is ignored. Basic office equipment includes computers, papers, desks, chairs, scanners and copiers.

From office furniture to computers, wear and tear is inevitable. Most companies neglect to replace or upgrade their office equipment, which is a bad idea. Typical maintenance costs include:

- Upgrading outdated computers and software
- Vehicle maintenance for delivery or service-based businesses
- Repairing office equipment like printers, HVAC systems or kitchen appliances

Regular maintenance can extend the life of business assets and prevent costly breakdowns.

4. Software and subscription creep

Most businesses need software to automate communication, project management, accounting and marketing tasks. A few essential subscriptions can quickly spiral into hundreds or thousands of dollars in recurring costs.

Hidden costs include:

To save these unessential hidden costs, conduct regular audits of your software stack to eliminate redundant or unutilized subscriptions.

Related: 8 Unconventional Ways to Cut Costs in Your Business

5. Payment processing fees

Whether you realize it or not, you are paying transaction fees if your business accepts credit card payments. Payment processors like Stripe, PayPal, and Square typically charge 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction, which can eat into profits, especially for high-volume businesses.

Other payment-related costs include:

To minimize fees, consider negotiating rates with processors. You can offer customers ACH, wire payments or pass fees when possible.

6. Regulatory compliance and legal fees

You need to stay compliant to do business in your community. Laws and regulations vary by industry. Mostly, businesses pay for:

- Business licenses and permits
- GDPR or CCPA compliance tools (to handle customer data)
- Employee labor law compliance (HR policies, mandatory training)
- Annual tax filing and bookkeeping

If you ignore compliance, this can result in hefty fines or lawsuits. It can be a cost that should never be overlooked.

You must consult with legal experts and keep up with regulatory changes to prevent costly mistakes. Another way is to opt for strategies to reduce your legal liability.

7. Cybersecurity and data protection

You can’t hope that your systems are safe. Cyber threats can be expensive. A single cyber attack can cost a small business hundreds of thousands of dollars in recovery, legal fees and lost customer trust.

Hidden costs of cybersecurity come in the form of:

- Installing a firewall and antivirus software, and doing security audits
- Costs for employee training on phishing and scams
- Ransomware recovery and lost business due to downtime
- Legal liabilities if customer data is compromised

Small businesses are easy targets for cyber threats, so it’s non-negotiable to invest in cybersecurity.

8. Shrinkage and inventory loss

Retail and ecommerce businesses lose revenue due to theft, damaged goods and errors. Known as “shrinkage,” this hidden cost is overlooked but can account for up to 2% of total sales.

What causes shrinkage?

- Shoplifting or employee theft
- Damaged or expired inventory

- Administrative errors in tracking and fulfillment

You can use a strong inventory management system software and opt for loss prevention strategies to mitigate these costs.

9. Marketing and customer acquisition costs (CAC)

To attract new customers, many businesses rely on paid ads, SEO, social media and influencer partnerships. However, the return on investment isn't always immediate.

Hidden costs in marketing:

- Rising costs of PPC (pay-per-click) ads due to competition
- If the campaign is poorly targeted, it can waste the budget

To lower CAC, focus on organic growth strategies like content marketing, email marketing and referrals.

Related: 9 Business Expenses You Can Reduce or Eliminate to Save Thousands

10. Time

Time is the most undervalued resource. Entrepreneurs spend countless hours on admin tasks, customer support and problem-solving instead of revenue-generating activities.

You can reclaim time by:

- Automating repetitive tasks with software
- Delegating or outsourcing an employee for non-core activities

- Setting boundaries for yourself to prevent burnout

Your time is an investment; spend it wisely to maximize efficiency and profitability.

I recommend setting aside 20% of your revenue for unexpected expenses to prevent financial leaks before they become serious problems. Budget for the real costs, not just the obvious ones.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/money-finance/10-surprising-expenses-that-blindside-business-owners/489755

Why Your Vision May Be Falling Behind the Forward Thinkers



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In the business leadership community, we put a strong emphasis on the importance of company vision. Many entrepreneurs possess their vision long before they ever launch their business. While identifying a clear and achievable company vision is essential, it is a big mistake to consider this important work as a one-and-done.

Many great business leaders and the wildly successful companies they once ran ultimately failed due to aging visions that simply could not keep up with the ever-evolving marketplace. A company's vision needs to be dynamic, forward-thinking and, perhaps most importantly, adaptive.

In other words, your vision needs to be visionary.

A cautionary tale of an aging

vision

A once successful and dynamic vision can wither away if business leadership fails to recognize and address emerging trends, evolving market norms and changes in consumer preferences. One of the most poignant examples of this is the rise and fall of movie-rental giant Blockbuster.

Blockbuster was founded in the 1980s and reached its heyday around 2004 when it hit over $6 billion in revenue, a 31% market share, and around 9,000 stores nationwide. Almost certainly, the company's vision was to dominate the video rental industry, become a household name, and be a go-to destination for family movie nights. And they manifested that vision for nearly two decades. The only problem was that the industry was innovating like gangbusters, and formidable competitors like Redbox and Netflix were disrupting the market with self-service video rental kiosks and a mail-based business model, respectively.

Related: Are You a Visionary Leader? Here Are 12 Ways to Get Started

Blockbuster attempted to maintain its competitive edge by acquiring some of its smaller competitors, but the market and consumer preferences were quickly evolving, and the company's vision just wasn't keeping up.

As a side note, Blockbuster declined on a $50 million purchase of Netflix in 2000, which many believe was its downfall. Netflix continued to disrupt the market by offering monthly subscriptions, no late fees, and strategically pivoting their business model to the streaming platform we know it as today. In the meantime, Blockbuster continued to lose market share and eventually filed for bankruptcy. After years of struggling and the failure to reinvent itself, the last remaining brick-and-mortar closed in 2013.

Did Blockbuster have a vision? Of course it did. But was that vision responsive, fluid, and forward-thinking? *Was it visionary*? Its demise would suggest otherwise.

The story of the rise and fall of Blockbuster acts as a powerful reminder of the importance of including innovation as a key component in your company's vision.

Is your vision *visionary* enough?

Every business owner should possess a clear, compelling and motivating vision, not just as it relates to their company, but also to their life. I like to say that company vision and personal vision are like the two wheels of a bicycle, where personal vision is the front wheel that steers the company vision in the right direction.

Switching the order of those wheels just doesn't work, or at least it doesn't result in both a thriving business and a gratifying personal life. And sticking with that bike analogy, those wheels should always be in motion, transporting both visions to new and enriching places. Which is to say that *vision should be visionary,* capable of standing the test of time, and able to evolve with the world around it.

Related: 7 Traits Leaders Need to Attain to Visionary Leadership

Future-proofing your vision for long-term success

Company vision is ideally designed to identify and adapt to market or consumer changes. This is referred to as future-proofing your vision, which ultimately supports the long-term success of your business. But the work requires a willingness to question the foundation the business was built on, even when that means altering the vision that once felt inseparable

from you as the business leader.

The following are some questions that may help you challenge and future-proof your current vision:

- Could emerging technologies potentially disrupt or make your vision obsolete?
- Does your current vision reflect timeless customer needs like great service, quality, and speed?
- Will your vision resonate with the next generation of customers, your future market?
- Does your vision allow for flexibility to adapt as culture, technology, and customer preferences evolve?
- And finally, is your vision truly visionary? Does it push the boundaries of what is possible and where you want to go?

These reflections aren't just for big companies. They are relevant for every business owner who wants to remain competitive and stay ahead of the curve.

Related: Leadership vs. Management: How to Understand the Difference and 6 Ways to Bridge the Gap

Reinvent your company vision with these actions

If you are a business leader who senses that your company vision needs a little tweaking or maybe even a complete overhaul, first and foremost, pat yourself on the back, because you are at a pivotal moment for opportunity and growth.

Every leader's journey to identifying, embracing and executing their vision is unique. But there are key actions to consider as you transform your company vision into something more visionary.

1. Start with what still works. Are there aspects of your current vision that still resonate with you and your business? Recognize those goals and ideals you are not willing to alter or let go.

2. Reflect on how the market and industry is changing. Look beyond your sector at the emerging trends in technology, customer behavior, societal norms, or any number of dynamics.

3. Stand for more than your offerings. Consider the impact your company has (or wants to have) on your customers and community that exist beyond the transactional nature of your business.

4. Consider back-casting as a vision strategy. Imagine, from a multitude of levels, what you would like your business to look like in five years. What has changed? Now work backwards from there to determine what steps you need to make it happen.

5. Ask for insight from others. Involve valued employees and customers in your company vision development. You might be surprised by their connection to the core values and future goals of the business.

If your current company vision is showing its age, why not put in the work now to ensure it remains adaptable, impactful, and visionary for years to come?

https://www.entrepreneur.com/leadership/why-your-vision-must-adapt-to-avoid-becoming-a-cautionary/489787

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More than 80% of small businesses have no employees, according to business banking specialist North One. Fortunately, you don't really need any when you have a plan that combines everything you need to run your business in just one AI-powered platform. Get the Lifetime ERP Agency Plan from Sellful White Label Website Builder and Software while it's discounted 73% off the regular $1,497 retail price, so you can have it for just $399.

No matter what industry you’re in, Sellful is the only genuinely all-in-one white label platform in the world that can combine every aspect of your business in one place, the company says. This plan allows all your clients’ needs to be met on a single platform. It has everything you require, and it’s all white labeled.

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Intel Is Reportedly Cutting 20% of Its Workforce Under a New CEO



Intel is planning a 20% cut of its 108,900-person workforce and will announce its intent to cut down its workforce this week, per a *Bloomberg* report released Tuesday. The move, which

impacts over 21,000 roles, is Intel's biggest round of layoffs yet and aims to reduce layers of bureaucracy, cut costs, and focus more on engineering roles.

The layoffs will also be the first major restructuring move under Intel's new CEO, Lip-Bu Tan, who assumed the CEO role on March 18.

Tan, 65, is a chipmaking veteran and was formerly CEO of chip software company Cadence Design Systems from 2009 to 2021. He is now tasked with turning Intel around after three years of declining revenue amid increased competition from Nvidia and AMD.

Related: 'This Company Has Been My Life': Intel CEO Retires, Reportedly Forced Out

In a March memo to employees, Tan wrote that under his leadership, "Intel will be an engineering-focused company."

"I'm confident we can turn our business around," he wrote, adding, "We will push ourselves to develop the best products, listen intently to our customers, and hold ourselves accountable to the commitments we make so that we build trust."

The move to cut staff comes months after another sweeping round of layoffs. In August, Intel announced plans to cut 15,000 employees after reporting a $1.6 billion net loss for the second quarter of 2024. The layoffs went into effect by the end of 2024. The chipmaker stated its intent in August to reduce costs by $10 billion in 2025 through layoffs, restructuring, and cost cuts.

Related: 'Tough Day For All of Us:' Intel CEO Announces Layoffs Affecting 15,000 People

Intel's 2024 annual report shows that employee headcount was 108,900 in December 2024, down from 124,800 the year prior.

Intel has faced three years of declining revenue. Annual revenue went from $79 billion in 2021 to $63 billion in 2022 to $54 billion in 2023. According to Intel's latest earnings report released in January, Intel's annual revenue dropped further to $53.1 billion in 2024, a 2% year-over-year decline. Revenue for the fourth quarter of 2024 was $14.3 billion, down 7% year-over-year.

Intel has struggled to keep up with its competitors in the AI chip market, which Nvidia dominates with 70% to 95% market share. Intel announced its Xeon 6 AI chip in June 2024 and planned to announce a new Falcon Shores AI chip later this year. However, during its January earnings call, Intel disclosed that it was scrapping plans to release the Falcon Shores chip, opting instead to focus on data center solutions.

Intel stock has declined by about 65% over the past five years and by about 40% over the past 12 months at the time of writing. The company will report its first quarter 2025 earnings on Thursday.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/business-news/intel-reportedly-plans-to-lay-off-20-of-its-workforce/490483

Starbucks Is Opening a New Location Next Week — And It Was Constructed with a 3D Printer



Starbucks' first 3D-printed coffee shop is opening in Brownsville, Texas, next week.

The 1,400-square-foot building shell has been 3D-printed, meaning that a massive 3D printer mechanically piped layer after layer of a concrete mixture to build the complete exterior structure. The location will only handle drive-thru and mobile orders and is set to open on April 28.

A Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation filing shows that the location cost nearly $1.2 million to build.

Starbucks told the *Nation's Restaurant News* that it was creating the shop in partnership with PERI 3D Construction, a company that has completed 15 projects in the U.S. and Europe since its founding in 2015. Past projects include an apartment building in Lünen, Germany, constructed in 2023, and a home for Habitat for Humanity in Tempe, Arizona, created in 2021.

Texas is no stranger to 3D-printed projects. Construction company Icon is finishing the final properties of a 3D-printed

community of homes in Georgetown, Texas. The 1,500 to 2,000 square foot homes range from $450,000 to $600,000. Icon has reportedly sold a quarter of the 100 homes in the community so far.

Starbucks's entry into 3D-printed structures arrives as the company undergoes a turnaround plan. Since Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol took over the role in September 2024, Starbucks has implemented sweeping changes at its stores to turn around declining sales from cutting 30% of its menu in the U.S. by the end of the year and giving baristas strict time limits on how quickly orders should be fulfilled (in-store and drive-thru orders should be ready within four minutes).

Starting May 12, the coffeehouse is mandating a new, strict dress code for baristas at all stores consisting of khaki, black, or blue denim bottoms and a solid black shirt. Starbucks workers are also now required to add a personal touch to orders by writing down customer names with a Sharpie on cups.

Related: Starbucks' New CEO Can Make Up to $113 Million His First Year

Starbucks reported in its most recent earnings, for the first quarter of 2025, that U.S. same-store sales declined for the fourth consecutive quarter, falling by 4%. Foot traffic to U.S. Starbucks stores fell by 8% during the quarter. Global net revenue was $9.4 billion, flat year-over-year.

"To be clear, these results have room for improvement, but I'm confident the disciplined investments we're making in labor, marketing, technology, and stores this fiscal year will help stabilize the business and position Starbucks for future growth," Niccol stated on the January earnings call.

Starbucks is set to report its second-quarter earnings after market close on Tuesday, April 29.

Related: Starbucks CEO Tells Corporate Employees to ‘Own Whether or Not This Place Grows’

https://www.entrepreneur.com/business-news/starbucks-is-opening-a-store-in-texas-made-with-a-3d-printer/490426

Small Businesses Have the Biggest Economic – and Environmental – Footprint. Here’s How They Can Actually Create a Greener Future.



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As Earth Day kicks off, it’s a great reminder for small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) to rethink how to approach their ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) practices when it comes to the tech they use. SMBs are the backbone of the global economy, making up approximately 90% of businesses worldwide and are responsible for 60-70% of global industrial emissions. That’s a huge environmental footprint, but it also means SMBs are uniquely positioned to drive real change.

With the global creation of e-waste projected to reach 82 million tonnes by 2030 and the demand for AI-powered computing on the rise, SMBs have a powerful opportunity – and responsibility – to lead in energy efficiency best practices, leveraging long-lasting, mindful materials and ethical sourcing. By making smarter, more energy-efficient decisions today, businesses of all sizes – especially SMBs – can help reduce e-waste, lessen their environmental impact and help build a more environmentally responsible, innovative digital future for generations to come.

Here’s how small businesses can start making a lasting impact – one smart decision at a time.

Related: 6 Ways to Profitably Integrate Eco-Friendly Practices into Your Business

Cut energy costs with AI – without sacrificing performance

SMBs often face hurdles like limited resources and the high upfront costs associated with more sustainable technologies. However, innovations are now helping level the playing field.

The rise of AI-powered computing can support broader ESG and sustainability ambitions through smarter energy use. For example, AI-enabled laptops today feature intelligent power optimization algorithms that dynamically adjust energy

consumption based on workload, helping systems run more efficiently without drawing unnecessary power. Many SMBs are also exploring into AI to streamline operations – 89% are already using AI tools to automate tasks. This isn't just about saving time, it's about reducing energy and resource waste across workflows.

Beyond end-user devices, AI is driving greater efficiency across infrastructure. AI-powered enterprise solutions can help data centers manage workloads more intelligently and reduce energy use. And with the edge computing market expected to grow nearly 37% annually through 2030, there's a growing emphasis on localized processing that limits energy-intensive data transfers. Meanwhile, improvements in liquid cooling, airflow design and modularity are extending device lifespans and supporting more circular approaches to IT. We're also seeing more tech manufacturers incorporate plastic-free packaging and energy-efficient designs, aligning innovation with evolving sustainability goals.

By integrating AI into energy and infrastructure management, businesses have more tools to drive efficiency and help reduce waste.

Related: How AI Is Leveling the Playing Field For Small Businesses to Compete With Industry Giants

Advance circular economy practices

Sustainability isn't just about how tech is used – it's about how it's made, used and reused. For SMBs, embracing circular economy practices can be one of the most impactful ways to improve resource efficiency, reduce both cost and environmental impact.

One of the most straightforward steps is investing in technology that incorporates recycled materials. Choosing laptops and desktops that include post-consumer content (PCC)

plastics or recycled metals can help reduce reliance on virgin materials and supports more responsible sourcing practices. As of 2025, a growing number of Fortune 500 companies have made public commitments related to climate action. A World Economic Forum report cites that specifically, 78% of Fortune 500s have set climate-related targets, though only 12% have established objectives tied to biodiversity loss. This gap presents both a challenge and an opportunity for businesses — especially small and midsize ones — to lead by example. By choosing smarter technology solutions and services, SMBs can align with their broader sustainability goals while distinguishing themselves in a competitive market increasingly driven by conscious consumerism.

Beyond PCC plastics, some tech products now integrate ocean-bound plastics (OBP) — plastic waste collected from areas near coastlines and waterways where it is at risk of entering the ocean. By selecting devices and accessories that utilize OBP, SMBs can help address marine pollution while minimizing reliance on virgin plastic sources. Responsible sourcing and design choices like these are part of building more sustainable technology ecosystems.

Modular and repairable technology also plays a key role. Devices that are easier to upgrade or fix extend their usable life, helping reduce the need for early replacement. This is especially important because less than 12% of e-waste is currently recycled, while more than 85% is incinerated — often with environmental consequences. This waste stream makes durability and repairability more crucial than ever.

Finally, SMBs can also consider buy-back, refurbishment and device take-back programs to ensure tech stays in circulation longer. This approach not only can help reduce landfill waste but often unlock financial savings and potential incentives.

Related: 5 Trends Small Business Owners Need to Watch in 2025

A greener future starts with smarter choices

SMBs have a unique opportunity and influential role in shaping a more sustainable future. By embracing energy-efficient technologies, integrating artificial intelligence to optimize operations and adopting circular economy practices, SMBs can make strides towards significantly reducing their environmental footprint while simultaneously enhancing operational efficiency. These strategic choices not only contribute to global sustainability goals but also position SMBs competitively in a market increasingly driven by environmental consciousness.

This Earth Month, let’s reaffirm our commitment to being smarter, greener and more responsible when it comes to choosing our technology solutions – because the future of computing must be both responsible and innovative.

The next step starts today. How will your business lead the way?

https://www.entrepreneur.com/leadership/how-businesses-can-actually-make-an-environmental-impact/490360