

Free Business Plan Template PDF

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Dave Lavinsky is the Co-Founder and President of Growthink, a premier business advisory firm. With over 25 years of experience in business planning, capital raising, and new venture development, Dave has significantly impacted entrepreneurs and small business owners worldwide. He has assisted over one million clients in creating comprehensive business plans that drive growth and success.

Growthink's <u>business plan template</u> is a comprehensive guide to help entrepreneurs and business owners create a professional and effective plan for their companies.

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST:

NOTE: The following template is the FREE version of Growthink's Ultimate Business Plan Template. Much of the information from the paid version, including the integrated financial graphs and charts, has been removed from this version. To upgrade to the full, paid version of Growthink's Ultimate Business Plan Template, please go to https://businessplantemplate.growthink.com/.

The real version of Growthink's Ultimate Business Plan Template is much more than a fill-in-the-blanks template. The template professionally guides you step-by-step so you can quickly, easily, and expertly complete your business plan. Among many other features, it includes professional covers and layouts.

Perhaps most importantly, it includes complete financial projections. You simply enter some numbers (for example the # of products/services you expect to sell and the price), and Growthink's Ultimate Business Plan Template automatically builds your 5-year Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow Statement. This service alone would cost thousands of dollars if you hired an accountant to complete it for you.

[Company Logo]

(if applicable)

[Company Name] BUSINESS PLAN [Current Month], [Year]

[Name]
[Title]
[Company Name]
[Address 1]
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I. Executive Summary

The <u>Executive Summary</u> should include a summary of the other sections of your business plan, highlighting the key points and your <u>business goals</u>. This section should be concise yet compelling, as it will likely be the first part of your <u>business plan</u> that potential investors or partners read.

Key Questions to Answer:

- What does your business do?
- What market need does your business solve?
- What are 4-7 reasons why your business will be successful?
- How much capital, if any, are you seeking for your business?

II. Company Overview

The <u>Company Overview</u> section should provide a brief history and description of your company, as well as any current or future partnerships or alliances. This section should also include a <u>mission statement</u> and an overview of your unique selling proposition (USP).

Company Profile

- Where are you located?
- When were you formed?
- What is your legal entity form?

Company Vision/Mission Statement

What goals is your company trying to achieve?

Past Accomplishments

• What successes has your company already achieved?

III. Industry Analysis

For the <u>Industry Analysis</u> section, you will need to <u>conduct market research</u> and present an overview of the market in which your business operates. This includes identifying your target market, analyzing current trends and potential challenges, and examining competitors.

Market Need

What customer need(s) are you fulfilling?

Market Fundamentals

Market/Industry Overview

In what market(s) do you compete?

Market/Industry Trends

• What are the key market trend(s) and how does that affect you?

Relevant Market Size

• How large is your relevant market (the # of customers who can realistically buy from you)?

Unique Qualifications

• What qualifications make your business uniquely qualified to succeed)?

IV. Customer Analysis

The <u>Customer Analysis</u> section will include a detailed description of your target customers, including demographic information, needs, buying behavior, and purchasing preferences. This section should also highlight the potential growth and retention strategies for acquiring and retaining customers.

Customer Needs

• What are the key needs of your target customers?

Target Customer Profile

• Who are your target customers? Give a detailed demographic profile.

V. Competitive Analysis

The <u>Competitive Analysis</u> section will provide a detailed overview of your competitors, including their <u>strengths and weaknesses</u>. This section should also highlight how your company differentiates itself from the competition.

Direct Competitors

• Who are your direct competitors? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Indirect Competitors

• Who are your indirect competitors? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Competitive Advantage

 What are your competitive advantages? Are these sustainable (can competitors emulate them)?

VI. Marketing Plan

In the <u>Marketing Plan</u> section, you will outline your strategies for promoting and selling your products or services. This includes identifying target markets, pricing strategies, distribution channels, and promotional tactics.

Products and Services

What are your products and/or services?

Branding and Promotions Plan

• What is your desired brand positioning? How do you plan to promote your company's products and/or services?

Distribution Plan

• How will you sell your products and/or services to customers? Directly? Through partners/distributors? Etc.

VII. Operations Plan

The <u>Operations Plan</u> should include details about your day-to-day operations, including location and facilities, equipment and technology needed, and staffing requirements. This section should also outline your production processes and any necessary inventory management systems.

Key Operational Processes

• What are the key operational processes that your organization needs to accomplish on a daily basis to achieve success?

Business Milestones

• What milestones will you need to accomplish over the next 1-3 years in order to achieve success?

VIII. Management Team

The <u>Management Team</u> section of the business plan must prove why the key company personnel are "eminently qualified" to execute the <u>business model</u>.

Management Team Members

• Who are the key members of your management team?

Management Team Gaps

• Who do you still need to hire?

Board Members

• Do you have a Board? If so, who is it comprised of?

IX. Financial Plan

The Financial Plan will include financial projections for your business, including income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements. This section should also highlight any <u>assumptions</u> made in creating the <u>financial projections</u>.

Revenue Model

In what ways do you generate revenues?

Financial Highlights

Key Assumptions

What key assumptions govern your financial projections?

Financial Projections

• What are your topline 5-year financial projections?

Go to https://businessplantemplate.growthink.com/ for the paid template that automatically generates your 5-year financial projections

Funding Requirements/Use of Funds

 How much money do you need to start and/or run your business? What are the primary uses of these funds?

Exit Strategy (or Repayment Strategy)

How will equity investors be paid? How will debt investors be paid?

X. Appendix

The Appendix is used to support the rest of the business plan.

Include the following (if applicable) in the Appendix:

- Projected <u>Income Statements</u>, <u>Balance Sheets</u> and <u>Cash Flow Statements</u>
- Technology: Technical drawings, patent information, etc.
- Product/Service Details
- Partnership and/or Customer Letters
- Expanded Competitor Reviews
- Customer Lists

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