

Small business help at your fingertips

Includes:

- [list of top free directories](#)
- [list of small business support agencies](#)
- [general business help list \(including: links, companies, sources of information and B2B support\)](#)
- [10 top blog gurus](#)
- [Links, contacts and tips for setting up a small business](#)

Directories

We researched all the online directories and came up with this list of the best ones, which you can list your business on for free.

Yellow pages	WeCanDo.Biz
Thomson Directories	Businessinternetdirectory.com
BT trades space	Kompass.co.uk
Google local business centre	Scoot.co.uk
The phone book	Askalix.com/uk/
Open directory project	Bigwiz.com
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOL search • Alta Vista • Hot Bot • Google Business Directory • Lycos • Netscape Search 	Business-directory-uk.co.uk/ Businessmagnet.co.uk Freeindex.co.uk Uksmallbusinessdirectory.co.uk

SME support agencies

ACAS Advisory Services – employment advise for businesses

Better Payment Practice Group

British Bankers Association – includes a SME section with practical banking advice.

Comparisons of accounts from different banks.

British standards – information about different inspection standards, product testing and Kitemark accreditation.

Confederation of British industry – (work with the government for any sector business/ any size – requires a membership) <http://www.cbi.org.uk>

Equality Direct - <http://www.equalitydirect.org.uk/contact.htm> (this site gives practical advice for businesses, it also gives a list of national and regional services that you may find useful)

Every Woman - <http://www.everywoman.com/> (providing a number of helpful articles for new businesses, growing businesses and established businesses, all women entrepreneur focussed)

Greater London Enterprise – business support, start-ups, finance, growing, business needs

The insolvency service - <http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/>

Small firm's enterprise development initiative - <http://www.sfedico.uk/> (business support forums/ standards/ workshops and events)

[General useful information: links, companies, sources of information, B2B support](#)

British Standards - BSI standard publication

British Trade International

BT Directory Enquiries (FREE) - good general references, directory of businesses

Business Zone SME News - good general news, for start-ups and growing businesses, forums and blogs

Cobweb Information & News - guides reports, e-zines, tips and ideas.

Companies House

Confederation of British Industry

Customs & Excise

Dept Education & Employment

Dept of Trade and Industry

Design Council

DTI/FCO for Exporters

Federation of Small Businesses

Financial Services Authority

Goosey Graphics – creating brochures, flyers etc for smaller companies

H.M. Treasury

Health & Safety (hse.gov)

Inland Revenue

MINTEL Market Research - large amounts of processed information and data, ideal for market research

National Business 2 Business Centre

Office of National Statistics

StartupCommunity.co.uk - b2b community, support directory. Register for the newsletter

Trade UK Export & Exhibitions

Valuation Officers Rating Lists - business rates, and info about organisations in local government finance

Women in Rural Enterprise – site for women to make contacts and network. Support services, magazines and e-newsletters

10 Top Blog Gurus

- Duct tapemarketing.com

Social marketing for small business marketing and independent professionals

<http://www.ducttapemarketing.com/blog/category/social-media/>

- Jeremiah Owyang

How web tools enable companies to connect with customers – social media strategies

<http://www.web-strategist.com/blog/2006/12/18/10-social-media-strategies-for-the-corporations/>

Community marketing

<http://jeremiahthewebprophet.blogspot.com/2006/05/defining-community-marketing.html>

Web strategy

<http://jeremiahthewebprophet.blogspot.com/2006/06/web-strategy-flickr-for-marketing-pr.html>

- toprankblog.com

<http://www.toprankblog.com/category/social-media/>

- CopyBlogger.com

Technorati favourite:

<http://www.copyblogger.com/blog-triggers/>

- ted.com

<http://www.ted.com/index.php>

- Chrisg.com

About blogging and new media

<http://www.chrisg.com/>

- [Womma.org](http://www.womma.org)

<http://www.womma.org>

(Word of mouth org)

- [billhartzner.com](http://www.billhartzner.com)

<http://www.billhartzner.com/>

- [socialmedia.com](http://www.socialmediatoday.com/)

<http://www.socialmediatoday.com/>

- [smallbusinessbranding.com](http://www.smallbusinessbranding.com)

<http://www.smallbusinessbranding.com/>

[Links and Contacts for setting up a small business](#)

- www.sme.com

This website gives information to entrepreneurs in starting up businesses. It has a number of helpful links to:

- List of business articles
- Downloadable forms from Government agencies
- Links to government agencies
- Business e-books
- Laws, pronouncements for SME's
- SME tools
 - Currency converter
 - Peso/Dollar exchange rate
 - **Philippine** dealing system
 - World time
 - Zip Codes

- <http://www.smallfuel.com/blog/>

This link provides articles and blogs on helping small businesses market successfully.

- <http://solutionsarepower.com/category/expert/>

Another good site for business tips

- <http://www.growthink.com/businessplan/help-center>

Resources and ideas related to the strategic business plan development process

- http://www.smallbusinessessentials.co.uk/lp/smallbusiness9.html?ref=sbesingle&source=10_Small_Business&gclid=CNHExd7YkZQCFQ1gQgodXRrgtQ

This link provides tips and helpful advice for managers or small business owners.

- <http://www.nfib.com/page/toolsHome>

This link provides a vast amount of practical management advice along with tools and tips. The categories include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Finance and accounting | -Office |
| -Government and regulations | -Sales and marketing |
| -Planning | -Starting a business (SME) |
| -HR | -Taxes |
| -Insurance | -Youth entrepreneur's tools and tips |
| -Legal Issues | |

- Prince's trust – list of trust supported businesses

<http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/>

- Enterprise
- 101 essential start-up tips from startupbusinessschool.com (e-book)

It includes help around the following subjects:

- Business planning
- Raising money
- Managing money/ forecasts
- Partnerships

- Setting up offices
- Pricing and payments, Costs
- Outsourcing
- Technology and development
- Marketing and promotions
- Websites

<http://entrepreneurs.suite101.com/> (for entrepreneurs starting up small businesses, online ideas and help)