



# The Most Profitable Types of Small Businesses

If you're aiming for a lucrative business idea, it may be time to brush up on your number-crunching skills.

Accounting services topped the list of the top 15 small-business sectors by net profit margin . The list was compiled using a database of more than 1,000 financial statements from private companies with less than \$10 million in annual revenues.

The data found that accounting led the pack in delivering the best profit margins, but service-based businesses in health care and real estate dominated the rest of the list.

These service sectors are consistently at the top of the "most profitable" list. Service-based industries often have very healthy bottom lines, Their overhead and equipment

costs are often relatively low, and much of the time, it doesn't take a lot of upfront investment to get started.

Often times, in cases like consulting, accounting, and legal services, you can get started right inside of your house, without even worrying about renting a space.

Check out the top 15 industries with the best net profit margins. For aspiring entrepreneurs, this may be the best place to start when considering new business ideas. (Note: Net profit margin has been adjusted to exclude taxes and include owner compensation in excess of their market-rate salaries.)

Industry	Net Profit Margin
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services	20.0%
Oil and Gas Extraction	19.2%
Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	17.7%
Legal Services	16.5%
Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers	14.8%
Offices of Physicians	14.8%
Offices of Dentists	14.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	14.1%
Lessors of Real Estate	13.6%
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	13.1%
Support Activities for Mining	12.3%
Warehousing and Storage	11.6%
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	11.6%
Outpatient Care Centers	11.5%
Activities Related to Real Estate	10.6%