

5 UK small business ideas to get you started in 2019

By Lauren Hellicar

So you want to make 2019 the year you become your own boss – but you're not sure how to narrow down all the possible options.

To get you started, we've pulled together five new business ideas.

Food business ideas

Eating more plants and fewer animals is one of the latest trends to affect the eating habits of the nation, and those

who subscribe to this way of thinking may fall into one of the following categories:

- vegan (eating no animal products at all)
- vegetarian (eating no animal flesh products)
- pescatarian (eating fish and seafood but no other animals)
- flexitarian (eating a primarily plant-based diet)

Either way, there's definitely an upward curve in diets that do without – or at least with less – meat.

So if your dream is to set up your own [food business](#), it's a good idea to keep these markets in mind. There are several types of business you might want to start, including:

- a [coffee shop](#) or restaurant
- a [pub or bar](#)
- a food truck or stall
- a [baking business](#)
- a [catering business](#)

Green or eco business ideas

With the world waking up to the environmental impact of single-use plastics, green and eco business ideas are likely to be sticking around for a while.

There are a couple of ways you could capitalise on saving the planet:

1. Create a reusable or recyclable product
2. Incorporate recyclable or reusable packaging into another business idea

For example, you could follow in the footsteps of the likes of Ooho, who've created not only biodegradable – but also edible – water bottles.

Or if you decide to start a cafe or a baking business, for example, using compostable cups, cutlery, and boxes could be a great USP to set you apart from the competition.

You could also take inspiration from companies that are creating biodegradable versions of things you might

not even think are harmful to the environment, such as chewing gum ([Chewsy](#)) and glitter ([EcoStardust](#)).

Read our article on [seven low-cost ways to make your business more eco-friendly – and save money.](#)

Borrow my... business ideas

From apartments, to bikes, to cars, to dogs – there's a growing appetite for living a life filled with fewer material possessions. This means there's money to be made in businesses that facilitate borrowing the things you might only use for a limited time each week, month, or year.

Take, for example, the car rental company [Zipcar](#), which lets you use a car that's parked up conveniently in your neighbourhood – whether you need it for an hour or a day.

Borrowing rather than owning even extends to pets these days, as modern urban living or simply working long hours

makes owning one something that many can only dream of.

That's where initiatives like [BorrowMyDoggy](#) have stepped in to share the responsibility between pet owners in need of dog sitters and those who'd love to own a dog but who can't commit to keeping a pet full time.

Health and beauty business ideas

There are a few key beauty trends you could choose to weigh in on in 2019 – not least bespoke beauty products.

Consumers are coming to expect everything from their foot cream to their conditioner to be tailored to their individual skin and hair types.

So if you have designs on starting your own brand of cosmetics, making sure your products cater to

your customers' unique needs and wants could be key to your business success.

Another beauty trend that's been gaining momentum is microblading – a kind of eyebrow tattooing that looks more like natural hairs than traditional methods of tattooing might.

Read our article for tips on [how to start your own beauty business](#).

Lifestyle business ideas

With Marie Kondo making an art form out of decluttering, could this be another trend you could turn into a lucrative business?

For example, you could [start up your own cleaning business](#)

that helps people clear out things they no longer need as well as the cobwebs – or use your existing craft or carpentry skills to create storage solutions to help people streamline their possessions.

Options for where to sell your products include setting up as a [market trader](#), opening your own shop, or starting an [online shop](#).

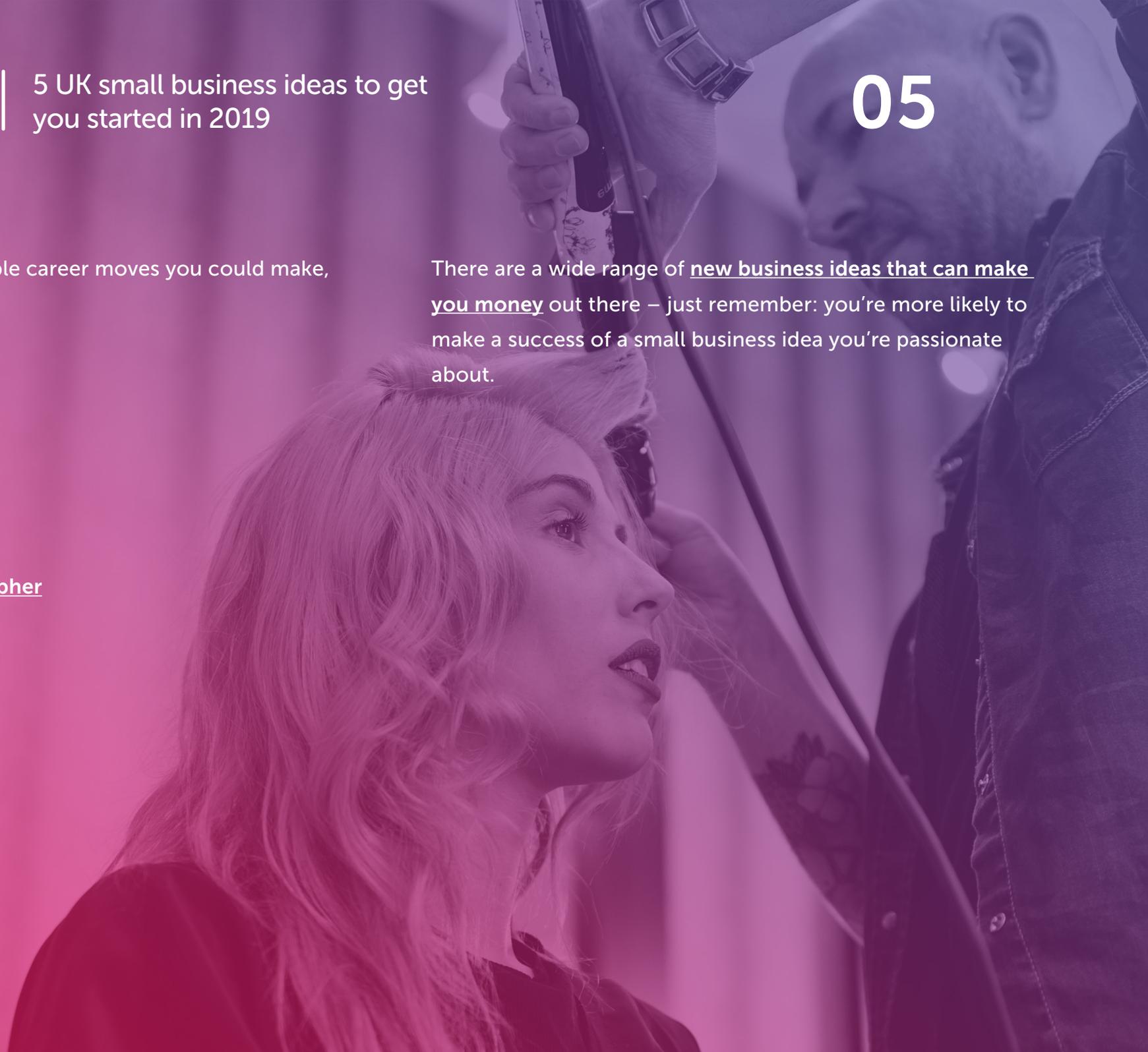
Start a business by retraining in a new skill

If you're ready to make a big change and leave the 9 to 5 behind, retraining in a completely new skill could be the option for you.

There are lots of possible career moves you could make, including:

- [carpenter](#)
- [electrician](#)
- [handyman](#)
- [personal trainer](#)
- [freelance photographer](#)
- [freelance writer](#)

There are a wide range of new business ideas that can make you money out there – just remember: you're more likely to make a success of a small business idea you're passionate about.



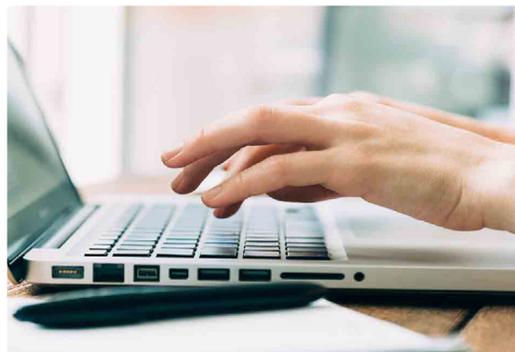
Further reading



A guide to going self-employed in the UK

If you're thinking of going self-employed, we've got some tips for getting started.

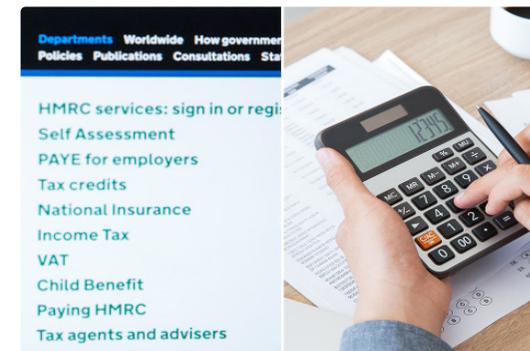
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What's the difference between a sole trader and a limited company?

In-depth guide explaining the advantages and disadvantages of the different legal structures.

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The self-employed guide to Self Assessment tax return

Get help and advice for filling out your yearly Self Assessment tax return.

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