ERP Selection Guide for Food & Beverage Manufacturers

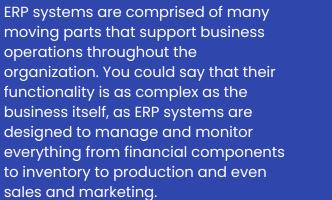## Food & Beverage

ERP for Food & Beverage Manufacturers

The benefits of using ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software in the food and beverage industry are hard to ignore. Once a business makes the decision to move forward, their main objective becomes choosing the right ERP solution that will take their business processes to the next level.

Food traceability, compliance, freshness, and ingredient transparency are all hot topics in the food and beverage industry. A real-time understanding of each of the above requires flawless execution of systems, processes, and data — or in other terms, the building blocks of an ERP system. Identifying the need for an ERP system to optimize your food and beverage operations is the first step. Next, you'll need to evaluate ERP software options based on your unique criteria, existing operations, and business goals and expectations to ensure your new ERP system delivers the insights you need to help transform your business.

ERP systems are comprised of many moving parts that support business operations throughout the organization. You could say that their functionality is as complex as the business itself, as ERP systems are designed to manage and monitor everything from financial components to inventory to production and even sales and marketing.

This is true for any industry, including food and beverage. Even though ERP software is used by a variety of industries and companies, each business has its own unique requirements for an ERP system.

At FoodBusiness ERP, we've been working with food and beverage companies for decades. We understand industry challenges and have built our ERP software to address these challenges and help food and beverage manufacturers streamline operations and manage growth.

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What is ERP Software?

ERP is a centralized business management platform that connects data, departments and processes into a single solution.

It is a comprehensive business management tool used by multiple industries that connects and organizes all areas of a business. The goal of integrating an ERP with your organization is to reduce redundancies, increase efficiency and provide a 360-degree view of your business.

Available in the Cloud or on-premise, ERP replaces all of a business' separate systems that do not integrate or are poorly integrated with other departments. The result is a single system that delivers one version of information about the state of your food and beverage business. With ERP, you can streamline processes and make data-driven decisions to maximize profits and reduce costs.

While each department's system may have its own core set of features, ERP's strength lies in integration. Data collected from every department feeds into a central location that company leaders can use to understand past and current operations and forecast future needs.

The impact ERP makes on daily operations can be seen at the departmental level all the way up to executives.

An ERP solution provides end-to-end management of your food and beverage manufacturing business and integrates the following departments for increased insight, visibility and control:

› **Operations**
› **Finances**
› **Compliance**
› **Production**
› **Sales**
› **Distribution**
› **Inventory**

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The Benefits of ERP for Food & Beverage Manufacturing Companies

To succeed in the food and beverage manufacturing industry, businesses need the tools in place to streamline operational efficiency, ensure product safety and manage growth. With an ERP solution built specifically for the food and beverage industry, you can:

Collect and Share Data in One Place

Because an ERP simplifies the way business data is entered, collected, stored, accessed and used, it reduces the risk of errors because all users can follow the same processes and work with the same data.
Gain Flexibility and Business Agility With accurate forecasting, companies can utilize the data from their ERP to quickly respond to changes and adapt their operations to reflect changing market and consumer demand.

Speed Up Response Times

With complete and accurate data, departments have the ability to be more proactive to changes, teams can improve forecasting and employees can communicate more efficiently.
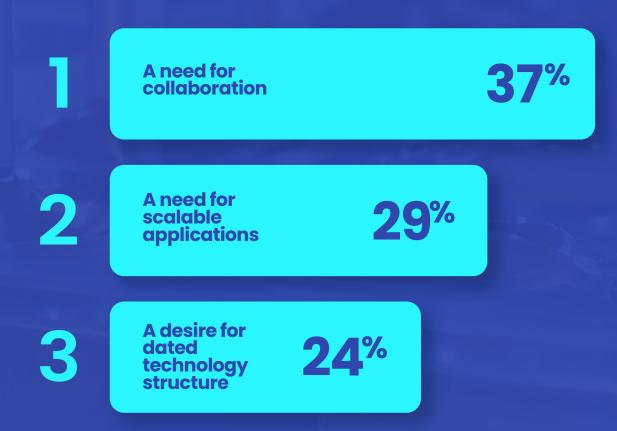
Manage Inventory Wherever It's Located

Robust inventory management features built into an ERP solution can help control inventory across multiple warehouses, automate orders and efficiently manage distribution without losing track of costs.

Ensure Compliance & Security

An ERP solution allows for integrated communication across all departments, helping provide required reporting information to auditors, inspectors, regulators, shareholders and consumers as needed.

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Top 3 Reasons Food & Beverage Companies Choose ERP

1 | A need for collaboration | **37%**

2 | A need for scalable applications | **29%**

3 | A desire for dated technology structure | **24%**

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Features & Functionality to Look For

With an ERP solution purpose-built for food and beverage manufacturing, you gain insight into business-wide data, streamline operations, ensure compliance and reduce costs.

To manage the challenges unique to the food and beverage industry, companies require industry-specific software that helps them better manage their company, support compliance, connect departments and increase customer satisfaction. To do this, an ERP vendor can't just customize generic software. Instead, they need to have the experience, features and functionality already developed, so that you can ensure you're choosing the best tools to run your food and beverage manufacturing business.

It's important to look for ERP software that gives you greater control over all aspects of your business on the executive, operational and project levels. That's the kind of control that only comes from using cloud-based integrated software that delivers real-time information and streamlines operations.

When choosing the best ERP solution for your food and beverage manufacturing business, look for the following features:

Finance & Operations

› Manage multi-company finance and operations from a single system

› Make better business decisions with access to key metrics, dashboards, issue alerts and audit reports

› Track costs to better understand which product lines are most profitable and adjust accordingly

Quality & Compliance

› Support your SQF, BRCGS, FSMA, GMP, HACCP and HARPC compliance standards with robust quality and audit capabilities

› Integrate multi-user checklists and quality audits for inspections to assure conformance to specifications

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Features & Functionality to Look For...

› Ensure safety with full lot-serial traceability, product recall management and comprehensive allergen tracking

› Simplify the management and delegation of tasks with role-based testing and control

Purchasing & Sales

› Better manage customers, supplies and alternate suppliers from a single platform

› Optimize and manage complex pricelists based on a number of variables

› Streamline planning, scheduling and inventory processes with multi-facility Material Requirements Planning (MRP) functionality

Production Management

› Make better decisions about production with real-time access to operational and financial insights

› Simplify production scheduling and minimize production line setup

› Improve operational efficiency and reduce production waste

Distribution & Inventory

› Manage multi-facility operations and improve inventory management

› Gain visibility into inventory valuation with multiple costing options

› Monitor inventory levels and expiry dates to better manage waste

Catch Weight Management

› Track actual product weights through core business processes such as Procure to Pay, Plan to Produce and Order to Cash.

› Manage actual weight products using three different units of measure – pallet, case and piece – to streamline inventory handling, improve production efficiency and meet even the most nuanced of customer demands.

› Automate the many steps involved in processing catch weight products and minimize the time spent building or breaking pallets, and scanning, weighing and labelling products.

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How to Choose the Right ERP Solution

ERP is an essential business tool for your food and beverage manufacturing business. When vetting ERP solutions for your organization, consider the following priorities:

Assemble a Project Team

Start by establishing an internal selection team, ideally including the key stakeholders who will be using the solution every day. A partner like FoodBusiness ERP and NexTec Group can help with this process. The team should be able to articulate the features, functions and requirements that are essential to the success of your individual company. They should know what their current processes look like and how to improve the way they're already doing things.

Conduct a Business Process Review

Together with your consulting partner, conduct a business process review to help identify the areas of your organization that would benefit from a connected business management solution. Ask questions such as:

❯ Where are the bottlenecks in our current processes?

❯ What areas could benefit from more visibility and transparency?

❯ Are there area of opportunity that we're currently missing?

❯ Do we lack processes or insight that could help us become more competitive?

Select the Right Solution

Once you have defined the areas of improvement, you can move on to the selection stage. Your consulting partner will help evaluate various solutions and how they compare. At this point, you should have a good idea of which ERP solution best meets your company's requirements.

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FoodBusiness ERP: Software Built to Make Food Better

FoodBusiness ERP is a solution built in Sage X3 and delivered by NexTec industry experts. Over the past 26 years, our ERP and business process experts have helped organizations across North America streamline business operations and lower costs. Our specialization in developing solutions for food and beverage manufacturers has resulted in some of the most respected companies around the world managing their day-to-day operations and delivering products using our solution. FoodBusiness ERP is built to make food better.

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How FoodBusiness ERP Helps Your Business

Why Choose FoodBusiness ERP from NexTec?

> We have proven expertise with some of North America's most respected food and beverage manufacturers

> We hire consultants and professionals from the food and beverage manufacturing industry to best understand your business

> We've built years of food and beverage business experience into our software and implementations

> We understand the software and customer challenges, value teamwork and are passionate about doing great work

> We provide clear information that helps customers make informed buying decisions

> We stand by our customers to make sure the technology works, is used and produces great results

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Connect with NexTec expert to explore how a modern ERP can improve your business.

Let's Talk

nextec
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NexTec FoodBusiness ERP is a complete business management solution purpose-built for food and beverage manufacturers and distributors. Powered by Sage X3 and delivered by NexTec Group food industry experts, FoodBusiness ERP provides a single system to manage your entire business through finance and operations, compliance, quality, and traceability. Leading food and beverage companies trust NexTec FoodBusines ERP to manage their day-to-day operations and make food better.

To learn more, visit www.nextecgroup.com or follow us on LinkedIn.