

Important News

WINTER
2006-07

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Plunkett's favorite growth industries for 2007

Our favorite growth industries for 2007 – your best bets for economic development, job search, business development and more.

Barring any economic catastrophes due to such continuing risks as terrorism, energy shortages and natural disasters, there should be a wide variety of strong industry sectors throughout 2007. However, 2007's growth will slow somewhat from 2006's strong results. Negative factors include interest rates that rose steadily through the first half of 2006, high consumer debt loads, high energy

costs and a slowing housing market that may become very soft in 2007.

In this period of challenges and opportunities, some companies will enjoy booming business. For example, it's a terrific time to be in the business of oil field services. Many sectors such as solar energy, commercial construction, e-commerce, trucking and consulting are booming. The best news is that a select set of industries will offer exceptional opportunities during 2007.

At Plunkett Research we forecast these business sectors to be favored by current trends as growth industries in 2007

- Banks and Savings Associations
- Biotechnology
- Computer Products
- Consulting
- Consumer Products Manufacturers
- Cosmetics Manufacturers
- Defense Contractors
- Education
- Entertainment and Electronic Games
- Gambling and Casinos
- Guard Services, Investigation, and Surveillance
- Health Care Services
- Health Products and Technologies
- Hotels, Resorts, and Motels
- Internet Access and Networking
- Logistics and Supply Chain Services
- Nanotechnology
- Oil Field Services
- Online Business and Consumer Services
- Online Search Services
- Outsourcing
- Pharmaceuticals – Generics
- Pharmacy Benefits Management
- Radio Frequency ID Tags (RFID)
- Renewable Energy, Especially Solar
- Restaurants
- Retailing – Catalogs and other Non-Store Outlets, Discount and Warehouse Clubs
- Telecommunications via Internet (VOIP)
- Trucking and General Transportation
- Wireless Communications

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Automobile Industry Statistics

In the U.S., the 2006 market was approximately 16.5 million cars and light trucks sold. Production in North America, including cars and trucks of all types, totaled 11.8 million manufactured in the United States, 2.6 million made in Canada and 2 million produced in Mexico. Globally, about 49 million new cars were sold in 2006.

In the U.S., the auto industry includes about 21,495 new car dealerships, 1.7 million manufacturing employees and 1.7 million retail employees. Total revenues at new-car and light truck dealers exceed \$700 billion.

There are approximately 240 million vehicles in operation in the United States. Around the world, there were approximately 800 million cars and light trucks on the road in 2006. By 2020, that number will reach 1 billion. Currently, those vehicles burn nearly 250 billion gallons of fuel yearly.

Ethanol – A Fuel to Watch

Skyrocketing gasoline prices, effective lobbying by agricultural and industrial interests and a growing interest in cutting reliance on imported oil have put a high focus on bioethanol in America and other countries. Corn and other organic materials, including agricultural waste, can be converted into ethanol through the use of engineered bacteria and superenzymes manufactured by biotechnology firms. Although ethanol production has relied primarily on corn in the U.S., the latest studies show that soy is a much more efficient source.

Partly in response to the energy crisis of the 1970s, the United States Congress instituted federal ethanol production subsidies in 1979. Corn-based ethanol production picked up quickly, and federal subsidies totaled about \$10 billion through 2005. The size of these subsidies and environmental concerns about the production of grain ethanol

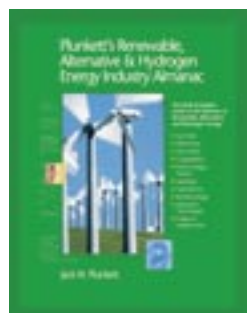
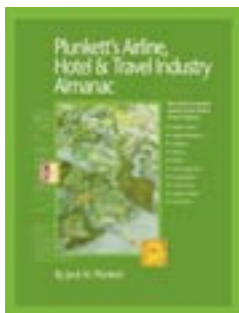
produced a steady howl of protest from observers through the years. Nonetheless, the Clean Air Act of 1990 further boosted ethanol production by increasing the use of ethanol as an additive to gasoline. Meanwhile, the largest producers of ethanol, such as Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), have reaped significant subsidies from Washington for their output.

In addition to the use of ethanol in cars and trucks, the chemicals industry, faced with daunting increases in the cost of petrochemicals, is very interested in ethanol. In fact, bioethanol can be used to create plastics – an area that consumes vast quantities of oil around the globe.

Today’s high oil prices will continue to encourage the use of ethanol as an alternative to gasoline, affecting industry sectors from agriculture to biotechnology, from automobile manufacturers to chemical companies.

Plunkett industry titles related to ethanol consumers and markets

- * Plunkett’s Biotechnology & Genetics Industry Almanac
- * Plunkett’s Chemicals, Coatings & Plastics Industry Almanac
- * Plunkett’s Automobile Industry Almanac
- * Plunkett’s Renewable, Alternative & Hydrogen Energy Industry Almanac



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1 Industry-Specific Analysis, Research and Competitive Intelligence

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Plunkett Research Online no longer submits to any aggregated databases or to NetLibrary – those systems contain old titles only

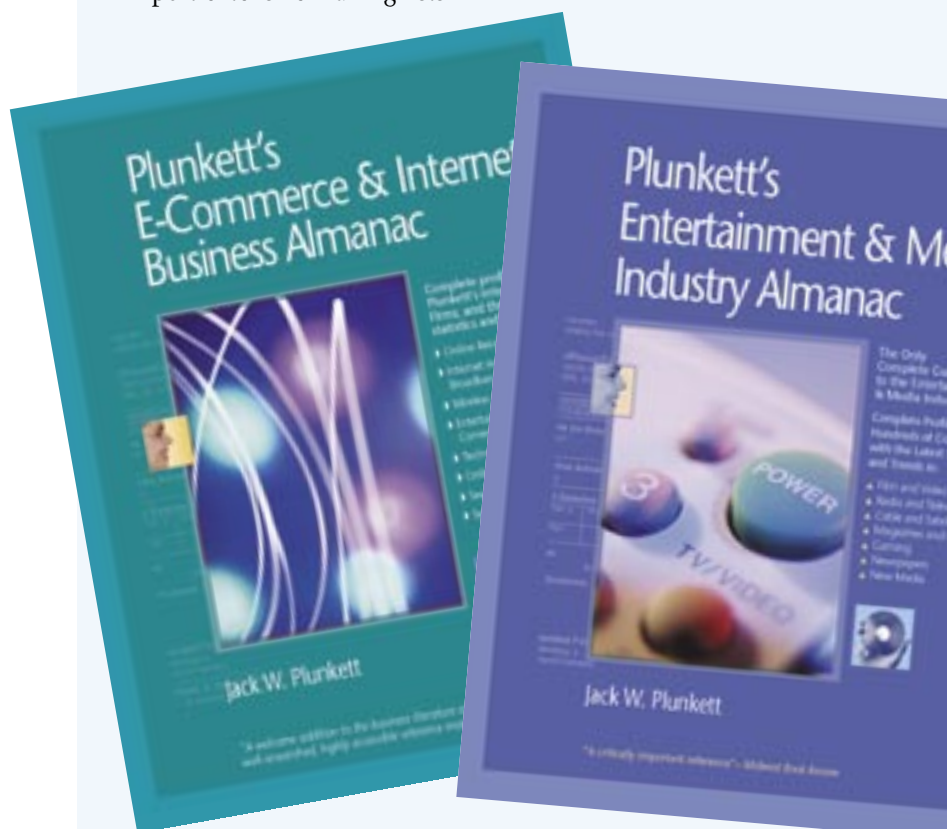
As of August 18, 2004, aggregated databases contain only data from old Plunkett editions (those books published before August 2004, except that LexisNexis received a small number of 2005 Plunkett titles).

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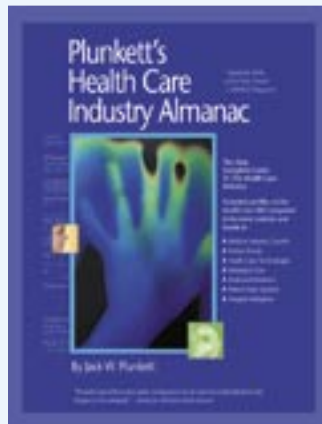
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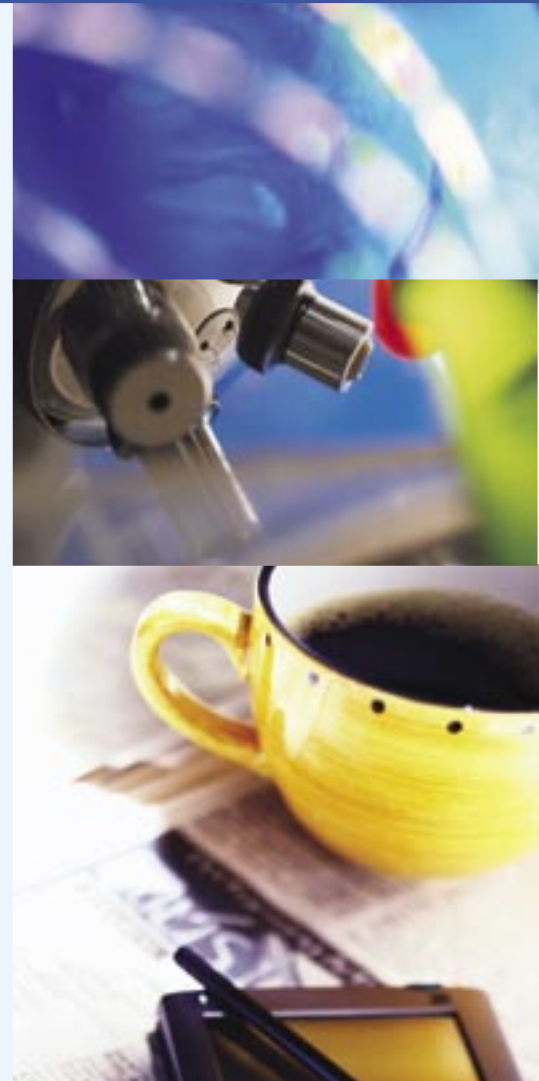
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