## The Center for Oklahoma Small Business Research & Analysis

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## Scope of Work

- The Center for Oklahoma Small Business Research and Analysis is responsible for providing the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center with research and analysis, helping prospective business owners (SBDC clients) make accurate business decisions.
- The center's main function includes providing advisors with market data and financial comparison data for whatever industry a particular client is interested in.

#### **Data Services**

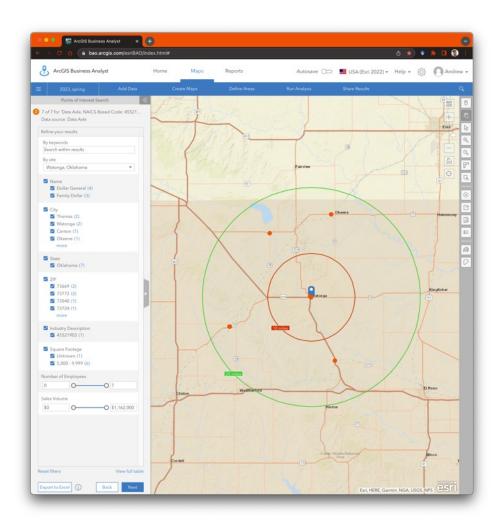
• ESRI Business Analyst: best for anything geographic

• Bizminer: detailed industry financial and market reports

• Vertical IQ: newest service, still learning it

## **ESRI Business Analyst**

- Useful for anything geographic.
- POI Search:
  - Find any business pertaining to a given NAICS code(s) or keyword
  - Search a geographic unit (a county or municipality) or a radius
- Report:
  - Information about a variety of topics
  - Traffic, demographics, restaurant demand, retail outlook, etc.
  - Also available by geography/radius



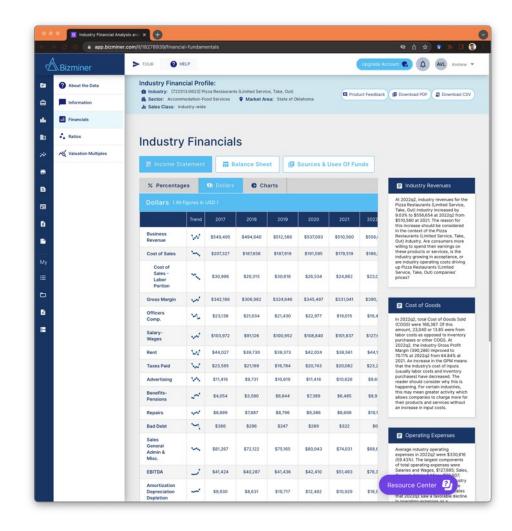
## Bizminer

#### Industry Financial Reports:

- Industry financials (available in either % or \$ terms)
- Financial ratios (cash flow, profitability, efficiency, debt risk)
- Valuation

#### Industry Market Reports:

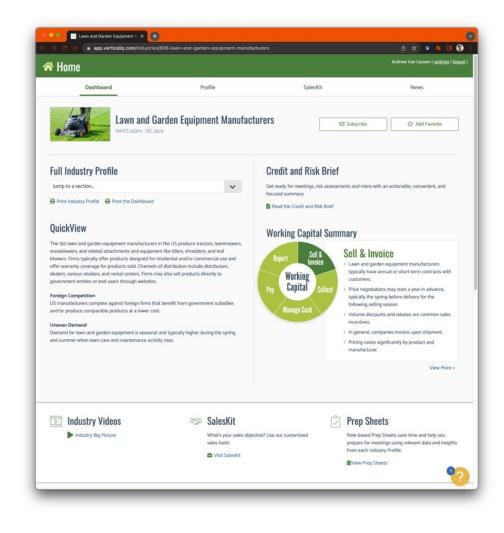
- Competitors
- Employment
- Market penetration
- Productivity
- Startups & more
- Available (usually) at US or OK level



## **Vertical IQ**

- Specifically caters to SBDC mission
- Local economic profiles: info about a county demographics, business dynamics (openings & closures), real estate, and more.
- Industry profiles: include a variety of insights, such as

Current Conditions	Capital Financing
Industry Structure	<b>Business Valuation</b>
How Firms Operate	Financial Benchmarks
Global Perspective	Banking Solutions
Industry Trends	Bank Product Usage
Credit Underwriting and Risks	Quarterly Insight
Industry Forecast	Call Prep Questions
Working Capital	

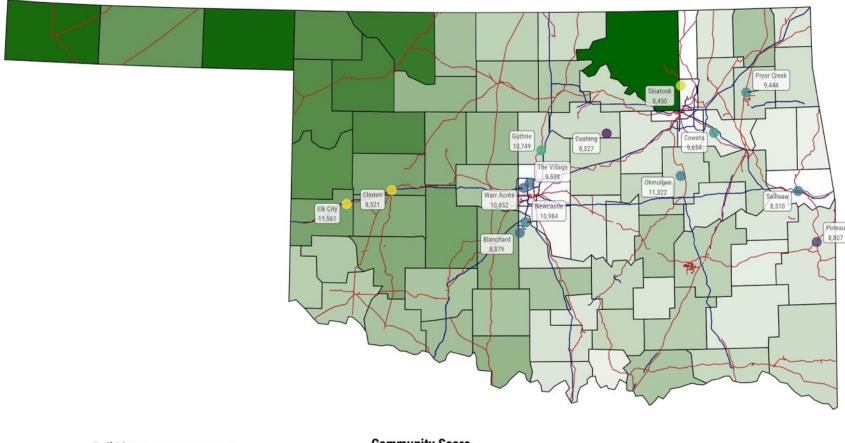


## **Other Data Sources**

- I'm happy to look elsewhere for the information your client needs
- Mergent & IBISWorld are still available to me via Oklahoma St. University, but PDF exports should *not* be given to clients.
- If I can't readily use the tools at hand to answer your question, it most likely fall outside of the scope of the research center.



#### **Recent Example**



#### **Client wanted**:

- Rail proximity
- Highway proximity
- Population around 10,000
- High acreage of grazing land



#### **Best Practices**

#### Specificity + Brevity = SUCCESS

- Be as specific as possible while also being concise!
- "Client wants to do something with welding or manufacturing, somewhere in Oklahoma. Can you find information about that?"
- "Client wants an industry financial report about NAICS 332311: Prefabricated Metal Building and Component Manufacturing. They are primarily interested in rural counties south of I-40 and west of I-44/Lawton. Can you also find a list of competitors in that region?"
- When possible, specify what data service you're hoping to get research information from. If not, make sure to at least describe what you're looking for. For example, if you don't mention ESRI but mention "a list of pizza parlors in Pontotoc County," I will still know what you want <sup>(2)</sup>

#### **Best Practices, continued**

- If you want information about <u>human behavior</u> or <u>preferences</u> (e.g., *"What brand of seat cushions do truck drivers prefer?"* or *"What flavor of ice cream helps teenagers get off their phones?"*), that data costs millions of dollars and requires focus groups/extensive testing.
- If you want <u>internal information</u> from a particular firm (e.g., "What is the most profitable flavor of Rooster Booster?"), chances are you should be reaching out to that firm.
- What we do at the Center for Oklahoma Small Business Research & Analysis is provide information about:
  - Regional market characteristics & demographics
  - Industry financial conditions & benchmarks
  - Existing entrants (i.e., competitors) in a region/industry

#### **Goals for the Center**

- Volume: goal is 10 requests fulfilled per month, totaling 120 for the year (all depends on advisor demand for research) (49 fulfilled so far...)
- **Timeliness**: 95% of research requests fulfilled within 5 business days of request (100% timeliness so far...)
- Outreach: posts in the quarterly OK SBDC newsletter; columns/posts will highlight aspects of economic & community development that tie into small business development
- **Training**: presentations/emails that highlight data & research capabilities of the center; increase awareness about the center and/or instruct advisors how to use data in their role (2 presentations so far...)

# Thank you!

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