



THE 2026 TOP 10

Food & Beverage ERP Systems Report

P A N O R A M A
CONSULTING GROUP

Introduction

Food and beverage companies are absorbing demand that arrives through more channels than their systems were built to serve. A producer may ship to grocery chains and foodservice distributors in the same week that it fulfills direct-to-consumer orders, with different labeling and delivery expectations attached to each.

When it comes to ERP software, the bar has risen on two fronts at once: production systems are expected to hold formulation and batch genealogy in the same record that drives planning, while distribution systems are expected to allocate stock by remaining shelf life and to capture variable weights at the point of pick and pack.

Traceability sits across both, and retail and foodservice buyers now treat lot-level records as a condition of doing business.

Modern food and beverage ERP platforms must deliver recall-ready traceability from ingredient to shelf. They must also support planning that accounts for both shelf life and channel complexity, and connect to AI capabilities without a separate integration project.

The 2026 Top 10 Food & Beverage ERP Systems Report is designed to help food and beverage leaders evaluate ERP platforms against this backdrop. It draws on Panorama's hands-on experience advising manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in this industry.

Panorama does not rank the vendors in this report. We profile ten core vendors in depth, followed by a short Emerging Vendors section covering products worth watching that are earlier in their development against these criteria.

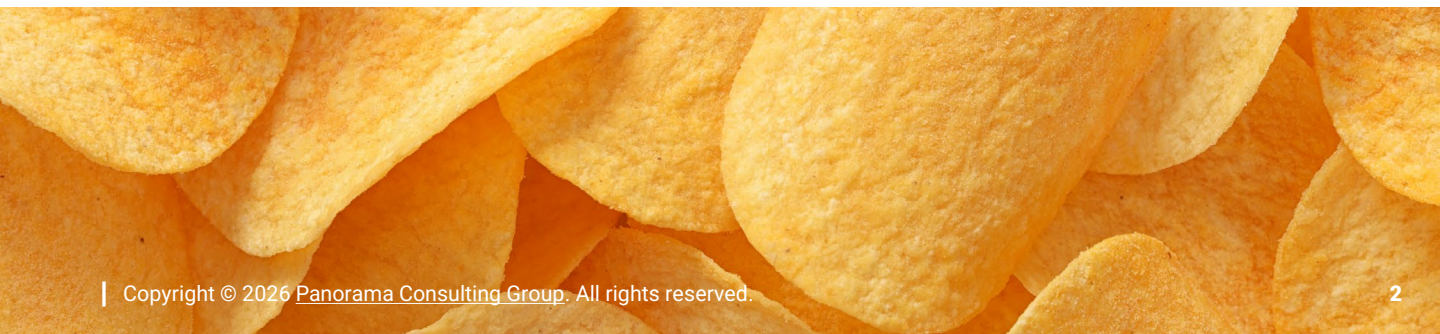


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The Top 10 Food & Beverage ERP Systems



Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Alpharetta, GA

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
2012

Aptean Food & Beverage ERP

Aptean Food & Beverage ERP is a purpose-built solution designed specifically for food and beverage manufacturers and distributors. Tailored for mid-sized and growing companies, it supports sector-specific needs, including perishability and traceability.

- ▶ Tracks any material or ingredient forward and backward through the supply chain at the lot level.
- ▶ Captures catch weight at both lot level and item level, calculating weights from connected scales and carrying the captured weight through to invoicing.
- ▶ Allocates inventory on a first-expired-first-out basis and raises alerts on approaching expiration dates.
- ▶ Records allergen data against ingredients through integrated ingredient and allergen management.
- ▶ Supports license plating and Serial Shipping Container Codes, with barcode scanning across receiving, putaway, and picking.
- ▶ Calculates grower settlement payments from grade-out and pack-out results.
- ▶ Provides natural-language query and role-based AI workspaces through AppCentral 2.0, the AI platform Aptean released across its product lines in November 2025.



Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Westlake, TX

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
1995

Deacom

Deacom, an ECI Software Solutions company, provides a comprehensive ERP solution that supports the unique needs of the food and beverage industry. Built for batch and process manufacturers across dairy, meat, ingredients, snacks, and beverages, it holds production, quality, lot tracking, and accounting in a single system.

- ▶ Generates Certificates of Analysis, Safety Data Sheets, GHS labels, and Nutrition Fact Panels from stored quality control results and bill of material data inside the ERP.
- ▶ Enforces quality checkpoints that cannot be bypassed through Hyper-Tight Process Control™, with warehouse scanners that stop staff from picking lots that have failed quality control or are on QC hold.
- ▶ Receives catch weight values directly from connected scales through AutoFinisher, which verifies each unit against weight specification and prints GS1-128 labels at unit, case, and pallet level.
- ▶ Runs warehouse operations natively, covering shelf-life-driven expiration dating, cycle counting, minimum and maximum location replenishment, and GS1-128 barcoding.
- ▶ Provides a Direct Store Delivery mobile application with offline capability, covering route management, order editing, barcode scanning, and signature capture.
- ▶ Exchanges sales orders, purchase orders, order changes, warehouse transfers, and invoices over EDI in both ANSI ASC X12 and EDIFACT formats.

EPICOR

Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Austin, TX

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
1999

Epicor Kinetic

Epicor Kinetic is a purpose-built ERP solution designed for mid-sized manufacturers and distributors. It supports batch production, compliance, inventory control, and demand variability, making it well-suited for companies across bakery, beverage, dairy, meat, and prepared foods.

- ▶ Stores a shelf life in days on the part record and calculates an expiration date into the lot record during the receipt transaction.
- ▶ Groups parts and operations into production batches through the Advanced Production module, which supports co-product and nested product production.
- ▶ Tracks inspections, non-conformant records, supplier returns, and automated debit processing through Kinetic Quality Management.
- ▶ Offers Epicor QMS as a separate quality system covering document control, corrective action, audits, supplier management, and electronic signatures for 21 CFR Part 11 and EU Annex 11.
- ▶ Provides machine-learning demand forecasting, stockout risk prediction, and what-if analysis through Epicor Inventory Planning and Optimization, built on the Smart Software business acquired in 2024.
- ▶ Announced a new wave of Epicor Prism agents in May 2026 that execute work inside Kinetic, including a Quick Ship Tracking Agent, a Quick Ship Freight Insight Agent, and an EDI Agent.



IFS Cloud

IFS Cloud is an industry-focused solution tailored for large and mid-sized organizations. The food and beverage sectors it serves include fresh produce, chilled, ambient, and frozen foods, as well as beverages.

Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Linköping, Sweden

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
1983

- ▶ Includes lot and batch tracking that records the full transaction history of each lot and builds As-Built Structures showing which lot-tracked components were issued into a parent item.
- ▶ Supports first-expired-first-out allocation through an Earliest Expiration Date reservation rule that draws stock from the location holding the earliest-expiring lot.
- ▶ Added a warehouse management system through the acquisition of Softeon, completed in March 2026 and now branded IFS Softeon.
- ▶ Provides constraint-based scheduling through the Advanced Planning Board, which schedules shop orders against machine, labor, tool, and material availability constraints.
- ▶ Ships 16 forecast models in IFS Cloud Demand Planning, including Croston's Intermittent for sporadic demand and TSPT Level/Trend/Season, a pretrained transformer model built on Google Research's TimesFM.
- ▶ Embeds IFS Loops Digital Workers in everyday transactions, including an Inventory Replenisher that monitors and replenishes stock and a Material Replenisher that works to keep critical materials available for production.



Infor CloudSuite Food & Beverage (M3) and Infor CloudSuite Industrial

Infor CloudSuite Food & Beverage has a cloud-native ERP solution at its core designed to meet the specific challenges faced by the wide range of food and beverage sub-industries. Infor CloudSuite Industrial, built on SyteLine, is the lighter option for smaller manufacturers across both process and discrete production.

Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Atlanta, GA

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
2002

CloudSuite Food & Beverage (M3)

- ▶ Tracks inventory against actual location-level weights rather than lot averages and calculates cost in a unit of measure other than the base unit.
- ▶ Provides graphical track and trace that shows a lot's origin, variable lot, and quality information in both directions.
- ▶ Sequences production runs to prevent allergen cross-contamination between batches while holding equipment utilization.
- ▶ Added machine-learning pick path optimization to Infor WMS in the April 2026 release.

CloudSuite Industrial (with the Process Industry Pack)

- ▶ Models formulas on either a weight or volume basis and applies loss or yield percentages to each.
- ▶ Accounts for materials in the formula that are soluble or are removed from the process before packaging.
- ▶ Resizes a formula by percentage to scale all components to a given production run.



Dynamics 365 Supply Chain Management and Dynamics 365 Business Central

Microsoft Dynamics 365 is a modular, cloud-based platform that supports food and beverage companies across manufacturing, distribution, and retail. Supply Chain Management is the enterprise-scale option, carrying native formulas, catch weight, and shelf-life planning for process manufacturers. Business Central serves smaller organizations, with a partner ecosystem that extends it into food-specific requirements.

Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Redmond, WA

Ownership:
Public

Founded:
1975

Dynamics 365 Supply Chain Management

- ▶ Produces process-manufactured items from formulas and formula versions, with each version able to carry co-products and by-products produced alongside the finished item.
- ▶ Stores each unit's weight in a catch weight tag at receipt, so variable-weight items can be scanned at picking and packing and invoiced on captured weight without reweighing.
- ▶ Weighs first-expired-first-out supply in Planning Optimization behind delay minimization, and excludes supply that would leave a customer fewer remaining sellable days than its Sellable days setting requires.
- ▶ Added Sample management in version 10.0.47, which registers samples, runs sampling and testing plans, and blocks or releases inventory using batch disposition codes.

Dynamics 365 Business Central

- ▶ Traces a lot in either direction on the Item Tracing page — from usage back to origin, or from origin forward to the customers that received it.
- ▶ Added a Microsoft-published Quality Management module in 2026 release that generates inspections on purchase receipts, production output, and warehouse movements and can block inventory lots based on inspection results.
- ▶ Picks item-tracked inventory by first-expired-first-out against native expiration date fields, and restricts storage of classes such as frozen product to designated zones through Warehouse Classes.
- ▶ Escalates warehouse configuration through six levels up to Directed Put-away and Pick, with zones, bin types, bin ranking, and put-away templates.

ORACLE

ORACLE NetSuite

Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Austin, TX

Ownership:
Public

Founded:
1977

Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP and NetSuite

Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP supports large food and beverage manufacturers, distributors, and global brands by combining financials, supply chain, manufacturing, and planning capabilities with embedded AI and machine learning. NetSuite serves growing and mid-sized food and beverage companies with lot traceability, production planning, and order management.

Oracle Fusion Cloud

- ▶ Synchronizes formula changes to recipes automatically or routes them for review, and calculates batch quantity as the sum of contributing ingredients to track operation yield.
- ▶ Calculates the expiration date of a produced lot from the shelf life of its ingredient lots, and blocks expired lots from being consumed in production.
- ▶ Traces recalled lots across on-hand, in-transit, and open purchase order stock through Product Recall Management, then quarantines counted inventory so it cannot be reserved.
- ▶ Includes an Inventory Expiry Assistant in Oracle Fusion Cloud Warehouse Management that reports expiring stock by location and date range, and locks containers so expired lots cannot be allocated.

NetSuite

- ▶ Reports the vendors that supplied a lot, the customers that received it, and the assemblies it was consumed into, through the Lot and Serial Number Trace SuiteApp.
- ▶ Assigns lots to sales order lines by earliest expiry date through the FEFO Lot Assignments SuiteApp, respecting customer shelf life requirements at commitment.
- ▶ Runs business-to-business and direct-to-consumer storefronts on one platform through NetSuite Commerce, with real-time inventory across owned and third-party fulfillment locations.



Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
1986

Priority ERP

Priority ERP is a cloud-native platform designed to optimize the full manufacturing lifecycle within a unified environment powered by AWS. Priority supports both discrete and process manufacturing, particularly in compliance-intensive sectors such as food and beverage.

- ▶ Manages formulas and recipes alongside batch production in its manufacturing module.
- ▶ Handles by-products and co-products produced alongside the primary output.
- ▶ Tracks serial and lot numbers through production and inventory.
- ▶ Optimizes waves for picking, put-away, and replenishment through its native warehouse management system, with a companion WMS mobile app.
- ▶ Plans deliveries on interactive maps and timelines with drag-and-drop route management in Advanced Delivery Planning, driven by real-time inventory and sales orders.
- ▶ Captures customer and location signatures offline in its Proof of Delivery app, and documents non-deliveries with photo evidence.
- ▶ Embeds an aiERP Companion and AI agents across finance, sales, and supply chain in Priority ERP V26.0, released May 2026, for running ERP workflows in natural language.



Quick Facts

Headquarters:

Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Ownership:

Public

Founded:

1981

Sage X3

Sage X3 is a cloud ERP for product-centric midsize businesses that have outgrown generalist systems, supporting process, discrete, and mixed-mode manufacturing. Sage positions it for food and beverage alongside chemicals and pharmaceuticals, with lot-level quality control, expiry management, and traceability handled natively and extended warehousing delivered through the separate Sage X3 Warehousing product.

- ▶ Assigns stock to Accepted, Quality control, or Rejected status through its Quality control function, and can automatically generate an analysis request when stock takes Q status.
- ▶ Sequences allocation and issue by first-expired-first-out alongside FIFO, LIFO, and by-lot rules, with additional filters on quality status and storage location.
- ▶ Carries shelf life, expiration date, use-by date, recontrol lead time, and potency as lot-level fields once expiry management is enabled on the product.
- ▶ Displays upstream and downstream traceability from any lot – the flow that produced it and the lots it was split into – across purchase receipts, quality control, work orders, and customer deliveries.
- ▶ Rolls food allergens up from component products to the parent product through production bills of material, using allergen definitions held in a dedicated table.
- ▶ Runs multi-company, multi-site, and multi-legislation operations from a single database, with automated intercompany transactions in the purchase and sales modules.
- ▶ Includes Sage Copilot, which answers natural-language questions on customer orders, shipping timelines, and fulfillment issues and raises alerts on delays.



Quick Facts

Headquarters:
Walldorf, Germany

Ownership:
Public

Founded:
1972

SAP S/4HANA

SAP S/4HANA is a modular, enterprise-grade ERP solution that supports global food and beverage manufacturers and distributors. Built on the SAP Business Technology Platform, it is designed for complex supply chains and compliance-heavy production.

- ▶ Offers SAP GROW, an adoption path for midsize companies that deploys SAP Cloud ERP together with Joule against a predefined scope using the SAP Activate methodology, with SAP SuccessFactors available as an optional core HR add-on.
- ▶ Includes Product recipes within Product Lifecycle Management, covering inputs, outputs, formulation, calculations, and packaging, with a Recipe handover that transfers an approved recipe into a manufacturing bill of material or master recipe.
- ▶ Matches supply to demand on a first-expired-first-out basis in SAP Integrated Business Planning for response and supply, using minimum remaining shelf life on location products and transportation lanes.
- ▶ Added vendor-managed inventory to SAP Integrated Business Planning in the 2605 release and extended it in 2608, alongside enhancements to transportation load building.
- ▶ Records provenance from raw material to finished product across supply chain tiers in SAP Business Network Material Traceability, and automates recall notifications and trace-back alerts to trading partners.
- ▶ Embeds Joule across SAP Cloud ERP, with Q1 2026 general availability for AI-assisted sales order creation from unstructured data and AI-assisted processing of payment advices through SAP Document AI.

EMERGING VENDOR**ArcFlow****Quick Facts**

Headquarters:

London, UK

Ownership:

Private

Founded:

2024**ArcFlow**

ArcFlow is a centralized business operations software purpose-built for distribution and manufacturing with integrated project management. The platform features a continuous planning engine that syncs operations in real time.

- ▶ Traces a batch in both directions between raw material lot and finished goods, and places it on hold or releases it directly from the batch record.
- ▶ Calculates pick order by first-expired-first-out and prints the sequence directly on the picking slip.
- ▶ Redirects an off-spec batch into another recipe as an input, through rework paths defined on multi-recipe bills of material.
- ▶ Forecasts production and ingredient requirements from live sales and inventory data through ArcAI.

EMERGING VENDOR**WHERE
FOUR™****Quick Facts**

Headquarters:
Petaluma, CA

Ownership:
Private

Founded:
2015

Wherefour

Wherefour is a cloud traceability and production platform for growing manufacturers, including bakeries, breweries and distilleries, pet food, and nutraceuticals. It deliberately stops short of general ledger accounting — inventory, production, costing, and compliance records live in Wherefour, while transactions post outbound to the accounting system a company already uses.

- ▶ Tracks lots forward and backward from raw material intake through finished goods and delivery, generating full recall reports by lot, date, or customer in under two minutes.
- ▶ Manages formulas, work orders, and batch production with COGS tracking that surfaces true production unit costs, including raw material and labor variance, on demand.
- ▶ Centralizes compliance documentation such as COAs, SOPs, lab results, and QA tests with an AI assistant that drafts test definitions, plus auto-bundling of COAs into a ZIP or combined PDF for shipments.
- ▶ Integrates with QuickBooks, Xero, and other accounting and ecommerce platforms to sync inventory, orders, and invoices automatically.



Reformulation Under Pressure: Clean-Label Pressures and the FSMA 204 Countdown

Two food-safety-adjacent pressures are pulling food and beverage companies in different directions this year. Clean-label pressure is forcing faster reformulation than most recipe and labeling processes were designed to support, while the compliance date for the traceability rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), known as FSMA 204, was recently pushed back.

Reformulation and traceability may look like separate initiatives on a project roadmap, but both depend on the same underlying formula, lot, and supplier master data. An ERP system that handles one well is usually positioned to handle the other, and an organization that invests in clean formula and lot-level data now will be ready for whichever mandate arrives first.

Clean-Label Reformulation at Scale

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services have pushed food manufacturers toward a voluntary phase-out of petroleum-based synthetic dyes, and major retailers and brands have made public commitments to reformulate ahead of federal deadlines. In an ERP system, reformulation touches bill of materials (BOM) costing, nutritional panel recalculation, packaging and label artwork, and supplier qualification, often across dozens of SKUs at once.

For example, a beverage manufacturer replacing a synthetic dye across a product line needs its ERP to recalculate formula cost and shelf-life impact, flag every affected SKU and packaging variant, and route the change through quality approval before a single case ships.

Systems that treat formula and recipe data as a static record, rather than something that changes on a compressed timeline, will struggle to keep pace.

The FSMA 204 Countdown

FDA proposed a thirty-month extension in August 2025, and Congress subsequently barred enforcement of FSMA 204 before July 20, 2028 — moving the effective compliance date from January 20, 2026. The rule requires companies handling foods on the Food Traceability List to maintain detailed Key Data Elements (KDEs) at each Critical Tracking Event (CTE) across the supply chain, from receiving through shipping.

Large retailers and foodservice buyers have not waited for the federal deadline to move their own traceability requirements onto suppliers, so an extension at the FDA level does not necessarily buy companies more time. It buys even less than it appears to, because lot-level data architecture takes most organizations well over a year to implement properly.

We recommend using the extended timeline to test traceability workflows under real operating conditions, rather than treating 2028 as a date to revisit later.



Agentic AI in Food & Beverage: From Recommendations to Autonomous Action

ERP vendors across the food and beverage space have moved past AI that simply summarizes data or drafts a report. The newer generation of tools, often described as agentic AI, can take a series of actions inside a workflow directly, adjusting a replenishment order or reallocating inventory autonomously.

What Agentic AI Adds Beyond a Copilot

An AI copilot recommends. An AI agent acts. Agentic AI is most valuable where the decision is routine, the data feeding it is trustworthy, and the cost of an occasional correction is low.

Where Agentic AI Is Already Showing Up

Food and beverage ERP platforms are beginning to apply agentic capabilities to:

- Demand replanning when a channel shifts unexpectedly
- Exception handling in perishable inventory when a shipment runs late
- First-pass triage on quality holds before a human reviewer signs off

For example, an agent monitoring cold chain data might automatically reroute a shipment approaching its temperature threshold and notify the responsible planner, rather than waiting for someone to notice the alert in a queue.

When Organizations Misapply Agentic Autonomy

The risk is not agentic AI itself, but where organizations let it operate unsupervised. Decisions that determine the scope of a recall, confirm an allergen claim, or release a quality hold should not run on full autonomy.

We recommend establishing human-in-the-loop approval on any agentic workflow tied to food safety or regulatory outcomes, while allowing full autonomy on lower-stakes, high-volume decisions such as routine reordering.

Ultimately, agentic AI should absorb the routine coordination work that currently consumes planners' time, freeing them to focus on the judgment calls that still belong to a person.



Conclusion

Food and beverage companies selecting an ERP system in 2026 are really making two decisions at once: how to align their systems with reformulation and traceability demands, and how much operational autonomy to hand to AI agents that are becoming a standard part of the ERP landscape.

Panorama Consulting Group remains committed to providing independent, technology-agnostic guidance to food and beverage companies navigating these decisions. Our advisors can help you define your requirements and build a governance framework that keeps human judgment in the loop where it matters most. Contact us below to connect with Panorama's ERP experts.

Click the Button Below to Schedule Your **Free Consultation**
With an ERP Systems Expert Today!

FREE CONSULTATION

About Panorama Consulting Group

Panorama Consulting Group is an independent, niche consulting firm specializing in business transformation and ERP system implementations for mid- to large-sized private- and public-sector organizations worldwide. One-hundred percent technology agnostic and independent of vendor affiliation, Panorama offers a phased, top-down strategic alignment approach and a bottom-up tactical approach, enabling each client to achieve its unique business transformation objectives by transforming its people, processes, and technology.

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