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Switching Gears and Careers

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In the past, a person could start a job after college and keep it for their entire career. Times have clearly changed and many are wondering what they're to do if their long-time employer decides to downsize. Thankfully, [Business.com's What Works for Business blog](#) has proof that life after corporate America exists: With the U.S. economy shedding jobs at a pace unseen in a generation, increasing numbers of late-career workers are opting to start their own businesses rather than wage battle in the employment line. Many late career entrepreneurs prefer to buy a pre-packaged franchise rather than start a business from scratch. While there are no guarantees, a franchise offers a proven business concept, a ready-made set of operating procedures and often marketing help as well.



Take 52-year-old Bob Mabry. He worked in petrochemical engineering for many years helping to design refineries and chemical plants but when some of his projects started to be outsourced overseas, Mabry began contemplating a new career. He felt he was too young to retire, but too old to retrain and start over so he explored business opportunities that could leverage his existing skills. When he came across a franchise called [Handyman Matters](#) in Kingwood, Texas, Mabry and his wife Tish decided it was the business for them. They started servicing home fix-up needs on Houston's north side in 2004 and haven't looked back since.



The same goes for Enrique Rosselli. The 53-year-old worked for Pepsico Inc. for 17 years in many parts of the world but now he's the successful owner of an [AlphaGraphics](#) business in Las Vegas. After a company reorganization at Pepsico, Rosselli was offered early retirement. He then spent some time working for Coca Cola in Europe, and then DuPont. At age 50 he left the corporate world to start his own business and chose AlphaGraphics.