

Alaska

Small businesses significantly impact Alaska's economy. They represent 96.5 percent of all employers and employ 53.1 percent of the private-sector labor force. Small businesses are crucial to the fiscal condition of the state and numbered 69,177 in 2010.

This profile uses the latest available data to illustrate the status of Alaska's small businesses. (Note that a small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Alaska's economy was strong in 2011, with real gross state product increasing 7.7 percent and private-sector employment increasing 1.8 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Small businesses employed 135,374 workers in 2010 (Table 1) with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.
- The employment situation from 2007-2010 was strong, and small businesses in Alaska represented 58.1 percent of the net new private-sector jobs (Table 2). The unemployment rate in 2010-2011 decreased by 0.4 percent.
- Most of Alaska's small businesses are very small as 76.4 percent of all businesses have no employees, and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- In 2011, the number of opening establishments was higher than closing establishments, and the net employment change from this turnover was positive (Table 3).
- Self-employment in Alaska improved over the last decade. Female self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups.

For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories are available at www.sba.gov/advocacy/848.
- For other small business data and analysis, visit www.sba.gov/advocacy/847, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov.
- Visit www.sba.gov/updates to subscribe to Advocacy's Listservs.

Alaska Small Business Facts			
	2010*	2009	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	15,893	15,838	15,447
Large employers (500+ employees)	569	580	481
Nonemployers	53,284	52,608	47,691
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms		Employment Receipts(\$M)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	32	70	17,614
Woman-owned	18	18	2,540
Equally male/female-owned	16	21	3,232
African American-owned	1	1	99
Asian-owned	2	4	416
Hispanic-owned	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Native American/Alaskan-owned	7	4	714
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	-	-	-
Veteran-owned	12	16	3,202
Publicly held, unclassified	2	100	45,063
	Level in 2011*	% Change from	
		2010	2000
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	244	1.8	16.4
Government employment	85	-0.7	14.3
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	38	1.1	22.0
Female self-employment	13	-5.1	33.1
Male self-employment	25	4.6	17.1
Minority self-employment	7	5.6	12.8
Veteran self-employment	6	-13.4	-23.3
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	7.6	-0.4†	1.4‡
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	4,466	0.5	3.9
Quarterly establishment closings	4,237	-4.8	-3.9
Business bankruptcies	58	-23.7	-50.8
	2011*	2010	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	3.0	2.9	1.9
Number of bank branches	132	133	134
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	11,169	12,140	7,092
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	215	219	161

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Admin. Office of the U.S. Courts; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and U.S. Small Business Admin., Office of Advocacy.

* Latest available data. †Percentage point change. ‡Data are for CRA loans.

**Table 1: Firms and Employment in Alaska by Industry and Firm Size, 2010
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	53.3	16.5	14.4	15.9	254.7	56.7	135.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	9.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.9
Mining	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.8	D	1.6
Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	2.0	0.2	1.8
Construction	4.9	2.4	2.2	2.4	18.0	7.5	12.9
Manufacturing	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	12.7	1.6	3.9
Wholesale trade	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	8.7	1.5	4.9
Retail trade	3.9	1.9	1.6	1.8	33.4	7.7	15.8
Transportation and warehousing	2.3	0.8	0.7	0.8	18.0	2.1	6.2
Information	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	6.5	0.7	2.3
Finance and insurance	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	7.5	1.2	3.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	4.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.1	1.9	3.7
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	6.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	17.0	5.2	9.8
Management of companies and enterprises	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	6.4	D	D
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	3.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	20.4	2.9	7.6
Educational services	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.9	0.9	2.7
Health care and social assistance	3.8	1.9	1.6	1.8	43.3	8.1	25.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.7	1.4	3.0
Accommodation and food services	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.7	26.2	6.7	19.0
Other services (except public admin.)	5.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	9.9	6.6	9.2
Unclassified	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	D	D	D

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162 for data from other years, and for starts, closures, job creation and destruction by industry and by size category.)

(D) Data suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual firms.

Table 2: Net Job Change by Firm Size, 2007–2010 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2010	3,785	2,781	433	724	374	332	4,644	-859
2009	3,250	1,986	-565	-410	-1,132	336	215	3,035
2008	6,272	2,117	3	-458	-378	684	1,968	4,304
2007	2,640	2,335	121	470	-590	107	2,443	197

Note: Data source differs from previous publications.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Business Dynamic Statistics. (For more detailed data see www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162.)

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2011 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Openings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5.1	5.0	5.7	3.9
Expansions	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	18.6	21.6	18.8	19.1
Contractions	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	18.0	19.7	19.4	21.6
Closings	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	3.1	3.5	3.6	4.5

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics. (For more detailed data see www.bls.gov/bdm/.)

Note: These figures contain all firm sizes; Census data from 2010 show that 87 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.