

Alaska

Small businesses totaled 66,975 in Alaska in 2009. They represent 96.5 percent of all employers and employ 51.7 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Alaska's health and well-being.

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 mixed in 2010, with real gross state product decreasing 5.9 percent and private-sector employment increasing 0.8 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Alaska's small businesses are very small as 75.7 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 130,853 workers in 2009 (Table 1) with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.
- While the employment situation in 2008-2009 was weak (Table 2), small businesses in Alaska represented 39.6 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Alaska declined over the last decade. Minority self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups during the decade.*
- Throughout 2010, the number of opening establishments was lower than closing establishments and the net employment change from this turnover was positive (Table 3).

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 <http://web.sba.gov/list> to subscribe to Advocacy's Listservs.

* Because of the relatively low number of veterans in the survey data source, the veteran self-employment figure is susceptible to large fluctuations.

Alaska Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	15,838	15,981	15,447
Large employers (500+ employees)	580	548	481
Nonemployers	51,137	52,219	47,691
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
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	--	--	--
Native American/Alaskan-owned	7	4	714
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	0	19
Veteran-owned	12	16	3,202
Publicly held, unclassified	2	100	45,063
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	239	0.8	14.1
Government employment	85	1.6	14.6
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	31	-18.5	-0.9
Female self-employment	10	-23.9	5.6
Male self-employment	21	-15.5	-3.9
Minority self-employment	8	12.5	19.6
Veteran self-employment	5	-33.5	-34.7
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	8.0	0.2†	1.8†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	4,444	-1.1	3.3
Quarterly establishment closings	4,449	-3.6	0.9
Business bankruptcies	76	-26.9	-35.6
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	2.9	2.6	1.9
Number of bank branches	133	134	134
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	41,947	15,893	7,092
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	763	259	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, 2009
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	51.1	16.4	14.4	15.8	252.9	55.2	130.9
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	8.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5
Mining	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.5	0.2	1.5
Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.8	0.2	1.6
Construction	4.8	2.4	2.3	2.4	17.3	7.2	12.7
Manufacturing	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	11.9	1.6	4.0
Wholesale trade	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	8.9	1.5	4.9
Retail trade	3.9	1.9	1.6	1.8	33.5	7.7	15.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.2	0.8	0.7	0.8	19.5	2.0	6.9
Information	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	6.9	0.6	2.3
Finance and insurance	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	7.8	1.2	3.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	3.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.2	1.9	3.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	6.5	1.7	1.5	1.6	14.6	4.8	9.6
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.1	0.0	0.1	5.7	0.1	1.2
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	3.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	23.0	2.9	6.6
Educational services	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.9	0.8	2.8
Health care and social assistance	3.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	42.0	8.0	22.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.8	1.5	3.0
Accommodation and food services	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	25.5	6.4	18.3
Other services (except public admin.)	5.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	10.3	6.3	9.6
Unclassified	--	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, 2005–2009 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2005 - 2006	10,541	3,058	117	-70	515	183	3,803	6,738
2006 - 2007	3,410	D	D	326	D	D	2,731	679
2007 - 2008	3,296	2,197	-127	-607	-738	-435	290	3,006
2008 - 2009	4,114	2,117	-581	-173	-1,332	841	872	3,242

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

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Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2010 (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	1.2	6.4	5.2	4.1	5.0
Expansions	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	18.7	21.1	18.2	19.6
Contractions	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	19.0	18.7	19.5	20.4
Closings	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	4.2	3.1	4.2	4.7

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 2009 show that 85 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.