

Colorado

Small businesses significantly impact Colorado's economy. They represent 97.6 percent of all employers and employ 49.2 percent of the private-sector labor force. Small businesses are crucial to the fiscal condition of the state and numbered 549,229 in 2010.

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

- Colorado's economy was strong in 2011, with real gross state product increasing 4.4 percent and private-sector employment increasing 1.9 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Small businesses employed 961,394 workers in 2010 (Table 1) with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.
- The employment situation from 2007-2010 was weak, and small businesses in Colorado had a net job loss (Table 2). The unemployment rate in 2010-2011 decreased by 0.6 percent.
- Most of Colorado's small businesses are very small as 77.2 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 Colorado improved over the last decade. Minority 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.

Colorado Small Business Facts

	2010*	2009	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	122,812	123,774	113,327
Large employers (500+ employees)	3,008	2,997	2,896
Nonemployers	426,417	420,767	333,364
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms		Employment Receipts(\$M)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	264	703	135,252
Woman-owned	160	138	18,789
Equally male/female-owned	102	147	18,464
African American-owned	9	6	800
Asian-owned	14	27	2,981
Hispanic-owned	34	38	5,634
Native American/Alaskan-owned	5	3	580
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	-	-	-
Veteran-owned	74	132	29,033
Publicly held, unclassified	22	1,033	290,332
	Level in 2011*	% Change from	
		2010	2000
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	1,863	1.9	-0.8
Government employment	393	-0.3	16.6
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	346	-1.9	32.9
Female self-employment	133	-3.5	27.1
Male self-employment	213	-0.9	36.8
Minority self-employment	46	-19.1	52.9
Veteran self-employment	25	-29.6	-18.5
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	8.3	-0.6†	5.6‡
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	36,375	-0.3	12.9
Quarterly establishment closings	35,152	-6.9	27.0
Business bankruptcies	1,162	-14.6	211.5
	2011*	2010	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	23.0	21.3	16.4
Number of bank branches	1,641	1,662	1,265
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	87,625	102,801	76,755
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,466	1,521	905

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 Colorado 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	426.4	125.8	111.5	122.8	1,955.3	395.2	961.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	4.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.6	0.7	1.2
Mining	3.9	1.2	0.9	1.1	23.6	3.4	10.1
Utilities	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.8	0.5	2.6
Construction	49.8	16.6	15.4	16.5	123.6	47.1	98.0
Manufacturing	6.8	4.6	3.6	4.4	113.0	17.0	55.8
Wholesale trade	6.9	6.0	4.6	5.5	91.3	17.3	45.3
Retail trade	34.4	12.2	10.8	11.7	240.3	45.8	86.7
Transportation and warehousing	12.9	2.9	2.3	2.6	58.0	7.4	17.5
Information	6.9	1.9	1.4	1.7	76.9	5.0	17.8
Finance and insurance	16.3	6.0	5.3	5.7	95.4	13.8	33.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	55.0	7.7	7.2	7.5	41.7	16.5	27.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	75.1	22.2	20.6	21.8	173.6	52.9	98.8
Management of companies and enterprises	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.4	44.3	0.2	7.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	30.6	7.4	6.3	7.1	202.9	21.9	62.4
Educational services	11.4	2.1	1.7	2.0	43.3	6.4	24.3
Health care and social assistance	31.9	12.1	10.6	11.9	250.4	46.2	133.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	23.5	2.3	2.0	2.2	49.9	6.7	24.1
Accommodation and food services	5.0	9.2	7.1	9.0	219.5	43.7	137.0
Other services (except public admin.)	51.9	11.8	10.8	11.7	96.7	42.4	78.1
Unclassified	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4

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.)

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	-35,175	10,935	-2,238	-2,837	-15,322	-7,973	-17,435	-17,740
2009	-98,639	6,114	-9,414	-12,391	-31,185	-16,835	-63,711	-34,928
2008	46,070	16,873	29	-1,019	-1,097	7,913	22,699	23,371
2007	52,272	19,912	1,854	342	865	-1,501	21,472	30,800

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	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.5	26.7	24.9	25.8	25.4
Expansions	27.5	29.0	29.8	28.9	96.0	106.6	105.3	103.2
Contractions	28.2	27.3	27.3	28.3	91.1	90.7	94.3	98.0
Closings	9.7	8.2	8.0	9.2	24.7	24.2	21.8	24.6

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.