

Delaware

Small businesses totaled 69,641 in Delaware in 2009. They represent 92.9 percent of all employers and employ 46.1 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Delaware's health and well-being.

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

- Delaware's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 0.1 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 1.3 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Delaware's small businesses are very small as 72.2 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 170,991 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 Delaware represented all of the net new jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Delaware surged 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.

Delaware Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	18,336	18,922	18,901
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,405	1,442	1,266
Nonemployers	51,305	53,210	41,082
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	39	136	23,637
Woman-owned	19	18	2,489
Equally male/female-owned	11	19	2,635
African American-owned	7	2	130
Asian-owned	3	6	1,204
Hispanic-owned	2	2	272
Native American/Alaskan-owned	--	--	--
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	--	--
Veteran-owned	11	26	4,958
Publicly held, unclassified	5	216	116,721
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	349	-1.3	-4.1
Government employment	64	1.1	13.1
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	34	-0.7	5.9
Female self-employment	14	31.0	48.8
Male self-employment	20	-15.3	-12.1
Minority self-employment	6	4.0	196.2
Veteran self-employment	4	-3.5	-32.8
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	8.5	0.5†	5.2†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	4,915	4.8	-11.3
Quarterly establishment closings	5,144	-14.1	6.5
Business bankruptcies	973	-41.7	-58.1
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	2.8	2.4	1.7
Number of bank branches	274	275	242
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	8,741	14,486	6,821
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	103	191	80
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 Delaware 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	51.3	19.7	15.9	18.3	370.8	63.1	171.0
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	D
Construction	6.0	2.4	2.2	2.4	20.5	8.3	18.5
Manufacturing	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	30.4	2.0	8.7
Wholesale trade	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	17.9	2.2	6.6
Retail trade	4.9	2.6	2.0	2.3	51.1	8.5	18.6
Transportation and warehousing	2.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	12.6	1.6	5.5
Information	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	8.3	0.6	2.0
Finance and insurance	2.1	1.2	0.9	1.0	39.0	2.5	5.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	6.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	6.4	2.0	4.4
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	7.5	2.3	1.9	2.2	23.3	6.1	15.5
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.1	0.6	0.8	14.0	0.8	2.2
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	3.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	25.9	3.7	11.0
Educational services	1.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	7.2	0.9	5.6
Health care and social assistance	4.1	1.8	1.4	1.7	57.5	8.6	26.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2.9	0.4	0.3	0.4	6.6	1.1	4.2
Accommodation and food services	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.5	32.6	6.3	22.0
Other services (except public admin.)	6.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	14.6	7.7	13.7
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	-3,858	2,701	809	403	1,970	3,326	9,209	-13,067
2006 - 2007	8,319	D	D	-316	-1,317	D	-4,454	12,773
2007 - 2008	-7,983	1,421	-80	-664	1,105	1,046	2,828	-10,811
2008 - 2009	-16,830	555	-556	-1,292	-4,897	-3,274	-9,464	-7,366

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	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	4.7	5.0	5.5	4.6
Expansions	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.2	14.8	18.2	16.9	17.3
Contractions	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.3	17.4	15.1	16.5	17.9
Closings	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	3.6	3.8	4.5	4.6

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