

Colorado

Colorado's small businesses are key to the state's well-being. They account for a significant share of the state's economic production and hiring. This profile from the Office of Advocacy uses the latest available data to illustrate the status and contributions of Colorado small businesses. (Note that a small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Small businesses totaled 541,927 in the state in 2008. Of these, 127,264 were employers, and they accounted for 50.2% of private-sector jobs in the state (Table 1). Small firms made up 97.7% of the state's employers.
- Colorado's real gross state product increased by 2.9% and private-sector employment decreased by 5.9% in 2009. By comparison, real GDP in the United States grew 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 5.5%.
- Business ownership is becoming more inclusive in the state. The number of both women and minority business owners has grown. In particular, minority-owned businesses numbered 59,675 in 2007, a 35% increase over 2002.
- The state's small business employment has undergone major shifts in recent years (Table 2).
- The state's businesses showed signs of stability and improvement in the fourth quarter of 2009 compared to the first quarter (Table 3).

For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories is 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.

Colorado Small Business Facts

	2008*	2007	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	127,264	128,882	113,327
Large employers (500+ employees)	3,033	3,012	2,896
Nonemployers	414,663	426,017	333,364
	Level in 2007*	% Share in 2007	% Change 2002-2007
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	264,488	48.3	4.4
Woman-owned	160,058	29.2	18.4
Equally male/female-owned	101,732	18.6	61.1
African American-owned	9,173	1.7	29.8
Asian-owned	14,507	2.6	33.0
Hispanic-owned	33,762	6.2	40.4
Native American/Alaskan-owned	4,609	0.8	17.2
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	656	0.1	67.8
Veteran-owned	48,803	8.9	n.a.
	Level in 2009*	% Change from 2008 2000	
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	1,829	-5.9	-2.1
Government employment	368	1.3	16.7
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	361	-4.8	20.0
Female self-employment	135	-6.7	17.4
Male self-employment	226	-3.7	21.6
Minority self-employment	55	2.8	58.3
Veteran self-employment	41	11.1	11.9
Unemployment rate (%)	7.7	2.8†	5.0†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	35,796	-4.7	11.3
Quarterly establishment closings	40,640	1.7	47.0
Business bankruptcies	1,421	47.3	281.0
	2009*	2008	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	23.3	25.1	15.3
Number of bank branches	1,661	1,664	1,265
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	144,378	235,639	76,755
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,961	2,965	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, 2008
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	414.7	130.3	114.7	127.3	2,121.7	414.7	1,054.7
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	3.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.4	0.7	1.4
Mining	3.9	1.2	1.0	1.1	25.9	3.6	11.1
Utilities	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	10.3	0.5	2.6
Construction	51.0	19.3	17.7	19.2	172.5	59.6	134.7
Manufacturing	6.6	5.0	3.8	4.7	139.4	18.7	66.0
Wholesale trade	6.8	6.3	4.8	5.7	105.1	18.1	52.0
Retail trade	35.0	12.6	11.1	12.2	261.6	48.5	96.4
Transportation and warehousing	13.5	3.1	2.5	2.9	64.7	7.7	21.2
Information	6.9	2.0	1.5	1.8	83.0	5.6	20.2
Finance and insurance	16.8	6.5	5.7	6.1	107.5	14.9	35.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	51.5	8.3	7.8	8.1	63.5	18.4	31.0
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	71.9	22.0	20.4	21.6	164.5	53.8	103.4
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.7	0.1	0.4	41.3	0.3	6.1
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	29.9	7.6	6.5	7.3	206.6	23.1	71.0
Educational services	11.1	2.0	1.7	2.0	42.5	6.4	24.4
Health care and social assistance	30.2	11.5	10.1	11.3	245.6	44.4	129.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	22.8	2.3	2.0	2.3	49.8	6.5	26.7
Accommodation and food services	4.8	9.3	6.9	9.0	238.0	41.9	140.8
Other services (except public admin.)	48.2	11.7	10.7	11.6	98.5	42.1	79.8
Unclassified	--	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

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, 2004–2007 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2004 - 2005	26,864	17,788	2,304	2,639	-167	4,215	26,779	85
2005 - 2006	81,182	21,476	6,528	7,229	10,272	13,013	58,518	22,664
2006 - 2007	50,732	21,459	1,410	459	1,646	-4,312	30,070	20,662

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

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2009 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment Change Due To:			
	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Quarter 1	8.6	24.9	35.3	11.1	25.7	84.1	133.0	28.4
Quarter 2	8.7	26.2	33.1	10.3	25.6	94.3	122.5	29.7
Quarter 3	8.4	26.9	29.9	9.7	23.8	94.3	109.9	28.9
Quarter 4	10.1	26.7	30.0	9.6	26.9	95.1	106.7	26.4

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

Note: These figures contain all firm sizes; Census data from 2007 show that 86 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.