

Florida

Small businesses totaled 2 million in Florida in 2009. They represent 98.9 percent of all employers and employ 42.3 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Florida's health and well-being.

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

- Florida's economy struggled in 2010, with real gross state product decreasing 1.7 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 1.3 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Florida's small businesses are very small as 80.0 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 2.9 million 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 Florida represented 62.1 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Florida increased 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 negative (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.

Florida Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	395,462	410,339	349,747
Large employers (500+ employees)	4,357	4,460	4,216
Nonemployers	1,603,533	1,608,887	1,074,020
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	1,036	2,503	423,904
Woman-owned	581	469	62,195
Equally male/female-owned	331	461	63,152
African American-owned	181	65	6,742
Asian-owned	65	105	15,205
Hispanic-owned	450	302	59,088
Native American/Alaskan-owned	10	4	781
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	2	1	153
Veteran-owned	262	449	84,567
Publicly held, unclassified	62	3,764	843,728
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	6,060	-1.3	-0.1
Government employment	1,115	0.0	11.3
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	843	-15.0	1.5
Female self-employment	266	-19.8	-6.9
Male self-employment	577	-12.6	5.9
Minority self-employment	229	-29.3	30.3
Veteran self-employment	80	-0.9	-38.5
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	11.5	1.3†	7.7†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	129,768	-2.4	21.8
Quarterly establishment closings	132,338	-11.7	53.5
Business bankruptcies	4,880	-1.0	237.2
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	41.9	38.0	34.5
Number of bank branches	5,666	5,820	4,661
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	244,477	352,964	308,805
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	2,891	3,810	3,331
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 Florida 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	1,603.5	399.8	364.4	395.5	6,861.6	1,228.2	2,901.2
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	12.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	13.5	3.0	8.3
Mining	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	5.1	0.6	1.8
Utilities	1.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	28.4	0.8	5.8
Construction	158.0	46.8	43.4	46.6	341.6	137.8	297.4
Manufacturing	18.5	12.1	9.7	11.6	294.5	42.8	149.5
Wholesale trade	33.9	26.5	23.2	25.8	287.7	78.4	180.8
Retail trade	120.9	44.4	41.1	43.8	921.5	142.2	269.0
Transportation and warehousing	85.0	10.6	9.3	10.2	207.4	27.3	66.0
Information	20.1	4.7	4.0	4.5	156.3	12.4	35.1
Finance and insurance	57.9	17.8	16.2	17.3	338.1	46.1	106.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	171.5	22.9	21.9	22.7	157.7	48.8	85.0
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	198.3	63.7	60.1	63.1	430.9	159.2	285.7
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.6	0.3	1.0	130.5	1.1	16.9
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	188.2	28.5	25.7	27.9	1,287.4	78.6	217.0
Educational services	33.9	5.0	4.0	4.9	138.4	15.2	72.6
Health care and social assistance	138.1	44.5	40.5	44.1	943.8	176.4	421.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	67.0	6.9	5.9	6.8	155.0	18.6	80.7
Accommodation and food services	25.1	25.7	20.5	25.3	728.8	106.2	363.9
Other services (except public admin.)	271.9	39.8	37.2	39.6	294.2	132.1	237.3
Unclassified	--	0.5	0.5	0.5	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	424,377	94,435	21,482	19,463	44,556	31,323	211,259	213,118
2006 - 2007	-137,313	63,120	-4,839	-10,284	-21,382	-27,453	-838	-136,475
2007 - 2008	-70,426	29,021	-17,118	-22,301	-54,115	-11,343	-75,856	5,430
2008 - 2009	-504,070	22,228	-30,177	-39,664	-100,687	-88,067	-236,367	-267,703

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, 2010 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Openings	30.2	31.9	32.3	35.3	87.5	100.1	104.9	121.6
Expansions	81.6	84.5	80.5	85.8	275.0	317.7	299.6	327.0
Contractions	88.0	85.0	87.4	83.2	281.2	300.1	308.2	294.2
Closings	33.3	31.2	33.9	33.9	89.3	98.1	111.5	115.8

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.