

Georgia

Small businesses totaled 902,694 in Georgia in 2009. They represent 97.7 percent of all employers and employ 45 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Georgia's health and well-being.

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

- Georgia's economy struggled in 2010, with real gross state product decreasing 1.6 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 1.4 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Georgia's small businesses are very small as 81.1 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 1.5 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 Georgia represented 89.6 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Georgia surged over the last decade. Veteran 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.

Georgia Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	167,864	175,574	156,507
Large employers (500+ employees)	3,883	4,002	3,933
Nonemployers	734,830	731,494	468,430
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	475	1,300	258,013
Woman-owned	278	228	34,553
Equally male/female-owned	122	179	23,625
African American-owned	184	55	5,278
Asian-owned	46	82	13,330
Hispanic-owned	33	26	4,667
Native American/Alaskan-owned	6	6	652
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	1	1	120
Veteran-owned	133	270	54,885
Publicly held, unclassified	25	1,838	575,194
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	3,148	-1.4	-6.1
Government employment	678	-1.5	13.6
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	444	-3.2	31.2
Female self-employment	140	2.3	15.6
Male self-employment	304	-5.5	40.0
Minority self-employment	127	-13.4	63.7
Veteran self-employment	60	53.5	82.8
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	10.2	0.5†	6.7†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	52,936	1.3	8.6
Quarterly establishment closings	54,976	-8.1	30.1
Business bankruptcies	2,650	-12.2	161.9
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	26.1	25.2	21.0
Number of bank branches	2,758	2,840	2,329
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	99,654	161,253	139,331
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,220	1,806	1,902
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 Georgia 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	734.8	171.7	149.1	167.9	3,410.5	578.8	1,533.9
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	5.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	7.3	4.1	7.0
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3	0.4	2.4
Utilities	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	D	0.2	5.8
Construction	97.6	18.4	16.7	18.3	175.3	62.1	144.8
Manufacturing	8.6	7.1	4.9	6.5	351.2	25.9	123.0
Wholesale trade	11.9	11.2	8.6	10.5	191.4	35.5	104.9
Retail trade	56.0	21.6	19.4	21.0	440.3	76.0	144.9
Transportation and warehousing	33.9	4.8	3.7	4.4	152.5	12.6	38.0
Information	9.4	2.2	1.6	1.9	126.7	6.0	23.1
Finance and insurance	20.9	7.7	6.6	7.4	168.2	21.0	58.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	61.1	8.0	7.3	7.8	61.1	17.7	37.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	92.7	25.9	23.8	25.4	239.9	67.0	138.6
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.1	0.2	0.6	106.2	0.6	10.6
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	85.9	10.1	8.6	9.7	299.1	30.8	101.0
Educational services	17.7	2.4	1.9	2.3	77.2	7.7	38.0
Health care and social assistance	58.7	17.5	15.1	17.3	431.4	75.5	196.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31.9	2.5	2.1	2.5	42.0	8.0	27.9
Accommodation and food services	12.1	13.2	10.0	13.0	351.1	58.4	201.6
Other services (except public admin.)	130.4	19.1	17.5	18.9	158.7	69.0	129.1
Unclassified	--	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	D	0.3

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, 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	137,318	31,265	14,044	13,231	29,486	10,800	98,826	38,492
2006 - 2007	25,952	30,921	4,244	1,161	86	-8,494	27,918	-1,966
2007 - 2008	-14,510	19,341	-1,334	-4,158	-2,566	-4,756	6,527	-21,037
2008 - 2009	-223,772	6,267	-13,048	-16,867	-54,031	-43,831	-121,510	-102,262

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	12.6	12.6	13.6	14.1	50.2	48.3	56.0	51.9
Expansions	39.0	40.1	40.3	40.5	147.0	162.6	158.9	161.0
Contractions	41.6	40.9	40.3	40.3	146.9	147.5	153.1	146.8
Closings	14.1	14.3	12.9	13.7	48.5	59.2	48.8	52.7

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.