

Illinois

Small businesses totaled 1.1 million in Illinois in 2009. They represent 98.3 percent of all employers and employ 47.9 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Illinois's health and well-being.

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

- Illinois's economy struggled in 2010, with real gross state product decreasing 1.9 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 1 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Illinois's small businesses are very small as 77.4 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 2.5 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 Illinois represented 62.6 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Illinois increased over the last decade. Male self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups during the decade.*
- Throughout 2010, the number of opening establishments was higher 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.

Illinois Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	249,638	255,769	249,606
Large employers (500+ employees)	4,369	4,456	4,465
Nonemployers	869,266	874,540	668,171
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	579	1,872	378,972
Woman-owned	343	336	46,167
Equally male/female-owned	163	288	39,954
African American-owned	107	45	5,081
Asian-owned	59	103	16,559
Hispanic-owned	57	77	8,831
Native American/Alaskan-owned	5	4	528
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	1	0	20
Veteran-owned	119	339	68,217
Publicly held, unclassified	39	2,807	970,577
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	4,754	-1.0	-8.7
Government employment	857	-0.1	2.1
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	575	3.9	2.2
Female self-employment	186	6.1	-13.9
Male self-employment	390	2.8	12.2
Minority self-employment	85	-9.0	-26.1
Veteran self-employment	49	6.3	-23.2
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	10.3	0.3†	5.8†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	60,810	4.1	9.8
Quarterly establishment closings	60,764	-5.4	15.7
Business bankruptcies	2,197	-21.8	73.0
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	39.3	38.6	34.2
Number of bank branches	4,942	4,989	3,978
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	25,498	227,202	146,983
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	435	2,537	1,984
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 Illinois 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	869.3	254.0	220.6	249.6	5,121.0	861.7	2,454.7
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	4.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.7	0.7	1.2
Mining	2.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	8.6	1.7	4.8
Utilities	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	28.6	0.4	2.7
Construction	94.3	29.6	27.7	29.5	206.5	87.8	180.2
Manufacturing	9.8	13.6	9.2	12.9	566.9	52.7	281.6
Wholesale trade	14.2	16.4	12.7	15.6	305.0	54.0	172.0
Retail trade	66.8	25.5	22.2	24.9	600.3	95.3	217.8
Transportation and warehousing	55.0	10.4	8.9	10.0	219.4	26.1	72.0
Information	11.2	3.0	2.2	2.8	126.1	8.7	35.6
Finance and insurance	32.4	13.3	11.4	12.8	324.8	36.7	113.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	78.7	9.9	9.0	9.7	81.3	25.4	53.0
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	120.9	36.2	33.2	35.6	359.1	98.5	209.3
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.5	0.2	0.9	174.7	0.6	17.1
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	71.1	14.5	12.3	14.0	450.9	40.7	157.1
Educational services	24.2	3.3	2.4	3.2	151.6	11.1	58.4
Health care and social assistance	93.0	25.5	21.9	25.2	732.8	104.2	344.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	43.4	4.2	3.5	4.1	77.9	13.5	50.2
Accommodation and food services	11.1	20.2	16.0	20.0	457.1	89.7	276.3
Other services (except public admin.)	135.7	29.2	26.8	29.0	247.3	113.4	206.9
Unclassified	--	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, 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	123,753	36,405	9,081	9,178	18,531	20,102	93,297	30,456
2006 - 2007	4,193	33,993	462	-3,178	-6,602	-15,207	9,468	-5,275
2007 - 2008	65,154	29,536	-1,739	-6,391	-5,013	1,669	18,062	47,092
2008 - 2009	-344,480	17,816	-13,329	-21,620	-66,014	-62,712	-145,859	-198,621

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	14.7	14.4	14.5	17.2	41.1	43.6	43.9	55.7
Expansions	50.8	53.3	53.5	53.1	188.1	225.3	210.3	225.2
Contractions	56.9	53.2	53.0	53.9	199.0	192.0	201.2	206.5
Closings	16.5	13.8	15.0	15.5	44.4	39.5	47.3	47.9

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.