

Maine

Small businesses totaled 142,491 in Maine in 2009. They represent 97.1 percent of all employers and employ 57.7 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Maine's health and well-being.

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

- Maine's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 0.6 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 0.7 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Maine's small businesses are very small as 76.4 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 282,122 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 Maine represented 59.3 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Maine declined over the last decade. Female 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.

Maine Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	32,812	33,962	33,284
Large employers (500+ employees)	983	980	864
Nonemployers	109,679	113,522	98,499
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	79	171	29,313
Woman-owned	38	29	2,779
Equally male/female-owned	28	47	5,694
African American-owned	1	--	--
Asian-owned	1	3	252
Hispanic-owned	1	--	--
Native American/Alaskan-owned	1	0	35
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	--	--
Veteran-owned	24	42	7,641
Publicly held, unclassified	5	248	51,028
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	489	-0.7	-2.9
Government employment	103	-0.7	3.4
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	84	-11.4	-14.6
Female self-employment	32	-6.5	22.9
Male self-employment	52	-14.3	-28.1
Minority self-employment	2	-38.1	-37.9
Veteran self-employment	6	-52.0	-69.5
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	7.9	-0.3†	4.6†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	8,992	-3.2	3.9
Quarterly establishment closings	9,194	-8.4	16.4
Business bankruptcies	232	-3.7	43.2
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	3.9	3.6	3.0
Number of bank branches	511	521	512
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	91,059	32,845	13,633
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,068	459	197
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 Maine 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	109.7	33.8	29.7	32.8	488.9	111.5	282.1
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	8.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.5	1.9	3.4
Mining	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Utilities	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	D	0.1	0.7
Construction	19.8	5.0	4.8	5.0	23.4	13.5	21.9
Manufacturing	2.4	1.6	1.2	1.5	53.1	5.8	24.0
Wholesale trade	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.2	17.8	4.0	11.3
Retail trade	9.1	4.7	4.1	4.5	80.3	19.0	37.6
Transportation and warehousing	3.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	15.3	2.9	8.0
Information	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	12.9	1.5	5.3
Finance and insurance	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	27.0	2.6	10.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	9.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	6.6	3.2	5.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	12.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	23.8	9.8	17.8
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.2	0.0	0.1	7.7	D	1.7
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	7.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	22.2	5.1	15.0
Educational services	2.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	15.0	1.5	7.2
Health care and social assistance	8.2	3.2	2.6	3.1	107.2	12.4	53.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	7.4	2.4	6.3
Accommodation and food services	1.5	3.5	2.9	3.4	45.0	13.7	35.4
Other services (except public admin.)	13.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	18.4	11.8	16.8
Unclassified	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

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	9,315	4,601	621	838	525	1,547	8,132	1,183
2006 - 2007	-4,851	3,651	-1,208	-1,816	-2,203	-2,442	-4,018	-833
2007 - 2008	4,904	2,394	-898	-1,447	439	956	1,444	3,460
2008 - 2009	-20,174	768	-2,756	-3,436	-5,150	-5,029	-15,603	-4,571

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	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	6.8	8.6	7.9	7.4
Expansions	7.2	7.7	7.9	7.8	23.7	28.5	27.6	27.2
Contractions	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.0	27.1	27.4	26.8	27.7
Closings	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	7.4	7.8	7.5	8.2

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.