

Nebraska

Small businesses totaled 158,052 in Nebraska in 2009. They represent 96.6 percent of all employers and employ 51 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Nebraska's health and well-being.

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

- Nebraska's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 0.4 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 0.8 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Nebraska's small businesses are very small as 73.7 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 397,385 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 Nebraska represented 52 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Nebraska declined 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 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.

Nebraska Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	40,456	40,885	40,101
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,405	1,417	1,312
Nonemployers	117,596	120,019	103,272
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	71	274	52,380
Woman-owned	41	47	5,782
Equally male/female-owned	40	72	8,493
African American-owned	3	1	130
Asian-owned	2	5	430
Hispanic-owned	3	3	711
Native American/Alaskan-owned	1	0	39
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	--	--
Veteran-owned	27	56	10,408
Publicly held, unclassified	7	374	119,128
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	770	-0.8	1.8
Government employment	169	0.3	9.5
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	121	2.3	-10.2
Female self-employment	45	14.2	12.7
Male self-employment	76	-3.6	-20.0
Minority self-employment	8	14.6	118.9
Veteran self-employment	13	-10.0	-50.6
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	4.7	-0.1†	1.9†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	8,651	4.1	13.8
Quarterly establishment closings	8,398	-2.7	17.0
Business bankruptcies	315	-0.9	173.9
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	8.7	7.8	5.3
Number of bank branches	1,092	1,089	945
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	98,027	36,478	17,483
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,522	515	363
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 Nebraska 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	117.6	41.9	35.7	40.5	779.5	144.5	397.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	2.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.7
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.6
Utilities	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	D	D	D
Construction	14.8	5.8	5.4	5.7	42.3	18.7	37.9
Manufacturing	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.5	93.8	5.9	33.3
Wholesale trade	1.7	2.3	1.5	2.0	39.4	7.2	26.2
Retail trade	13.0	5.1	4.2	4.8	106.7	21.0	46.4
Transportation and warehousing	5.8	2.1	1.8	2.0	39.7	5.6	13.8
Information	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	20.0	1.9	6.7
Finance and insurance	5.4	2.5	2.2	2.4	60.4	7.0	18.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	9.4	1.7	1.5	1.6	10.0	3.7	8.1
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	12.0	4.0	3.6	3.9	49.7	12.3	25.1
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.3	0.0	0.2	14.2	0.1	2.6
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	8.9	2.3	2.0	2.2	48.5	6.8	19.3
Educational services	2.8	0.5	0.3	0.5	18.2	1.7	9.1
Health care and social assistance	13.2	4.0	3.3	3.9	117.1	15.6	58.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5.4	0.8	0.7	0.8	11.5	2.5	8.7
Accommodation and food services	1.5	3.3	2.5	3.2	68.9	15.0	48.5
Other services (except public admin.)	18.2	5.3	4.9	5.2	35.8	18.6	32.8
Unclassified	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	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	16,232	4,437	1,182	15	1,599	523	7,756	8,476
2006 - 2007	8,295	5,268	-665	-1,156	-1,766	-875	806	7,489
2007 - 2008	9,425	5,136	-372	-771	1,863	3,245	9,101	324
2008 - 2009	-25,605	4,306	-1,005	-1,661	-3,224	-8,430	-10,014	-15,591

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	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.5	6.2	6.9	7.1	7.1
Expansions	10.4	10.8	10.8	10.7	33.7	37.7	36.1	35.7
Contractions	11.1	10.5	10.9	11.1	35.2	33.9	35.6	36.1
Closings	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	5.7	6.0	6.8	6.5

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.