

Virginia

Small businesses totaled 635,977 in Virginia in 2009. They represent 97.8 percent of all employers and employ 47.7 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Virginia's health and well-being.

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

- Virginia's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 2.1 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 0.6 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Virginia's small businesses are very small as 76.5 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 Virginia represented 93.5 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Virginia surged 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.

Virginia Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	146,863	151,505	136,588
Large employers (500+ employees)	3,262	3,303	3,149
Nonemployers	489,114	494,516	373,384
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	331	1,062	183,684
Woman-owned	192	196	25,431
Equally male/female-owned	94	176	19,616
African American-owned	63	44	4,005
Asian-owned	45	92	11,738
Hispanic-owned	29	34	4,977
Native American/Alaskan-owned	3	3	536
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	1	171
Veteran-owned	107	247	43,806
Publicly held, unclassified	22	1,607	468,730
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	2,924	-0.6	1.1
Government employment	703	0.4	12.5
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	373	20.4	27.1
Female self-employment	150	28.1	18.6
Male self-employment	222	15.8	33.5
Minority self-employment	80	31.8	-2.8
Veteran self-employment	46	34.1	-15.4
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	6.9	0.1†	4.6†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	41,067	3.8	27.8
Quarterly establishment closings	40,276	-5.7	39.7
Business bankruptcies	1,104	-7.5	35.5
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	18.9	18.4	14.2
Number of bank branches	2,684	2,671	2,448
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	9,462	134,220	92,489
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	150	1,553	1,153
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 Virginia 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	489.1	150.1	129.7	146.9	3,061.2	534.1	1,459.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	4.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	3.8	2.2	3.1
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	10.2	0.6	4.5
Utilities	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	14.7	0.1	2.0
Construction	58.9	21.4	19.6	21.3	185.7	73.1	159.3
Manufacturing	4.8	5.0	3.4	4.6	252.2	18.6	87.7
Wholesale trade	6.6	5.9	4.4	5.5	106.0	19.1	61.8
Retail trade	39.7	16.5	14.4	16.0	412.6	64.7	136.4
Transportation and warehousing	22.2	4.1	3.3	3.8	90.5	12.0	32.9
Information	7.5	1.9	1.4	1.7	99.8	5.9	25.4
Finance and insurance	14.5	5.8	5.0	5.5	158.7	15.9	43.4
Real estate and rental and leasing	53.1	6.5	5.9	6.4	55.8	16.1	35.9
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	83.0	24.3	21.4	23.8	407.4	69.4	200.6
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.8	0.1	0.5	58.2	0.3	8.2
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	41.0	8.9	7.4	8.5	234.3	28.6	101.3
Educational services	15.8	2.3	1.8	2.3	68.1	7.9	38.1
Health care and social assistance	35.5	13.9	11.6	13.7	384.4	61.8	184.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	26.5	2.5	2.1	2.5	51.0	7.9	30.8
Accommodation and food services	6.4	11.6	9.1	11.3	302.9	53.9	163.8
Other services (except public admin.)	68.1	19.5	17.9	19.3	164.4	75.6	139.7
Unclassified	--	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	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	115,604	28,557	9,278	9,924	25,161	14,030	86,950	28,654
2006 - 2007	10,182	23,135	358	-2,062	-11,637	-10,350	-556	10,738
2007 - 2008	-8,714	18,820	-1,040	-1,360	1,421	5,181	23,022	-31,736
2008 - 2009	-127,810	9,145	-8,582	-11,746	-29,327	-36,469	-76,979	-50,831

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	8.9	10.8	10.3	11.2	27.3	35.6	33.3	36.4
Expansions	36.7	39.8	38.1	39.3	124.0	150.9	139.8	141.5
Contractions	40.9	38.6	39.8	39.5	132.0	135.5	142.8	136.3
Closings	10.3	9.9	10.1	10.0	30.0	31.4	33.7	30.7

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.