



# OFFICE OF ADVOCACY NEWSRELEASE

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## **Small Business Laid Foundation For Job Gains** ***New Report Details Small Business Data For 2003***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Conditions favorable for entrepreneurship in 2003 laid the foundation for the job gains of 2004, according to a new report issued today by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). *Small Business Economic Indicators for 2003* notes that “important economic indicators advanced throughout the year” so that “the outlook for future small business expansion was positive at the end of 2003.”

“Small business plays a key role in our economy,” said Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy. “Entrepreneurs launch new ideas and they propel our economy’s evolution. This dynamic risk-taking results in 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs, so when economic conditions are favorable for growth, job gains are not far behind. That is exactly what has happened.”

The report compiles data that indicate the health of small business including macroeconomic statistics, financial information, employment data, and business births and terminations by state. The annual report makes the data available for economists, researchers, and policymakers in an easily accessible and useable spreadsheet format.

The report found that 2003 saw an estimated 572,900 employer firm births and 554,800 terminations. This dynamic resulted in a net increase in employer firms of 18,100, or 0.3 percent, while the number of non-incorporated self-employed rose by 369,000, or 3.7 percent. The report also confirmed that by year’s end interest rates were low and banks had relaxed lending standards, which set the stage for an uptick in job creation and employment.

The Office of Advocacy, the “small business watchdog” of the government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to federal agencies, Congress, and the President. It is the source for small business statistics presented in user-friendly formats and it funds research into small business issues.

For more information and a full copy of the report, visit the Office of Advocacy website at [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo).

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*Created by Congress in 1976, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. Appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy directs the office. The Chief Counsel advances the views, concerns, and interests of small business before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. Economic research, policy analyses, and small business outreach help identify issues of concern. Regional Advocates and an office in Washington, DC, support the Chief Counsel’s efforts. For more information on the Office of Advocacy, visit [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo), or call (202) 205-6533.*