

Washington

Washington's 147,948 small employers and 412,651 nonemployers make significant contributions to the state's economy, and they bring innovative products and services to the marketplace.* They are an important source of employment and opportunity throughout the state. This profile by the Office of Advocacy uses the latest statistics to describe the small business contribution in the greatest possible detail. (Note: A small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Washington's real gross state product increased by 2.0% and private-sector employment increased by 0.5% in 2008. By comparison, real GDP growth in the United States was 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 0.7%.
- The health care and social assistance industry was the state's largest small business and overall employer in 2006 (Table 1).
- Small businesses are a major force in the state's net job change, as shown in Table 2.
- The number of small employers in Washington was 147,948 in 2006, accounting for 98.2% of the state's employers and 55.7% of its private-sector employment. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Bureau of the Census.)

For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories is available at www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles.
- For other small business data and analysis, visit www.sba.gov/advo/research, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov.
- Visit <http://web.sba.gov/list> to subscribe to listservs for Advocacy's newsletter, press releases, regulatory news, and research reports.
- For RSS feeds, visit www.sba.gov/advo/rsslibrary.html

* Small employer data from 2006; nonemployer from 2007.

Washington Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	147,948	135,598
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	2,656	2,630
Nonemployers	412,651	392,470	326,397
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997–2002
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	238,041	50.9	16.3
Woman-owned	137,394	29.4	11.7
Equally male/female-owned	75,315	16.1	-31.4
African American-owned	6,982	1.5	25.7
Asian-owned	26,890	5.8	17.5
Hispanic-owned	10,261	2.2	2.5
Native American/Alaskan-owned	5,731	1.2	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	728	0.2	73.3
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	2,430	0.5	8.1
Government employment	521	2.4	13.6
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	392	2.7	30.1
Female self-employment	164	6.6	13.6
Male self-employment	228	0.1	45.4
Minority self-employment	38	-13.5	83.7
Veteran self-employment	59	31.4	29.2
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3	0.8	0.3
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	31,858	-5.0	-20.1
Quarterly establishment closings	34,402	7.5	-16.4
Business bankruptcies	714	49.7	-0.4
	2008‡	2007	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	20.7	20.7	14.1
Number of bank branches	1,925	1,898	1,691
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	280,522	75,057
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	3,126	915
Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy (www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbl_08study.pdf , Table 4b.) n.a. not available.			
† Latest available data; certain figures are economywide. ‡ Data are for CRA loans.			

**Table 1. Firms and Employment in Washington by Industry and Firm Size, 2006 and 2007
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms (2007)	Employer Firms (2006)			Employment (2006)		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	412.7	150.6	132.5	147.9	2,421.3	519.9	1,349.2
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	7.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	13.4	4.0	10.8
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	3.3	(D)	1.7
Utilities	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.3	(D)	1.6
Construction	36.4	24.9	23.1	24.9	184.5	80.2	167.5
Manufacturing	8.6	7.1	5.2	6.8	257.6	26.8	123.6
Wholesale trade	7.9	8.0	6.1	7.5	130.2	25.6	80.2
Retail trade	39.9	15.9	13.7	15.4	328.9	62.0	143.5
Transportation and warehousing	16.8	4.2	3.4	4.0	83.7	12.4	36.7
Information	6.6	2.0	1.5	1.9	109.9	6.1	23.0
Finance and insurance	13.6	5.7	4.9	5.4	123.3	15.0	42.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	52.6	8.6	8.1	8.5	52.2	21.0	38.9
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	72.4	18.2	16.5	17.8	157.1	50.5	107.4
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.7	0.1	0.4	59.6	0.3	6.7
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	28.1	7.9	6.9	7.7	141.0	25.5	67.4
Educational services	11.9	2.0	1.6	2.0	46.3	7.0	26.8
Health care and social assistance	32.0	15.1	13.2	14.9	329.5	61.1	173.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	24.4	2.6	2.1	2.5	58.7	8.2	43.1
Accommodation and food services	4.7	12.5	10.3	12.3	225.9	57.8	157.6
Other services (except public admin.)	48.2	14.7	13.5	14.5	109.2	54.5	96.2
Unclassified	--	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	(D)	0.7

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html 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, 2003–2006 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2003 - 2004	-24,406	26,426	8,051	3,433	5,171	8,042	51,123	-75,529
2004 - 2005	45,826	25,048	6,923	2,677	2,962	5,665	43,275	2,551
2005 - 2006	105,310	28,436	8,846	9,045	19,193	12,810	78,330	26,980

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. (For more detailed data see www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html.)

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2008 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment Change Due To:			
	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Quarter 1	8.9	38.5	38.5	6.8	32.0	153.7	142.3	25.6
Quarter 2	7.1	37.0	39.6	10.3	20.8	139.4	151.9	36.8
Quarter 3	8.1	36.2	38.6	7.7	26.8	145.4	138.3	24.7
Quarter 4	7.7	32.6	41.1	9.6	27.4	129.3	172.1	31.9

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics. (For more detailed data see www.bls.gov/bdm/home.htm.)

Note: These figures contain all firm sizes; Census data from 2006 show that 86 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.