

Arkansas

Arkansas's 51,886 small employers and 195,459 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.)

- Arkansas's real gross state product increased by 0.7% and private-sector employment decreased 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 employer in 2006; manufacturing was the largest overall employer (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 Arkansas was 51,886 in 2006, accounting for 97.0% of the state's employers and 48.8% 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.

Arkansas Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	51,886	50,837
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	1,605	1,568
Nonemployers	195,459	187,733	152,871
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997–2002
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	118,827	56.9	16.6
Woman-owned	49,618	23.7	16.5
Equally male/female-owned	33,624	16.1	-25.7
African American-owned	8,942	4.3	33
Asian-owned	2,013	1.0	34
Hispanic-owned	2,094	1.0	-19.0
Native American/Alaskan-owned	2,278	1.1	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	61	0.0	117.9
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	971	-0.5	2.0
Government employment	201	1.5	12.3
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	156	-2.0	25.1
Female self-employment	55	0.0	52.9
Male self-employment	101	-3.0	13.9
Minority self-employment	7	-26.9	-19.5
Veteran self-employment	16	-14.6	-26.2
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	-	0.9
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	12,955	-0.7	16.3
Quarterly establishment closings	12,728	2.9	17.5
Business bankruptcies	497	25.2	90.4
	2008‡	2007	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	7.2	7.0	4.9
Number of bank branches	1,513	1,490	1,247
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	87,427	38,242
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	980	579
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 Arkansas 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	195.5	53.5	46.0	51.9	1,042.0	193.0	508.3
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	4.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	5.5	3.2	4.4
Mining	1.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	5.0	1.0	2.5
Utilities	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	7.1	0.5	2.9
Construction	35.8	6.5	5.9	6.4	53.9	23.3	49.4
Manufacturing	2.7	2.8	1.8	2.5	200.6	10.1	52.6
Wholesale trade	3.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	48.8	10.0	28.2
Retail trade	19.3	8.0	7.0	7.8	145.0	33.0	62.9
Transportation and warehousing	11.6	2.3	1.9	2.1	63.0	6.8	17.7
Information	1.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	23.6	2.1	5.0
Finance and insurance	6.6	2.5	2.1	2.3	37.9	6.1	19.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	16.8	2.5	2.3	2.5	14.3	6.0	10.1
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	17.3	5.2	4.9	5.1	38.2	15.9	27.6
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.3	0.0	0.2	29.8	0.1	3.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	18.8	2.2	1.8	2.1	52.6	6.8	25.0
Educational services	3.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	12.9	1.5	8.6
Health care and social assistance	11.9	5.5	4.7	5.4	159.0	22.4	79.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	9.2	2.7	7.7
Accommodation and food services	2.6	3.9	2.9	3.8	90.2	17.5	61.9
Other services (except public admin.)	32.1	6.4	6.0	6.4	45.2	23.9	40.5
Unclassified	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2

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.)

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	18,701	8,507	3,986	2,446	1,776	-341	16,374	2,327
2004 - 2005	12,442	6,665	1,330	-1,367	-3,848	828	3,608	8,834
2005 - 2006	25,011	8,100	2,049	1,113	4,602	5,973	21,837	3,174

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	3.5	14.2	14.5	3.1	11.2	46.4	46.0	9.7
Quarter 2	3.1	13.5	15.0	3.2	10.9	45.0	51.7	10.2
Quarter 3	3.1	13.8	14.4	3.2	11.7	47.6	48.2	12.0
Quarter 4	3.3	13.1	15.3	3.2	10.7	43.5	54.8	10.5

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.