

Georgia

Georgia's 177,445 small employers and 738,158 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.)

- Georgia's real gross state product decreased by 0.6% and private-sector employment decreased by 1.8% in 2008. By comparison, real GDP growth in the United States was 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 0.7%.
- The accommodation and food services industry was the state's largest small business employer in 2006; retail trade 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 Georgia was 177,445 in 2006, accounting for 97.9% of the state's employers and 46.3% 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.

Georgia Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	177,445	156,507
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	3,855	3,933
Nonemployers	738,158	690,191	468,430
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997–2002
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	395,156	58.6	20.3
Woman-owned	196,195	29.1	34.8
Equally male/female-owned	64,669	9.6	-21.9
African American-owned	90,461	13.4	62.2
Asian-owned	26,925	4.0	49.9
Hispanic-owned	18,310	2.7	55.9
Native American/Alaskan-owned	4,453	0.7	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	176	0.0	-12.4
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	3,344	-1.8	1.6
Government employment	687	2.4	16.2
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	502	2.1	25.5
Female self-employment	157	-3.6	11.7
Male self-employment	345	5.0	33.0
Minority self-employment	104	13.3	40.4
Veteran self-employment	60	12.1	19.6
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	1.6	2.7
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	58,477	-9.0	20.0
Quarterly establishment closings	62,111	1.4	46.9
Business bankruptcies	2,237	53.6	121.0
	2008‡	2007	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	27.3	27.2	19.2
Number of bank branches	2,873	2,813	2,329
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	388,260	139,331
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	4,011	1,902
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 Georgia 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	738.2	181.3	157.3	177.4	3,623.2	605.2	1,679.3
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	5.5	1.1	0.9	1.0	8.2	4.5	7.8
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.6	0.5	2.3
Utilities	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	21.2	0.3	5.8
Construction	109.6	22.8	20.6	22.6	213.8	76.8	182.6
Manufacturing	8.9	7.6	5.1	6.9	430.7	27.5	148.7
Wholesale trade	12.2	12.0	9.2	11.2	207.2	38.1	112.9
Retail trade	59.6	22.9	20.4	22.3	478.5	81.5	170.7
Transportation and warehousing	37.1	5.2	4.2	4.9	164.1	14.0	44.8
Information	9.4	2.3	1.8	2.1	124.4	6.6	26.7
Finance and insurance	22.0	8.4	7.2	8.0	179.3	22.8	65.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	76.5	9.7	9.0	9.5	67.1	20.9	43.5
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	92.0	25.8	23.5	25.3	222.4	67.4	144.3
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.1	0.1	0.6	111.2	0.4	10.9
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	79.2	10.3	8.6	9.8	355.0	31.1	116.8
Educational services	16.2	2.1	1.7	2.1	72.2	6.7	33.2
Health care and social assistance	52.3	16.7	14.4	16.5	408.4	72.2	194.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30.4	2.6	2.2	2.5	41.9	8.4	27.9
Accommodation and food services	11.6	13.0	9.8	12.7	354.3	54.5	205.3
Other services (except public admin.)	115.0	19.5	17.8	19.3	155.9	70.2	134.9
Unclassified	--	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8

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	65,566	33,430	15,434	9,841	13,874	12,787	85,366	-19,800
2004 - 2005	34,159	26,151	5,844	1,304	-3,370	7,654	37,583	-3,424
2005 - 2006	137,318	31,265	14,044	13,231	29,486	10,800	98,826	38,492

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	16.0	43.5	46.7	15.3	71.3	170.6	191.1	57.6
Quarter 2	13.9	41.6	49.0	15.5	61.0	174.5	196.0	69.8
Quarter 3	13.5	40.8	47.9	14.6	60.8	162.3	198.0	61.4
Quarter 4	15.1	38.0	50.9	16.7	61.6	153.0	227.5	71.6

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.