

West Virginia

Small businesses totaled 116,970 in West Virginia in 2009. They represent 96.1 percent of all employers and employ 53.4 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to West Virginia's health and well-being.

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

- West Virginia's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 2.7 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 0.4 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of West Virginia's small businesses are very small as 74.6 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 305,711 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 West Virginia represented 53.1 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in West Virginia surged over the last decade. Female self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups during the decade.*
- Throughout 2010, the number of opening establishments was lower than closing establishments and the net employment change from this turnover was negative (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.

West Virginia Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	28,889	29,697	32,356
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,165	1,176	1,140
Nonemployers	88,081	90,727	81,838
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$M)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	62	205	33,571
Woman-owned	34	36	4,181
Equally male/female-owned	19	33	4,614
African American-owned	--	--	--
Asian-owned	2	4	519
Hispanic-owned	1	1	150
Native American/Alaskan-owned	--	--	--
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	0	-	-
Veteran-owned	22	44	7,868
Publicly held, unclassified	5	292	69,141
	Level in 2010*	% Change from 2009 2000	
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	593	-0.4	0.1
Government employment	153	2.0	6.9
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	56	21.7	24.1
Female self-employment	20	-2.2	80.9
Male self-employment	37	40.0	6.2
Minority self-employment	2	-9.1	-14.0
Veteran self-employment	8	112.0	-1.3
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	9.1	1.4†	3.6†
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	6,179	0.2	-9.1
Quarterly establishment closings	6,811	-2.1	-5.3
Business bankruptcies	235	16.3	-15.2
	2010*	2009	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	3.7	3.3	2.9
Number of bank branches	664	668	621
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	58,848	29,732	13,648
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	920	373	196
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 West 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	88.1	30.1	25.3	28.9	573.0	114.6	305.7
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.8
Mining	3.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	31.6	1.8	11.4
Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.5	D	0.5
Construction	9.9	3.8	3.5	3.8	27.8	13.1	26.1
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	55.4	4.9	22.2
Wholesale trade	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.1	19.3	4.1	12.2
Retail trade	10.2	4.1	3.4	3.9	89.9	17.2	37.2
Transportation and warehousing	3.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	15.5	3.6	8.5
Information	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	10.7	0.9	2.8
Finance and insurance	2.4	1.2	0.9	1.1	20.0	3.5	9.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	7.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	6.4	3.3	4.7
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	9.2	2.7	2.3	2.6	24.7	9.1	19.8
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.2	0.0	0.1	4.6	D	1.5
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	7.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	30.5	4.3	14.7
Educational services	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	7.7	1.0	5.2
Health care and social assistance	8.2	3.5	2.8	3.4	122.6	15.9	58.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	11.4	2.8	6.1
Accommodation and food services	1.3	2.7	2.1	2.6	61.3	12.3	39.9
Other services (except public admin.)	14.3	4.3	4.1	4.3	26.3	15.9	24.1
Unclassified	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

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	17,781	4,358	1,247	304	2,911	2,644	11,464	6,317
2006 - 2007	-5,676	4,239	-818	-656	-4,405	-4,457	-6,097	421
2007 - 2008	10,870	2,805	595	-94	1,494	2,044	6,844	4,026
2008 - 2009	-19,258	2,362	-1,354	-1,957	-3,658	-2,914	-7,521	-11,737

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	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.7	5.7	5.6	5.8	4.9
Expansions	8.4	9.1	8.8	9.0	27.6	31.5	30.4	29.4
Contractions	9.0	8.7	8.9	8.9	29.4	28.4	28.4	29.2
Closings	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	5.0	7.5	5.3	6.3

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.