

## Colorado

Small businesses totaled 530,913 in Colorado in 2009. They represent 97.6 percent of all employers and employ 49.3 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Colorado's health and well-being.

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

- Colorado's economy struggled in 2010, with real gross state product decreasing 0.9 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 1.5 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Colorado's small businesses are very small as 76.3 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 988,785 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 Colorado represented 60.8 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Colorado surged over the last decade. Minority 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 positive (Table 3).

### For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories are available at [www.sba.gov/advocacy/848](http://www.sba.gov/advocacy/848).
- For other small business data and analysis, visit [www.sba.gov/advocacy/847](http://www.sba.gov/advocacy/847), call (202) 205-6533, or email [advocacy@sba.gov](mailto: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.

### Colorado Small Business Facts

	2009*	2008	2000
<b>Number of Businesses</b>			
Small employers (<500 employees)	123,774	127,264	113,327
Large employers (500+ employees)	2,997	3,033	2,896
Nonemployers	407,139	414,663	333,364
<b>Level in 2007* (000)</b>			
	<b>Firms</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Receipts(\$M)</b>
<b>Business Owner Demographics</b>			
Male-owned	264	703	135,252
Woman-owned	160	138	18,789
Equally male/female-owned	102	147	18,464
African American-owned	9	6	800
Asian-owned	14	27	2,981
Hispanic-owned	34	38	5,634
Native American/Alaskan-owned	5	3	580
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	1	0	28
Veteran-owned	74	132	29,033
Publicly held, unclassified	22	1,033	290,332
	<b>Level in 2010*</b>	<b>% Change from 2009 2000</b>	
<b>Workforce (Thousands)</b>			
Private-sector employment	1,827	-1.5	-2.7
Government employment	393	0.6	16.6
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	351	-0.3	34.9
Female self-employment	131	-4.8	25.2
Male self-employment	220	2.5	41.3
Minority self-employment	43	-33.1	42.8
Veteran self-employment	27	-21.2	-11.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (Percent)</b>	8.9	0.6†	6.2‡
<b>Business Turnover</b>			
Quarterly establishment openings	36,495	1.6	13.3
Quarterly establishment closings	37,768	-6.7	36.4
Business bankruptcies	1,361	-4.2	264.9
	<b>2010*</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Income and Finance</b>			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	21.3	19.5	16.4
Number of bank branches	1,662	1,661	1,265
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	102,801	144,378	76,755
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	1,521	1,961	905
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 Colorado 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	407.1	126.8	112.0	123.8	2,005.6	398.7	988.8
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	3.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.4	0.7	1.4
Mining	3.5	1.2	0.9	1.1	25.1	3.6	11.2
Utilities	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.9	0.4	2.6
Construction	49.4	17.8	16.4	17.6	141.4	52.3	111.9
Manufacturing	6.5	4.8	3.7	4.5	121.9	17.4	58.1
Wholesale trade	6.6	6.1	4.6	5.6	97.7	17.7	49.1
Retail trade	33.9	12.3	10.8	11.8	246.7	45.9	88.6
Transportation and warehousing	12.7	2.9	2.4	2.7	59.8	7.5	18.8
Information	6.7	1.9	1.5	1.7	79.7	5.4	18.4
Finance and insurance	15.9	6.2	5.4	5.9	99.0	14.3	35.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	47.5	7.8	7.3	7.7	43.2	16.8	28.4
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	72.4	22.0	20.4	21.6	168.1	52.8	100.0
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.7	0.1	0.4	44.1	0.2	6.4
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	30.0	7.4	6.3	7.1	205.5	21.9	64.9
Educational services	11.1	2.0	1.7	2.0	42.3	6.4	24.7
Health care and social assistance	30.5	11.7	10.3	11.5	252.8	44.4	130.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	22.8	2.3	2.0	2.2	46.9	6.5	25.1
Accommodation and food services	4.7	9.1	6.9	8.9	224.6	42.5	136.1
Other services (except public admin.)	48.9	11.6	10.6	11.5	96.0	41.6	77.1
Unclassified	--	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See [www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162](http://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	81,182	21,476	6,528	7,229	10,272	13,013	58,518	22,664
2006 - 2007	50,732	21,459	1,410	459	1,646	-4,312	20,662	30,070
2007 - 2008	31,364	18,026	210	-1,440	-3,286	6,658	20,168	11,196
2008 - 2009	-118,971	7,114	-9,094	-11,674	-30,236	-20,533	-64,423	-54,548

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. (For more detailed data see [www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162](http://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	8.5	9.0	8.4	10.6	25.8	27.5	24.5	30.5
Expansions	27.1	28.6	28.5	28.2	91.9	107.5	99.3	100.1
Contractions	29.7	28.1	28.0	27.7	97.4	98.6	97.0	94.4
Closings	10.3	8.9	9.3	9.3	26.8	26.8	26.8	25.3

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