

## District of Columbia

The District of Columbia's 15,896 small employers and 42,428 nonemployers make significant contributions to the district's economy, and they bring innovative products and services to the marketplace.\* They are an important source of employment and opportunity throughout the district. 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.)

- The District of Columbia's real gross state product increased by 3.0% and private-sector employment increased by 0.9% in 2008. By comparison, real GDP growth in the United States was 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 0.7%.
- The other services (except public administration) industry was the district's largest small business employer in 2006; professional, scientific, and technical services was the largest overall employer (Table 1).
- Small businesses are a major force in the district's net job change, as shown in Table 2.
- The number of small employers in the District of Columbia was 15,896 in 2006, accounting for 93.1% of the district's employers and 48.2% 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](http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles).
- For other small business data and analysis, visit [www.sba.gov/advo/research](http://www.sba.gov/advo/research), call (202) 205-6533, or email [advocacy@sba.gov](mailto: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](http://www.sba.gov/advo/rsslibrary.html)

### District of Columbia Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
<b>Number of Businesses</b>			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	15,896	15,243
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	1,173	1,085
Nonemployers	42,428	40,487	32,941
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997–2002
<b>Business Owner Demographics</b>			
Male-owned	24,616	52.2	6.6
Woman-owned	15,675	33.2	12.1
Equally male/female-owned	2,626	5.6	-32.9
African American-owned	12,198	25.9	11.8
Asian-owned	2,411	5.1	-
Hispanic-owned	2,169	4.6	0.7
Native American/Alaskan-owned	220	0.5	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	48	n.a.	336.4
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
<b>Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)</b>			
Private-sector employment	453	0.9	8.1
Government employment	232	1.4	6.4
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	27	0.5	37.5
Female self-employment	10	-16.1	11.8
Male self-employment	17	13.1	57.9
Minority self-employment	9	-6.1	22.5
Veteran self-employment	3	3.9	-20.6
Unemployment rate (%)	7.0	1.5	1.3
<b>Business Turnover</b>			
Quarterly establishment openings	4,385	-13.6	-12.3
Quarterly establishment closings	4,776	-6.1	-0.6
Business bankruptcies	47	30.6	-19.0
	2008‡	2007	2000
<b>Income and Finance</b>			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	4.9	4.6	2.7
Number of bank branches	228	229	203
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	23,523	2,890
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	242	30
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 ( <a href="http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbl_08study.pdf">www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbl_08study.pdf</a> , Table 4b.) n.a. not available.			
† Latest available data; certain figures are economywide. ‡ Data are for CRA loans.			

**Table 1. Firms and Employment in District of Columbia 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	42.4	17.1	12.9	15.9	446.6	56.5	215.2
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	(D)	(D)
Construction	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.4	6.2	1.4	(D)
Manufacturing	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.7	0.5	(D)
Wholesale trade	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	6.0	1.0	2.8
Retail trade	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.4	20.1	5.1	8.7
Transportation and warehousing	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.7	(D)	(D)
Information	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	23.3	1.1	5.3
Finance and insurance	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.5	19.6	1.4	4.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	4.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	9.6	2.0	6.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	12.3	4.2	3.3	3.9	88.5	12.4	40.9
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.2	0.0	0.1	4.1	0.1	1.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	2.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	30.2	1.9	17.6
Educational services	2.0	0.5	0.3	0.4	47.5	1.6	12.4
Health care and social assistance	3.6	1.8	1.4	1.7	60.6	6.5	24.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	7.2	0.8	4.9
Accommodation and food services	0.7	1.6	1.1	1.5	49.4	6.3	25.3
Other services (except public admin.)	4.2	3.5	2.8	3.5	66.6	13.9	52.4
Unclassified	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	(D)	(D)	(D)

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See [www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html](http://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	13,231	1,506	287	-71	2,434	2,833	6,989	6,242
2004 - 2005	3,266	2,316	796	710	2,052	465	6,339	-3,073
2005 - 2006	6,510	2,346	1,431	1,055	5,807	2,155	12,794	-6,284

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. (For more detailed data see [www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html](http://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	1.1	4.7	4.6	1.2	4.7	22.9	20.1	4.9
Quarter 2	1.0	4.6	4.6	1.1	6.4	23.2	22.0	4.5
Quarter 3	1.2	4.7	4.6	1.1	4.7	22.9	21.6	4.7
Quarter 4	1.1	4.4	4.9	1.3	5.3	19.6	25.0	5.3

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