

## West Virginia

West Virginia's small businesses are key to the state's well-being. They account for a significant share of the state's economic production and hiring. This profile from the Office of Advocacy uses the latest available data to illustrate the status and contributions of West Virginia small businesses. (Note that a small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Small businesses totaled 120,424 in the state in 2008. Of these, 29,697 were employers, and they accounted for 53.0% of private-sector jobs in the state (Table 1). Small firms made up 96.2% of the state's employers.
- West Virginia's real gross state product increased by 2.5% and private-sector employment decreased by 3.5% in 2009. By comparison, real GDP in the United States grew 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 5.5%.
- Business ownership is becoming more inclusive in the state. The number of both women and minority business owners has grown. In particular, minority-owned businesses numbered 4,511 in 2007, a 22.4% increase over 2002.
- The state's small business employment has undergone major shifts in recent years (Table 2).
- The state's businesses showed signs of stability and improvement in the fourth quarter of 2009 compared to the first quarter (Table 3).

### For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories is 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.

### West Virginia Small Business Facts

	2008*	2007	2000
<b>Number of Businesses</b>			
Small employers (<500 employees)	29,697	30,769	32,356
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,176	1,154	1,140
Nonemployers	90,727	93,236	81,838
	<b>Level in 2007*</b>	<b>% Share in 2007</b>	<b>% Change 2002-2007</b>
<b>Business Owner Demographics</b>			
Male-owned	62,569	51.9	-2.1
Woman-owned	33,797	28.0	8.0
Equally male/female-owned	19,485	16.2	55.7
African American-owned	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Asian-owned	1,602	1.3	29.8
Hispanic-owned	896	0.7	38.3
Native American/Alaskan-owned	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	10	0.0	0.0
Veteran-owned	15,155	12.6	n.a.
	<b>Level in 2009*</b>	<b>% Change from 2008 2000</b>	
<b>Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)</b>			
Private-sector employment	552	-3.5	0.2
Government employment	138	1.6	3.4
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	61	14.3	-1.4
Female self-employment	21	14.4	-9.8
Male self-employment	40	14.3	3.7
Minority self-employment	3	15.7	67.4
Veteran self-employment	7	15.7	-37.4
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	3.6†	2.4†
<b>Business Turnover</b>			
Quarterly establishment openings	5,970	-2.5	-12.4
Quarterly establishment closings	6,888	1.4	-4.2
Business bankruptcies	202	13.5	-27.1
	<b>2009*</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Income and Finance</b>			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	4.1	4.3	2.4
Number of bank branches	668	664	621
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	29,732	34,128	13,648
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	373	410	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, 2008  
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	90.7	30.9	26.0	29.7	592.0	117.8	312.1
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.9	1.0
Mining	3.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	28.9	1.8	11.0
Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	6.5	D	D
Construction	10.5	4.1	3.7	4.0	32.2	14.3	29.2
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.1	59.7	5.0	22.4
Wholesale trade	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.1	20.5	4.4	13.0
Retail trade	10.7	4.3	3.5	4.0	92.8	17.7	39.2
Transportation and warehousing	4.3	1.2	1.0	1.1	17.2	3.8	9.0
Information	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	10.7	1.0	3.7
Finance and insurance	2.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	20.7	3.5	9.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	7.9	1.2	1.1	1.2	6.9	3.4	5.0
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	9.4	2.7	2.4	2.6	28.9	9.2	18.5
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.2	0.0	0.1	4.1	0.0	1.4
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	7.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	31.8	4.5	13.4
Educational services	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	8.2	0.9	4.9
Health care and social assistance	7.9	3.6	2.9	3.5	120.3	16.2	59.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	11.7	2.6	6.2
Accommodation and food services	1.3	2.7	2.1	2.6	63.1	12.0	40.0
Other services (except public admin.)	14.6	4.4	4.1	4.3	26.8	16.2	24.6
Unclassified	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	D	D	D

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.)

(D) Data suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual firms.

**Table 2: Net Job Change by Firm Size, 2004–2007 (Nonfarm)**

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2004 - 2005	-3,339	4,547	624	-398	-2,503	-3,592	-1,322	-2,017
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	421	-6,097

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, 2009 (Nonfarm, Thousands)**

	Establishments				Employment Change Due To:			
	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Quarter 1	1.6	8.5	9.8	1.8	6.4	27.7	36.1	7.1
Quarter 2	1.4	8.3	9.8	1.7	5.3	27.6	37.3	7.1
Quarter 3	1.3	8.6	9.2	1.7	5.4	27.3	31.8	5.6
Quarter 4	1.7	8.7	9.0	1.7	5.4	31.6	28.7	6.2

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 2007 show that 86 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.