

Nebraska

Small businesses totaled 158,052 in Nebraska in 2009. They represent 96.6 percent of all employers and employ 51 percent of the private-sector workforce. Being such a large part of the state's economy, these businesses are central to Nebraska's health and well-being.

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

- Nebraska's economy was mixed in 2010, with real gross state product increasing 0.4 percent and private-sector employment decreasing 0.8 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Most of Nebraska's small businesses are very small as 73.7 percent of all businesses did not have employees and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses employed 397,385 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 Nebraska represented 52 percent of the net new private-sector jobs from 2005-2008.
- Self-employment in Nebraska declined 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 higher 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.
- 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.

Nebraska Small Business Facts

| | 2009* | 2008 | 2000 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Number of Businesses | | | |
| Small employers (<500 employees) | 40,456 | 40,885 | 40,101 |
| Large employers (500+ employees) | 1,405 | 1,417 | 1,312 |
| Nonemployers | 117,596 | 120,019 | 103,272 |
| Level in 2007* (000) | | | |
| | Firms | Employment | Receipts(\$M) |
| Business Owner Demographics | | | |
| Male-owned | 71 | 274 | 52,380 |
| Woman-owned | 41 | 47 | 5,782 |
| Equally male/female-owned | 40 | 72 | 8,493 |
| African American-owned | 3 | 1 | 130 |
| Asian-owned | 2 | 5 | 430 |
| Hispanic-owned | 3 | 3 | 711 |
| Native American/Alaskan-owned | 1 | 0 | 39 |
| Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned | 0 | -- | -- |
| Veteran-owned | 27 | 56 | 10,408 |
| Publicly held, unclassified | 7 | 374 | 119,128 |
| | Level in 2010* | % Change from 2009 2000 | |
| Workforce (Thousands) | | | |
| Private-sector employment | 770 | -0.8 | 1.8 |
| Government employment | 169 | 0.3 | 9.5 |
| Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.) | 121 | 2.3 | -10.2 |
| Female self-employment | 45 | 14.2 | 12.7 |
| Male self-employment | 76 | -3.6 | -20.0 |
| Minority self-employment | 8 | 14.6 | 118.9 |
| Veteran self-employment | 13 | -10.0 | -50.6 |
| Unemployment Rate (Percent) | 4.7 | -0.1† | 1.9† |
| Business Turnover | | | |
| Quarterly establishment openings | 8,651 | 4.1 | 13.8 |
| Quarterly establishment closings | 8,398 | -2.7 | 17.0 |
| Business bankruptcies | 315 | -0.9 | 173.9 |
| | 2010* | 2009 | 2000 |
| Income and Finance | | | |
| Proprietors' income (\$billion) | 8.7 | 7.8 | 5.3 |
| Number of bank branches | 1,092 | 1,089 | 945 |
| No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡ | 98,027 | 36,478 | 17,483 |
| Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡ | 1,522 | 515 | 363 |
| 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 Nebraska 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 | 117.6 | 41.9 | 35.7 | 40.5 | 779.5 | 144.5 | 397.4 |
| Forestry, etc. and agriculture support | 2.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| Mining | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Utilities | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | D | D | D |
| Construction | 14.8 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 42.3 | 18.7 | 37.9 |
| Manufacturing | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 93.8 | 5.9 | 33.3 |
| Wholesale trade | 1.7 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 39.4 | 7.2 | 26.2 |
| Retail trade | 13.0 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 106.7 | 21.0 | 46.4 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 5.8 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 39.7 | 5.6 | 13.8 |
| Information | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 20.0 | 1.9 | 6.7 |
| Finance and insurance | 5.4 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 60.4 | 7.0 | 18.5 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 9.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 10.0 | 3.7 | 8.1 |
| Professional, scientific, and technical svcs. | 12.0 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 49.7 | 12.3 | 25.1 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -- | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 14.2 | 0.1 | 2.6 |
| Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs. | 8.9 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 48.5 | 6.8 | 19.3 |
| Educational services | 2.8 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 18.2 | 1.7 | 9.1 |
| Health care and social assistance | 13.2 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 117.1 | 15.6 | 58.7 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 5.4 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 11.5 | 2.5 | 8.7 |
| Accommodation and food services | 1.5 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 68.9 | 15.0 | 48.5 |
| Other services (except public admin.) | 18.2 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 35.8 | 18.6 | 32.8 |
| 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/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, 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 | 16,232 | 4,437 | 1,182 | 15 | 1,599 | 523 | 7,756 | 8,476 |
| 2006 - 2007 | 8,295 | 5,268 | -665 | -1,156 | -1,766 | -875 | 806 | 7,489 |
| 2007 - 2008 | 9,425 | 5,136 | -372 | -771 | 1,863 | 3,245 | 9,101 | 324 |
| 2008 - 2009 | -25,605 | 4,306 | -1,005 | -1,661 | -3,224 | -8,430 | -10,014 | -15,591 |

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 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Expansions | 10.4 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 33.7 | 37.7 | 36.1 | 35.7 |
| Contractions | 11.1 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 11.1 | 35.2 | 33.9 | 35.6 | 36.1 |
| Closings | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 6.5 |

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.