

South Carolina

Small businesses significantly impact South Carolina's economy. They represent 97.0 percent of all employers and employ 48.4 percent of the private-sector labor force. Small businesses are crucial to the fiscal condition of the state and numbered 372,104 in 2010.

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

- South Carolina's economy was strong in 2011, with real gross state product increasing 3.4 percent and private-sector employment increasing 1.9 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Small businesses employed 727,761 workers in 2010 (Table 1) with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.
- The employment situation from 2007-2010 was weak, and small businesses in South Carolina had a net job loss (Table 2). The unemployment rate in 2010-2011 decreased by 0.9 percent.
- Most of South Carolina's small businesses are very small as 78.9 percent of all businesses have no employees, and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- In 2011, the number of opening establishments was higher than closing establishments, and the net employment change from this turnover was positive (Table 3).
- Self-employment in South Carolina declined over the last decade. Female self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups.

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 www.sba.gov/updates to subscribe to Advocacy's Listservs.

South Carolina Small Business Facts

	2010*	2009	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	76,530	77,781	76,142
Large employers (500+ employees)	2,353	2,326	2,218
Nonemployers	295,574	288,446	206,770
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms	Employment	Receipts(\$M)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	199	617	101,285
Woman-owned	99	100	12,016
Equally male/female-owned	50	88	10,214
African American-owned	44	19	1,262
Asian-owned	7	20	2,431
Hispanic-owned	6	9	1,613
Native American/Alaskan-owned	2	5	246
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	-	-	-
Veteran-owned	66	162	25,856
Publicly held, unclassified	12	748	193,410
	Level in 2011*	% Change from	
		2010	2000
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	1,492	1.9	-3.0
Government employment	340	-2.0	5.0
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	174	-6.4	-15.2
Female self-employment	53	-11.3	5.2
Male self-employment	121	-4.2	-21.8
Minority self-employment	35	7.1	-21.1
Veteran self-employment	25	9.6	-30.5
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	10.3	-0.9‡	6.7‡
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	17,168	4.0	-11.8
Quarterly establishment closings	17,106	-2.4	-12.3
Business bankruptcies	388	-0.3	181.2
	2011*	2010	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	9.4	9.1	8.0
Number of bank branches	1,441	1,458	1,245
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	28,253	40,503	62,024
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	612	598	998

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 South Carolina by Industry and Firm Size, 2010
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	295.6	78.9	67.8	76.5	1,502.9	283.7	727.8
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	2.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.3	2.3	4.0
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.5
Utilities	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	11.8	0.2	2.6
Construction	36.5	9.6	8.8	9.5	85.3	33.3	62.4
Manufacturing	3.8	3.6	2.3	3.2	204.3	12.6	66.3
Wholesale trade	5.0	4.0	2.9	3.6	59.2	12.9	35.1
Retail trade	27.0	10.7	9.5	10.4	217.6	39.5	72.9
Transportation and warehousing	12.0	2.1	1.5	1.8	48.5	5.4	16.1
Information	3.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	32.3	1.8	7.1
Finance and insurance	9.9	3.2	2.8	3.0	67.5	9.5	24.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	34.2	3.7	3.3	3.5	25.1	8.7	17.6
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	33.0	8.9	8.2	8.7	78.3	26.5	48.5
Management of companies and enterprises	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	23.8	0.1	4.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	31.1	4.8	4.0	4.6	122.3	15.7	50.6
Educational services	6.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	30.0	3.4	15.2
Health care and social assistance	20.3	7.6	6.3	7.4	215.9	33.6	99.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	13.0	1.4	1.1	1.4	23.8	4.6	19.6
Accommodation and food services	5.0	7.1	5.3	6.9	174.6	32.5	111.9
Other services (except public admin.)	52.2	10.5	9.6	10.4	77.0	40.6	70.1
Unclassified	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	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 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, 2007–2010 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2010	-31,478	5,590	-1,306	-3,039	-7,564	-6,187	-12,506	-18,972
2009	-100,821	1,156	-7,908	-11,650	-26,646	-18,952	-64,000	-36,821
2008	16,478	8,815	-1,056	-2,633	322	-2,630	2,818	13,660
2007	25,433	12,969	1,579	-637	3,471	-4,100	13,282	12,151

Note: Data source differs from previous publications.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Business Dynamic Statistics. (For more detailed data see www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162.)

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2011 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Openings	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.3	14.6	15.7	17.5	16.1
Expansions	19.3	19.6	19.6	19.6	71.4	75.9	73.1	74.3
Contractions	19.7	19.5	19.9	19.9	65.3	71.2	74.4	68.9
Closings	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.0	14.2	14.0	13.3	13.1

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 2010 show that 87 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.