

## Small Business Profile: U.S. TERRITORIES

### NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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The Northern Mariana Islands' small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the territory. The contributions of small businesses were documented by the Office of Advocacy using the latest available data.

**Number of Businesses.** In 2002, there were a total of 1,276 establishments in Northern Mariana Islands. Of this total, 68 were non-employer establishments. Business locations with 1 to 4 employees represented 41.1 percent of establishments. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 2002 Economic Census.)

**Business Turnover.** Business bankruptcies in Northern Mariana Islands remained the same in 2002 and 2003, a total of 3. (Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

**Employment.** The Economic Census of 2002 indicated that the Northern Mariana Islands employed 32,790 private sector workers. Most of these jobs were in manufacturing; accommodation and food services; and retail trade.

### PUERTO RICO

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Puerto Rico's small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the territory. The contributions of small businesses were documented by the Office of Advocacy using the latest available data.

**Number of Businesses.** The total number of employer establishments in 2003 was 49,961. Business locations in the territory with fewer than 20 employees represented 86.1 percent of establishments. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, County Business Patterns 2001.)

**Business Turnover.** New employer businesses numbered 1,239 in 2003. Business bankruptcies totaled 254 in 2003, a

decrease of 27.6 percent, from a total of 351 in 2002. Business terminations totaled 1,432 in 2003. (Source: U.S. Dept., of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

**Employment.** Puerto Rico accounted for 723,998 private sector jobs in 2001. The top three business sectors with the most private sector jobs were: other services; retail trade; and manufacturing. The industries that led in employment growth were retail trade and transportation and public utilities. Employment decreased in the other major sectors. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, County Business Patterns 2001.)

### GUAM

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Guam's small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the territory. The contributions of small businesses were documented by the Office of Advocacy using the latest available data.

**Number of Businesses.** The total number of employer establishments in 1997 was 2,707. Business locations in the territory with fewer than 20 employees represented

74.2 percent of establishments. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1997 Economic Census.)

**Business Turnover.** Business bankruptcies totaled 12 in 2003, a decrease of 47.8 percent, from a total of 23 in 2002. (Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

**Employment.** According to the Economic Census of 1997, Guam had 42,477 private sector jobs. Most of these jobs were in services, retail trade, and construction.

## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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U.S. Virgin Islands' small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the territory. The contributions of small businesses were documented by the Office of Advocacy using the latest available data.

**Number of Businesses.** In 1997, employer establishments numbered 2,032. Of this total, 136 were non-employer establishments. Business locations with fewer than 20 employees represented 82.6 percent of establishments. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1997 Economic Census.)

**Business Turnover.** Business bankruptcies totaled 3 in 2003, a decrease of 62.5 percent, from a total of 8 in 2002. (Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

**Employment.** According to the Economic Census of 1997, the U.S. Virgin Islands had 21,216 private sector jobs. Most of these jobs were in retail trade, services, and construction.

## AMERICAN SAMOA

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American Samoa's small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the territory. The contributions of small businesses were documented by the Office of Advocacy using the latest available data.

**Employment.** In 2000, estimated employment was 15,300. This was a 1.4 percent increase from the 1999 level. An

estimated 4,391 people were employed by government (28.7 percent), 5,009 by canneries (32.7 percent), and 5,900 by other private industries (38.6 percent). More data will be available with the release of the 2002 Economic Census. (Source: American Samoa Government; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 2000 Statistical Yearbook.)

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Note: Data on women and minority-owned firms are not available for the territories.

To learn more about the Office of Advocacy's data, research reports, and analyses on small businesses, visit [www.sba.gov/advo/stats](http://www.sba.gov/advo/stats) or call (202) 205-6533.

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