

Small Business Profile: ALABAMA

Entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses are key players in the economy of Alabama. They make up most of the employer firms in the state, and their contribution is indispensable. Their diverse composition and the spectrum of opportunities they offer are captured in this *Small Business Profile*, using the most current federal data available.

Number of Businesses. The state had an estimated total of 352,400 small businesses based on the most recent data.¹ Firms with employees numbered 88,274 in 2005, of which an estimated 97.3 percent or 85,891 were small firms (fewer than 500 employees). Self-employment (including incorporated) decreased by 8.3 percent, from 193,550 in 2004 to 177,528 in 2005.² In 2004, non-employer firms increased by 5.1 percent and numbered 266,585. (Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

Women-Owned Firms. Firms owned by women increased 18.0 percent between 1997 and 2002, from 69,515 to 81,820; they represented 26.4 percent of the state's total businesses in 2002. These firms (with and without paid employees) generated \$11.4 billion in revenues in 2002. Of the total number of women-owned firms, 14.4 percent or 11,802 firms were employer firms. In 2005, self-employed women totaled 51,388, a decrease of 16.8 percent from 2004, and they represented 28.9 percent of self-employed persons in the state. (Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau.)

Minority-Owned Firms.³ In 2002, Asian-owned firms totaled 4,269 and generated \$1.5 billion in receipts; Black-owned firms numbered 28,666 and generated \$1.7 billion in receipts; and Hispanic-owned businesses totaled 2,523 and created \$741 million in receipts. American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms numbered 2,910, and they generated \$473 million in receipts; the number of Native Hawaiian- and other Pacific Islander-owned firms was 96, and they generated \$5 million in receipts in 2002. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau.)

¹ The Office of Advocacy's estimated total of state small businesses is based on the percent of small businesses (2003 Census firm size data) multiplied by the state's total number of employer businesses in 2005 (Dept. of Labor). The 2004 number of non-employer firms is added to this total (Census Bureau).

² The definition of self-employment has changed; as a result, statistics in the *Small Business Profiles* before 2004 are not comparable.

³ Minority owners may belong to more than one minority group, so adding the different groups will result in double counting.

Business Turnover. New employer businesses in 2005 were estimated at 10,575, which is 12.3 percent more than the previous year. Business bankruptcies increased by 1.8 percent, to 331 in 2005, while business terminations increased by 0.6 percent, to 10,168 during the same period. (Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

Employment. There were 76,490 employer firms with fewer than 500 employees in 2003;⁴ they provided 802,052 jobs in the state. These firms represented 97.3 percent of the employer businesses in the state and employed 50.2 percent of the state's non-farm private sector workforce (Table 1). Between 2002 and 2003, total small business net new jobs amounted to 31,958 (Table 2). (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses.)

Small Business Income. Non-farm proprietors' income, which is a partial measure of small business income, increased by 8.7 percent to \$9.6 billion in 2005. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce.)

Finance.⁵ Two important sources of small business financing are commercial banks and savings and loan institutions, which owners rely on for their financial needs. The total number of operating bank and savings bank branches in the state increased in 2005 (Table 3). A list of financial institutions in each state that make loans to small businesses has been compiled by the Office of Advocacy and is available at: www.sba.gov/advo/research/lending.html.

To learn more about the Office of Advocacy's data and analyses of small business, visit www.sba.gov/advo/research, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov. Sign up at <http://web.sba.gov/list> for email delivery of:

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⁴ The latest year for which the data by size classification exist.

⁵ This year's edition of *Small Business Profiles* covers the state's number of branches of commercial banks and savings institutions. Previous reports covered a smaller number of financial institutions—only parent banks, not their branches or those of savings institutions.

Table 1. Firms and Employment in Alabama by Industry and Firm Size, 2003 and 2004 (Thousands)

Industry	Non-Employer Firms (2004)	Employer Firms (2003)			Employment (2003)		
		Total	< 100	< 500	Total	< 100	< 500
Total	266.6	78.65	74.69	76.49	1,597.53	578.5	802.05
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	4.7	1.04	1.02	1.03	7.74	7.02	7.22
Mining	0.6	0.22	0.15	0.17	7.13	1.86	2.41
Utilities	0.3	0.15	0.14	0.14	14.64	1.7	2.39
Construction	46.2	9.28	9.12	9.22	98.64	69.1	84.53
Manufacturing	4.0	4.42	3.68	4.00	279.07	50.17	89.93
Wholesale trade	4.7	4.70	4.10	4.32	75.99	35.67	49.33
Retail trade	28.8	12.95	12.37	12.57	229.38	85.03	103.69
Transportation and warehousing	13.2	2.65	2.37	2.47	52.51	17.4	24.57
Information	2.4	0.89	0.73	0.77	39.62	6.42	9.84
Finance and insurance	7.6	3.18	2.93	3.01	72.37	17.87	25.74
Real estate, and rental and leasing	24.8	3.04	2.91	2.97	23.58	12.43	16.29
Professional, scientific, and technical services	26.5	8.21	7.89	8.04	86.09	44.46	56.01
Management of companies and enterprises	N/A	0.43	0.13	0.25	17.08	1.03	4.27
Admin., support, waste mgt., and remed. serv.	22.7	3.40	3.08	3.20	115.07	22.81	38.02
Educational services	4.5	0.77	0.71	0.75	20.7	9.25	15.62
Health care and social assistance	14.7	7.65	7.28	7.50	221.48	66.6	104.35
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	7.6	0.99	0.95	0.98	14.3	8.53	12.25
Accommodation and food services	3.6	4.92	4.63	4.78	139.44	56.49	81.28
Other services	49.7	10.67	10.48	10.58	82.24	64.19	73.86
Unclassified	N/A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.45	0.45	0.45

*Data suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual firms. N/A = not available.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau.

Table 2. Non-Farm Establishment Job Gains and Losses by Firm Size, 2002–2003 (Thousands)

	Total	Firm Size (Number of Employees)		
		1–19	1–499	500+
Job gains:				
New establishments	84.3	26.5	50.7	33.6
Expanding establishments	162.3	49.4	104.5	57.8
Job losses:				
Downsized establishments	-152.8	-29.3	-79.7	-73.1
Closed establishments	-76.6	-22.7	-43.6	-33.0
Net change in employment	17.2	23.8	32.0	-14.7

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses.

Table 3. Number of Bank and Savings Institution Branches in Alabama, 2001–2005

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1,287	1,287	1,296	1,309	1,322

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, from data collected by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Statistics on Banking.

Note: A full list of small business lending banks collected by the Federal Reserve Board can be found on the Office of Advocacy's website at www.sba.gov/advo/research/lending.html.