

Small Business Profile: NORTH CAROLINA

Small businesses are the heart of North Carolina's economy. Research by the Office of Advocacy shows that small businesses create most of the nation's net new jobs, and they bring dynamic ideas, innovative services, and new products to the marketplace. They account for almost all of the nation's employer firms and generate half of non-farm private output. New business creation is key to a state's ability to increase its gross state product, state personal income, and total state employment.¹ This small business profile uses the most recent data available to demonstrate the valuable contributions that small businesses make to North Carolina's economic health.

Number of Businesses. North Carolina had an estimated total of 766,500 small businesses.² Employer firms totaled 192,800 in 2006, up 3.3 percent from the previous year. Of this total, an estimated 98.1 percent, or 189,100 were small. Self-employment (incorporated and unincorporated) totaled 418,000 in 2006, a decrease from 440,800 in 2005. Non-employer firms totaled 583,500 in 2005, an increase of 5.9 percent since 2004. (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. In 2002, businesses owned by women numbered 173,900, represented 27.0 percent of the state's 642,600 businesses, and generated \$26.7 billion in revenues. Employer firms owned by women totaled 25,500, an increase of 11.3 percent since 1997. Women numbered 126,800 or 30.3 percent of the state's self-employed persons in 2006, a decrease of 5.3 percent from the previous year. (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 13,700, and 4,500 of them were employer firms; Black-owned firms numbered 52,100, and 4,900 were employer firms; Hispanic-owned firms totaled 9,000, and 1,700 were employer firms. American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firms

numbered 6,000, and 900 of them were employer firms; while Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander-owned businesses numbered 190, and data on employer firms are unavailable. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau.)

Business Turnover. An estimated 26,729 new employer firms were created in 2006, which is 3.2 percent more than the number created in 2005. Business bankruptcies totaled 403 in 2006, down from 612 the previous year, while business terminations increased from 22,900 in 2005 to 23,200 in 2006. (Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau.)

Employment. Small firms employed 49.0 percent of the state's non-farm private labor force in 2004, which was below the national average of 50.9 percent.⁴ These 166,800 firms accounted for 98.1 percent of the state's employer businesses, and they employed 1.6 million people (Table 1). Small businesses added a total of 56,600 net new jobs between 2003 and 2004 (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 share of small business income, increased by 4.4 percent, from \$18.3 billion in 2005 to \$19.1 billion in 2006.⁵ (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce.)

Finance. Commercial banks and savings institutions continued to be important sources of small business financing. The number of lending institution branches in the state increased in 2006 (Table 3). For a list of financial institutions in the state that make the most loans to small businesses, visit 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.

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¹ Small businesses are defined as having fewer than 500 employees. Their economic contribution is documented in research published by the Office of Advocacy: www.sba.gov/advo/research.

² This estimate is based on the percent that small businesses are of the state's total businesses (see Table 1, 2004 firm size data). This percentage is multiplied by the total number of employer businesses in 2006 (Dept. of Labor). The 2005 number of non-employer firms is added to this total (Census Bureau).

³ The groups should not be added together or double counting will result, since owners may belong to more than one minority group.

⁴ The latest year for which data by firm size exist.

⁵ Income data for 2006 are based on preliminary data.

Table 1. Firms and Employment in North Carolina by Industry and Firm Size, 2004 and 2005 (Non-farm, Thousands)

Industry	Non-Employer Firms (2005)	Employer Firms (2004)			Employment (2004)		
		Total	1-99 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-99 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	583.50	170.02	163.29	166.78	3,365.63	1,201.05	1,648.67
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	7.72	0.96	0.94	0.95	5.55	5.02	5.33
Mining	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.11	*	*	*
Utilities	0.55	0.15	0.11	0.13	*	*	*
Construction	94.07	25.99	25.70	25.88	216.09	162.51	189.14
Manufacturing	8.48	9.08	7.71	8.36	571.16	105.67	195.56
Wholesale trade	10.57	9.80	8.72	9.19	165.34	68.02	94.10
Retail trade	54.89	22.82	21.99	22.32	458.40	154.91	186.55
Transportation and warehousing	23.99	4.91	4.45	4.64	110.90	28.56	41.89
Information	6.62	1.74	1.51	1.58	77.59	11.67	17.74
Finance and insurance	18.96	6.32	5.88	6.02	181.94	28.81	40.81
Real estate, and rental and leasing	67.39	7.40	7.16	7.26	49.65	26.51	33.70
Professional, scientific, and technical services	68.47	19.01	18.36	18.64	170.71	91.37	113.18
Management of companies and enterprises	N/A	0.88	0.26	0.51	*	*	*
Admin., support, waste mgt., and remed. serv.	49.15	9.14	8.56	8.84	222.66	60.09	98.73
Educational services	12.41	1.86	1.73	1.81	75.53	18.18	32.64
Health care and social assistance	35.73	15.38	14.68	15.15	458.40	147.29	227.24
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	23.36	3.07	2.94	3.02	48.08	26.56	39.08
Accommodation and food services	6.67	12.26	11.73	12.02	307.23	140.84	185.50
Other services	94.34	20.42	20.16	20.29	148.48	118.31	131.90
Unclassified	N/A	1.13	1.13	1.13	*	*	*

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau. See www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html.

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

Table 2. Job Gains and Losses in North Carolina by Firm Size, 2003-2004 (Non-farm, Thousands)

	Total	Firm Size (Number of Employees)		
		1-19	1-499	500+
Job gains:				
New establishments	165.5	54.1	98.2	67.3
Expanding establishments	332.9	100.8	196.1	136.8
Job losses:				
Downsized establishments	-312.2	-58.3	-152.3	-160.0
Closed establishments	-164.9	-44.7	-85.4	-79.5
Net change in jobs	21.2	51.9	56.6	-35.3

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. See www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html.

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Table 3. Number of Bank and Savings Institution Branches in North Carolina, 2002-2006

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
2,480	2,462	2,510	2,544	2,606

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

Note: Data for year ending June 30. 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.