

2003 Small Business Profile: Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa

PUERTO RICO

Small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in Puerto Rico. The Office of Advocacy uses a variety of data bases to document the contributions of small businesses in the territory.

Number of Businesses. In 2002, employer businesses decreased by 1.8 percent, and numbered 50,288. Of the business locations in the territory 86.1 percent were small (with fewer than 20 employees based on 2000 establishment size data) (Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; U.S. Dept. of Census, County Business Patterns 2001).

Business Turnover. New employer firms decreased by 7.9 percent from 2001, and numbered 4,834 in 2002.

Business bankruptcies increased by 5.4 percent and totaled 351 in 2002, while business terminations increased by 11.8 percent, and summed up to 6,290 in 2002 (Source: U.S. Dept of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts).

Employment. According to County Business Patterns, Puerto Rico had 723,998 private sector jobs in 2001. The business sectors that led 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 Census, County Business Patterns 2001).

Table 1. Establishment and Employment in Puerto Rico by Industry, 2001

Industry	Employer Establishments		Employment
	Total	<20	
Total	44,372	38,204	723,998
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	202	190	1,282
Mining	37	23	809
Construction	2,261	1,631	64,369
Manufacturing	1,938	1,161	135,857
Wholesale trade	2,674	2,180	41,454
Retail trade	14,529	12,474	172,619
Transportation and Utilities	1,579	1,338	33,005
Finance and insurance	2,703	2,395	45,661
Services	15,913	14,295	223,149
Other	2,536	2,517	5,793

*Data not available for Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. (Source: U.S. Department of Census, County Business Patterns.)

GUAM

Small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in Guam. The Office of Advocacy uses a variety of data bases to document the contributions of small businesses in the territory.

Number of Businesses. In 1997, employer businesses increased by 38.5 percent and numbered 2,707. The number of self-employed individuals increased by an estimated 152.5 percent.* Of the business locations in the territory, 74.2 percent were small (with fewer than 20 employees based on 1997 establishment size data) (Source: U.S. Department of Census, 1997 Economic Census).

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Office of Advocacy uses a variety of data bases to document the contributions of small businesses in the territory.

Number of Businesses. In 1997, employer businesses decreased by 2.7 percent and numbered 1,232. The number of self-employed individuals decreased by an estimated 19.8 percent.* Of the business locations in the territory, 82.1 percent were small (with fewer than 20 employees based on 2000 establishment size data). (Source: U.S. Department of Census, 1997 Economic Census).

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

Small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in the U.S. Virgin Island. The Office of Advocacy uses a variety of data bases to document the contributions of small businesses in the territory.

Number of Businesses. In 1997, employer businesses decreased by 30.7 percent and numbered 2,032. The number of self-employed individuals increased by an estimated 300 percent.* Of all the business locations in the territory, 82.6 percent were small (fewer than 20 employees based on 1997 establishment size data). (Source : Department of Census, 1997 Economic Census).

AMERICAN SAMOA

Small businesses continued to be a source of economic strength in American Samoa. The Office of Advocacy uses a variety of data bases to document the contributions of small businesses in the territory.

Employment. In 2000, the estimate for employment was 15,300. This was a 1.4 percent increase from the estimate for

Business Turnover. Business bankruptcies decreased by 15 percent, and totaled 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.

*Data from the Census Bureau were interpreted to mean that if an establishment had no employees, it represented a self-employed individual.

Business Turnover. Business bankruptcies decreased by 62.5 percent, and totaled 3 in 2002 (Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts).

Employment. According to the Economic Census of 1997, the Northern Mariana Islands had 28,906 private sector jobs. Most of these jobs were in manufacturing, services, and retail trade.

*Data from the Census Bureau were interpreted to mean that if an establishment had no employees, it represented a self-employed individual.

Business Turnover. Business bankruptcies decreased by 33 percent, and totaled 8 in 2002 (Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts).

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

*Data from the census were interpreted to mean that if an establishment had no employees then it represented a self-employed individual

1999. It was estimated that 4,391 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, Department of Commerce: 2000 Statistical Yearbook).

To obtain more information about the Office of Advocacy's data, research reports and analyses on small businesses, go to: www.sba.gov/advoc/stats or call (202) 205-6530.

Sign up at <http://web.sba.gov/list> for email delivery of:

- Advocacy Communications,
- Advocacy Press
- Advocacy Newsletter
- Advocacy Research

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