

U.S. Territories

Small businesses in the U.S. territories provide economic opportunities to diverse groups of people and bring innovative products and services to the marketplace. This profile from the Office of Advocacy compiles the latest facts and figures on the status and role of small business.*

- Puerto Rico has the largest economy of the U.S. territories. Puerto Rico had more business establishments and employment than 14 states in 2006.
- The economies of the Virgin Islands and Guam fared better from 2006 to 2007 than Puerto Rico's, as employment rose and business bankruptcies declined in both.
- The number and value of small business loans in the Virgin Islands underwent a large increase in 2007, which has been attributed to the presence of a new lender in the market.
- American Samoa had 589 employer establishments in 2002. The number of small business loans went from 121 in 2006 to 129 in 2007, while the total dollar value decreased from \$3.87 million to \$3.78 million.

For Further Information

- Data on all the states and territories is available at www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles/data08.html.
- For other small business data and analysis, visit Advocacy's research homepage, www.sba.gov/advo/research, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov.
- Visit <http://web.sba.gov/list> to subscribe to listservs for Advocacy's newsletter, press releases, regulatory news and research reports.

*Due to limited firm size information, the number of business establishments is used as a proxy to represent the number of small businesses. In the United States in 2005, firms with fewer than 500 employees operated 86 percent of all establishments.

Territory Business Facts

	Level in 2006†	Level in 2002		
Number of Establishments				
Puerto Rico	46,300	45,642		
Virgin Islands	NA	2,615		
Guam	NA	2,926		
Northern Marianas	NA	1,276		
	Level in 2007†	% Change from 2006 2000		
Employment				
Puerto Rico	1,028,800	-1.4	0.3	
Virgin Islands	46,000	1.1	10.6	
Guam	57,900	5.9	1.1	
Northern Marianas	NA	NA	NA	
Business Bankruptcies				
Puerto Rico	276	34.0	32.1	
Virgin Islands	8	-20.0	14.3	
Guam	3	-62.5	-90.3	
Northern Marianas	2	-33.3	-66.7	
Business Loans under \$100,000				
Puerto Rico	28,450	-0.1	NA	
Virgin Islands	157	134.3	NA	
Guam	4,979	18.6	NA	
Northern Marianas	NA	NA	NA	
Value of Loans under \$100,000				
Puerto Rico (\$million)	648	-0.6	NA	
Virgin Islands (\$million)	4	86.7	NA	
Guam (\$million)	17	-1.1	NA	
Northern Marianas	NA	NA	NA	
Number of Bank Branches				
Puerto Rico	569	-0.4	8.2	
Virgin Islands	23	9.5	0.0	
Guam	32	0.0	-17.9	
Northern Marianas	10	0.0	-9.1	
Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy (www.sba.gov/advo/research/lending.html).				
† Latest available data.				

Table 1: Establishments in Puerto Rico by Major Industry and Employment Size, 2006

Industry	Total	Employment size of establishment		
		1-99	100-499	500+
Total	46,300	45,092	1,047	161
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	17	17	-	-
Mining	45	44	1	-
Utilities	23	22	1	-
Construction	2,956	2,835	112	9
Manufacturing	2,118	1,899	175	44
Wholesale trade	2,303	2,247	55	1
Retail trade	10,851	10,631	215	5
Transportation and warehousing	1,062	1,035	25	2
Information	491	459	27	5
Finance and insurance	1,934	1,882	42	10
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,771	1,751	17	3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	4,196	4,161	35	-
Management of companies and enterprises	106	87	18	1
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	1,780	1,623	125	32
Educational services	741	689	46	6
Health care and social assistance	6,649	6,558	64	27
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	453	448	5	-
Accommodation and food services	4,033	3,954	65	14
Other services (except public admin.)	3,672	3,651	19	2
Unclassified	1,099	1,099	-	-

Note that large firms may operate small establishments.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

Table 2: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2006-2007 (Non-farm, thousands)

	Establishments					Employment				
	Net change	Expansions	Openings	Contractions	Closings	Net change	Expansions	Openings	Contractions	Closings
Puerto Rico										
2007										
Quarter 4	-466	9,236	1,541	8,158	2,007	395	43,477	6,391	38,579	10,894
Quarter 3	186	8,232	1,999	8,986	1,813	714	40,658	10,908	41,573	9,279
Quarter 2	-177	8,243	1,887	9,216	2,064	-2,977	37,230	10,554	40,758	10,003
Quarter 1	-446	7,827	1,731	9,805	2,177	-11,900	34,954	8,205	45,146	9,913
2006										
Quarter 4	-194	9,769	2,012	8,337	2,206	8,051	47,334	8,705	37,578	10,410
Quarter 3	-1,254	8,900	1,357	9,213	2,611	-5,760	42,182	8,112	44,296	11,758
Quarter 2	48	8,162	1,434	9,781	1,386	-8,301	38,197	8,612	46,672	8,438
Quarter 1	-313	8,337	1,242	9,592	1,555	-5,942	41,021	7,400	44,581	9,782
Virgin Islands										
2007										
Quarter 4	17	534	109	554	92	-1	1,696	496	1,847	346
Quarter 3	-22	564	89	533	111	-1,163	1,596	523	2,804	478
Quarter 2	11	559	102	528	91	1,155	3,063	468	1,893	483
Quarter 1	-12	533	74	527	86	-410	1,704	387	1,822	679
2006										
Quarter 4	97	463	158	552	61	378	1,584	774	1,751	229
Quarter 3	-110	522	100	500	210	-39	2,103	624	1,818	948
Quarter 2	-2	534	81	550	83	-44	1,931	312	1,842	445
Quarter 1	-10	551	86	535	96	593	1,886	606	1,380	519

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics.