

West Virginia

West Virginia's 121,025 small businesses 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 in the state. (Note that a small business is defined here as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- West Virginia had 31,186 small employers in 2006, representing 96.4% of the state's employers and 54.3% of its private-sector employment.
- The health care and social assistance industry was the state's largest small business and overall employer in 2006 (Table 1).
- Small businesses' and large businesses' net new jobs declined between 2004 and 2005 (Table 2).
- West Virginia's real gross state product increased by 0.1% in 2007. By comparison, growth in the Southeast region was 1.5% and the United States, 2.0%. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis)

For Further Information

- Data on all the states and territories is available at www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles.
- For other small business data and analysis, visit www.sba.gov/advo/research, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov.
- To learn about state efforts to adopt or implement regulatory flexibility, visit www.sba.gov/advo/laws/law_modeleg.html.
- Visit <http://web.sba.gov/list> to subscribe to listservs for Advocacy's newsletter, press releases, regulatory news and research reports.
- Visit www.sba.gov/advo/rsslibrary.html for RSS feeds.

* The number of small businesses is the number of small employers plus the number of nonemployers in 2006.

West Virginia Small Business Facts

	Level in 2006†	% Change from 2005 2000	
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	31,186	-1.4	-3.6
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,148	4.5	0.7
Nonemployers	89,839	0.0	9.8
	Level in 2002†	% Change from 1997	
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	63,891	4.3	
Woman-owned	31,301	3.5	
Equally male/female-owned	12,518	-28.1	
African American-owned	1,472	28.2	
Asian-owned	1,234	-0.1	
Hispanic-owned	648	-31.1	
Native American/Alaskan-owned	405	NA	
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	10	100.0	
	Level in 2007†	% Change from 2006 2000	
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	612	0.1	3.2
Government employment	145	0.3	1.4
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	55	-11.4	-11.3
Female self-employment	19	-15.8	-19.4
Male self-employment	37	-9.0	-6.5
Minority self-employment	2	178.7	-
Veteran self-employment	9	-13	-20.9
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	-0.1	-0.9
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	6,141	-7.2	-9.9
Quarterly establishment closings	6,597	1.5	-8.3
Business bankruptcies	150	31.6	-60.6
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	3.6	7.3	51.3
Bank branches	653	1.2	5.2
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000	26,188	-3.2	NA
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)	760	-4.0	NA

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Summary of Deposits; and U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy (www.sba.gov/advo/research/lending.html).

† Latest available data; certain figures are economywide.

**Table 1. Firms and Employment in West Virginia by Industry and Firm Size, 2006
(Non-farm, thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer firms	Employer firms			Employment		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	89.8	32.3	27.5	31.2	583.2	122.4	316.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	(D)	1.0	(D)
Mining	3.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	24.6	1.8	8.8
Utilities	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.8	(D)	0.5
Construction	10.6	4.5	4.1	4.5	32.9	15.9	30.8
Manufacturing	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.2	63.8	5.0	23.8
Wholesale trade	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.1	20.5	4.7	13.3
Retail trade	11.4	4.6	3.8	4.4	95.5	18.9	41.4
Transportation and warehousing	4.4	1.3	1.1	1.2	16.3	4.1	9.3
Information	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	11.6	1.2	4.2
Finance and insurance	2.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	21.9	3.6	9.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	8.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	7.1	3.7	5.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	9.0	2.8	2.5	2.7	24.5	9.8	19.8
Management of companies and enterprises	--	0.2	0.0	0.1	4.5	0.0	1.6
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	5.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	33.2	4.3	13.7
Educational services	2.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	7.9	(D)	(D)
Health care and social assistance	7.8	3.6	3.0	3.5	113.5	16.4	58.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.3	0.7	0.6	0.7	11.2	2.8	7.0
Accommodation and food services	1.3	2.6	2.0	2.6	60.3	11.3	38.1
Other services (except public admin.)	15.0	4.5	4.2	4.5	26.8	16.8	25.0
Unclassified	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	(D)	(D)	(D)

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html for data from other years, and for starts, closures, job creation and destruction by industry and by size category.)

(D) Data suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual firms.

Table 2: Net Job Change by Firm Size, 2002–2005 (Non-farm)

	Total	Employment size of firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2004 - 2005	-3,339	4,547	624	-398	-2,503	-3,592	-1,322	-2,017
2003 - 2004	7,596	5,400	2,872	1,019	2,349	-1,496	10,144	-2,548
2002 - 2003	-556	4,718	830	43	-201	-1,231	4,159	-4,715

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. (For more detailed data see www.sba.gov/advo/research/data.html.)

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2007 (Non-farm, thousands)

	Establishments				Employment			
	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Quarter 4	1.5	9.5	9.6	1.7	5.9	33.7	29.0	7.0
Quarter 3	1.5	9.0	9.7	1.7	6.9	28.7	32.9	5.7
Quarter 2	1.5	9.3	9.9	1.6	5.8	31.3	31.4	6.4
Quarter 1	1.6	9.7	9.5	1.6	6.7	32.0	31.9	5.7

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics. (For more detailed data see www.bls.gov/bdm/home.htm.)

Note: The establishment turnover figures contain all firm sizes, but Census data from 2005 showed that 87 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.