

Delaware

Delaware's 19,772 small employers and 55,333 nonemployers make significant contributions to the state's economy, and they bring innovative products and services to the marketplace.* They are an important source of employment and opportunity throughout the state. This profile by the Office of Advocacy uses the latest statistics to describe the small business contribution in the greatest possible detail. (Note: A small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Delaware's real gross state product decreased by 1.6% and private-sector employment decreased by 1.0% in 2008. By comparison, real GDP growth in the United States was 0.7% and private-sector employment declined by 0.7%.
- The health care and social assistance industry was the state's largest small business employer in 2006; retail trade was the largest overall employer (Table 1).
- Small businesses are a major force in the state's net job change, as shown in Table 2.
- The number of small employers in Delaware was 19,772 in 2006, accounting for 93.5% of the state's employers and 48.3% of its private-sector employment. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce: Bureau of the Census.)

For Further Information

- Data on all 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.
- Visit <http://web.sba.gov/list> to subscribe to listservs for Advocacy's newsletter, press releases, regulatory news, and research reports.
- For RSS feeds, visit www.sba.gov/advo/rsslibrary.html

* Small employer data from 2006; nonemployer from 2007.

Delaware Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	19,772	18,901
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	1,368	1,266
Nonemployers	55,333	52,979	41,082
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997-2002
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	34,548	54.3	15.3
Woman-owned	15,344	24.1	12.3
Equally male/female-owned	7,800	12.3	-12.3
African American-owned	4,258	6.7	57.3
Asian-owned	1,895	3.0	26.5
Hispanic-owned	879	1.4	-2.1
Native American/Alaskan-owned	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	17	0.0	466.7
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	361	-1.0	2.2
Government employment	60	1.7	12.5
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	37	-1.7	-3.5
Female self-employment	11	-5.6	-19.4
Male self-employment	26	0.0	5.2
Minority self-employment	6	15.7	27.8
Veteran self-employment	5	18.7	-42.9
Unemployment rate (%)	4.8	1.4	1.5
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	5,220	0.3	-5.8
Quarterly establishment closings	5,687	9.9	17.7
Business bankruptcies	1,198	291.5	-48.4
	2008‡	2007	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	2.9	2.8	1.6
Number of bank branches	272	269	242
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	29,215	6,821
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	306	80
Source: 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; and U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy (www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbl_08study.pdf , Table 4b.) n.a. not available.			
† Latest available data; certain figures are economywide. ‡ Data are for CRA loans.			

**Table 1. Firms and Employment in Delaware by Industry and Firm Size, 2006 and 2007
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms (2007)	Employer Firms (2006)			Employment (2006)		
		Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	55.3	21.1	17.1	19.8	388.3	66.7	187.5
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	(D)	(D)
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.8
Construction	7.4	2.7	2.4	2.7	25.7	9.8	24.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	33.2	2.3	9.8
Wholesale trade	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	20.2	2.5	7.2
Retail trade	5.4	2.8	2.2	2.5	56.4	9.4	23.3
Transportation and warehousing	2.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	14.9	1.8	5.9
Information	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	9.3	0.6	2.2
Finance and insurance	2.4	1.3	1.0	1.2	35.5	2.7	6.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	7.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	6.6	2.3	4.9
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	7.6	2.4	2.1	2.3	27.6	6.5	17.0
Management of companies and enterprises	--	1.5	1.0	1.1	15.2	1.3	3.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	3.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	24.1	3.8	12.0
Educational services	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.5	0.8	5.8
Health care and social assistance	4.4	1.8	1.4	1.7	53.5	8.2	24.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	7.0	1.2	4.6
Accommodation and food services	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.4	32.0	5.7	22.0
Other services (except public admin.)	6.5	2.1	1.8	2.0	17.4	7.6	14.2
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, 2003–2006 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2003 - 2004	8,684	3,121	1,731	600	1,799	97	7,348	1,336
2004 - 2005	1,708	2,699	317	953	207	1,227	5,403	-3,695
2005 - 2006	-3,858	2,701	809	403	1,970	3,326	9,209	-13,067

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, 2008 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment Change Due To:			
	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Quarter 1	1.4	4.4	4.9	1.3	6.3	16.6	19.5	4.0
Quarter 2	1.2	4.4	5.0	1.4	4.6	18.3	20.7	5.7
Quarter 3	1.3	4.1	4.9	1.6	6.2	17.1	22.4	6.6
Quarter 4	1.3	3.9	5.2	1.4	5.6	17.6	22.7	4.8

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: These figures contain all firm sizes; Census data from 2006 show that 86 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.