

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. (Because of limited firm size information, the number of business establishments is used as a proxy to represent the number of small businesses. In the U.S. in 2006, firms with fewer than 500 employees operated 85 percent of all establishments.)

- Puerto Rico has the largest economy of the U.S. territories. Puerto Rico had more private sector establishments and employment than 14 states in 2007.

- The economy of Guam fared better from 2007 to 2008 than those of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, as employment rose in Guam.

- Please note that total amounts tend to be small in the territories, hence small changes in level from one year to the next may generate very large percentage changes.

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 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.
- Visit www.sba.gov/advo/rsslibrary.html for RSS feeds.

Territory Business Facts

	Level in			
	2007†	2002		
Private Sector Establishments				
Puerto Rico	47,340	45,642		
Virgin Islands	2,583	2,615		
Guam	3,143	2,926		
Northern Marianas	1,191	1,276		
American Samoa	812	1,061		
	2008†	2007	% Change	
			07-08	00-08
Employment				
Puerto Rico	999,010	1,028,800	-2.9	-1.4
Virgin Islands	44,910	46,000	-2.4	11.9
Guam	58,810	57,900	1.6	3.2
Northern Marianas	n.a.	22,622	n.a.	n.a.
American Samoa	n.a.	11,247	n.a.	n.a.
Business Bankruptcies				
Puerto Rico	349	276	26.4	67.0
Virgin Islands	4	8	-50.0	-42.9
Guam	4	3	33.3	-87.1
Northern Marianas	0	2	-100.0	-100.0
Business Loans under \$100,000				
Puerto Rico	10,859	15,199	-28.6	n.a.
Virgin Islands	59	31	90.3	n.a.
Guam	*	4,979	*	n.a.
American Samoa	110	129	-14.7	n.a.
Value of Business Loans under \$100,000				
Puerto Rico (\$ million)	178.0	307.6	-42.1	n.a.
Virgin Islands (\$ million)	1.8	1.1	63.6	n.a.
Guam (\$ million)	*	17.4	*	n.a.
American Samoa (\$ million)	3.1	3.8	-18.4	n.a.
Bank Branches (Fiscal Year)				
Puerto Rico	554	569	-2.6	5.3
Virgin Islands	25	23	8.7	8.7
Guam	32	32	0.0	-17.9
Northern Marianas	10	10	0.0	-9.1
American Samoa	6	7	-14.3	20.0
n.a. not available. * Reporting issues occurred with the Bank of Guam.				
† Latest available data.				
Source: 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 , Table 3a).				

Table 1: Establishments and Employment in Puerto Rico by Major Industry and Employment Size, 2007

Industry	Total Establishments	Employment Size of Establishment			Private Sector Employment
		1-19	20-499	500+	
Total	47,340	40,708	6,477	155	767,247
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	13	13	-	-	(D)
Mining	53	35	18	-	1,011
Utilities	25	21	4	-	(D)
Construction	2,911	2,290	614	7	58,455
Manufacturing	2,104	1,441	617	46	109,935
Wholesale trade	2,330	1,906	423	1	36,250
Retail trade	11,196	9,863	1,327	6	135,703
Transportation and warehousing	1,089	928	158	3	16,738
Information	532	412	113	7	22,459
Finance and insurance	2,159	1,856	294	9	40,004
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,753	1,641	110	2	15,109
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	4,246	3,937	309	-	31,662
Management of companies and enterprises	99	36	63	-	5,423
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	1,783	1,370	386	27	74,893
Educational services	768	457	302	9	34,804
Health care and social assistance	6,993	6,546	420	27	78,522
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	445	396	49	-	4,035
Accommodation and food services	4,321	3,253	1,058	10	75,595
Other services (except public admin.)	3,631	3,426	204	1	24,590
Unclassified	889	881	8	-	1,668

Note that large firms may operate small establishments.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, County Business Patterns.

Table 2: Establishment and Employment Turnover in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, 2007-2008 (Non-Farm, Thousands)

	Establishments					Employment				
	Net Change	Expansions	Openings	Contractions	Closings	Net Change	Expansions	Openings	Contractions	Closings
Puerto Rico										
2007										
Quarter 1	-2,062	8,102	1,814	9,805	2,173	-9,910	37,451	8,524	46,592	9,293
Quarter 2	-1,048	8,301	1,966	9,271	2,044	-1,882	37,661	11,419	40,798	10,164
Quarter 3	-466	8,381	2,065	9,117	1,795	1,746	41,516	11,018	41,979	8,809
Quarter 4	477	9,184	1,549	8,240	2,016	-429	43,158	6,390	39,036	10,941
2008										
Quarter 1	-2,848	7,201	2,107	9,927	2,229	-13,098	32,690	10,407	45,690	10,505
Quarter 2	-1,760	7,582	1,886	9,149	2,079	-8,269	33,876	9,979	42,119	10,005
Quarter 3	-1,446	7,423	1,204	8,521	1,552	-5,430	34,958	7,247	38,840	8,795
Quarter 4	76	8,537	1,567	8,058	1,970	-5,355	37,269	7,585	39,915	10,294
Virgin Islands										
2007										
Quarter 1	-11	531	89	539	92	-182	1,711	534	1,990	437
Quarter 2	42	559	111	535	93	1,193	3,060	534	1,946	455
Quarter 3	45	573	113	539	102	-788	1,717	684	2,781	408
Quarter 4	-5	533	115	561	92	27	1,718	543	1,871	363
2008										
Quarter 1	-41	528	86	553	102	36	1,820	373	1,587	570
Quarter 2	-50	529	91	568	102	-363	1,670	449	2,013	469
Quarter 3	-26	534	98	553	105	-375	1,542	385	1,868	434
Quarter 4	-157	462	105	623	101	-316	1,466	415	1,827	370

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