

West Virginia

West Virginia's 31,186 small employers and 93,236 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.)

- West Virginia's real gross state product increased by 2.5% and private-sector employment increased by 0.4% 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 and overall employer in 2006 (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 West Virginia was 31,186 in 2006, accounting for 96.4% of the state's employers and 54.3% 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.

West Virginia Small Business Facts

	2007†	2006	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	n.a.	31,186	32,356
Large employers (500+ employees)	n.a.	1,148	1,140
Nonemployers	93,236	89,839	81,838
	2002‡	% Share in 2002	% Change 1997-2002
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	63,891	56.5	4.3
Woman-owned	31,301	27.7	3.5
Equally male/female-owned	12,518	11.1	-28.1
African American-owned	1,472	1.3	28.2
Asian-owned	1,234	1.1	-0.1
Hispanic-owned	648	0.6	-31.1
Native American/Alaskan-owned	405	0.4	n.a.
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned	10	0.0	100.0
	2008‡	% Change from	
		2007	2000
Workforce (Thousands) /Unemployment (%)			
Private-sector employment	572	0.4	3.7
Government employment	138	0.9	1.8
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	54	-2.7	-13.7
Female self-employment	18	-2.2	-21.2
Male self-employment	35	-3.0	-9.3
Minority self-employment	2	44.8	44.8
Veteran self-employment	6	-31.6	-45.9
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	-	-1.2
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	6,126	-3.9	-10.1
Quarterly establishment closings	6,796	0.9	-5.5
Business bankruptcies	178	18.7	-35.7
	2008‡	2007	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	3.8	3.6	2.4
Number of bank branches	664	653	621
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	n.a.	39,836	13,648
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	n.a.	430	196
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 West Virginia 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	93.2	32.3	27.5	31.2	583.2	122.4	316.4
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	(D)	1.0	(D)
Mining	3.2	0.5	0.4	0.5	24.6	1.8	8.8
Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.8	(D)	0.5
Construction	11.0	4.5	4.1	4.5	32.9	15.9	30.8
Manufacturing	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.2	63.8	5.0	23.8
Wholesale trade	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.1	20.5	4.7	13.3
Retail trade	11.5	4.6	3.8	4.4	95.5	18.9	41.4
Transportation and warehousing	4.7	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	2.5	1.2	1.0	1.1	21.9	3.6	9.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	8.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	7.1	3.7	5.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	9.6	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.	7.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	33.2	4.3	13.7
Educational services	2.3	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	3.9	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.)	14.5	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, 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	7,596	5,400	2,872	1,019	2,349	-1,496	10,144	-2,548
2004 - 2005	-3,339	4,547	624	-398	-2,503	-3,592	-1,322	-2,017
2005 - 2006	17,781	4,358	1,247	304	2,911	2,644	11,464	6,317

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	1.6	9.3	9.4	1.7	6.9	29.8	31.4	5.7
Quarter 2	1.5	9.0	10.0	1.7	5.6	29.5	31.1	6.8
Quarter 3	1.4	9.2	9.4	1.6	6.0	32.3	30.0	6.2
Quarter 4	1.6	8.9	9.7	1.8	6.2	31.3	32.4	6.3

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.