

Delaware

Small businesses significantly impact Delaware's economy. They represent 93.0 percent of all employers and employ 47.0 percent of the private-sector labor force. Small businesses are crucial to the fiscal condition of the state and numbered 72,161 in 2010.

This profile uses the latest available data to illustrate the status of Delaware's small businesses. (Note that a small business is defined as one with fewer than 500 employees.)

- Delaware's economy was strong in 2011, with real gross state product increasing 2.7 percent and private-sector employment increasing 0.9 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- Small businesses employed 168,878 workers in 2010 (Table 1) with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.
- The employment situation from 2007-2010 was weak, and small businesses in Delaware had a net job loss (Table 2). The unemployment rate in 2010-2011 decreased by 0.7 percent.
- Most of Delaware's small businesses are very small as 73.2 percent of all businesses have no employees, and most employers have fewer than 20 employees.
- In 2011, the number of opening establishments was lower than closing establishments, and the net employment change from this turnover was positive (Table 3).
- Self-employment in Delaware improved over the last decade. Minority self-employment fared the best compared with other demographic groups.

For Further Information

- Data on all states and territories are available at www.sba.gov/advocacy/848.
- For other small business data and analysis, visit www.sba.gov/advocacy/847, call (202) 205-6533, or email advocacy@sba.gov.
- Visit www.sba.gov/updates to subscribe to Advocacy's Listservs.

Delaware Small Business Facts			
	2010*	2009	2000
Number of Businesses			
Small employers (<500 employees)	18,307	18,336	18,901
Large employers (500+ employees)	1,372	1,405	1,266
Nonemployers	53,854	53,667	41,082
Level in 2007* (000)			
	Firms		Employment Receipts(\$M)
Business Owner Demographics			
Male-owned	39	136	23,637
Woman-owned	19	18	2,489
Equally male/female-owned	11	19	2,635
African American-owned	7	2	130
Asian-owned	3	6	1,204
Hispanic-owned	2	2	272
Native American/Alaskan-owned	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-owned	-	-	-
Veteran-owned	11	26	4,958
Publicly held, unclassified	5	216	116,721
	Level in 2011*	% Change from	
		2010	2000
Workforce (Thousands)			
Private-sector employment	353	0.9	-2.9
Government employment	64	0.5	13.3
Self-employed (incorp. & uninc.)	34	0.0	8.1
Female self-employment	12	1.9	30.1
Male self-employment	22	-1.0	-1.1
Minority self-employment	7	18.3	234.1
Veteran self-employment	3	-1.6	-47.7
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	7.3	-0.7†	4‡
Business Turnover			
Quarterly establishment openings	5,081	3.4	-8.3
Quarterly establishment closings	5,392	4.8	11.6
Business bankruptcies	645	-33.7	-72.2
	2011*	2010	2000
Income and Finance			
Proprietors' income (\$billion)	2.9	2.8	1.7
Number of bank branches	287	274	242
No. of bus. loans under \$100,000‡	8,743	9,420	6,821
Total value of business loans under \$100,000 (\$million)‡	168	145	80

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Admin. Office of the U.S. Courts; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and U.S. Small Business Admin., Office of Advocacy.

* Latest available data. †Percentage point change. ‡Data are for CRA loans.

**Table 1: Firms and Employment in Delaware by Industry and Firm Size, 2010
(Nonfarm, Thousands)**

Industry	Nonemployer Firms	Employer Firms			Employment		
		All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees	All Firms Total	1-19 Employees	1-499 Employees
Total	53.9	19.7	15.9	18.3	359.0	63.5	168.9
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	D	D
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	D	D
Construction	5.9	2.4	2.1	2.3	18.6	7.8	17.4
Manufacturing	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	28.5	2.0	8.9
Wholesale trade	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	16.8	2.3	6.2
Retail trade	4.9	2.6	2.0	2.3	49.9	8.6	17.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	11.3	1.7	4.7
Information	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	7.9	0.6	2.0
Finance and insurance	2.3	1.2	0.8	1.0	36.6	2.4	5.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	7.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	5.9	2.0	4.3
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	7.7	2.3	2.0	2.2	23.9	6.2	14.8
Management of companies and enterprises	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.7	13.6	0.7	2.0
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	4.1	1.3	1.0	1.1	25.8	3.9	12.0
Educational services	1.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	6.3	0.8	5.4
Health care and social assistance	4.1	1.8	1.4	1.7	58.4	8.9	26.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	6.2	1.2	4.0
Accommodation and food services	0.7	1.6	1.2	1.5	31.5	6.3	21.8
Other services (except public admin.)	6.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	14.8	7.8	13.9
Unclassified	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistics of U.S. Businesses. (See www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162 for data from other years, and for starts, closures, job creation and destruction by industry and by size category.)

Table 2: Net Job Change by Firm Size, 2007–2010 (Nonfarm)

	Total Net New Jobs	Employment Size of Firm						
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-99	100-499	<500	500+
2010	-8,418	1,560	63	57	-1,645	273	308	-8,726
2009	-13,822	230	-624	-1,211	-4,982	-4,335	-10,922	-2,900
2008	7,183	1,160	-178	-693	299	2,290	2,878	4,305
2007	586	1,922	-365	-168	-424	-4,847	-3,882	4,468

Note: Data source differs from previous publications.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Business Dynamic Statistics. (For more detailed data see www.sba.gov/advocacy/849/12162.)

Table 3: Establishment and Employment Turnover by Quarter, 2011 (Nonfarm, Thousands)

	Establishments				Employment			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Openings	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	4.8	4.6	5.0	4.8
Expansions	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	17.2	17.7	19.6	16.7
Contractions	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3	16.4	18.6	18.5	17.2
Closings	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	4.1	5.1	5.0	4.1

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

Note: These figures contain all firm sizes; Census data from 2010 show that 87 percent of establishment births and deaths were in firms with fewer than 500 employees.