

U.S. Territories

The U.S. territories have small economies that are dominated by small businesses, thus making it challenging to support large businesses. Because of limited firm size information, the number of business establishments is used as a proxy to represent the number of small businesses. This profile from the Office of Advocacy compiles the latest facts and figures on the status and role of small firms. In the United States in 2010, firms with fewer than 500 employees owned 79.4 percent of all private sector establishments.

- Puerto Rico has the largest economy of the U.S. territories. In 2010 Puerto Rico had more private sector establishments and employment than 14 states and the District of Columbia. But wages are relatively low in Puerto Rico; its annual private sector payroll is only larger than seven states, each of which has less than half the number of employees.

- Puerto Rico's unemployment rate hovered in the 10-12 percent range in the early 2000's but has been in the 15-16 percent range since early 2009.

- While the economies of the territories have fared relatively well during the downturn, the largest territory, Puerto Rico, has undergone declines in employment and number of establishments.

For Further Information

- Data on all the states and territories is 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.

U.S. Territory Business Facts

	2010*	2009	2002
Private Sector Establishments			
Puerto Rico	44,693	45,549	45,642
Virgin Islands	2,772	2,845	2,615
Guam	3,320	3,235	2,926
Northern Marianas	1,182	1,232	1,276
American Samoa	466	458	1,061
	2011*	2010	2009
Employment			
Puerto Rico	922,600	931,100	964,200
Virgin Islands	44,100	44,200	43,700
Guam	n.a.	50,721	50,270
Northern Marianas	n.a.	10,570	10,188
American Samoa	n.a.	6,856	9,991
Business Bankruptcies			
Puerto Rico	493	430	396
Virgin Islands	10	8	9
Guam	10	11	6
Northern Marianas	1	2	0
Business Loans under \$100,000 †			
Puerto Rico	12,341	15,007	20,337
Virgin Islands	187	486	533
Guam	572	497	510
American Samoa	3	5	2
Value of Business Loans under \$100,000 †			
Puerto Rico (\$ million)	410.5	475.6	571.4
Virgin Islands (\$ million)	6.7	9.5	11.0
Guam (\$ million)	12.3	10.4	11.2
American Samoa (\$ million)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Bank Branches (Fiscal Year)			
Puerto Rico	443	484	526
Virgin Islands	22	24	24
Guam	33	32	32
Northern Marianas	9	10	10
American Samoa	6	6	6

*Latest available data. †CRA data is not comparable with previous years, due to new filing requirements. n.a. = not available.

Sources: 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; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy (www.sba.gov/advocacy/7540/14968).

Table 1: Establishments and Employment in Puerto Rico by Major Industry and Employment Size, 2010

Industry	Total Establishments	Employment Size of Establishment			Private Sector Employment
		1-19	20-499	500+	
Total	44,693	38,916	5,641	136	678,376
Forestry, etc. and agriculture support	10	9	1	-	58
Mining	52	40	12	-	740
Utilities	23	19	4	-	334
Construction	2,277	1,911	362	4	33,151
Manufacturing	1,912	1,368	505	39	88,191
Wholesale trade	2,187	1,798	389	-	32,921
Retail trade	10,479	9,292	1,179	8	128,024
Transportation and warehousing	1,048	903	141	4	15,353
Information	564	476	83	5	18,169
Finance and insurance	1,979	1,712	260	7	34,906
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,635	1,546	87	2	11,695
Professional, scientific, and technical svcs.	4,232	3,970	262	-	27,250
Management of companies and enterprises	84	46	38	-	3,923
Admin., support, waste mgt., remed. svcs.	1,798	1,416	359	23	72,271
Educational services	799	467	322	10	37,548
Health care and social assistance	7,272	6,834	414	24	78,678
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	415	369	46	-	3,465
Accommodation and food services	4,280	3,260	1,010	10	71,408
Other services (except public admin.)	3,444	3,278	166	-	19,962
Unclassified	203	202	1	-	329

Note that large firms may operate small establishments.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

Table 2: Establishment and Employment Turnover in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, 2010-2011 (Non-Farm)

	Establishments					Employment				
	Net Change	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings	Net Change	Openings	Expansions	Contractions	Closings
Puerto Rico										
2010										
Quarter 1	-350	1,478	6,903	8,959	1,828	-5,787	7,067	31,762	37,696	6,920
Quarter 2	-430	1,313	7,362	8,341	1,743	-5,207	6,248	31,172	35,143	7,484
Quarter 3	-161	1,483	7,492	8,007	1,644	-1,309	7,594	32,771	34,189	7,485
Quarter 4	-190	1,458	8,456	7,186	1,648	8,435	7,524	38,154	29,655	7,588
2011										
Quarter 1	-245	1,405	7,298	8,725	1,650	-3,440	5,670	31,839	35,014	5,935
Quarter 2	-361	1,388	7,307	7,935	1,749	-3,795	6,226	32,198	34,154	8,065
Quarter 3	-28	1,497	7,491	7,608	1,525	5,904	7,105	37,158	31,441	6,918
Quarter 4	272	1,630	8,212	7,114	1,358	7,434	8,240	37,295	30,186	7,915
Virgin Islands										
2010										
Quarter 1	-7	96	472	521	103	803	379	2,340	1,536	380
Quarter 2	-16	90	521	498	106	-637	469	1,687	2,379	414
Quarter 3	21	127	536	482	106	699	540	1,951	1,321	471
Quarter 4	5	102	511	512	97	701	592	1,912	1,500	303
2011										
Quarter 1	0	97	507	554	97	181	403	1,804	1,719	307
Quarter 2	-17	97	492	524	114	-654	413	1,472	2,083	456
Quarter 3	-3	95	488	520	98	-364	389	1,472	1,901	324
Quarter 4	-1	92	471	542	93	38	359	1,570	1,512	379

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