SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE

REGULATION • RESEARCH • OUTREACH

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

- The US Virgin Islands' \$3.12 billion economy contracted by 0.6% in 2014. Figure 1 shows per capita income decreased 0.04% to \$29,875 in 2014. (Source: BEA)
- The number of private sector employees in the US Virgin Islands decreased 1.5% to 29,541 in 2014. 27,619 people, or 93.5% of the reported private workforce, worked at small establishments as compared to 78.7% of US workers.¹ (Source: CBP)
- Figure 2 displays the evolution of the reported number of private employees from 2008 to 2014 in the Virgin Island's four largest industries plus a category summing the number of employees for all smaller industries. Despite a small increase in 2009, the number of employees fell gradually across the period. (Source: CBP)
- **Table 1** shows the numbers of establishments and employees broken down by industry and establishment size in the US Virgin Islands. (Source: CBP)



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- A total of 157 companies exported goods from US Virgin Islands in 2013. Among these, 114, or 72.6%, were small firms.
- In 2014, the US Virgin Islands' total exports increased 18.9% to \$1.8 million, while its total imports increased 11.2% to \$1.8 million, and the 2014 trade deficit was \$14,000. (Source: BEA)
- There were 22 bank branch offices in the US Virgin Islands in 2014 and 2015. (Source: FDIC)
- The number of business loans under \$100,000 in the US Virgin Islands increased from 37 in 2014 to 38 in 2015, while the value of outstanding business loans under \$100,000 increased from \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million. (Source: FDIC)

¹The US Census suppresses data that do not meet their publication standards and to avoid the disclosure of sensitive information. As an example, statistics describing an industry with 3 firms may not be reported to prevent imputation of information about a single firm. **Figure 2** is limited to industries whose statistics were completely reported from 2008 to 2014. **Table 1** reflects any industry whose relevant statistics were reported in 2014. Table totals may therefore exceed table contents and figure totals.

| Industry | Number of Estab.'s | Employees at Small Estab.'s | Total Employees | Share of Employees at Small Estab.'s |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Accommodation and food services | 297 | 6,126 | 6,822 | 89.8% |
| Administrative, support, and waste management | 169 | 2,196 | 2,196 | 100.0% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 58 | 473 | 600 | 78.8% |
| Construction | 166 | 1,079 | 1,190 | 90.7% |
| Educational services | 38 | 418 | 702 | 59.5% |
| Finance and insurance | 115 | 1,010 | 1,179 | 85.7% |
| Health care and social assistance | 268 | 1,858 | 3,084 | 60.2% |
| Manufacturing | 51 | 642 | 642 | 100.0% |
| Other services (except public administration) | 212 | 945 | 1,150 | 82.2% |
| Professional, scientific, and technical services | 245 | 841 | 982 | 85.6% |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 197 | 998 | 1,116 | 89.4% |
| Retail trade | 541 | 4,072 | 6,300 | 64.6% |
| Transportation and warehousing | 108 | 1,126 | 1,733 | 65.0% |
| Wholesale trade | 65 | 174 | 796 | 21.9% |
| Industries not meeting data reporting standards | 79 | 5,660 | 1,049 | - |
| Total for all sectors | 2,609 | 27,618 | 29,541 | 93.5% |

Table 1: US Virgin Islands' Reported Establishments and Employees by Industry and Establishment Size, 2014 (CBP)

BUSINESS TURNOVER

• In the second quarter of 2014, 63 establishments started up² in US Virgin Islands and 66 exited.³ Startups generated 295 new jobs while exits caused 272 job losses. (Source: BDM)

• Figure 3 displays startup and exit rates from 2005 to 2014. Each series is smoothed across multiple quarters to highlight long-run trends. (Source: BDM)

Figure 3: Startup and Exit Rates in the US Virgin Islands (BDM)



²**STARTUPS** are counted when business establishments hire at least one employee for the first time. The BLS terms these *births*, as distinct from the BLS *openings* category which includes seasonal re-openings.

³EXITS occur when establishments go from having at least one employee to having none, and then remain closed for at least a year. The BLS terms these events *deaths*, as distinct from the *closings* category which includes seasonal shutterings.

Reference Links

| Acronym | Full Name and Link | |
|---------|---|--|
| BDM | Business Employment Dynamics, Bureau of Labor Statistics | |
| BEA | Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce | |
| BLS | Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor | |
| CBP | County Business Patterns, US Census Bureau | |
| FDIC | Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation | |
| FFIEC | Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council | |
| ITA | International Trade Administration, US Department of Commerce | |
| VIeWS | Virgin Islands Electronic Workforce System | |

