



ASSOCIATION FOR ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY

Microenterprise Employment Statistics (MEES) – Three-Year Analysis

Description

This three-year analysis is AEO's newest MEES advocacy tool! It combines MEES data from 2000-2002 and provides a state-level breakdown of the percentage change of: (1) total number of microenterprises; (2) total microbusiness employment; (3) microenterprise as a percentage of total employment; and (4) private non-farm employment. MEES data is culled annually from the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census.

AEO hopes that members, State Microenterprise Associations (SMAs), and other advocates for microenterprise will be able to use this analysis to demonstrate the growing importance of microenterprise for state and nationwide employment, especially as compared to private sector employment.

To use this document, simply find your state in the alphabetical listing in the left-most column. The following three rows show MEES statistics for your state from each year (2000-2002). The final row for each state calculates the percent change for each statistic – the growth or decline of the statistic (Total Microenterprises, Microbusiness Employment, etc.) over the three year period, expressed as a percentage.

Results

The following table shows the results of the three year analysis for the United States.

Table 1 – United States MEES Analysis: 2000-2002

USA	Year	Number of Microenterprises			Total Employment		
		Without Employees	With 1-4 Employees	Total	Microbusiness Employment	Percent of Country	Non Farm Employment
	2000	16,500,377	3,798,582	20,298,959	26,755,704	16.4%	163,496,587
	2001	16,938,220	3,807,856	20,746,076	27,193,075	16.6%	163,701,249
	2002	17,610,807	3,889,532	21,499,426	28,127,825	17.2%	163,179,302
% Change		6.7%	2.4%	5.9%	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2%

Over the three year period from 2000-2002, the total number of microenterprises in the United States grew by nearly 6%, and microbusiness employment grew at a rate just over 5%! Moreover, the percent of employment attributed to microenterprises grew 5.3%. These are incredible statistics, especially given that the overall growth of private non-farm employment actually declined slightly during the same time period.

The table also shows that the majority of the growth in microenterprises stemmed from microenterprises with zero employees, our nation's tiniest start-up businesses. The number of microenterprises with 1-4 employees also grew at a more modest rate of 2.4%. These results clearly show that though small, microenterprises are a crucial component of our economy and an increasingly important employment option for many individuals.

At the state level, microbusiness employment grew in all but one state over the three year period, with 20 states experiencing growth exceeding 5%! See table 2 for a list of states with the highest growth in microbusiness employment. In contrast, private non-farm employment either declined or grew at much more modest rates. In fact, private non-farm employment exhibited negative growth in 30 out of 50 states.

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Table 2 – States with the Highest Growth in Microbusiness Employment

State	Microbusiness Employment— Percent Change	Private Non Farm Employment— Percent Change
New Mexico	15.2%	1.9
Nevada	10.7%	1.9
Georgia	9.2%	-0.9
Florida	8.8%	2.6
Utah	7.1%	0.4
Texas	7.0%	0.2

Next Steps

AEO will continue to update MEES statistics annually, as the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census make data available. As new data is added to MEES, AEO is committed to continuing the multi-year analysis and making the results available to members.

AEO uses MEES data, and now the MEES three-year analysis, to demonstrate the importance of microenterprise in our economy to members of Congress, the press, funders and stakeholders in the microenterprise industry. AEO members are encouraged to use MEES for their own advocacy and fundraising efforts at the local, state, and federal level. To learn more about MEES, download the Three-Year Analysis, access your State-level MEES spreadsheet, or download your microenterprise State Fact Sheet, go to: <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/services/policy/mees/index.htm>.

For more information, or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Michelle Levy-Benitez (mlbenitez@assoceo.org) or Siobhan Sanders (ssanders@assoceo.org).

**Microenterprise Employment State-Level Analysis
2000-2002**

	Year	Number of Microenterprises			Total Employment ¹		
		Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
Alabama							
	2000	223,103	50,507	273,610	366,332	15.4%	2,371,966
	2001	229,687	50,138	279,825	372,163	15.8%	2,353,812
	2002	239,614	50,994	290,608	385,000	16.6%	2,324,401
		7.4%	1.0%	6.2%	5.1%	7.2%	-2.0%
Alaska							
	2000	47,691	10,914	58,605	75,280	19.0%	395,236
	2001	46,643	10,916	57,559	74,243	18.2%	407,266
	2002	47,054	10,987	57,922	74,776	18.1%	413,178
		-1.3%	0.7%	-1.2%	-0.7%	-5.0%	4.5%
Arizona							
	2000	268,969	60,560	329,529	428,680	15.3%	2,806,234
	2001	276,858	61,391	338,249	438,886	15.5%	2,839,814
	2002	289,300	63,680	352,980	457,520	16.0%	2,854,306
		7.6%	5.2%	7.1%	6.7%	4.9%	1.7%
Arkansas							
	2000	152,871	34,062	186,933	245,809	17.0%	1,445,043
	2001	156,711	33,546	190,257	249,325	17.3%	1,445,137
	2002	162,535	34,356	196,891	257,582	17.9%	1,437,337
		6.3%	0.9%	5.3%	4.8%	5.4%	-0.5%
California							
	2000	2,103,178	432,152	2,535,330	3,248,683	16.8%	19,328,740
	2001	2,149,145	433,090	2,582,235	3,303,038	16.9%	19,533,404
	2002	2,252,375	445,135	2,697,510	3,440,335	17.6%	19,558,967
		7.1%	3.0%	6.4%	5.9%	4.7%	1.2%
Colorado							
	2000	333,364	79,382	412,746	537,782	18.5%	2,913,900
	2001	341,380	79,920	421,300	549,274	18.7%	2,942,855
	2002	350,943	82,558	433,501	564,208	19.4%	2,904,402
		5.3%	4.0%	5.0%	4.9%	5.3%	-0.3%
Connecticut							
	2000	217,323	49,690	267,013	353,644	16.8%	2,104,652
	2001	220,751	49,279	270,030	356,284	16.9%	2,102,090
	2002	228,082	49,078	277,160	363,331	17.2%	2,113,973
		5.0%	-1.2%	3.8%	2.7%	2.3%	0.4%
Delaware							
	2000	41,082	13,610	54,692	75,898	15.0%	505,977
	2001	42,303	13,863	56,166	78,244	15.5%	505,583
	2002	44,489	13,980	58,469	80,405	16.1%	498,976
		8.3%	2.7%	6.9%	5.9%	7.4%	-1.4%



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Florida	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	1,074,020	252,474	1,326,494	1,737,220	19.6%	8,861,457
	2001	1,119,416	256,627	1,376,043	1,793,527	20.0%	8,987,819
	2002	1,189,508	269,669	1,459,177	1,890,875	20.8%	9,091,681
		10.8%	6.8%	10.0%	8.8%	6.1%	2.6%
Georgia							
	2000	468,430	107,165	575,595	754,701	15.6%	4,850,913
	2001	492,566	108,522	601,088	783,248	16.1%	4,854,529
	2002	523,820	111,882	635,702	823,949	17.1%	4,806,172
		11.8%	4.4%	10.4%	9.2%	9.9%	-0.9%
Hawaii							
	2000	73,810	15,658	89,468	117,804	15.7%	751,433
	2001	74,969	15,802	90,771	119,203	15.7%	760,053
	2002	76,398	16,176	92,574	121,720	15.8%	770,934
		3.5%	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%	0.7%	2.6%
Idaho							
	2000	84,375	21,131	105,506	140,416	18.8%	746,865
	2001	85,480	21,152	106,632	141,548	18.7%	758,529
	2002	89,279	22,494	111,773	148,628	19.5%	763,125
		5.8%	6.5%	5.9%	5.8%	3.6%	2.2%
Illinois							
	2000	668,171	164,492	832,663	1,109,097	15.1%	7,334,877
	2001	683,450	164,436	847,886	1,125,316	15.4%	7,304,603
	2002	720,812	166,811	887,623	1,166,188	16.1%	7,222,067
		7.9%	1.4%	6.6%	5.1%	6.8%	-1.5%
Indiana							
	2000	319,415	71,806	391,221	520,680	14.4%	3,608,696
	2001	323,178	71,675	394,853	524,274	14.8%	3,553,143
	2002	328,721	73,103	401,824	534,173	15.2%	3,523,234
		2.9%	1.8%	2.7%	2.6%	5.1%	-2.4%
Iowa							
	2000	171,472	42,545	214,017	288,866	15.8%	1,832,362
	2001	173,658	42,644	216,302	291,202	16.0%	1,822,481
	2002	176,284	43,303	219,587	295,442	16.4%	1,803,126
		2.8%	1.8%	2.6%	2.3%	3.9%	-1.6%
Kansas							
	2000	156,834	40,155	196,989	266,306	15.7%	1,698,381
	2001	159,244	40,176	199,420	269,717	15.8%	1,706,764
	2002	162,656	40,571	203,227	274,760	16.2%	1,697,163
		3.7%	1.0%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	-0.1%



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Kentucky	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	226,193	45,249	271,442	353,457	15.9%	2,228,505
	2001	230,083	44,979	275,062	356,928	16.2%	2,207,663
	2002	236,520	45,659	282,179	365,707	16.8%	2,180,150
		4.6%	0.9%	4.0%	3.5%	5.8%	-2.2%
Louisiana							
	2000	234,114	50,913	285,027	376,790	15.8%	2,380,159
	2001	241,640	50,851	292,491	384,541	16.1%	2,387,683
	2002	253,694	51,550	305,244	399,365	16.9%	2,363,066
		8.4%	1.3%	7.1%	6.0%	6.8%	-0.7%
Maine							
	2000	98,499	22,671	121,170	158,095	20.2%	782,814
	2001	99,709	22,807	122,516	160,148	20.3%	788,292
	2002	102,648	23,289	125,937	164,387	20.8%	791,784
		4.21%	2.73%	3.93%	3.98%	2.80%	1.15%
Mass.							
	2000	410,751	94,976	505,727	668,995	16.3%	4,093,411
	2001	412,941	96,254	509,195	674,591	16.4%	4,106,932
	2002	424,172	94,445	518,617	680,713	16.7%	4,081,263
		3.3%	-0.6%	2.5%	1.8%	2.1%	-0.3%
Maryland							
	2000	322,819	67,661	390,480	505,067	16.4%	3,082,300
	2001	331,177	67,905	399,082	514,535	16.5%	3,109,581
	2002	343,138	69,465	412,603	531,079	16.9%	3,146,522
		6.3%	2.7%	5.7%	5.2%	2.9%	2.1%
Michigan							
	2000	526,336	121,131	647,467	855,572	15.3%	5,575,267
	2001	535,202	121,102	656,304	864,240	15.8%	5,478,127
	2002	555,673	122,557	678,230	886,137	16.4%	5,415,949
		5.6%	1.2%	4.8%	3.6%	6.6%	-2.9%
Minnesota							
	2000	317,874	73,993	391,867	511,005	15.7%	3,253,874
	2001	324,967	75,180	400,147	521,303	16.0%	3,265,251
	2002	333,272	77,273	410,545	532,958	16.3%	3,260,714
		4.8%	4.4%	4.8%	4.3%	4.1%	0.2%
Mississippi							
	2000	134,871	31,493	166,364	223,625	15.4%	1,447,680
	2001	139,069	30,996	170,065	227,022	15.9%	1,425,200
	2002	145,183	31,594	176,777	235,456	16.7%	1,412,616
		7.6%	0.3%	6.3%	5.3%	7.9%	-2.4%

Missouri	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	311,786	76,639	388,425	522,393	15.4%	3,386,943
	2001	319,406	76,272	395,678	529,408	15.7%	3,369,703
	2002	329,854	79,642	409,496	546,128	16.3%	3,356,732
		5.8%	3.9%	5.4%	4.5%	5.6%	-0.9%
Montana							
	2000	70,243	18,878	89,121	119,774	22.7%	528,415
	2001	71,298	19,221	90,519	121,976	22.8%	535,827
	2002	72,988	19,794	92,782	124,959	23.0%	542,757
		3.9%	4.9%	4.1%	4.3%	1.6%	2.7%
Nebraska							
	2000	103,272	26,904	130,176	176,683	15.7%	1,122,223
	2001	105,475	27,013	132,488	179,102	15.9%	1,125,825
	2002	106,385	27,418	133,803	181,708	16.3%	1,117,873
		3.0%	1.9%	2.8%	2.8%	3.2%	-0.4%
Nevada							
	2000	113,744	25,830	139,574	179,657	14.2%	1,267,436
	2001	119,228	26,023	145,251	185,801	14.3%	1,300,464
	2002	128,073	27,903	155,976	198,899	15.4%	1,291,658
		12.6%	8.0%	11.8%	10.7%	8.4%	1.9%
New Hampshire							
	2000	88,899	20,281	109,180	144,318	18.5%	781,366
	2001	90,333	19,998	110,331	145,198	18.4%	788,245
	2002	94,232	20,442	114,674	151,074	19.1%	791,909
		6.0%	0.8%	5.0%	4.7%	3.3%	1.3%
New Jersey							
	2000	482,699	135,079	617,778	844,792	17.8%	4,748,291
	2001	495,109	135,357	630,466	859,377	18.0%	4,764,902
	2002	513,492	136,909	650,401	881,244	18.4%	4,779,496
		6.4%	1.4%	5.3%	4.3%	3.6%	0.7%
New Mexico							
	2000	81,398	23,200	104,598	145,067	15.2%	953,140
	2001	100,502	23,041	123,543	163,947	16.9%	968,545
	2002	103,298	23,218	126,516	167,108	17.2%	971,339
		26.9%	0.1%	21.0%	15.2%	13.0%	1.9%
New York							
	2000	1,202,943	291,474	1,494,417	1,976,480	18.9%	10,433,613
	2001	1,258,822	292,444	1,551,266	1,979,308	19.0%	10,414,937
	2002	1,302,668	297,915	1,600,583	2,093,412	20.1%	10,403,711
		8.3%	2.2%	7.1%	5.9%	6.2%	-0.3%
North Car.							
	2000	462,182	106,778	568,960	755,000	15.5%	4,857,621
	2001	474,905	106,384	581,289	769,162	16.0%	4,817,397
	2002	492,802	108,953	601,755	792,452	16.6%	4,783,505
		6.6%	2.0%	5.8%	5.0%	6.6%	-1.5%

North Dak.	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	39,624	11,007	50,631	69,645	16.9%	411,330
	2001	40,615	11,125	51,740	70,963	17.1%	414,592
	2002	40,636	11,344	51,980	71,550	17.3%	413,651
		2.6%	3.1%	2.7%	2.7%	2.2%	0.6%
Ohio							
	2000	602,921	131,550	734,471	971,120	14.4%	6,758,415
	2001	608,520	131,736	740,256	977,094	14.6%	6,695,842
	2002	623,622	133,007	756,629	994,367	15.0%	6,608,457
		3.4%	1.1%	3.0%	2.4%	4.7%	-2.2%
Oklahoma							
	2000	218,999	46,561	265,560	347,022	18.0%	1,924,262
	2001	221,777	46,673	268,450	350,669	18.1%	1,939,420
	2002	228,077	47,027	275,104	358,536	18.8%	1,911,062
		4.1%	1.0%	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	-0.7%
Oregon							
	2000	212,165	55,900	268,065	360,831	17.6%	2,044,985
	2001	213,523	55,917	269,440	362,702	17.8%	2,041,321
	2002	218,326	56,829	275,155	370,106	18.1%	2,040,477
		2.9%	1.7%	2.6%	2.6%	2.8%	-0.2%
Penn.							
	2000	631,053	152,145	783,198	1,056,942	15.3%	6,911,951
	2001	639,679	152,214	791,893	1,067,468	15.4%	6,924,112
	2002	655,959	153,049	809,008	1,085,195	15.7%	6,903,364
		3.9%	0.6%	3.3%	2.7%	2.8%	-0.1%
Rhode							
	2000	59,406	15,997	75,403	102,803	17.6%	583,181
	2001	60,516	15,928	76,444	103,611	17.7%	585,957
	2002	63,292	16,169	79,461	106,613	18.1%	588,439
		6.5%	1.1%	5.4%	3.7%	2.8%	0.9%
South Car.							
	2000	206,815	50,192	257,007	345,993	15.2%	2,269,924
	2001	212,413	49,981	262,394	351,575	15.7%	2,239,507
	2002	221,692	51,340	273,032	365,451	16.4%	2,224,034
		7.2%	2.3%	6.2%	5.6%	7.8%	-2.0%
South Dak.							
	2000	48,177	13,268	61,445	83,900	17.3%	483,587
	2001	49,016	13,489	62,505	85,250	17.6%	485,490
	2002	49,991	13,748	63,739	87,111	18.2%	479,251
		3.8%	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	4.8%	-0.9%
Tennessee							
	2000	339,358	65,712	405,070	523,038	15.4%	3,402,125
	2001	349,957	64,811	414,768	532,464	15.8%	3,369,424
	2002	364,587	65,739	430,326	550,036	16.4%	3,357,675
		7.4%	0.0%	6.2%	5.2%	6.6%	-1.3%

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Texas	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	1,271,401	246,585	1,517,986	1,944,902	16.2%	12,013,754
	2001	1,320,086	246,521	1,566,607	1,997,607	16.5%	12,116,758
	2002	1,387,269	251,938	1,638,413	2,080,123	17.3%	12,037,424
		9.1%	2.2%	7.9%	7.0%	6.7%	0.2%
Utah							
	2000	135,794	29,634	165,428	212,044	15.5%	1,370,180
	2001	138,928	30,760	169,688	217,361	15.7%	1,382,665
	2002	144,443	32,464	176,907	227,063	16.5%	1,376,151
		6.4%	9.5%	6.9%	7.1%	6.5%	0.4%
Vermont							
	2000	51,220	12,416	63,636	84,939	21.5%	395,045
	2001	52,136	12,285	64,421	85,885	21.5%	398,578
	2002	54,308	12,409	66,717	88,053	22.0%	400,508
		6.0%	-0.1%	4.8%	3.7%	2.3%	1.4%
Virginia							
	2000	378,557	93,067	471,624	630,033	14.1%	4,453,026
	2001	385,868	92,644	478,512	638,466	14.6%	4,384,273
	2002	398,777	93,359	492,136	655,218	14.9%	4,393,073
		5.3%	0.3%	4.3%	4.0%	5.8%	-1.3%
Washington							
	2000	326,397	91,722	418,119	568,718	16.4%	3,473,022
	2001	326,821	91,439	418,260	569,356	16.4%	3,470,275
	2002	334,912	93,755	428,667	584,357	16.8%	3,473,266
		2.6%	2.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%
West							
	2000	81,838	21,537	103,375	142,951	16.5%	866,750
	2001	82,791	21,104	103,895	142,575	16.4%	867,384
	2002	84,185	21,195	105,380	144,662	16.8%	862,834
		2.9%	-1.6%	1.9%	1.2%	1.7%	-0.5%
Wisconsin							
	2000	268,270	71,224	339,494	462,505	13.9%	3,339,352
	2001	273,758	71,377	345,135	468,347	14.1%	3,329,757
	2002	283,417	72,375	355,792	480,650	14.5%	3,308,826
		5.6%	1.6%	4.8%	3.9%	4.9%	-0.9%
Wyoming							
	2000	35,651	10,612	46,263	64,350	20.4%	315,908
	2001	36,511	10,848	47,359	65,603	20.3%	323,438
	2002	37,352	10,982	48,334	67,056	20.5%	326,724
		4.8%	3.5%	4.5%	4.2%	0.8%	3.4%



ASSOCIATION FOR ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY

USA	Year	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of State ^{5,6}	Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	2000	16,500,377	3,798,582	20,298,959	26,755,704	16.4%	163,496,587
	2001	16,938,220	3,807,856	20,746,076	27,193,075	16.6%	163,701,249
	2002	17,610,807	3,889,532	21,499,426	28,127,825	17.2%	163,179,302
		6.7%	2.4%	5.9%	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2%

Employees	Year	Count
	2000	6,456,745
	2001	6,317,287
	2002	6,628,698
		2.7%

Average Rate of Employment	Year	Rate
	2000	1.700
	2001	1.659
	2002	1.70424051
		0.3%

Footnotes:

- 1/ Total employment includes proprietors and all non-farm part-time and full-time employees.
- 2/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Non-Employer Statistics, 2002.
- 3/ Source: 2002 County Business Patterns, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.
- 4/ Includes micro-business entrepreneurs (with and without employees) and estimated employment for businesses with 1-4 employees.
- 5/ Micro-business employment as a percent of total county employment.
- 6/ Source: 2002 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Full-time and Part-time County Employment Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.
- 7/ The number of microenterprise employees does not include individuals who are self-employed.

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