



BUSINESS 101

**YOUR GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS IN
ALBERTVILLE**

Compliments of the:
Albertville Chamber of Commerce
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Albertville, AL 35950
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www.albertvillechamberofcommerce.com

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RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Albertville Chamber of Commerce
256-878-3821

www.albertvillechamberofcommerce.com

City of Albertville
256-891-8200

www.cityofalbertville.com

Marshall County Revenue Commissioner
256-571-7743

www.marshallco.org

Alabama Secretary of State
334-242-7200

www.sos.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Revenue
334-242-1170

www.revenue.alabama.gov

Small Business Administration- UAH
256-824-1000

www.uah.edu/sbdc

Marshall County Economic Development Council
256-582-5100

www.marshallteam.org

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 9 STEPS TO STARTING A BUSINESS

Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions and completing a series of legal activities. These 9 easy steps can help you plan, prepare and manage your business. Please visit www.sba.gov for links, "how to" instructions, and additional information.

[Step 1: Write a Business Plan](#)

Use these tools and resources to create a business plan. This written guide will help you map out how you will start and run your business successfully.

[Step 2: Get Business Assistance and Training](#)

Take advantage of free training and counseling services, from preparing a business plan and securing financing, to expanding or relocating a business.

[Step 3: Choose a Business Location](#)

Get advice on how to select a customer-friendly location and comply with zoning laws.

[Step 4: Finance Your Business](#)

Find government backed loans, venture capital and research grants to help you get started.

[Step 5: Determine the Legal Structure of Your Business](#)

Decide which form of ownership is best for you: sole proprietorship, partnership, Limited Liability Company (LLC), corporation, S corporation, nonprofit or cooperative.

[Step 6: Register a Business Name \("Doing Business As"\)](#)

Register your business name with your state government.

Learn which tax identification number you'll need to obtain from the IRS and your state revenue agency.

[Step 7: Register for State and Local Taxes](#)

Register with your state to obtain a tax identification number, workers' compensation, unemployment and disability insurance.

[Step 8: Obtain Business Licenses and Permits](#)

Get a list of federal, state and local licenses and permits required for your business.

[Step 9: Understand Employer Responsibilities](#)

Learn the legal steps you need to take to hire employees.

Startup Resources: There are a number of **available programs** to assist startups, micro businesses, and underserved or disadvantaged groups. The following resources provide information to help specialized audiences start their own businesses.

[Environmentally-Friendly "Green" Business](#) [Home-Based Business](#)
[Minority Owned Business](#) [Veteran Owned Business](#)

[Online Business](#) [Self Employed](#)
[Woman Owned Business](#)

A GUIDE TO ALABAMA

Forget what you think you know about Alabama. We're much more than just championship football and excellent food.

Alabama boasts a geography that spans all different sorts—one of the most varied in the nation, in fact. From mountains and valleys to beaches and riverbanks, there's a wealth of natural beauty on display when you need to get away.

When it comes to cities, Alabama has 13 Metropolitan Statistical Areas that serve as home to prospering businesses, prestigious colleges and universities, award-winning hospitals, and a handful of wildly popular minor league baseball teams. Whatever you're looking for, we've got it in Alabama.

But it's the people here that truly make our state a great one. As the 23rd-most populous state in the U.S., we're proud that 20 million people from across the world visit our state every year. But our lifeblood is our citizens—a culturally diverse group that knows how to get the job done when it's time to work and enjoys life to the fullest when it's time to relax.

Population and Major Metropolitan Areas: Total population - 4,822,023

Birmingham Population - 1,136,650

Huntsville Population - 430,734

Mobile Population - 413,936

Montgomery Population - 377,149

Columbus, GA-AL Population - 310,531

Tuscaloosa Population - 233,389

Daphne-Fairhope-Foley Population - 190,790

Decatur Population - 154,233

Dothan Population - 147,620

Auburn-Opelika Population - 147,257

Florence-Muscle Shoals Population - 146,988

Anniston-Oxford-Jacksonville Population - 117,296

Gadsden Population - 104,392

Geography: Total Area - 52,423 square miles

Highest point - 2,407 feet above sea level 35,469 square miles of forest (71%)

1,673 square miles of water

53 miles of coastline

1,300 miles of navigable waterways

Accessible minerals - limestone, salt, quartz, and iron ore

Accessibility:

6 Interstates - Totaling 1,126 miles

19 U.S. Highways totaling 3,852.85 miles

4 Class I Railroads totaling more than 2,500 miles of rail

90 Public Airports

5 cargo airports

9th largest deepwater seaport in U.S.—Port of Mobile

282 miles to Nashville (from Montgomery)

750 miles to Chicago (from Montgomery)

815 miles to Detroit (from Montgomery)

161 miles to Atlanta (from Montgomery)

406 miles to Charlotte (from Montgomery)

648 miles to Dallas (from Montgomery)

**Information provided by the Alabama Department of Commerce.*