

# 2021 Small Business Profile

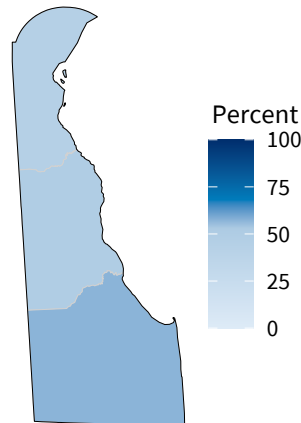
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
**OFFICE OF ADVOCACY**

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## Delaware

**88,051** small businesses  
**98.4 percent** of Delaware businesses

**190,042** small business employees  
**46.8 percent** of Delaware employees



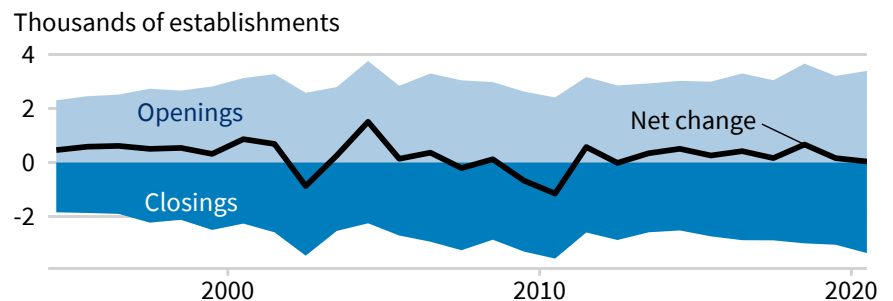
### Share of employees working at small businesses by county

Source of data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census)

## Business dynamics

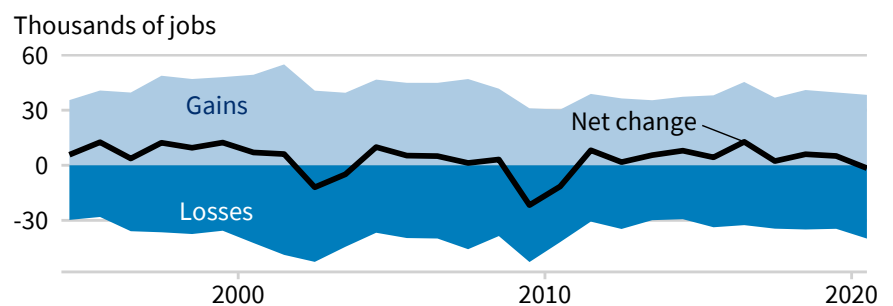
### Establishments

Between March 2019 and March 2020, 3,393 Delaware establishments opened and 3,356 closed, for a net increase of 37. Employment expanded at 5,500 and contracted at 5,494. Small businesses accounted for 5,347 expansions and 5,282 contractions.



### Employment

Opening and expanding Delaware establishments added 38,352 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 39,937, for a net decrease of 1,585 jobs. Small business expansions added 20,648 jobs, while small business contractions lost 20,632.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

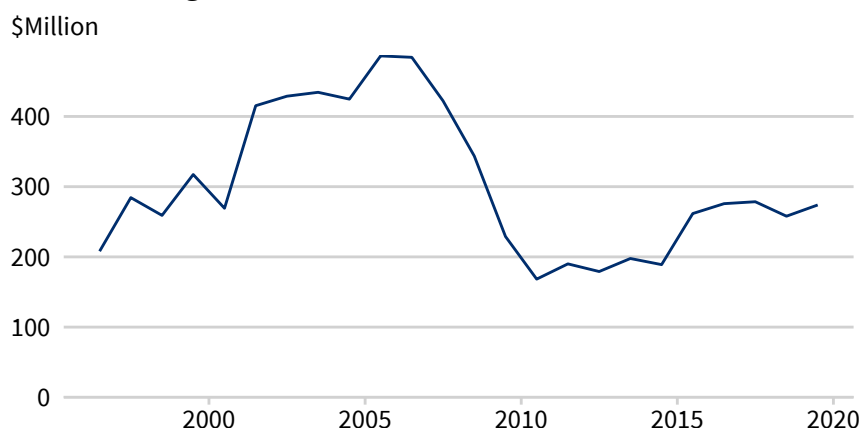
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

## Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2019, reporting banks issued \$273.9 million in loans to Delaware businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$278.9 million, and total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$762.5 million.

Source: [CRA Aggregate Data](#) (FFIEC)

### New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million



## Small business count by size and industry

Industry	No employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10,075	2,517	291	12,883
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,550	872	79	11,501
Construction	6,358	2,022	226	8,606
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,485	1,950	163	8,598
Retail Trade	5,948	1,933	234	8,115
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	5,413	1,077	173	6,663
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,473	1,431	366	6,270
Transportation and Warehousing	5,319	535	94	5,948
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,991	370	62	4,423
Finance and Insurance	2,988	858	126	3,972
Accommodation and Food Services	1,035	1,314	458	2,807
Educational Services	2,256	234	60	2,550
Wholesale Trade	1,225	696	166	2,087
Information	1,204	285	42	1,531
Manufacturing	738	364	123	1,225
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	510	32	1	543
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	236	98	334
Utilities	43	9	5	57
Industries not classified	*	46	0	46
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	12	9	5	26
Total	68,623	16,761	2,667	88,051

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2018 (Census); [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2018 (Census)



### Small business exports

A total of 2,315 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.0 billion from Delaware in 2019. Of those exporters, 2,025—or 87.5 percent—were small. Small firms exported goods worth \$914.0 million, making up 22.8 percent of exports by identified firms.

Source: [A profile of US importing and exporting companies, 2018–2019](#) (Census)

## Business ownership share by demographic group

### Women



Women made up 49.4 percent of workers and owned 41.9 percent of businesses.

### Veterans



Veterans made up 6.4 percent of workers and owned 8.7 percent of businesses.

### Hispanics



Hispanics made up 9.2 percent of workers and owned 5.3 percent of businesses.

### Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 28.8 percent of workers and owned 19.7 percent of businesses.

Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership

Sources of data: [American Community Survey](#), 2018 (Census and IPUMS); [Annual Business Survey](#), 2018 (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics](#), 2017 (Census)

## Business count by owner demographic group

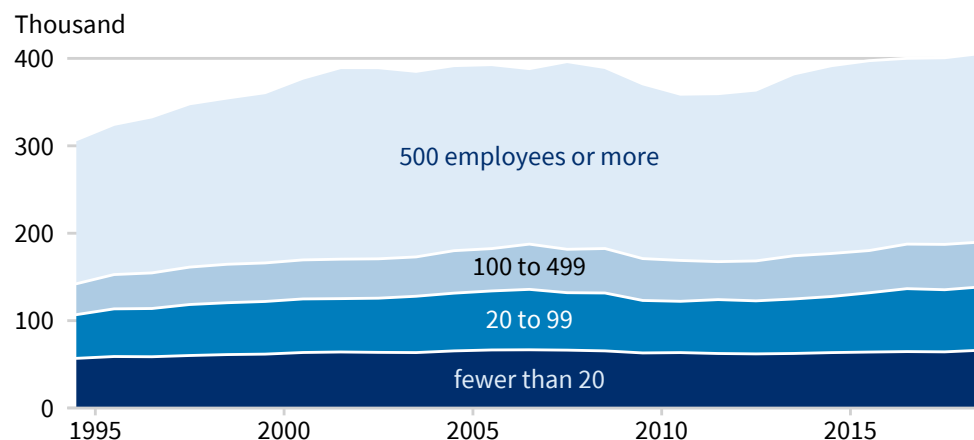
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total
Female	24,000	3,499	27,499
Male	34,000	11,355	45,355
Owned equally by both groups	2,600	2,614	5,214
Veteran	4,300	1,506	5,806
Not veteran	56,000	15,425	71,425
Owned equally by both groups	450	540	990
Hispanic	3,500	429	3,929
Not Hispanic	57,000	16,965	73,965
Owned equally by both groups	150	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	150	25	175
Asian	3,200	1,851	5,051
Black or African American	9,400	*	*
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	30	*	*
White	47,500	15,091	62,591
Hispanic or racial minority	15,500	2,830	18,330
White and not Hispanic	44,500	14,467	58,967
Owned equally by both groups	350	173	523

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau; counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group

Sources: [Annual Business Survey](#), 2018 (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics](#), 2017 (Census)

## Total Delaware employment by business size

Source of data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census)



Delaware small business employment grew by 33.6 percent between 1994 and 2018, which exceeded the national small business employment growth rate.

## Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employment		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,808	94.8	18,025	58.1	1,703,307	53.0
Construction	2,248	99.0	20,466	92.5	1,168,738	89.9
Retail Trade	2,167	88.6	18,201	31.9	652,123	41.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,113	97.5	13,704	90.6	411,237	87.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,797	94.4	28,930	41.3	1,381,658	36.3
Accommodation and Food Services	1,772	95.5	28,916	67.9	569,579	63.6
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,250	91.4	13,926	48.8	567,929	52.1
Finance and Insurance	984	83.0	6,173	14.7	493,877	11.8
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	951	92.9	4,673	81.0	234,211	78.9
Wholesale Trade	862	85.4	7,107	43.5	437,013	26.2
Transportation and Warehousing	629	90.9	5,183	41.3	247,227	41.8
Manufacturing	487	89.0	9,697	32.1	550,847	28.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	432	96.4	4,966	56.7	132,732	56.3
Management of Companies and Enterprises	334	61.1	1,143	17.8	103,402	16.0
Information	327	85.2	2,976	44.5	246,646	52.3
Educational Services	294	94.2	5,082	72.5	160,809	60.3
Industries not classified	46	100.0	41	100.0	2,352	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	33	97.1	133	96.4	5,482	94.6
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	14	87.5	192	85.7	14,390	88.0
Utilities	14	60.9	508	15.8	53,805	14.8
Total	19,428	93.3	190,042	46.8	9,137,364	39.6

Source: [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2018 (Census)

### About this profile

Small businesses are defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Figures and statistics may incorporate approximations because of missing or otherwise problematic data. Data analyzed here predate the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts of which have differed by industry, geography, and demographic group. More information about [the impacts of the pandemic](#), electronic versions of these and other [geographic profiles](#), and additional resources are available at <http://advocacy.sba.gov>.