

2021 Small Business Profile

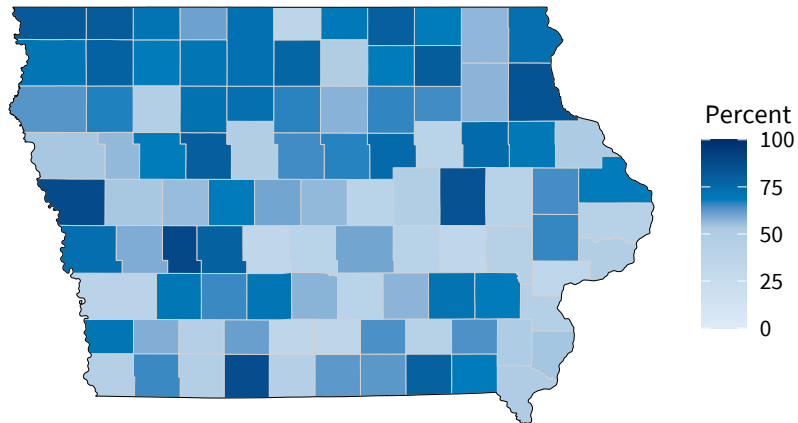
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

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Iowa

273,969 small businesses
99.3 percent of Iowa businesses

652,496 small business employees
47.8 percent of Iowa employees



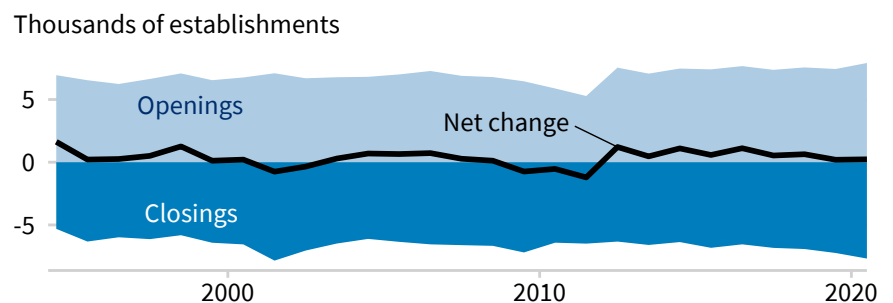
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

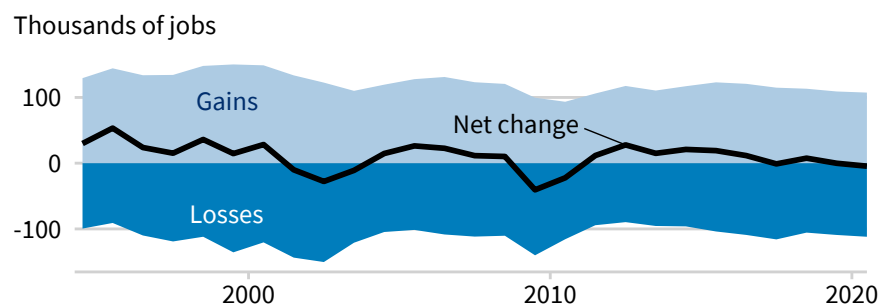
Establishments

Between March 2019 and March 2020, 7,911 Iowa establishments opened and 7,679 closed, for a net increase of 232. Employment expanded at 21,268 and contracted at 21,880. Small businesses accounted for 7,713 openings and 7,514 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Iowa establishments added 107,390 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 111,920, for a net decrease of 4,530 jobs. Small businesses gained 93,316 jobs and lost 90,811, for a net increase of 2,505 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

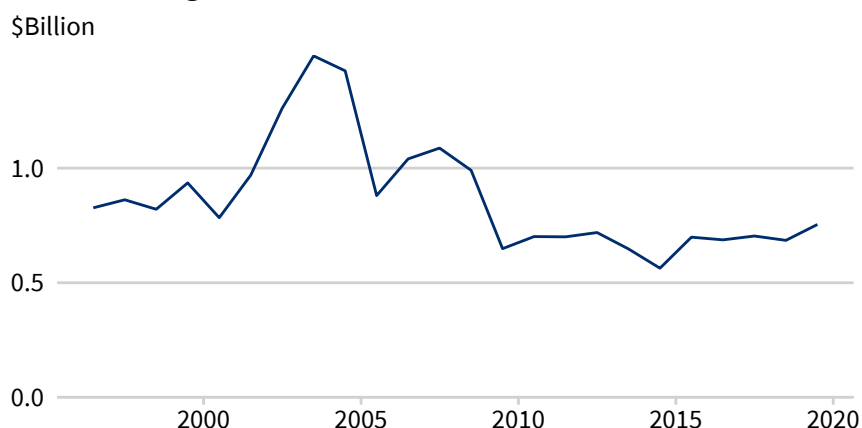
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2019, reporting banks issued \$754.1 million in loans to Iowa businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$648.6 million, and total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$2.0 billion.

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
Construction	26,272	7,986	640	34,898
Other Services (except Public Administration)	24,231	8,076	448	32,755
Retail Trade	23,358	5,873	794	30,025
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	25,348	2,426	156	27,930
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21,845	5,310	451	27,606
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,464	4,303	1,151	23,918
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	17,334	2,848	316	20,498
Transportation and Warehousing	14,622	2,867	289	17,778
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,850	1,200	174	12,224
Finance and Insurance	7,400	2,976	350	10,726
Accommodation and Food Services	3,008	4,401	1,294	8,703
Educational Services	5,428	552	153	6,133
Wholesale Trade	3,092	2,256	725	6,073
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	5,593	337	16	5,946
Manufacturing	3,087	1,854	789	5,730
Information	2,188	643	149	2,980
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	39	211	250
Utilities	161	40	33	234
Industries not classified	*	112	1	113
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	52	37	20	109
Total	212,333	54,049	7,587	273,969

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 3,308 identified firms exported goods worth \$12.2 billion from Iowa in 2019. Of those exporters, 2,704—or 81.7 percent—were small. Small firms exported goods worth \$2.2 billion, making up 17.7 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 47.4 percent of workers and owned 43.3 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 4.7 percent of workers and owned 7.8 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 5.7 percent of workers and owned 2.5 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 7.8 percent of workers and owned 4.5 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

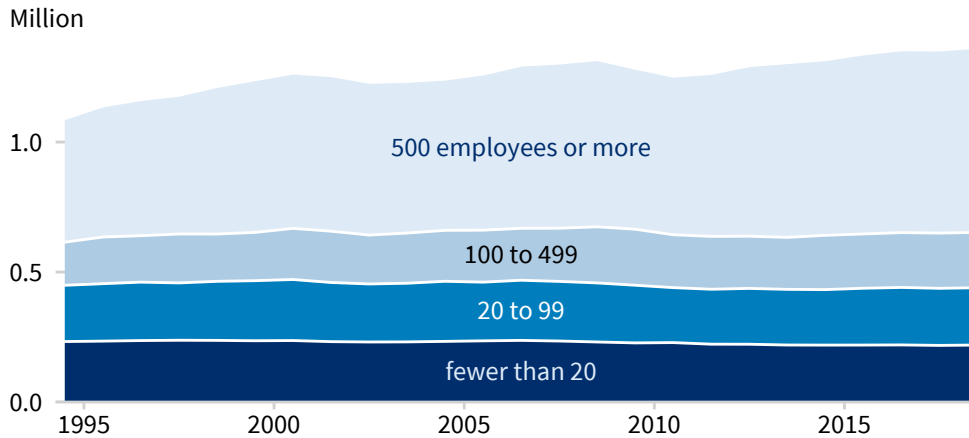
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total
Female	85,000	9,759	94,759
Male	115,000	34,277	149,277
Owned equally by both groups	7,200	11,862	19,062
Veteran	14,000	*	*
Not veteran	192,000	50,665	242,665
Owned equally by both groups	1,300	2,206	3,506
Hispanic	5,700	588	6,288
Not Hispanic	202,000	55,115	257,115
Owned equally by both groups	150	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	250	*	*
Asian	4,400	1,418	5,818
Black or African American	5,300	341	5,641
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	70	*	*
White	197,000	54,145	251,145
Hispanic or racial minority	15,500	2,382	17,882
White and not Hispanic	192,000	53,185	245,185
Owned equally by both groups	300	*	*

* 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 Iowa employment by business size

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



Small businesses accounted for 47.8 percent of Iowa employment in 2018, which exceeded the national share.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employment		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Construction	8,626	99.3	58,950	88.2	3,415,836	84.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,524	99.1	48,657	93.2	1,315,668	89.3
Retail Trade	6,667	95.5	61,360	34.0	1,905,189	40.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,761	97.0	35,928	63.8	2,077,168	59.7
Accommodation and Food Services	5,695	97.7	86,433	69.1	1,285,264	63.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,454	96.8	114,294	52.1	4,358,132	44.6
Finance and Insurance	3,326	94.1	31,054	32.6	1,853,341	25.3
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	3,164	94.7	28,313	33.2	1,067,825	35.2
Transportation and Warehousing	3,156	95.5	21,297	35.4	944,621	34.7
Wholesale Trade	2,981	89.5	41,074	58.8	2,256,115	56.3
Manufacturing	2,643	89.3	65,657	30.5	3,202,016	26.3
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,582	97.4	11,668	80.1	501,972	81.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,374	98.6	14,543	80.0	274,144	83.5
Information	792	87.6	9,875	32.0	464,278	25.4
Educational Services	705	95.4	13,265	37.9	343,826	36.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	353	98.6	1,532	59.2	84,113	58.2
Management of Companies and Enterprises	250	65.3	5,204	19.6	348,910	17.9
Industries not classified	113	100.0	139	100.0	2,679	100.0
Utilities	73	81.1	1,638	20.9	116,615	15.6
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	57	90.5	1,615	71.2	98,494	71.8
Total	61,636	96.9	652,496	47.8	25,916,206	42.2

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>.