

# 2021 Small Business Profile

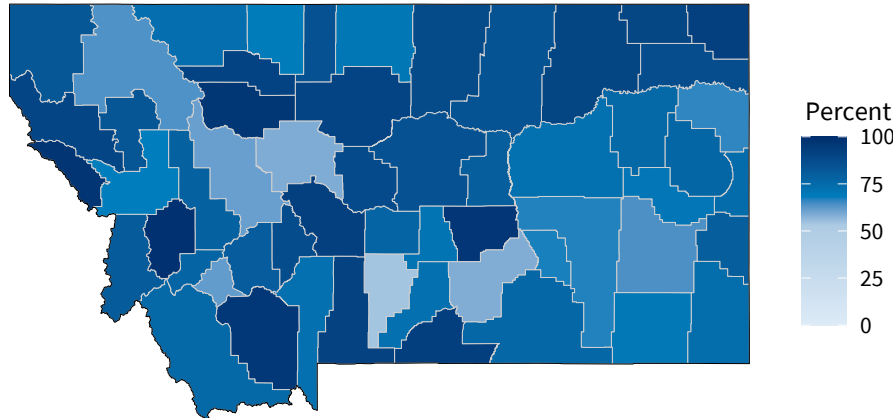
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
**OFFICE OF ADVOCACY**

REGULATION • RESEARCH • OUTREACH

## Montana

**126,219** small businesses  
**99.3 percent** of Montana businesses

**249,482** small business employees  
**67.2 percent** of Montana employees



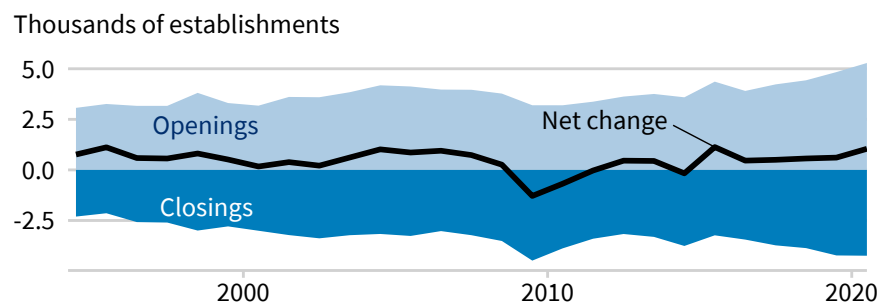
### Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

## Business dynamics

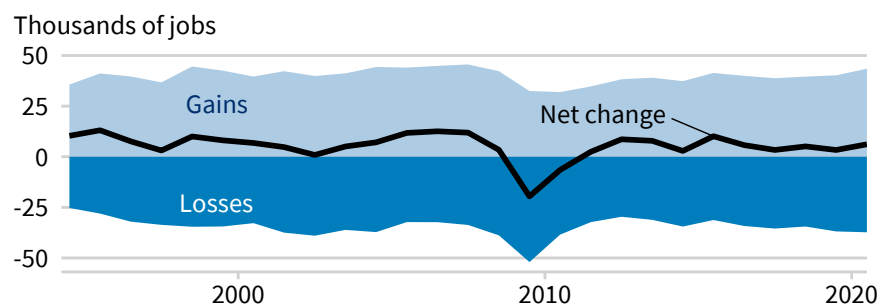
### Establishments

Between March 2019 and March 2020, 5,285 Montana establishments opened and 4,242 closed, for a net increase of 1,043. Employment expanded at 9,781 and contracted at 8,464. Small businesses accounted for 5,273 openings and 4,232 closings.



### Employment

Opening and expanding Montana establishments added 43,458 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 37,309, for a net increase of 6,149 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 5,390 jobs, or 87.7 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

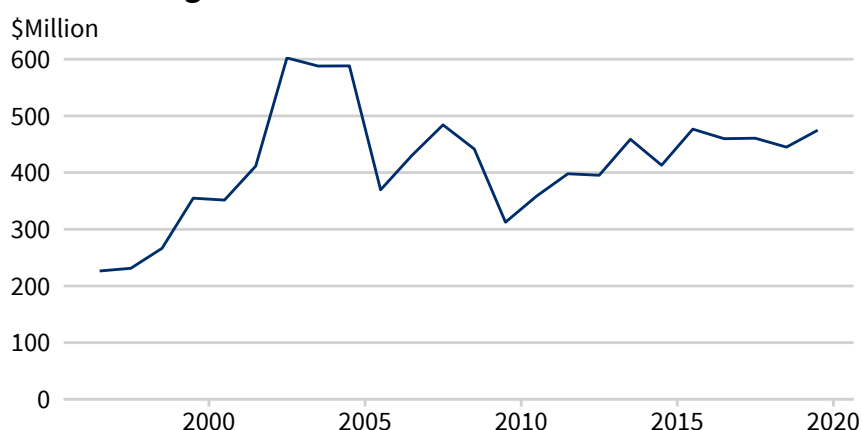
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

## Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2019, reporting banks issued \$474.7 million in loans to Montana businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$411.9 million, and total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.1 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	13,128	5,392	197	18,717
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12,303	3,405	177	15,885
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	13,439	1,821	51	15,311
Other Services (except Public Administration)	9,776	3,014	165	12,955
Retail Trade	9,051	2,968	373	12,392
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,509	2,657	380	8,546
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	6,552	1,618	111	8,281
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,936	1,002	105	7,043
Transportation and Warehousing	3,943	1,041	90	5,074
Accommodation and Food Services	1,790	2,446	648	4,884
Manufacturing	2,107	1,075	186	3,368
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,955	333	8	3,296
Finance and Insurance	2,137	1,057	90	3,284
Educational Services	2,150	324	59	2,533
Wholesale Trade	1,225	826	198	2,249
Information	1,057	309	46	1,412
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	610	259	24	893
Utilities	85	53	23	161
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	23	43	66
Industries not classified	*	50	0	50
Total	93,753	29,639	2,827	126,219

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



### Small business exports

A total of 1,426 identified firms exported goods worth \$1.5 billion from Montana in 2019. Of those exporters, 1,235—or 86.6 percent—were small. Small firms exported goods worth \$1.0 billion, making up 69.5 percent of exports by identified firms.

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

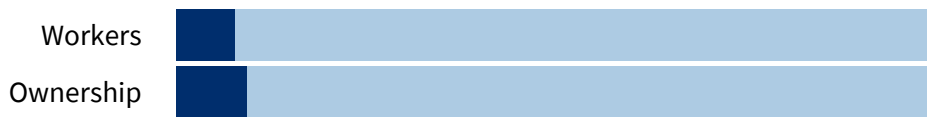
## Business ownership share by demographic group

### Women



Women made up 46.8 percent of workers and owned 45.8 percent of businesses.

### Veterans



Veterans made up 7.7 percent of workers and owned 9.3 percent of businesses.

### Hispanics



Hispanics made up 4.1 percent of workers and owned 2.0 percent of businesses.

### Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 6.7 percent of workers and owned 2.4 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

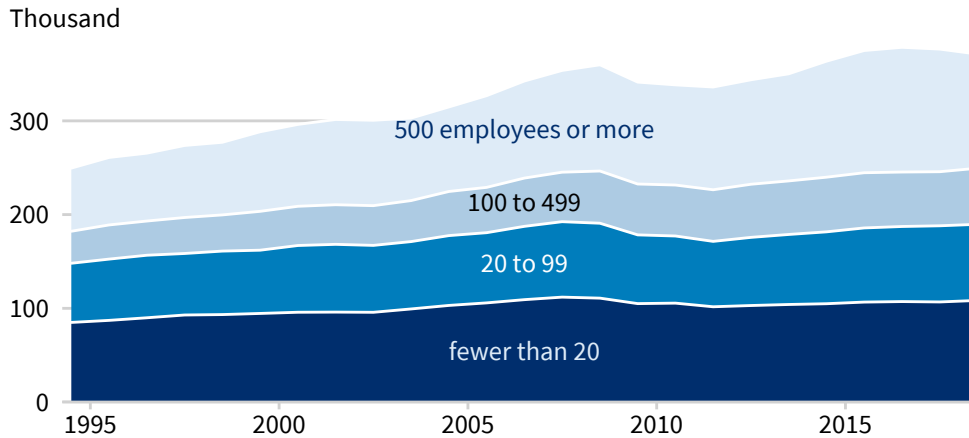
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total
Female	36,000	5,584	41,584
Male	48,500	16,003	64,503
Owned equally by both groups	5,100	7,809	12,909
Veteran	7,300	1,813	9,113
Not veteran	81,500	26,645	108,145
Owned equally by both groups	1,000	*	*
Hispanic	1,700	365	2,065
Not Hispanic	88,000	28,902	116,902
Owned equally by both groups	150	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	750	303	1,053
Asian	700	544	1,244
Black or African American	250	24	274
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	60	*	*
White	88,000	28,546	116,546
Hispanic or racial minority	3,400	1,238	4,638
White and not Hispanic	86,000	27,788	113,788
Owned equally by both groups	250	*	*

\* 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 Montana employment by business size

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



✧

The share of Montana employees working at small businesses in 2018 was the highest of any state, with small businesses accounting for 67.2 percent of employment.

✧

## Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employment		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Construction	5,589	99.5	24,343	90.6	1,364,634	87.9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,582	97.2	15,898	89.0	876,396	89.1
Retail Trade	3,341	95.8	31,034	53.3	967,047	57.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3,179	98.8	16,493	96.1	499,114	94.5
Accommodation and Food Services	3,094	98.3	42,981	82.7	779,070	80.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,037	97.4	40,174	55.6	1,540,572	45.7
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,872	98.3	5,160	85.8	185,221	82.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,729	96.8	11,044	58.0	359,164	60.0
Manufacturing	1,261	96.3	13,839	70.4	571,478	57.4
Finance and Insurance	1,147	91.9	8,106	48.8	407,691	37.9
Transportation and Warehousing	1,131	95.0	7,042	59.7	301,368	59.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,107	99.1	9,139	89.2	170,817	87.1
Wholesale Trade	1,024	86.3	9,965	63.5	475,038	58.7
Educational Services	383	96.7	5,331	84.7	135,956	87.0
Information	355	85.5	3,998	46.8	196,626	44.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	341	98.6	945	92.9	45,369	92.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	283	88.7	2,129	39.9	178,952	34.6
Utilities	76	88.4	1,123	36.6	84,590	32.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	66	56.4	662	19.8	54,296	21.5
Industries not classified	50	100.0	76	100.0	1,258	100.0
Total	32,466	97.2	249,482	67.2	9,194,657	60.5

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>.