

2021 Small Business Profile

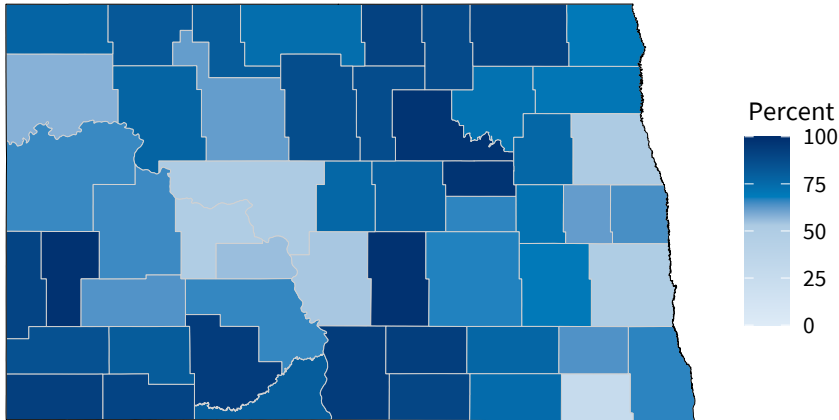
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

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North Dakota

75,427 small businesses
98.8 percent of North Dakota businesses

196,368 small business employees
56.7 percent of North Dakota employees



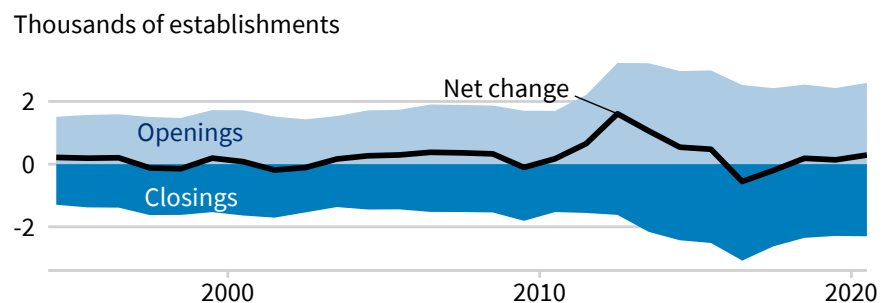
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

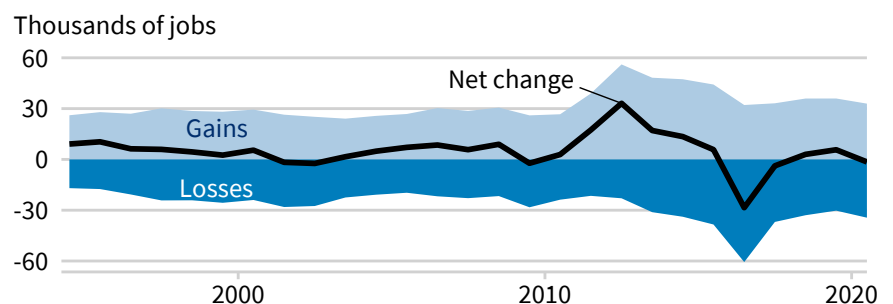
Establishments

Between March 2019 and March 2020, 2,593 North Dakota establishments opened and 2,303 closed, for a net increase of 290. Employment expanded at 6,484 and contracted at 6,525. Small businesses accounted for 6,352 expansions and 6,353 contractions.



Employment

Opening and expanding North Dakota establishments added 32,937 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 34,422, for a net decrease of 1,485 jobs. Small business expansions added 21,549 jobs, while small business contractions lost 23,500.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

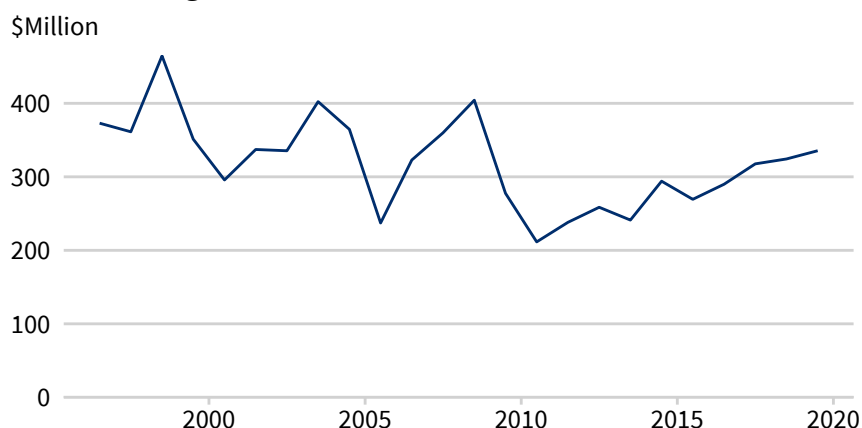
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2019, reporting banks issued \$335.5 million in loans to North Dakota businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$238.5 million, and total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$916.8 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
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,943	838	58	8,839
Construction	5,612	2,696	215	8,523
Retail Trade	6,453	1,662	302	8,417
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,716	2,268	140	8,124
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,574	1,439	171	7,184
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,839	1,299	277	6,415
Transportation and Warehousing	4,247	1,062	129	5,438
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	4,186	824	109	5,119
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,890	351	56	3,297
Finance and Insurance	2,275	883	88	3,246
Accommodation and Food Services	862	1,291	422	2,575
Educational Services	1,565	125	37	1,727
Wholesale Trade	741	663	279	1,683
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,482	108	2	1,592
Manufacturing	771	423	139	1,333
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	866	280	101	1,247
Information	458	153	48	659
Utilities	43	22	19	84
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	17	41	58
Industries not classified	*	56	0	56
Total	56,523	16,442	2,462	75,427

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 1,742 identified firms exported goods worth \$6.3 billion from North Dakota in 2019. Of those exporters, 1,480—or 85.0 percent—were small. Small firms exported goods worth \$3.3 billion, making up 52.5 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 45.3 percent of workers and owned 42.9 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.8 percent of workers and owned 8.7 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 3.8 percent of workers and owned 1.6 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 11.9 percent of workers and owned 4.0 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

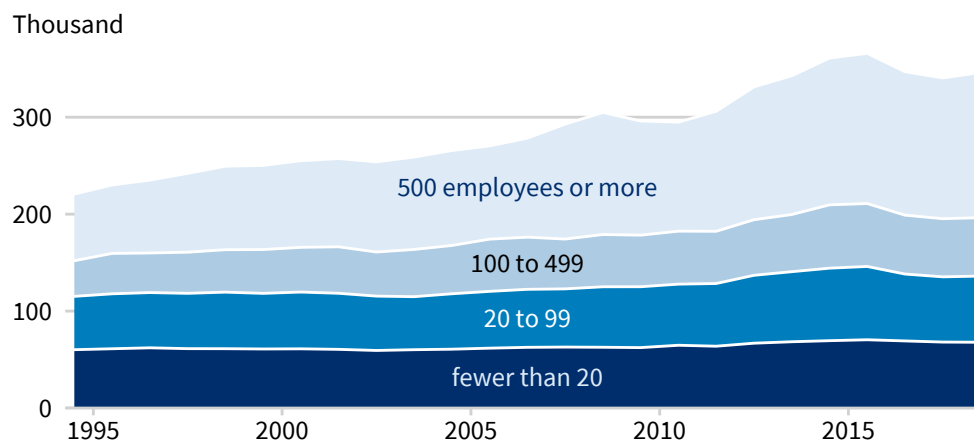
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total
Female	22,000	*	*
Male	30,000	11,208	41,208
Owned equally by both groups	2,100	3,745	5,845
Veteran	4,300	*	*
Not veteran	49,500	16,527	66,027
Owned equally by both groups	500	547	1,047
Hispanic	950	100	1,050
Not Hispanic	53,500	17,843	71,343
Owned equally by both groups	40	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	400	163	563
Asian	650	*	*
Black or African American	1,100	37	1,137
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*
White	52,000	17,599	69,599
Hispanic or racial minority	3,100	*	*
White and not Hispanic	51,000	17,270	68,270
Owned equally by both groups	80	*	*

* 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 North Dakota employment by business size

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



North Dakota small business employment grew by 29.2 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	%
Construction	2,911	98.9	19,929	89.6	1,387,559	86.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,408	98.2	13,387	92.5	395,622	87.6
Retail Trade	1,964	92.4	23,557	48.1	795,895	53.5
Accommodation and Food Services	1,713	97.4	29,098	79.5	523,995	78.9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,610	95.7	11,617	74.5	769,831	73.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,576	96.6	26,793	41.0	995,995	30.9
Transportation and Warehousing	1,191	93.8	9,626	58.7	549,457	55.5
Finance and Insurance	971	91.5	7,599	42.2	465,286	40.0
Wholesale Trade	942	84.3	12,710	59.3	776,989	58.0
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	933	94.1	8,031	60.1	293,650	62.0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	896	95.4	3,815	69.6	179,591	66.1
Manufacturing	562	90.4	11,076	44.1	550,862	39.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	407	98.8	4,386	75.1	78,452	86.5
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	381	86.0	6,004	34.9	563,977	33.3
Information	201	82.4	3,062	44.3	160,424	34.0
Educational Services	162	92.6	3,121	75.6	76,773	71.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	110	97.3	284	71.9	14,790	68.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	58	54.2	796	18.0	43,986	11.9
Industries not classified	56	100.0	63	100.0	1,047	100.0
Utilities	41	80.4	1,414	34.0	141,272	32.9
Total	18,904	95.4	196,368	56.7	8,765,453	50.7

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>.