

2021 Small Business Profile

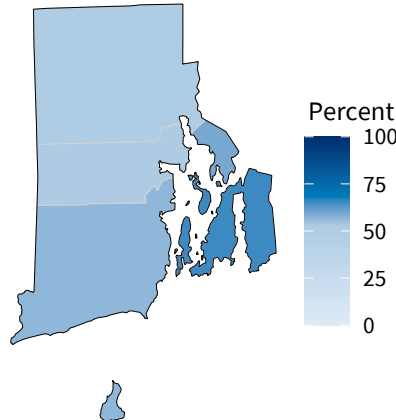
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

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Rhode Island

106,412 small businesses
98.9 percent of Rhode Island businesses

230,742 small business employees
52.2 percent of Rhode Island employees



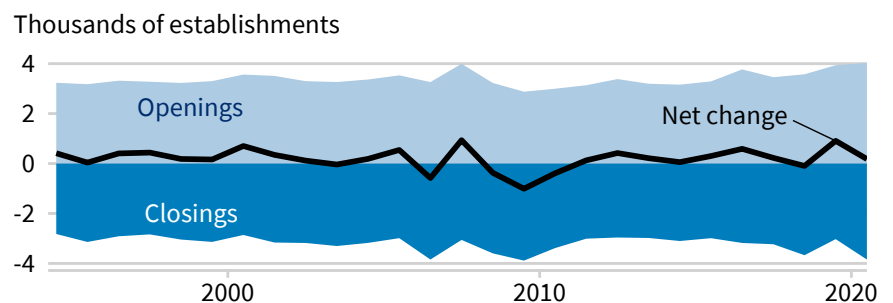
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

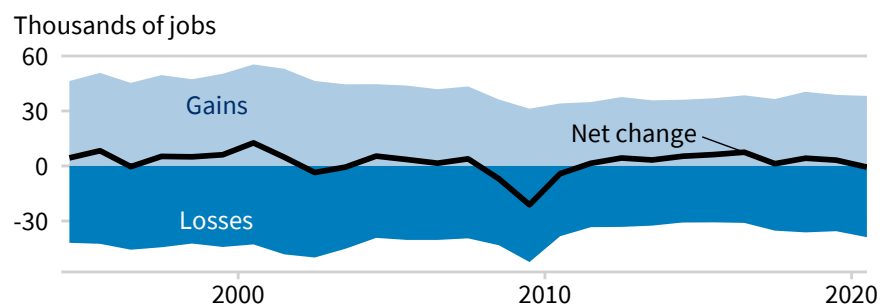
Establishments

Between March 2019 and March 2020, 4,026 Rhode Island establishments opened and 3,846 closed, for a net increase of 180. Employment expanded at 6,987 and contracted at 7,240. Small businesses accounted for 4,019 openings and 3,793 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Rhode Island establishments added 38,230 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 38,842, for a net decrease of 612 jobs. Small businesses gained 34,635 jobs and lost 34,868, for a net decrease of 233 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

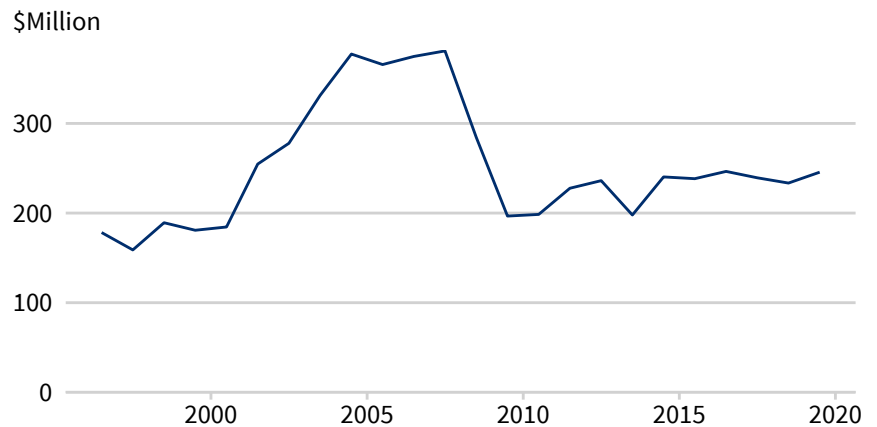
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2019, reporting banks issued \$245.6 million in loans to Rhode Island businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$296.5 million, and total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$789.2 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	12,794	2,537	220	15,551
Construction	8,540	3,082	162	11,784
Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,996	2,617	161	11,774
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,249	840	55	11,144
Health Care and Social Assistance	6,185	1,730	409	8,324
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	6,734	1,435	151	8,320
Retail Trade	5,525	2,281	226	8,032
Transportation and Warehousing	7,384	569	69	8,022
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,737	446	80	6,263
Accommodation and Food Services	1,231	2,029	601	3,861
Educational Services	3,248	267	104	3,619
Finance and Insurance	2,011	576	79	2,666
Manufacturing	1,075	868	324	2,267
Wholesale Trade	1,120	828	220	2,168
Information	1,009	202	39	1,250
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,149	39	2	1,190
Utilities	149	9	3	161
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	19	47	66
Industries not classified	*	33	0	33
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	9	12	1	22
Total	83,145	20,408	2,859	106,412

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 1,976 identified firms exported goods worth \$2.4 billion from Rhode Island in 2019. Of those exporters, 1,733—or 87.7 percent—were small. Small firms exported goods worth \$1.3 billion, making up 54.3 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 48.6 percent of workers and owned 40.5 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 4.3 percent of workers and owned 6.6 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 14.4 percent of workers and owned 10.5 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 15.4 percent of workers and owned 8.1 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

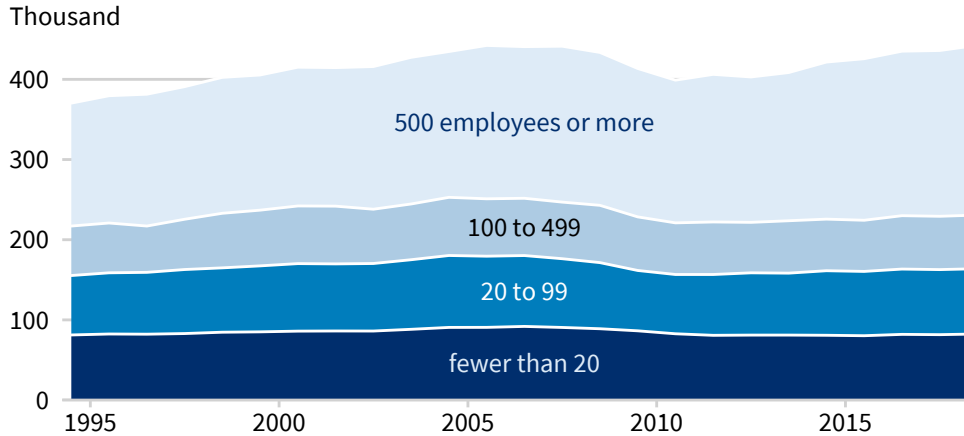
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total
Female	32,000	*	*
Male	45,000	14,627	59,627
Owned equally by both groups	2,200	2,290	4,490
Veteran	4,300	1,572	5,872
Not veteran	75,000	19,045	94,045
Owned equally by both groups	350	372	722
Hispanic	9,700	*	*
Not Hispanic	69,500	20,247	89,747
Owned equally by both groups	80	125	205
American Indian and Alaska Native	200	34	234
Asian	2,500	938	3,438
Black or African American	4,200	168	4,368
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	80	*	*
White	72,500	19,822	92,322
Hispanic or racial minority	15,000	1,697	16,697
White and not Hispanic	64,000	19,084	83,084
Owned equally by both groups	150	211	361

* 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 Rhode Island employment by business size

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



Small businesses accounted for 52.2 percent of Rhode Island 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	3,244	99.5	17,906	93.5	1,155,692	90.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,778	98.1	16,346	90.6	557,703	89.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,757	95.5	17,263	73.0	1,163,280	71.4
Accommodation and Food Services	2,630	97.1	36,925	71.3	780,852	67.5
Retail Trade	2,507	91.4	18,558	38.5	637,879	44.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,139	95.8	41,670	48.1	1,801,462	43.1
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,586	93.8	13,313	53.7	525,327	55.7
Manufacturing	1,192	94.5	23,890	60.0	1,211,514	52.7
Wholesale Trade	1,048	86.9	11,727	56.1	746,488	51.1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	895	95.6	4,036	76.9	196,892	77.1
Finance and Insurance	655	82.5	5,972	20.0	491,125	18.2
Transportation and Warehousing	638	93.0	4,822	43.3	238,258	48.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	526	97.0	5,865	64.1	175,708	74.1
Educational Services	371	94.2	7,171	23.8	288,148	24.5
Information	241	82.0	2,617	39.1	168,477	32.4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	66	50.0	2,191	14.0	130,053	7.6
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	41	100.0	163	100.0	8,742	100.0
Industries not classified	33	100.0	48	100.0	1,803	100.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	13	92.9	124	85.5	8,872	84.8
Utilities	12	60.0	135	10.4	16,843	10.8
Total	23,267	95.3	230,742	52.2	10,305,118	46.2

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>.