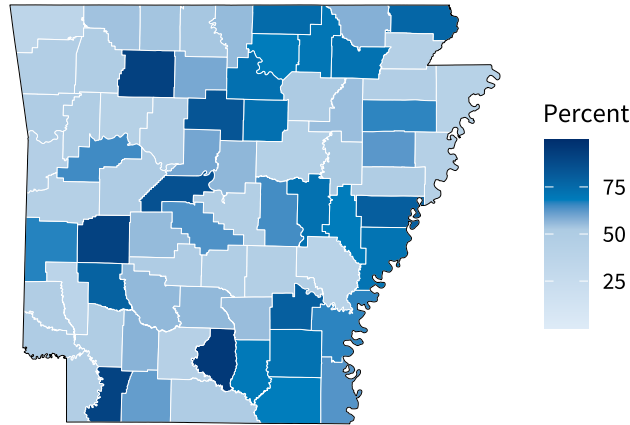


Arkansas

280,772 small businesses
99.3 percent of Arkansas businesses

488,761 small business employees
47.5 percent of Arkansas employees



Share of employees working at small businesses by county

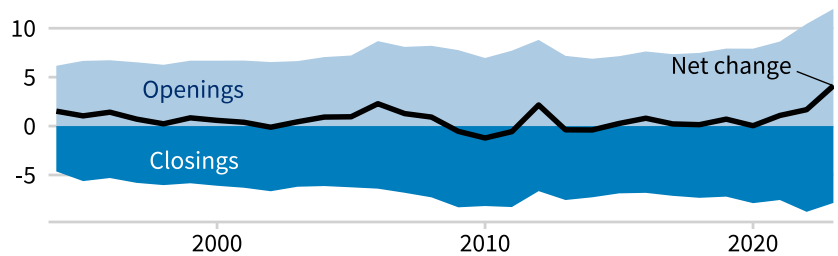
Sources of original data: [Nonemployer Statistics](#) (Census), [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#) (Census)

Employer and employment dynamics

Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 11,978 Arkansas establishments opened and 7,858 closed, for a net increase of 4,120. Employment expanded at 20,041 establishments and contracted at 16,042. Small businesses accounted for 11,136 openings and 7,287 closings.

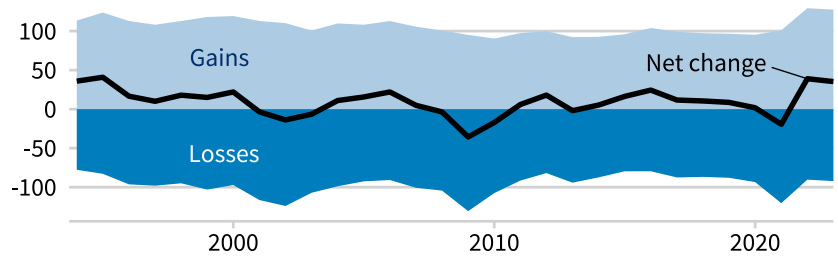
Thousands of establishments



Employment

Opening and expanding Arkansas establishments added 127,517 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 92,173, for a net increase of 35,344 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 31,014 jobs, or 87.7 percent of that total.

Thousands of jobs



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

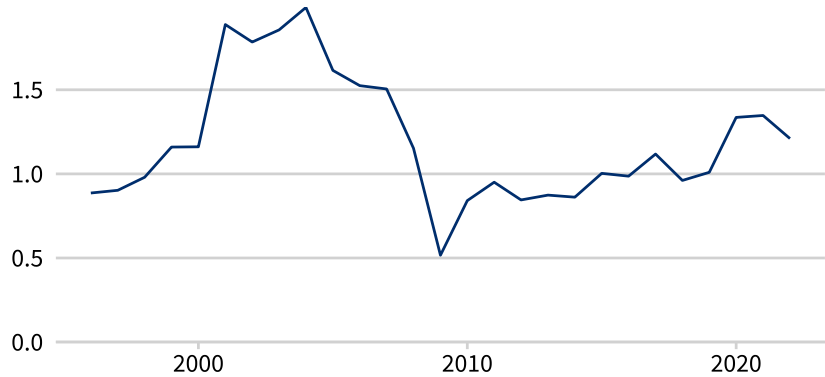
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2022, reporting banks issued \$1.2 billion in loans to Arkansas businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$886.2 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$2.7 billion.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$Billion



Small business count by size and industry

Industry	Without employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Construction	32,302	5,303	509	38,114
Other Services (except Public Administration)	30,379	5,997	340	36,716
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	25,978	2,069	283	28,330
Retail Trade	21,077	5,684	605	27,366
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21,313	5,132	330	26,775
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	22,254	2,631	116	25,001
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,722	4,986	916	24,624
Transportation and Warehousing	19,058	1,711	267	21,036
Accommodation and Food Services	5,513	3,490	1,057	10,060
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,554	698	77	9,329
Finance and Insurance	6,135	2,166	186	8,487
Educational Services	5,236	480	123	5,839
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,794	588	33	5,415
Manufacturing	2,960	1,405	520	4,885
Wholesale Trade	2,773	1,538	513	4,824
Information	2,014	398	76	2,488
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,070	174	40	1,284
Utilities	165	97	25	287
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	39	134	173
Industries not classified	*	94	0	94
All industries	230,297	44,629	5,846	280,772

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2021 (Census); [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2021 (Census)



Small business exports

A total of 2,190 identified firms exported goods worth \$5.3 billion from Arkansas in 2022. Of those exporters, 1,665—or 76.0 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$1.2 billion, making up 22.9 percent of exports by identified firms.

Source: [A profile of U.S. importing and exporting companies, 2021-2022](#) (Census)

Business ownership share by demographic group

Women



Women made up 47.7 percent of workers and owned 44.1 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.2 percent of workers and owned 8.0 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 8.0 percent of workers and owned 6.5 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 25.0 percent of workers and owned 15.9 percent of businesses.

Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership.

Sources of original data: [American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Data \(Census\)](#); [Annual Business Survey, 2021 \(Census\)](#); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2021 \(Census\)](#)

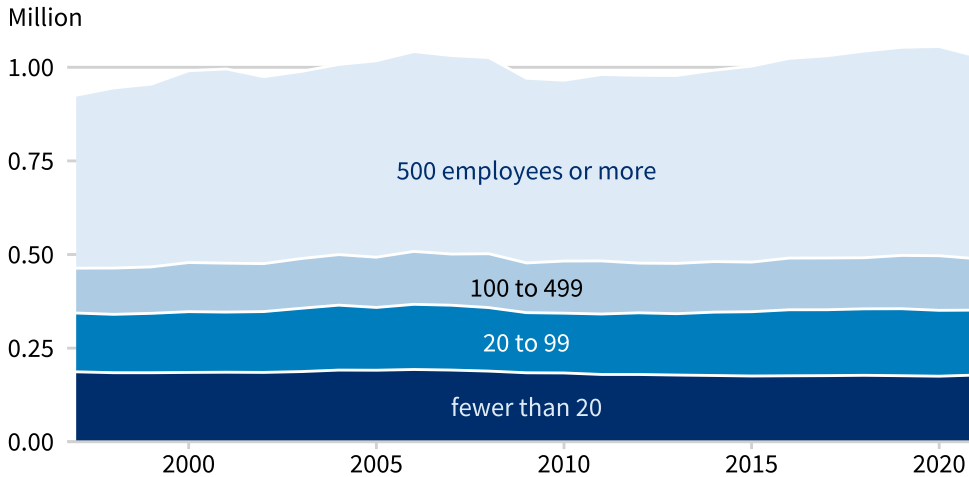
Business count by owner demographic group

Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	97,000	8,014	105,014
Male	123,000	28,729	151,729
Owned equally by both groups	6,500	8,303	14,803
Veteran	15,500	3,138	18,638
Not Veteran	210,000	39,883	249,883
Owned equally by both groups	1,100	2,026	3,126
Hispanic	16,000	1,215	17,215
Not Hispanic	210,000	43,633	253,633
Owned equally by both groups	200	199	399
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,500	491	3,991
Asian	6,100	2,485	8,585
Black or African American	32,500	904	33,404
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	400	*	454
White	187,000	41,034	228,034
Hispanic or Racial Minority	56,000	4,951	60,951
White and Not Hispanic	170,000	39,384	209,384
Owned equally by both groups	550	710	1,260

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

Sources: [Annual Business Survey, 2021 \(Census\)](#); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2021 \(Census\)](#)

Total Arkansas employment by business size
 Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#) (Census)



Small businesses accounted for 47.5 percent of Arkansas employment in 2021, which exceeded the national small business employment share.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,337	98.8	36,386	92.5	1,099,824	88.4
Retail Trade	6,289	95.7	51,367	36.9	1,963,646	43.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,902	97.6	88,563	49.5	3,803,621	40.0
Construction	5,812	98.9	44,717	86.3	2,255,134	80.5
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,462	97.0	28,958	77.3	1,801,145	74.0
Accommodation and Food Services	4,547	97.2	71,338	69.4	1,429,013	70.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,747	97.3	9,839	74.1	399,670	67.7
Finance and Insurance	2,352	92.6	16,986	41.9	1,087,792	34.3
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	2,352	93.3	22,380	33.9	853,709	37.1
Wholesale Trade	2,051	85.0	25,323	54.4	1,525,664	52.0
Transportation and Warehousing	1,978	93.0	17,377	29.7	811,310	25.4
Manufacturing	1,925	86.8	40,920	25.8	1,917,275	22.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	775	98.0	6,554	75.3	182,132	72.5
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	621	98.4	4,118	87.1	184,720	78.9
Educational Services	603	96.8	11,371	74.4	363,901	78.5
Information	474	81.9	4,687	22.9	325,909	22.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	214	88.4	2,286	70.5	143,728	67.4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	173	60.5	2,854	7.8	222,354	5.0
Utilities	122	87.8	2,616	33.5	209,390	27.3
Industries not classified	94	100.0	121	100.0	2,903	100.0
All industries	50,475	96.3	488,761	47.5	20,582,840	40.2

Source: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2021 (Census)

About this profile

Small businesses are generally defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Figures or statistics may involve approximations because of missing or problematic data. Where notes identify the source of “original data,” a value is approximate in at least one profile. The Technical Notes provide details on data, methods, and definitions. Electronic versions of this and other [geographic profiles](#) are available online. Visit advocacy.sba.gov for additional resources.