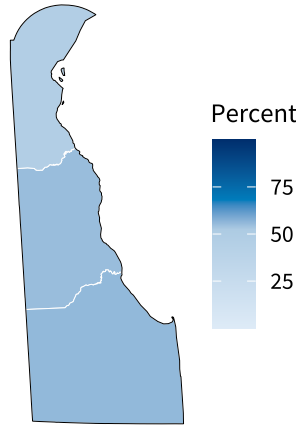


Delaware

104,457 small businesses
98.7 percent of Delaware businesses

201,082 small business employees
49.2 percent of Delaware employees



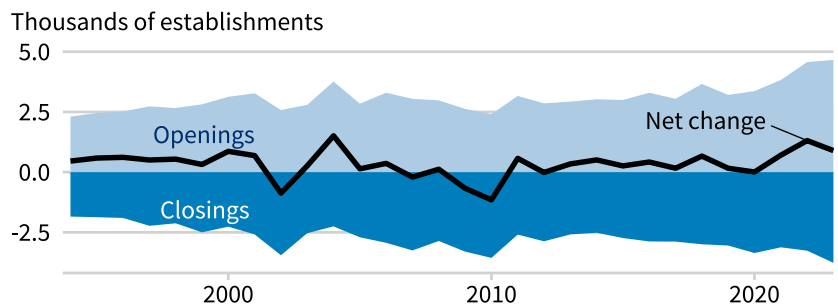
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Employer and employment dynamics

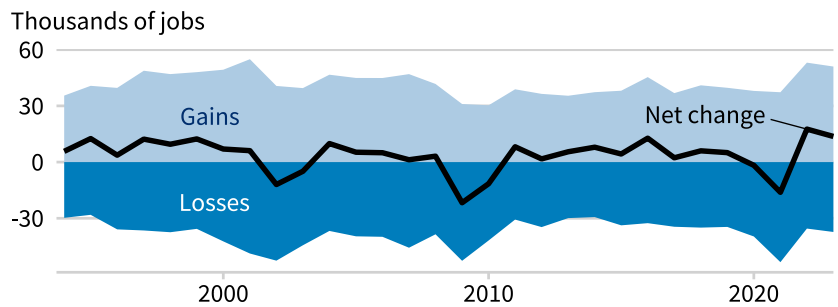
Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 4,661 Delaware establishments opened and 3,766 closed, for a net increase of 895. Employment expanded at 6,543 establishments and contracted at 5,552. Small businesses accounted for 4,424 establishment openings and 3,643 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Delaware establishments added 51,009 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 37,325, for a net increase of 13,684 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 6,942 jobs, or 50.7 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

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

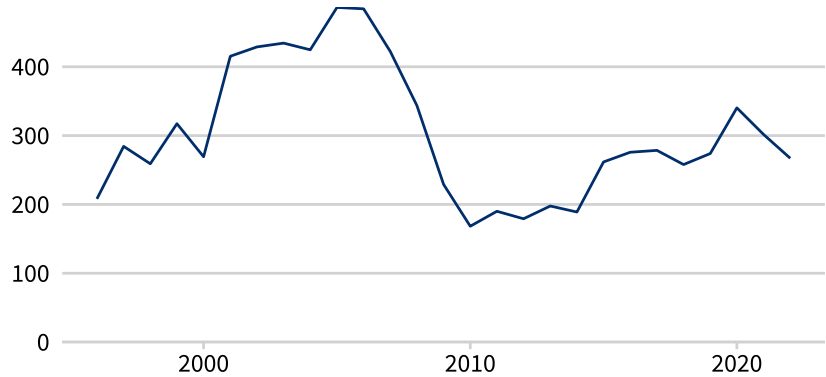
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2022, reporting banks issued \$267.1 million in loans to Delaware businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$344.1 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$760.1 million.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$Million



Small business count by size and industry

Industry	Without employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	11,883	3,151	337	15,371
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,391	1,058	77	12,526
Transportation and Warehousing	11,455	605	109	12,169
Retail Trade	7,214	2,101	233	9,548
Construction	6,852	2,155	251	9,258
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,774	2,064	162	9,000
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	6,077	1,227	183	7,487
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,173	1,910	379	7,462
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,165	437	60	4,662
Finance and Insurance	3,195	931	126	4,252
Accommodation and Food Services	1,391	1,430	418	3,239
Educational Services	2,305	274	60	2,639
Wholesale Trade	1,362	778	182	2,322
Information	1,563	523	49	2,135
Manufacturing	797	393	127	1,317
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	547	36	0	583
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	223	88	311
Industries not classified	*	195	0	195
Utilities	55	15	6	76
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	12	12	7	31
All industries	82,211	19,489	2,757	104,457

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 2,233 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.4 billion from Delaware in 2022. Of those exporters, 1,969—or 88.2 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$863.0 million, making up 19.5 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 49.0 percent of workers and owned 43.7 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.2 percent of workers and owned 6.2 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 9.1 percent of workers and owned 7.6 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 34.1 percent of workers and owned 25.8 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

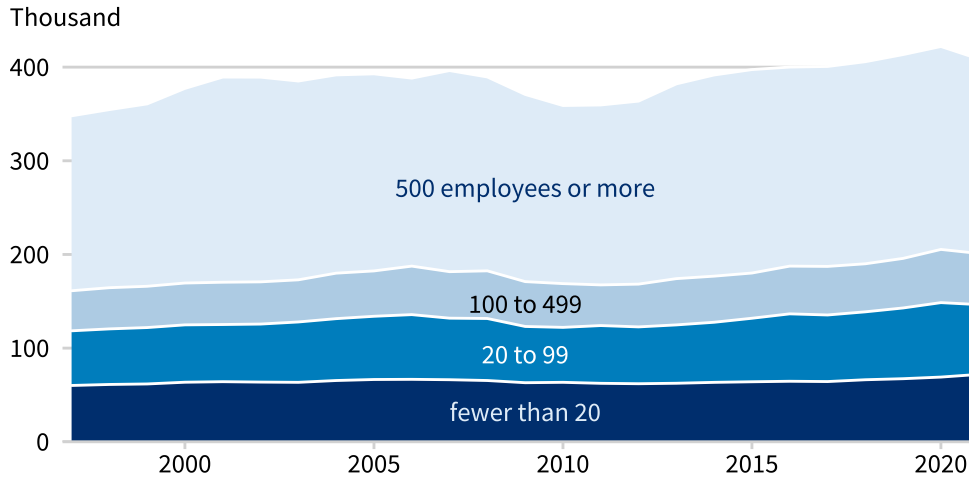
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	31,500	4,568	36,068
Male	40,000	13,069	53,069
Owned equally by both groups	2,600	2,579	5,179
Veteran	4,200	1,017	5,217
Not Veteran	69,500	18,891	88,391
Owned equally by both groups	400	*	*
Hispanic	6,300	621	6,921
Not Hispanic	67,500	19,513	87,013
Owned equally by both groups	200	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	650	*	*
Asian	4,500	2,267	6,767
Black or African American	17,000	879	17,879
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	80	5	85
White	53,000	16,928	69,928
Hispanic or Racial Minority	26,500	3,794	30,294
White and Not Hispanic	47,000	16,160	63,160
Owned equally by both groups	500	262	762

* 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 Delaware employment by business size

Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#) (Census)



Delaware small business employment grew by 24.7 percent between 1997 and 2021, which exceeded the national small business employment growth rate.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,488	95.5	22,593	68.8	2,398,740	60.4
Construction	2,406	99.0	21,220	91.4	1,328,904	88.4
Retail Trade	2,334	90.1	18,190	34.1	856,818	48.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,289	95.3	31,636	44.0	1,842,378	40.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,226	97.7	13,202	92.6	476,106	89.0
Accommodation and Food Services	1,848	96.1	27,586	74.2	690,177	75.5
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,410	91.5	15,086	47.3	771,714	53.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,135	94.7	5,085	79.9	292,867	78.5
Finance and Insurance	1,057	83.0	6,850	16.4	731,128	15.8
Wholesale Trade	960	85.7	8,214	44.5	586,164	28.2
Transportation and Warehousing	714	91.7	6,593	33.5	273,557	32.0
Information	572	89.2	3,602	56.9	430,602	63.0
Manufacturing	520	89.7	9,594	34.2	595,088	32.1
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	497	97.1	4,535	61.0	167,134	62.4
Educational Services	334	94.4	4,971	81.7	181,309	65.3
Management of Companies and Enterprises	311	66.3	962	14.6	95,799	12.2
Industries not classified	195	100.0	255	100.0	9,446	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	36	97.3	129	95.6	7,108	95.0
Utilities	21	72.4	561	22.3	66,744	21.4
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	19	90.5	218	61.9	21,056	55.0
All industries	22,246	94.1	201,082	49.2	11,822,839	44.1

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.