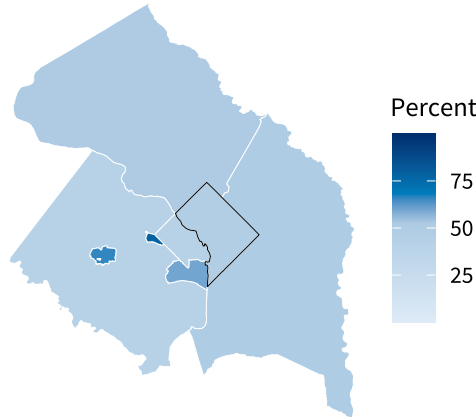


District of Columbia

78,026 small businesses
98.2 percent of DC businesses

233,078 small business employees
48.2 percent of DC employees



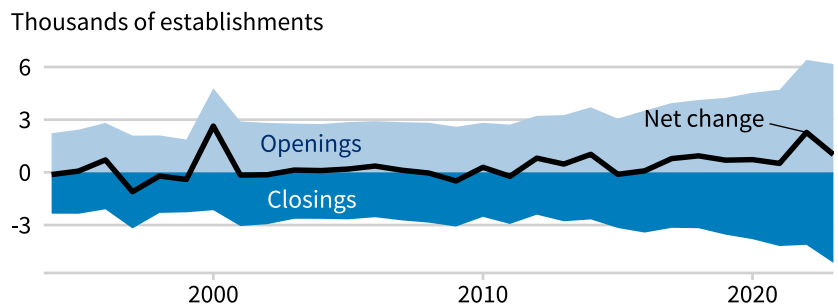
Share of employees working at small businesses by county, district, or independent city

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

Employer and employment dynamics

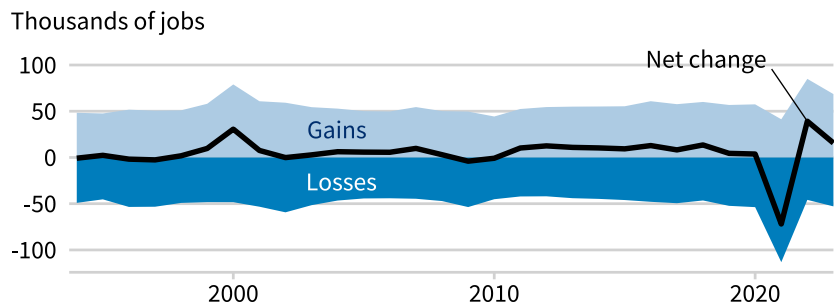
Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 6,167 DC establishments opened and 5,153 closed, for a net increase of 1,014. Employment expanded at 7,829 establishments and contracted at 6,859. Small businesses accounted for 5,696 establishment openings and 4,636 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding DC establishments added 68,536 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 52,895, for a net increase of 15,641 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 12,549 jobs, or 80.2 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

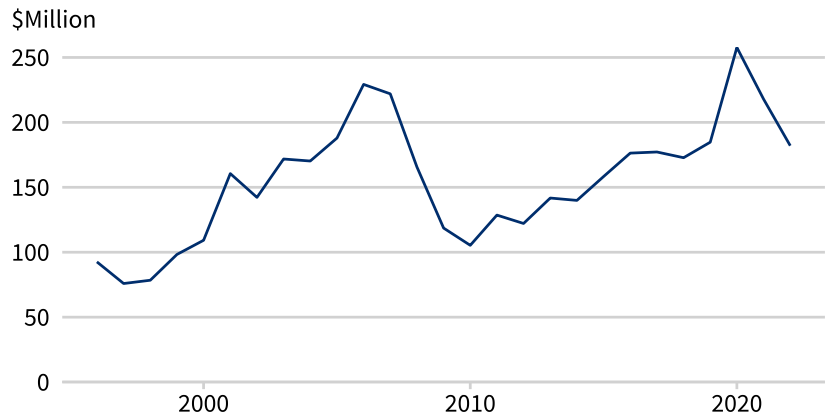
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2022, reporting banks issued \$182.0 million in loans to DC businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$245.6 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$580.5 million.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 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 | 17,532 | 3,895 | 850 | 22,277 |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | 4,834 | 2,906 | 816 | 8,556 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 7,224 | 110 | 23 | 7,357 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 5,751 | 722 | 123 | 6,596 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 4,400 | 1,405 | 322 | 6,127 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 4,931 | 312 | 49 | 5,292 |
| Administrative, Support, and Waste Management | 3,636 | 497 | 188 | 4,321 |
| Educational Services | 3,123 | 395 | 178 | 3,696 |
| Retail Trade | 2,412 | 1,073 | 114 | 3,599 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 1,263 | 1,533 | 377 | 3,173 |
| Construction | 2,130 | 411 | 94 | 2,635 |
| Information | 1,471 | 367 | 118 | 1,956 |
| Finance and Insurance | 1,052 | 302 | 104 | 1,458 |
| Wholesale Trade | 306 | 204 | 32 | 542 |
| Manufacturing | 260 | 78 | 17 | 355 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | * | 22 | 22 | 44 |
| Utilities | 32 | 6 | 2 | 40 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 37 | * | * | 37 |
| Industries not classified | * | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 11 | * | * | 11 |
| All industries | 60,405 | 14,261 | 3,360 | 78,026 |

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 589 identified firms exported goods worth \$506.0 million from the District in 2022. Of those exporters, 449—or 76.2 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$479.0 million, making up 94.6 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



Veterans



Hispanics



Racial minorities



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

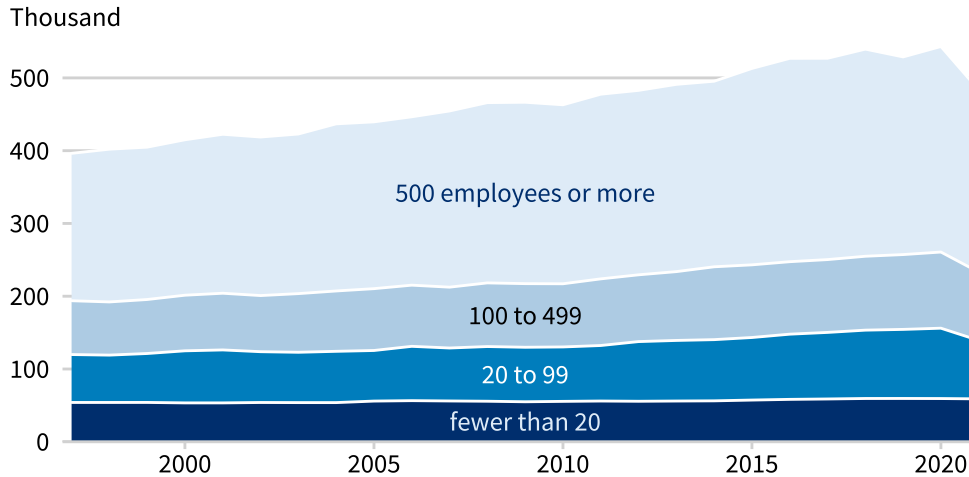
| Ownership | Without employees | With employees | Total businesses |
|--|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Female | 29,500 | 3,465 | 32,965 |
| Male | 28,500 | 8,225 | 36,725 |
| Owned equally by both groups | 700 | 1,044 | 1,744 |
| Veteran | 1,600 | 384 | 1,984 |
| Not Veteran | 56,500 | 12,248 | 68,748 |
| Owned equally by both groups | 90 | 106 | 196 |
| Hispanic | 5,600 | 783 | 6,383 |
| Not Hispanic | 53,000 | 11,910 | 64,910 |
| Owned equally by both groups | 90 | * | * |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 500 | * | 562 |
| Asian | 3,600 | 1,810 | 5,410 |
| Black or African American | 24,500 | 1,922 | 26,422 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 100 | * | * |
| White | 31,000 | 8,940 | 39,940 |
| Hispanic or Racial Minority | 32,000 | 4,469 | 36,469 |
| White and Not Hispanic | 26,500 | 8,041 | 34,541 |
| Owned equally by both groups | 200 | 228 | 428 |

* 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 DC employment by business size

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



◇
 DC small business employment grew by 20.3 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 | 4,745 | 92.3 | 52,659 | 49.8 | 6,937,302 | 42.3 |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | 3,722 | 97.9 | 59,110 | 83.3 | 6,110,764 | 82.5 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 1,910 | 95.1 | 23,180 | 52.5 | 1,009,615 | 58.2 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 1,727 | 94.6 | 30,552 | 43.5 | 1,641,951 | 32.7 |
| Retail Trade | 1,187 | 89.0 | 6,175 | 30.5 | 271,769 | 37.2 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 845 | 92.7 | 6,777 | 61.7 | 642,975 | 63.1 |
| Administrative, Support, and Waste Management | 685 | 85.4 | 11,640 | 42.0 | 765,024 | 45.7 |
| Educational Services | 573 | 93.3 | 15,708 | 30.9 | 1,056,935 | 31.5 |
| Construction | 505 | 95.6 | 7,738 | 75.2 | 557,118 | 71.2 |
| Information | 485 | 78.9 | 8,426 | 31.8 | 1,082,556 | 28.4 |
| Finance and Insurance | 406 | 69.8 | 3,928 | 19.8 | 668,727 | 17.9 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 361 | 95.3 | 3,277 | 56.1 | 182,240 | 24.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 236 | 73.5 | 1,467 | 49.3 | 149,544 | 44.7 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 133 | 83.1 | 848 | 27.9 | 49,242 | 10.6 |
| Manufacturing | 95 | 93.1 | 818 | 86.1 | 44,951 | 86.1 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 44 | 28.6 | 660 | 6.0 | 61,937 | 4.8 |
| Industries not classified | 32 | 100.0 | 44 | 100.0 | 1,699 | 100.0 |
| Utilities | 8 | 21.1 | 63 | 3.1 | 4,308 | 1.3 |
| All industries | 17,621 | 92.4 | 233,078 | 48.2 | 21,238,970 | 43.5 |

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.