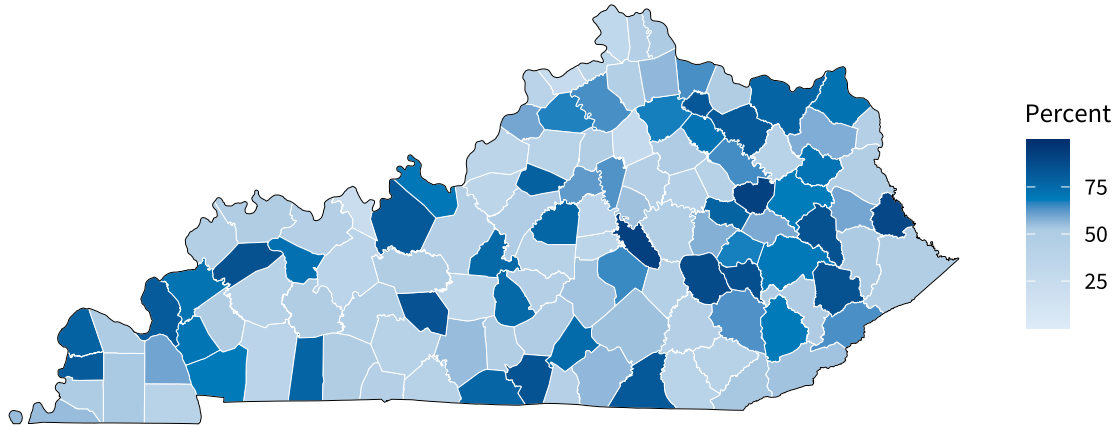


# 2024 Small Business Profile

## Kentucky

**380,051** small businesses  
99.3 percent of Kentucky businesses

**685,426** small business employees  
42.4 percent of Kentucky employees



### Share of employees working at small businesses by county

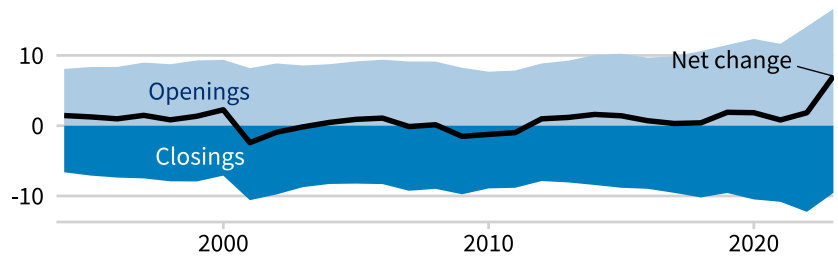
Sources of original data: [Nonemployer Statistics](#) (Census), [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#) (Census)

## Employer and employment dynamics

### Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 16,621 Kentucky establishments opened and 9,570 closed, for a net increase of 7,051. Employment expanded at 27,634 establishments and contracted at 23,046. Small businesses accounted for 15,896 openings and 9,054 closings.

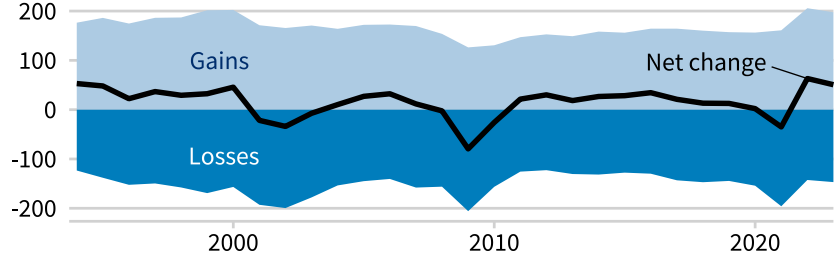
Thousands of establishments



### Employment

Opening and expanding Kentucky establishments added 197,563 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 146,942, for a net increase of 50,621 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 46,739 jobs, or 92.3 percent of that total.

Thousands of jobs



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

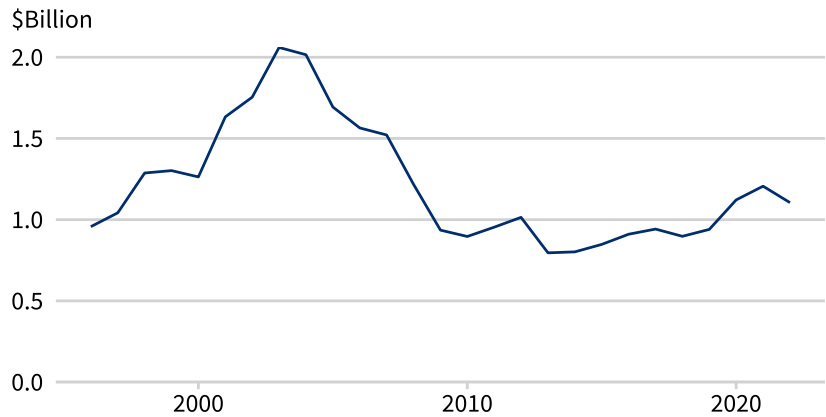
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

## Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2022, reporting banks issued \$1.1 billion in loans to Kentucky businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$974.1 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$3.0 billion.

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
Construction	41,815	6,822	749	49,386
Other Services (except Public Administration)	38,380	8,024	502	46,906
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	31,797	6,781	570	39,148
Retail Trade	29,736	7,649	908	38,293
Transportation and Warehousing	34,744	1,807	363	36,914
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	32,536	3,090	196	35,822
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	32,402	2,919	422	35,743
Health Care and Social Assistance	21,083	6,264	1,129	28,476
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14,828	1,006	199	16,033
Accommodation and Food Services	5,529	4,232	1,449	11,210
Finance and Insurance	6,992	2,596	260	9,848
Educational Services	7,962	611	152	8,725
Manufacturing	4,217	1,876	860	6,953
Wholesale Trade	3,838	1,940	658	6,436
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,699	231	12	4,942
Information	3,108	545	127	3,780
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,124	177	56	1,357
Utilities	163	38	30	231
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	42	186	228
Industries not classified	*	120	1	121
All industries	314,953	56,714	8,384	380,051

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



### Small business exports

A total of 4,731 identified firms exported goods worth \$32.4 billion from Kentucky in 2022. Of those exporters, 3,723—or 78.7 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$3.6 billion, making up 11.0 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 47.3 percent of workers and owned 42.0 percent of businesses.

### Veterans



Veterans made up 4.8 percent of workers and owned 6.6 percent of businesses.

### Hispanics



Hispanics made up 3.9 percent of workers and owned 4.4 percent of businesses.

### Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 14.4 percent of workers and owned 9.9 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

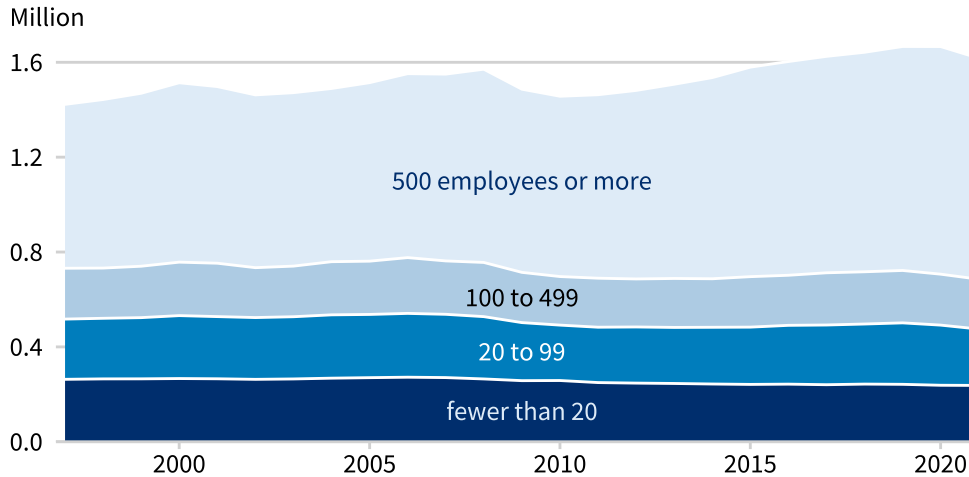
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	127,000	11,173	138,173
Male	173,000	38,780	211,780
Owned equally by both groups	7,700	7,738	15,438
Veteran	18,000	3,220	21,220
Not Veteran	288,000	52,778	340,778
Owned equally by both groups	1,300	1,693	2,993
Hispanic	14,500	*	*
Not Hispanic	293,000	56,509	349,509
Owned equally by both groups	200	117	317
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,800	*	*
Asian	8,400	3,163	11,563
Black or African American	24,500	693	25,193
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	250	*	*
White	276,000	53,344	329,344
Hispanic or Racial Minority	47,000	5,206	52,206
White and Not Hispanic	260,000	51,873	311,873
Owned equally by both groups	600	615	1,215

\* 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 Kentucky employment by business size

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



◇  
 Kentucky small businesses employed 685,426 workers in 2021, accounting for 42.4 percent of total employment.  
 ◇

## Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Retail Trade	8,557	96.0	72,042	33.7	2,763,913	41.3
Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,526	98.8	49,504	83.0	1,606,746	81.8
Construction	7,571	99.1	64,394	85.1	3,637,490	80.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	7,393	97.1	102,965	40.0	4,540,604	31.6
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7,351	96.6	48,957	64.6	3,116,740	60.6
Accommodation and Food Services	5,681	96.5	97,108	61.7	1,905,785	62.8
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	3,341	92.6	35,661	30.9	1,336,102	34.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3,286	97.1	12,677	73.1	598,930	68.4
Finance and Insurance	2,856	91.7	25,104	33.3	1,582,239	25.5
Manufacturing	2,736	86.8	72,817	29.4	3,748,214	26.1
Wholesale Trade	2,598	86.9	32,864	47.7	1,938,860	41.7
Transportation and Warehousing	2,170	89.6	23,895	19.5	1,120,610	16.8
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,205	97.8	13,862	82.5	364,833	76.2
Educational Services	763	94.5	13,455	48.2	440,761	47.1
Information	672	84.7	8,116	29.8	399,383	27.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	243	98.8	1,287	94.9	56,961	94.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	233	92.5	3,857	55.1	264,936	50.8
Management of Companies and Enterprises	228	54.2	4,132	9.9	333,034	8.8
Industries not classified	121	100.0	175	100.0	3,639	100.0
Utilities	68	81.0	2,554	31.4	206,293	25.3
All industries	65,098	96.1	685,426	42.4	29,966,073	37.2

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](http://advocacy.sba.gov) for additional resources.