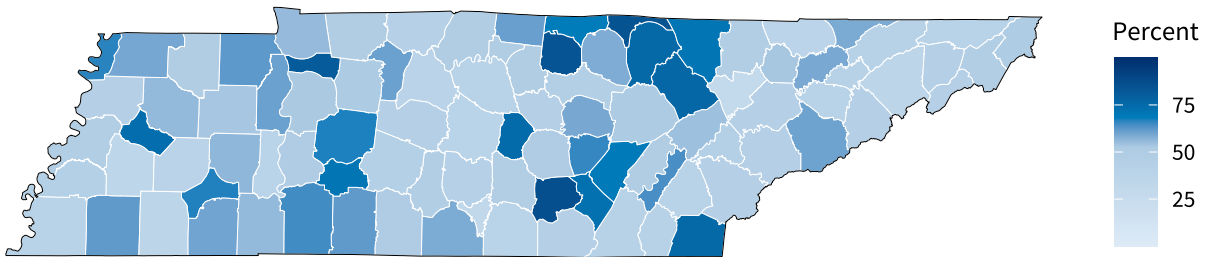


Tennessee

711,431 small businesses
99.5 percent of Tennessee businesses

1.1 million small business employees
41.7 percent of Tennessee employees



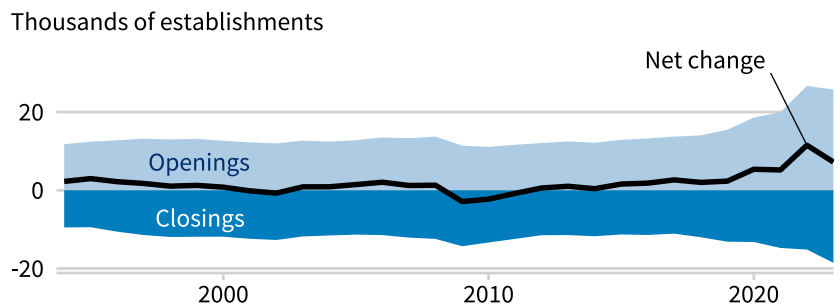
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Employer and employment dynamics

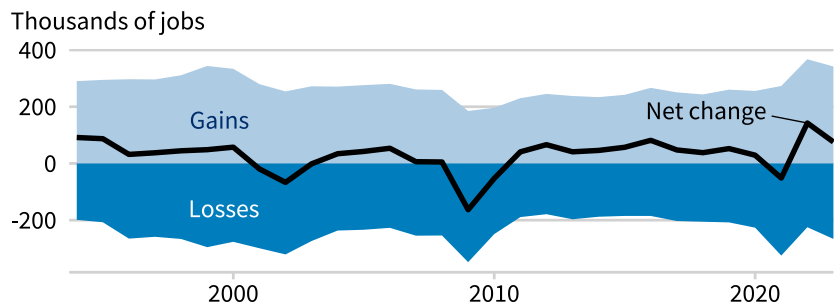
Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 25,773 Tennessee establishments opened and 18,550 closed, for a net increase of 7,223. Employment expanded at 48,496 establishments and contracted at 38,559. Small businesses accounted for 24,677 openings and 17,627 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Tennessee establishments added 341,945 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 266,121, for a net increase of 75,824 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 72,477 jobs, or 95.6 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 \$2.2 billion in loans to Tennessee businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$1.9 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$5.8 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
Other Services (except Public Administration)	79,127	12,554	1,021	92,702
Construction	71,770	9,810	1,258	82,838
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	68,878	9,584	947	79,409
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	67,362	5,199	885	73,446
Transportation and Warehousing	61,876	2,819	646	65,341
Retail Trade	51,923	12,156	1,240	65,319
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	55,100	4,068	344	59,512
Health Care and Social Assistance	40,408	8,610	1,754	50,772
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	39,918	2,424	339	42,681
Accommodation and Food Services	14,052	7,356	2,398	23,806
Finance and Insurance	14,826	3,713	448	18,987
Educational Services	16,170	1,056	331	17,557
Manufacturing	6,975	3,213	1,380	11,568
Wholesale Trade	6,676	3,277	1,041	10,994
Information	9,319	1,300	220	10,839
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,965	203	10	5,178
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	75	284	359
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	241	57	18	316
Utilities	248	23	30	301
Industries not classified	*	187	2	189
All industries	609,834	87,586	14,011	711,431

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



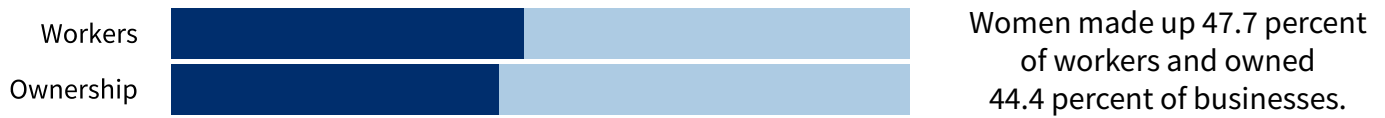
Small business exports

A total of 7,268 identified firms exported goods worth \$35.8 billion from Tennessee in 2022. Of those exporters, 5,981—or 82.3 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$6.0 billion, making up 16.7 percent of exports by identified firms.

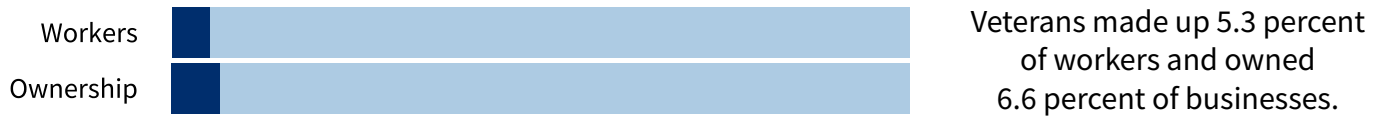
Source: [A profile of U.S. importing and exporting companies, 2021-2022](#) (Census)

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

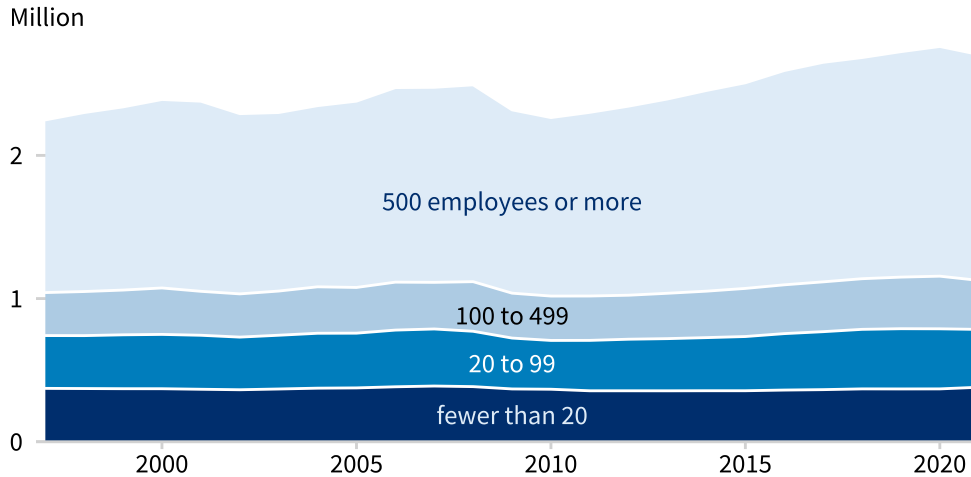
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	267,000	18,258	285,258
Male	324,000	58,672	382,672
Owned equally by both groups	8,900	11,371	20,271
Veteran	36,000	5,979	41,979
Not Veteran	563,000	79,925	642,925
Owned equally by both groups	1,800	*	*
Hispanic	33,000	1,688	34,688
Not Hispanic	567,000	86,197	653,197
Owned equally by both groups	500	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	4,700	486	5,186
Asian	18,500	7,275	25,775
Black or African American	109,000	2,459	111,459
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	750	*	924
White	475,000	78,209	553,209
Hispanic or Racial Minority	159,000	11,680	170,680
White and Not Hispanic	440,000	75,729	515,729
Owned equally by both groups	1,200	*	*

* 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 Tennessee employment by business size

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



Between 1997 and 2021, Tennessee small business employment grew by 8.1 percent, reaching 1.1 million employees in 2021.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	13,575	99.0	92,615	83.8	2,987,381	78.3
Retail Trade	13,396	97.0	108,509	32.7	4,777,584	43.5
Construction	11,068	98.8	103,508	81.9	6,196,628	78.5
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10,531	96.4	73,740	57.0	5,353,865	54.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,364	97.3	158,806	36.9	7,990,163	32.1
Accommodation and Food Services	9,754	97.2	157,027	57.5	3,599,628	60.1
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	6,084	93.7	75,419	28.7	3,207,451	30.7
Manufacturing	4,593	89.1	107,638	32.4	5,542,823	27.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	4,412	96.6	25,372	66.6	1,456,112	65.3
Wholesale Trade	4,318	88.5	56,519	47.5	3,958,861	45.1
Finance and Insurance	4,161	91.8	38,774	27.9	3,178,269	23.3
Transportation and Warehousing	3,465	91.3	44,583	26.4	2,250,082	25.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,763	98.5	25,579	72.7	1,156,634	61.6
Information	1,520	90.2	14,747	34.0	1,055,543	31.4
Educational Services	1,387	95.3	31,349	49.2	1,198,959	44.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	359	50.7	7,094	7.7	735,623	6.8
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	213	98.2	1,027	64.4	50,184	86.0
Industries not classified	189	100.0	376	100.0	14,830	100.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	75	84.3	1,545	57.3	107,601	58.0
Utilities	53	76.8	2,642	77.6	229,153	77.2
All industries	101,597	96.6	1,126,869	41.7	55,047,374	37.5

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.