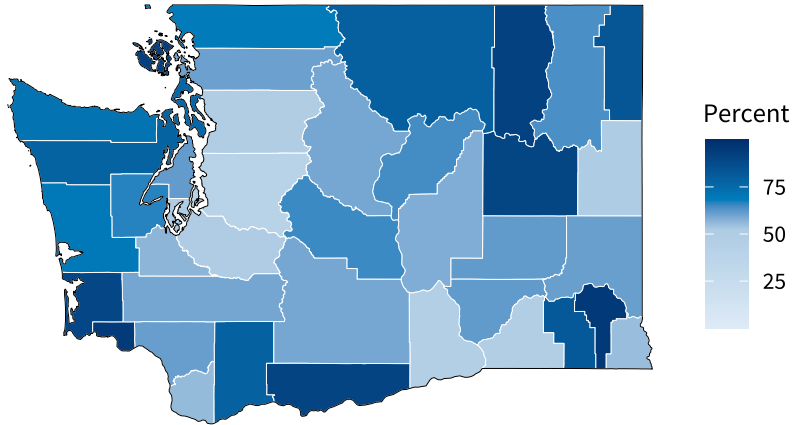


Washington

672,472 small businesses
99.5 percent of Washington businesses

1.4 million small business employees
48.4 percent of Washington employees



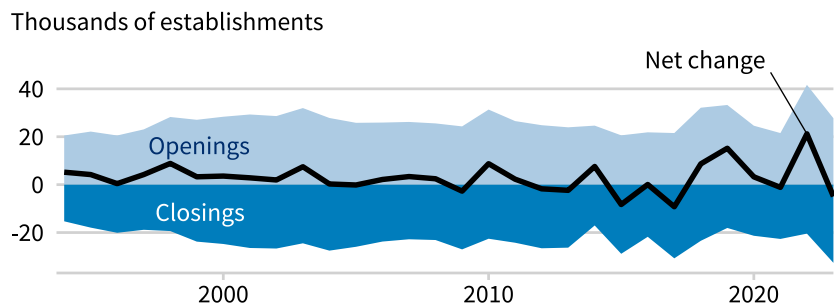
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Employer and employment dynamics

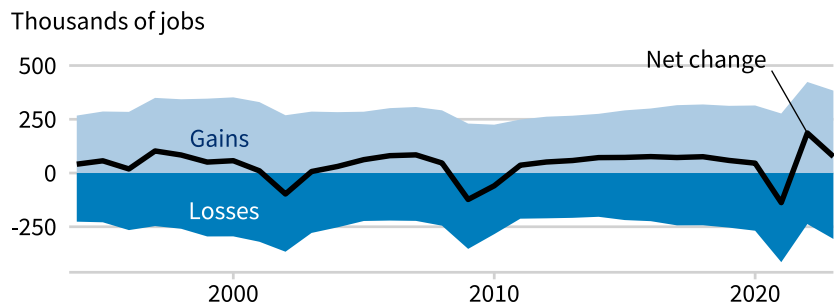
Establishments

Between March 2022 and March 2023, 27,723 Washington establishments opened and 32,646 closed, for a net decrease of 4,923. Employment expanded at 55,650 establishments and contracted at 48,511. Small businesses accounted for 25,458 openings and 16,498 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Washington establishments added 383,413 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 306,674, for a net increase of 76,739 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 61,763 jobs, or 80.5 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

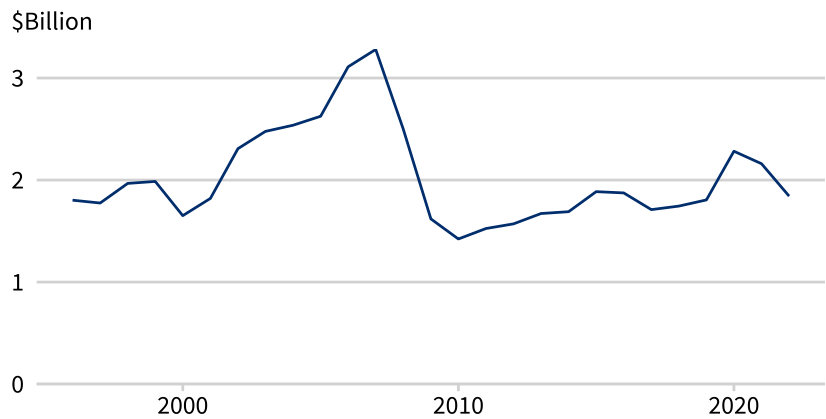
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2022, reporting banks issued \$1.8 billion in loans to Washington businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$2.1 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$5.4 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
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	89,054	19,543	1,619	110,216
Transportation and Warehousing	75,236	4,446	723	80,405
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	61,647	10,228	395	72,270
Construction	34,438	24,107	1,904	60,449
Other Services (except Public Administration)	40,401	15,330	889	56,620
Retail Trade	42,683	12,128	1,611	56,422
Health Care and Social Assistance	36,177	15,555	1,933	53,665
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	32,623	8,289	881	41,793
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	32,378	2,585	352	35,315
Accommodation and Food Services	8,351	12,000	1,990	22,341
Educational Services	17,203	2,379	408	19,990
Finance and Insurance	11,848	4,432	368	16,648
Manufacturing	7,625	4,616	1,300	13,541
Wholesale Trade	6,018	5,075	1,220	12,313
Information	8,755	1,984	367	11,106
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7,433	1,238	121	8,792
Utilities	305	148	23	476
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	173	292	465
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	225	80	18	323
Industries not classified	*	243	1	244
All industries	512,400	144,427	15,645	672,472

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



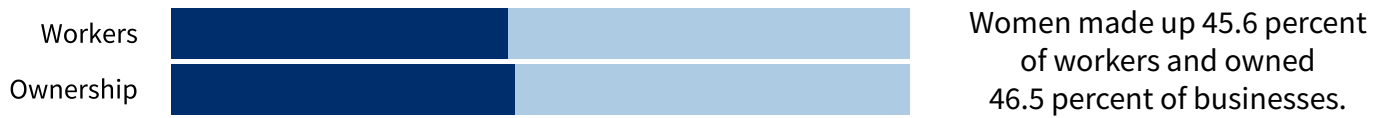
Small business exports

A total of 11,272 identified firms exported goods worth \$55.8 billion from Washington in 2022. Of those exporters, 9,971—or 88.5 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$17.7 billion, making up 31.7 percent of exports by identified firms.

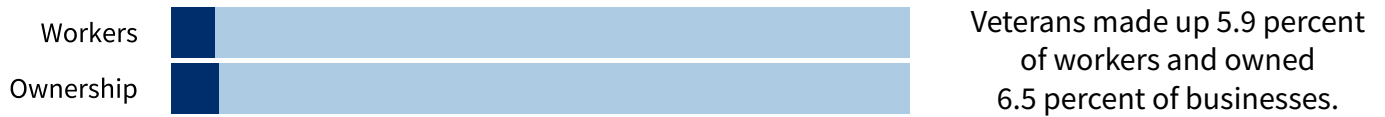
Source: [A profile of U.S. importing and exporting companies, 2021-2022](#) (Census)

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

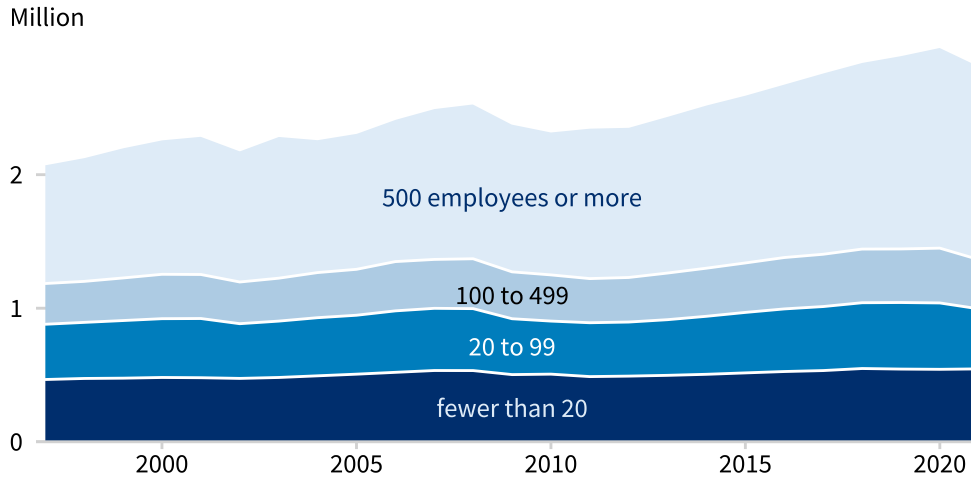
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	226,000	31,968	257,968
Male	266,000	81,617	347,617
Owned equally by both groups	11,500	32,649	44,149
Veteran	27,500	7,785	35,285
Not Veteran	474,000	133,134	607,134
Owned equally by both groups	1,800	5,316	7,116
Hispanic	40,000	8,008	48,008
Not Hispanic	462,000	136,332	598,332
Owned equally by both groups	850	1,894	2,744
American Indian and Alaska Native	9,300	2,306	11,606
Asian	63,000	17,424	80,424
Black or African American	36,000	2,183	38,183
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3,700	461	4,161
White	407,000	124,952	531,952
Hispanic or Racial Minority	142,000	29,305	171,305
White and Not Hispanic	359,000	112,621	471,621
Owned equally by both groups	2,100	4,308	6,408

Counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group.

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

Total Washington employment by business size

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



Washington small business employment grew by 15.1 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	%
Construction	26,011	99.5	180,352	84.0	12,870,575	77.7
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21,162	97.8	131,539	57.1	12,928,026	50.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,488	98.5	196,327	44.0	10,165,507	36.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	16,219	99.2	92,450	87.0	3,888,276	80.6
Accommodation and Food Services	13,990	98.7	156,863	65.2	5,024,446	69.4
Retail Trade	13,739	97.2	132,401	38.6	6,152,562	45.1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,623	98.6	38,019	70.3	2,465,786	65.8
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	9,170	96.9	75,511	45.9	3,782,335	40.1
Wholesale Trade	6,295	92.0	70,502	53.6	5,351,115	47.0
Manufacturing	5,916	94.0	101,617	40.6	6,348,836	33.3
Transportation and Warehousing	5,169	94.8	43,136	38.9	2,328,612	35.8
Finance and Insurance	4,800	93.3	34,347	30.0	3,506,045	26.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,937	98.6	30,146	65.3	1,325,782	63.2
Educational Services	2,787	97.7	31,979	64.5	1,309,285	66.7
Information	2,351	91.0	26,336	16.5	3,604,618	8.7
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,359	99.0	11,249	76.7	659,749	79.4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	465	61.9	8,306	6.3	807,678	4.7
Industries not classified	244	100.0	342	100.0	13,361	100.0
Utilities	171	88.1	1,390	13.8	135,350	10.9
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	98	84.5	1,316	72.0	94,666	66.3
All industries	160,072	98.0	1,364,128	48.4	82,762,610	36.9

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.