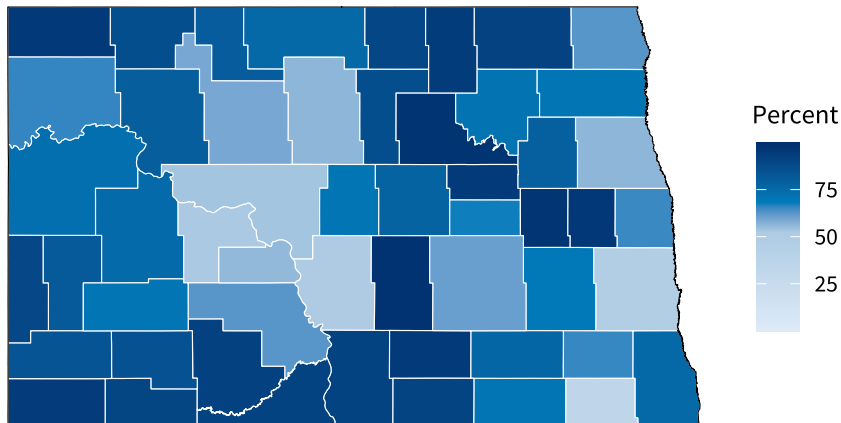


# North Dakota

**78,219** small businesses  
**98.8 percent** of North Dakota businesses

**197,212** small business employees  
**57.6 percent** of North Dakota employees



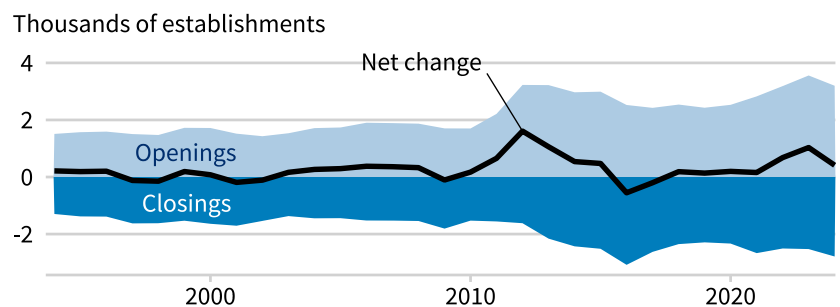
### Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

## Employer and employment dynamics

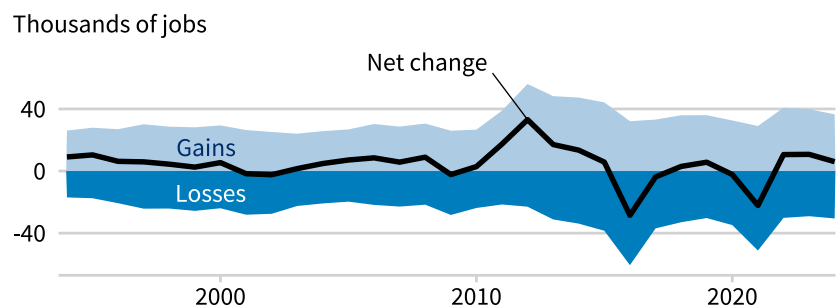
### Establishments

Between March 2023 and March 2024, 3,199 North Dakota establishments opened and 2,787 closed, for a net increase of 412. Employment expanded at 7,326 establishments and contracted at 6,221. Small businesses accounted for 2,940 openings and for 2,522 closings.



### Employment

Opening and expanding North Dakota establishments added 36,555 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 30,530, for a net increase of 6,025 jobs. Small businesses gained 29,523 jobs and lost 23,165, for a net increase of 6,358 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

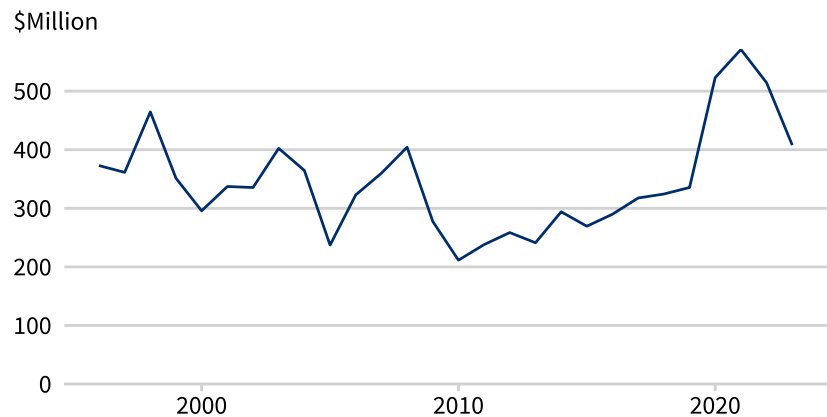
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

## Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2023, reporting banks issued \$407.8 million in loans to North Dakota businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.1 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$275.3 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
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,628	855	71	9,554
Construction	5,555	2,591	237	8,383
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,677	2,343	141	8,161
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,865	1,475	168	7,508
Retail Trade	5,441	1,618	304	7,363
Transportation and Warehousing	5,852	1,063	131	7,046
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,699	1,446	297	6,442
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	4,440	863	110	5,413
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,332	401	53	3,786
Finance and Insurance	2,231	855	82	3,168
Accommodation and Food Services	1,120	1,326	399	2,845
Educational Services	1,625	127	45	1,797
Wholesale Trade	848	625	282	1,755
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,594	105	3	1,702
Manufacturing	794	405	138	1,337
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	903	285	117	1,305
Information	464	162	52	678
Utilities	38	21	20	79
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	23	39	62
Industries not classified	*	29	1	30
All industries	59,106	16,603	2,510	78,219

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2022 (Census); [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2022 (Census)



### Small business exports

A total of 1,745 identified firms exported goods worth \$8.4 billion from North Dakota in 2023. Of those exporters, 1,456—or 83.4 percent—were small. At \$2.0 billion, exports by small firms made up 23.6 percent of exports by identified firms.

Source: [A profile of U.S. importing and exporting companies, 2022-2023](#) (Census)

## Business ownership share by demographic group

### Women



Women made up 45.2 percent of workers and owned 42.4 percent of businesses.

### Veterans



Veterans made up 5.1 percent of workers and owned 7.6 percent of businesses.

### Hispanics



Hispanics made up 3.9 percent of workers and owned 2.4 percent of businesses.

Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership.

Sources of original data: [American Community Survey](#), 2022 5-Year Data (Census); [Annual Business Survey](#), 2022 (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics](#), 2022 (Census)

## Business count by owner demographic group or location type

Group	Without employees	%	With employees	%	Total businesses
Female	23,500	87.8	3,270	12.2	26,770
Male	32,000	74.8	10,777	25.2	42,777
Owned equally by both groups	2,400	51.4	2,271	48.6	4,671
Veteran	3,900	82.0	855	18.0	4,755
Not Veteran	53,500	78.0	15,078	22.0	68,578
Owned equally by both groups	500	56.6	384	43.4	884
Hispanic	1,500	88.0	204	12.0	1,704
Not Hispanic	56,500	77.9	16,064	22.1	72,564
Owned equally by both groups	50	50.0	50	50.0	100
Rural	18,000	76.2	5,610	23.8	23,610
Urban	31,000	74.4	10,658	25.6	41,658
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,600	86.2	256	13.8	1,856
Asian	950	73.1	350	26.9	1,300
Black or African American	2,700	95.6	125	4.4	2,825
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	70	92.1	6	7.9	76
White	53,500	77.3	15,714	22.7	69,214
Hispanic or Racial Minority	6,600	87.8	914	12.2	7,514
White and Not Hispanic	51,000	76.9	15,303	23.1	66,303
Owned equally by both groups	150	60.0	100	40.0	250

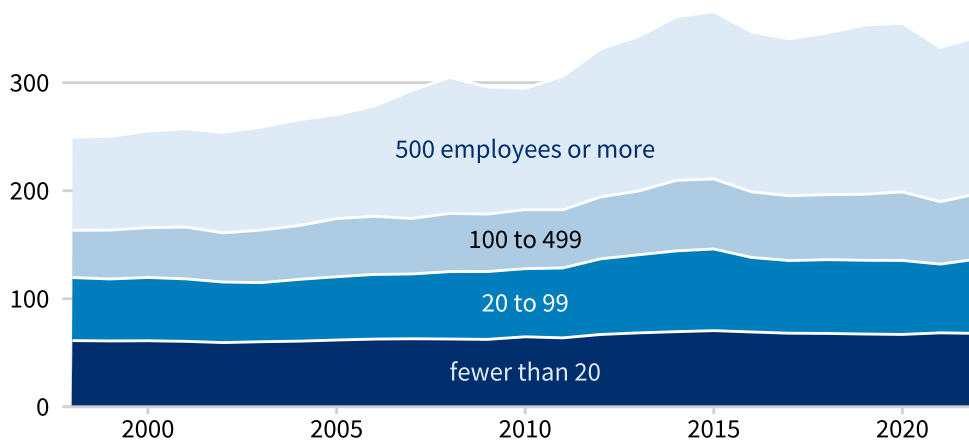
Counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group or location type. Percentages represent shares of row totals.

Sources: [Annual Business Survey](#), 2022 (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics](#), 2022 (Census)

## Total North Dakota employment by business size

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

Thousand



North Dakota small business employment grew by 20.7 percent between 1998 and 2022, 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	2,828	98.8	20,264	88.9	1,598,705	87.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,484	98.3	13,476	94.8	486,622	91.8
Retail Trade	1,922	92.4	23,254	50.3	973,512	58.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,743	96.9	28,126	44.6	1,295,847	33.8
Accommodation and Food Services	1,725	97.3	25,580	77.0	556,125	76.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,643	95.4	11,969	70.3	906,307	72.4
Transportation and Warehousing	1,194	93.7	9,228	57.6	563,752	55.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	973	92.9	7,863	55.1	340,273	54.1
Finance and Insurance	937	88.9	7,116	39.4	517,662	35.6
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	926	96.0	4,435	83.2	245,623	76.6
Wholesale Trade	907	83.1	13,160	58.9	932,892	57.3
Manufacturing	543	89.3	11,877	42.7	677,652	37.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	454	98.9	5,015	88.6	98,533	85.8
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	402	88.9	7,211	46.3	950,040	47.6
Information	214	81.1	3,132	47.6	201,830	42.0
Educational Services	172	90.5	2,978	65.2	85,937	64.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	108	98.2	281	78.1	16,911	73.8
Management of Companies and Enterprises	62	55.9	599	10.9	46,075	9.4
Utilities	41	78.8	1,599	44.0	206,212	48.1
Industries not classified	30	100.0	49	100.0	1,986	100.0
All industries	19,113	95.1	197,212	57.6	10,702,496	52.6

Percentages were calculated by dividing industry totals for small employers by industry totals for all employers.

Source: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2022 (Census)

### About this profile

Small businesses are generally defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Statistics of U.S. Businesses and Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics are produced through a partnership between the Office of Advocacy and the Census Bureau. Where notes say "Source of original data," values may have been approximated because of missing values in the original data. Electronic versions of this and other [geographic profiles](#) are available online, along with technical notes about data, methods, and definitions. Visit [advocacy.sba.gov](https://advocacy.sba.gov) for additional resources.