

2025 Small Business Profile

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

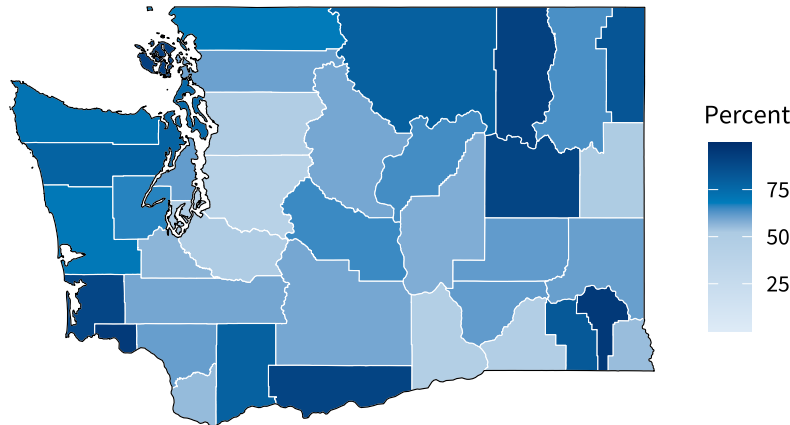
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Washington

695,695 small businesses
99.5 percent of Washington businesses

1.5 million small business employees
48.7 percent of Washington employees



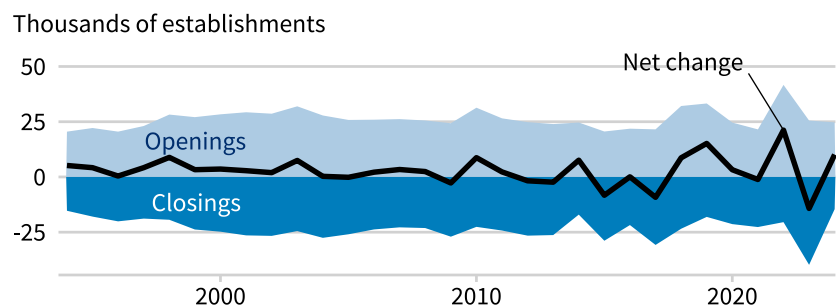
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Employer and employment dynamics

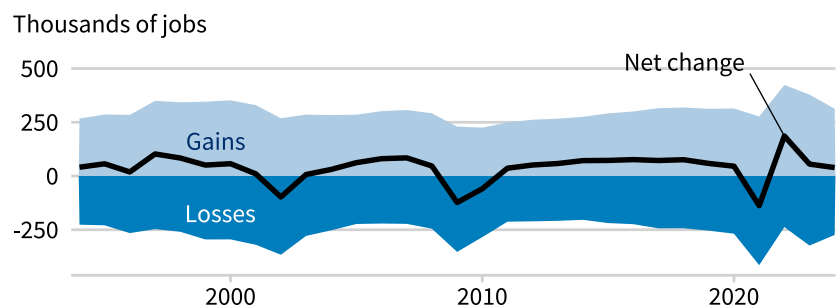
Establishments

Between March 2023 and March 2024, 24,701 Washington establishments opened and 14,578 closed, for a net increase of 10,123. Employment expanded at 52,253 establishments and contracted at 51,276. Small businesses accounted for 22,873 openings and 13,036 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Washington establishments added 313,131 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 273,848, for a net increase of 39,283 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 27,671 jobs, or 70.4 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

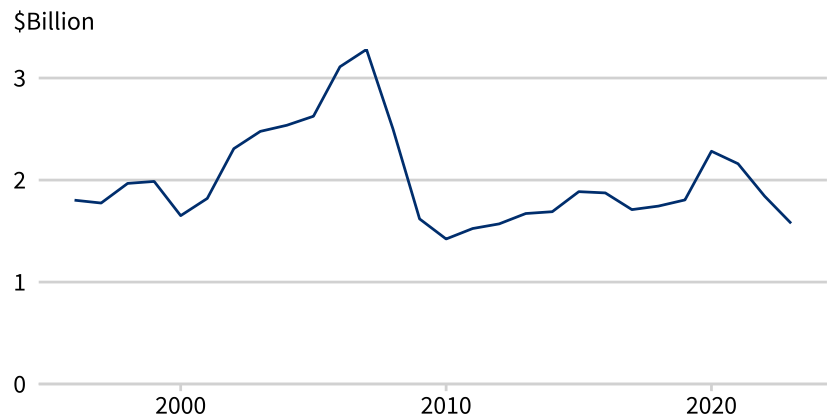
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2023, reporting banks issued \$1.6 billion in loans to Washington businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$4.7 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$2.1 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	91,802	19,591	1,721	113,114
Transportation and Warehousing	78,594	4,703	710	84,007
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	62,025	10,380	427	72,832
Construction	36,289	24,577	2,005	62,871
Other Services (except Public Administration)	43,651	15,454	1,012	60,117
Health Care and Social Assistance	39,831	15,636	2,066	57,533
Retail Trade	38,611	11,948	1,684	52,243
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	35,413	8,417	914	44,744
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	36,403	2,591	479	39,473
Accommodation and Food Services	9,340	11,644	2,761	23,745
Educational Services	18,127	2,396	482	21,005
Finance and Insurance	11,893	4,493	361	16,747
Manufacturing	8,019	4,493	1,355	13,867
Wholesale Trade	6,695	4,899	1,230	12,824
Information	8,896	2,007	347	11,250
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7,527	1,184	119	8,830
Utilities	340	142	22	504
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	130	294	424
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	225	92	17	334
Industries not classified	*	202	2	204
All industries	533,681	144,820	17,194	695,695

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 11,202 identified firms exported goods worth \$55.5 billion from Washington in 2023. Of those exporters, 9,906—or 88.4 percent—were small. At \$14.5 billion, exports by small firms made up 26.1 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 45.3 percent of workers and owned 46.6 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.7 percent of workers and owned 6.3 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 12.7 percent of workers and owned 8.3 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	236,000	87.0	35,273	13.0	271,273
Male	275,000	77.0	81,954	23.0	356,954
Owned equally by both groups	13,000	32.5	27,000	67.5	40,000
Veteran	29,000	80.2	7,153	19.8	36,153
Not Veteran	493,000	78.7	133,394	21.3	626,394
Owned equally by both groups	2,000	35.2	3,680	64.8	5,680
Hispanic	43,500	82.4	9,276	17.6	52,776
Not Hispanic	480,000	78.2	133,469	21.8	613,469
Owned equally by both groups	1,000	40.3	1,481	59.7	2,481
Rural	69,500	78.7	18,864	21.3	88,364
Urban	413,000	76.5	126,606	23.5	539,606
American Indian and Alaska Native	9,500	84.0	1,804	16.0	11,304
Asian	70,000	78.8	18,798	21.2	88,798
Black or African American	40,000	93.7	2,698	6.3	42,698
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	4,100	90.5	432	9.5	4,532
White	417,000	77.5	121,088	22.5	538,088
Hispanic or Racial Minority	156,000	83.0	31,980	17.0	187,980
White and Not Hispanic	366,000	77.1	108,412	22.9	474,412
Owned equally by both groups	2,600	40.4	3,834	59.6	6,434

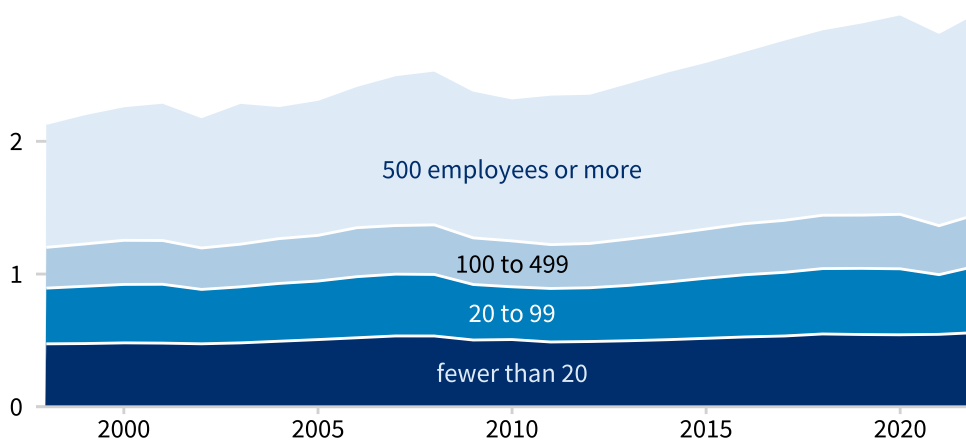
Counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group or location type. Percentages represent shares of row totals.

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

Total Washington employment by business size

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

Million



Washington small business employment grew by 20.9 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	26,582	99.4	184,579	83.3	13,673,423	77.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21,312	97.7	138,907	57.6	13,885,766	52.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,702	98.4	199,949	44.0	10,748,090	35.0
Other Services (except Public Administration)	16,466	99.2	100,221	84.7	4,309,316	78.1
Accommodation and Food Services	14,405	98.8	193,671	67.8	5,990,524	68.6
Retail Trade	13,632	97.1	134,179	39.1	6,327,991	43.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,807	98.6	41,162	68.1	2,673,609	63.3
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	9,331	96.7	76,306	43.6	3,955,819	37.5
Wholesale Trade	6,129	91.5	70,010	51.7	5,422,842	44.7
Manufacturing	5,848	93.7	104,913	40.9	6,635,075	32.6
Transportation and Warehousing	5,413	94.9	45,107	38.3	2,563,940	36.7
Finance and Insurance	4,854	93.2	35,225	31.6	3,487,286	26.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,070	98.3	40,318	69.2	1,435,888	54.1
Educational Services	2,878	97.6	36,578	65.8	1,464,750	67.3
Information	2,354	90.6	27,537	15.0	3,283,116	7.1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,303	99.0	11,831	82.8	706,096	83.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	424	59.8	7,885	6.0	750,413	4.3
Industries not classified	204	100.0	286	100.0	18,826	100.0
Utilities	164	87.2	1,425	14.1	146,450	11.3
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	109	85.8	1,528	74.9	112,135	68.8
All industries	162,014	97.9	1,451,617	48.7	87,591,355	36.2

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 for additional resources.