



# Congressional District Small Business Profiles

**2026**

**MONTANA**



The Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration was created by Congress in 1976 and provides an independent voice for small business within the executive branch. Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, Chief Counsel Casey Mulligan directs the office. Chief Counsel Mulligan advances the views, concerns, and interests of small business before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. Regional advocates and an office in Washington, DC, support his efforts.

The statutory mission of the Office of Advocacy includes examining the role of small business in the economy. The Office of Economic Research accomplishes this objective by publishing small business research products and sponsoring and disseminating small business data and statistics. This report uses the latest government data to profile the small businesses in the congressional districts of Montana. It was prepared by Research Economist Daniel Wilmoth with editorial support by Editor Akira Loring, Senior Editor M. B. Humphrey, and Director of the Office of Information David Tokarz.

This report is part of a series that shows the important roles that small businesses play in congressional districts across the nation. District 1 of Montana, located in the western part of the state, led the nation in small business share of employment, at 70.4 percent. District 12 of New York, located in Manhattan, had the most small businesses with employees, at 51,317. District 32 of California, which includes Malibu and parts of Los Angeles, had the highest self-employment rate, at 19.2 percent. Readers are invited to compare congressional districts to the [nation](#), [states](#), [rural areas](#), and [metropolitan areas](#).

The Office of Advocacy regularly releases other research products, ranging from short fact sheets that use new data to show emerging trends to lengthy reports that use sophisticated statistical techniques to explore complex issues. To learn more about small businesses, regulatory issues, and the Office of Advocacy, visit [advocacy.sba.gov](https://advocacy.sba.gov).

February 2026

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# 2026 Small Business Profile

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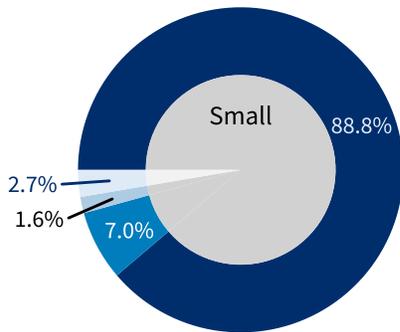
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## Montana Congressional District 1

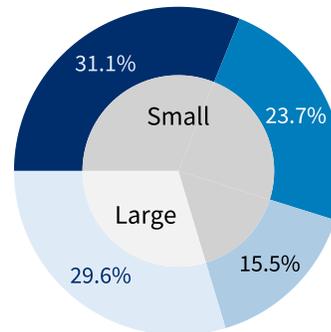


**20,243** small businesses with employees  
**97.3 percent** of district employers

**145,259** employees of small businesses  
**70.4 percent** of district employees



**Employers by size**



**Employment by size**

Employer size

■ Less than 20   
 ■ 20 to 99   
 ■ 100 to 499   
 ■ 500 or more employees

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

### Employer count by size and industry

Industry	1-19 employees	20-99 employees	100-499 employees	500+ employees
Construction	3,902	133	18	20
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,301	108	43	52
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,718	170	45	55
Retail Trade	1,535	204	58	117
Accommodation and Food Services	1,391	360	39	46
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,623	69	17	17
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,349	26	11	22
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,116	59	13	34
Manufacturing	700	108	29	27
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	591	46	8	6
Finance and Insurance	504	35	24	60
Transportation and Warehousing	511	35	15	37
Wholesale Trade	454	61	31	78
Educational Services	249	30	6	3
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	235	3	4	1
Information	183	18	9	33
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	64	3	3	1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	11	9	15	18
Utilities	18	9	2	5
Industries not classified	20	0	0	0
<b>All industries</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>556</b>

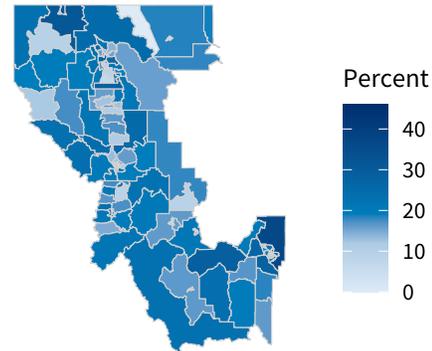
Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses, 2022](#) (Census)

## Self-employment

In 2024, 15.6 percent of private workers in the congressional district were self-employed, above the national rate of 9.9 percent. The percent of district workers who were self-employed included 7.4 percent of private workers who paid themselves through corporations they owned. The median income of the incorporated self-employed was \$80,893, while the median income of the unincorporated self-employed was \$51,319. The median income for all workers in the district was \$56,700.

## Share of workers self-employed by Census tract

Source: [American Community Survey](#) (Census)



## Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Construction	4,053	99.5	17,340	90.9	1,099,550	84.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,452	97.9	11,447	88.0	757,606	86.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,933	97.2	20,584	58.6	993,201	52.2
Retail Trade	1,797	93.9	18,284	54.7	763,568	60.3
Accommodation and Food Services	1,790	97.5	24,193	80.5	612,751	79.5
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,709	99.0	8,438	98.3	327,887	97.7
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,386	98.4	3,913	89.1	203,259	91.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,188	97.2	6,685	66.8	292,494	74.9
Manufacturing	837	96.9	9,832	76.0	521,268	70.1
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	645	99.1	5,035	67.9	138,930	57.2
Finance and Insurance	563	90.4	3,658	50.4	250,817	43.9
Transportation and Warehousing	561	93.8	3,318	56.4	167,171	54.0
Wholesale Trade	546	87.5	4,580	70.0	270,760	65.2
Educational Services	285	99.0	3,161	94.0	98,585	96.5
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	242	99.6	1,013	99.3	80,430	99.3
Information	210	86.4	1,930	45.2	143,299	46.3
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	70	98.6	923	95.1	76,029	95.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	35	66.0	494	29.6	40,041	29.7
Utilities	29	85.3	401	29.6	45,301	32.0
Industries not classified	20	100.0	30	100.0	816	100.0
All industries	20,243	97.3	145,259	70.4	6,883,763	67.5

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 defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Congressional district boundaries correspond to the 119th Congress. Statistics of U.S. Businesses are produced through a partnership between the Office of Advocacy and the Census Bureau. Where notes refer to the “source of original data,” values shown 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.

# 2026 Small Business Profile

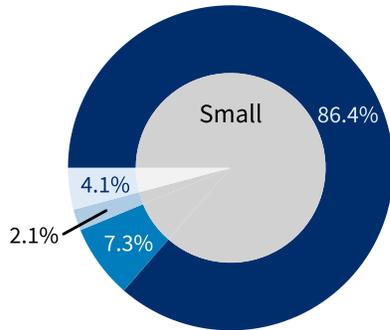
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## Montana Congressional District 2

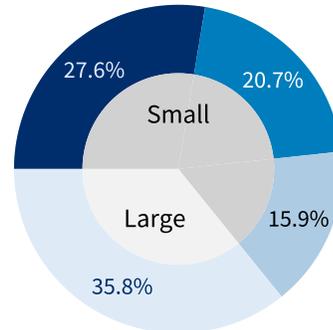


**15,090** small businesses with employees  
**95.9 percent** of district employers



**Employers by size**

**119,152** employees of small businesses  
**64.2 percent** of district employees



**Employment by size**

Employer size

■ Less than 20   
 ■ 20 to 99   
 ■ 100 to 499   
 ■ 500 or more employees

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

### Employer count by size and industry

Industry	1-19 employees	20-99 employees	100-499 employees	500+ employees
Construction	2,325	98	16	25
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,576	78	13	26
Retail Trade	1,384	152	48	131
Accommodation and Food Services	1,202	286	36	46
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,214	156	60	60
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,330	56	31	44
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	851	17	8	22
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	738	45	19	39
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	553	47	5	7
Transportation and Warehousing	538	38	18	49
Finance and Insurance	529	31	17	72
Wholesale Trade	380	64	41	120
Manufacturing	407	59	16	33
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	189	15	8	14
Educational Services	132	21	9	6
Information	124	9	12	30
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	89	*	*	4
Utilities	32	13	1	10
Management of Companies and Enterprises	13	7	10	27
Industries not classified	11	0	0	0
<b>All industries</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>652</b>

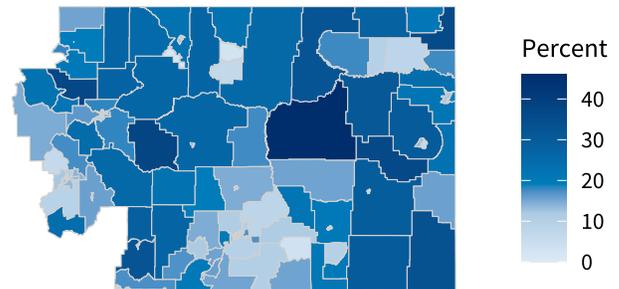
\* Not available; Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2022 (Census)

## Self-employment

In 2024, 14.1 percent of private workers in the congressional district were self-employed, above the national rate of 9.9 percent. The percent of district workers who were self-employed included 5.5 percent of private workers who paid themselves through corporations they owned. The median income of the incorporated self-employed was \$62,282, while the median income of the unincorporated self-employed was \$50,423. The median income for all workers in the district was \$55,041.

## Share of workers self-employed by Census tract

Source: [American Community Survey](#) (Census)



## Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Construction	2,439	99.0	11,829	87.2	743,549	82.0
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,667	98.5	8,407	95.0	294,183	91.9
Retail Trade	1,584	92.4	13,606	48.1	523,986	52.6
Accommodation and Food Services	1,524	97.1	20,484	83.6	434,095	82.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,430	96.0	20,542	53.8	967,092	42.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,417	97.0	6,949	80.3	435,607	76.4
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	876	97.6	2,039	80.8	94,470	78.5
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	802	95.4	5,726	72.1	225,327	77.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	605	98.9	4,707	90.3	93,212	81.3
Transportation and Warehousing	594	92.4	3,644	49.3	193,576	52.9
Finance and Insurance	577	88.9	3,945	44.5	249,746	35.4
Wholesale Trade	485	80.2	5,093	59.2	292,650	53.0
Manufacturing	482	93.6	5,399	60.7	267,959	43.3
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	212	93.8	1,593	39.0	156,376	34.1
Educational Services	162	96.4	2,507	77.9	85,309	85.1
Information	145	82.9	1,617	50.9	97,443	54.3
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	91	95.8	208	34.0	10,864	27.2
Utilities	46	82.1	561	37.0	49,478	33.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	30	52.6	285	18.6	23,667	16.1
Industries not classified	11	100.0	11	100.0	176	100.0
All industries	15,090	95.9	119,152	64.2	5,238,765	55.4

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

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# Technical Notes

## Classification of businesses

A single business may encompass multiple establishments if it operates at multiple locations. A business is classified as small in these profiles if it employs fewer than 500 employees across all establishments. Classification by industry is made at the establishment level, so a business encompassing multiple establishments may participate in multiple industries. A business participating in multiple industries would be included in the total for each industry, so the sum of businesses across industries may exceed the total number of businesses. Boundaries for congressional districts correspond to the 119th Congress, which began on January 3, 2025.

## Data

All data used in these profiles are publicly available and published online. Data and associated technical documentation can be accessed using the hyperlinks in the source notes for each feature. Years indicated in source notes are the years the data describe, which may not match the naming convention used by the data publisher. Where no year is listed, data from multiple years were used.

Statistics from the American Community Survey describing self-employment represent the population age 16 years and over. Self-employment rates were estimated using values from Table B24080. The total numbers of private workers used in the calculations were the numbers of “private for-profit wage and salary workers” in the table. Median incomes are from Table S2419 and include only income from labor, called “earnings” in the table. Statistics in the text are from 2024 one-year data while values shown in the maps are from 2023 five-year data.

Values were imputed for some features when published data were missing or obviously erroneous. A source note that begins “Source:” indicates that statistics in a feature are as reported by the source, with no imputation. A source note that begins “Source of original data:” indicates that the feature includes an imputed value for at least one profile.

## Software

The profiles were created using R with formatting through HTML and CSS. Data visualizations were primarily created using the ggplot2 package in R. Tables were primarily created using the knitr and gt packages. Elements were combined into an HTML document using the knitr package. A PDF document was created from the HTML document using Prince XML.

## Rounding

Numbers in these profiles have been rounded if they include a decimal point, with the number of digits after the decimal point indicating the precision preserved under rounding. Numbers ending in 5 were rounded up. For example, 1.05 would be rounded to 1.1, while 1.04 would be rounded to 1.0.

## Contact

Any additional information that may be helpful for interpreting or reproducing the analysis is available by request. The SBA Office of Advocacy can be contacted at [advocacy@sba.gov](mailto:advocacy@sba.gov).