



Congressional District Small Business Profiles

2026

**RHODE
ISLAND**



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 Rhode Island. 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.

February 2026

Table of Contents

Rhode Island Congressional District 1	1
Rhode Island Congressional District 2	3
Technical Notes.....	5

2026 Small Business Profile

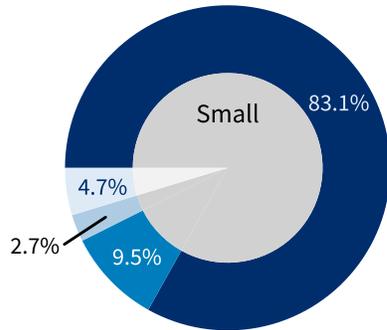
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

REGULATION • RESEARCH • OUTREACH

Rhode Island Congressional District 1

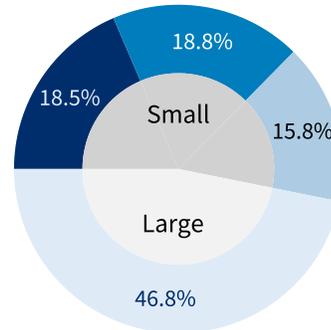


11,277 small businesses with employees
95.3 percent of district employers



Employers by size

111,781 employees of small businesses
53.2 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	1,480	70	11	9
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,344	68	14	20
Accommodation and Food Services	999	263	20	44
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,135	80	25	52
Retail Trade	1,066	98	25	115
Health Care and Social Assistance	833	152	80	69
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	657	52	16	48
Manufacturing	401	112	42	41
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	475	28	9	26
Wholesale Trade	384	70	22	55
Transportation and Warehousing	327	23	8	22
Finance and Insurance	251	22	20	64
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	218	40	10	7
Educational Services	135	45	16	11
Information	94	9	10	21
Management of Companies and Enterprises	11	7	13	20
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14	0	0	0
Industries not classified	13	0	0	0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	4	*	*	0
Utilities	*	*	*	6
All industries	9,835	1,123	319	556

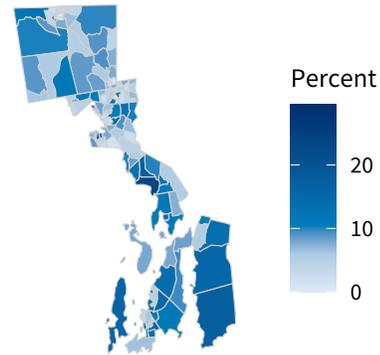
* Not available; Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses, 2022](#) (Census)

Self-employment

In 2024, 9.9 percent of private workers in the congressional district were self-employed, which is about the same as the national rate. The percent of district workers who were self-employed included 2.7 percent of private workers who paid themselves through corporations they owned. The median income of the incorporated self-employed was \$75,973, while the median income of the unincorporated self-employed was \$60,342. The median income for all workers in the district was \$63,696.

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	1,561	99.4	9,091	85.9	699,546	85.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,426	98.6	7,518	92.7	295,812	88.8
Accommodation and Food Services	1,282	96.7	16,741	68.4	454,866	66.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,240	96.0	8,897	79.3	684,099	75.3
Retail Trade	1,189	91.2	8,621	41.0	371,391	50.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,065	93.9	21,033	53.1	940,433	45.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	725	93.8	5,500	56.4	302,158	55.8
Manufacturing	555	93.1	11,810	63.0	686,932	55.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	512	95.2	2,299	83.3	140,914	82.0
Wholesale Trade	476	89.6	4,396	53.0	334,467	46.0
Transportation and Warehousing	358	94.2	2,391	43.8	118,766	48.7
Finance and Insurance	293	82.1	3,042	17.1	269,967	15.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	268	97.5	3,077	88.2	108,450	90.6
Educational Services	196	94.7	5,005	24.8	236,895	24.2
Information	113	84.3	1,124	57.5	67,523	45.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	31	60.8	1,062	19.2	72,254	15.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14	100.0	21	100.0	1,228	100.0
Industries not classified	13	100.0	15	100.0	424	100.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	6	100.0	85	100.0	6,304	100.0
Utilities	4	40.0	53	4.8	7,544	6.3
All industries	11,277	95.3	111,781	53.2	5,799,973	47.8

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 for additional resources.

2026 Small Business Profile

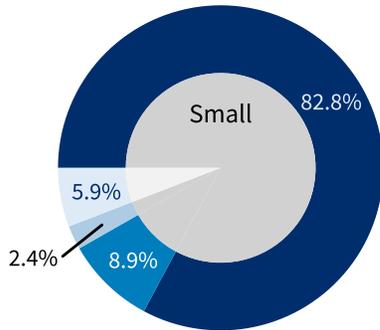
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

REGULATION • RESEARCH • OUTREACH

Rhode Island Congressional District 2

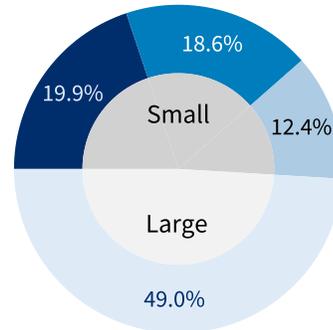


12,677 small businesses with employees
94.1 percent of district employers



Employers by size

112,513 employees of small businesses
51.0 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	1,793	81	12	14
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,394	96	33	74
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,387	74	14	32
Accommodation and Food Services	1,106	306	29	59
Retail Trade	1,127	102	41	202
Health Care and Social Assistance	882	164	66	73
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	882	72	18	59
Manufacturing	411	109	28	42
Wholesale Trade	455	60	27	76
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	504	21	8	35
Finance and Insurance	325	16	25	91
Transportation and Warehousing	320	34	10	31
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	258	25	8	12
Educational Services	153	31	8	14
Information	113	14	5	27
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	22	3	0	0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5	9	11	36
Utilities	10	*	*	7
Industries not classified	8	0	0	0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	6	0	0	1
All industries	11,154	1,203	320	790

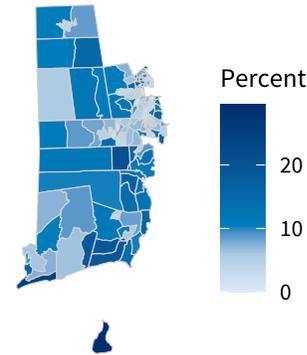
* Not available; Source of original data: [Statistics of U.S. Businesses](#), 2022 (Census)

Self-employment

In 2024, 9.1 percent of private workers in the congressional district were self-employed, below the national rate of 9.9 percent. The percent of district workers who were self-employed included 3.4 percent of private workers who paid themselves through corporations they owned. The median income of the incorporated self-employed was \$80,394, while the median income of the unincorporated self-employed was \$61,563. The median income for all workers in the district was \$71,334.

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	1,886	99.3	9,764	94.4	708,314	90.9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,523	95.4	8,643	71.6	699,810	71.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,475	97.9	8,473	91.8	378,859	91.2
Accommodation and Food Services	1,441	96.1	19,343	74.3	540,735	75.2
Retail Trade	1,270	86.3	10,434	34.6	453,079	42.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,112	93.8	19,015	42.9	970,577	34.9
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	972	94.3	7,301	60.0	399,953	63.0
Manufacturing	548	92.9	9,326	42.9	538,941	36.8
Wholesale Trade	542	87.7	5,205	52.5	385,256	44.3
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	533	93.8	2,105	78.3	127,761	78.8
Finance and Insurance	366	80.1	2,858	23.0	293,430	20.0
Transportation and Warehousing	364	92.2	2,562	34.7	126,268	38.1
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	291	96.0	2,947	61.9	102,245	65.2
Educational Services	192	93.2	2,576	31.8	112,221	30.6
Information	132	83.0	1,125	25.2	70,115	18.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	25	100.0	139	100.0	7,120	100.0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	25	41.0	498	11.2	33,475	6.9
Utilities	12	63.2	140	40.9	23,002	52.8
Industries not classified	8	100.0	23	100.0	555	100.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	6	85.7	36	83.7	2,887	58.5
All industries	12,677	94.1	112,513	51.0	5,974,603	45.6

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 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 for additional resources.

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.