

Manufacturing Statistics 2025



In 2021, the U.S. was home to 603,348 small business manufacturers. Small manufacturers employed 4.8 million workers and paid over \$277 billion in payroll.

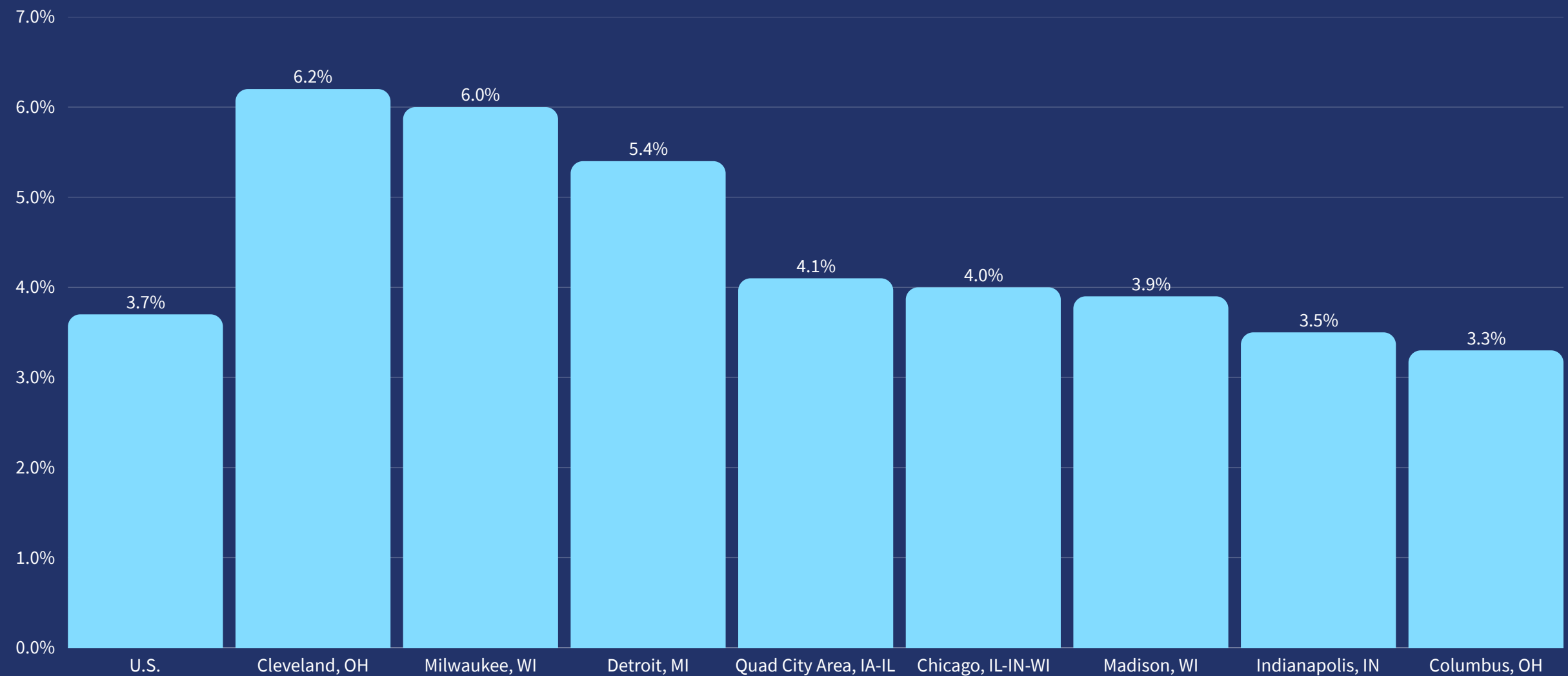


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Small manufacturers represented 3.7% of all employers in the US in 2021 and tend to be concentrated in the Midwest.



Small Manufacturers — Share of Employer Firms

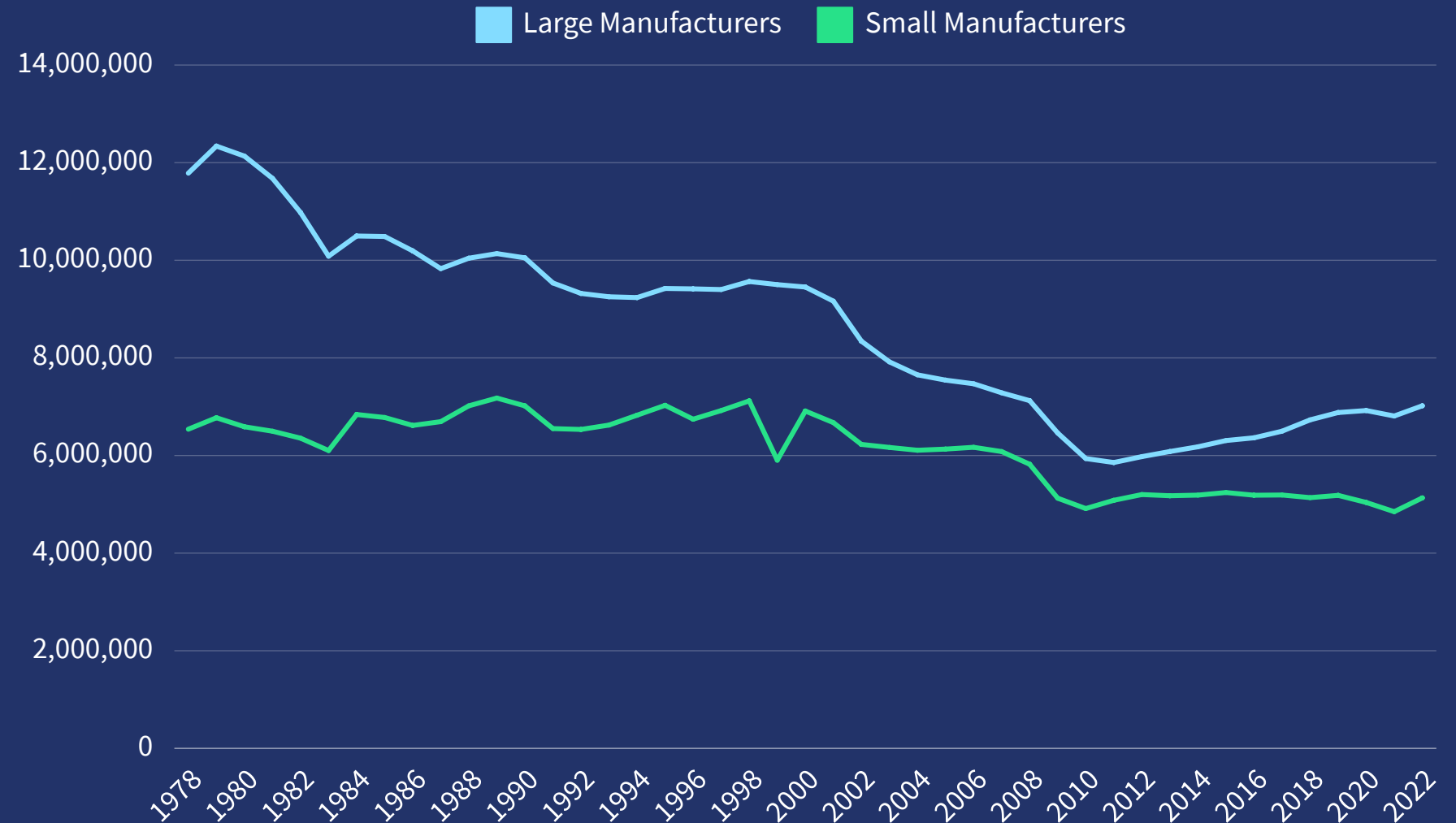


Source: Statistics of U.S. Businesses, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html>. Areas selected are metropolitan statistical areas

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Employment in manufacturing has declined since the 1980's. While large manufacturing employment began to grow again in 2010, there has not been an equivalent rebound in small manufacturing employment. Small businesses have consistently made up over 98% of manufacturing firms.

Manufacturing - Employment



Source: American Community Survey (Census). Business owners were identified as self-employed individuals at incorporated businesses.

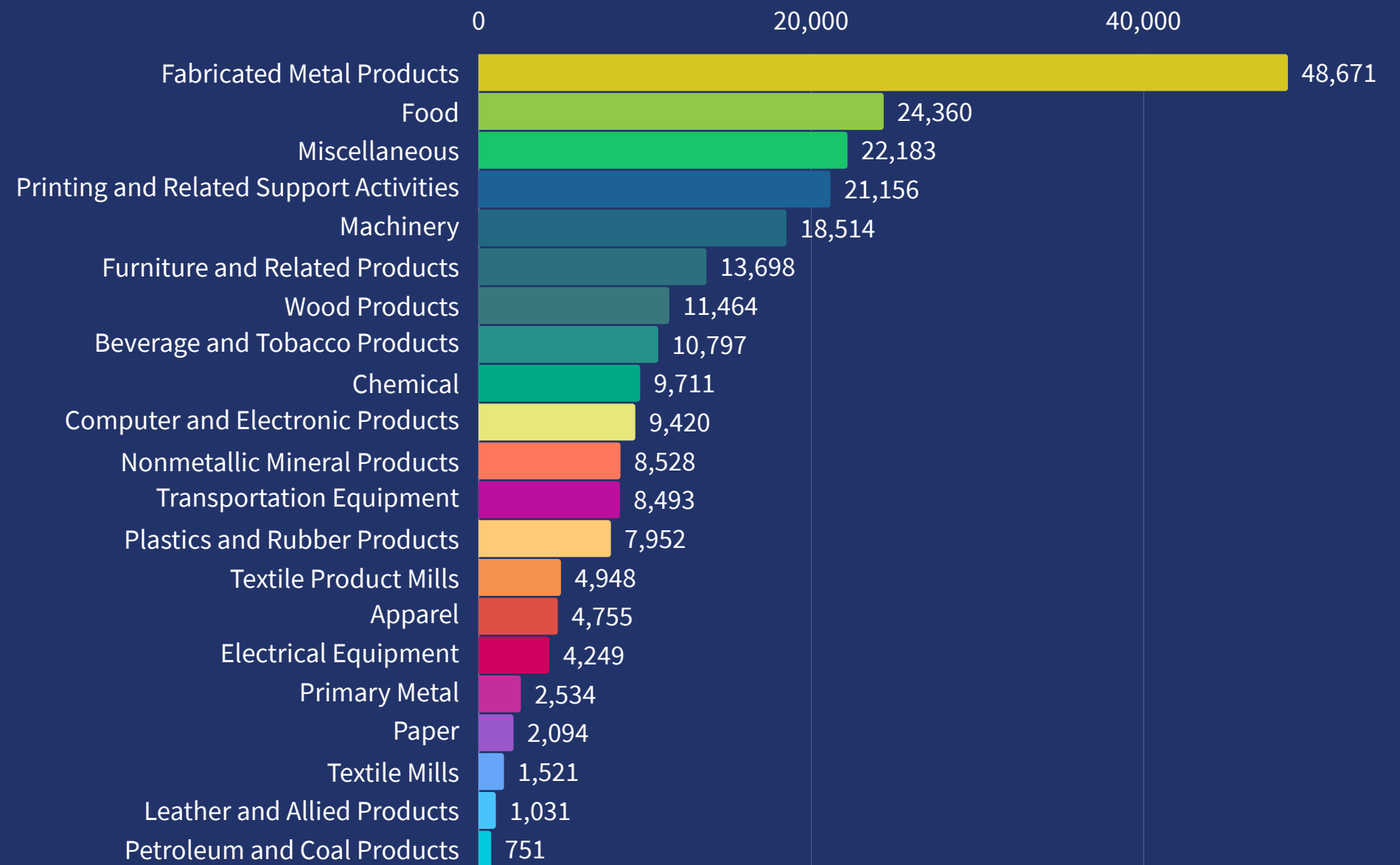


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Over 20% of small manufacturers are in the fabricated metal production business.



Number of Small Employer Firms by Manufacturing Type

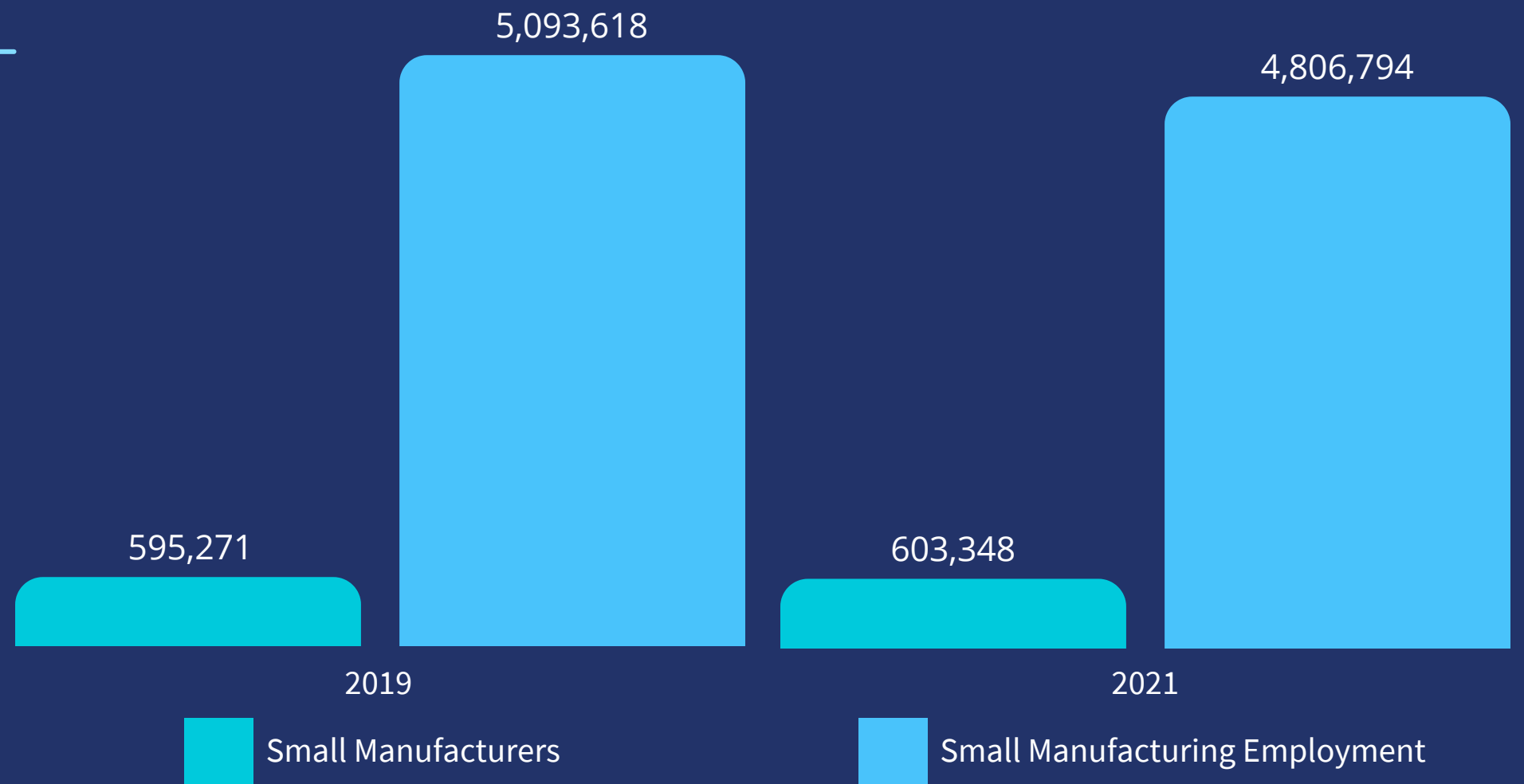


Source: Statistics of U.S. Businesses, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html>

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The number of small manufacturing firms increased over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the number of employees fell.

Pandemic Changes in Manufacturing, 2019 - 2021



Sources: 1) Nonemployer Statistics, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>;
2) Statistics of U.S. Businesses, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html>

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Regulations disproportionately impact manufacturers relative to other sectors — 28% cited regulations as a major operational challenge.



Operational Challenges Facing Small Manufacturers

