

2025 Small Business Profile

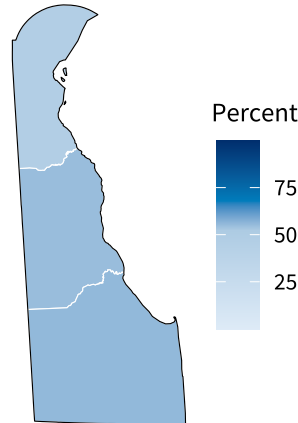
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

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Delaware

111,346 small businesses
98.7 percent of Delaware businesses

214,539 small business employees
50.6 percent of Delaware employees



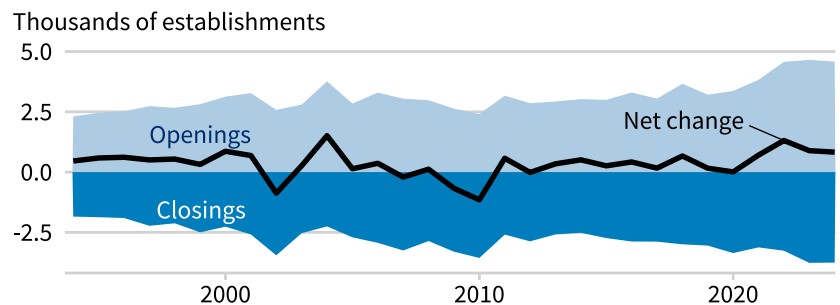
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Employer and employment dynamics

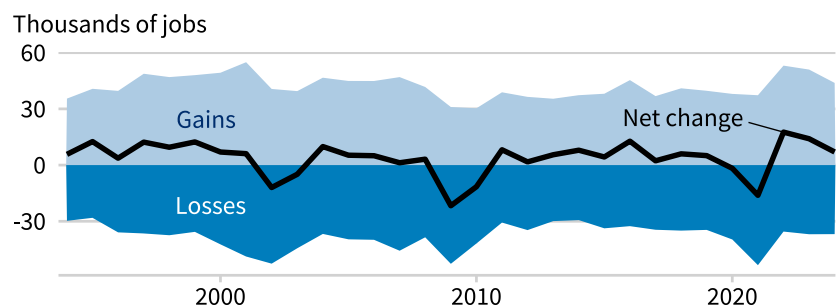
Establishments

Between March 2023 and March 2024, 4,580 establishments opened and 3,753 closed, for a net increase of 827. Employment expanded at 6,191 establishments and contracted at 6,048. Small businesses accounted for 4,378 establishment openings and 3,614 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Delaware establishments added 43,865 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 36,873, for a net increase of 6,992 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 5,323 jobs, or 76.1 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 \$255.3 million in loans to Delaware businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$759.2 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$343.9 million.

Source: [CRA Aggregate Data](#) (FFIEC)

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$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	13,373	3,349	377	17,099
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	12,191	1,045	80	13,316
Transportation and Warehousing	11,481	664	104	12,249
Other Services (except Public Administration)	7,300	2,122	180	9,602
Construction	7,140	2,184	251	9,575
Retail Trade	6,942	2,059	274	9,275
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	6,684	1,268	187	8,139
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,657	1,868	408	7,933
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,692	460	74	5,226
Finance and Insurance	3,821	935	123	4,879
Accommodation and Food Services	1,528	1,415	490	3,433
Educational Services	2,693	302	64	3,059
Wholesale Trade	1,709	764	182	2,655
Information	1,755	593	60	2,408
Manufacturing	924	395	128	1,447
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	566	35	0	601
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	226	85	311
Industries not classified	*	152	1	153
Utilities	56	23	6	85
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	18	12	4	34
All industries	88,530	19,849	2,967	111,346

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 2,170 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.2 billion from Delaware in 2023. Of those exporters, 1,897—or 87.4 percent—were small. At \$878.0 million, exports by small firms made up 21.1 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 48.8 percent of workers and owned 43.5 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.0 percent of workers and owned 6.3 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 9.5 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

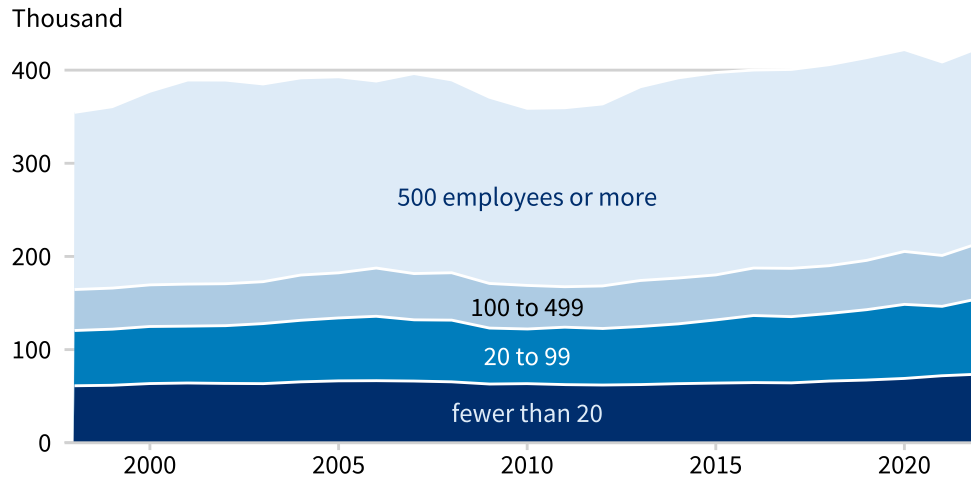
Group	Without employees	%	With employees	%	Total businesses
Female	33,500	88.4	4,385	11.6	37,885
Male	42,000	75.4	13,715	24.6	55,715
Owned equally by both groups	3,000	60.4	1,968	39.6	4,968
Veteran	4,400	82.1	958	17.9	5,358
Not Veteran	74,000	79.8	18,720	20.2	92,720
Owned equally by both groups	450	53.6	390	46.4	840
Hispanic	7,000	89.2	848	10.8	7,848
Not Hispanic	71,500	78.9	19,096	21.1	90,596
Owned equally by both groups	250	67.0	123	33.0	373
Rural	13,500	84.8	2,421	15.2	15,921
Urban	69,000	78.6	18,746	21.4	87,746
American Indian and Alaska Native	600	86.5	94	13.5	694
Asian	5,400	68.8	2,449	31.2	7,849
Black or African American	17,500	93.7	1,186	6.3	18,686
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	90	92.8	7	7.2	97
White	55,500	77.2	16,348	22.8	71,848
Hispanic or Racial Minority	28,500	86.3	4,525	13.7	33,025
White and Not Hispanic	49,500	76.4	15,291	23.6	64,791
Owned equally by both groups	700	73.5	252	26.5	952

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 Delaware employment by business size

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



Delaware small business employment grew by 30.4 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	%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,726	95.4	24,061	63.4	2,809,736	61.0
Construction	2,435	98.8	21,428	91.7	1,397,752	87.7
Retail Trade	2,333	90.0	19,711	35.7	953,195	49.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,302	97.7	14,457	93.1	529,643	89.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,276	95.0	31,949	43.7	1,723,181	35.8
Accommodation and Food Services	1,905	96.5	31,670	74.2	761,439	74.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,455	91.9	15,564	47.5	759,271	47.3
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,125	94.6	5,056	77.5	306,231	77.3
Finance and Insurance	1,058	82.7	7,132	21.4	812,129	20.8
Wholesale Trade	946	85.2	9,243	46.0	749,384	31.5
Transportation and Warehousing	768	92.0	6,509	34.7	310,719	36.4
Information	653	89.7	4,818	62.5	628,391	70.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	534	96.6	5,583	57.3	212,113	62.2
Manufacturing	523	89.7	9,318	31.3	565,272	26.7
Educational Services	366	93.8	5,528	79.3	201,540	64.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	311	66.7	1,459	19.3	170,259	19.7
Industries not classified	153	100.0	208	100.0	5,813	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	35	97.2	130	95.6	8,602	95.8
Utilities	29	78.4	587	22.1	108,192	29.5
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	16	84.2	128	47.2	10,559	37.4
All industries	22,816	94.1	214,539	50.6	13,023,421	45.5

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 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.