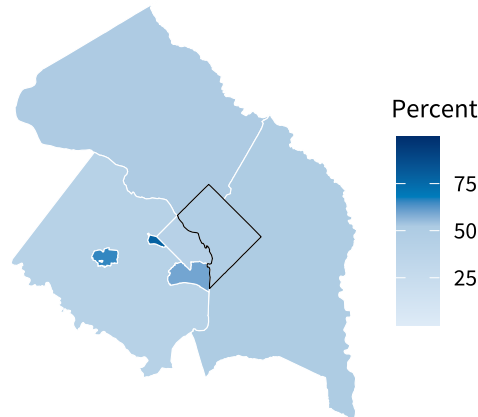


District of Columbia

82,666 small businesses
98.2 percent of DC businesses

259,181 small business employees
49.1 percent of DC employees



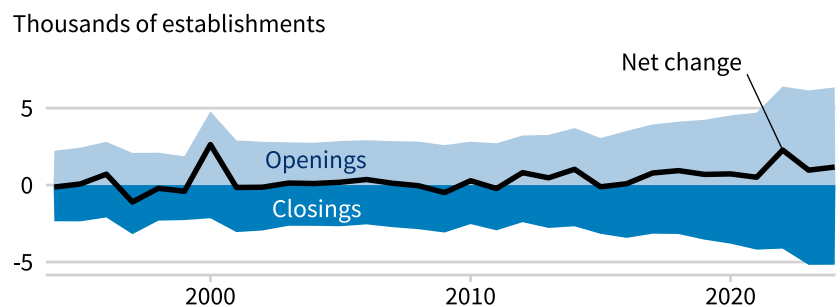
Share of employees working at small businesses by county, district, or independent city

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

Employer and employment dynamics

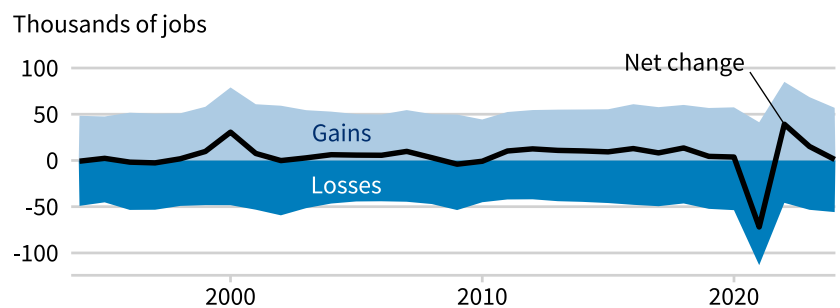
Establishments

Between March 2023 and March 2024, 6,348 DC establishments opened and 5,177 closed, for a net increase of 1,171. Employment expanded at 7,106 establishments and contracted at 7,518. Small businesses accounted for 5,817 establishment openings and 4,724 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding DC establishments added 56,919 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 55,844, for a net increase of 1,075 jobs. Small businesses gained 43,168 jobs and lost 40,490, for a net increase of 2,678 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings.

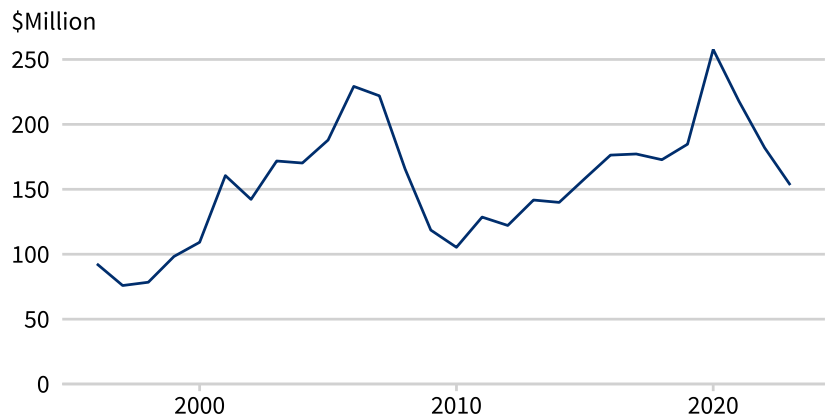
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2023, reporting banks issued \$153.3 million in loans to DC businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$512.4 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$235.1 million.

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	17,910	3,686	881	22,477
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,519	2,898	834	9,251
Transportation and Warehousing	8,017	98	30	8,145
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5,986	734	125	6,845
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,930	1,412	360	6,702
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,507	318	61	5,886
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	3,963	481	200	4,644
Educational Services	3,718	398	186	4,302
Retail Trade	2,526	1,053	127	3,706
Accommodation and Food Services	1,568	1,379	602	3,549
Construction	2,156	398	93	2,647
Information	1,403	344	119	1,866
Finance and Insurance	1,146	287	106	1,539
Wholesale Trade	390	198	32	620
Manufacturing	307	77	16	400
Utilities	36	9	1	46
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	39	3	0	42
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	19	23	42
Industries not classified	*	19	0	19
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	9	*	*	9
All industries	65,130	13,806	3,730	82,666

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 523 identified firms exported goods worth \$699.0 million from the District in 2023. Of those exporters, 392—or 75.0 percent—were small. At \$670.0 million, exports by small firms made up 95.8 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 51.1 percent of workers and owned 50.0 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 2.7 percent of workers and owned 3.5 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 11.1 percent of workers and owned 9.4 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

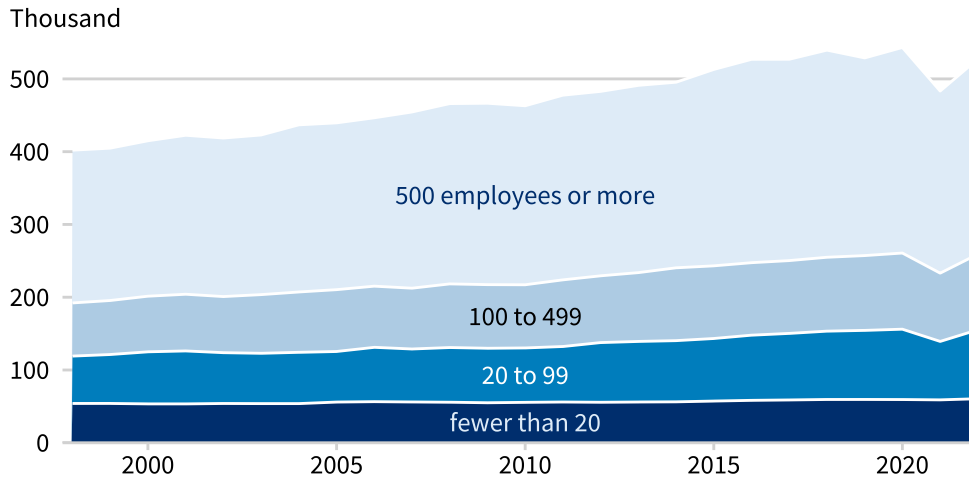
Group	Without employees	%	With employees	%	Total businesses
Female	32,500	90.2	3,547	9.8	36,047
Male	30,000	79.5	7,730	20.5	37,730
Owned equally by both groups	800	47.4	886	52.6	1,686
Veteran	1,900	78.2	530	21.8	2,430
Not Veteran	61,000	84.1	11,536	15.9	72,536
Owned equally by both groups	100	50.5	98	49.5	198
Hispanic	6,200	89.6	718	10.4	6,918
Not Hispanic	57,000	83.4	11,384	16.6	68,384
Owned equally by both groups	100	62.1	61	37.9	161
Urban	63,500	81.0	14,926	19.0	78,426
American Indian and Alaska Native	550	92.0	48	8.0	598
Asian	4,000	68.2	1,867	31.8	5,867
Black or African American	27,500	93.3	1,971	6.7	29,471
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	100	90.9	10	9.1	110
White	32,500	79.7	8,279	20.3	40,779
Hispanic or Racial Minority	35,500	88.7	4,532	11.3	40,032
White and Not Hispanic	27,500	78.8	7,418	21.2	34,918
Owned equally by both groups	250	53.9	214	46.1	464

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 DC employment by business size

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



✧

DC small business employment grew by 34.9 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	%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,567	91.7	53,687	47.1	7,413,196	41.3
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3,732	98.0	63,960	83.1	6,844,664	83.9
Accommodation and Food Services	1,981	94.9	36,832	59.7	1,380,659	59.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,772	94.3	30,822	44.1	1,755,124	37.2
Retail Trade	1,180	88.9	6,829	31.3	289,182	35.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	859	92.4	7,201	64.9	721,852	65.4
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	681	85.0	12,146	38.4	748,785	40.7
Educational Services	584	93.6	16,580	30.4	1,112,474	31.2
Construction	491	95.2	7,786	72.3	529,718	68.0
Information	463	76.7	8,889	33.1	1,090,212	28.4
Finance and Insurance	393	68.5	4,574	21.6	796,216	19.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	379	95.2	5,225	61.6	231,527	29.5
Wholesale Trade	230	72.6	1,577	46.4	152,144	41.4
Transportation and Warehousing	128	82.6	1,198	53.4	62,782	45.2
Manufacturing	93	93.0	834	82.2	47,250	84.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	42	26.9	957	9.8	65,451	4.7
Industries not classified	19	100.0	13	100.0	1,183	100.0
Utilities	10	24.4	55	2.7	8,542	2.9
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	3	100.0	15	100.0	645	100.0
All industries	17,536	92.1	259,181	49.1	23,251,634	44.5

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.