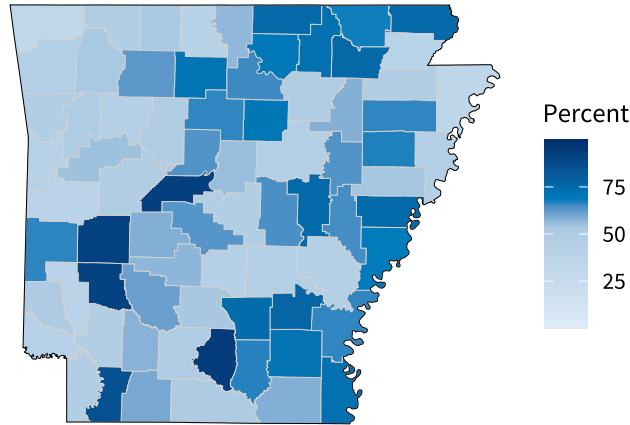


Arkansas

264,245 small businesses
99.3 percent of Arkansas businesses

497,605 small business employees
47.2 percent of Arkansas employees



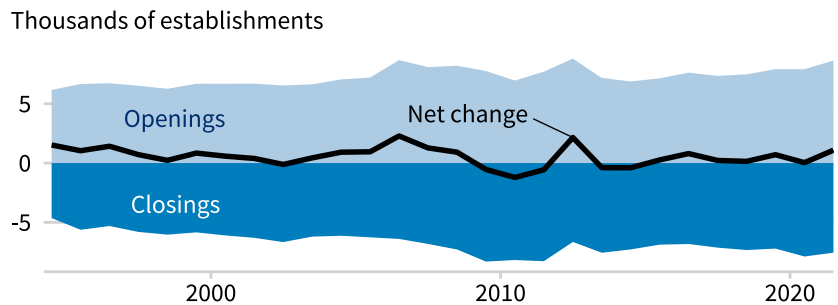
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

Source of data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census)

Business dynamics

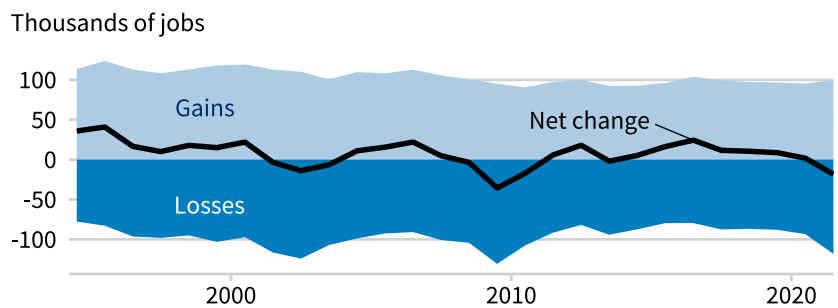
Establishments

Between March 2020 and March 2021, 8,644 Arkansas establishments opened and 7,558 closed, for a net increase of 1,086. Employment expanded at 16,633 establishments and contracted at 18,294. Small businesses accounted for 8,172 openings and 7,086 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Arkansas establishments added 99,893 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 118,221, for a net decrease of 18,328 jobs. Small businesses gained 72,165 jobs and lost 77,537, for a net decrease of 5,372 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

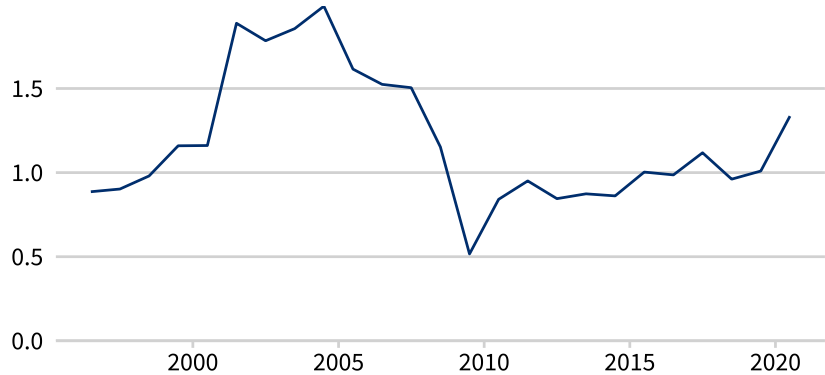
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2020, reporting banks issued \$1.3 billion in loans to Arkansas businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$1.1 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$3.8 billion.





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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$Billion



Small business count by size and industry

Industry				
	No employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Construction	31,492	4,936	493	36,921
Other Services (except Public Administration)	28,810	5,878	385	35,073
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	25,031	1,978	273	27,282
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	20,503	5,050	323	25,876
Retail Trade	19,087	5,718	596	25,401
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,842	4,943	949	23,734
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	20,481	2,367	130	22,978
Transportation and Warehousing	13,538	1,622	247	15,407
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,377	671	98	9,146
Accommodation and Food Services	4,196	3,334	1,135	8,665
Finance and Insurance	5,858	2,110	185	8,153
Educational Services	6,041	434	127	6,602
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,949	571	39	5,559
Wholesale Trade	2,701	1,570	535	4,806
Manufacturing	2,752	1,409	524	4,685
Information	1,807	363	87	2,257
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,319	186	34	1,539
Utilities	140	97	23	260
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	31	136	167
Industries not classified	*	84	0	84
Total	214,924	43,308	6,013	264,245

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2019 (Census); [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2019 (Census)



Small business exports

A total of 2,168 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.8 billion from Arkansas in 2020. Of those exporters, 1,676—or 77.3 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$934.0 million, making up 19.6 percent of exports by identified firms.

Source: [A profile of US importing and exporting companies, 2019-2020](#) (Census)

Business ownership share by demographic group

Women



Women made up 47.3 percent of workers and owned 43.5 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.6 percent of workers and owned 9.1 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 7.9 percent of workers and owned 5.1 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 20.6 percent of workers and owned 13.0 percent of businesses.

Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership

Sources of data: [American Community Survey, 2018](#) (Census and IPUMS); [Annual Business Survey, 2018](#) (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2018](#) (Census)

Business count by owner demographic group

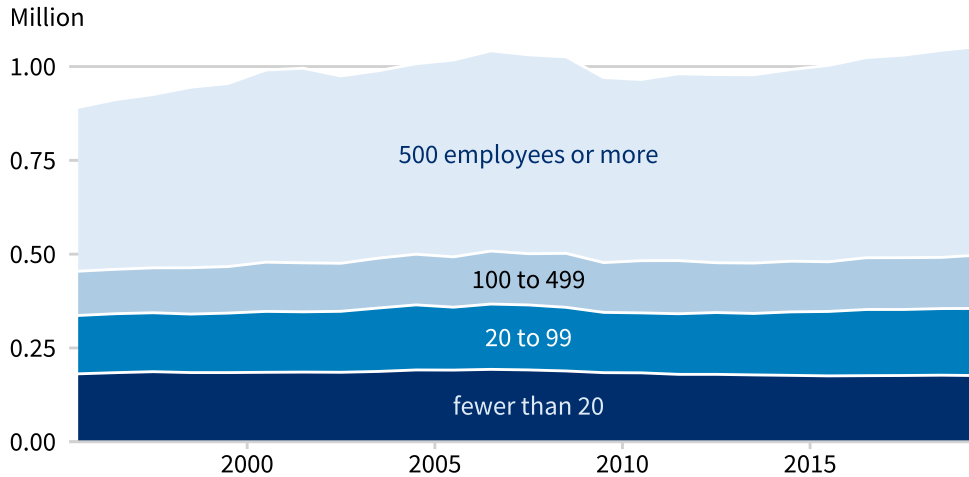
	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Ownership			
Female	85,000	8,168	93,168
Male	114,000	26,877	140,877
Owned equally by both groups	6,600	8,481	15,081
Veteran	16,000	3,600	19,600
Not Veteran	189,000	38,048	227,048
Owned equally by both groups	1,300	1,879	3,179
Hispanic	11,500	737	12,237
Not Hispanic	194,000	42,630	236,630
Owned equally by both groups	200	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	650	338	988
Asian	4,500	*	*
Black or African American	23,000	641	23,641
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	250	*	*
White	177,000	39,965	216,965
Hispanic or Racial Minority	39,000	4,229	43,229
White and Not Hispanic	166,000	38,563	204,563
Owned equally by both groups	400	*	*

* Not reported by the Census Bureau; counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group

Sources: [Annual Business Survey, 2018](#) (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2018](#) (Census)

Total Arkansas employment by business size

Source of data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census)



Small businesses accounted for 47.2 percent of Arkansas employment in 2019, which exceeded the national share.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Retail Trade	6,314	95.5	50,619	36.6	1,573,435	41.4
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,263	98.8	38,759	92.1	1,024,285	87.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,892	97.5	91,409	49.0	3,537,858	40.1
Construction	5,429	99.0	42,523	85.4	2,012,056	79.2
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,373	97.1	29,172	73.5	1,657,179	70.0
Accommodation and Food Services	4,469	96.8	74,311	67.5	1,211,741	67.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,497	97.4	9,799	74.2	378,727	71.5
Finance and Insurance	2,295	93.4	17,032	42.6	960,970	35.2
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	2,251	93.0	22,508	34.6	766,850	43.1
Wholesale Trade	2,105	85.6	26,935	55.0	1,445,178	53.3
Manufacturing	1,933	86.8	40,922	25.3	1,745,107	22.5
Transportation and Warehousing	1,869	92.4	17,030	29.9	712,907	26.3
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	769	97.8	8,244	77.6	174,418	74.8
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	610	98.2	4,145	87.9	180,186	79.4
Educational Services	561	96.4	11,616	71.3	322,377	75.8
Information	450	81.5	5,376	25.7	306,879	21.1
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	220	85.3	1,943	48.6	128,065	45.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	167	59.2	2,626	7.1	155,008	3.7
Utilities	120	88.9	2,524	33.8	178,125	24.9
Industries not classified	84	100.0	112	100.0	2,455	100.0
Total	49,321	96.3	497,605	47.2	18,473,806	39.9

Source: [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2019 (Census)

About this profile

Small businesses are defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Figures and statistics may incorporate approximations because of missing or problematic data. Data analyzed here largely predate the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had [impacts on businesses](#) that have differed by industry, geography, and demographic group. Electronic versions of this and other [geographic profiles](#) are available online. Visit advocacy.sba.gov for additional resources.