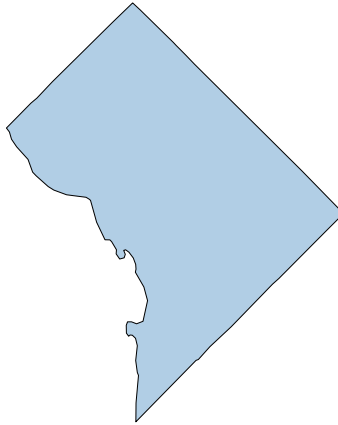


District of Columbia

79,047 small businesses
98.2 percent of DC businesses

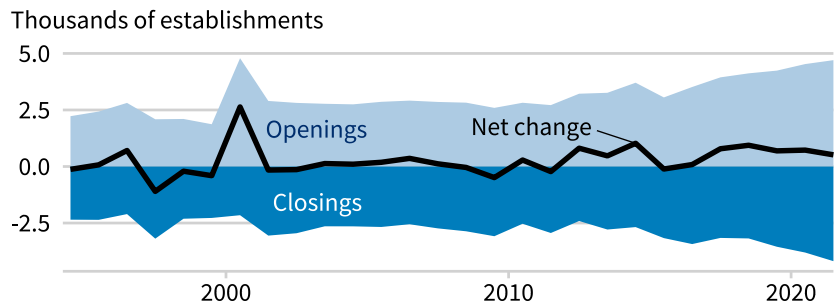
257,236 small business employees
48.6 percent of DC employees



Business dynamics

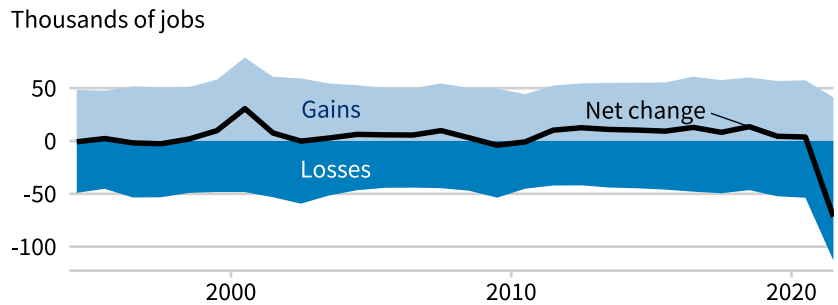
Establishments

Between March 2020 and March 2021, 4,703 DC establishments opened and 4,186 closed, for a net increase of 517. Employment expanded at 5,353 establishments and contracted at 8,573. Small businesses accounted for 4,295 establishment openings and 3,737 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding DC establishments added 41,316 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 113,102, for a net decrease of 71,786 jobs. Small businesses gained 30,928 jobs and lost 73,455, for a net decrease of 42,527 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

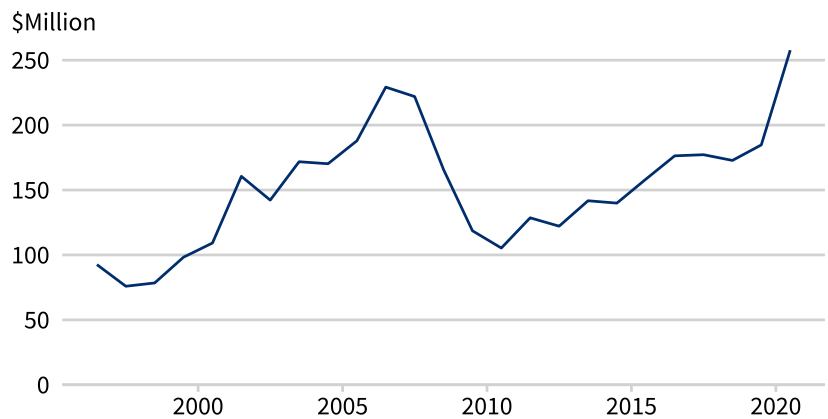
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans





The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2020, reporting banks issued \$257.7 million in loans to DC businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$328.0 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.2 billion.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million



Small business count by size and industry

Industry	   			
	No employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	17,031	3,799	785	21,615
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,008	2,938	845	8,791
Transportation and Warehousing	7,738	95	25	7,858
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,174	683	117	6,974
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,422	1,356	324	6,102
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,557	257	76	5,890
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	3,726	464	196	4,386
Educational Services	3,460	365	188	4,013
Accommodation and Food Services	1,433	1,325	691	3,449
Retail Trade	1,930	1,045	142	3,117
Construction	2,129	363	94	2,586
Information	1,416	335	119	1,870
Finance and Insurance	1,046	272	101	1,419
Wholesale Trade	296	188	38	522
Manufacturing	269	86	14	369
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	21	26	47
Utilities	39	6	0	45
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	42	*	*	42
Industries not classified	*	28	0	28
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	5	*	*	5
Total	61,721	13,612	3,714	79,047

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 517 identified firms exported goods worth \$900.0 million from the District in 2020. Of those exporters, 390—or 75.4 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$873.0 million, making up 97.0 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 52.5 percent of workers and owned 47.8 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 2.8 percent of workers and owned 4.5 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 10.9 percent of workers and owned 7.7 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 47.6 percent of workers and owned 42.2 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

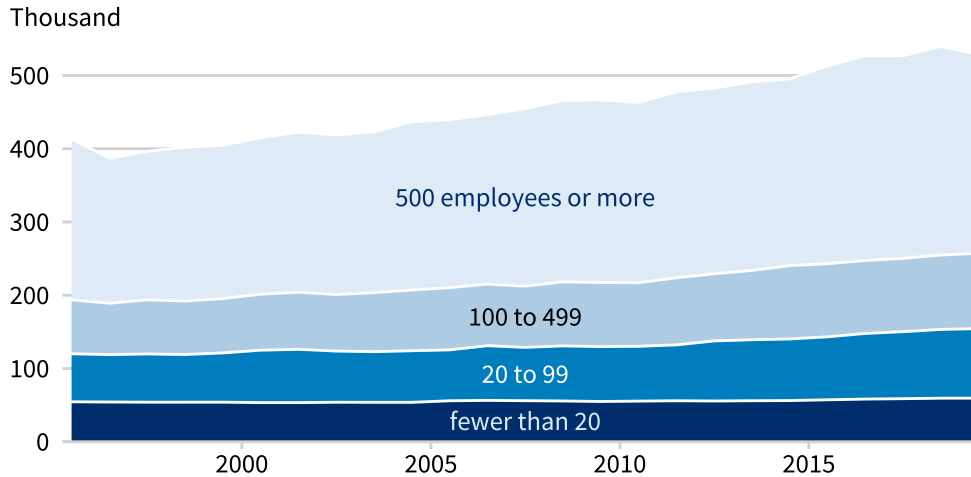
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	30,000	2,849	32,849
Male	30,000	8,103	38,103
Owned equally by both groups	750	1,326	2,076
Veteran	2,100	807	2,907
Not Veteran	58,500	11,160	69,660
Owned equally by both groups	100	*	*
Hispanic	4,900	513	5,413
Not Hispanic	55,500	11,675	67,175
Owned equally by both groups	100	91	191
American Indian and Alaska Native	150	21	171
Asian	2,800	2,046	4,846
Black or African American	24,500	1,666	26,166
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	30	*	*
White	33,500	8,582	42,082
Hispanic or Racial Minority	30,500	4,164	34,664
White and Not Hispanic	30,000	7,921	37,921
Owned equally by both groups	200	195	395

* 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 DC employment by business size

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



✧
 DC small business employment grew by 32.7 percent between 1995 and 2019, 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	4,584	92.3	49,469	48.4	6,157,481	43.6
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3,783	98.0	61,641	83.5	5,765,016	83.6
Accommodation and Food Services	2,016	94.9	41,851	55.4	1,190,553	49.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,680	94.6	30,588	41.7	1,466,872	31.8
Retail Trade	1,187	87.8	7,450	34.5	277,461	38.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	800	92.1	6,142	59.0	569,374	60.5
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	660	84.2	14,049	46.2	705,419	46.5
Educational Services	553	92.6	16,224	29.4	875,965	27.8
Construction	457	95.8	7,708	77.6	522,595	70.6
Information	454	77.9	7,741	31.1	792,688	24.9
Finance and Insurance	373	69.3	3,913	19.3	545,889	16.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	333	93.5	6,030	51.1	210,917	24.1
Wholesale Trade	226	73.6	1,756	49.3	140,155	45.6
Transportation and Warehousing	120	79.5	1,117	25.8	45,462	9.1
Manufacturing	100	91.7	874	79.3	42,078	75.2
Management of Companies and Enterprises	47	29.2	621	7.6	62,704	6.2
Industries not classified	28	100.0	35	100.0	1,438	100.0
Utilities	6	17.6	26	1.2	1,644	0.5
Total	17,326	92.3	257,236	48.6	19,373,743	43.3

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.