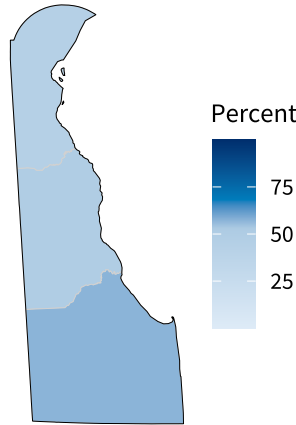


Delaware

93,686 small businesses
98.5 percent of Delaware businesses

195,792 small business employees
47.4 percent of Delaware employees



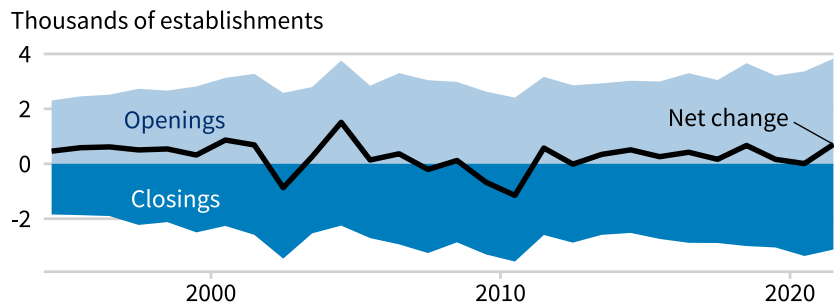
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

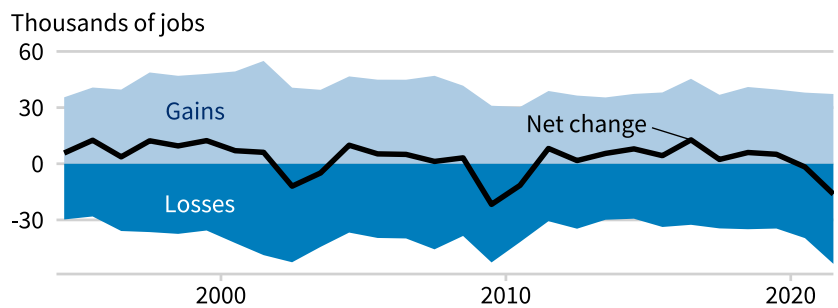
Establishments

Between March 2020 and March 2021, 3,829 Delaware establishments opened and 3,123 closed, for a net increase of 706. Employment expanded at 5,009 establishments and contracted at 6,544. Small businesses accounted for 3,640 establishment openings and 2,908 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Delaware establishments added 37,254 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 53,487, for a net decrease of 16,233 jobs. Small businesses gained 26,059 jobs and lost 33,327, for a net decrease of 7,268 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

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

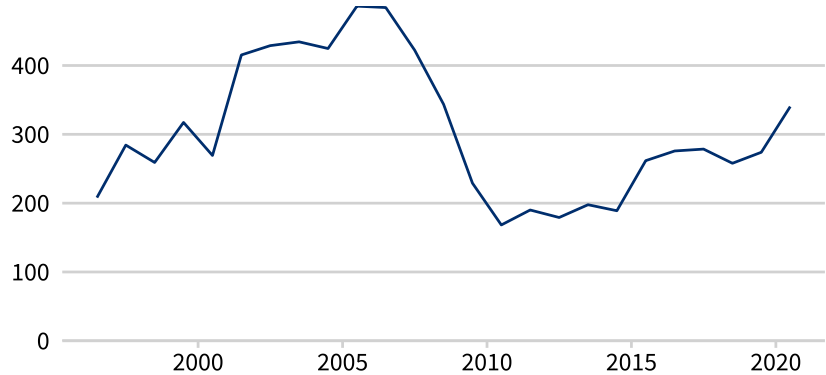
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2020, reporting banks issued \$340.3 million in loans to Delaware businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$428.5 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.4 billion.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$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	10,895	2,607	311	13,813
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,970	921	80	11,971
Construction	6,694	2,059	240	8,993
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,388	1,929	168	8,485
Retail Trade	6,215	1,916	226	8,357
Transportation and Warehousing	7,373	539	93	8,005
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	5,703	1,106	181	6,990
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,635	1,443	363	6,441
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,247	387	64	4,698
Finance and Insurance	3,299	838	134	4,271
Accommodation and Food Services	1,165	1,323	475	2,963
Educational Services	2,433	234	64	2,731
Wholesale Trade	1,293	725	179	2,197
Information	1,228	335	37	1,600
Manufacturing	818	362	129	1,309
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	503	30	0	533
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	215	95	310
Utilities	47	11	5	63
Industries not classified	*	54	0	54
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	12	10	7	29
Total	73,918	17,017	2,751	93,686

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



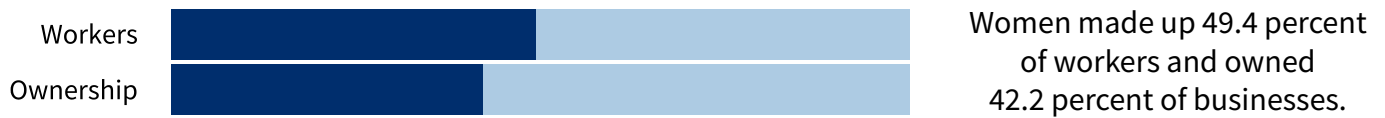
Small business exports

A total of 2,174 identified firms exported goods worth \$3.4 billion from Delaware in 2020. Of those exporters, 1,905—or 87.6 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$662.0 million, making up 19.6 percent of exports by identified firms.

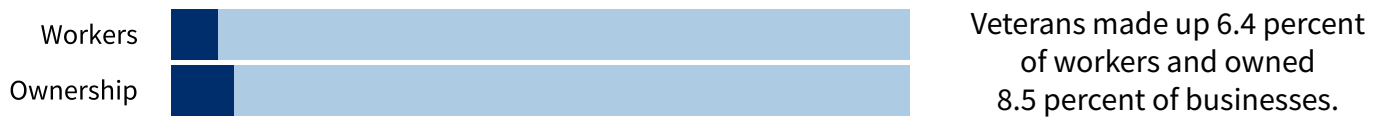
Source: [A profile of US importing and exporting companies, 2019-2020](#) (Census)

Business ownership share by demographic group

Women



Veterans



Hispanics



Racial minorities



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

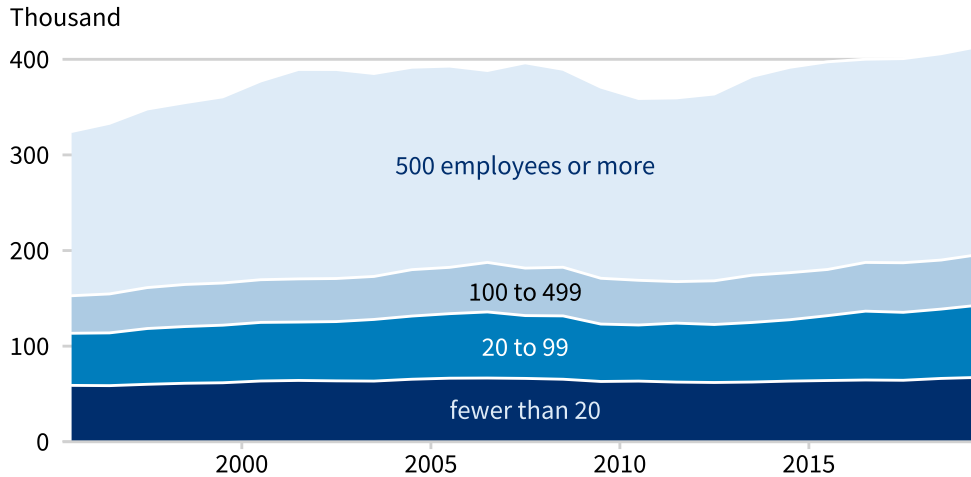
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	25,000	3,499	28,499
Male	35,000	11,355	46,355
Owned equally by both groups	2,700	2,614	5,314
Veteran	4,300	1,506	5,806
Not Veteran	58,000	15,425	73,425
Owned equally by both groups	450	540	990
Hispanic	3,900	429	4,329
Not Hispanic	59,000	16,965	75,965
Owned equally by both groups	150	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	150	25	175
Asian	3,500	1,851	5,351
Black or African American	10,000	*	*
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	30	*	*
White	49,000	15,091	64,091
Hispanic or Racial Minority	17,000	2,830	19,830
White and Not Hispanic	45,500	14,467	59,967
Owned equally by both groups	350	173	523

* 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 Delaware employment by business size

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



Delaware small business employment grew by 28.2 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	2,918	95.0	19,002	60.2	1,901,210	55.4
Construction	2,299	99.1	21,404	92.3	1,235,408	87.5
Retail Trade	2,142	88.6	18,026	31.6	674,724	41.7
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,097	97.5	13,701	90.7	435,271	87.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,806	94.0	29,384	40.7	1,423,729	35.1
Accommodation and Food Services	1,798	95.6	30,471	70.7	599,639	68.5
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,287	91.1	14,157	45.7	598,237	50.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,001	93.2	4,885	81.2	251,320	77.1
Finance and Insurance	972	82.9	6,262	15.0	534,646	12.7
Wholesale Trade	904	85.0	7,733	45.9	492,741	28.6
Transportation and Warehousing	632	90.8	5,147	37.3	232,015	36.4
Manufacturing	491	89.4	9,906	33.3	582,610	30.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	451	96.4	5,123	56.7	138,348	58.8
Information	372	85.3	2,793	44.2	228,168	45.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	310	61.0	1,146	17.6	94,101	14.2
Educational Services	298	94.9	5,694	81.8	177,322	65.3
Industries not classified	54	100.0	62	100.0	3,091	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	30	96.8	121	94.5	5,822	94.3
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	17	89.5	231	60.9	20,638	55.4
Utilities	16	69.6	544	18.8	61,352	17.9
Total	19,768	93.4	195,792	47.4	9,690,392	40.5

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.