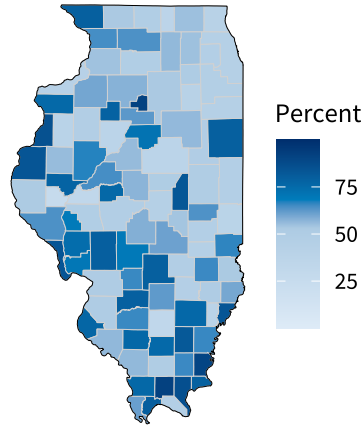


Illinois

1.2 million small businesses
99.6 percent of Illinois businesses

2.5 million small business employees
44.7 percent of Illinois employees



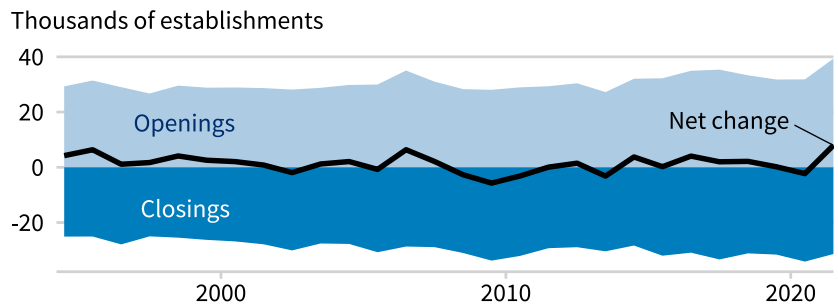
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

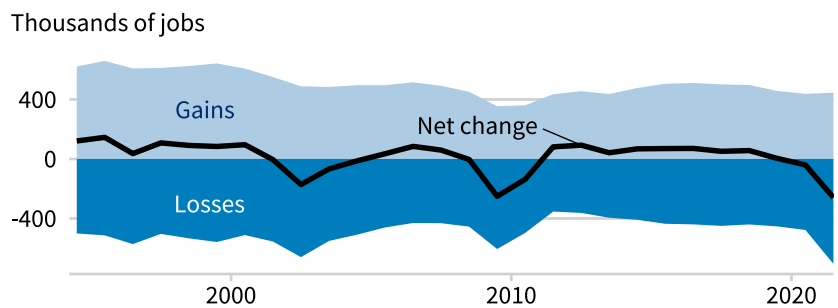
Establishments

Between March 2020 and March 2021, 39,354 Illinois establishments opened and 31,400 closed, for a net increase of 7,954. Employment expanded at 59,543 establishments and contracted at 80,019. Small businesses accounted for 38,231 openings and 29,458 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Illinois establishments added 445,975 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 705,518, for a net decrease of 259,543 jobs. Small businesses gained 307,975 jobs and lost 452,955, for a net decrease of 144,980 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

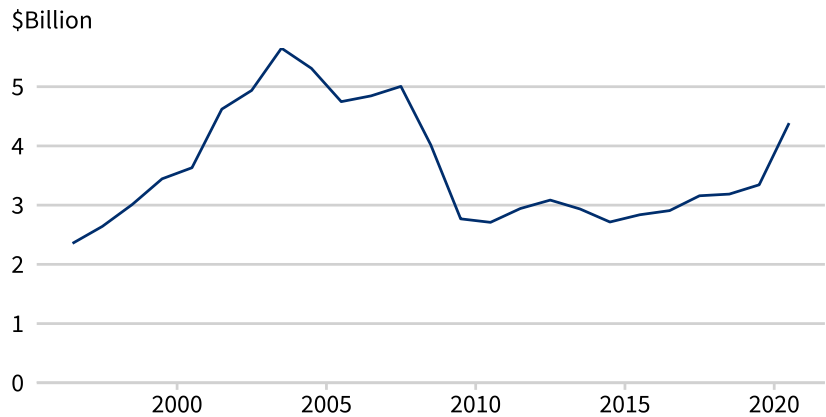
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans





The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2020, reporting banks issued \$4.4 billion in loans to Illinois businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$5.3 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$19.1 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
Transportation and Warehousing	155,590	14,671	1,165	171,426
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	131,194	32,511	2,647	166,352
Other Services (except Public Administration)	105,671	27,752	2,150	135,573
Construction	92,380	26,936	1,873	121,189
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	97,742	9,858	651	108,251
Health Care and Social Assistance	81,081	21,596	3,444	106,121
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	86,416	12,477	1,661	100,554
Retail Trade	68,361	19,790	2,285	90,436
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	55,191	4,030	668	59,889
Finance and Insurance	28,677	10,326	1,161	40,164
Educational Services	34,404	3,051	882	38,337
Accommodation and Food Services	16,025	17,153	4,964	38,142
Wholesale Trade	12,647	10,369	2,628	25,644
Manufacturing	10,191	7,803	3,263	21,257
Information	11,550	2,487	522	14,559
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	5,276	279	12	5,567
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,515	303	50	1,868
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	159	575	734
Utilities	322	113	44	479
Industries not classified	*	241	0	241
Total	994,233	221,725	29,382	1,245,340

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 21,836 identified firms exported goods worth \$49.7 billion from Illinois in 2020. Of those exporters, 19,445—or 89.1 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$12.2 billion, making up 24.6 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 47.6 percent of workers and owned 42.1 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 3.7 percent of workers and owned 4.6 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 16.7 percent of workers and owned 9.8 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 25.2 percent of workers and owned 20.3 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

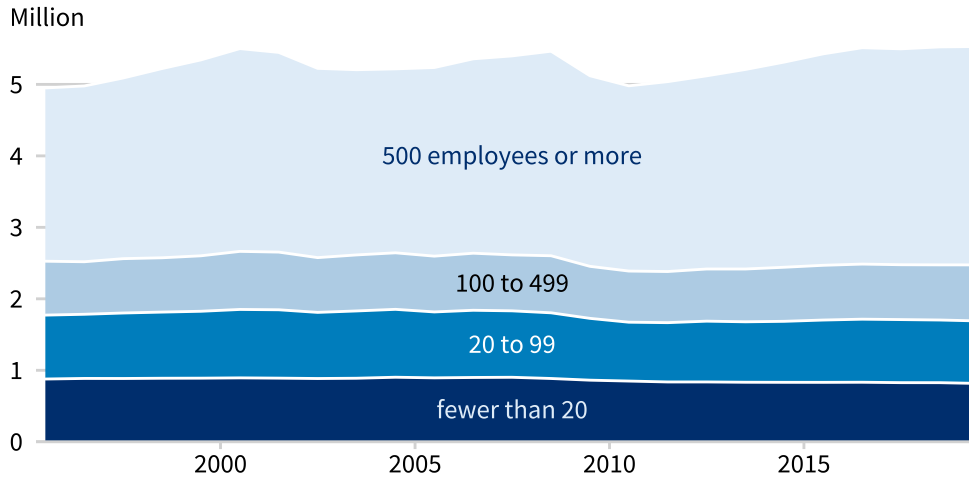
	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Ownership			
Female	408,000	47,362	455,362
Male	539,000	155,819	694,819
Owned equally by both groups	19,500	29,923	49,423
Veteran			
Not Veteran	37,000	10,726	47,726
Owned equally by both groups	927,000	217,353	1,144,353
Hispanic	2,600	5,025	7,625
Not Hispanic	103,000	12,566	115,566
Owned equally by both groups	862,000	219,324	1,081,324
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,200	1,212	2,412
Asian	1,800	526	2,326
Black or African American	76,500	22,192	98,692
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	137,000	4,221	141,221
White	500	67	567
Hispanic or Racial Minority	750,000	206,265	956,265
White and Not Hispanic	304,000	39,213	343,213
Owned equally by both groups	661,000	191,527	852,527
	2,300	2,362	4,662

Counts include only businesses classifiable by owner demographic group

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

Total Illinois employment by business size

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



✧
 Illinois small businesses employed 2.5 million workers in 2019, accounting for 44.7 percent of total employment.
 ✧

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	35,158	98.1	219,486	54.7	18,334,419	47.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	29,902	99.3	207,220	83.8	7,538,578	76.5
Construction	28,809	99.5	176,827	81.1	13,093,238	77.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	25,040	98.4	346,139	42.3	15,101,424	36.9
Accommodation and Food Services	22,117	98.4	341,614	62.8	6,745,160	58.8
Retail Trade	22,075	97.5	192,673	33.1	7,027,419	41.5
Transportation and Warehousing	15,836	97.2	86,388	29.6	4,187,656	27.4
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	14,138	96.2	145,214	29.1	6,864,410	34.1
Wholesale Trade	12,997	93.8	166,996	51.6	11,488,230	43.6
Finance and Insurance	11,487	95.7	96,801	28.3	9,536,784	25.9
Manufacturing	11,066	93.7	251,234	45.9	13,840,374	39.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,509	98.0	53,903	65.5	3,461,545	62.9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,698	98.2	56,716	63.3	2,095,965	64.6
Educational Services	3,933	97.2	67,791	39.0	2,364,371	31.2
Information	3,009	90.9	40,645	31.2	3,190,002	26.2
Management of Companies and Enterprises	734	53.2	17,054	8.5	1,524,742	6.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	353	92.2	4,402	59.0	308,527	54.1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	291	97.3	1,154	61.7	47,324	54.7
Industries not classified	241	100.0	305	100.0	7,846	100.0
Utilities	157	84.4	2,262	7.8	190,505	5.5
Total	251,107	98.1	2,474,824	44.7	126,948,519	39.0

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.