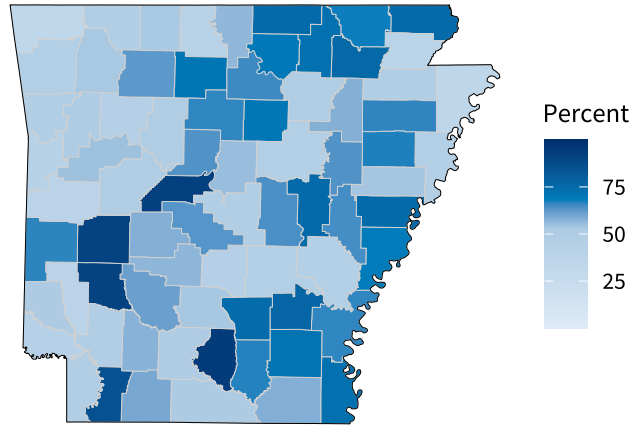


Arkansas

268,244 small businesses
99.3 percent of Arkansas businesses

496,747 small business employees
47.1 percent of Arkansas employees



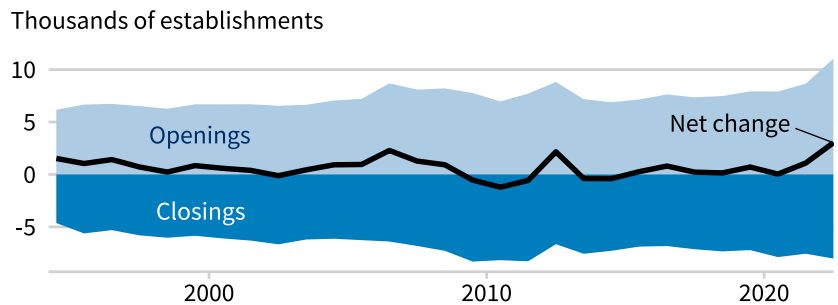
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

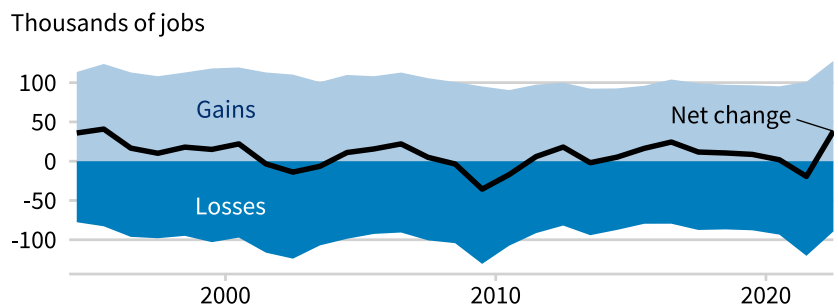
Establishments

Between March 2021 and March 2022, 11,043 Arkansas establishments opened and 8,020 closed, for a net increase of 3,023. Employment expanded at 19,606 establishments and contracted at 15,732. Small businesses accounted for 10,357 openings and 7,633 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Arkansas establishments added 127,601 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 89,431, for a net increase of 38,170 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 25,937 jobs, or 68.0 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

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

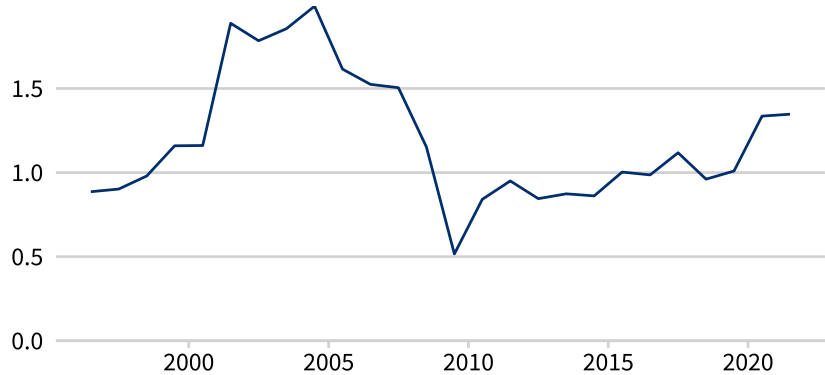
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2021, 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 \$1.0 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$3.2 billion.





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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$Billion



Small business count by size and industry

Industry				
	Without employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Construction	33,308	5,056	497	38,861
Other Services (except Public Administration)	28,893	5,858	379	35,130
Retail Trade	20,615	5,639	594	26,848
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	24,551	2,000	278	26,829
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	20,393	5,082	334	25,809
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	21,241	2,498	127	23,866
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,130	4,972	924	23,026
Transportation and Warehousing	16,433	1,613	240	18,286
Accommodation and Food Services	4,328	3,288	1,142	8,758
Finance and Insurance	6,086	2,126	191	8,403
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,381	679	89	8,149
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,976	574	34	5,584
Educational Services	4,918	446	127	5,491
Wholesale Trade	2,768	1,536	517	4,821
Manufacturing	2,837	1,418	515	4,770
Information	1,726	373	85	2,184
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,018	182	33	1,233
Utilities	151	91	25	267
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	38	139	177
Industries not classified	*	100	0	100
Total	218,753	43,524	5,967	268,244

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2020 (Census); [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2020 (Census)



Small business exports

A total of 2,217 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.9 billion from Arkansas in 2021. Of those exporters, 1,715—or 77.4 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$1.2 billion, making up 23.7 percent of exports by identified firms.

Source: [A profile of US importing and exporting companies, 2020-2021](#) (Census)

Business ownership share by demographic group

Women



Women made up 47.6 percent of workers and owned 43.7 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.4 percent of workers and owned 8.4 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 7.4 percent of workers and owned 5.6 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 22.1 percent of workers and owned 13.8 percent of businesses.

Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership

Sources of original data: [American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Data \(Census\)](#); [Annual Business Survey, 2019 \(Census\)](#); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2019 \(Census\)](#)

Business count by owner demographic group

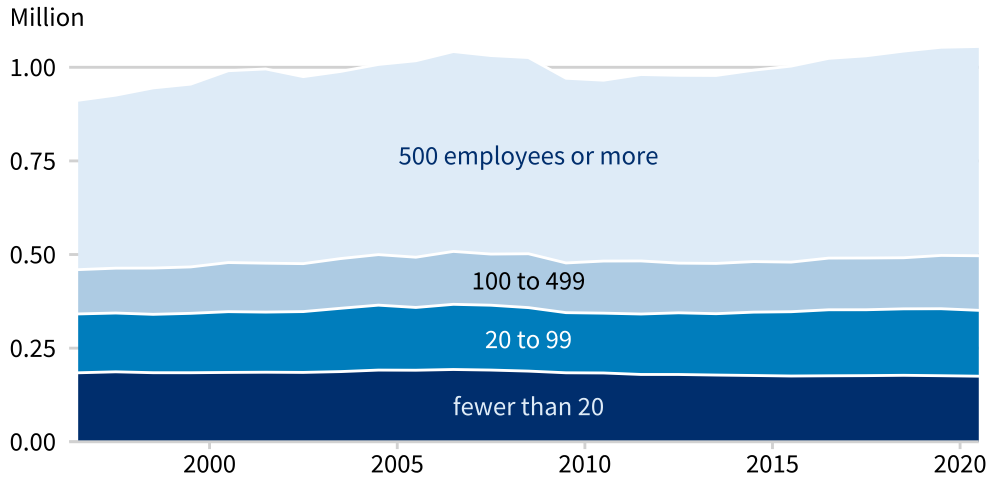
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	87,500	8,519	96,019
Male	117,000	26,932	143,932
Owned equally by both groups	6,800	8,858	15,658
Veteran	15,500	3,170	18,670
Not Veteran	194,000	39,702	233,702
Owned equally by both groups	1,300	*	*
Hispanic	13,000	*	*
Not Hispanic	198,000	43,220	241,220
Owned equally by both groups	200	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,100	348	3,448
Asian	5,300	2,172	7,472
Black or African American	25,500	923	26,423
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	350	*	*
White	179,000	41,017	220,017
Hispanic or Racial Minority	45,000	4,230	49,230
White and Not Hispanic	166,000	39,526	205,526
Owned equally by both groups	550	554	1,104

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

Sources: [Annual Business Survey, 2019 \(Census\)](#); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2019 \(Census\)](#)

Total Arkansas employment by business size

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



Small businesses accounted for 47.1 percent of Arkansas employment in 2020, which exceeded the national small business employment share.

Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,237	98.7	38,742	91.9	1,037,250	88.0
Retail Trade	6,233	95.5	50,826	37.1	1,731,920	42.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,896	97.6	90,376	48.8	3,633,917	40.3
Construction	5,553	98.9	43,520	85.7	2,145,483	83.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,416	97.0	29,809	75.1	1,742,545	71.4
Accommodation and Food Services	4,430	96.8	75,453	68.6	1,181,046	69.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,625	97.4	9,928	74.7	395,084	73.2
Finance and Insurance	2,317	92.8	17,127	42.1	1,053,445	35.9
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	2,278	93.2	22,903	34.7	781,944	42.8
Wholesale Trade	2,053	84.8	24,877	50.3	1,384,863	50.2
Manufacturing	1,933	86.5	40,163	24.7	1,768,663	22.2
Transportation and Warehousing	1,853	92.3	16,244	27.9	707,004	24.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	768	97.6	7,776	72.3	151,824	72.6
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	608	98.4	3,997	87.7	178,290	78.8
Educational Services	573	96.5	11,863	72.4	337,193	76.8
Information	458	81.9	4,997	24.3	340,127	22.1
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	215	86.7	2,552	69.6	150,041	65.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	177	60.2	2,831	7.7	180,431	4.3
Utilities	116	87.9	2,627	35.2	201,542	27.0
Industries not classified	100	100.0	136	100.0	5,010	100.0
Total	49,491	96.2	496,747	47.1	19,107,622	40.2

Source: [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2020 (Census)

About this profile

Small businesses are generally defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Figures or statistics may involve approximations because of missing or problematic data. Where notes identify the source of “original data,” a value is approximate in at least one profile. The Technical Notes provide details on data, methods, and definitions. Electronic versions of this and other [geographic profiles](#) are available online. Visit advocacy.sba.gov for additional resources.