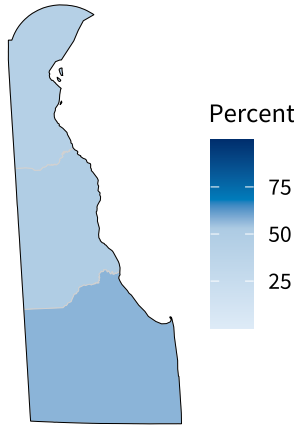


Delaware

98,356 small businesses
98.6 percent of Delaware businesses

205,354 small business employees
48.7 percent of Delaware employees



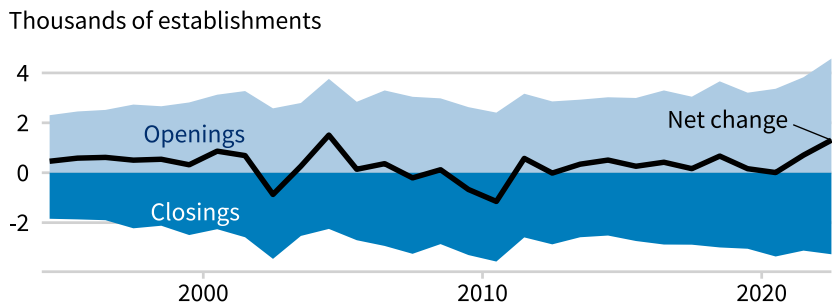
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

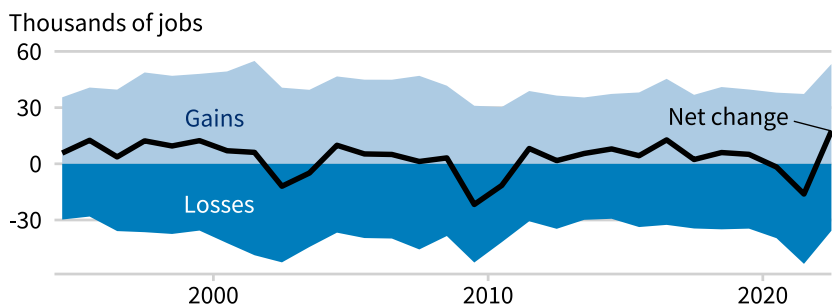
Establishments

Between March 2021 and March 2022, 4,573 Delaware establishments opened and 3,268 closed, for a net increase of 1,305. Employment expanded at 6,594 establishments and contracted at 5,200. Small businesses accounted for 4,358 openings and for 3,099 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Delaware establishments added 53,248 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 35,730, for a net increase of 17,518 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 9,634 jobs, or 55.0 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

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

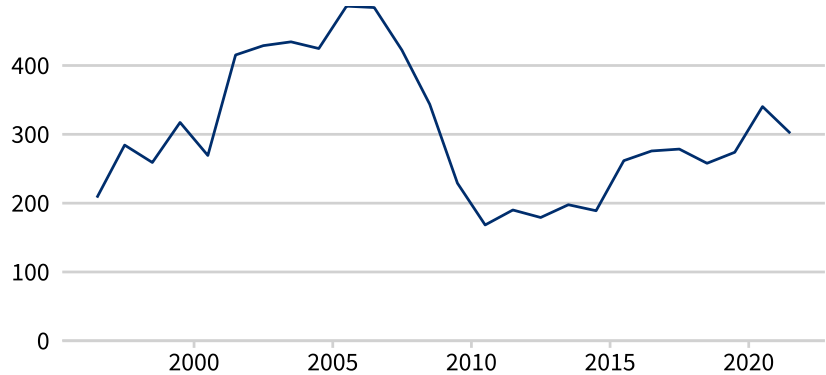
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2021, reporting banks issued \$301.6 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 \$367.8 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.1 billion.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million

\$Million



Small business count by size and industry

Industry	Without employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	11,203	2,804	335	14,342
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,191	993	76	12,260
Transportation and Warehousing	9,711	567	100	10,378
Construction	7,179	2,101	251	9,531
Retail Trade	6,778	1,977	238	8,993
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,445	1,982	171	8,598
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	5,773	1,100	183	7,056
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,696	1,900	394	6,990
Finance and Insurance	3,258	882	127	4,267
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,623	412	59	4,094
Accommodation and Food Services	1,216	1,314	472	3,002
Educational Services	2,115	252	62	2,429
Wholesale Trade	1,350	723	183	2,256
Information	1,306	373	44	1,723
Manufacturing	830	364	132	1,326
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	542	33	0	575
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	218	88	306
Industries not classified	*	256	2	258
Utilities	50	11	6	67
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	13	11	8	32
Total	77,279	18,246	2,831	98,356

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 2,347 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.3 billion from Delaware in 2021. Of those exporters, 2,094—or 89.2 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$969.0 million, making up 22.7 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 49.1 percent of workers and owned 42.0 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.4 percent of workers and owned 7.9 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 8.5 percent of workers and owned 6.3 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 30.7 percent of workers and owned 22.5 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

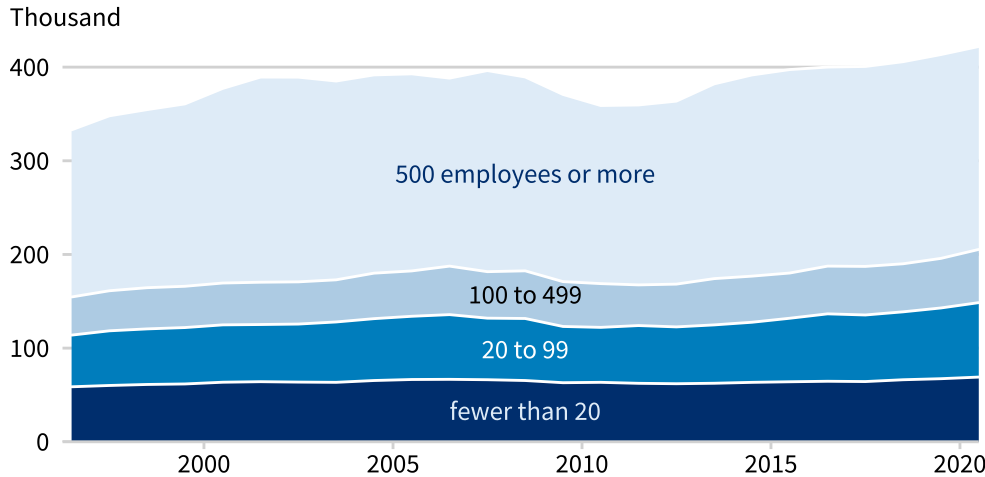
	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Ownership			
Female	27,000	3,400	30,400
Male	37,000	12,108	49,108
Owned equally by both groups	2,800	2,316	5,116
Veteran	4,300	1,221	5,521
Not Veteran	62,000	15,872	77,872
Owned equally by both groups	450	730	1,180
Hispanic	4,700	378	5,078
Not Hispanic	62,000	17,312	79,312
Owned equally by both groups	150	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	500	56	556
Asian	4,000	*	*
Black or African American	12,500	631	13,131
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	70	*	*
White	50,500	15,219	65,719
Hispanic or Racial Minority	20,500	2,931	23,431
White and Not Hispanic	46,000	14,646	60,646
Owned equally by both groups	450	245	695

* 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 Delaware employment by business size

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



Delaware small business employment grew by 32.8 percent between 1996 and 2020, 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	3,139	95.1	21,372	65.2	2,105,816	58.3
Construction	2,352	99.1	21,460	91.5	1,269,757	88.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,294	95.3	31,671	42.2	1,541,454	35.8
Retail Trade	2,215	89.0	18,811	34.2	718,240	44.9
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,153	97.5	14,235	92.4	425,569	89.5
Accommodation and Food Services	1,786	95.7	30,574	71.1	521,074	72.4
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	1,283	91.3	15,278	51.2	748,222	57.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,069	94.0	5,232	82.3	281,174	79.2
Finance and Insurance	1,009	82.3	6,081	14.8	590,699	13.3
Wholesale Trade	906	84.8	8,300	45.1	527,295	26.7
Transportation and Warehousing	667	91.7	5,943	32.2	242,384	30.7
Manufacturing	496	89.2	9,678	32.6	525,208	27.1
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	471	96.3	5,228	56.2	129,254	59.7
Information	417	86.3	3,561	49.3	317,536	56.0
Educational Services	314	94.6	5,639	81.2	174,172	63.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	306	63.1	989	15.0	91,559	12.4
Industries not classified	258	100.0	321	100.0	8,270	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	33	97.1	107	94.7	5,721	94.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	19	90.5	310	70.9	22,426	57.8
Utilities	17	68.0	564	22.8	64,296	20.8
Total	21,077	93.7	205,354	48.7	10,310,126	41.1

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.