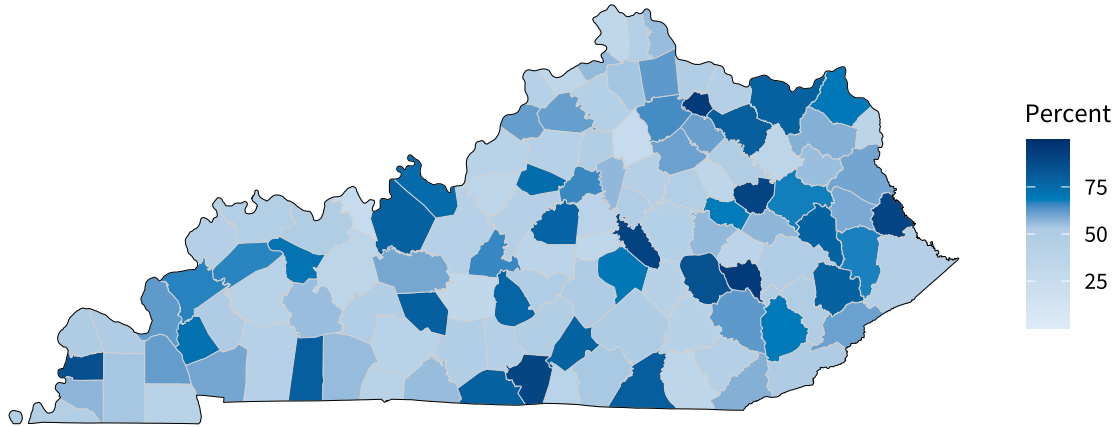


## Kentucky

**363,068** small businesses  
99.3 percent of Kentucky businesses

**706,644** small business employees  
42.4 percent of Kentucky employees



**Share of employees working at small businesses by county**

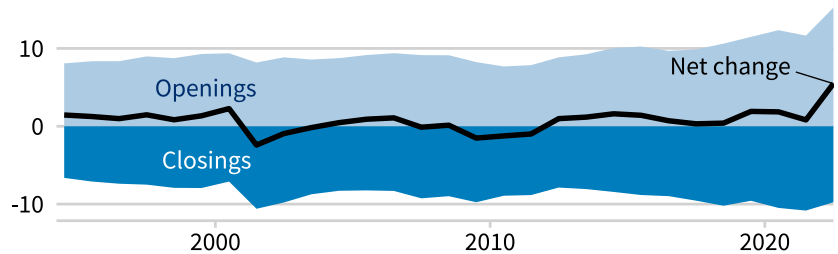
Source of original data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census)

### Business dynamics

#### Establishments

Between March 2021 and March 2022, 15,242 Kentucky establishments opened and 9,764 closed, for a net increase of 5,478. Employment expanded at 28,250 establishments and contracted at 22,349. Small businesses accounted for 14,449 openings and 9,240 closings.

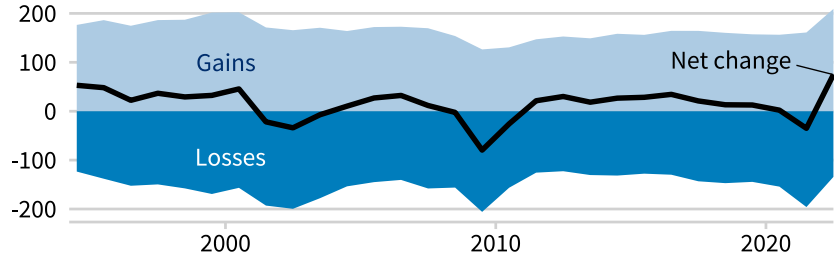
Thousands of establishments



#### Employment

Opening and expanding Kentucky establishments added 209,109 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 134,311, for a net increase of 74,798 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 52,677 jobs, or 70.4 percent of that total.

Thousands of jobs



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

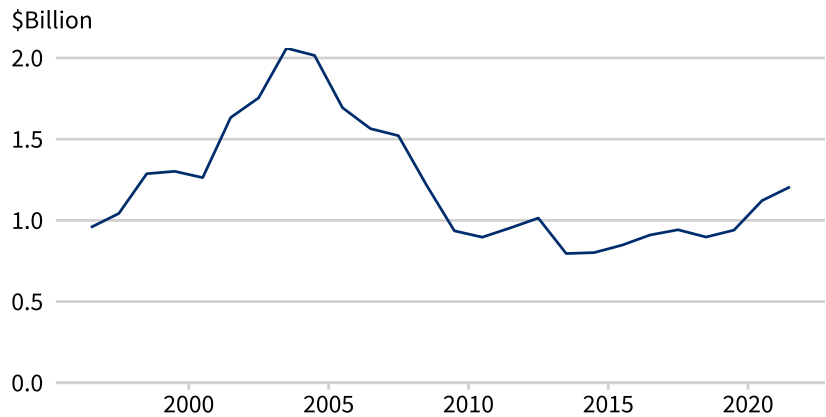
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

## Small business loans





The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2021, reporting banks issued \$1.2 billion in loans to Kentucky businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$1.1 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$3.5 billion.

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

### New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million



## Small business count by size and industry

Industry				
	Without employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Construction	42,359	6,605	751	49,715
Other Services (except Public Administration)	37,463	7,905	554	45,922
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	30,517	6,733	603	37,853
Retail Trade	29,304	7,559	920	37,783
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	31,851	2,909	185	34,945
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	31,574	2,850	425	34,849
Transportation and Warehousing	28,508	1,709	353	30,570
Health Care and Social Assistance	19,410	6,244	1,175	26,829
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	12,456	966	218	13,640
Accommodation and Food Services	4,414	3,938	1,594	9,946
Finance and Insurance	6,982	2,555	267	9,804
Educational Services	7,386	602	148	8,136
Manufacturing	3,993	1,879	864	6,736
Wholesale Trade	3,818	1,984	665	6,467
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,743	221	13	4,977
Information	2,766	526	131	3,423
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,133	183	59	1,375
Utilities	164	41	29	234
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	30	178	208
Industries not classified	*	142	0	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>298,841</b>	<b>55,524</b>	<b>8,703</b>	<b>363,068</b>

\* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



### Small business exports

A total of 4,802 identified firms exported goods worth \$27.8 billion from Kentucky in 2021. Of those exporters, 3,854—or 80.3 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$3.5 billion, making up 12.7 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 47.5 percent of workers and owned 41.5 percent of businesses.

### Veterans



Veterans made up 5.1 percent of workers and owned 7.5 percent of businesses.

### Hispanics



Hispanics made up 3.6 percent of workers and owned 3.3 percent of businesses.

### Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 12.9 percent of workers and owned 8.4 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

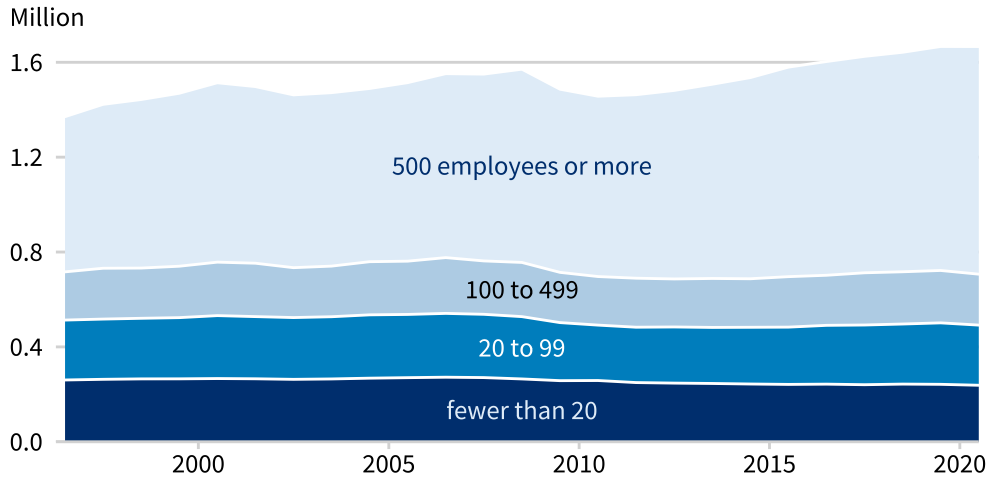
	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Ownership			
Female	117,000	11,655	128,655
Male	169,000	37,553	206,553
Owned equally by both groups	8,500	9,171	17,671
Veteran	19,000	4,144	23,144
Not Veteran	274,000	52,607	326,607
Owned equally by both groups	1,600	1,627	3,227
Hispanic	10,500	949	11,449
Not Hispanic	283,000	57,342	340,342
Owned equally by both groups	200	87	287
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,600	*	*
Asian	7,300	3,009	10,309
Black or African American	19,500	*	*
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	200	*	*
White	268,000	54,792	322,792
Hispanic or Racial Minority	37,500	4,584	42,084
White and Not Hispanic	256,000	53,527	309,527
Owned equally by both groups	600	*	*

\* 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 Kentucky employment by business size

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



◇  
 Kentucky small businesses employed 706,644 workers in 2020, accounting for 42.4 percent of total employment.  
 ◇

### Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Retail Trade	8,479	95.7	73,634	34.2	2,443,798	40.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,459	98.6	51,791	80.7	1,418,395	78.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	7,419	97.1	106,643	40.0	4,222,673	31.4
Construction	7,356	99.0	65,647	86.6	3,541,590	81.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7,336	96.8	50,406	65.6	2,890,174	61.7
Accommodation and Food Services	5,532	96.0	104,577	58.9	1,523,854	58.7
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	3,275	92.5	36,068	29.3	1,241,456	34.8
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3,094	96.8	12,427	69.5	506,460	63.6
Finance and Insurance	2,822	91.8	25,460	33.6	1,510,027	25.7
Manufacturing	2,743	86.4	74,835	30.2	3,488,296	25.5
Wholesale Trade	2,649	86.9	33,575	48.3	1,864,481	43.1
Transportation and Warehousing	2,062	89.1	22,282	18.9	989,265	15.3
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,184	97.5	15,471	79.9	327,077	79.7
Educational Services	750	94.2	13,043	44.2	359,407	43.2
Information	657	85.4	8,235	28.6	362,659	24.0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	242	92.0	4,278	51.9	236,709	49.6
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	234	98.7	1,384	95.0	56,141	94.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	208	51.2	4,105	9.8	296,401	8.2
Industries not classified	142	100.0	176	100.0	3,843	100.0
Utilities	70	81.4	2,607	31.5	200,635	24.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,227</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>706,644</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>27,483,341</b>	<b>36.5</b>

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](http://advocacy.sba.gov) for additional resources.