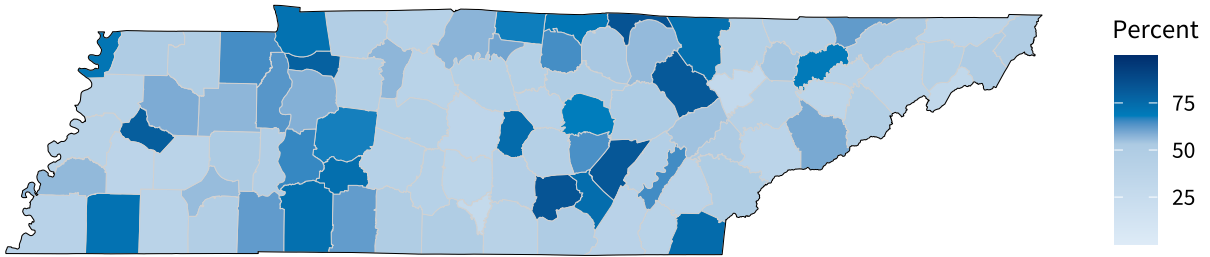


Tennessee

664,681 small businesses
99.5 percent of Tennessee businesses

1.2 million small business employees
41.9 percent of Tennessee employees



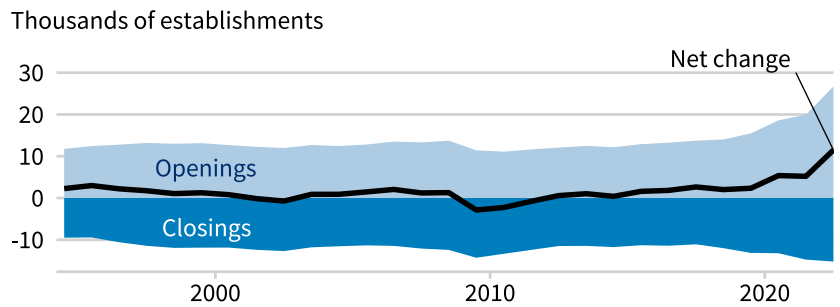
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

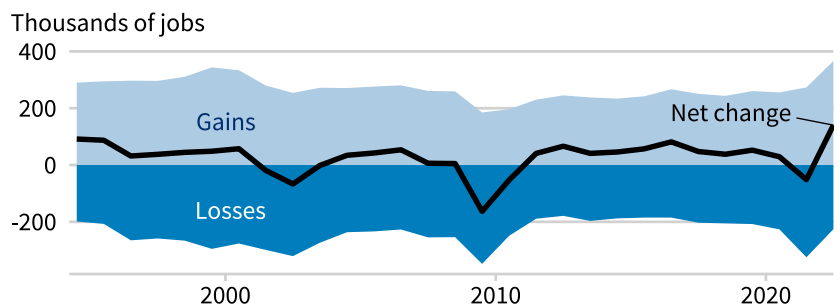
Establishments

Between March 2021 and March 2022, 26,702 Tennessee establishments opened and 15,211 closed, for a net increase of 11,491. Employment expanded at 47,772 establishments and contracted at 35,954. Small businesses accounted for 25,753 openings and 14,543 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding Tennessee establishments added 366,480 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 226,069, for a net increase of 140,411 jobs. Small businesses contributed a net increase of 100,929 jobs, or 71.9 percent of that total.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

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

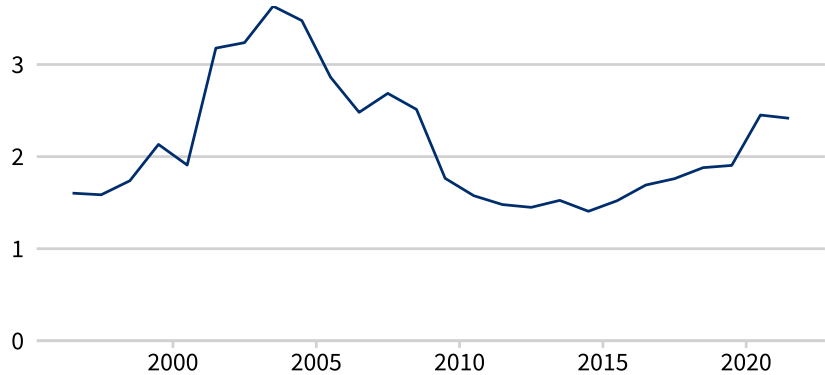
Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2021, reporting banks issued \$2.4 billion in loans to Tennessee businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$2.1 billion. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$7.0 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
Other Services (except Public Administration)	71,906	12,129	1,101	85,136
Construction	73,769	9,225	1,247	84,241
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	65,221	9,212	947	75,380
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	63,435	4,873	871	69,179
Retail Trade	49,440	11,800	1,230	62,470
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	52,029	3,872	346	56,247
Transportation and Warehousing	50,702	2,474	592	53,768
Health Care and Social Assistance	37,284	8,442	1,768	47,494
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	35,276	2,324	354	37,954
Accommodation and Food Services	11,371	6,718	2,647	20,736
Finance and Insurance	14,357	3,624	466	18,447
Educational Services	15,040	1,003	347	16,390
Manufacturing	6,675	3,202	1,364	11,241
Wholesale Trade	6,744	3,293	1,076	11,113
Information	7,783	1,205	223	9,211
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,961	197	10	5,168
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	70	299	369
Utilities	250	20	31	301
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	201	53	21	275
Industries not classified	*	235	1	236
Total	566,444	83,884	14,353	664,681

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

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



Small business exports

A total of 7,282 identified firms exported goods worth \$32.6 billion from Tennessee in 2021. Of those exporters, 6,009—or 82.5 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$5.6 billion, making up 17.3 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 47.8 percent of workers and owned 43.3 percent of businesses.

Veterans



Veterans made up 5.4 percent of workers and owned 7.5 percent of businesses.

Hispanics



Hispanics made up 5.1 percent of workers and owned 4.4 percent of businesses.

Racial minorities



Racial minorities made up 22.1 percent of workers and owned 17.3 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

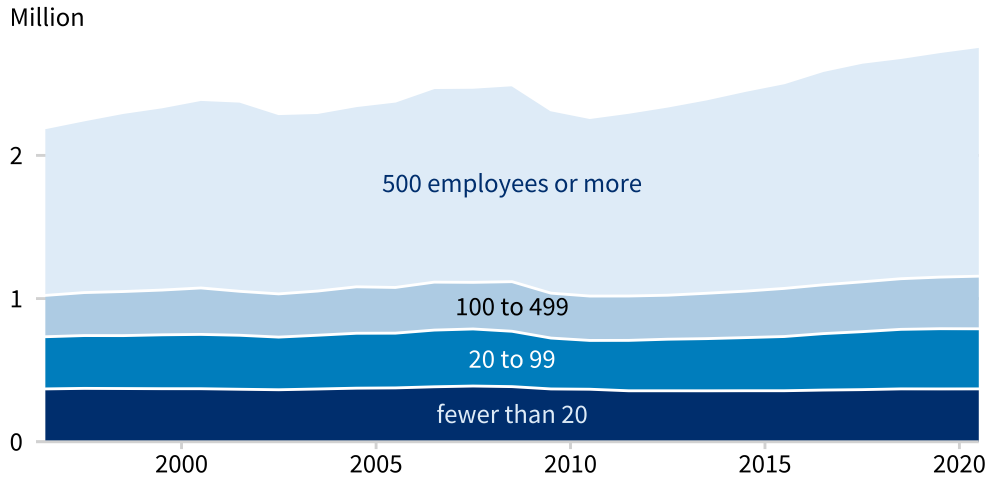
Ownership	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Female	236,000	16,053	252,053
Male	302,000	56,880	358,880
Owned equally by both groups	8,700	12,768	21,468
Veteran	35,500	7,108	42,608
Not Veteran	510,000	75,922	585,922
Owned equally by both groups	1,900	2,672	4,572
Hispanic	25,500	1,733	27,233
Not Hispanic	521,000	83,660	604,660
Owned equally by both groups	400	308	708
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,900	211	4,111
Asian	16,000	5,877	21,877
Black or African American	87,000	2,239	89,239
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	550	*	*
White	446,000	77,475	523,475
Hispanic or Racial Minority	128,000	9,928	137,928
White and Not Hispanic	418,000	75,208	493,208
Owned equally by both groups	1,000	564	1,564

* 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 Tennessee employment by business size

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



Small business employment and payroll by industry

Industry	Employers		Employees		Payroll (\$1,000s)	
	Small	%	Small	%	Small	%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	13,230	98.9	97,866	82.5	2,752,137	78.5
Retail Trade	13,030	96.7	108,073	33.8	4,039,404	42.2
Construction	10,472	98.8	102,885	82.6	5,845,164	80.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,210	97.2	161,841	37.2	7,535,935	32.5
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10,159	96.4	72,676	57.7	4,876,130	52.9
Accommodation and Food Services	9,365	97.0	172,172	56.0	2,847,220	56.6
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	5,744	93.4	76,913	28.4	2,862,313	30.6
Manufacturing	4,566	89.0	106,780	32.1	5,058,583	27.4
Wholesale Trade	4,369	88.6	59,198	48.3	3,691,057	45.0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	4,218	96.4	25,955	67.5	1,335,521	66.0
Finance and Insurance	4,090	91.9	39,993	29.4	3,114,489	26.0
Transportation and Warehousing	3,066	90.0	41,199	24.1	1,904,150	23.9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,678	98.3	29,226	67.5	905,186	57.4
Information	1,428	89.5	15,368	32.9	940,323	28.6
Educational Services	1,350	95.3	32,173	48.2	1,099,468	43.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	369	51.5	8,333	9.1	706,539	7.6
Industries not classified	236	100.0	425	100.0	12,604	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	207	98.6	1,098	62.1	50,324	85.1
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	74	84.1	1,752	50.5	109,696	46.0
Utilities	51	81.0	2,526	76.8	210,673	75.6
Total	98,237	96.5	1,156,452	41.9	49,896,916	37.5

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.