

Small Business Facts

Equally Male/Female-Owned Employer Businesses

September 2021, Victoria Williams, Economist



860,700 EOB employer firms	8.0 Million Workers employed by EOBs	\$1.3T annual receipts
99.2% of EOBs have < 100 employees	73.4% of workers at EOBs with <100 employees	91.6% of receipts by EOBs with < 500 employees

Overview

In 2018, equally male/female-owned businesses (EOB), businesses half owned by men and half owned by women, totaled 860,754 employer businesses, employed 7,970,121 workers, generated \$1.3 trillion in annual sales receipt, and paid \$280 billion in annual payroll.* EOBs make up 15.7% of all employer businesses, compared with 20.8% majority female-owned and 63.6% majority male-owned businesses. Nearly all (99.9%) of EOBs are small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. EOBs with no employees make up 2.4 percent of all non-employers.* Most (89.6%) EOBs are family-owned.

Table 1. Top 5 Employer Industries by Employment at Equally Male/Female-owned Businesses

Industry	Number of Firms	Employees	Payroll (\$billion)
Accommodation and food services	108,888	1,831,961	\$33.2
Health care and social assistance	62,339	946,311	\$31.5
Retail trade	126,131	927,844	\$26.2
Administrative and support	50,637	683,045	\$22.6
Construction	100,260	656,613	\$35.2

Figure 1. Percent Share by Business Ownership

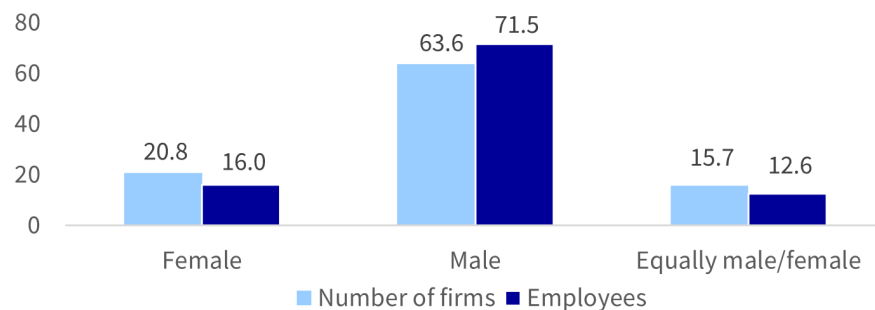
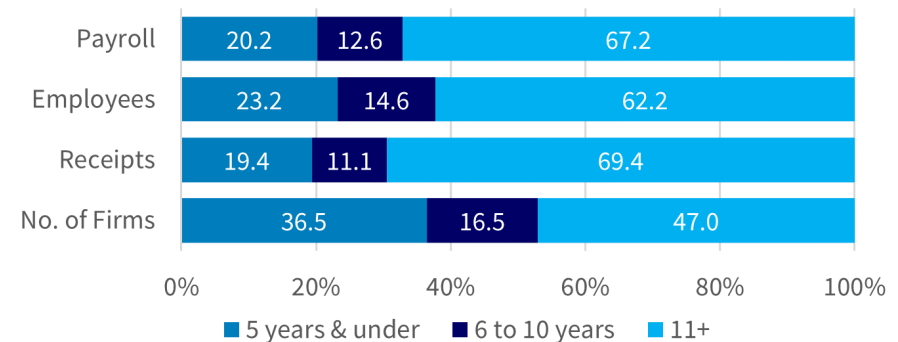


Figure 2. Business Activity of EOB by Age of Firm



Industry Characteristics and Age

EOBs are more likely to be concentrated in retail trade; accommodation and food services; and real estate, rental, and leasing when compared to other businesses. These business owners are less likely to be in the professional, scientific, and technical services industries. Table 1 shows the industries with the largest number of workers employed by EOBs. The top employment industries were accommodation and food services, health care, and retail trade. These three sectors accounted for 46% of total industry employment by EOBs.

47% of EOBs are mature firms that have been operating for 11 years or more (Figure 2). These established businesses employed over 60% of workers in this category, along with roughly two-thirds of payroll and nearly 70% in annual sales. About 37% of EOBs are young firms aged 5 years or less.

* See “[Introducing the New Annual Nonemployer Demographics Statistics \(NES-D\) \(census.gov\)](#).” For more information, visit U.S. Census Bureau’s [Annual Business Survey](#) and [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographic Program](#) (NES-D, 2017).