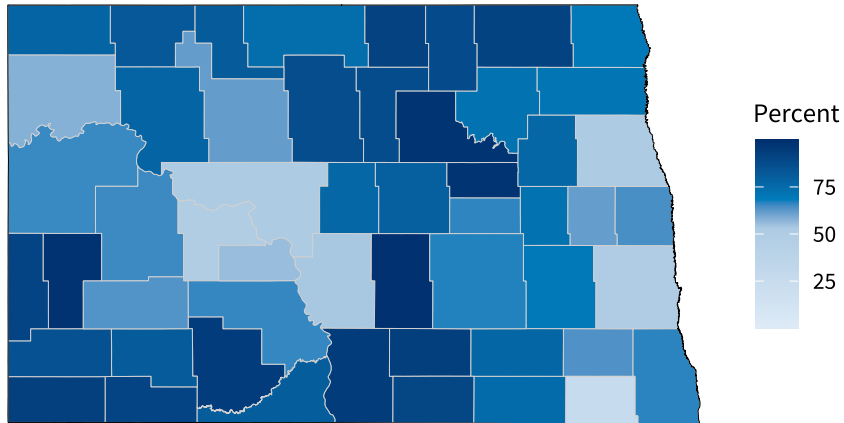


North Dakota

75,265 small businesses
98.8 percent of North Dakota businesses

196,770 small business employees
55.7 percent of North Dakota employees



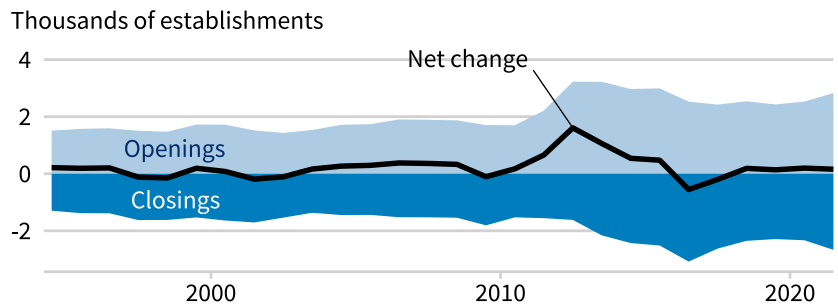
Share of employees working at small businesses by county

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

Business dynamics

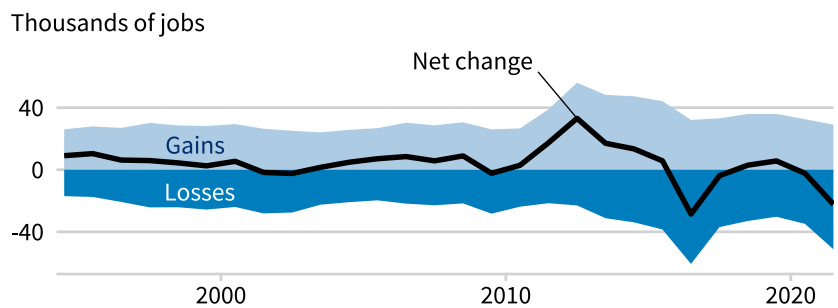
Establishments

Between March 2020 and March 2021, 2,826 North Dakota establishments opened and 2,668 closed, for a net increase of 158. Employment expanded at 5,813 establishments and contracted at 7,309. Small businesses accounted for 2,610 openings and 2,375 closings.



Employment

Opening and expanding North Dakota establishments added 29,018 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost 51,213, for a net decrease of 22,195 jobs. Small businesses gained 23,151 jobs and lost 35,910, for a net decrease of 12,759 jobs.



Counts include temporary closures and reopenings

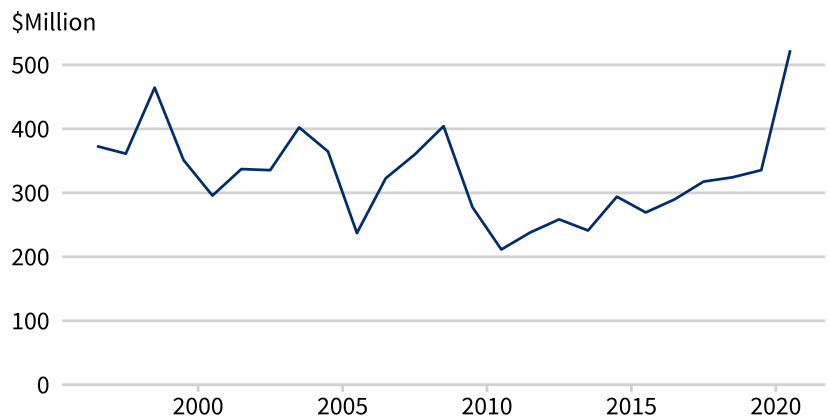
Source: [Business Employment Dynamics](#) (BLS)

Small business loans

The Community Reinvestment Act requires large banks to report new small business loans. In 2020, reporting banks issued \$523.0 million in loans to North Dakota businesses with revenues of \$1 million or less. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$100,000 or less was \$403.3 million. Total reported new lending to businesses through loans of \$1 million or less was \$1.7 billion.

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

New lending to businesses with revenues under \$1 million



Small business count by size and industry

Industry	No employees	1–19 employees	20–499 employees	All small businesses
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,061	847	64	8,972
Construction	5,595	2,616	237	8,448
Retail Trade	6,270	1,636	294	8,200
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,347	2,277	137	7,761
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,520	1,509	171	7,200
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,770	1,268	279	6,317
Transportation and Warehousing	4,505	1,078	140	5,723
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	4,287	825	117	5,229
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,932	363	54	3,349
Finance and Insurance	2,245	871	88	3,204
Accommodation and Food Services	913	1,277	412	2,602
Educational Services	1,693	129	34	1,856
Wholesale Trade	742	645	272	1,659
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,421	107	2	1,530
Manufacturing	751	421	137	1,309
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	848	281	112	1,241
Information	460	152	45	657
Utilities	38	25	19	82
Management of Companies and Enterprises	*	18	41	59
Industries not classified	*	50	0	50
Total	56,398	16,378	2,489	75,265

* Not reported by the Census Bureau

Sources: [Nonemployer Statistics](#), 2019 (Census); [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2019 (Census)



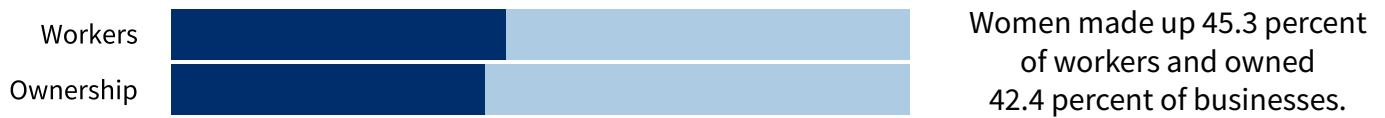
Small business exports

A total of 1,546 identified firms exported goods worth \$4.6 billion from North Dakota in 2020. Of those exporters, 1,311—or 84.8 percent—were small. Exports by small firms reached \$2.4 billion, making up 51.7 percent of exports by identified firms.

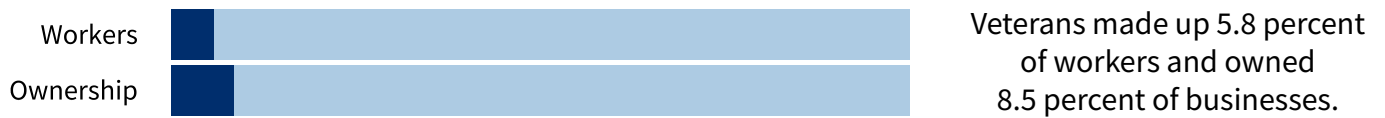
Source: [A profile of US importing and exporting companies, 2019-2020](#) (Census)

Business ownership share by demographic group

Women



Veterans



Hispanics



Racial minorities



Ownership shares include equal and majority ownership

Sources of data: [American Community Survey, 2018](#) (Census and IPUMS); [Annual Business Survey, 2018](#) (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2018](#) (Census)

Business count by owner demographic group

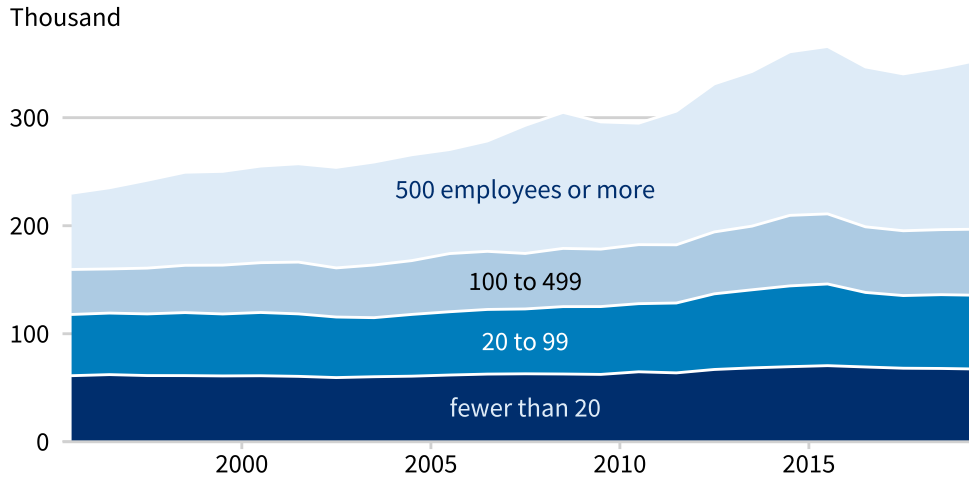
	Without employees	With employees	Total businesses
Ownership			
Female	22,000	*	*
Male	31,000	11,208	42,208
Owned equally by both groups	2,300	3,745	6,045
Veteran	4,200	*	*
Not Veteran	51,000	16,527	67,527
Owned equally by both groups	550	547	1,097
Hispanic	1,000	100	1,100
Not Hispanic	54,500	17,843	72,343
Owned equally by both groups	40	*	*
American Indian and Alaska Native	450	163	613
Asian	700	*	*
Black or African American	1,500	37	1,537
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	20	*	*
White	53,000	17,599	70,599
Hispanic or Racial Minority	3,700	*	*
White and Not Hispanic	51,500	17,270	68,770
Owned equally by both groups	80	*	*

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

Sources: [Annual Business Survey, 2018](#) (Census); [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2018](#) (Census)

Total North Dakota employment by business size

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



North Dakota small business employment grew by 23.4 percent between 1995 and 2019, 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	%
Construction	2,853	98.9	20,338	86.8	1,437,374	82.3
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,414	98.2	13,078	92.7	409,278	88.0
Retail Trade	1,930	92.3	23,514	49.3	835,268	57.8
Accommodation and Food Services	1,689	97.2	27,971	77.8	493,389	75.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,680	95.9	12,274	73.4	850,550	75.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,547	96.4	26,305	40.4	1,029,545	30.7
Transportation and Warehousing	1,218	93.8	10,361	55.7	597,992	54.1
Finance and Insurance	959	90.8	7,606	41.0	474,756	39.0
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management	942	93.4	8,019	57.4	287,884	58.1
Wholesale Trade	917	83.8	12,732	58.8	804,438	57.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	911	95.6	4,103	73.0	197,578	69.6
Manufacturing	558	89.4	10,655	40.0	507,597	34.8
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	417	98.6	4,379	74.6	82,403	86.2
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	393	86.4	7,314	38.9	684,556	35.1
Information	197	81.7	2,930	41.4	163,086	31.2
Educational Services	163	92.1	2,667	61.8	70,624	62.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	109	97.3	280	71.1	15,735	70.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	59	54.6	804	16.2	50,480	11.4
Industries not classified	50	100.0	73	100.0	1,210	100.0
Utilities	44	81.5	1,367	35.3	137,654	35.6
Total	18,867	95.2	196,770	55.7	9,131,397	49.9

Source: [Statistics of US Businesses](#), 2019 (Census)

About this profile

Small businesses are defined here as firms with fewer than 500 employees. Figures and statistics may incorporate approximations because of missing or problematic data. Data analyzed here largely predate the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had [impacts on businesses](#) that have differed by industry, geography, and demographic group. Electronic versions of this and other [geographic profiles](#) are available online. Visit advocacy.sba.gov for additional resources.