



Research Brief

* THE COMMONWEALTH'S OFFICIAL SOURCE OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS *

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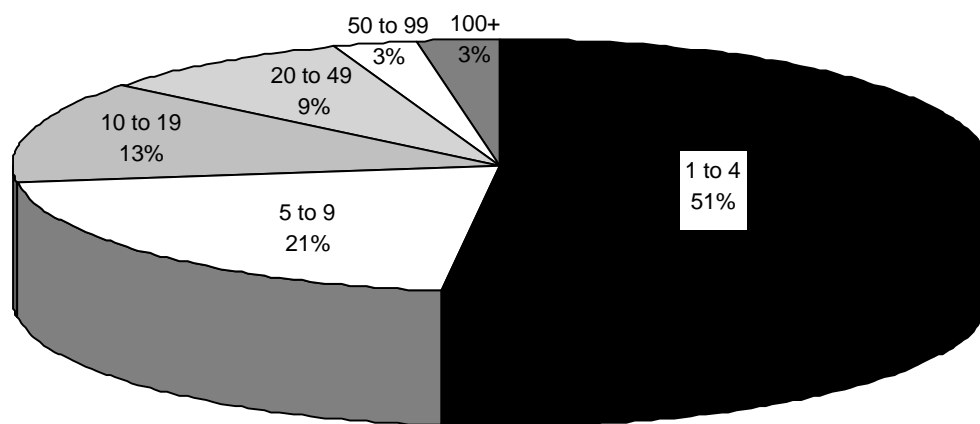
Small Businesses are Big Business in Pennsylvania

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—Nearly all of Pennsylvania's businesses employ fewer than 100 people.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that 97.3 percent of all Pennsylvania business establishments employed fewer than 100 people and 52 percent employed fewer than five, according to the 1998 County Business Patterns released by the United States Census Bureau.

Of the Commonwealth's 292,659 business establishments in 1998, only 321 employed greater than 1,000 people and 1,971 establishments employed between 250 and 999.

Percent of Business Establishments by Number of Employees: Pennsylvania, 1998



One-third of Pennsylvania's establishments with employment above 1,000 were in the health care and social assistance industry sector. Nearly one-fourth of the establishments employing 100 people or greater were in the manufacturing sector of the economy. In the fewer than 10 employees category, the retail sector had a plurality of 16 percent of establishments.

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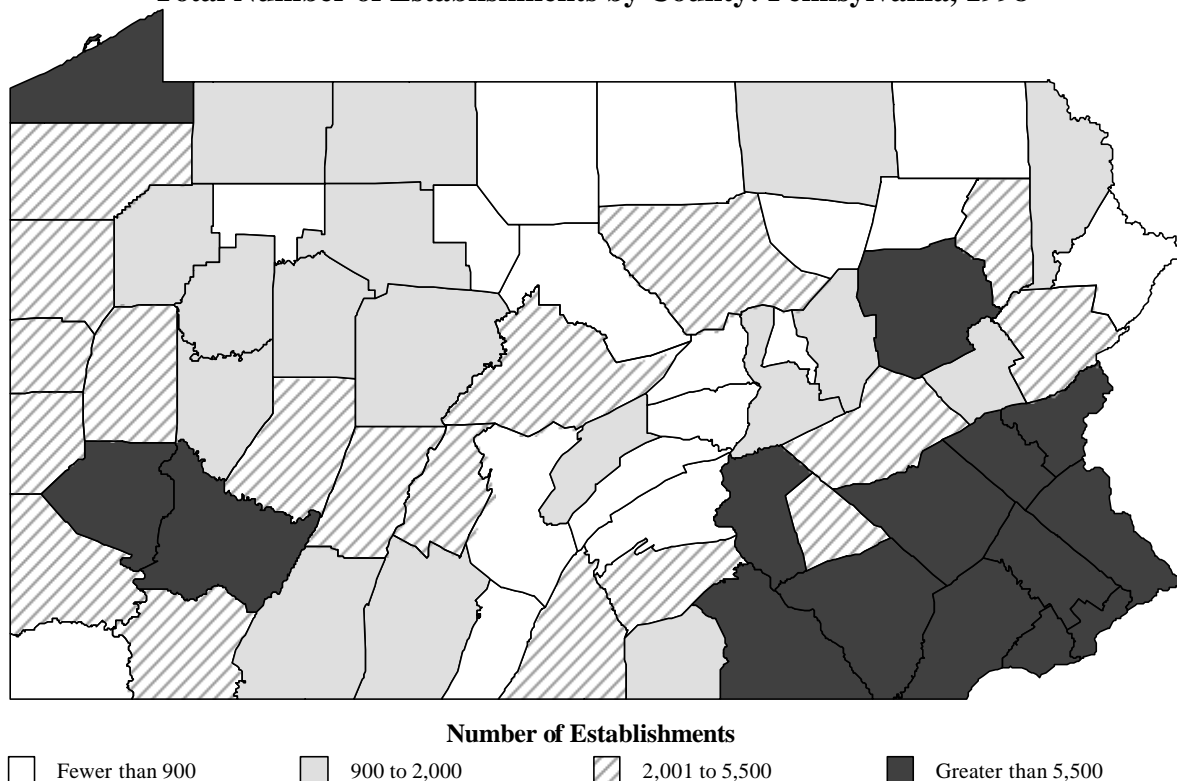
Institute of State and Regional Affairs

The various industries differed in size of establishments although the greatest portion of every industry's establishments were in the one to four employee category. For example, more than three-quarters (76.8 percent) of the agriculture establishments employed one to four people while 26.9 percent of management of companies and enterprises did.

At the county level, the greatest percent of establishments with fewer than 10 employees was in Forest County with 87.8 percent. Cumberland County had the lowest percent of 1 to 10 employee establishments at 68.4 percent. In Montour County, 3.7 percent of establishments employed greater than 100 people, while in Cameron and Perry counties only 0.7 percent did. Statewide, 2.7 percent fell in to this category.

In 20 counties, there were no establishments employing more than 1,000 and in 5 of those there were none over 500. In Forest and Sullivan counties, there were no establishments employing more than 250.

Total Number of Establishments by County: Pennsylvania, 1998



The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics and services. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's national State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Data Center's State Capital Office at (717) 772-2710, or for faculty comment on this topic contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office, (717) 948-6029.

Source of Information: U.S. Census Bureau, 1998 County Business Patterns