

HARRISBURG – Black-owned* businesses in Pennsylvania play a crucial role in the state's economy, driving innovation, creating jobs, and contributing to community development. This data brief uses the U.S. Census Bureau’s Annual Business Survey to highlight the significant contributions and impact of black-owned businesses across diverse sectors in Pennsylvania and highlights opportunities to strengthen investment and promote inclusive economic growth across the state.

Black-owned businesses in Pennsylvania contribute significantly to the state's economy. In 2020, there were more than 3,700 black owned businesses in the state. These businesses employed more than 43,000 individuals and generated almost \$1.5 billion in revenue.

Changes in Black-Owned Employer Businesses from 2017 to 2021

Pennsylvania’s number of Black-owned businesses increased by 16.5 percent from 2017 to 2021. In contrast, all Pennsylvania businesses regardless of ownership decreased (-1.4%) over the same period. The chart below shows the number of Black-owned businesses by year from 2017 through 2020.

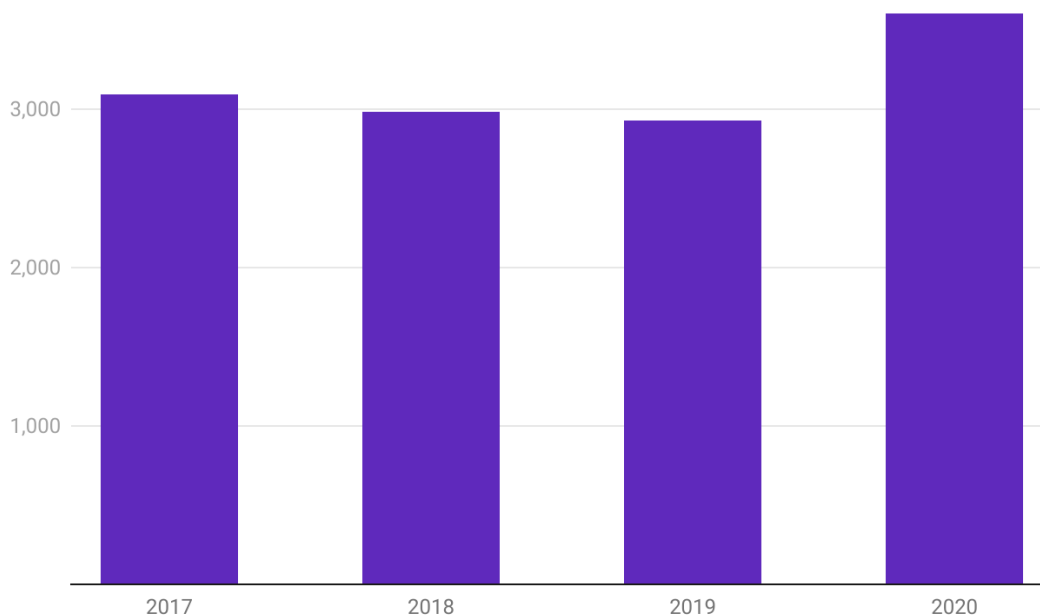


Chart: PA State Data Center • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

For individual year values, click on [this link](#) to see an interactive version of the graphic.

Pennsylvania’s Black-owned business growth was greatest between 2019 and 2020, when it rose by 23.1 percent highlighting the resiliency of black-owned businesses during the early stages of the pandemic.

Businesses Ownership by Sex in 2020

The Annual Business Survey break down firms by sex into those that are male-owned, female-owned, and those that are equally owned by males and females. The chart below shows a comparison of Black-owned businesses and all businesses regardless of ownership by race.

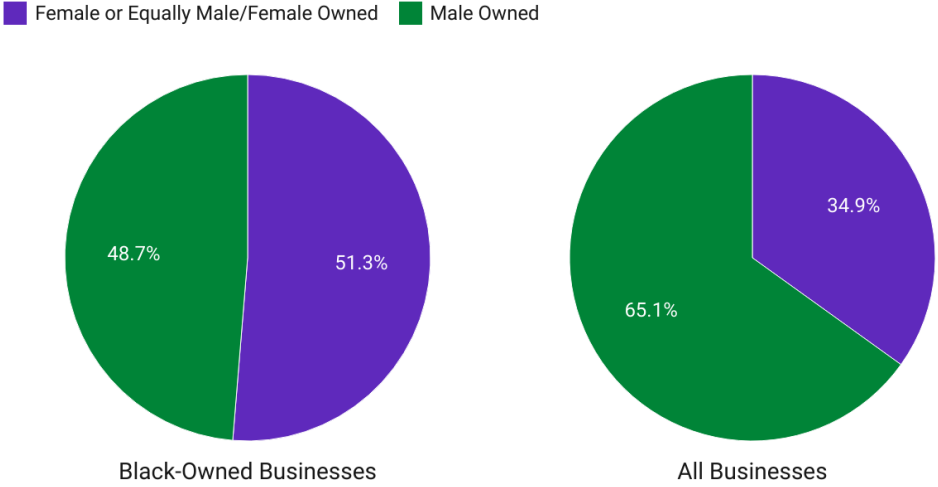


Chart: PA State Data Center • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

Use [this link](#) to interact with the chart.

Black-owned businesses have a more equitable distribution of ownership among male-owned and those that were not solely owned by males in comparison to all businesses in Pennsylvania. While data suppression makes further breakouts of the sole female ownership and the equally owned Black businesses not possible, this comparison shows that Black businesses engage female ownership more often than all Pennsylvania businesses. In 2020, approximately 51.3 percent of Black-owned businesses having female or equally male/female ownership compared to only 34.9 percent among all Pennsylvania businesses.

Explore the Annual Business Survey through the U.S. Census Bureau’s data dissemination platform at data.census.gov.

Notes & Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau. Annual Business Survey. Vintage 2018-2021.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth’s official source for population and economic statistics. 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.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at via email: pasdc@psu.edu