

Contribution to Australian Employment

Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise
Ombudsman

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The value that small business contributes to employment numbers in Australia is one indication of their contribution to the Australian economy. This can be measured by comparing the number of employees working in small business with employees in other business sizes and similar break downs within industries.

1. Contribution to Australian employment

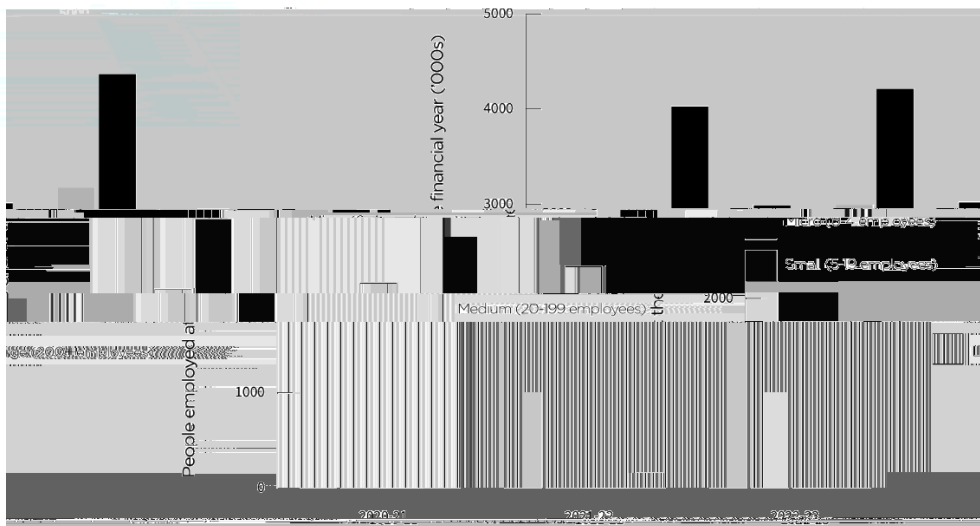
Table 1: Employment by business size

Size	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	('000)	%	('000)	%	('000)	%
Small Business (0-19 Employees)	5,036	42%	5,161	42%	5,368	42%
Medium Business (20-199 Employees)	2,848	24%	2,994	24%	3,184	25%
Large Business (200+ Employees)	4,025	34%	4,212	34%	4,376	34%
Total	11,909	100%	12,367	100%	12,928	100%

Source: ABS *Australian Industry*, Table 5, May 2024 and ASBFEO calculations, private sector industry. The ABS publish this data for selected industries, which excludes financial and insurance services.

Small businesses (as defined by the ABS as those employing 0-19 employees) employed over 5 million people, which is 42% of the private sector workforce¹ in 2022-23 as shown in Table 1.

Chart 1: Employment by business size



Source: ABS *Australian Industry*, Table 5, May 2024 and ASBFEO calculations, private sector industry. The ABS publish this data for selected industries, which excludes financial and insurance services.

¹ Excluding financial and insurance services industry.

Chart 1 shows how the pattern of employment has changed very little over the past three years.

Chart 2: Total employment by industry ranked by number of people employed by small business, 30 June 2023

Source: ABS *Australian Industry*

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