

BROOKINGS

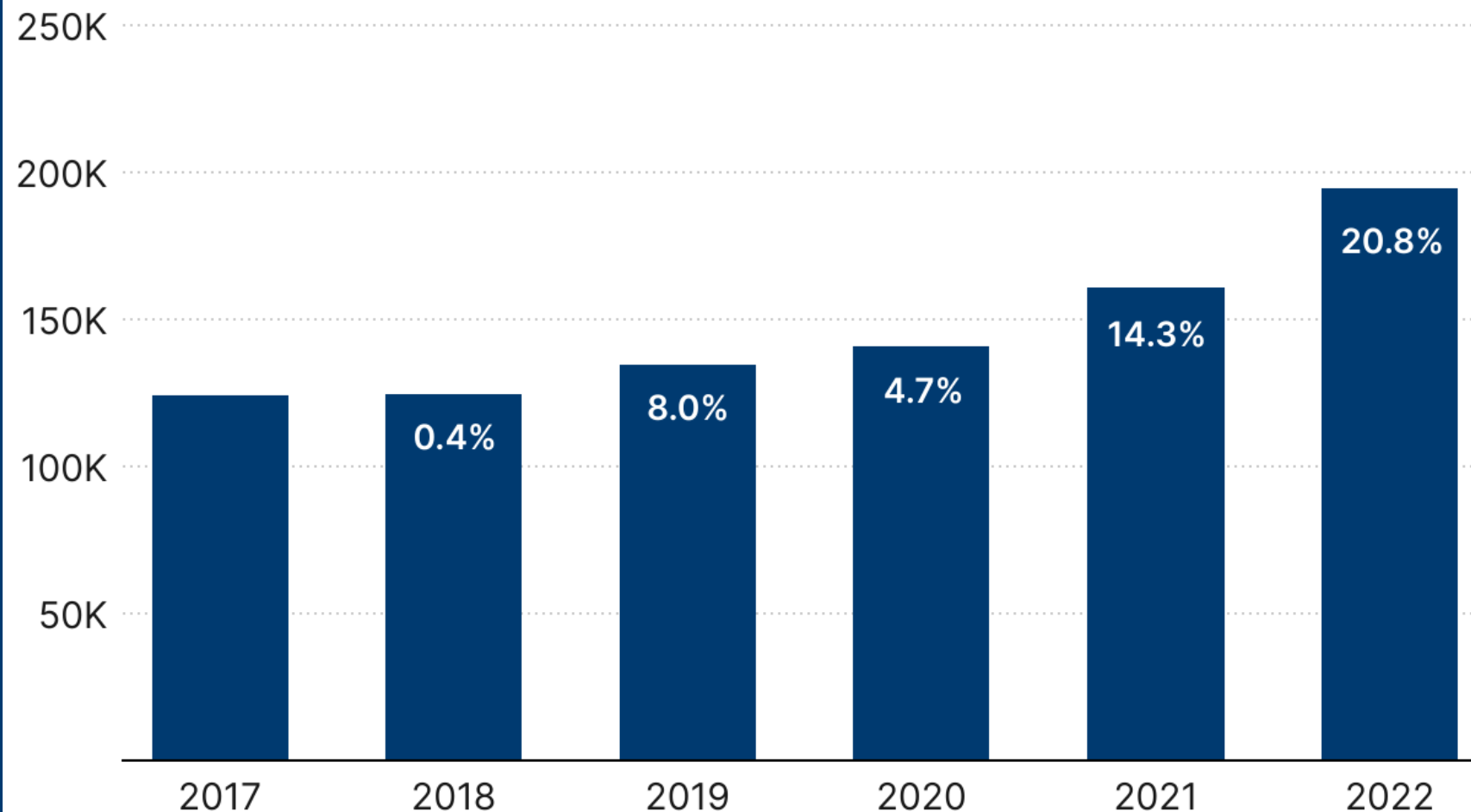
Driving prosperity: How supporting Black entrepreneurship has fueled significant growth and can sustain future momentum

Dr. Andre M. Perry

February 20, 2025

Number and rate of change of Black-owned employer firms

2017 to 2022

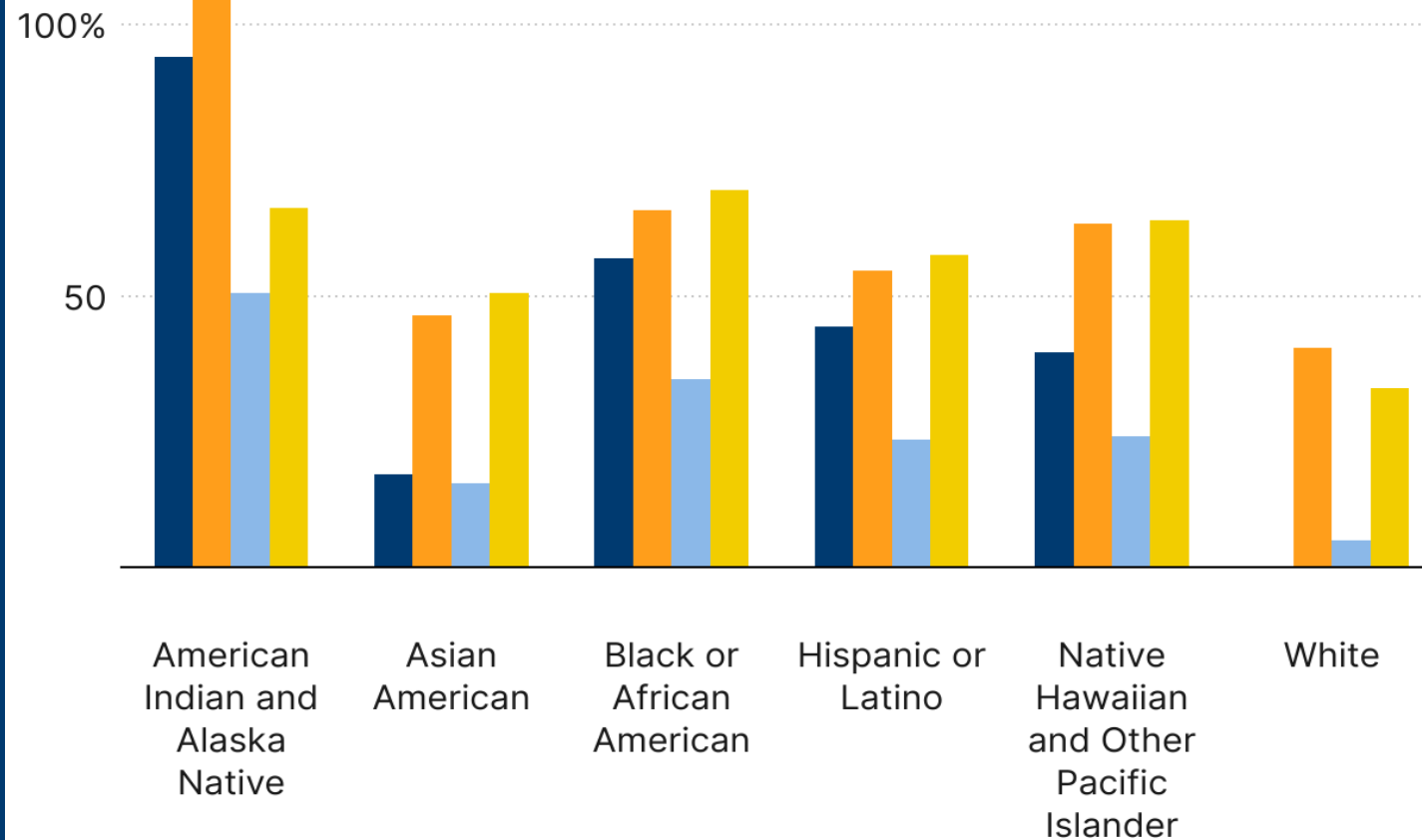


Source: Brookings' analysis of US Census American Business Survey data

Percentage change of employer business characteristics by race and ethnicity

2017 to 2022

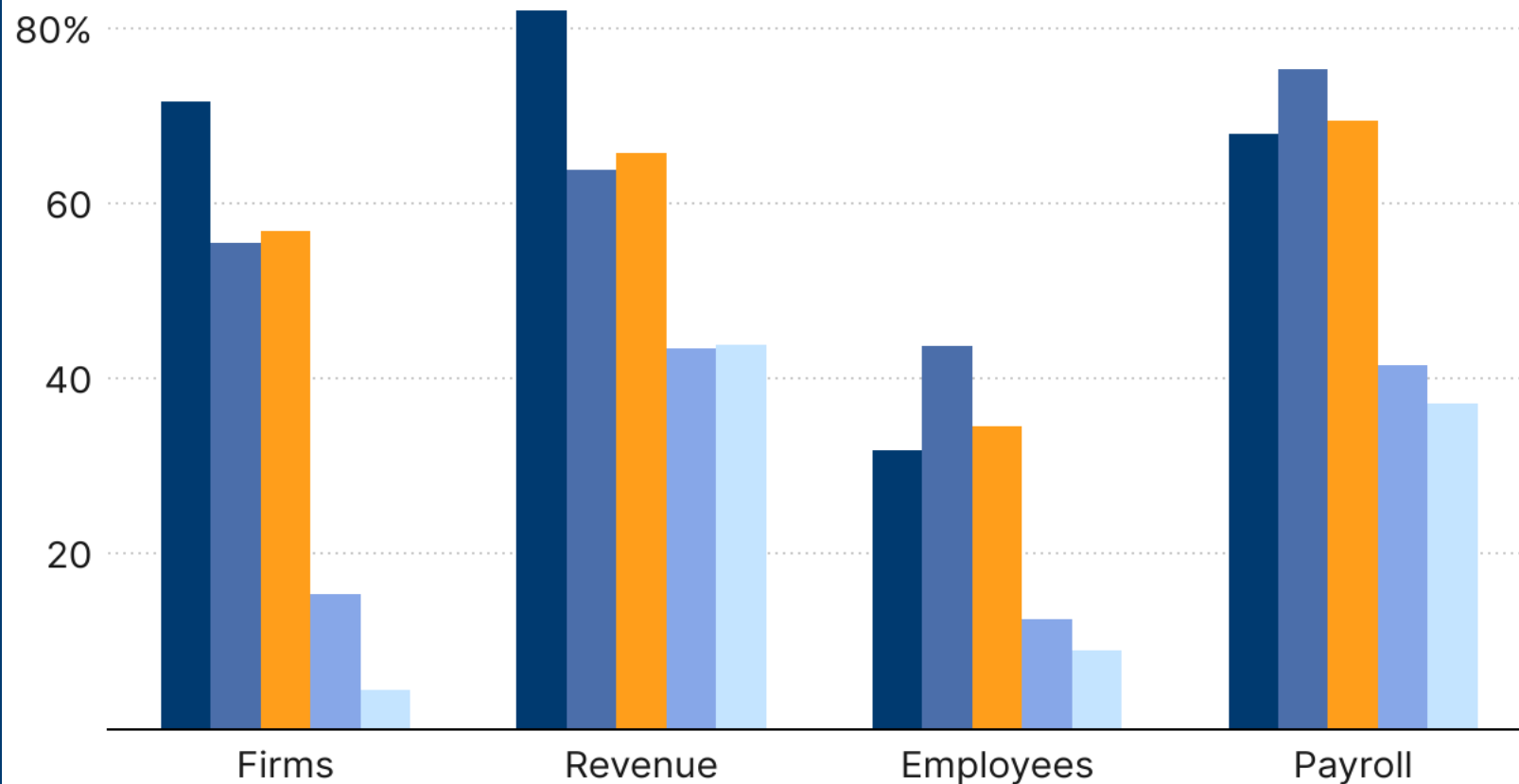
■ Number of Employer Firms ■ Revenue ■ Number of Employees ■ Annual Payroll



Source: Brookings' analysis of American Business Survey data

Percentage change in Black-owned business characteristics by sex 2017 to 2022

Black Female People Black Male People Black People Overall Female People Overall Male People Overall



Source: Brookings' analysis of American Business Survey data

Top Ten Industries by Number of Black-Owned Employer Businesses

United States, 2022

Industry	Number of Black owned firms	Percent of Industry Black owned	Change in Number of Black-owned Employer Businesses since 2017
Health care and social assistance	49,872	7.5%	25.6%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	26,383	3.1%	61.0%
Transportation and warehousing	17,967	7.9%	149.5%
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	16,087	4.4%	58.7%
Retail trade	13,407	2.2%	53.2%
Accommodation and food services	13,279	2.4%	77.2%
Construction	13,178	1.7%	60.4%
Other services (except public administration)	13,131	3.2%	58.0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	7,177	2.0%	102.3%
Finance and insurance	6,300	2.7%	35.6%

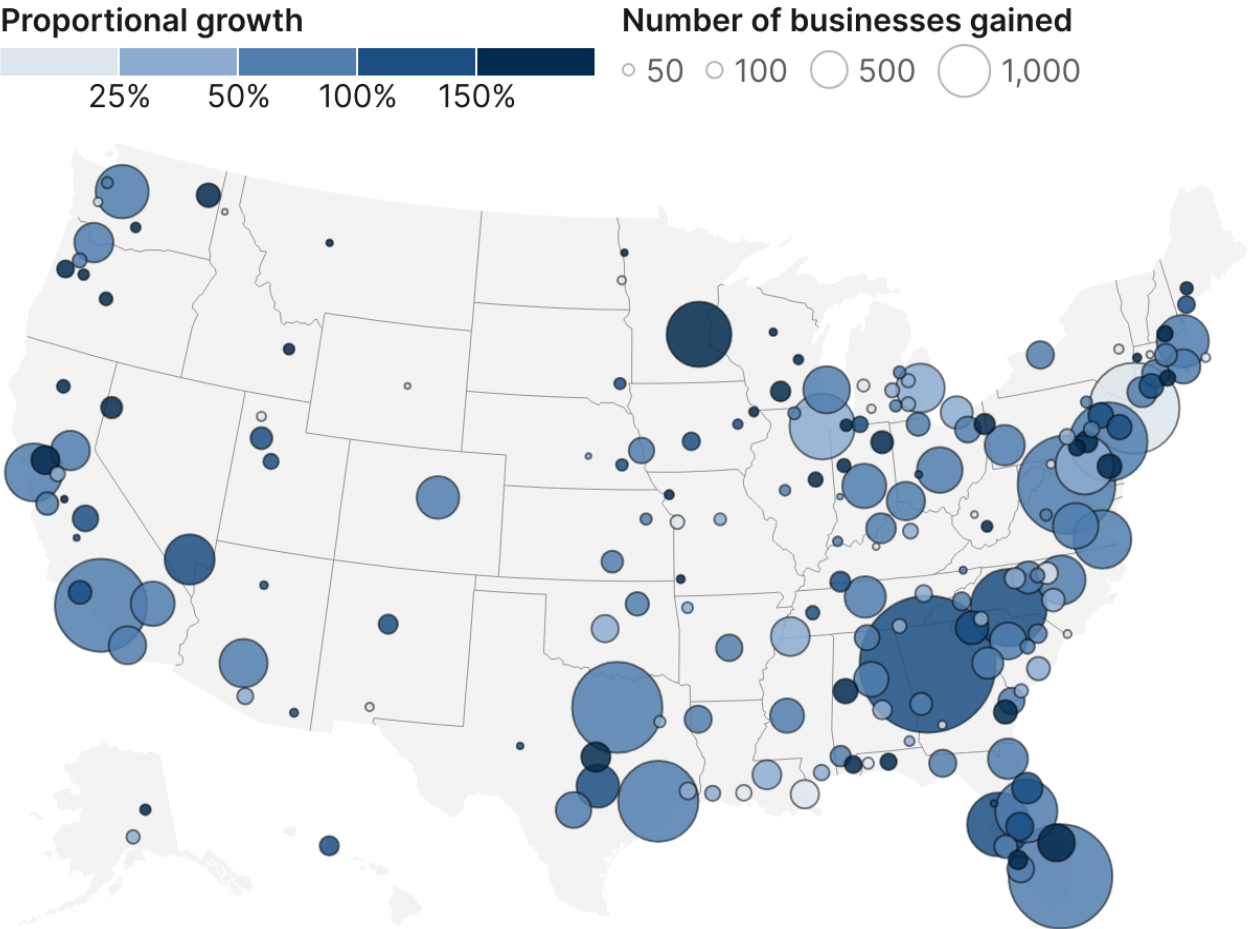
Source: Brookings' analysis of American Business Survey data • Created with Datawrapper

Black-owned employer business growth by metro area

2017-2022

Click on the button below to see data for Black-owned employer business decline or stagnation:

Decline or stagnation



Source: Brookings' analysis of American Business Survey data

Top Ten Largest Increases in the Number of Black-Owned Employer Firms by Metropolitan Area

United States, 2017-2022

NAME	Number of total Black-owned Employer Businesses Created	Increase in Black-owned Employer Businesses (%)	Black share of population
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	6,971	102.6%	36.9%
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	3,972	76.5%	22.5%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	3,505	50.2%	27.5%
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	3,101	60.9%	7.8%
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	2,986	88.9%	18.2%
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ	2,981	22.6%	19.1%
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	2,330	60.2%	19.2%
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2,189	71.6%	22.8%
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	2,105	129.9%	24.6%
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN	1,501	36.6%	17.7%

Source: Brookings' analysis of American Business Survey data • Created with Datawrapper

Top Ten Proportional Increases in Black-Owned Employer Businesses by Metropolitan Area

United States, 2017-2022

Metropolitan Area	Number of total Black-owned Employer Businesses Created	Increase in Black-owned Employer Businesses (%)	Black share of population	Share of Black Employer Businesses
Port St. Lucie, FL	433	274.1%	18.2%	5.5%
Vallejo, CA	231	271.8%	16.6%	5.0%
Reno, NV	119	238.0%	4.0%	1.4%
Killeen-Temple, TX	254	217.1%	24.5%	7.1%
Fort Wayne, IN	132	203.1%	12.7%	2.3%
Madison, WI	100	196.1%	6.2%	1.1%
Tuscaloosa, AL	166	195.3%	36.6%	7.0%
Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA	154	192.5%	3.5%	2.0%
Lancaster, PA	121	186.2%	6.8%	1.7%
Dover, DE	160	179.8%	32.1%	6.5%

To avoid outliers, the top ten excludes metropolitan areas that started off with less than 50 Black-owned employer businesses in 2017. The first year of data collection for all ten places list were 2017, except for Lancaster, PA, whose first year of data was 2020.

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