Small Business at a Glance

Small businesses continue to grow in number, jobs, and income. But the small business lending market, while not risky compared to previous years, remains sluggish.

General

Small Business Employer Firms
The number of small business employer firms (fewer than 500 employees) grew 8 percent since 2010, equaling the growth rate of the late 1990s.

Proprietors’ Income
After plateauing during 2014, in the last two years, proprietor’s income growth resumed.

Small Business Job Creation
In the nearly a decade since the Great Recession, small businesses created 10.6 million net new jobs, or 64 percent of the private-sector net new jobs.

Business Births vs. Deaths
Employer births have outnumbered deaths in every quarter since mid-2010. And other than a jump in 2012, the growth in employer births has been steady.
**Small Business Loan Supply and Demand**

Bankers are continuing to see weak demand for small businesses loans that started after a post-Great Recession peak in 2014.

**Business Lending**

Small business lending (commercial and industrial plus commercial real estate loans under $1 million) increased 8 percent over the last five years which has merely kept up with inflation while large business lending rose 36 percent during this time period.

**Small Business Loan Approval Rates**

Large bank loan approval rates are still relatively low but are rising as credit unions and alternative lenders become more discerning.

**Loan Charge-Off and Delinquency Rates**

Business charge-off and delinquency rates have been low in recent years for both commercial and industrial loans and commercial real estate loans.