

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND EMPLOYMENT AT THE
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Abstract: This article examines how important it is for the Small Business Administration (SBA) to support employment and economic growth at the state level. Local economies rely heavily on small businesses because they foster innovation, job creation, and community resilience. The SBA offers entrepreneurs essential assistance through a variety of programs and initiatives, such as opportunities for government contracting, counseling, and capital access. This study looks at how SBA interventions affect small business performance and how those impacts trickle down to other economic indicators. The SBA supports long-term economic prosperity and the creation of jobs in a variety of states and regions by empowering entrepreneurs and creating an environment that is favorable to business expansion.

Keywords: Small Business Administration, economic growth, employment, state-level, entrepreneurship, access to capital, government contracting, small business support.

Introduction. Small businesses are the colorful threads that connect communities in the complex tapestry of economic development. They promote innovation, generate employment, and propel local economies toward prosperity. The Small Business Administration (SBA), a frequently underappreciated champion of economic expansion, is at the center of this ecosystem. Examining the intricate relationship between state employment, economic growth, and small business administration reveals that the SBA is a key player in determining the opportunities available to many workers and entrepreneurs. Small businesses are the backbone of economies worldwide, providing a large share of jobs and spurring innovation. They employ almost half of the workforce in the private sector and make up over 99% of all businesses in the United States alone. These businesses encapsulate the spirit of entrepreneurship and the goals and desires of people looking to carve out a niche for themselves in the market. However, there are many obstacles in a small business's path from launch to sustainability, from workforce development and market competition to capital access and regulatory compliance. The federal organization in charge of offering assistance, resources, and advocacy to small businesses is the Small Business Administration. The government's commitment to promoting economic opportunity and entrepreneurship is embodied in the SBA, which was founded in 1953. The Small Business Administration (SBA) facilitates the growth of small businesses by providing a range of programs such as loans, counseling, and contracting assistance. These programs enable entrepreneurs to surmount obstacles and prosper in competitive markets.

Small business administration has a ripple effect on local economies at the state level that strengthens community resilience, fosters innovation, and creates jobs. Every state has a different economic environment, influenced by things like the makeup of the industries, population patterns, and legislative frameworks. As a result, the SBA's contribution to economic growth differs from state to state and is tailored to the unique requirements and difficulties that local businesses

and communities face. The availability of capital is one of the main ways that the SBA assists small businesses. Obtaining funding is a difficult obstacle that can make or break a business for a lot of entrepreneurs. Through its loan guarantee programs, which give lenders a level of assurance and allow them to extend credit to small businesses that might not be eligible for traditional loans, the SBA addresses this challenge. This capital infusion helps startups weather market uncertainties, supports business expansion, and makes equipment and technology investments easier.

Furthermore, the SBA's mentoring and counseling programs are essential in providing entrepreneurs with the tools, resources, and know-how required to thrive in the cutthroat business environment of today. The SBA provides individualized advice and assistance to prospective and current business owners through partnerships with SCORE chapters, Women's Business Centers (WBCs), and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). These resources help entrepreneurs make wise decisions and handle the challenges of running a business, from creating business plans and marketing plans to handling finances and securing government contracts. Apart from encouraging individual initiative, the SBA is essential in helping small businesses take advantage of government contracting opportunities. The SBA encourages diversity, equity, and inclusion in federal procurement through programs like the Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program and the 8(a) Business Development Program. These programs open doors for small businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, and underprivileged communities. Small businesses can obtain profitable contracts, increase their market share, and generate job opportunities in their communities by utilizing the government's purchasing power. Moreover, the mutually beneficial association among small business management, economic expansion, and job creation transcends the domain of entrepreneurship. Local economies are largely supported by small businesses, whose actions have a knock-on effect on other sectors and industries. Small businesses that are successful not only generate demand for products and services but also assist vendors, suppliers, and service providers throughout the supply chain. Small businesses have a greater economic impact due to this multiplier effect, which also creates thriving ecosystems of opportunity and innovation.

Main Body. The foundation of the American economy, small businesses play a major role in innovation, job creation, and economic expansion. These businesses span a wide range of sectors across the country, including manufacturing, technology, retail, and hospitality. Small businesses, in spite of their modest size, collectively exert enormous economic sway, propelling regional economies and promoting community growth.

Creation of Jobs: The creation of jobs is one of small businesses' most noteworthy contributions. Since the 1970s, small businesses in the United States have created two-thirds of net new jobs, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These businesses act as jobs generators, giving people the chance to work on worthwhile projects, acquire useful skills, and improve their local communities.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Small companies are hubs for entrepreneurship and innovation, which drives technological advancement and economic dynamism. Small businesses, as opposed to larger corporations, frequently have the nimbleness and adaptability needed to test out novel concepts, adjust to shifting consumer demands, and lead disruptive innovations. These

companies, which range from ground-breaking startups to family-run businesses, propel economic growth via their inventiveness, risk-taking, and inventiveness.

Financial Sturdiness: At the state level, small businesses are essential to improving economic resilience, especially in uncertain or crisis-ridden economic times. Small businesses are more resilient to economic downturns than larger corporations because of their localized operations and strong community ties. Their capacity to change course, be creative, and adjust to new situations adds to the state economies' overall resilience, reducing the effects of outside shocks and promoting recovery and expansion.

At the state level, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is an essential collaborator in promoting the expansion and development of small businesses. The SBA gives entrepreneurs and small business owners the crucial support, tools, and advocacy they need through a variety of programs and initiatives, enabling them to get over obstacles and take advantage of chances for growth and success.

Obtaining Capital: Obtaining funding is one of the biggest issues small businesses face. Due to things like little collateral, a poor credit history, or perceived risk, many business owners find it difficult to obtain funding from traditional lenders. By lowering the risk for lenders, the SBA's loan guarantee programs encourage banks and other financial institutions to extend credit to small businesses, thereby addressing this challenge. The SBA makes it easier for small businesses to obtain capital through programs like the Microloan Program and the 7(a) Loan Program. This allows them to finance their operations, make investments in expansion plans, and generate employment opportunities in their local communities.

Mentoring and counseling: Through its nationwide network of resource partners, the SBA offers entrepreneurs invaluable counseling and mentorship services in addition to financial assistance. To assist entrepreneurs in navigating the challenges of launching and expanding a business, SCORE chapters, Women's Business Centers (WBCs), and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provide free or inexpensive business counseling, training, and mentoring. These tools enable business owners to make wise decisions and thrive in cutthroat markets, from creating business plans and marketing strategies to comprehending financial management and regulatory compliance.

Opportunities for Government Contracts: Through a number of SBA programs created to encourage small business participation in federal procurement, small businesses can bid on contracts from the government. Minority, female, and veteran-owned small businesses are eligible for set-asides and contracting preferences under the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Program, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Program. Small businesses can increase their market share, establish steady revenue streams, and generate job opportunities in their local communities by gaining access to government contracts.

Since small businesses are the main forces behind workforce development and job creation, there is a strong connection between small business administration and employment at the state level. The SBA helps to increase employment opportunities, improve productivity and skills, and boost state economies overall by promoting small business growth and entrepreneurship.

Creation of Jobs and Sustainability: Small businesses create jobs in a variety of sectors and industries, making them a major source of employment at the state level. Small companies, whether they are family-run companies, sole proprietorships, or rapidly expanding startups, are essential to attracting new employees, lowering the unemployment rate, and promoting economic mobility. Additionally, local hiring is a top priority for small businesses, which helps to strengthen the social fabric and reinvest in the communities they serve.

Training and Development of the Workforce: Small businesses are essential for workforce development and skill training in addition to creating jobs, especially for those who might encounter employment obstacles. Small businesses provide employees the chance to advance their careers, obtain practical experience, and develop marketable skills through skills development programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training. Small businesses help the labor force become more resilient and adaptable by investing in human capital, which keeps workers competitive in a constantly changing economy.

Mobility and Inclusion of the Economy: Small businesses provide doors to prosperity for people from a variety of communities and backgrounds, acting as engines of economic mobility and inclusion. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are among the marginalized groups that can achieve financial independence, accumulate wealth, and get past structural obstacles to success through entrepreneurship. The SBA encourages diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce by cultivating an innovative and entrepreneurial culture. This opens doors for all Americans to take part in and profit from economic growth.

Conclusion. To sum up, the mutually beneficial association among state employment, economic expansion, and small business administration highlights the vital function of the SBA in promoting prosperity and chances for localities all over the country. The SBA helps entrepreneurs launch, expand, and maintain small businesses, which promotes innovation, economic resilience, and the creation of jobs. It does this by giving them access to funding, counseling, and government contracting opportunities. In order to ensure that the American dream is still attainable for future generations, it is crucial that we continue to support small business administration as we navigate the many opportunities and challenges presented by the modern economy.

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