Statistics of U.S. Businesses vs. Business Employment Dynamics

Strengths and weaknesses of
two firm size data sources

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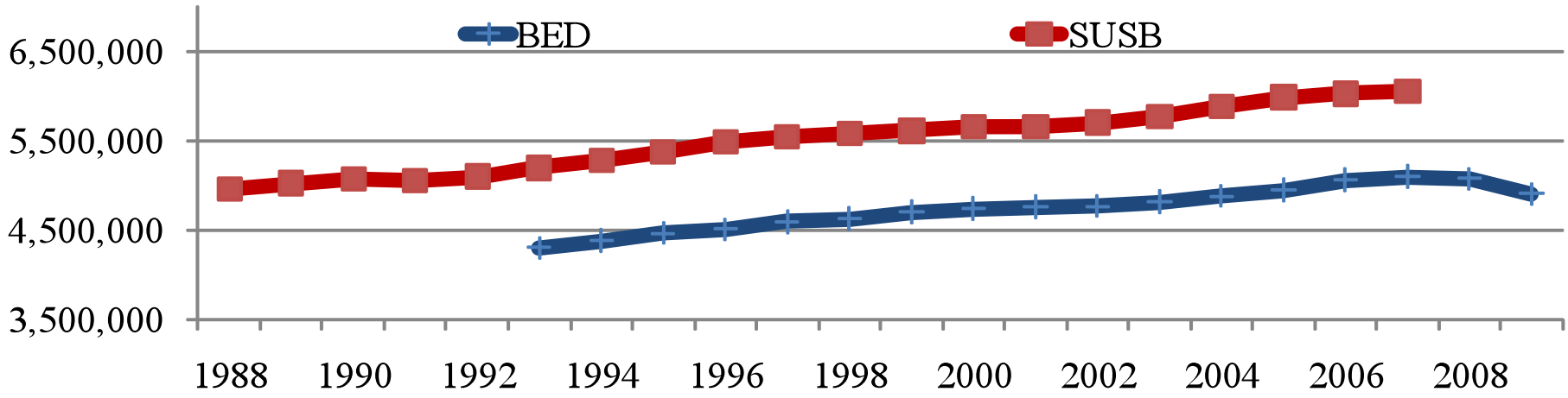
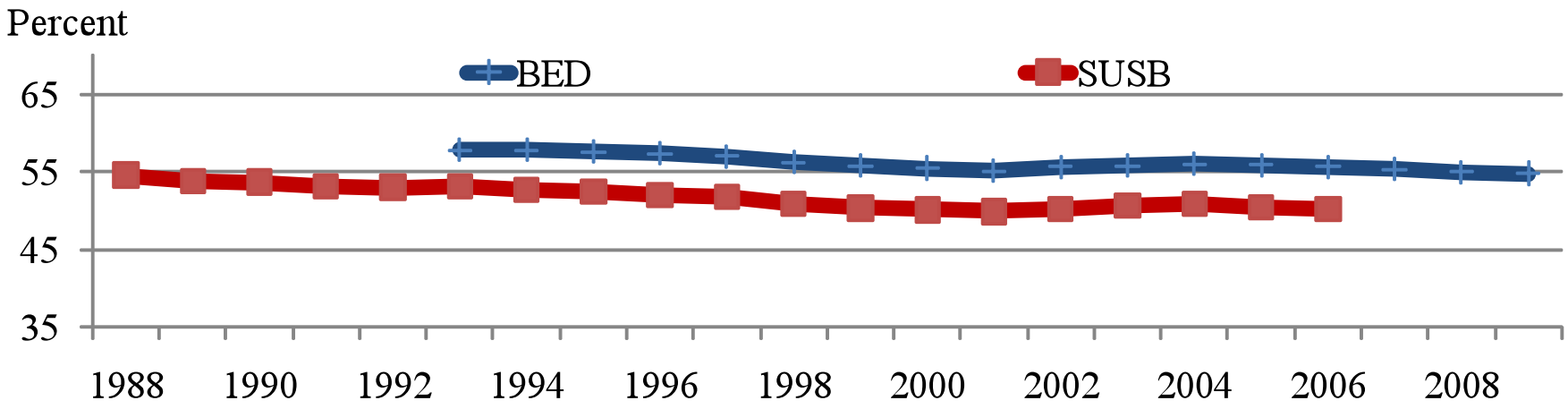
Number of Employer Firms, 1988-2009



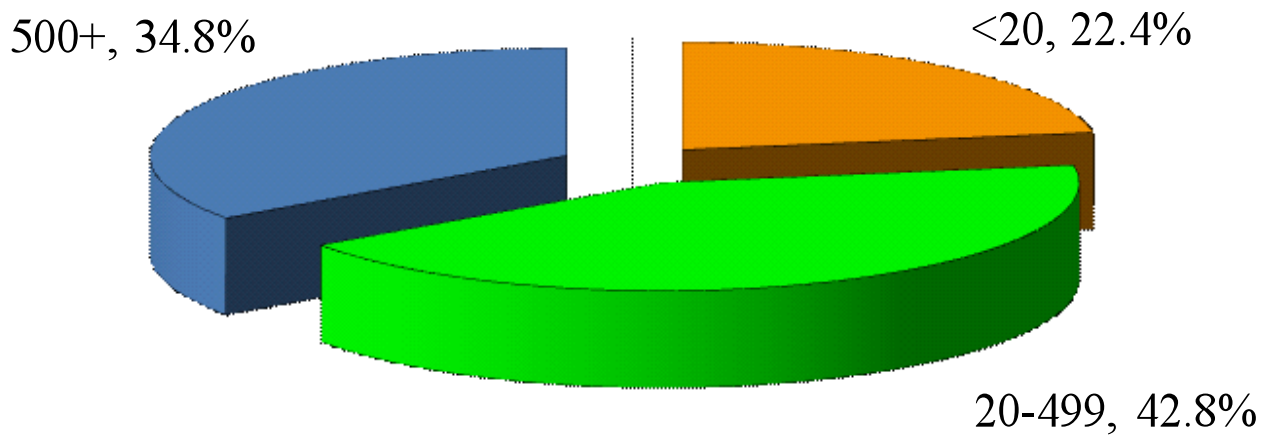
Small Businesses Share of Employment, 1988-2009



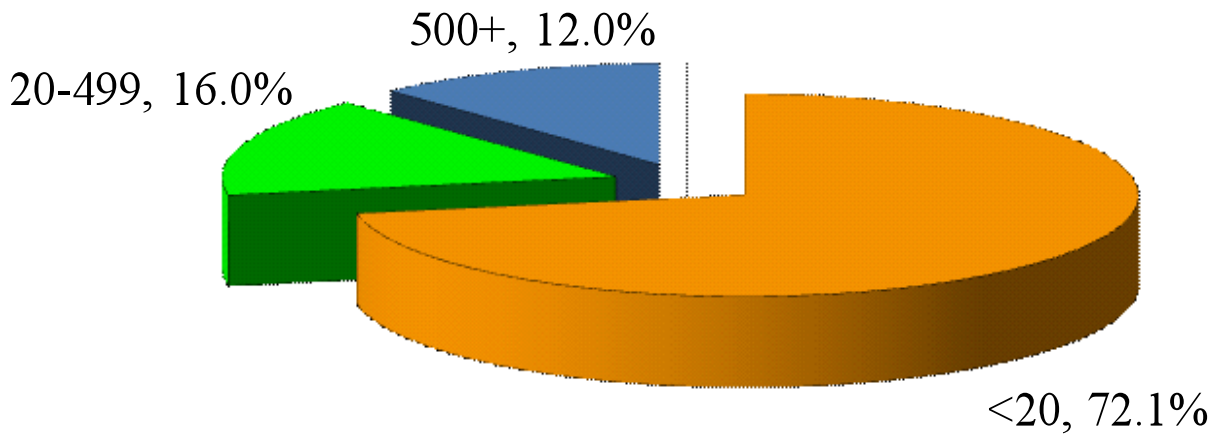
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, from data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics.

Share of Net New Jobs by Firm Size

BLS, BED, 1993-2009q2 (17.9 million net new jobs)

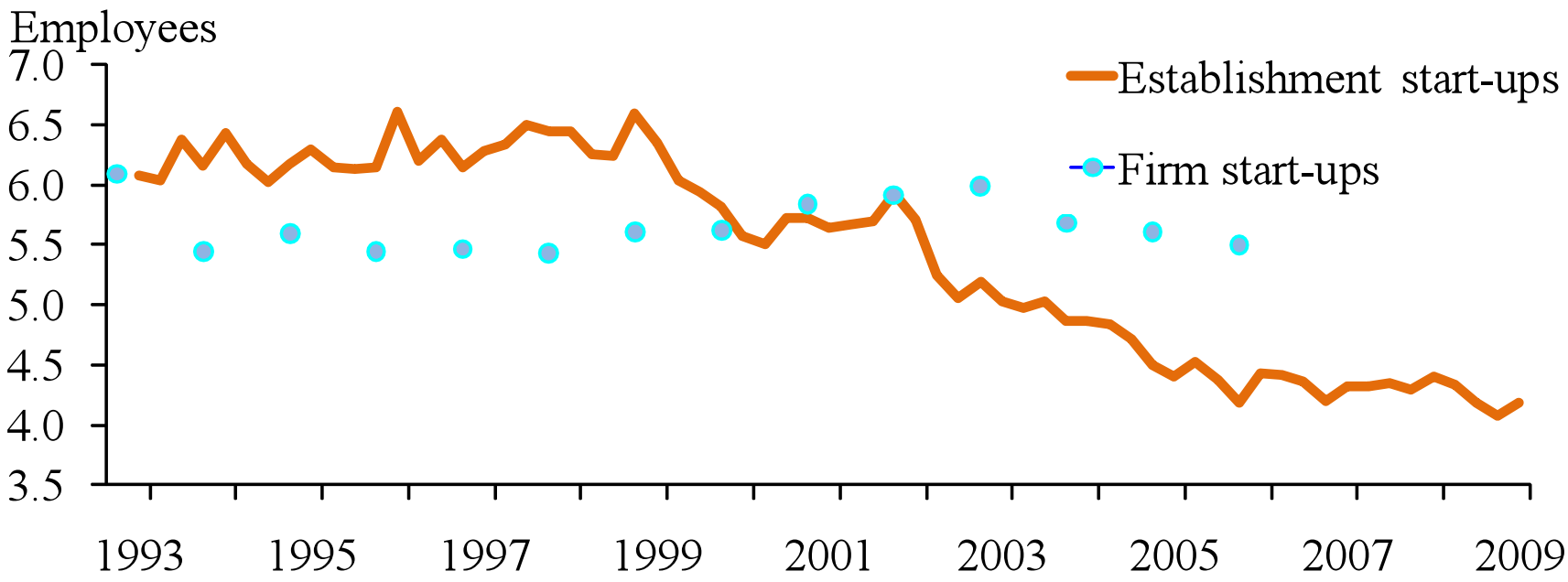


Census, SUSB, 1993-2006 (25.1 million net new jobs)



Source: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, from data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics.

Mean Employment Size of Establishment and Firm Start-Ups, 1993-2009q2



Note: Census data reflect an average of the firms that began during the year as measured in March, so on average the data represent start-up firm's employment size at month 6.

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, from data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics.

The Tops

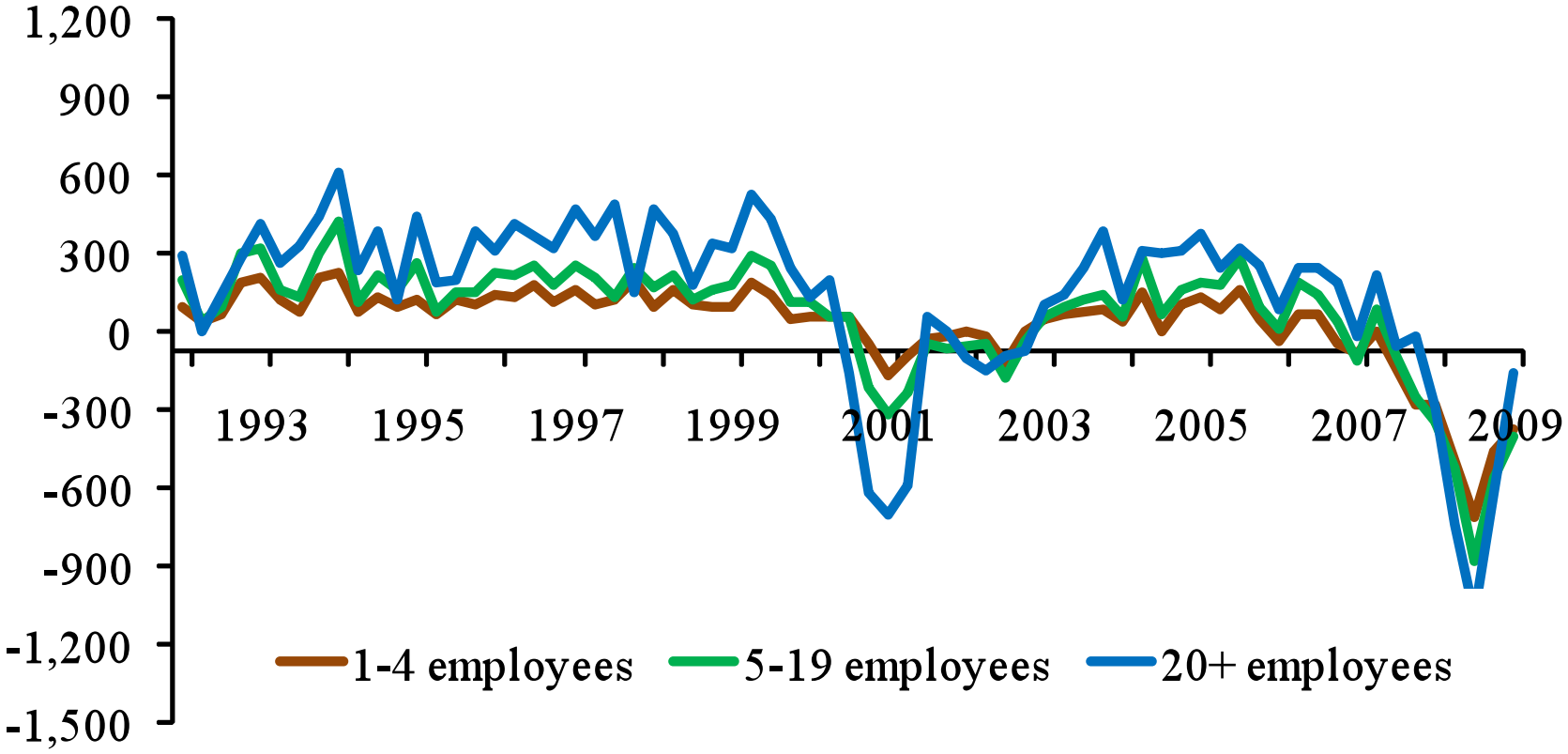
Counties		Small Firm Employment	Industries	NAICS	Small Firm Employment
Park	Colorado	95.6%	Political organizations	81394	100.0%
Klickitat	Washington	93.3%	Footwear and leather goods repair	81143	100.0%
Orange	Vermont	93.2%	Offices of chiropractors	62131	99.9%
Pacific	Washington	92.4%	Reupholstery and furniture repair	81142	99.8%
Susquehanna	Pennsylvania	91.9%	Outdoor power equipment stores	44421	99.8%

Note: Small firms is defined as having fewer than 500 employees, and only includes areas/industries with at least 500 employer firms.

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, from data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses.

Employment Changes by Size of Establishment Change, 1992-2009q3

(thousands, seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration from data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics.

SUSB vs. BED
Details

	SUSB	BED
Source	U.S. Census Bureau	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Coverage	Universe of employers by estab.	Universe of employers by estab.
Period	Annual	Quarterly
Start-year	1988 (1989 for dynamics)	mid-1992
Time lag	About 2.5-3 years	About 7-9 months
Size measure	Start-year	Dynamic sizing
Industry	NAICS, 6 digit	NAICS, 3 digit
Geography	Down to MSA with some county data	State
Unique details	Payroll, receipts, some Legal Form of Organization, firm births/deaths	Size of empl. change by estab., seasonally adjusted

SUSB vs. BED:
The winner for you depends

	SUSB	BED
Job creation	Check	Check
Job dynamics	Check	Check
Number of firms	Check	Small check
Firm size	Check	Small check
Specific industries	Check	Small check
Specific geography	Check	
Time series analysis	Small check	Check
Recent trends		Check
Seasonal issues		Check
Checking/weighting your survey	Check	Check
Special tabulations (cost)	Check	Check