The Financing and Performance of Young Firms

J. David Brown, U.S. Census Bureau
Steven J. Davis, University of Chicago
John C. Haltiwanger, University of Maryland
Lucia Foster, U.S. Census Bureau
John Sabelhaus, Brookings Institution
Laura Yi Zhao, Bank of Canada

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Disclaimers

Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau, nor the views of the Brookings Institution or its funders, or of the Bank of Canada.

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Abstract

Young firms (fewer than 72 months since first paid employee) exhibit strong up or out dynamics and account for a disproportionate share of newly created jobs in the U.S. economy. We integrate multiple Census micro datasets to develop new evidence on the owner characteristics of several hundred thousand young firms, their financing, and their performance:

- 1. From 2002 to 2016, the share of young firms owned by women rose from 15 to 22 percent, the share owned by non-white or Hispanic persons rose from 10 to 22 percent, and the share owned by persons under 35 fell from 10 to 7 percent.
- 2. Bank loans, home equity loans, credit cards, and outside investors all play significant roles in the financing of young firms.
- 3. Reliance on bank loans and home equity loans by young firms fell sharply after the 2008-09 financial crisis.
- 4. Young firms owned by women and those owned by non-white and Hispanic persons are less likely to survive and grow.
- 5. Startups with young owners are less likely to survive but more likely to grow rapidly.

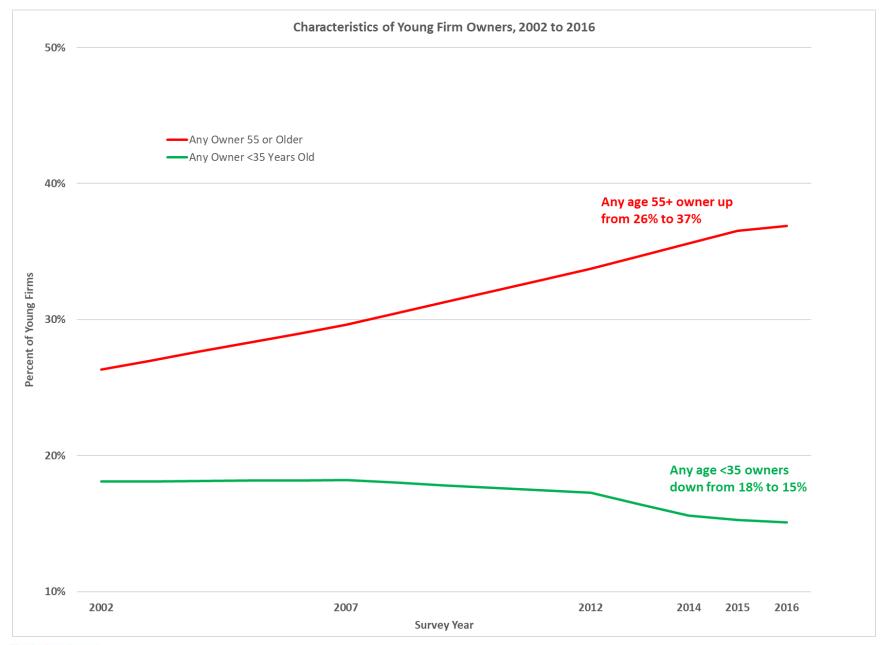


Overview

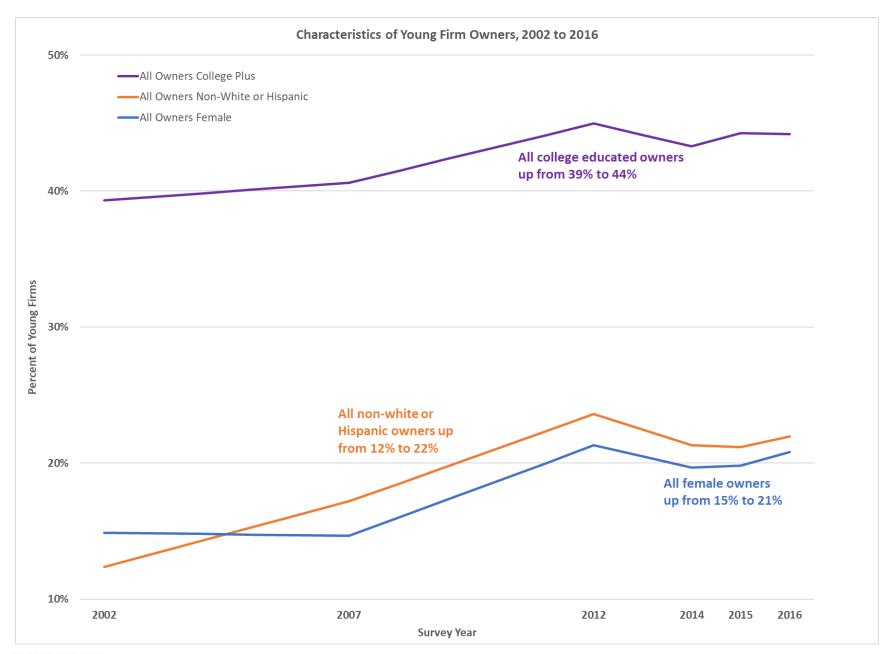
- Young firms exhibit rich up or out dynamics high growth firms disproportionately important (Brown et. al., 2019; Decker et. al., 2016)
- Young firms and economic activity:
 - Young firms account for a falling share of activity since the late 1980s (Davis and Haltiwanger, 2019; Guzman and Stern, 2020)
 - Adverse financial conditions contributed to dramatic declines in young-firm activity during the Great Recession
- Limited understanding of the mechanisms underlying the sensitivity of young firms to financial conditions
- We take steps towards improving our understanding by integrating SBO/ASE data from 2002-2016 on owner characteristics and financing with LBD

Business Finance Surveys

- Our data sources are:
 - Survey of Business Owners 2002, 2007, 2012, Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, 2014, 2015, 2016 (Foster and Norman, 2017)
 - Provides information about owner characteristics such as age, education, gender, race/ethnicity, immigration status
 - Sources of financing (bank loans, credit cards, home equity, outside investor) and Startup capital amounts
 - Longitudinal Business Database (1976-2018)
 - Firm size distribution
 - Post entry dynamics (survival and growth)
- Sample sizes vary by year, total several hundred thousand
- Other SBO/LBD links (Brown et. al., 2019; Lastrapes, Schmutte, Watson, 2020; Kerr, Kerr, Nanda, 2019)
- Today basic facts









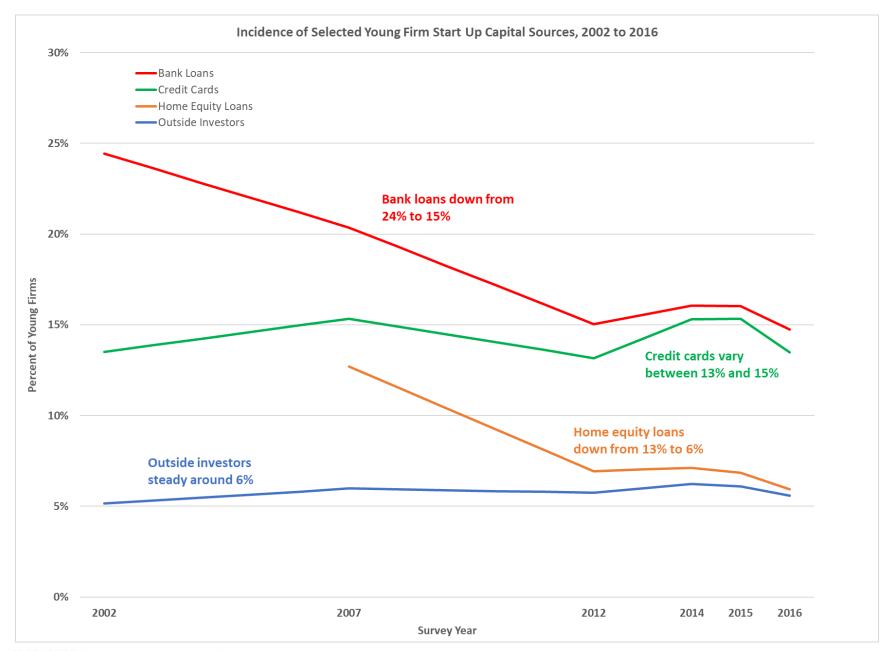


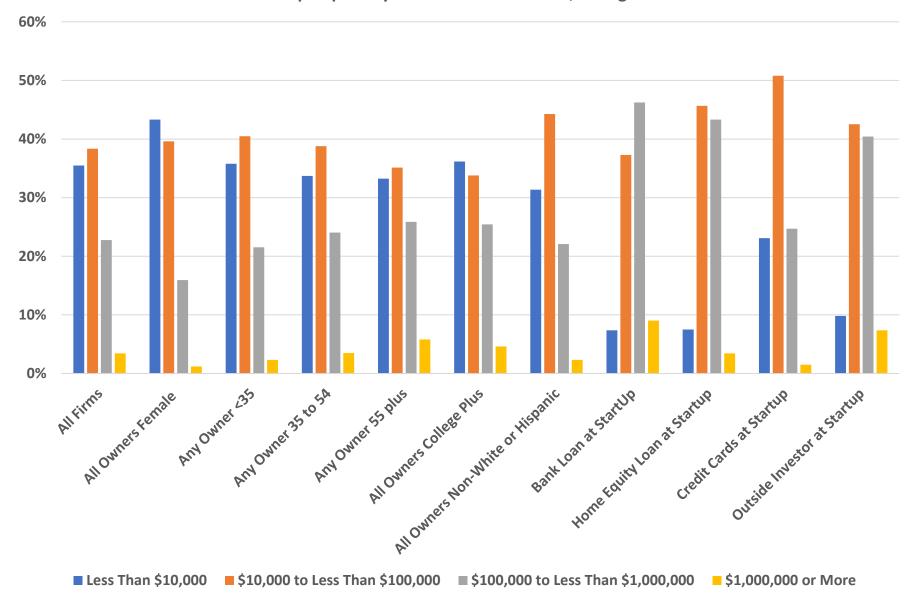


Table 6. Distribution of Startup Capital Amounts by Firm Size, Young Firms, 2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

Firm Age and Size	Less Than \$10,000	\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or More
1 Employee	52.3	35.9	10.8	1.0
2-4 Employees	34.7	43.5	20.1	1.7
5-19 Employees	20.9	38.4	36.3	4.5
20-99 Employees	16.3	23.6	42.5	17.7
100+ Employees	21.3	18.9	30.3	29.5
All Firms	35.5	38.4	22.8	3.4

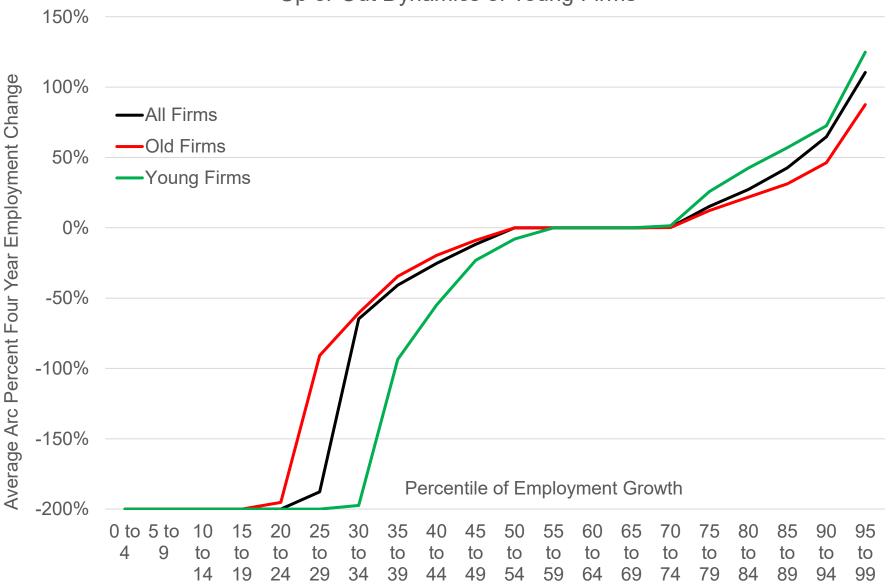
Not unexpectedly, smaller firms at startup report lower startup capital

Startup Capital by Owner Characteristics, Young Firms





Up or Out Dynamics of Young Firms





Startups with Young Owners Are More Likely to Exit and Experience Slow Growth but also More Likely to Exhibit High Growth 150% Average Arc Percent Four Year Employment Change 100% -All Young Firms Young Firms with Any Owner <35</p> 50% —Young Firms with Any Owner 55+ 0% -50% 100% -150% Percentile of Employment Growth -200% 0 to 5 to 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 55 65 95 85 9 to to



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Young Firms with Female or Non-White or Hispanic Owners Are Less Likely to Survive and Grow

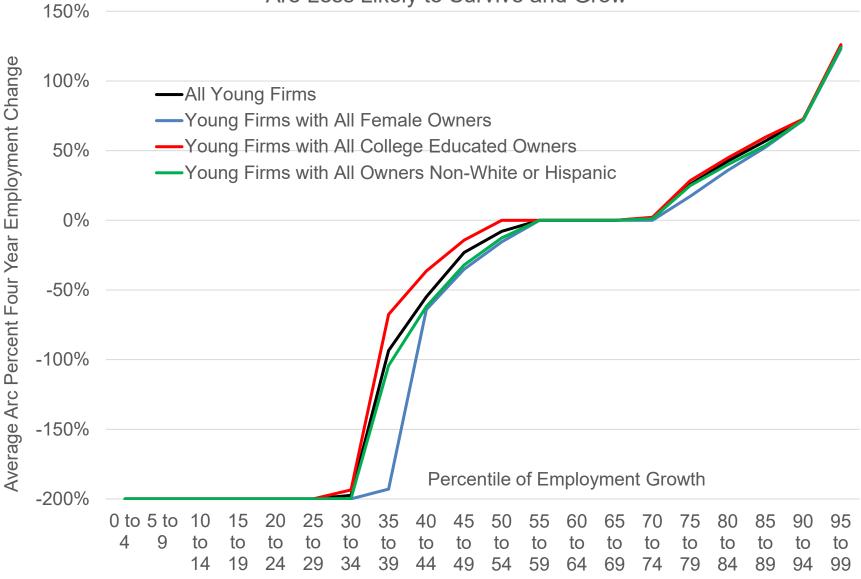




Table 8. Linear Models for the Probability that Young Firms Are in the Top Employment Growth Quartile (3) (4) (2) **Independent Variables** Any Owner Younger than 35 5.560*** 5.514*** 5.294*** 5.285*** (0.256)(0.254)(0.255)(0.254)-5.042*** -5.375*** -5.206*** -5.019*** Any Owner 55 or Older (0.190)(0.190)(0.190)(0.191)All Owners College Educated or Higher 1.227*** 1.128*** 1.128*** 0.877*** (0.180)(0.180)(0.180)(0.198)-3.127*** -2.103*** -2.265*** All Owners Female -2.562*** (0.236)(0.231)(0.231)(0.231)-1.053*** -1.464*** -1.547*** -1.718*** All Owners Non-White or Hispanic (0.227)(0.228)(0.227)(0.230)1.303*** 1.543*** 1.178*** Firm Had Bank Loan at Start Up (0.258)(0.258)(0.259)0.273 Firm Had Home Equity Loan at Start Up 0.211 0.264 (0.327)(0.328)(0.326)Firm Used Credit Cards to Finance Start Up 1.834*** 1.703*** 1.580*** (0.262)(0.262)(0.262)2.024*** 2.078*** 2.117*** Firm Had Outside Investor at Start Up (0.394)(0.394)(0.395)7.200*** 7.312*** Firm Start Up Capital Between \$10,000 and \$100,000 7.020*** (0.212)(0.210)(0.215)10.64*** 9.760*** 10.42*** Firm Start Up Capital Between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 (0.260)(0.271)(0.278)9.336*** 10.66*** 11.52*** Firm Start Up Capital \$1,000,000 or More (0.500)(0.522)(0.526)**Additional Controls Year Dummies** Yes Yes Yes Yes Interacted Employment Size and Age Class Dummies Yes Yes Two Digit NAICS Industry Dummies Yes **Observations** 329,000 **R-Squared** 0.013 0.024 0.026 0.030 Robust standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

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Table 8. Linear Models for the Probability that Young Firms Are in	the Top Employment	Growth Quartile	!	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
ndependent Variables				
Any Owner Younger than 35	5.560***	5.514***	5.294***	5.285***
	(0.256)	(0.254)	(0.255)	(0.254)
Any Owner 55 or Older	-5.042***	-5.375***	-5.206***	-5.019***
	(0.190)	(0.190)	(0.190)	(0.191)
All Owners College Educated or Higher	1.227***	1.128***	1.128***	0.877***
	(0.180)	(0.180)	(0.180)	(0.198)
All Owners Female	-3.127***	-2.103***	-2.265***	-2.562***
	(0.231)	(0.231)	(0.231)	(0.236)
All Owners Non-White or Hispanic	-1.053***	-1.464***	-1.547***	-1.718***
	(0.228)	(0.227)	(0.227)	(0.230)
Firm Had Bank Loan at Start Up		1.303***	1.543***	1.178***
		(0.258)	(0.258)	(0.259)
Firm Had Home Equity Loan at Start Up		0.211	0.273	0.264
		(0.328)	(0.327)	(0.326)
Firm Used Credit Cards to Finance Start Up		1.834***	1.703***	1.580***
		(0.262)	(0.262)	(0.262)
Firm Had Outside Investor at Start Up		2.024***	2.078***	2.117***
		(0.395)	(0.394)	(0.394)
Firm Start Up Capital Between \$10,000 and \$100,000		7.020***	7.200***	7.312***
		(0.210)	(0.212)	(0.215)
Firm Start Up Capital Between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000		9.760***	10.42***	10.64***
		(0.260)	(0.271)	(0.278)
Firm Start Up Capital \$1,000,000 or More		9.336***	10.66***	11.52***
		(0.500)	(0.522)	(0.526)
Additional Controls				
Year Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interacted Employment Size and Age Class Dummies			Yes	Yes
Two Digit NAICS Industry Dummies				Yes
Observations	329,000			
Rebust standard errors in space ntheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, ** p<0.1	0.013	0.024	0.026	0.030

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		(0.500)	(0.522)	(0.526)
Additional Controls				
Year Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interacted Employment Size and Age Class Dummies			Yes	Yes
Two Digit NAICS Industry Dummies				Yes
Observations	329,000			
Resignated tates U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration errors in sparcentheses census coverage (ensus coverage)	0.013	0.024	0.026	0.030

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All Owners College Educated or Higher	1.227***	1.128***	1.128***	0.877***
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	(0.231)	(0.231)	(0.231)	(0.236)
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Firm Start Up Capital \$1,000,000 or More		9.336***	10.66***	11.52***
		(0.500)	(0.522)	(0.526)
dditional Controls				
Year Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interacted Employment Size and Age Class Dummies			Yes	Yes
Two Digit NAICS Industry Dummies				Yes
Observations	329,000			
U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, ** p<0.1	0.013	0.024	0.026	0.030

Summary

- Survival and growth of young firms:
 - Higher growth when business owners are: College educated, Age<35, and have Credit Card Financing, Bank Loan Financing, Outside Financing or Large Startup Capital
 - Age<35 owners also more likely to fail
 - Lower with business owners: Females, Non-white Hispanic
- Home equity and bank loan financing declines post Great Recession
- Over 2002-16: Age<35 business owners decline, age 55+, female, and minority owners increase
- Future Steps: Financing and Dynamism Diminished? Causal inference. Add more recent data from the Annual Business Survey.

Additional Slides

Table 1. Owner Demographics by Survey Year (Percent)

			SBO			ASE	
		2002	2007	2012	2014	2015	2016
All Owners Female							
	All Firms	12.4	12.1	17.2	15.0	15.2	15.9
	Young Firms	14.9	14.7	21.3	19.7	19.8	20.8
	Old Firms	11.0	10.6	15.5	13.2	13.4	13.9
Any Owner <35							
•	All Firms	9.5	9.5	8.2	7.1	7.0	6.9
	Young Firms	18.1	18.2	17.3	15.6	15.3	15.1
	Old Firms	4.8	4.7	4.4	3.7	3.6	3.5
Any Owner 35 to 54	2.3					2.0	0.0
,	All Firms	66.2	63.1	55.7	52.5	51.3	50.3
	Young Firms	71.9	70.3	65.1	64.0	63.5	62.7
	Old Firms	63.0	59.1	51.8	48.0	46.4	45.0
Any Owner 55 plus		33.3	00	00	10.0		10.0
my currence prac	All Firms	40.7	45.8	52.4	54.9	56.5	57.4
	Young Firms	26.3	29.6	33.7	35.6	36.5	36.9
	Old Firms	48.4	54.7	60.1	62.7	64.7	65.9
All Owners College Plus		10.1	01.7	00.1	02.7	01.7	00.0
an owners conege i las	All Firms	40.1	40.8	44.1	43.4	44.0	43.7
	Young Firms	39.3	40.6	45.0	43.3	44.3	44.2
	Old Firms	40.5	40.9	43.7	43.5	43.9	43.5
All Owners Non-White or Hi	spanic						
	All Firms	9.5	12.9	17.4	15.0	15.3	15.8
	Young Firms	12.4	17.2	23.6	21.3	21.2	22.0
	Old Firms	7.9	10.6	14.8	12.5	12.8	13.2
Any Owner Immigrant							
_	All Firms		16.8	18.6	16.4	16.9	16.6
	Young Firms		21.3	24.6	21.6	22.3	21.9
Thitad States 1 115 December 1	Old Firms		14.3	16.2	14.3	14.7	14.4



Table 2a. Business Financing Variables by Survey Year (Percent)

		SBO			ASE	
		300			AUL	
	2002	2007	2012	2014	2015	2016
Incidence of Bank Loans at Startup						
All Firms	25.3	21.2	18.0	20.0	19.7	18.4
Young Firms	24.4	20.4	15.1	16.1	16.0	14.8
Old Firms	25.8	21.6	19.3	21.6	21.2	19.9
Incidence of Home Equity Loans at Startup						
All Firms		8.6	6.7	7.8	7.6	6.8
Young Firms		12.7	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.0
Old Firms		6.3	6.6	8.0	7.8	7.1
Incidence of Credit Cards at Startup						
All Firms	9.0	10.4	10.1	12.4	12.4	11.1
Young Firms	13.5	15.3	13.2	15.3	15.3	13.5
Old Firms	6.6	7.6	8.8	11.3	11.2	10.1
Incidence of Outside Investor at Startup						
All Firms	4.5	5.7	5.2	5.9	5.7	5.2
Young Firms	5.2	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.1	5.6
Old Firms	4.2	5.6	4.9	5.8	5.6	5.0



		SBO			ASE	
	2002	2007	2012	2014	2015	2016
Startup Capital \$10,000 to <\$100.000						
All Firms		36.4	37.5	39.3	39.0	38.1
Young Firms		36.3	37.6	40.3	39.7	38.4
Old Firms		36.5	37.5	38.8	38.7	38.1
Startup Capital \$100,000 to <\$1,000,000						
All Firms		21.7	20.6	21.7	21.9	21.5
Young Firms		25.3	22.0	21.8	22.2	21.7
Old Firms		19.5	20.0	21.6	21.8	21.4
Startup Capital \$1,000,000 plus						
All Firms		3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0
Young Firms		3.7	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3
Old Firms		2.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9

		SBO			ASE	
	2002	2007	2012	2014	2015	2016
1 Employee						
All Firms	20.8	23.1	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.7
Young Firms	26.6	29.6	30.1	30.6	30.8	31.2
Old Firms	17.6	19.5	20.7	20.7	20.6	20.7
2-4 Employees						
All Firms	34.1	32.6	33.3	33.3	33.1	32.8
Young Firms	36.7	34.3	35.1	35.5	35.3	35.1
Old Firms	32.6	31.7	32.5	32.5	32.2	31.9
5-19 Employees						
All Firms	32.9	32.2	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5
Young Firms	28.2	27.2	26.3	26.2	26.1	26.1
Old Firms	35.4	34.9	33.6	33.6	33.7	33.8
20-99 Employees						
All Firms	10.3	10.1	9.8	9.7	9.8	10.0
Young Firms	7.3	7.5	7.2	6.5	6.6	6.6
Old Firms	11.9	11.6	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.3
I00+ Employees						
All Firms	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0
Young Firms	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Old Firms	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4



Table 4A. Distribution of StartUp Capital Amounts by Owner Characteristics and Startup Funding Sources, 2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

Firm Age and Size	All Firms	All Owners Female	Any Owner <35	Any Owner 35 to 54	Any Owner 55 plus	All Owners College Plus	All Owners Non-White or Hispanic
All Firms							
Less Than \$10,000	37.5	43.8	35.3	34.9	37.8	36.7	31.2
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	38.1	38.7	39.1	38.2	37.0	35.3	43.1
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	21.5	16.3	22.6	23.6	21.5	24.1	23.4
\$1,000,000 or More	3.0	1.3	2.9	3.3	3.7	3.9	2.4
Young Firms							
Less Than \$10,000	35.5	43.3	35.8	33.7	33.2	36.2	31.4
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	38.4	39.6	40.5	38.8	35.1	33.8	44.3
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	22.8	15.9	21.5	24.0	25.9	25.4	22.1
\$1,000,000 or More	3.4	1.2	2.3	3.5	5.8	4.6	2.3
Old Firms							
Less Than \$10,000	38.4	44.1	34.4	35.6	39.0	36.9	31.1
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	37.9	38.1	36.7	37.8	37.5	36.0	42.1
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	20.9	16.5	24.7	23.4	20.4	23.5	24.4
\$1,000,000 or More	2.8	1.3	4.3	3.2	3.1	3.6	2.4

Table 4B. Distribution of Startup Capital Amounts by Owner Characteristics and Startup Funding Sources, 2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

Firm Age and Size	ΔII Firms	Bank Loan at StartUp	Home Equity Loan at Startup	Credit Cards at Startup	Outside Investor at Startup
All Firms	All I IIIII	at Gtartop	Otartup	Gtartup	Otartup
Less Than \$10,000	37.5	9.4	8.5	24.9	11.4
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	38.1	40.8	47.2	49.6	42.5
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	21.5	42.5	41.0	24.1	39.5
\$1,000,000 or More	3.0	7.3	3.4	1.6	6.7
Young Firms					
Less Than \$10,000	35.5	7.4	7.5	23.1	9.8
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	38.4	37.3	45.7	50.8	42.5
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	22.8	46.2	43.3	24.7	40.4
\$1,000,000 or More	3.4	9.0	3.4	1.5	7.4
Old Firms					
Less Than \$10,000	38.4	10.2	9.0	26.0	12.2
\$10,000 to Less Than \$100,000	37.9	42.1	48.0	48.8	42.4
\$100,000 to Less Than \$1,000,000	20.9	41.1	39.7	23.6	39.1
\$1,000,000 or More	2.8	6.6	3.3	1.6	6.3

Table 5A. Owner Characteristics and Financing Sources by Firm Size, 2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

Pooled (Percent)		:					
Firm Age and Size	All Firms	All Owners Female	Any Owner <35	Any Owner 35 to 54	Any Owner 55 plus	All Owners College Plus	All Owners Non- White or Hispanic
All Firms		•			•		•
1 Employee	23.5	19.8	7.8	50.5	49.3	44.8	15.8
2-4 Employees	33.0	15.7	8.1	53.2	51.4	40.4	17.6
5-19 Employees	31.6	13.3	7.7	57.2	54.2	42.6	14.3
20-99 Employees	9.9	9.0	6.9	60.5	62.6	47.3	10.4
100+ Employees	2.0	7.7	5.7	56.7	71.5	59.8	9.2
All Firms		15.1	7.8	54.6	53.3	43.2	15.3
Young Firms 1 Employee 2-4 Employees 5-19 Employees 20-99 Employees 100+ Employees All Firms	30.4 35.0 26.4 6.9 1.2	23.1 19.4 16.9 9.6 6.6 19.0	15.5 17.5 17.2 13.2 7.9 16.4	61.5 65.5 68.5 70.0 65.0 65.4	32.1 31.9 35.1 46.9 59.8 34.2	46.0 40.0 42.2 49.4 62.4 43.3	20.1 23.8 20.3 13.5 10.2 20.9
Old Firms 1 Employee 2-4 Employees	20.4 32.1 33.9	17.6 14.0 12.0	2.9 3.7 4.5	43.4 47.4 53.4	60.5 60.8 60.7	44.0 40.5 42.7	12.9 14.7 12.3
5-19 Employees 20-99 Employees	11.2	8.8	5.2	57.9	66.9	46.7	9.6
100+ Employees All Firms	2.3	7.9 13.3	5.2 4.0	54.7 49.9	74.2 61.7	59.4 43.1	8.9 12.8



Table 5B. Owner Characteristics and Financing Sources by Firm Size,

2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

2007-2010 FOOIed (Ferce			Home		Outside
		Bank	Equity	Credit	Investor
	All	Loan at	Loan at	Cards at	at
Firm Age and Size	Firms	StartUp	Startup	Startup	Startup
All Firms					
1 Employee	23.5	11.5	5.8	11.9	3.4
2-4 Employees	33.0	17.4	7.5	12.5	5.1
5-19 Employees	31.6	24.9	8.8	11.0	6.8
20-99 Employees	9.9	27.0	7.8	7.8	7.5
100+ Employees	2.0	23.8	5.1	4.6	6.9
All Firms		19.5	7.5	11.3	5.6
Young Firms					
1 Employee	30.4	9.9	6.2	14.2	3.8
2-4 Employees	35.0	14.9	8.4	16.0	5.8
5-19 Employees	26.4	23.4	10.1	14.7	7.8
20-99 Employees	6.9	28.3	8.7	9.9	8.4
100+ Employees	1.2	24.7	5.3	5.1	7.7
All Firms		16.7	8.2	14.6	5.9
Old Firms					
1 Employee	20.4	12.6	5.5	10.4	3.2
2-4 Employees	32.1	18.6	7.1	10.8	4.8
5-19 Employees	33.9	25.5	8.3	9.8	6.5
20-99 Employees	11.2	26.7	7.6	7.2	7.3
100+ Employees	2.3	23.6	5.1	4.5	6.7
All Firms		20.7	7.2	9.8	5.4



Table 6. Distribution of Startup Capital Amounts by Firm Size, All Firms, 2007-2016 Pooled (Percent)

,		,		
	Less Than	\$10,000 to Less Than	\$100,000 to Less Than	\$1,000,000
Firm Age and Size	\$10,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	or More
All Firms				
1 Employee	54.6	35.0	9.6	0.8
2-4 Employees	38.8	42.3	17.7	1.3
5-19 Employees	26.4	39.2	31.1	3.3
20-99 Employees	22.4	28.7	36.8	12.1
100+ Employees	25.5	22.8	28.4	23.3
All Firms	37.5	38.1	21.5	3.0
Young Firms				
1 Employee	52.3	35.9	10.8	1.0
2-4 Employees	34.7	43.5	20.1	1.7
5-19 Employees	20.9	38.4	36.3	4.5
20-99 Employees	16.3	23.6	42.5	17.7
100+ Employees	21.3	18.9	30.3	29.5
All Firms	35.5	38.4	22.8	3.4
Old Firms				
1 Employee	56.2	34.4	8.8	0.7
2-4 Employees	40.8	41.6	16.5	1.1
5-19 Employees	28.5	39.5	29.2	2.8
20-99 Employees	24.3	30.2	35.2	10.4
100+ Employees	26.6	23.8	27.9	21.7
All Firms	38.4	37.9	20.9	2.8

Table 7A. Average Arc Four Year Percent Employment Change, by Vingtile (Bottom Half)										
-	Percentiles of Arc Employment Change Distribution									
	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49
Linked Surveys (2002 to 2016)										
All	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-188	-65	-41	-25	-12
Old	-200	-200	-200	-200	-195	-91	-61	-34	-20	-9
Young	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-197	-93	-55	-23
Young Any Owner LT 35	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-192	-62	-28
Young Any Owner 55 Plus	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-199	-98	-61	-31
Young All Owners Female	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-193	-64	-35
Young All Owners College Plus	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-194	-68	-36	-14
Young All Owners Non White or Hispanic	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-104	-62	-32

Table 7B. Average Arc Percent Four Year Employment Change, by Vingtile (Top Half)										
_	Percentiles of Arc Employment Change Distribution									
	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 to 84	85 to 89	90 to 94	95 to 99
Linked Surveys (2002 to 2016)										
All	0	0	0	0	0	15	27	43	65	110
Old	0	0	0	0	0	12	22	31	46	88
Young	-8	0	0	0	1	26	43	57	73	125
Young Any Owner LT 35	-7	0	0	2	26	41	54	69	99	143
Young Any Owner 55 Plus	-12	0	0	0	0	16	30	47	71	121
Young All Owners Female	-15	0	0	0	0	17	36	53	72	123
Young All Owners College Plus	0	0	0	0	2	28	45	60	73	126
Young All Owners Non White or Hispanic	-13	0	0	0	1	25	40	54	72	124



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