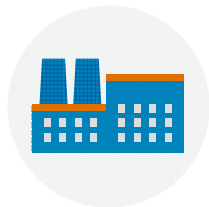


# The small business **CLOSURE CRISIS**

## Baby boomers own half of all privately held firms in **SOUTH CAROLINA**

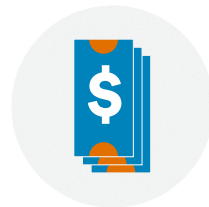
As most of these owners retire, our local business landscape is shifting dramatically. In South Carolina this Silver Tsunami affects:



**36,300**  
firms



**423,100**  
employees



**\$73.3B**  
in revenue

The industries in South Carolina with the most businesses owned by baby boomers are:



Sources: Census 2018 Annual Business Survey (ABS, data from 2017) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)



**SMALL  
BUSINESSES**  
are the lifeblood of  
our economy

They make up 99.4% of all firms and provide 43.8% of all jobs in South Carolina. In addition, they circulate 3x more money back into local communities than absentee-owned businesses and corporate chains.

**By selling to their employees, business owners make a more enduring impact on their communities and help stabilize local economies through job preservation.**



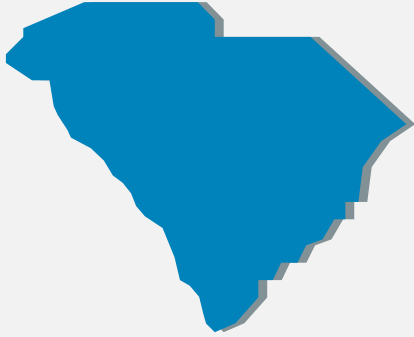
The ESOP Association

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project-equity.org

# The Employee Ownership solution

Employee ownership, including ESOPs and worker cooperatives, addresses the Silver Tsunami by providing viable succession plans that lead to job retention and dollars staying local.



**Over the last 12 years, ESOP companies were 235% better at keeping jobs rooted when compared to conventionally owned companies.**

<https://esopassociation.org/articles/eo-firms-dramatically-better-retention>



## Benefits to communities

- Jobs retained
- Increased local spending
- Heightened civic engagement
- Community wealth building

## Benefits to workers

- Better pay and benefits
- Assets and business ownership
- Voice in key decisions

## Benefits to businesses

- Higher productivity and growth
- Lower employee turnover
- Improved longevity, lasting legacy

**Learn how government leaders, business advisors and others can advance employee ownership.**

**Visit [esopassociation.org/advocacy/issues](https://esopassociation.org/advocacy/issues)**



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