In the first quarter of 2008, there were 8.8 million business *establishments* employing 113.2 million workers in the U.S. private sector.

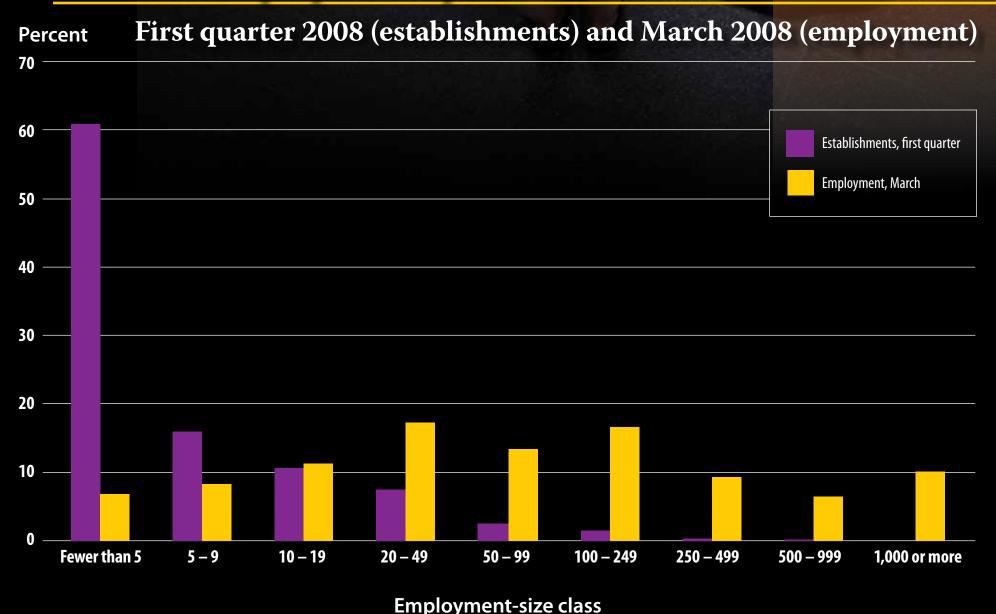
More than three quarters of these establishments employed fewer than 10 workers.

Establishments with 20–49 workers, with 17.4 percent of all private-sector workers, maintained the largest share of private-sector employment.



An *establishment* is defined as an economic unit that produces goods or services, usually at a single physical location, and engages in one or predominantly one activity. A firm may consist of several establishments under common ownership by a corporate parent.

## FIGURE 2 Percent distribution of private-sector establishments and employment by size class



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