



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

**Informational Memo | Community Safety Surcharge Industry Breakdown |
December 2025**

The Community Safety Surcharge applies only to Chicago's largest employers, those with 500 or more full-time employees. This threshold focuses the surcharge on firms with substantial operational scale and financial capacity, while exempting almost all small and mid-sized businesses in the city. We identified an estimated 176 firms from *historical taxpayer data*¹ that meet this criterion and used the U.S. Census Bureau's North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) definitions to analyze their distribution across major industry sectors.

The largest share of these firms is in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, which includes legal, consulting, engineering, architectural, and accounting companies. This sector includes 33 firms, making up 18.8 percent of the total. The second-largest sector is Finance and Insurance, which includes banks, investment firms, credit institutions, and insurance carriers, with 23 firms or 13.1 percent. Manufacturing, which involves food production, fabricated metal, chemical, and machinery manufacturing, accounts for 20 firms or 11.4 percent.

Several additional sectors also have a significant number of large employers. Administrative and Support Services, which includes staffing agencies, building maintenance, security services, and other support operations, consists of 19 firms (10.8 percent). Accommodation and Food Services, including hotels and major food service providers, includes 17 firms (9.7 percent). Both Retail Trade and Transportation and Warehousing each comprise 16 firms (9.1 percent). Retail covers general merchandise and specialty retailers, while Transportation and Warehousing include freight carriers, logistics providers, and distribution centers.

Nine firms (5.1%) are in the Information sector, which includes publishing, broadcasting, telecommunications, and data services. Management of Companies and Enterprises accounts for seven firms (4.0%).

Several sectors each have three major employers: Construction (contractors and builders), Health Care and Social Assistance (for-profit providers), Wholesale Trade (large distributors), and Real Estate and Leasing (property management and leasing companies), each representing 1.7%. Smaller sectors impacted by the CSS include Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (fitness and gaming) and Educational Services and Other Services (for-profit).

¹ The current estimates of number of applicable companies are informed by confidential taxpayer information available during the implementation of the former Employer Expense Tax Ordinance.



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Overall, Chicago's firms with 500 or more full-time employees are distributed across fifteen NAICS-defined sectors, with no single industry accounting for more than one-fifth (20%) of the total. Most sectors represent less than 10% of the identified firms.

Sector	Estimated Number of Firms	Share
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	33	18.8%
Finance and Insurance	23	13.1%
Manufacturing	20	11.4%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	19	10.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	17	9.7%
Retail Trade	16	9.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	16	9.1%
Information	9	5.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7	4.0%
Construction	3	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3	1.7%
Wholesale Trade	3	1.7%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3	1.7%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2	1.1%
Educational Services	1	0.6%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1	0.6%
Total	176	100%



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