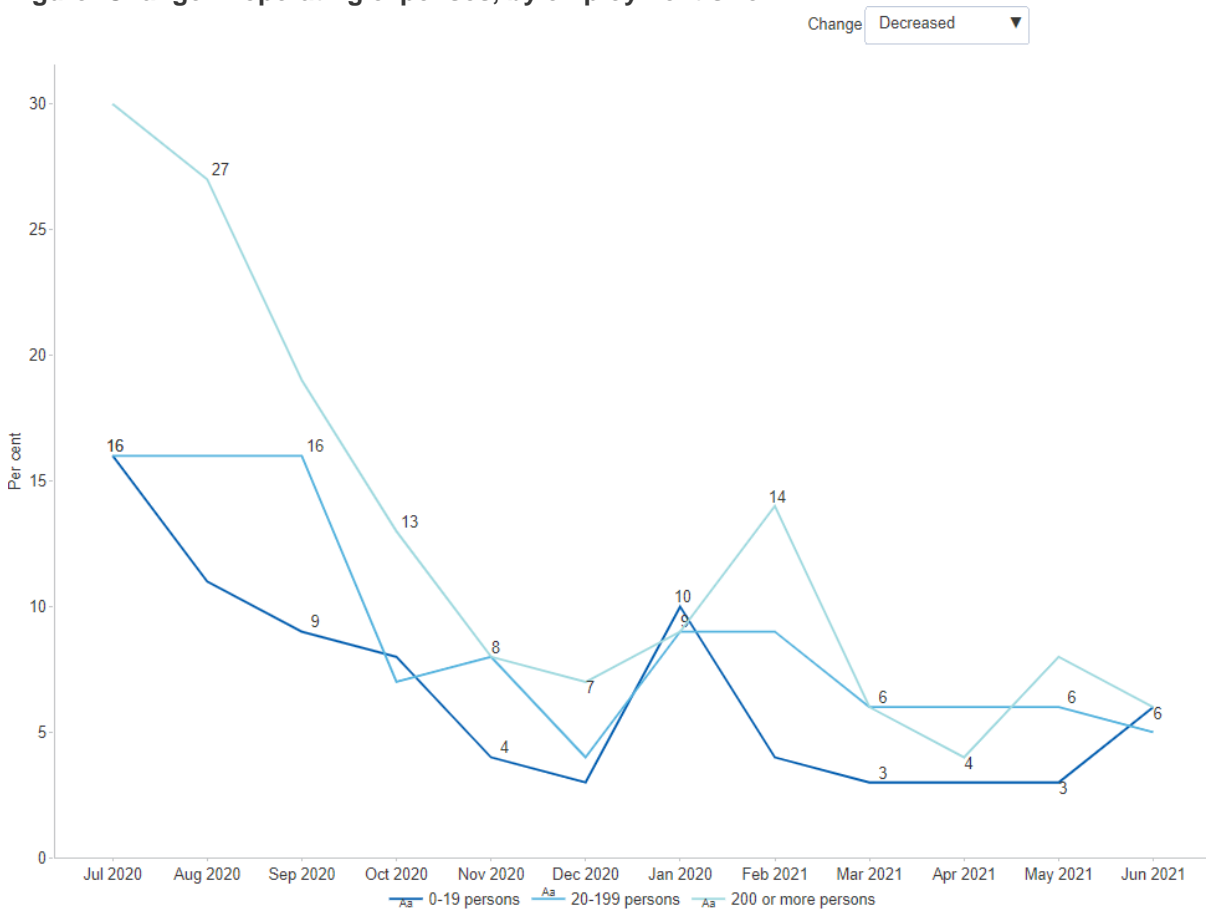


Operating expenses over time

Since July 2020, the share of businesses reporting reduced operating expenses has decreased, from roughly one in six (16 per cent) to 6 per cent in June 2021. Large businesses were 4 percentage points more likely, on average, to report increased operating expenses than small businesses. The industries in which businesses were most likely to have reported an increase in operating expenses were *Arts and Recreation Services* (46 per cent), *Manufacturing* (30 per cent) and *Other Services* (29 per cent). Just 8 per cent of businesses sought additional funds over the last three months. The industries most likely to have sought additional funds were *Arts and Recreation Services* (39 per cent), *Education and Training* (20 per cent), and *Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services* (19 per cent). One in five businesses (21 per cent) reported accessing support measures in the form of Government wage subsidies, most frequently in *Information Media and Telecommunications* (38 per cent), *Construction* (34 per cent), and *Manufacturing* (33 per cent).¹

Figure: Change in operating expenses, by employment size



¹ ABS, *Business Indicators, Business Conditions and Sentiments* (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/business-conditions-and-sentiments/latest-release>)