

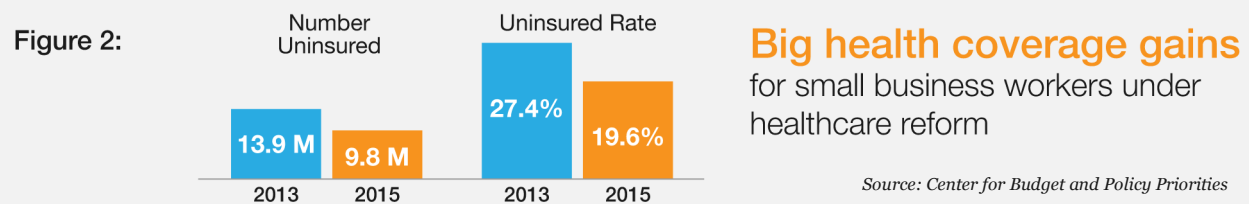
## The Affordable Care Act's impact on small business

Over the past four years, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided healthcare to more than 20 million individuals who otherwise couldn't access coverage. While we believe certain provisions of the ACA can and should be improved, repealing the law will eradicate hard-won benefits for America's entrepreneurs, cause a rapid rise in healthcare costs and create tremendous economic instability. Below are key facts outlining the ACA's impact on our nation's small businesses.

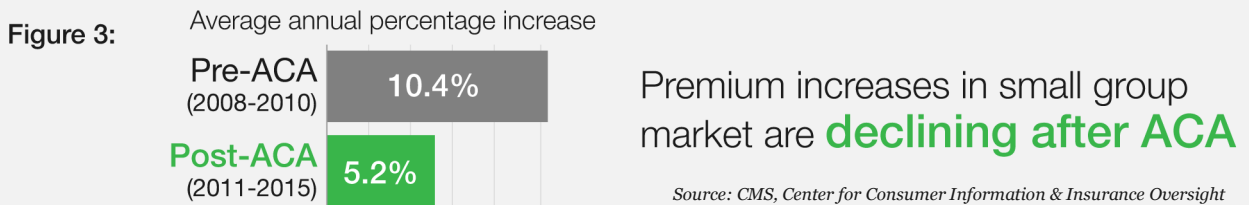
The health insurance marketplaces created under the ACA have been a vital resource to small businesses and self-employed entrepreneurs. A new report released by the U.S. Treasury Department and the Department of Health and Human Services revealed that in 2014, **1 in 5 people who purchased healthcare through an ACA marketplace was a small business owner, self-employed or both.**



Prior to the law's enactment, small businesses and their employees comprised a disproportionate share of the working uninsured. However, a recent analysis found that the number of uninsured small business employees (those working at firms with fewer than 50 workers) **dropped by more than four million** between 2013 and 2015 and their **uninsured rate fell** from 27.4% to 19.6%.



Thanks to the healthcare law's cost-containment provisions, premiums are stabilizing for many small firms. Prior to the ACA, **small businesses paid 18% more on average for health coverage** than large companies and usually received fewer comprehensive benefits. We're now seeing much **smaller increases in the small group market** compared to pre-ACA, where double-digit increases were often the norm.



The ACA is also **helping to end "job lock,"** allowing workers who previously felt tied to their job by their benefits package to seek out their own entrepreneurial path or join thriving small businesses. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation predicted 1.5 million more people would launch their own business because of the ACA.

**Figure 4:** **1.5 million** would launch their own business because of the Affordable Care Act.

