

# The Role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Economic Development

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**Abstract:** *Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) are widely considered the backbone of most economies. They contribute significantly to job creation, poverty reduction, innovation, and the diversification of economic activities. Despite the many challenges they face, SMEs continue to play a vital role in the development of both emerging and established economies. This paper explores the importance of SMEs, the hurdles they encounter, their impact on economic growth, and strategies for ensuring their long-term success. Additionally, it examines how government policies, access to finance, technology adoption, and skills development can help boost SME growth.*

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