The picture of the small, new enterprise located in the service sector or in the high-technology or 'thoughtware' sector as the driving force on the margin of the U.S. economy is a compelling one.

While the growth of new jobs is tied mainly to the expansion in the number of entrepreneurs, the future does not appear to be the domain of small businesses. Drucker notes that the major industries of the postwar period are based on technology developed before 1900. Many new businesses today are in existence because of new technologies developed since 1945 as well as a 'low-tech' shift into retail services. As the new technologies are absorbed by the economy, a new cadre of growing, mid-size firms will emerge from the creative ferment of the small business sector to give the economy new large firms in the 21st century. The small-business employment 'explosion' is as much a part of the demographic pressures on the job market of the 1970s and 1980s as it is a part of the technological changes affecting the economy.[13]

The pressures exerted on the American political system by 1980 by these demographic and occupational conflicts were not consistent or clear. The early baby-boomers, in a sense, had their advantages and wanted to keep them. They were also of an age that has many financial concerns, such as home and children, and fewer overt needs for public services. The late baby-boomers had employment problems which were often met by new service businesses that did not pay well, but had some psychological advantages in being small. Many late baby-boomers became entrepreneurs, or stayed on unemployment and welfare schemes. Unionized factory workers faced with plant closures and layoffs had clear economic interests to protect. Entrepreneurs had a stake in opening up