NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL
ADVISORS TO THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS AND THE SBA

Fast Facts

March 2011

Women Business Owners and their Enterprises

Numbers and Characteristics

- There are 7.8 million women-owned businesses[1] in the United States. This reflects a 20.1% increase from 2002 to 2007.
- Women-owned firms make up 28.7% of all nonfarm businesses across the country and generate $1.2 trillion in total receipts.
- A full 88.3% of these firms are non-employer firms, with average receipts of $26,486.
- The remaining 11.7% of the firms have paid employees, employing a total of 7.6 million people across the country with a payroll of $217.6 billion. These employer firms have average receipts of $1.1 million.

Geography

- The states with the largest percentage of women-owned businesses are: District of Columbia (34.5%), Maryland (32.6%), New Mexico (31.7%), Hawaii (31.0%), and Georgia (30.9%).
- The counties[2] with the largest percentage of women-owned businesses are: Bronx County, NY (40.5%), Wayne County, MI (36.7%), Kings County, NY (33.6%), Milwaukee County, WI (33.0%).
- The cities[2] with the largest percentage of women-owned businesses are: Detroit, MI (49.7%), Baltimore, MD (36.9%), Milwaukee, WI (36.3%), Chicago, IL (36.0%).

Industry

- Women-owned businesses make up more than half (52.0%) of all businesses in health care and social assistance.
- The other top industries for women include: educational services (45.9% of all businesses are women-owned), administration and support and waste management and remediation services (37.0%), retail trade (34.4%), and arts, entertainment, and recreation (30.4%).
- Industries with the lowest percent of women-owned businesses include mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (15.0%), transportation and warehousing (11.4%), agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (10.3%), construction (7.9%), and management of companies and enterprises (6.7%).

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

SOURCE: All data comes from the US Census' 2007 Survey of Business Owners.
[1] Nonfarm businesses only. Women-owned defined as a woman or women owning 51% or more of the company.
[2] Based on the 50 most populous counties and cities.