African American Women-Owned Businesses

2012

Numbers and Characteristics
★ There are 911,728 African American women-owned businesses¹ in the United States. This reflects a tremendous 66.7% increase in number since 2002 and a 191.4% increase since 1997. In comparison, African American men-owned businesses grew 93.1% from 1997 to 2007.
★ African American women-owned firms across the country have total receipts of $36.8 billion. The total receipts of African American women-owned firms grew 78.1% since 2002.
★ Women-owned firms make up 47.4% of all African American nonfarm businesses across the country.
★ A full 96.5% of these firms are non-employer firms, with average receipts of $15,618.
★ The remaining 3.5% of the firms have paid employees, employing a total of 245,474 people across the country with a payroll of $5.6 billion. These employer firms have average receipts of $718,374.

Geography
★ Slightly more than one in 10 (11.7%) of all women-owned firms across the country are owned by African American women.
★ The South has the highest representation (17.2%) followed by the Midwest and Northeast (both 11.1%), and the West (4.4%).
★ The states with the largest number of African American women-owned businesses are: New York (98,877), Georgia (88,920), and Florida (86,001).

Industry
★ The top industries for African American women include: health care and social assistance (32.3% of all African American WOBs are in this sector), other services (23.0%), and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (9.8%).
★ Industries least represented by African American WOBs include management of companies and enterprises (less than .01%), utilities (.04%), agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (.08%), and manufacturing (.68%).

¹ Nonfarm businesses only. Women-owned defined as a woman or women owning 51% or more of the company.