NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

ADVISORS TO THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS AND THE SBA

Fact Sheet

April 2005

Asian American Women and Entrepreneurship

Firms owned by women of color are a growing force in the U.S. economy. Fully one in five (21%) majority-owned, privately-held businesses in this country is now owned by a woman or women of color, and these businesses are growing in number at six times the rate of all U.S. firms.[1] In recognition of Asian Pacific Heritage Month (May), the National Women's Business Council has compiled the following facts about Asian American and Pacific Islander women business owners and their enterprises.

- As of 2004, there are an estimated 419,793 majority-owned, privately-held firms owned by Asian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S., employing nearly 544,000 people and generating $69.7 billion in sales.[1]
- Between 1997 and 2004, the number of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms increased by 69 percent, employment grew by 73 percent and sales rose by 83 percent.[1]
- Nearly one-third (29%) of minority women-owned firms are owned by Asian or Pacific Islanders. Firms owned by Asian and Pacific Islander women now represent 6 percent of all privately-held, majority-owned women-owned firms in the U.S.[1]
- On a national basis, 8.5 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander women were entrepreneurs as of 2002. More than one in 12 adult Asian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S. is a business owner, compared to just one in 18 of all adult women in the U.S. Asian and Pacific Islander women have the second-highest rate of ownership among the major ethnic groups (American Indian & Alaska Native–9.3%; Caucasian–6.0%; Hispanic–4.2%; African American–2.8%).[2]
- Asian American women-owned employer establishments showed the same survival rates as all employer locations between 1997 and 2000. Fully 77 percent of Asian American women-owned employer establishments that were in existence in 1997 were still in business three years later, compared to 75 percent of all women-owned employer establishments and 76 percent of all employer establishments.[3]
- More than half (56%) of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms are in the service sector and 18 percent are in retail trade. The greatest growth by industry in the number of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms from 1997 to 2004 has come in: agriculture/forestry/ fishing (80% growth); transportation/communications/public utilities (75% growth); and services (66% growth).[1]
- The 10 states with the greatest number of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms as of 2002 are: 1) California; 2) New York; 3) Texas; 4) Florida; 5) Hawaii; 6) New Jersey; 7) Virginia; 8) Illinois; 9) Washington; and 10) Georgia.[1]
- The states where Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms comprise the greatest share of all women-owned firms as of 2002 are: 1) Hawaii (55%); 2) California (14%); 3) New York (11%); 4) Virginia (9%); 5) Nevada, New Jersey, Maryland and Washington (tied–8%); and 9) Texas, Georgia, Alaska and the District of Columbia (tied–6%).[1]
- Firms owned by Asian and Pacific Islander women are more likely to have employees than are other women-owned firms. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned firms employ at least one person other than the owner, compared to 16 percent of women-owned firms overall.[4]
- Among women-owned firms with employees, Asian and Pacific Islander firms employ an average of 5.4 workers, compared to 6.0 employees among Latina, 8.1 employees among African American, and 8.5 employees among Native American women-owned employer firms. Overall, women-owned employer firms employ an average of 8.4 workers.[4]

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[1] From Center for Women's Business Research (CWBR)(www.womensbusinessresearch.org)

[2] Calculated by the National Women's Business Council using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and CWBR.

[3] NWBC, "Trends in Asian American Women-Owned Employer Establishments: 1997 to 2000," August 2004. http://www.nwbc.gov/ResearchPublications/documents/issue_in_brief_census_asian.pdf

[4] Calculated by the NWBC using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.