



ADVISORS TO
THE PRESIDENT,
CONGRESS,
AND THE SBA

**10 Facts You Need to Know:
Economic Impact and Business Ownership of Immigrant Women in the U.S.**

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are over 1 million immigrant women business owners in the United States.¹
2. Women born outside of the U.S. are 2.7 percentage points more likely to be self-employed than those born in the U.S. (9.8% vs. 7.1%).²

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Since many firms have more than one owner, one way to analyze the economic impact of immigrant women is to look at firm-level data, as opposed to owner-level data. A firm is considered women-owned and immigrant-owned if it is owned at least 51% by one or more immigrants, and at least 51% by one or more women.³

3. Firms owned by women born outside the U.S. represent 3.9% of firms in the United States. This totals more than 540,000 firms. 19.2% of these firms have employees other than the owner(s), compared to 16.8% of firms owned by women born in the U.S.
4. Firms owned by immigrant women employ over 714,000 individuals—representing 1.6% of employees at privately-owned firms in the U.S.—and pay a total of \$19 billion in annual payroll—which represents a 1.3% share of payroll.
5. These firms earn a total of \$101 billion in revenue each year, which is a 1.3% share of revenue for all firms.
6. Women-owned, immigrant-owned firms are than 50% more likely to export compared to firms owned by women born in the U.S. (4.9% vs. 3.3%).

INDUSTRY TRENDS:

7. Like all women-owned firms, those owned by immigrants concentrate in the following industries, which contain over about two-thirds of all women-owned firms for immigrants and non-immigrants alike.⁴
 - Professional, scientific, and technical services
 - Other services (a broad category; examples include car washes and nail salons)
 - Health care and social assistance
 - Retail trade
 - Real estate and rental and leasing
8. Firms owned by immigrant women are disproportionately present in the following industries: accommodation and food services; wholesale trade; and other services.

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY:

9. Among self-employed women, 18.9% were born outside of the U.S. The most common countries of origin among these women are Mexico, whose nationals represent 21.2% of self-employed immigrant women, followed by Korea (5.7%), Vietnam (4.0%), and El Salvador (3.5%).⁵
10. This is line with data from the Survey of Business Owners, which shows that 24.3% of immigrant women business owners are also Hispanic and, 36.4% are Asian.⁶

Methodology & Endnotes

1. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners (2007 SBO) published estimates via American FactFinder.
2. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 1-Year American Community Survey public use microdata set (1-Year 2007 ACS PUMS). This statistic includes self-employed workers at both incorporated and unincorporated businesses.
3. Data source for economic impact data: 2007 SBO public use microdata set (2007 SBO PUMS). Due to firms for which immigrant status of owners is not reported, estimates for number of firm, employment, payroll, and revenue may underestimate the actual values, and percentages may not accurately reflect the population. The methodology of using 51% ownership as a threshold is in line with U.S. Census Bureau practices.
4. Data on industry trends is also from the 2007 SBO PUMS and is therefore subject to the same constraints described in footnote (3).
5. Data source: 2007 1-Year ACS PUMS.
6. Data source: 2007 SBO PUMS.