



Celebrating the contributions of women-owned small businesses

October is National Women's Small Business Month

Did You know?

- The United States ranks first for female entrepreneurship, compared to 17 other countries, [according to a 2013 study](#).
- According to the [U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 Survey of Business Owners](#), women owned 7.8 million businesses and accounted for 28.7% of all businesses nationwide.
- There was a 20.1% increase of women-owned businesses between 2002 and 2007, according to the [U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 Survey of Business Owners](#).
- Women-owned firms represent one of the fastest growing segments of the economy, experiencing growth at 44%, twice as fast as men-owned firms, according to a [study](#) by the Economic and Studies Administration (ESA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Based on 2007 data, women-owned firms are generally small businesses by default as [6.9 million women-owned firms](#) had no employees, and those who did, on average, employed [slightly more than 8 workers](#).
- The ESA [reported](#) that “the number of minority women-owned businesses increased faster than non-minority women-owned businesses, with minority women accounting for more than half of the increase in women-owned businesses.”
- According to the [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#), in FY 2012 women-owned small businesses were awarded \$16.2 billion in prime federal contracts.
- In FY 2012, women-owned small businesses received [over \\$2.6 billion in loans](#) guaranteed by the SBA.
- A [study by the National Women’s Business Council](#) found that patent and trademark ownership by women, vital to growing businesses, has increased. For example, “the number of patents granted to women increased by approximately 34.72% from 2009 to 2010.” Additionally, the percentage of trademarks granted has increased from “16.5% in 1980 to more than 33% in 2010.”