



Research Brief

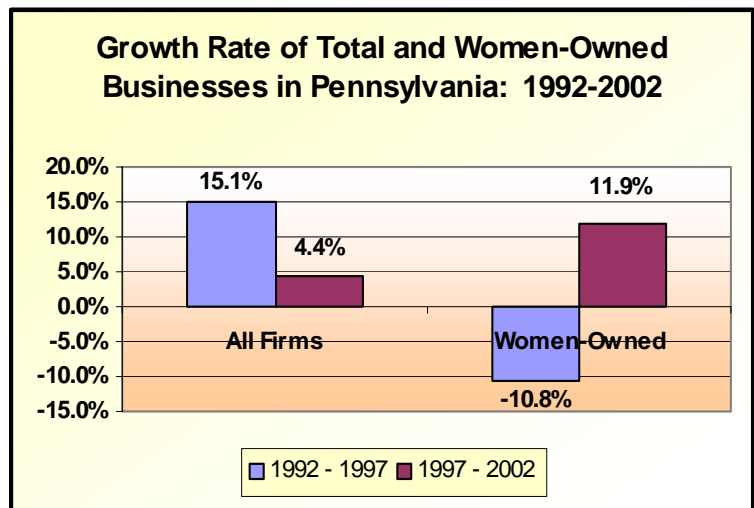
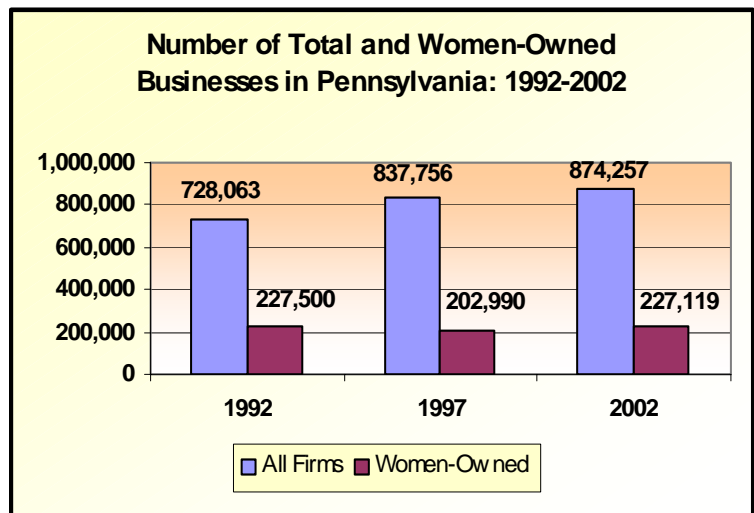
The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Women-Owned Businesses Grew More than Twice Pennsylvania's Average

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –Women-owned businesses in Pennsylvania increased at more than double the state's rate of growth between 1997 and 2002, according to a newly released Census Bureau report, *2002 Survey of Business Owners: Women-Owned Firms*. The report shows that after falling in 1997, the number of Pennsylvania businesses owned by women grew 11.9 percent between 1997 and 2002, below the national rate of 20 percent, but faster than the 4.4 percent growth rate for all firms in the state. The 24,129 firms added during this period bring the number of women-owned businesses to 227,119, or 26.0 percent of the total businesses in the state. Women-owned businesses (192,494) represented an even higher proportion (29.7 percent) of firms with no paid employees. The number of people employed by women-owned businesses (280,654) also grew at twice the commonwealth's rate (+8.8) and their businesses supported a payroll of \$6.3 billion. Women-owned businesses also took in \$39.1 billion in revenue in 2002, about 4.1 percent of the state total. In comparison with other states, the commonwealth had the third lowest rate (45.7) of women-owned firms per 1,000 adult women. (Table 1)

Women-owned businesses in Pennsylvania were most represented in the retail trade (40,758), other services (except public administration) (35,899), professional, scientific, and technical services (32,434), and health care and social assistance (31,659) sectors. Women-owned firms



also accounted for larger than average proportions of the health care (43.4 percent), other services (36.1 percent), and retail industries (35.7 percent). The fewest women-owned firms were found in the management of companies and enterprises (51) and utilities businesses (61). Firms in the wholesale trade sector generated the largest proportion of revenue, \$13.4 billion or 34.3 percent of the total.

Selected Counties

Allegheny (23,509), Philadelphia (18,977), and Montgomery (18,852) counties led selected Pennsylvania counties with 100 or more women-owned businesses. Twenty-seven percent of all women-owned firms were located in these three counties, and thirteen Pennsylvania counties were home to 5,000 or more women-owned businesses. The 11,062 firms in Lancaster County took in roughly \$7.2 billion in revenue, almost double that of any other county and 18.4 percent of the total revenue generated by women-owned businesses. Of the selected counties, the fewest businesses were found in Potter (304) and Fulton (336) counties. Cameron and Sullivan were the only counties to have less than 100 women-owned businesses.

Selected Places

Philadelphia (18,977), Pittsburgh (5,822), Lower Merion (2,162), and Allentown (2,038) led selected Pennsylvania places with 100 or more women-owned businesses. No other places had 2,000 or more businesses. Fifteen Pennsylvania places reported having 1,000 women-businesses or more. The large number of firms in Philadelphia took in more in sales and receipts (\$2.4 billion) than any other place, but surprisingly, women-owned businesses in Pittsburgh produced more than half the revenue (\$1.4 billion) generated in Philadelphia.

Selected Metropolitan and Combined Statistical Areas

More than 72,000 women owned businesses were reported in metropolitan Philadelphia, and 510,736 women-owned firms exist in the neighboring New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area. In the Harrisburg-Carlisle-Lebanon Combined Statistical Area, 11,806 women-owned businesses were reported, and 8,292 were found in the York-Hanover-Gettysburg Combined Area. In the west, more than 44,000 women-owned firms were reported in the Pittsburgh metro area, and 10,508 were located in the Youngstown-Warren-East Liverpool, OH-PA Combined Statistical Area.

A map of: **Women-Owned Businesses, Pennsylvania Counties: 2002**, may be downloaded on the PaSDC website at:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/whats_new/Map_of_the_month.html

The full report, *2002 Survey of Business Owners: Women-Owned Firms*, may be viewed on the PaSDC website at:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/economic_census_data/sb0200cswmn.pdf

For more information on women-owned businesses in Pennsylvania, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.772.2710.

Table 1: Women-Owned Businesses and Rate of Ownership by State: 2002

State	Women Ages 18 and Over *	Women-Owned Businesses	Rate per 1,000 Adult Women
United States	110,866,221	6,489,483	58.5
Alabama	1,770,626	81,820	46.2
Alaska	217,043	16,309	75.1
Arizona	1,998,610	109,749	54.9
Arkansas	1,050,820	49,614	47.2
California	12,962,727	870,612	67.2
Colorado	1,671,196	135,220	80.9
Connecticut	1,371,754	82,119	59.9
Delaware	318,725	15,344	48.1
District of Columbia	243,947	15,675	64.3
Florida	6,642,512	437,415	65.9
Georgia	3,219,436	196,195	60.9
Hawaii	473,504	29,897	63.1
Idaho	488,647	28,824	59.0
Illinois	4,833,360	284,950	59.0
Indiana	2,352,485	118,857	50.5
Iowa	1,149,971	63,821	55.5
Kansas	1,029,357	59,635	57.9
Kentucky	1,605,164	77,159	48.1
Louisiana	1,725,723	86,876	50.3
Maine	523,570	32,512	62.1
Maryland	2,138,593	137,410	64.3
Massachusetts	2,591,568	161,919	62.5
Michigan	3,864,473	217,674	56.3
Minnesota	1,919,039	123,905	64.6
Mississippi	1,106,971	47,102	42.6
Missouri	2,223,954	120,438	54.2
Montana	350,576	24,519	69.9
Nebraska	657,814	38,681	58.8
Nevada	788,395	47,674	60.5
New Hampshire	497,464	31,024	62.4
New Jersey	3,372,139	185,197	54.9
New Mexico	695,764	42,252	60.7
New York	7,665,837	505,134	65.9
North Carolina	3,226,038	173,874	53.9
North Dakota	244,865	13,203	53.9
Ohio	4,477,680	229,973	51.4
Oklahoma	1,339,912	75,029	56.0
Oregon	1,357,847	88,318	65.0

Table 1: Women-Owned Businesses and Rate of Ownership by State: 2002 (Continued)			
State	Women Ages 18 and Over *	Women-Owned Businesses	Rate per 1,000 Adult Women
Pennsylvania	4,971,198	227,119	45.7
Rhode Island	435,066	23,195	53.3
South Carolina	1,612,262	76,831	47.7
South Dakota	287,030	15,573	54.3
Tennessee	2,286,252	117,934	51.6
Texas	7,910,085	468,705	59.3
Utah	797,094	48,474	60.8
Vermont	245,681	18,989	77.3
Virginia	2,826,872	157,076	55.6
Washington	2,309,305	137,396	59.5
West Virginia	733,106	31,301	42.7
Wisconsin	2,095,997	104,170	49.7
Wyoming	188,167	12,945	68.8
* July 1, 2002 Population Estimates			
Source: <i>2002 Survey of Business Owners: Women-Owned Firms</i>			

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *2002 Survey of Businesses: Women-Owned Firms*, Population Estimates Division

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.