

JUL 15 2005



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

19 JUL 2005

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-6350

Dear Senator Kerry:

This is in response to your letter of June 30, 2005, regarding the release of minority business data collected in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Survey of Business Owners.

Data from this survey on minority-owned businesses operating in 2002 will be issued in a series of reports during the next 12 months. Estimates of business ownership by gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino origin for the nearly 23 million businesses in the United States will be released the last week of July 2005. This report will include estimates of receipts, employment and payroll for states and major business sectors. These data will provide the Minority Business Development Agency, Small Business Administration, and other data users current information on growth of minority-owned businesses since the 1997 survey. An earlier report on the characteristics of employer business owners was issued on February 2, 2005.

The next five reports will focus on the specific minority groups: Black; Asian; American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and Hispanic or Latino origin. These data will include more detailed information on the type of business as well as a significant amount of geographic detail including counties, metropolitan areas, and cities with more than one hundred firms.

In addition, you may also be aware that the Census Bureau's new American Community Survey will be releasing detailed demographic and socioeconomic data for all states as well as larger counties and cities in late August 2005. The data will serve as a rich cross-reference source for minority business research, providing annually the kind of detailed census long-form information that has heretofore only been available every ten years.

We appreciate your interest in our economic statistics programs. If you or your staff would like additional information on the 2002 Survey of Business Owners, please have a member of your staff contact our Congressional Affairs Office at (301) 763-6100.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Louis Kincannon  
Director