# American Indian- and Alaska NativeOwned Businesses: 1997 

Census Brief:<br>Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises

## American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms grew in number between 1992 and 1997.

In 1997, there were 197,300 American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses in the United States, employing 298,700 people and generating $\$ 34.3$ billion in revenues. These businesses made up 0.9 percent of the 20.8 million nonfarm businesses in the nation and generated 0.2 percent of their receipts.

The number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms increased 84 percent from 1992 to 1997 , compared with a 7 percent increase for all U.S. firms. ${ }^{1}$ Receipts of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms rose 179 percent over the same period, considerably higher than the 40 percent increase for all U.S. firms.

## About one-third of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses were in four states.

Four states - California, Texas, Oklahoma and Florida accounted for 34 percent of all the nation's American Indianand Alaska Native-owned firms. This reflected the fact that
${ }^{1}$ Excludes C corporations - legally incorporated businesses except for subchapter $S$ corporations, whose shareholders elect to be taxed as individuals rather than as corporations - for which prior comparable data are not available.
about 3-in-10 American Indians and Alaska Natives resided in those four states.

While California had the largest number of American Indian- and Alaska Nativeowned businesses, Alaska had the highest proportion, with 11 percent of its firms being American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned. Oklahoma and New Mexico also exceeded the 5 percent mark. As shown in Figure 1, a majority of states with a higher-than-average proportion (1 percent or more) of their firms owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives were located west of the Mississippi River.

Figure 1.
American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms as a Percent of Total Firms in State: 1997


Figure 2.
Percent Distribution of American Indianand Alaska Native-Owned Firms by Amount of Receipts: 1997


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

## American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms were widely dispersed among counties.

In contrast to other minority-owned firms, businesses owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives were not heavily concentrated in a handful of metropolitan areas. Only 12 percent could be found in the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.; Tulsa, Okla.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Houston, Texas; New York, N.Y.; and Dallas, Texas - the only metropolitan areas in the country with more than 2,500 American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms.

## Average receipts for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms exceeded $\$ 170,000$.

Receipts for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms averaged $\$ 174,100$. As shown in Figure 2, the amount of receipts of American Indian- and Alaska Nativeowned firms ranged widely:

- About 4-in-10 had receipts of under \$10,000.
- For about 2-in-10, receipts were between \$10,000 and $\$ 24,999$.
- Another 2-in-10 had receipts of between $\$ 25,000$ and \$99,999.
- The remaining almost 2 -in- 10 had receipts totaling $\$ 100,000$ or more. A small subset of these firms 4,900 in all had receipts of $\$ 1$ million or more and accounted for almost twothirds of the total receipts for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms.


## Highest number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms were in service industries.

As shown in Figure 3, American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms could be found in a wide variety of businesses. The largest concentration (17 percent) operated in the service industries. They accounted for 15 percent of the receipts of all businesses owned by people of this race; of these firms, 40 percent were concentrated in business and personal services.

Construction industries, with 14 percent of all American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms and 16 percent of receipts, accounted for the next highest concentration.

## More information

The information in this census brief is based on findings from the report titled 1997 Survey of MinorityOwned Business Enterprises: American Indians and Alaska Natives. The report may be found on the Internet at [http://www.census.gov/csd/mwb/](http://www.census.gov/csd/mwb/).

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The data were collected in a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling errors. Sources of nonsampling error include errors of response, nonreporting and coverage. Further details concerning survey design, methodology and data limitations are contained in the full report. Comparisons with 1992 should be carried out with extreme caution as the result of changes in tax laws causing inconsistencies between the 1992 and the 1997 data. Changes in survey methodology also may contribute to differences.

Figure 3.
Percent Distribution of American
Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms by Industry Division: 1997


