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The Number of Minority Nonemployer Firms Grew by Nearly 17% between 2014 and 2017

U.S. Census Bureau Releases New Data Product

WASHINGTON (December 18, 2020) — The Nation’s nearly 8.2 million minority nonemployer firms generated \$279.3 billion in revenues in 2017 and grew in number at four times the rate of nonminority nonemployer firms between 2014 and 2017. The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau (Census), released these new statistical data today in the [2017 Minority Business Summary for Nonemployer Businesses \(Summary\)](#). The Summary provides an overview of minority nonemployer businesses by race, sex, veteran status and state, drawn from the Census Bureau’s new [Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics \(NES-D\)](#) data product, including [growth comparisons to 2014 levels](#) and to non-minority nonemployer firms..

NES-D are annual statistical data developed by linking existing administrative data and Census Bureau survey data to assign demographic characteristics to the universe of nonemployer businesses, including the nearly 8.2 million minority-owned nonemployer businesses. NES-D replaces the nonemployer component of the Census Bureau’s Survey of Business Owners (SBO), which was conducted every five years and ended in 2012. The NES-D provides more frequent and timely high-quality data at lower cost than the SBO with no additional respondent burden.

“These data provide an essential benchmark on the strength of the minority business sector prior to COVID-19,” said MBDA National Director David J. Byrd. “The new annual data will help us identify analyze the state of minority businesses more precisely and will better guide the creation and deployment of federal resources to support minority entrepreneurs. We have the opportunity through our partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to enhance cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among communities, entrepreneurs and business leaders.”

Major highlights of the 2017 Minority Business Summary for Non-Employer Businesses include:

- In 2017, the nation's minority nonemployer firms generated over \$279.3 billion in receipts.
- The number of minority nonemployer firms grew by 16.7 percent to 8.169 million between 2014 and 2017, nearly four times the 4.2 percent growth in the number of non-minority nonemployer firms.
- Of the 8.169 million minority nonemployer firms in 2017, 3.635 million (44.5 percent) were Hispanic-owned; 2.951 million (36.1 percent) were black or African-American-owned;

1.960 million (24.0 percent) were Asian-owned; 84,500 (1.0 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Native-owned; 38,500 (0.5 percent) were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned. The owner of a Hispanic-owned firm may be of any race.

- Minority women-owned nonemployer firms totaled 3.779 million (46.3 percent of total minority non-employer firms), with receipts totaling over \$83.7 billion.
- Minority veteran-owned nonemployer firms were 312,000 (3.8 percent of total minority non-employer firms), with receipts totaling over \$9.3 billion.

MBDA's Office of Policy Analysis and Development (OPAD) plans to use the NES-D data in upcoming fact sheets and reports. For other research and data resources, please visit <https://www.mbda.gov/about-us/research-data>.

About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, www.mbda.gov, is the only federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Our programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. After 47 years of service, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to providing programs and services that build size, scale and capacity through access to capital, contracts and markets. Follow us on Twitter [@usmbda](https://twitter.com/usmbda).

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