SURVEY OF BUSINESS OWNERS FACTS
Black- or African American-Owned Businesses in the United States

Firms

2.6M Black- or African American-owned businesses
34% growth from 2007 to 2012
109K have paid employees (4.2%)
2.5M nonemployer firms (95.8%)
$150B annual receipts

There are more young Black or African American business owners than average.

Percentage of business owners by age group

Black or African American owners

All owners

Under 35
21%
14%
55 and over
29%

Employment

975K employees at Black- or African American-owned businesses
840K at small firms with fewer than 500 employees (86.1%)
645K at firms with fewer than 100 employees (66.2%)

Share of employment at Black- or African American-owned firms by firm size

Fewer than 20 (36%)
20-99 (30%)
100-499 (20%)
500+ (14%)

Top Industries Among Black- or African American-Owned Businesses

- The industries with the highest average number of employees per firm are employment services, management of companies and enterprises, and traveler accommodation.

   Dentists’ offices were the most likely to have paid employees (54.7%, compared to 4.2% for all Black- or African American-owned firms).

   For employer firms, those in other food manufacturing have the highest average annual receipts per firm ($12.3 million), compared to an industry-wide average of $11.7 million.

Data source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau