



 WALKER'S LEGACY

**NATIVE WOMEN
ENTREPRENEUR
FAST FACT SHEET**

WWW.WALKERSLEGACY.COM

WALKER'S LEGACY

NATIVE WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP FAST FACT SHEET

1. Last year, Native Americans/Alaskan Natives owned **1.4%** of all women-owned businesses (an estimated 161,500), employing 61,300 workers and generating **\$11 billion** in revenues.⁽¹⁾
2. Since 1997, women-owned businesses grew by 114%, while Native women-owned businesses grew by **201%**.⁽²⁾
3. Native American/Alaskan businesses grew at **76%**. These rates are slower than those of women of color in general, but faster than overall women-owned businesses.⁽³⁾
4. While the number of women-owned businesses grew 114% from 1997 to 2017, firms owned by Native American/Alaskan Natives grew by **493%**.⁽⁴⁾
5. Native American/Alaskan Native segments also had **higher rates** (314% and 201%, respectively) than the overall average.⁽⁵⁾
6. As of 2017, Native American/Alaska Natives owned 1.4% of all women-owned businesses (an estimated 161,500), employing **61,300** workers and generating **\$11 billion** in revenues. Annual growth of the number of firms between 1997 and 2017 was 6% vs. 5% over the past year.⁽⁶⁾
7. Over the past two decades, women-owned businesses have increased their numbers by 6.2 million firms. A vast majority – **71% or 609** – of the new women owned businesses launched each day are owned by women of color, compared to only 240 non-minority owned businesses.⁽⁷⁾

WALKER'S LEGACY

8. In 2016, **2/3** of all American Indian and Alaskan Native women in the United States were the primary breadwinners in their families.⁽⁸⁾
9. **4 in 5** Native women will experience violence in their lifetime.⁽⁹⁾
10. For Native women, who are murdered at rates **10 times** the national average, inaction on **pay equity** could mean the difference between becoming a statistic and being able to **end the cycle of violence**.⁽¹⁰⁾
11. When women are **financially secure** and **independent**, they are more likely able to **escape violence** at home.⁽¹¹⁾
12. The number of Native Women owned companies **increased** per day by **22**.⁽¹²⁾
13. As of 2019, Native American/Alaska Native women-owned businesses:
 - a. Numbered **180,300 or 1.4%** of all women-owned businesses.⁽¹³⁾
 - b. Have **grown** at an annual rate for the past year of **6%** compared to 4.7% annual growth between 2014 and 2019.⁽¹³⁾
 - c. Earned average revenue per firm of **\$68,500** vs. \$142,900 among all women-owned businesses.⁽¹³⁾
14. Native American/Alaska Native business owners experienced a relatively **slow rate of growth** in the number of sidepreneur ventures (36%) over the past five years. This was lower than the rate for all women (39%) but **higher than** for all sidepreneur businesses (32%).⁽¹⁴⁾
15. Native women make up **0.61%** of the **low-wage** workforce (defined as the 40 lowest-paying jobs) while they make up just **0.33%** of the **overall workforce**.⁽¹⁵⁾

16. Among the **ten most common occupations** for Native women, four of those occupations, janitors, building cleaners, maids and housekeepers, childcare workers, waiters and waitresses, and cooks, typically pay Native women **less than \$10 per hour** while they typically pay white men much more.⁽¹⁶⁾
17. Native women experience a **wage gap** at **every education level**. Those with Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, and professional degrees face **larger gaps** than those with high school diplomas.⁽¹⁷⁾
18. Certain Native women experience a larger wage gap than is reflected in the number for Native women overall.⁽¹⁸⁾
 - a. **Tohono O'odham** women experience the **largest wage gap** and typically make less than half, **46.5%**, of what white men make. **Lumbee, Navajo, Pueblo, Sioux,** and **Yaqui** women typically make slightly more than half of what white men make; about **52%**.⁽¹⁸⁾
 - b. Additionally, **Blackfoot, Iroquois,** and **Puget Sound Salish** women all are typically paid less than **60%** of what white men make. No Native women community typically makes more than 69 cents for every dollar made by white, non-Hispanic men.⁽¹⁸⁾

Notes:

1. <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/disparities/>
2. Ibid.
3. <https://www.nawrb.com/minoritywomenownedbusinesses/>
4. <https://wbecsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AMEXStateofWOB2017.pdf>
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. <http://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>
9. <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/disparities/>
10. Ibid.
11. <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/disparities/>
12. <https://fzpdigital.com/ladies-who-lead-35-amazing-women-in-business-statistics/>
13. https://s1.q4cdn.com/692158879/files/doc_library/file/2019-state-of-women-owned-businesses-report.pdf
14. Ibid
15. NWLC calculations based on ACS 2017 1-year sample using Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas, and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 9.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2019, available at <https://ipums.org/>.
16. Id. Figures are in 2017 dollars. Median hourly wages are for full time, year round workers. Hourly wages are derived by dividing median annual earnings by 2,080 hours, which assumes a 40-hour work week for 52 weeks.
17. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/23/deb-haaland-native-american-women-pay-gap-even-bigger-heres-a-way-to-fix-it.html>
18. <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Native-Women-Equal-Pay-2019.pdf>