

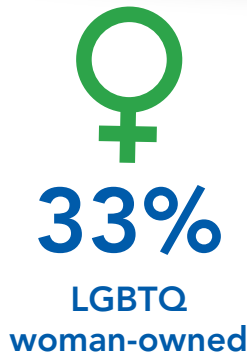
The LGBTQ+ business community is diverse and drives growth and community development across the country.



Economic Impact

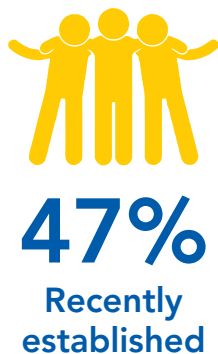
LGBTQ+-owned businesses contribute \$1.7 Trillion to the U.S. economy.

Source: [LGBT Chamber of Commerce](#)



Gender

LGBTQ+ businesses are more likely to be woman-owned than other businesses (33% vs. 20%).



Firm Age

LGBTQ+ businesses are younger than other businesses. Nearly half (47%) have been in operation less than 5 years, vs. 34% for other businesses.

Source: Federal Reserve 2023 Small Business Credit Survey.



Industry

Top industries include professional services and real estate, healthcare and education, and leisure and hospitality.



Race & Ethnicity

LGBTQ+ businesses are similar to other businesses in terms of the race and ethnicity of owners but less diverse than the U.S. population. Approximately 80% of employer firms are white-owned.



Immigrant-owned

LGBTQ+ businesses are owned by immigrants at a similar rate as other businesses (18% vs. 17%).



Location

LGBTQ+ businesses locate in rural areas at a similar rate as non-LGBTQ+ businesses. The largest share of LGBTQ+ businesses are in the U.S. West Coast and the South.



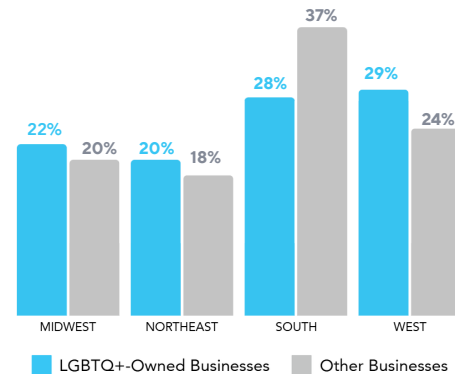
LGBTQ+ Business Ownership Fact Sheet

Supporting LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs through inclusive policies and access to resources is essential for creating a more equitable and dynamic business landscape.

Inclusive Policies Matter

LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs are more likely to open businesses in states with nondiscrimination policies for the LGBTQ+ community, leading to underrepresentation in the U.S. South and overrepresentation in the U.S. West. LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs also face additional challenges accessing resources, including discrimination from investors, lenders and customers.

Geographic Distribution of LGBTQ+-owned vs. Other Businesses



Health & Safety

LGBTQ+ businesses are more likely to report challenges ensuring the health and safety of their employees and customers (14% vs. 9%).



Discouragement

LGBTQ+ businesses report being discouraged from applying for credit even when they need it at higher rates than other businesses (14% vs. 6%).



Credit Applications

LGBTQ+-owned businesses seek credit for similar reasons as other businesses, and at similar institutions (mostly large banks), and at similar rates.



The Credit Gap

LGBTQ+-owned firms are more likely to be denied credit than other firms (33% vs. 21%).

Let's start new conversations about how we can work together to support underserved small businesses across the U.S. **Share your ideas with the research team at research@aeoworks.org.**

Source: Federal Reserve 2023 Small Business Credit Survey.



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