

# Native American Business Ownership Fact Sheet

Native American entrepreneurship is an essential part of community resilience, cultural preservation, and sustainability.



**403k**  
Businesses

## Business Owners

There are **402,533** Native-owned businesses operating across the U.S.



**308k**  
Employees

## Job Creation

Native-owned businesses employ **307,993** people nationwide, creating economic opportunities within their communities.



**\$67**  
Billion in Sales

## Economic Impact

Native-owned businesses added more than \$66.9 billion dollars to the national economy in 2020.



## Firm Growth

The number of Native-owned businesses has increased by **47%** since 2012.



## Youth-Driven Growth

Native youth (under 35) are **more likely to be self-employed** than their non-Native peers (6.2% vs. 5%), highlighting their entrepreneurial leadership.



## Race & Ethnicity

Native Americans are **more likely to identify with two or more races than other racial groups**, and 66% of Native American business owners also identify as Hispanic.



## Location

Native Americans are more likely to live in rural areas than the general population (**22%** vs. **17%**). **Native entrepreneurs serve as anchors in rural communities and support broader economic resilience.**

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Supporting Native entrepreneurs through access to capital and resources is essential for creating a more equitable and dynamic business landscape.



## Geographic Barriers

Distance from financial service providers is a challenge for many Native-owned businesses.

**Less than a quarter of Native-owned businesses bank within 2 miles of their business, vs. 40% of other businesses.**



## Small Loan Amounts

**Native-owned businesses seek smaller loans than their non-Native peers. About two-thirds of Native-owned businesses (66%) apply for less than \$25k vs. 43% of non-Native businesses.**



## The Credit Gap

**Native-owned businesses face challenges accessing the capital they need to sustain their businesses.** Non-Native-owned businesses receive all of the financing for which they apply at almost twice the rate of Native-owned businesses (39% vs. 23%).



## Capital and Support

**Native American Financial Institutions play a critical role in filling the gap through relationship-based lending. Character-based measures have even outperformed personal credit scores in predicting loan outcomes in studies of Native CDFIs.**

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](mailto:research@aeoworks.org).



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