

Native American Business Ownership Fact Sheet 2025

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



408k
Businesses

Business Owners

There are **408,519** Native-owned businesses operating across the U.S.



333k
Employees

Job Creation

Native-owned businesses employ **333,153** people nationwide, creating economic opportunities within their communities.



\$93
Billion in Sales

Economic Impact

Native-owned businesses added approximately **\$92.5** billion dollars to the national economy in 2021.



Firm Growth

The number of Native-owned businesses has increased by **36%** 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 entrepreneurial leadership among Native youth.



Race & Ethnicity

Just **39%** of Native entrepreneurs report a **single-race identity**—a much lower share than other groups—reflecting long-standing demographic and census patterns.



Location

Native Americans are more likely to live in rural areas than the general population (**about 22% vs 20%**). **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 CDFIs close funding gaps for Native-owned businesses with relationship-based lending: 78% use character-based measures, 67% assess business commitment, and 61% consider client engagement, all of which now outperform credit scores in predicting loan outcomes

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.

Sources: Minneapolis Fed (2025), Native CDFI Landscape: minneapolisfed.org/2025cdfi, Minneapolis Fed (2025), Tailored CDFIs: minneapolisfed.org/2025tailoredcdfi, Central Banking (2024), Credit Barriers: centralbanking.com/credit2024, Minneapolis Fed, CICD, Entrepreneurship Dashboard: minneapolisfed.org/entrepreneur



research@aeoworks.org



research.aeoworks.org

