



**Center for
Women's Business Research**

Knowledge that Means Business

News Release

Media Contact:

Sharon Hadary
Center for Women's Business Research
703-556-7162
shadary@womensbusinessresearch.org

**BUSINESSES OWNED BY WOMEN OF COLOR
GROWING FASTER THAN ALL U.S. FIRMS**

Businesses owned by women of color provide 1.7 million jobs and generate \$235 billion in revenues in 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. - November 20, 2008 - Businesses owned by women of color are growing three times faster than all U.S. firms, according to the Center for Women's Business Research's 2008 biennial update on the trends of businesses owned by women of color. The report, titled *Businesses Owned by Women of Color in the United States 2008*, found that businesses owned by African American, Asian, and Hispanic women business owners substantially outpace all U.S. firms in the growth of revenues and number of employees. The report was underwritten by Wells Fargo & Company (WFC) and is the Center's 9th biennial update on the growth of women-owned firms.

"The face of women entrepreneurship is changing," said Margaret A. Smith, chair, Center for Women's Business Research. "Today, women of color represent 26 percent of all women business owners - up from 20 percent just a few years ago. These business owners are a vital driver of economic growth in every community and a vibrant source of suppliers and customers. As of 2008, there are 2.3 million firms 50 percent or more owned by women of color, providing 1.7 million jobs and generating \$235 billion in revenues."

Between 2002 and 2008, the number of privately-held firms 50 percent or more owned by women of color grew 30 percent while all other businesses grew nine percent. Additionally, revenues for these businesses grew 35 percent compared to 15 percent for all other firms and employment grew 22 percent compared to two percent for all firms, according to the Center's projections.

Among women of color, Latinas have the largest number of businesses – owning an estimated 747,108 firms, employing 430,000 workers and generating revenues of nearly \$62 billion as of 2008. Firms owned by Asian-American women outpaced all other firms in growth in numbers,

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employment and receipts. Asian-American women own the third largest number of firms (627,837), employ 898,240 people, and have revenues of \$128 billion. African-American women own the second highest number of firms (734,664), employ 281,055 people, and have revenues of over \$32 billion.

“When we look at the number, revenues, and employment figures of firms owned by women of different races and ethnicities, there are striking differences in business growth,” said Gwen Martin, PhD, Managing Director and Director of Research, Center for Women’s Business Research. “Our continuing multi-year research project, *Accelerating the Growth of Businesses Owned by Women of Color*, will illuminate some of the dynamics behind these disparities, but clearly more in-depth research is needed to understand the full scope of reasons behind these differences.”

This 2008 update is part of the Center for Women’s Business Research’s 2008 Biennial Report which provides estimates of the number of women-owned businesses in the United States, 50 states, and top metropolitan areas.

The full report, *Businesses Owned by Women of Color in the United States, 2008*, is available from the Center for Women’s Business Research for \$50. For further information, contact: Center for Women’s Business Research, 1760 Old Meadow Dr., McLean, VA 22102. Phone: 703-556-7162. Email: info@womensbusinessresearch.org, Web site: www.womensbusinessresearch.org.

About the Center for Women’s Business Research

The Center for Women’s Business Research provides data-driven knowledge that advances the economic, social, and political impact of women business owners and their enterprises. We do this by setting the national agenda; creating insight on the status and achievements of women business owners; altering perceptions about the economic viability and progress of women-owned enterprises, and driving awareness of the economic and social impact of this vital business sector. For more information, visit www.womensbusinessresearch.org.