



# Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Survey, 2002

## GENDER

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This fact sheet provides information on the characteristics of Aboriginal entrepreneurs and their businesses, based on 2001 Census data and findings from the Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Survey, which used 2002 as the reference period.

The survey was conducted in the fall of 2003 by Statistics Canada on behalf of Industry Canada's Aboriginal Business Canada program.



Industry  
Canada

Industrie  
Canada

Aboriginal Business  
Canada

Entreprise autochtone  
Canada

Canada 

## 2001 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Nearly 37% of Canada's 27 195 Aboriginal self-employed individuals were women. Of these 9930 individuals:

- ◆ almost half were North American Indians;
- ◆ almost six out of ten lived in urban areas; and
- ◆ 88% resided off reserve.

More than 63% of Canada's 27 195 Aboriginal self-employed individuals were men. Of these 17 265 individuals:

- ◆ almost half were Métis;
- ◆ almost half lived in urban areas; and
- ◆ 84% resided off reserve.

## ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURS SURVEY, 2002 HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

When compared to male Aboriginal entrepreneurs, female Aboriginal entrepreneurs:

- ◆ operated businesses in the professional, scientific and technical, education, health and social services industries more often and in the construction industry less often;
- ◆ were more likely to operate their businesses in partnership and less likely to incorporate their business;
- ◆ were more likely to operate a business between zero and five years old and less likely to operate a business over ten years old;
- ◆ were more likely to possess college- or university-level business training;
- ◆ tended to require less start-up financing and were more likely not to borrow any start-up funds;
- ◆ were more likely to have operated full-time in 2002;
- ◆ were less likely to have employees; and
- ◆ were less likely to state that they did not expect their business to grow in the next two years because of barriers.

Aboriginal SMEs: Industry	Male	Female
Primary	16.4%	12.9%*
Construction	22.7%	7.5%
Manufacturing, Transportation & Warehousing	13.1%	4.4%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.3%	12.1%*
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodation, Food & Cultural	14.1%	15.4%*
Services <sup>2</sup>	12.9%	25.3%
Other	8.4%	22.4%
	<b>100.0%</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>100.0%</b> <sup>3</sup>

Aboriginal SMEs: Profile	Male	Female
Ownership Structure		
Sole Proprietorship	67.7%	65.2%*
Partnership	14.5%	24.4%
Incorporation	17.8%	10.4%
Age of Business		
0 - 5 Years	26.7%	41.5%
6 - 9 Years	23.3%	23.8%*
10+ Years	50.0%	34.7%
Business Objectives <sup>4</sup>		
Stability	82.0%	87.1%
Profitability	81.2%	78.2%*
Personal or Family Employment	68.9%	69.4%*
Business Training (College or University Level)	21.5%	32.8%
Business Plan	21.8%	22.1%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Financing	Male	Female
Start-Up Financing		
Less Than \$25 000	62.9%	78.6%
\$25 000 to \$49 999	14.6%	5.9%
\$50 000 to \$99 999	9.4%	8.1%*
\$100 000 or More	13.1%	7.3%
% of Borrowed Start-Up Funds		
None	47.2%	53.8%
Less Than 25%	9.5%	9.7%*
25% - 49%	7.8%	8.4%*
50% - 74%	15.1%	13.6%*
75% - 99%	11.1%	8.0%*
100%	9.4%	6.5%*
Sources of Start-Up Funds		
Personal Savings	81.5%	85.1%*
Loans or Lines of Credit	38.5%	34.9%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Operations	Male	Female
Full-Time Operations in 2002	83.3%	87.4%
Full-Time Employees		
0	59.3%	74.0%
1+	40.7%	26.0%
Aboriginal Full-Time Employees		
0	31.8%	37.9%*
1+	68.2%	62.1%*
Part-Time Employees		
0	64.9%	79.0%
1+	35.1%	21.0%
Aboriginal Part-Time Employees		
0	42.0%	40.5%*
1+	58.0%	59.5%*
Sales to Local Market	78.9%	81.0%*
Sales to Provincial Market	60.0%	49.6%
Sales to National Market	17.6%	18.1%*
Sales to International Market	13.4%	12.8%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Results and Prospects	Male	Female
Profits in 2002	74.1%	69.8%*
Sales Revenues Increase in 2001	42.6%	43.7%*
Sales Revenues Stable in 2001	40.5%	37.7%*
Growth Expectation: Next Two Years	61.8%	64.0%*
No Growth Expectation: Next Two Years	38.2%	36.0%*
Barriers to Growth <sup>5</sup>	61.8%	47.0%
Economic Situation	42.4%	44.1%*
Taxes	44.3%	38.8%*
Access to Financing	38.3%	41.4%*

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Survey, 2002 (2004)

\* Differences between Male and Female results are not large enough to be statistically significant at the 95% level.

1 Identified highlights are based on the weighted responses of the 1126 Aboriginal entrepreneurs who took part in the survey. As such, when attempting to generalize findings to a population or sub-population, data precision indicators must be taken into account.

2 This category includes professional, scientific & technical, education, health & social services.

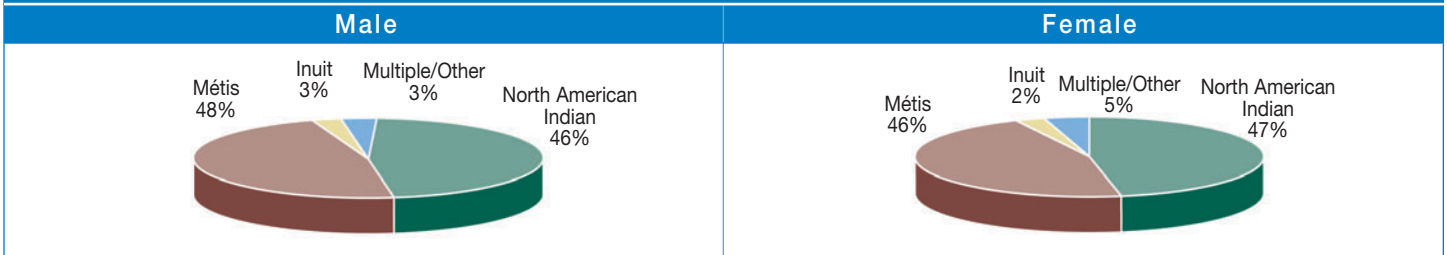
3 Presented industrial distribution percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.

4 Respondents were asked to rate the importance of a number of business objectives. The responses reported here are the business objectives most frequently identified as being "very important" at the national level.

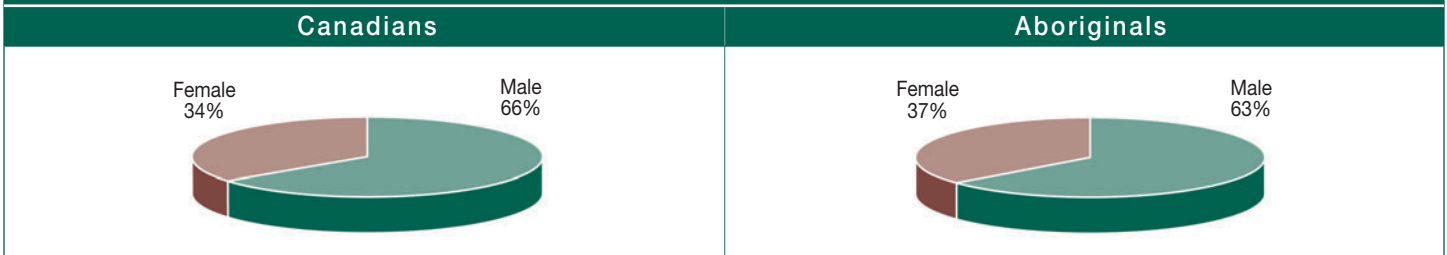
5 Respondents were asked to rate to what extent certain barriers presented obstacles in growing their business over the next two years. The responses reported here are the barriers most frequently identified as being "very important" at the national level.

Gender: Number of Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers	Male	Female
Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers by Gender	17 265	9930

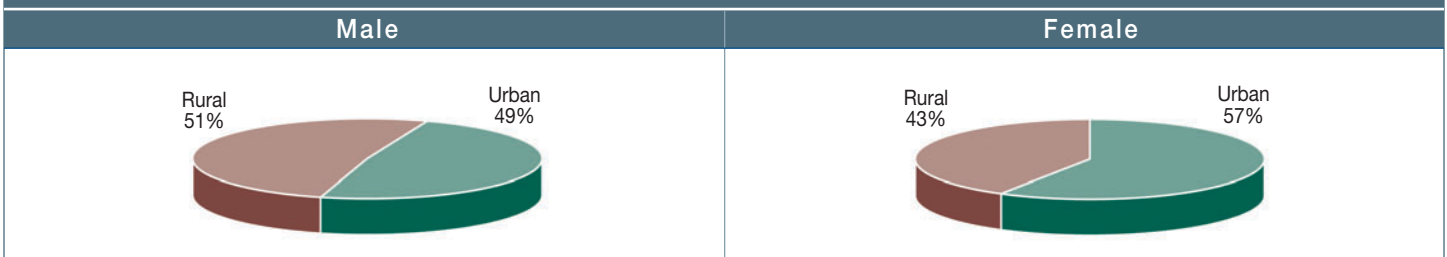
Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers: Heritage Group Distribution



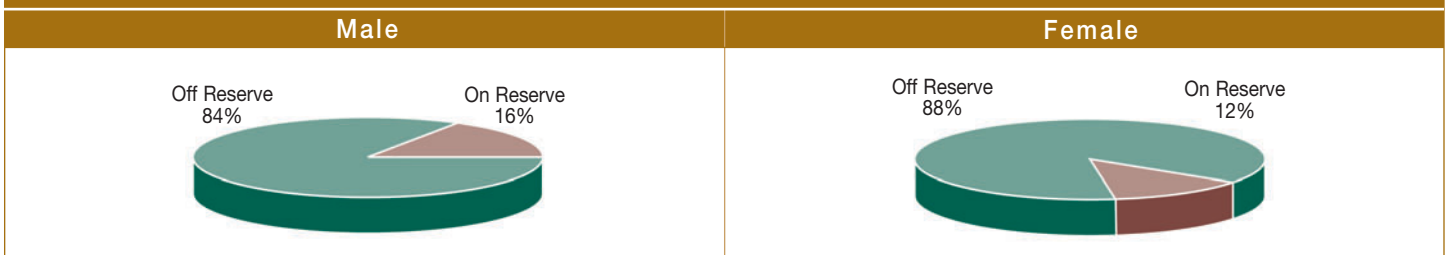
Self-Employed Workers: Gender Distribution



Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers: Urban/Rural Distribution



Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers: On Reserve/Off Reserve Distribution



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census