



# Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Survey, 2002



## URBAN/RURAL

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

Fifty-two percent (52%) of Canada's 27 195 Aboriginal self-employed individuals resided in urban areas. Of these 14 175 individuals:

- ◆ over half were Métis;
- ◆ four out of ten were women; and
- ◆ almost all resided off reserve.

Forty-eight percent (48%) of Canada's 27 195 Aboriginal self-employed individuals resided in rural areas. Of these 13 020 individuals:

- ◆ half were North American Indians;
- ◆ one third were women; and
- ◆ seven out of ten resided off reserve.

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

When compared to Aboriginal entrepreneurs residing in rural areas, those living in urban areas:

- ◆ operated businesses in the professional, scientific and technical, education, health and social services industries more often and in the primary industries less often;
- ◆ were more likely to operate a business between six and nine years old;
- ◆ were more likely to possess college- or university-level business training;
- ◆ tended to require less start-up financing; and
- ◆ were less likely to have employees.

Aboriginal SMEs: Industry	Urban	Rural
Primary	7.2%	24.0%
Construction	14.6%	18.9%
Manufacturing, Transportation & Warehousing	10.5%	8.6%*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	10.6%	14.0%*
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodation, Food & Cultural	14.5%	14.7%*
Services <sup>2</sup>	25.6%	9.0%
Other	17.0%	10.8%*
	<b>100.0%<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>100.0%<sup>3</sup></b>

Aboriginal SMEs: Profile	Urban	Rural
Ownership Structure		
Sole Proprietorship	67.4%	65.8%*
Partnership	17.6%	19.6%*
Incorporation	15.0%	14.6%*
Age of Business		
0 - 5 Years	31.8%	33.8%*
6 - 9 Years	25.8%	20.8%
10+ Years	42.4%	45.4%*
Business Objectives <sup>4</sup>		
Stability	85.3%	82.7%*
Profitability	81.5%	78.2%*
Personal or Family Employment	67.6%	70.9%*
Business Training (College or University Level)	30.6%	20.7%
Business Plan	21.2%	22.7%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Financing	Urban	Rural
Start-Up Financing		
Less Than \$25 000	72.8%	65.3%
\$25 000 to \$49 999	10.2%	12.0%*
\$50 000 to \$99 999	8.4%	9.5%*
\$100 000 or More	8.7%	13.2%
% of Borrowed Start-Up Funds		
None	52.4%	47.0%*
Less Than 25%	11.2%	7.7%*
25% - 49%	6.3%	10.2%
50% - 74%	13.3%	15.8%*
75% - 99%	9.7%	10.1%*
100%	7.2%	9.4%*
Sources of Start-Up Funds		
Personal Savings	84.5%	81.2%*
Loans or Lines of Credit	35.2%	39.2%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Operations	Urban	Rural
Full-Time Operations in 2002	86.1%	83.6%*
Full-Time Employees		
0	68.8%	61.1%
1+	31.2%	38.9%
Aboriginal Full-Time Employees		
0	41.3%	26.7%
1+	58.7%	73.3%
Part-Time Employees		
0	74.2%	66.5%
1+	25.8%	33.5%
Aboriginal Part-Time Employees		
0	52.9%	31.5%
1+	47.1%	68.5%
Sales to Local Market	81.9%	77.3%*
Sales to Provincial Market	54.0%	57.8%*
Sales to National Market	16.0%	20.0%*
Sales to International Market	11.9%	14.6%*

Aboriginal SMEs: Results and Prospects	Urban	Rural
Profits in 2002	71.4%	73.4%*
Sales Revenues Increase in 2001	40.7%	45.8%*
Sales Revenues Stable in 2001	40.7%	37.9%*
Growth Expectation: Next Two Years	61.0%	64.7%*
No Growth Expectation: Next Two Years	39.0%	35.3%*
Barriers to Growth <sup>5</sup>	58.3%	53.2%*
Economic Situation	43.0%	43.1%*
Taxes	43.3%	40.8%*
Access to Financing	40.6%	38.2%*

Source : Statistique Canada, Enquête sur les entrepreneurs autochtones, 2002 (2004).

\* Differences between Urban and Rural 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.

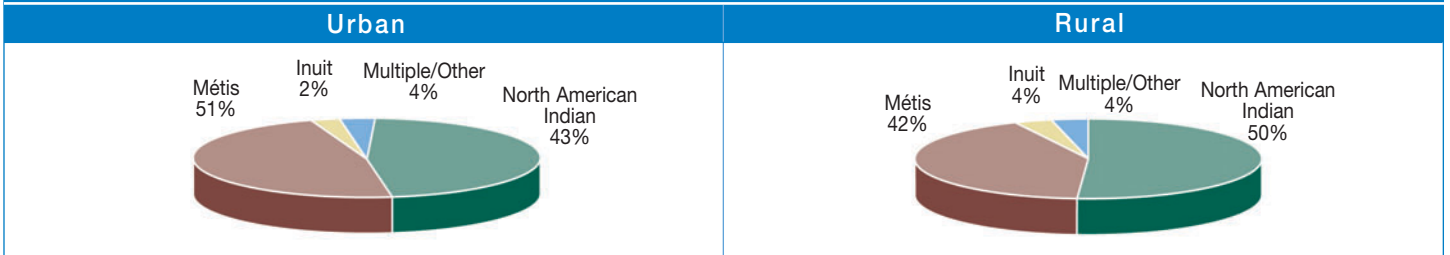
3 Presented industrial distribution percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.

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.

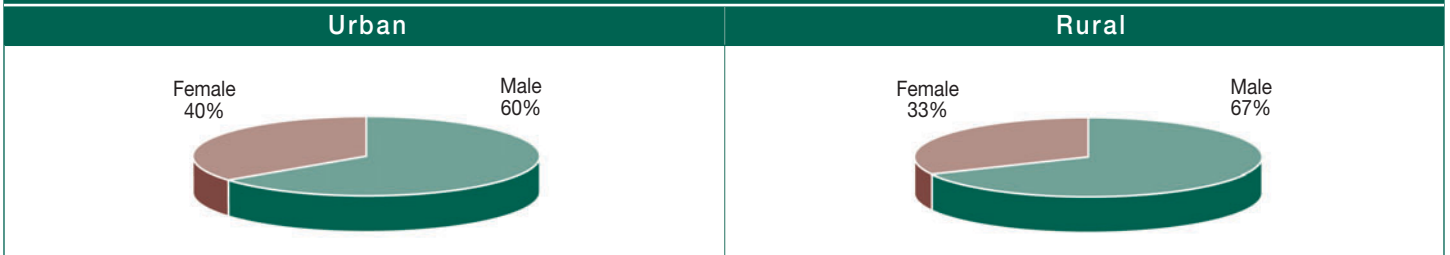
5 Respondents were asked to rate to what extent certain barriers presented obstacles in growing their business over the next two years. The responses reported here are the barriers most frequently identified as being "very important" at the national level.

Urban/Rural: Number of Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers	Urban	Rural
Urban/Rural Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers	14 175	13 020

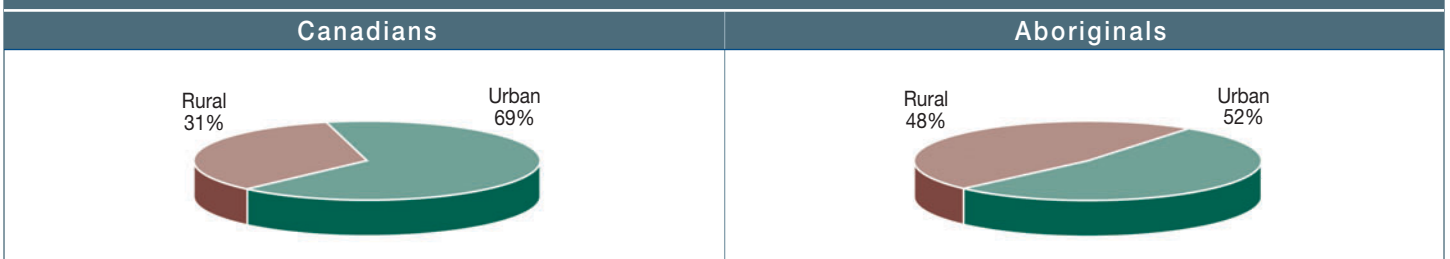
Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers: Heritage Group Distribution



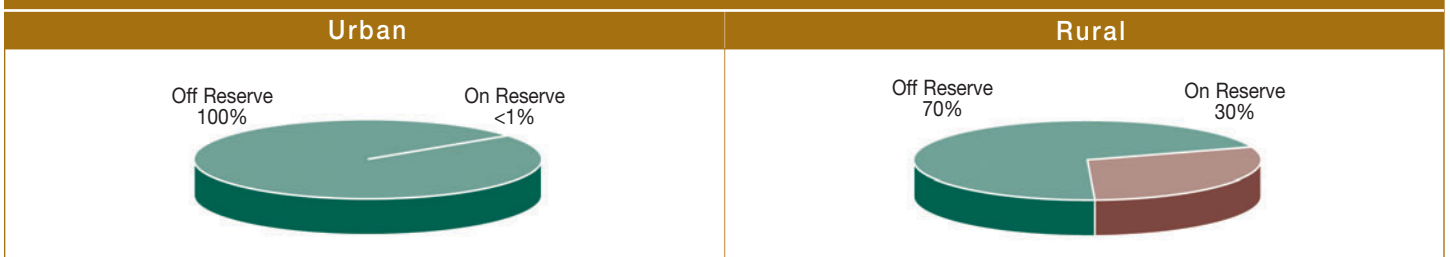
Aboriginal Self-Employed Workers: Gender Distribution



Self-Employed Workers: Urban/Rural Distribution



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



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census