



Women Mean Business in the Show-Me State

An [American Express OPEN-commissioned](#) study reports that more than 9.4 million women-owned businesses currently operate in the U.S. Those firms account for nearly a third of all privately held companies, pull in annual revenues to the tune of \$1.5 trillion and provide jobs to roughly eight million workers.

Closer to home, data provided by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) indicates there were 162,616 women-owned firms in Missouri in 2012. This was a 24.4 percent increase in the number of [women-owned](#) firms in the state. These firms accounted for more than \$24 billion in sales and receipts in 2012. Approximately one-third of all businesses in Missouri are women-owned.

Did you know these additional facts about women-owned businesses in Missouri?

- Missouri ranked 20th among the states in the total number of women-owned firms.
- Twenty-nine states, including Missouri, have more than 100,000 businesses owned by women. Thirteen states have more than 200,000 women-owned firms in 2012.
- Most women-owned businesses in Missouri are concentrated in [three main industry sectors](#) – Other Services (33,076), Health care and Social Assistance (26,513) and Retail Trade (20,077).
- St. Louis County leads other [Missouri counties](#) with the most women-owned businesses, followed by Jackson, St. Louis City, St. Charles, and Green Counties.

In Wallethub's [2016's Best & Worst Cities for Women-Owned Businesses](#), Kansas City and St. Louis ranked seventh and 14th, respectively, in the 100 most populated metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) across three key dimensions: overall new-business friendliness, female entrepreneurship and business climate for women.



For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at jobs.mo.gov or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).



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