



ployer firms, the decline in employment was 4.2% over the period. Therefore, the overall decline in employment from 1997 to 2000 was much larger among African American women-owned employer firms than among all women-owned employer firms.<sup>6</sup>

- Compared to other women business owners, African American women business owners are more likely to start or acquire their firms alone (72%), and to currently be the sole owner of their firms (80%).<sup>4</sup>
- Nearly half (47%) of African American women business owners say they have encountered obstacles or difficulties when trying to obtain business

financing in the past, compared to 28% of white women business owners, 27% of Latina business owners, and 22% of Asian women business owners.<sup>4</sup>

- The impact of urban context varies for whites, African Americans and Hispanics. For white and African American men and women, the tendency to initiate start-up efforts is greatest among those living in more urban areas. But for Hispanic men and women, the highest levels of activity are in non-urban areas.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From *Businesses Owned By Women of Color in the United States, 2004*. Center for Women's Business Research. November 2004. (<http://www.womensbusinessresearch.org/pressreleases/11-16-2004/11-16-2004.htm>).

<sup>2</sup>From the Panel Study of Entrepreneurial Dynamics, a report sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/PSED/> or <http://www.emkf.org/pages/316.cfm>).

<sup>3</sup>From the ING Gazelle Index: Confidence Index of African American Business Leaders, Third Quarter 2003 Study. [www.inggazelleindex.com](http://www.inggazelleindex.com).

<sup>4</sup>From *Women Business Owners of Color: New Accomplishments, Continuing Challenges*. Center for Women's Business Research. October, 2002. (<http://www.womensbusinessresearch.org/Research/10-22-2002/10-22-2002.htm>).

<sup>5</sup>From *Minority Women-Owned Businesses in the United States, 2002*. Center for Women's Business Research. December 2001. (<http://www.womensbusinessresearch.org/Research/12-18-2001/12-18-2001.htm>).

<sup>6</sup> From *Trends in African American Women-Owned Employer Establishments: 1997 to 2000*. National Women's Business Council. August 2004. ([http://www.nwbc.gov/ResearchPublications/documents/issue\\_in\\_brief\\_census\\_african-american.pdf](http://www.nwbc.gov/ResearchPublications/documents/issue_in_brief_census_african-american.pdf)).

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The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825; e-mail: [info@nwbc.gov](mailto:info@nwbc.gov), Web site: <http://www.nwbc.gov>.