



Oregon/Portland Metropolitan Area Small Business Statistics – November 2006

General¹

- In 2005, Portland was ranked 26th for **best places to jump-start a business** by *Forbes Magazine*.
- In 2005, Portland was ranked 17th for **best cost of doing business** by *Forbes Magazine*.
- Oregon has **95,494** small businesses with less than 50 employees.
- The Portland metropolitan area has **44,427** small businesses or firms with less than 50 employees². These firms employ **259,023** people with a payroll of **\$2.2** billion.
- In Multnomah County **20,494** small businesses employ **126,192** people with a payroll of approximately **\$1.1 billion**. Of these, almost **13,000** (over half) are micro-enterprises with five or less employees.
- **21.5%** of Oregon's small businesses are in Multnomah County.
- **46.5%** of Oregon's small businesses are in the Portland Metro Area.
- Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. In Multnomah County, **94.2%** of all firms are small businesses and for the Portland metropolitan area, that percentage increases to **95%**.
- Although policy and regulatory issues impact the overall business environment, small businesses often lack the human and financial capital that larger companies have.

Minority and Women-Owned Businesses³

- In Oregon **21,116** minority-owned enterprises exist. In Multnomah County, **6,681**.
- In Oregon **88,317** women-owned enterprises are in operation with revenues totaling \$10.6 billion in 2002. In Multnomah County, **21,121**.

¹ Statistics provided by Oregon Employment Department for First Quarter of 2005 and the Small Business Administration Small Business Profile of Oregon (2005)

² Metro Area as defined by the five counties: Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill

³ U.S. Census Bureau 2002, Economic Census of Minority and Women-Owned Businesses.