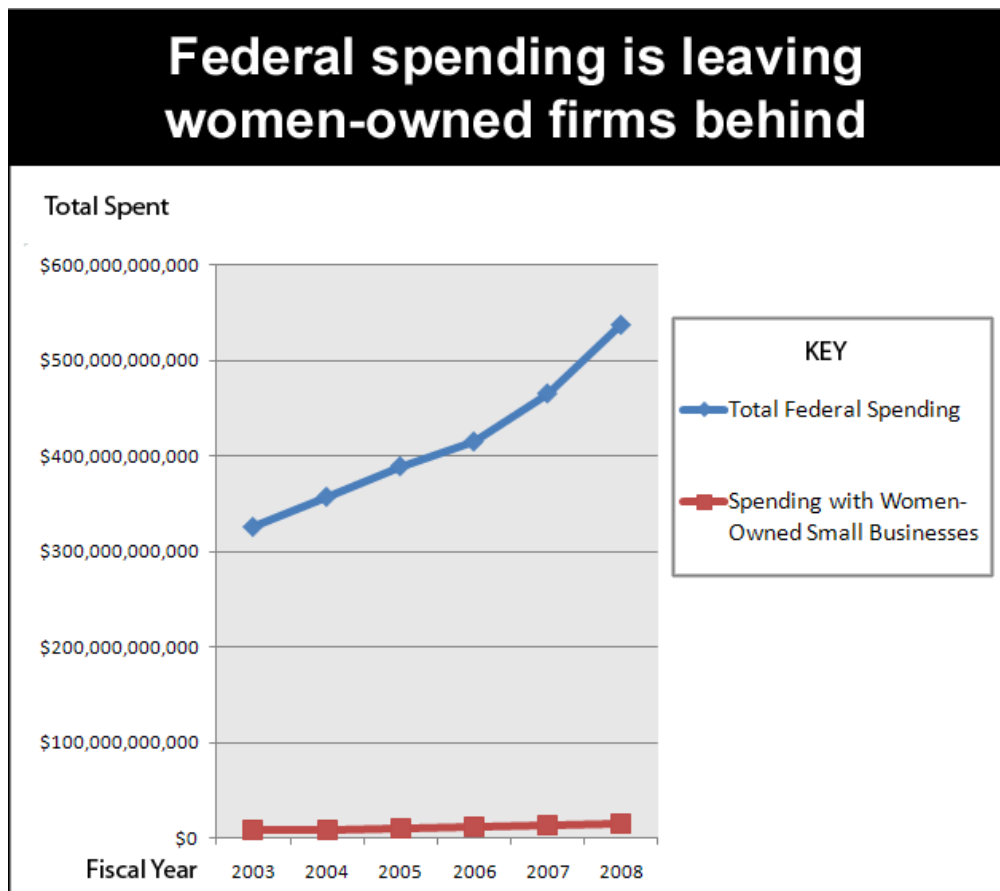


FY2008 Update: Women Business Owners Blocked from Fair Access to Federal Contracts

FY2008 Data Shows \$12B Shortfall for Contracting with Women-Owned Firms; the Largest Shortfall Ever (see original report at <http://www.uswcc.org/report.pdf>)



| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Total Federal Spending FY 2008 | \$ 537,155,101,194 |
| Five-Percent (goal for contracting with women-owned small businesses) | \$ 26,857,755,059 |
| Actual dollars spend with women-owned small businesses | \$ 14,732,594,106 |
| SHORTFALL | \$ 12,125,160,953 |

By the Numbers:

| Number | Data | Comments |
|---------------|--|---|
| \$12B | SHORTFALL for contracting with women-owned firms in FY2008 by the federal government. | Over a decade ago, the federal government set a 5% goal for contracting with women-owned firms; a goal that has NEVER been met. |
| \$2B | INCREASE in the SHORTFALL between FY2007 and FY2008. | While the federal government has never met their own paltry five-percent goal, the FY2008 shortfall more than \$2B more than the FY2007 shortfall. |
| \$300B | INCREASE in federal spending since 2001. | Federal spending grows. The number of women-owned firms grows. But, the percentage spent with WOSB's is not keeping up. |
| \$6.5B | INCREASE in federal spending with women-owned firms since 2001. | |
| 75,077 | Number of firms REGISTERED with the federal government as "women-owned" seeking federal contracts | We fully expected the next wave of outreach from the federal government to be aimed at getting more and more women-owned firms registered in CCR even though nearly 50,000 firms who are registered, were not able to secure a contract in FY 2008. The issue is much larger than having women jump through hoops to register in databases. |
| 26,074 | Number of firms REGISTERED with the federal government as "women-owned" that SECURED a contract in FY 2008 | |
| 30.4% | Women own 30.4 of all privately-held firms in the United States of America. | Between 1997 and 2006, the number of majority (51% or more) women-owned firms grew by nearly two times the rate of all U.S. privately-held firms. The number of majority-owned, privately-held women-owned businesses grew by 13.9 percent. |
| 3.39% | Percent of federal contracts awarded to women-owned small businesses in FY2008. | |
| 2000 | The year the Equity in Contracting for Women Act of 2000 was signed into law. (December 21, 2000) | The Small Business Administration, during the Bush Administration, did everything possible to avoid implementing this law. The opportunity for justice now lies in the hands of the Obama Administration. |

The FY2008 federal contracting report of spending with women-owned small businesses continues to grossly overstate spending with women-owned firms

Research completed by the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce has exposed serious overstatements of federal spending with women-owned small businesses. In FY 2006, twenty-seven of the top fifty firms attributed as "women-owned" in the Federal Procurement Data System may have male CEOs. These companies show similar attribution in FY 2005, FY 2007, and FY 2008 (YTD).

In the current federal contracting system, any business may simply proclaim their women-owned status when posting their company's information online without facing any scrutiny. The ORCA system has provided little assistance in improving the validity of the "women-owned" assertion, as evidenced by the continual misrepresentations.

View the original U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce report on these overstatements and non-small, or non-women-owned firms who are being counted towards the women's contracting goals at <http://www.uswcc.org/report2.pdf> .

This link provides the most recently updated list of top "women-owned" contractors for FY 2008 using the federal procurement data system data - http://www.usaspending.gov/fpds/fpds.php??reptype=r&database=fpds&company_name=&uns_number=&city=&state=&vendor_cd=&ZIPCode=&vendorCountryCode=&contractor_type=womenOwnedFlag&principalNAICSCode=&psc_cat=&psc_sub=&descriptionOfContractRequirement=&compete_cat=&typeOfContractPricing=&dollar_tot=&fiscal_year=2008&first_year_range=&last_year_range=&detail=0&datatype=T&email=&busn_indctr=

Many of the businesses in this FY2008 list are the same firms as listed in prior years. The USWCC will provide a full update on these firms shortly as an addendum to <http://www.uswcc.org/report2.pdf> . The Small Business Administration regularly asserts that the data provided at USA Spending (<http://www.usaspending.gov>) is not accurate, and that the data contained in their reporting is a refinement of this public information. However, to date, they have not provided the complete set of data they have used to create their reports.

Further, the 2006 Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (S. 2590), which was co-sponsored by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Barack Obama (D-IL) mandates that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) maintain a searchable public database of all federal spending (www.usaspending.gov) . This law requires that data be updated every 30 days and does not give the Small Business Administration permission to use a different set of non-public data for the creation of their public reports.