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## Analysis in Brief

# A portrait of official language minority owned businesses that received federal business innovation and growth support, 2020

by Alejandro Paez Silva

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# A portrait of official language minority owned businesses that received federal business innovation and growth support, 2020.

by Alejandro Paez Silva

## Introduction

Canada's economic prosperity is linked, in part, to the success of Canadian businesses and their ability to innovate through research and development, grow domestically and abroad, and survive economic downturns. In 2020, the federal government offered business innovation and growth support (BIGS) through more than 120 programs across 18 departments and agencies to support Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs. These BIGS programs provided a way for the government to target investment in certain sectors or regions to increase business performance, invest in high-growth firms and increase the participation of specific groups (racialized, marginalized or distinct populations) in the economy.

In this report, the targeted population of interest is the members of official language minority communities (OLMCs). In 2023, the federal government unveiled its [Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028](#) (Canadian Heritage, 2023). While it is focused on the protection and promotion of and collaboration between both official languages across Canada, the plan recognizes the unique situation of OLMCs and makes provisions for their long-term vitality and well-being across several domains.

In the context of the 2023 plan and in line with the material prosperity components of the [Quality of Life Framework](#) and the [Framework for the Vitality of Official-Language Minority Communities](#), this report aims to better understand the presence and characteristics of official language minority (OLM) owned businesses. OLM-owned businesses are defined in this analysis as businesses with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located.

Specifically, this article provides a profile of OLM-owned businesses that received federal BIGS<sup>1</sup> (hereafter referred to as supported OLM-owned businesses) to better understand their demographics and business characteristics, including owner age and gender (in line with the leadership and democratic participation component of the [Gender Results Framework](#)), business size and revenues, geography of operations, level of support received, and distribution of businesses across industries.

Wherever possible, highlights are first presented for supported OLM-owned businesses, followed by supported businesses owned by subpopulations. Comparisons are made with non-OLM-owned businesses and, at times, between the English- and French-language regional minorities.

## In 2020, 1,775 of 344,225 official language minority owned businesses received federal innovation and growth support funding

In 2020, 5,475,390 businesses were operating in Canada (Table 1).<sup>2</sup> Among them, 344,225 (6.3%) belonged to an OLM, with 134,725 (2.5%) belonging to the French-language minority (FLM) outside Quebec and 209,500 (3.8%) to the English-language minority (ELM) within Quebec (Table 1).

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1. See the definition in the appendix.

2. See appendix for a definition of the total population used in this article.

**Table 1**  
**Federal business innovation and growth support indicators by official language minority ownership, 2020**

	Supported businesses			Number of unsupported businesses	Total number of businesses <sup>2</sup>
	Number of supported businesses <sup>1</sup>	Value of support	Average support		
	number	dollars			
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>3</sup></b>					
Total	1,775	437,595,990	246,602	342,450	344,225
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	885	168,035,455	190,408	133,840	134,725
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	890	269,560,535	302,198	208,610	209,500
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>					
Total	21,030	3,018,902,800	143,562	5,110,135	5,131,165
Outside Quebec	16,750	2,350,693,415	140,336	4,116,775	4,133,525
In Quebec	4,280	668,209,385	156,197	993,360	997,640
<b>Total businesses<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22,805</b>	<b>3,456,498,790</b>	<b>151,581</b>	<b>5,452,585</b>	<b>5,475,390</b>

1. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

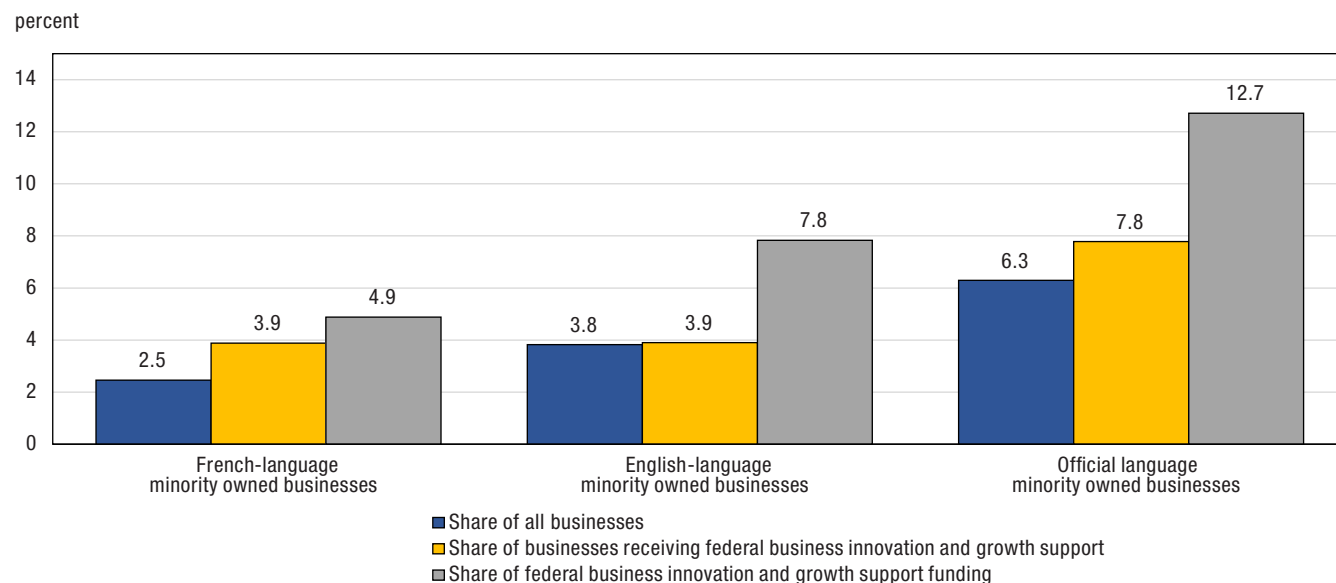
2. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.

3. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).

Sources: Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

In 2020, 1,775 OLM-owned businesses received federal support, with 885 being FLM-owned and 890 ELM-owned. That year, OLM-owned businesses that received support represented 0.5% of all OLM-owned businesses and 7.8% of all supported businesses in Canada.

**Chart 1**  
**Demographic weight and funding of official language minority owned businesses through federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**



Note: Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

Notably, the share of federal funding (12.7%) held by OLM-owned businesses was somewhat larger than their relative size in the supported population (7.8%). Consequently, OLM-owned businesses received higher levels of funding per business (\$246,602 on average), compared with non-OLM-owned businesses (\$143,562 per business).

These support levels varied by region. In 2020, ELM-owned businesses in Quebec received \$269.6 million (\$302,198 per business), compared with the \$168.0 million received by FLM-owned businesses in the rest of

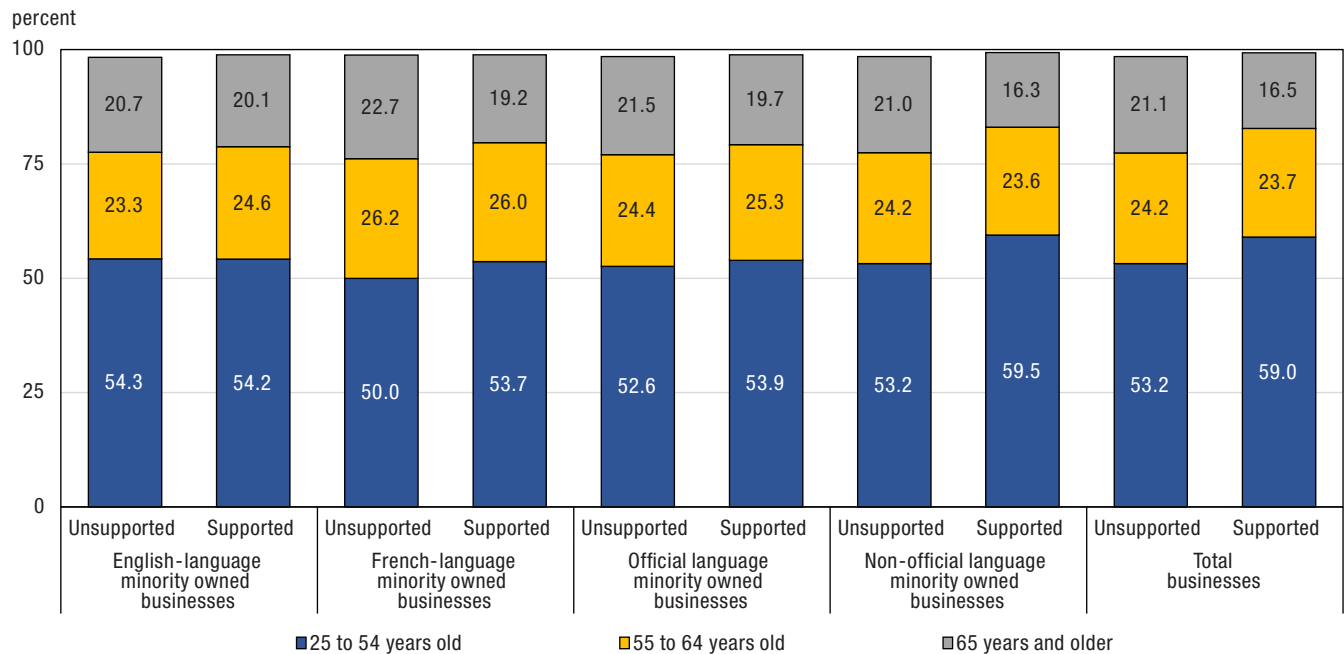
Canada (\$190,408 per business). However, this could be related to factors such as firm size or sectorial differences between the supported ELM- and FLM-owned businesses, which are out of scope for this paper.

## Supported business owners were more likely to be younger than unsupported business owners

The age structure of business owners is important not only for understanding the entry, retention and representation of younger cohorts of business owners but also for developing policies and planning related to retiring business owners across industries. As of 2020, roughly one out of every five businesses in Canada was owned by a primary owner who was at the traditional retirement age of 65 or older.

**Chart 2**

**Age of business owners by official language minority and federal business growth and innovation support status, Canada, 2020**



**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020. Data on age are from the 2021 Census of Population. Owners aged 15 to 24 years old are included in the total but not shown on the chart so percentages do not add up to 100%.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

Chart 2 highlights several findings.

First, among all businesses in 2020, those receiving support were 5.1 percentage points less likely to be owned by someone aged 55 years or older and can therefore be characterized as being run by a comparatively younger population.

Second, the relationship between federal support and the lower age of business owners varies for each subpopulation. For example, while supported non-OLM-owned businesses were 5.3 percentage points less likely to be owned by someone aged 55 or older, compared with unsupported non-OLM-owned businesses, this difference was less than one percentage point among OLM-owned businesses (0.9 percentage points).

Thirdly, among OLM-owned businesses, there was effectively no difference between the age structure of supported and unsupported ELM business owners. By contrast, in supported FLM-owned businesses, owners were slightly younger than their unsupported counterparts; those who received support were 3.7 percentage points less likely to be 55 years or older.

## The share of women-owned supported businesses by official language minority status

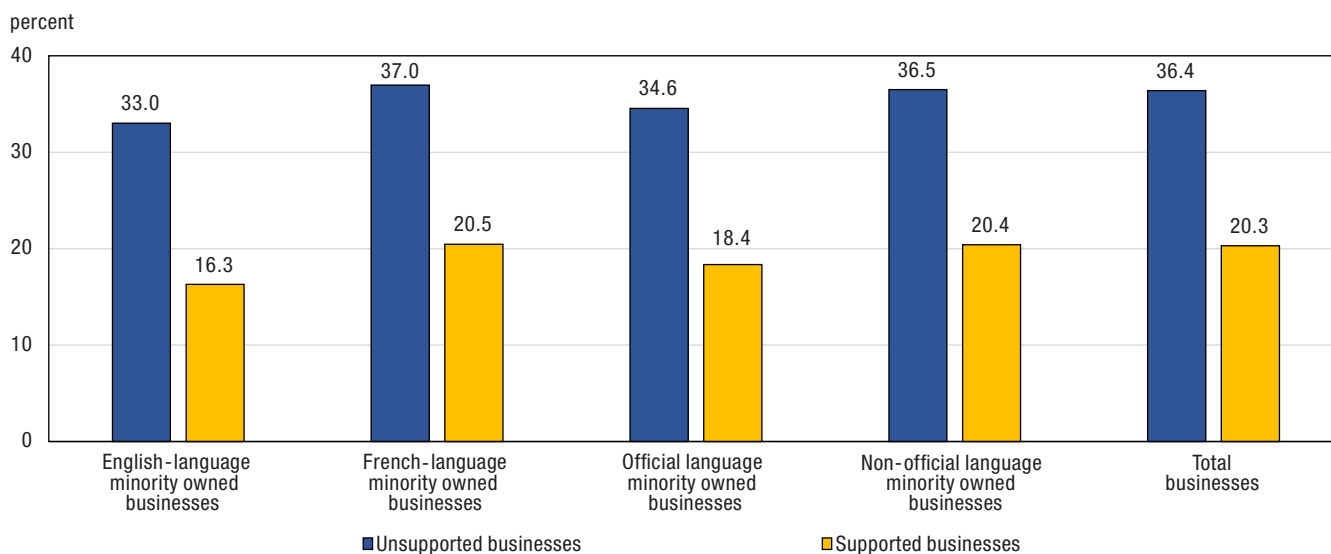
The share and characteristics of women-owned businesses are considered broad indicators of leadership and improved gender equality (see item 3.2.1 in the Government of Canada's [Gender Results Framework](#)).

In 2020, 1,988,860 businesses were owned by women, representing 36.3% of all businesses that year.<sup>3,4</sup> However, this figure was lower among those who received support, both among OLM- and non-OLM-owned businesses.

In fact, among OLM-owned businesses in 2020, the share of women-owned businesses was higher (34.6%) among unsupported businesses and lower among those receiving support (18.4%). Similarly, among unsupported non-OLM owners, the share of women-owned businesses in 2020 was 36.5%—nearly matching the overall total rate among all businesses—while this figure dropped to 20.4% (a 16.1 percentage point difference) for non-OLM owners receiving support.

### Chart 3

#### Share of women-owned businesses by official language minority status and federal business innovation and growth support status, Canada, 2020



**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020. The category “women” includes women, as well as some non-binary persons. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category “non-binary persons” are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the “+” symbol.”

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

The same pattern can be observed between supported and unsupported FLM- and ELM-owned businesses. In fact, the share of women-owned businesses was roughly 17 percentage points lower among supported FLM (20.5%) and ELM (16.3%) businesses, compared with unsupported FLM and ELM businesses.

It is worth noting that the share of women-owned businesses in the population was roughly comparable between FLM- and non-OLM-owned businesses, whether supported or not. By contrast, ELM-owned businesses exhibited the lowest shares of ownership by women among both supported (16.3%) and unsupported (33.0%) businesses.

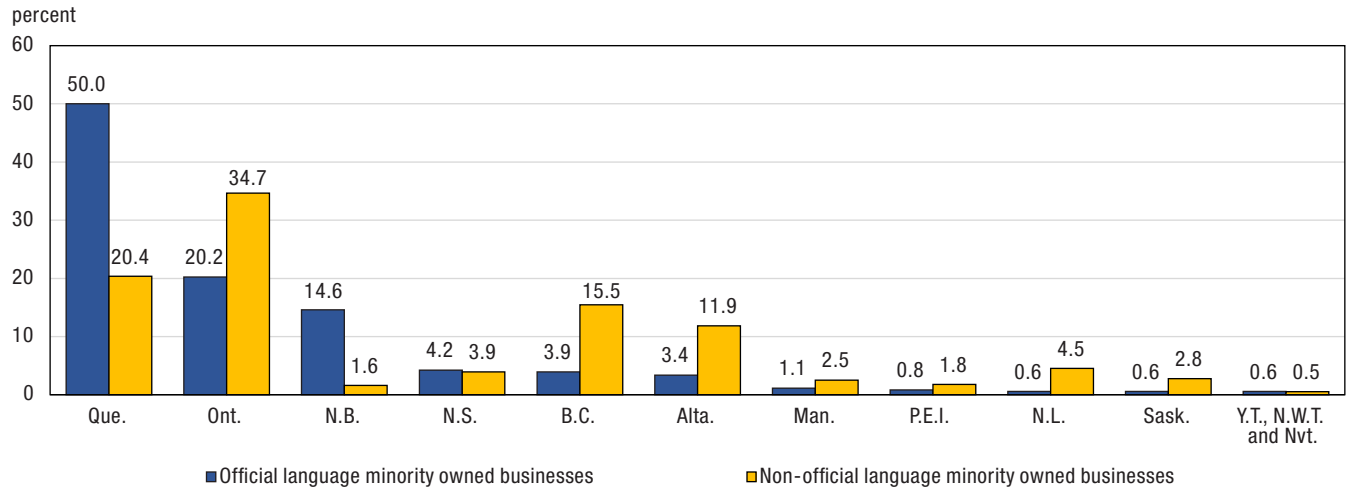
Many BIGS programs focus on the technology and innovation sectors, such as professional, scientific and technical services; and manufacturing. The sectoral distribution among BIGS recipients may partly explain the differences observed between the share of supported and unsupported women-owned businesses.

3. Caution is recommended when interpreting these findings. The linked census–Linkable File Environment (2020) source file was created by selecting only a single primary owner for every business. In other words, for any given business, additional owners may exist, and this may change the share of women ownership as presented here.

4. See Table 3; the figure is not shown in the chart.

## Supported official language minority owned businesses were concentrated in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick

**Chart 4**  
**Geographic distribution of businesses that received federal business innovation and growth support by official language minority status, provinces and territories, 2020**



**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020. Percentages do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

In 2020, half of supported OLM-owned businesses operated in Quebec (50.0%), with the next two highest concentrations found in Ontario (20.2%) and New Brunswick (14.6%). These figures roughly mirror the distribution of the OLM population. By contrast, supported non-OLM-owned businesses were more concentrated in British Columbia (15.5%) and Alberta (11.9%), and less represented in New Brunswick (1.6%).

The relative importance of the supported OLM-owned business population varied across provinces. For example, supported OLM-owned businesses in New Brunswick represented 14.6% of all supported OLM-owned businesses in Canada, but accounted for nearly half of all supported businesses in that province (43.7%).

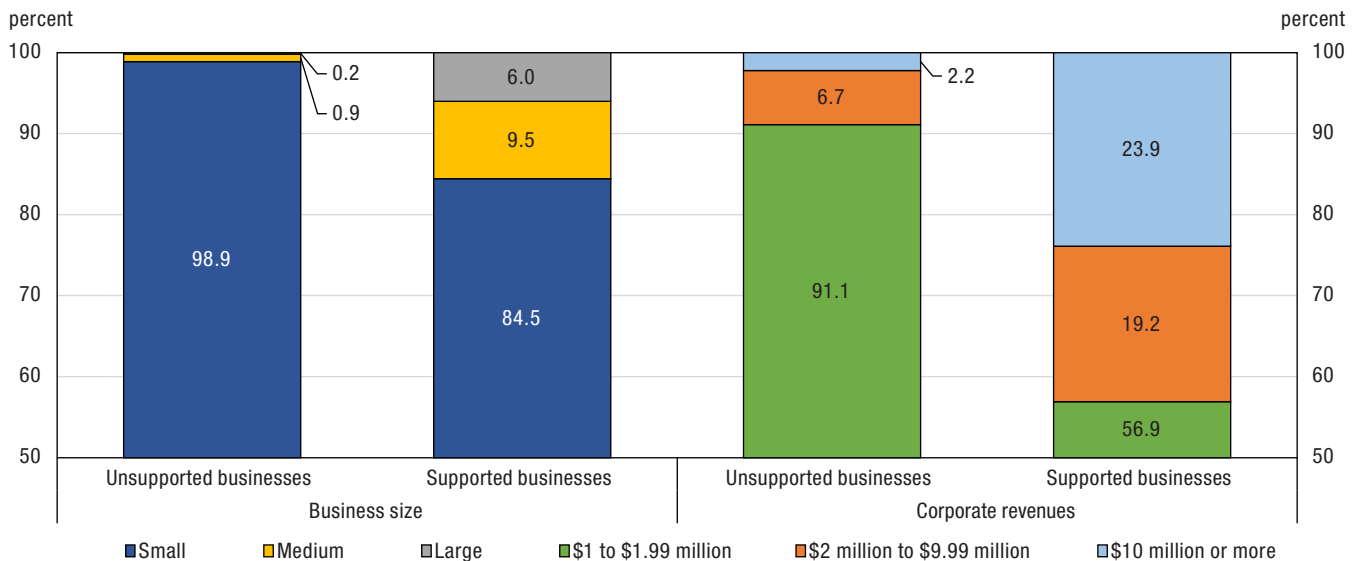
## Supported official language minority owned businesses were more likely to be medium-sized or large

The size of a business can be assessed in several ways. In this report, the average number of employees and the business revenues are examined as indicators of relative size.<sup>5,6</sup> In this analysis, businesses with 1 to 99 employees are considered small, those with 100 to 499 employees are considered medium-sized, and those with 500 employees or more are considered large.

5. Of the 5,475,390 total businesses in the sample, 1,014,820 reported having employees, while 1,765,005 reported positive corporate revenues. The businesses with positive corporate revenues are the denominator for the figures provided.  
 6. Corporate revenue comes from the Corporation Income Tax (T2) return.



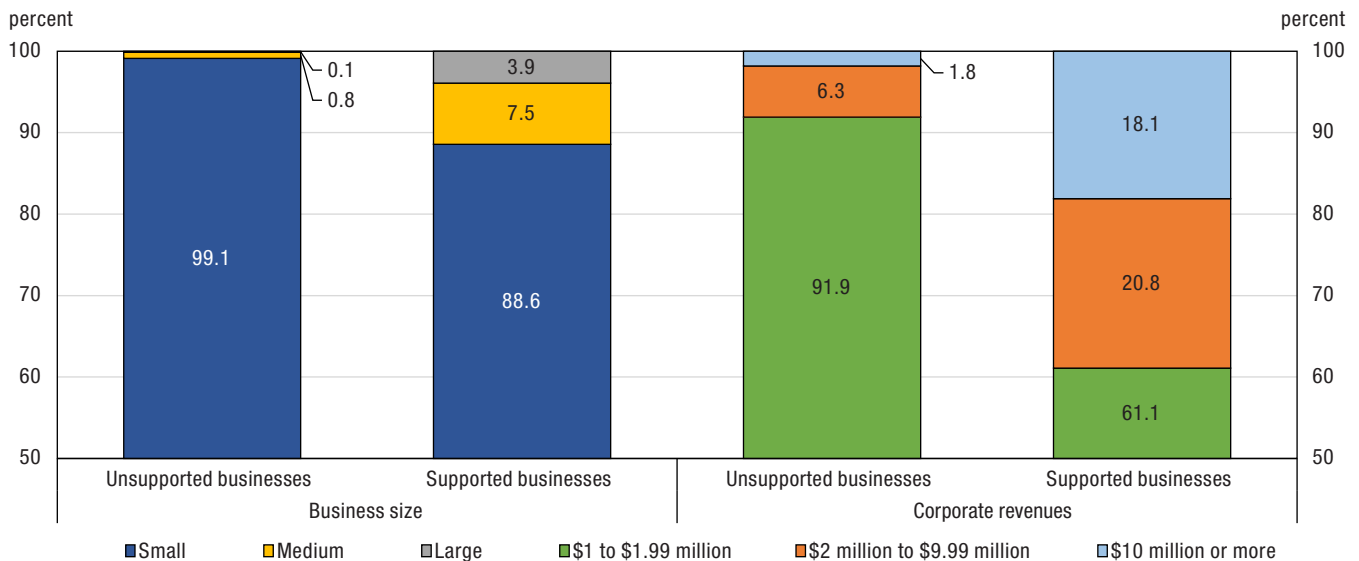
**Chart 5**  
**Business size and corporate revenues by receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, official language minority owned businesses, Canada, 2020**



**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

The results show that supported businesses tended to report higher revenues and be larger than unsupported ones. Among OLM-owned businesses, 15.5% of supported businesses reported being medium-sized or large operations. This was 14.4 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for unsupported businesses (1.1%). This trend was similar among the non-OLM population.

**Chart 6**  
**Business size and corporate revenues by receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, non-official language minority owned businesses, Canada, 2020**



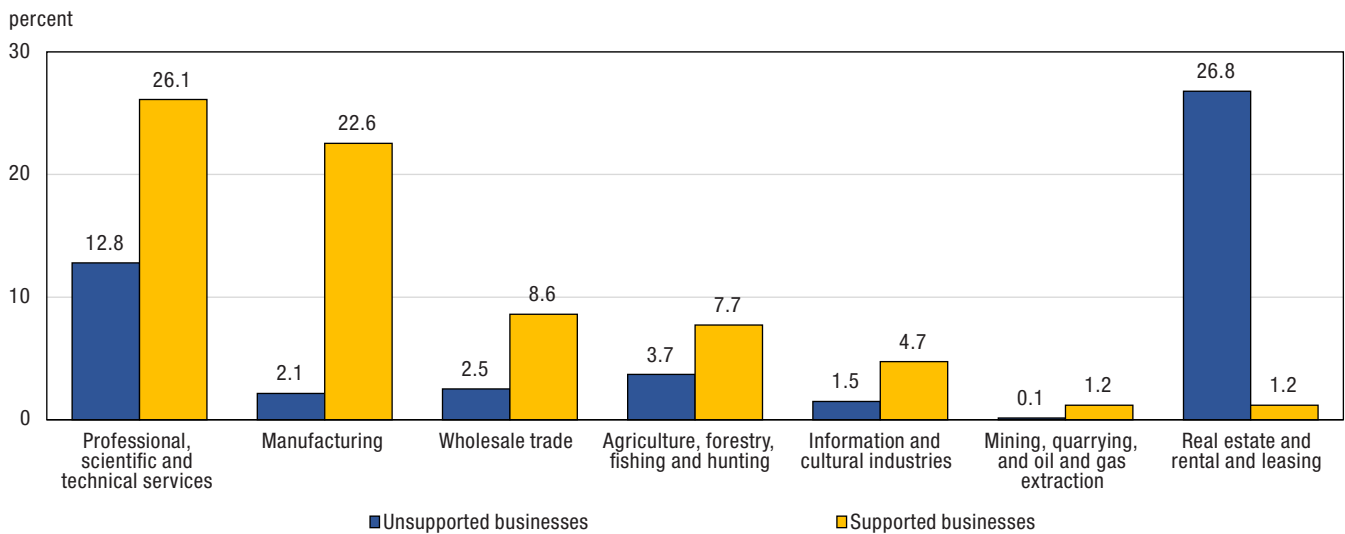
**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

The gap between supported and unsupported businesses was even more pronounced in terms of revenue. Among OLM-owned businesses, 43.1% of supported businesses reported making at least \$2 million in revenue, compared with 8.9% of unsupported businesses—a difference of 34.2 percentage points. This makes supported OLM-owned businesses 4.8 times more likely to make at least \$2 million, compared with unsupported OLM-owned businesses. These ratios were also closely mirrored by the population of non-OLM-owned businesses.

## Supported official language minority owned businesses were more concentrated in manufacturing and less concentrated in real estate and rental and leasing

**Chart 7**

**Distribution of official language minority owned businesses for selected industries by receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**



**Note:** Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

The industry concentration of OLM-owned businesses varied widely between supported and unsupported businesses. For example, among supported OLM-owned businesses, about 70% were concentrated in the following five industries: professional, scientific and technical services (26.1%); manufacturing (22.6%); wholesale trade (8.6%); agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (7.7%); and information and cultural industries (4.7%). Similarly, within the non-OLM business population, these five industries accounted for 66.9% of all supported businesses.

By contrast, the top five industries among unsupported OLM-owned businesses were real estate and rental and leasing (26.8%); professional, scientific and technical services (12.8%); transportation and warehousing (6.8%); other services (except public administration) (6.6%); and construction (6.5%). Together, these industries accounted for approximately 60% of unsupported OLM-owned businesses. Similarly, these same five industries accounted for 59.2% of all unsupported non-OLM-owned businesses.

Given the similar industry concentrations between OLM-owned businesses and non-OLM-owned businesses by support status, it could be inferred that this concentration is more likely related to the focus of BIGS programs on certain sectors and less likely related to OLM status.

## Conclusion

This article provides a demographic and business-related portrait of OLM-owned businesses. The results show that OLM-owned businesses comprised a relatively small share of all businesses (6.3%), and among them, relatively few received support (1,775 businesses, or 0.5%). However, their share of BIGS funding (12.7%) was larger than their relative size in the supported population (7.8%).

Moreover, OLM-owned businesses that received support were more likely than those that did not receive support to operate in technology- and innovation-intensive industries, such as professional, scientific and technical services; manufacturing; and wholesale trade. They were also much more likely to be larger employers and report higher revenues.

Furthermore, in 2020, owners of supported non-OLM-owned and FLM-owned businesses were more likely to be slightly younger than their unsupported counterparts, but this was not the case among ELM-owned businesses.

## Acknowledgments

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## Appendix

**Table 2**

**Count of businesses by official language minority ownership, age of primary owner, and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Younger than 25 years	25 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and older	Total number of businesses <sup>1</sup>
	number				
<b>Supported businesses<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>3</sup></b>					
Total	20	960	450	350	1,780
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	10	475	230	170	885
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	10	485	220	180	895
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>					
Total	135	12,505	4,965	3,425	21,030
Outside Quebec	115	9,870	3,985	2,785	16,755
In Quebec	20	2,635	980	640	4,275
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>13,465</b>	<b>5,415</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>22,810</b>
<b>Unsupported businesses</b>					
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>3</sup></b>					
Total	5,140	180,060	83,635	73,605	342,440
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	1,620	66,880	35,015	30,320	133,835
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	3,520	113,180	48,620	43,285	208,605
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>					
Total	78,340	2,720,445	1,236,900	1,074,460	5,110,145
Outside Quebec	64,360	2,199,085	986,545	866,790	4,116,780
In Quebec	13,980	521,360	250,355	207,670	993,365
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>83,480</b>	<b>2,900,505</b>	<b>1,320,535</b>	<b>1,148,065</b>	<b>5,452,585</b>

1. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.

2. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

3. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).

**Note:** Data on age are from the 2021 Census of Population.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

**Table 3**

**Count of businesses by official language minority ownership, gender of primary owner, and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Supported businesses <sup>1</sup>			Unsupported businesses			Total number of businesses <sup>2</sup>		
	Women+ <sup>3</sup>	Men+ <sup>4</sup>	Total	Women+ <sup>3</sup>	Men+ <sup>4</sup>	Total	Women+ <sup>3</sup>	Men+ <sup>4</sup>	Total
number									
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>5</sup></b>									
Total	325	1,445	1,770	118,350	224,100	342,450	118,675	225,545	344,220
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	180	700	880	49,480	84,360	133,840	49,660	85,060	134,720
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	145	745	890	68,870	139,740	208,610	69,015	140,485	209,500
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>									
Total	4,300	16,730	21,030	1,865,885	3,244,255	5,110,140	1,870,185	3,260,985	5,131,170
Outside Quebec	3,555	13,195	16,750	1,516,100	2,600,675	4,116,775	1,519,655	2,613,870	4,133,525
In Quebec	745	3,535	4,280	349,785	643,580	993,365	350,530	647,115	997,645
<b>Total businesses<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>18,175</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>1,984,235</b>	<b>3,468,355</b>	<b>5,452,590</b>	<b>1,988,860</b>	<b>3,486,530</b>	<b>5,475,390</b>

1. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

2. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.

3. This category includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

4. This category includes men, as well as some non-binary persons.

5. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).

**Note:** Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

**Table 4**  
**Count of businesses by official language minority ownership, geography of operations, and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Supported businesses <sup>1</sup>			Unsupported businesses			
	Official language minority owned businesses <sup>2</sup>	Non-official language minority owned businesses	Total number of supported businesses	Official language minority owned businesses <sup>2</sup>	Non-official language minority owned businesses	Total number of unsupported businesses	Total number of businesses <sup>3</sup>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>21,030</b>	<b>22,810</b>	<b>342,445</b>	<b>5,110,130</b>	<b>5,452,575</b>	<b>5,475,385</b>
<b>Atlantic provinces, excluding New Brunswick</b>							
Total	100	2,150	2,250	4,870	167,430	172,300	174,550
Newfoundland and Labrador	10	950	960	345	50,880	51,225	52,185
Prince Edward Island	15	370	385	555	19,715	20,270	20,655
Nova Scotia	75	830	905	3,970	96,835	100,805	101,710
New Brunswick	260	335	595	23,400	48,065	71,465	72,060
Quebec	890	4,280	5,170	208,610	993,360	1,201,970	1,207,140
Ontario	360	7,290	7,650	71,465	2,071,960	2,143,425	2,151,075
Manitoba	20	530	550	5,670	155,230	160,900	161,450
Saskatchewan	10	585	595	2,700	182,570	185,270	185,865
Alberta	60	2,495	2,555	13,490	661,710	675,200	677,755
British Columbia	70	3,255	3,325	11,620	820,505	832,125	835,450
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	10	110	120	620	9,300	9,920	10,040

1. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.  
 2. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).  
 3. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

**Table 5**  
**Average number of employees by official language minority business ownership and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Businesses with employees				Unclassifiable or missing but active		
	1 to 99 employees	100 to 499 employees	500 or more employees	Total number of businesses with employees	No employees <sup>1</sup>	Missing <sup>2</sup>	Total number of businesses <sup>3</sup>
<b>Supported businesses<sup>4</sup></b>							
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>5</sup></b>							
Total	1,195	135	85	1,415	60	300	1,775
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	615	65	45	725	30	130	885
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	580	70	40	690	30	170	890
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>							
Total	13,625	1,160	600	15,385	985	4,665	21,035
Outside Quebec	10,525	865	480	11,870	860	4,025	16,755
In Quebec	3,100	295	120	3,515	125	640	4,280
<b>Total supported businesses<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>14,820</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>22,810</b>
<b>Unsupported businesses</b>							
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>5</sup></b>							
Total	59,930	570	110	60,610	9,685	272,150	342,445
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	25,445	210	55	25,710	4,215	103,910	133,835
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	34,485	360	55	34,900	5,470	168,240	208,610
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>							
Total	929,185	7,135	1,090	937,410	173,625	3,999,110	5,110,145
Outside Quebec	758,810	5,670	925	765,405	154,195	3,197,175	4,116,775
In Quebec	170,375	1,465	165	172,005	19,430	801,935	993,370
<b>Total unsupported businesses</b>	<b>989,115</b>	<b>7,705</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>998,020</b>	<b>183,310</b>	<b>4,271,260</b>	<b>5,452,590</b>

1. Businesses with no employees reported not employing any workers but are nevertheless active.  
 2. The term "missing" refers to active businesses for which no employment data were reported.  
 3. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.  
 4. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.  
 5. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

**Table 6**  
**Corporate revenue by official language minority business ownership and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Businesses with corporate revenue <sup>1</sup>			Total number of businesses with corporate revenue number	Unclassifiable or missing but active			Total number of businesses <sup>5</sup>
	\$1 to \$1,999,999	\$2,000,000 to \$9,999,999	\$10,000,000 or higher		No corporate revenue <sup>2</sup>	Negative corporate revenue <sup>3</sup>	Missing <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Supported businesses<sup>6</sup></b>								
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>7</sup></b>								
Total	845	285	355	1,485	80	15	200	1,780
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	430	135	155	720	25	10	130	885
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	415	150	200	765	55	5	70	895
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>								
Total	10,225	3,485	3,030	16,740	1,200	135	2,970	21,045
Outside Quebec	8,110	2,610	2,285	13,005	1,030	115	2,610	16,760
In Quebec	2,115	875	745	3,735	170	20	360	4,285
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>11,070</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>18,225</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>22,825</b>
<b>Unsupported businesses</b>								
<b>Official language minority owned businesses<sup>7</sup></b>								
Total	97,685	7,155	2,400	107,240	22,645	2,045	210,530	342,460
French-language minority owned businesses outside Quebec	38,180	2,820	825	41,825	6,990	610	84,415	133,840
English-language minority owned businesses in Quebec	59,505	4,335	1,575	65,415	15,655	1,435	126,115	208,620
<b>Non-official language minority owned businesses</b>								
Total	1,506,790	103,120	29,630	1,639,540	308,350	27,955	3,134,290	5,110,135
Outside Quebec	1,227,440	82,205	23,645	1,333,290	259,120	23,045	2,501,320	4,116,775
In Quebec	279,350	20,915	5,985	306,250	49,230	4,910	632,970	993,360
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>1,604,475</b>	<b>110,275</b>	<b>32,030</b>	<b>1,746,780</b>	<b>330,995</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>3,344,820</b>	<b>5,452,595</b>

1. Corporate revenue comes from the Corporation Income Tax (T2) return.

2. Other forms of revenue may be present but are not shown (e.g., self-employment income).

3. Businesses are still active (i.e., not bankrupt or dissolved).

4. The term "missing" refers to active businesses for which no corporate revenue were reported or available.

5. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.

6. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

7. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).

Sources: Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.

**Table 7**  
**Industry of operation by official language minority business ownership and receipt of federal business innovation and growth support, Canada, 2020**

	Official language minority owned businesses <sup>1</sup>			Non-official language minority owned businesses			Total number of businesses <sup>2</sup>
	French-language minority owned businesses	English-language minority owned businesses	Total number of businesses	Outside Quebec	In Quebec	Total number of businesses	
	number						
<b>Supported businesses<sup>3</sup></b>							
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>16,750</b>	<b>4,280</b>	<b>21,030</b>	<b>22,805</b>
Missing industry classification <sup>4</sup>	40	50	90	1,080	185	1,265	1,355
Total industry	840	845	1,685	15,670	4,095	19,765	21,450
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	120	10	130	1,205	225	1,430	1,560
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	10	10	20	230	25	255	275
Utilities	0	0	0	65	10	75	75
Construction	25	10	35	390	140	530	565
Manufacturing	185	195	380	2,660	1,125	3,785	4,165
Wholesale trade	55	90	145	1,045	210	1,255	1,400
Retail trade	35	45	80	755	220	975	1,055
Transportation and warehousing	15	20	35	285	70	355	390
Information and cultural industries	30	50	80	860	265	1,125	1,205
Finance and insurance	10	10	20	240	35	275	295
Real estate and rental and leasing	10	10	20	175	35	210	230
Professional, scientific and technical services	175	265	440	4,565	1,060	5,625	6,065
Management of companies and enterprises	15	10	25	215	45	260	285
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	20	15	35	325	95	420	455
Educational services	25	15	40	395	70	465	505
Health care and social assistance	25	20	45	355	65	420	465
Arts, entertainment and recreation	15	10	25	185	60	245	270
Accommodation and food services	20	40	60	825	125	950	1,010
Other services (except public administration)	40	30	70	725	180	905	975
Public administration	20	0	20	180	35	215	235
<b>Unsupported businesses</b>							
<b>Total businesses</b>	<b>133,840</b>	<b>208,610</b>	<b>342,450</b>	<b>4,116,775</b>	<b>993,360</b>	<b>5,110,135</b>	<b>5,452,585</b>
Missing industry classification <sup>4</sup>	7,920	14,620	22,540	246,025	52,085	298,110	320,650
Total industry	125,920	193,990	319,910	3,870,750	941,280	4,812,025	5,131,935
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	8,760	3,050	11,810	231,290	51,045	282,335	294,145
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	315	125	440	16,560	565	17,125	17,565
Utilities	540	55	595	9,360	210	9,570	10,165
Construction	12,305	8,630	20,935	343,645	60,295	403,940	424,875
Manufacturing	2,470	4,395	6,870	72,560	21,840	94,400	101,265
Wholesale trade	2,290	5,720	8,005	69,980	14,990	84,970	92,975
Retail trade	7,050	10,745	17,795	204,800	45,955	250,755	268,550
Transportation and warehousing	6,235	15,580	21,815	256,710	46,035	302,745	324,555
Information and cultural industries	1,700	3,090	4,790	50,795	12,880	63,675	68,465
Finance and insurance	5,050	9,375	14,420	176,385	43,945	220,330	234,750
Real estate and rental and leasing	29,645	56,080	85,720	946,930	262,755	1,209,680	1,295,400
Professional, scientific and technical services	15,815	25,110	40,925	514,765	103,430	618,195	659,115
Management of companies and enterprises	1,180	2,740	3,925	43,045	6,970	50,015	53,935
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5,690	9,205	14,895	198,780	46,350	245,125	260,025
Educational services	2,695	3,930	6,625	73,150	13,975	87,125	93,750
Health care and social assistance	9,155	10,605	19,755	241,755	73,450	315,205	334,960
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3,500	6,285	9,790	94,500	34,230	128,725	138,515
Accommodation and food services	2,615	6,925	9,540	90,140	20,555	110,695	120,235
Other services (except public administration)	8,820	12,310	21,130	233,820	80,965	314,780	335,910
Public administration	100	45	145	1,785	850	2,640	2,780

1. Official language minority (OLM) owned businesses are those with a primary owner whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is that of the OLM of the province or territory where the business is located (English as their FOLS in Quebec and French as their FOLS in the rest of Canada).

2. Includes businesses active and alive in Canada in 2020 with a 2021 Census record for the primary owner.

3. Supported businesses were ultimate recipients of funding and other business innovation and growth support provided through over 120 participating federal programs in 2020.

4. Businesses with a missing industry classification have no reported or available North American Industry Classification System data but are still active.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Business Linkable File Environment, 2020, Business Innovation and Growth Support, 2020, and Census of Population, 2021.



## Data, concepts and methods

This analysis builds on Statistics Canada's ongoing efforts to better understand equity-seeking and other minority populations by linking business and social data. Three main sources are used, resulting in a linked file that expands the current scope of possible research by allowing for business-related inquiries in relation to equity-seeking populations. These data sources are briefly described below.

**The Business Linkable File Environment (B-LFE)** uses the Business Register as its frame and links over 30 business-related administrative and survey databases under one environment. Information related to industry, corporate revenues, geography of operations, average number of employees and other topics comes from these different B-LFE source files.

**The Business Innovation and Growth Support (BIGS) database** is part of the B-LFE and covers government activities that support business innovation and growth, such as funding, consulting services, industry-facing research and development, and technology development and exports. This is the source used to identify supported businesses and associated funding amounts.

**The 2021 Census of Population** is the source of the social data used in this profile and is linked to the B-LFE. Data on the business owner's age, gender<sup>7</sup> and first official language spoken (FOLS) come from the short-form questionnaire of the 2021 Census. Only businesses with a primary owner who could be linked to a 2021 Census record were used in this analysis.

## Definitions and populations of interest

The profile is focused on supported official language minority (OLM) owned businesses and compares their characteristics with those of non-supported OLM-owned and non-OLM-owned businesses. These concepts and populations are described below.

### Supported businesses

Supported businesses received federal BIGS in 2020. This support was provided through over 120 participating programs, directly or through partnerships, to improve economic performance, job creation and technological advancement.

### Official language minority owned businesses

The profile focuses specifically on the subset of businesses that received BIGS and whose primary owner belonged to the OLM population. In this portrait, the [FOLS](#) concept is used to define OLM-owned businesses. The FOLS concept considers a person's [knowledge of official languages](#), [mother tongue](#) and [language spoken most often at home](#) to classify, in this case, primary business owners into one of four language populations: English, French, English and French, or neither ([Statistics Canada, 2021](#)). Thereafter, businesses are defined as OLM-owned businesses based on their primary owner's FOLS and their geography of operations. Specifically, businesses whose primary owner had English as their FOLS in Quebec or French as their FOLS outside Quebec are considered OLM-owned businesses. Those whose primary owner had both English and French as their FOLS are equally redistributed among the English and French categories.

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7. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.



## Business ownership

There are several approaches to identifying enterprises and their owners. In this profile, businesses are included if they (1) show business activity and have a (2) primary owner of an alive business (3) operating in Canada in 2020 for whom (4) there is a 2021 Census record. These criteria are briefly explained below.

- **Business activity**, in this portrait, refers to any enterprise reporting any type of business activity in the reference year for which the status was not “amalgamated,” “bankrupt,” “dissolved” or “ceased operations” in the Business Register.
- **Primary ownership**, in this portrait, is a person who has an appropriate title indicative of ownership (e.g., “sole owner,” “proprietor” or “owner”) and who owns the greater share of the business, making that person the most likely to be the primary owner among all known office bearers. If multiple primary owners exist, the total income is used to determine the primary owner. Note that primary owners also include those who are self-employed.
- Having **operations in Canada** is a defining criterion because OLMs are defined regionally. For this reason, all businesses not operating in Canada are excluded. OLM-owned businesses in this portrait are defined using the enterprise’s location of operation and not the primary owner’s place of residence.
- Only 2020 businesses found in the B-LFE file with a corresponding 2021 Census record for their primary owner are included. This excludes a very small number of 2020 businesses whose owners do not have a 2021 Census record but may have been present in previous census cycles.