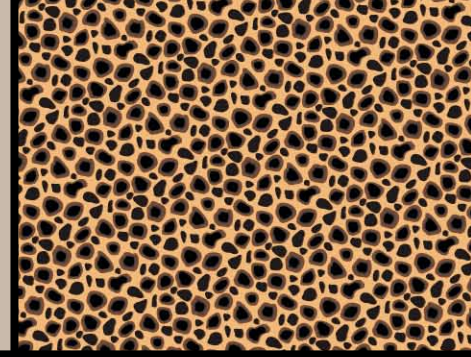


2011 Missouri Cheetah Preview



In December of 2008 MERIC partnered with the University of Missouri to publish a report on Missouri's fastest growing businesses. These firms, dubbed "Cheetahs," had employment that doubled in a five year period between 2001 and 2006. Of the Cheetah firms from the original report, 1,630 showed continued growth in the three years following. These Cheetahs can be found in nearly every industry in the state. The upcoming report highlights their story.

To better understand how these fast-growing businesses have handled the current economic climate, the Center for Advanced Social Research (CASR) of the University of Missouri-Columbia completed 593 telephone interviews with representatives of these firms/organizations on behalf of the MU Extension Business Research and Information Development Group (BRIDG) and the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Cheetah Sightings

Cheetahs can be found throughout the state. The percentage of Cheetahs that showed continued growth varied little by region, from 22% - 26%. The St. Louis and Kansas City Regions had the highest percentage of these continued growers in terms of total businesses in the region at 1% each. The remainder of the state followed closely behind, with 0.8%.

Cheetahs That Continued To Grow

Growing Cheetah firms were found across multiple industries. The Educational Services industry had the highest percentage of Cheetahs with sustained growth between 2006 and 2009. This was the only industry in which at least 40% of the Cheetahs saw continued growth. These businesses ranged from fine arts schools to sports and recreation instruction.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services had a relatively high percentage of Cheetahs that sustained growth as well, with 35%. A mix of computer services, engineering, and law offices helped contribute to this growth.

Health Care and Social Assistance followed closely, with 34% of the original Cheetah firms showing continued growth.

Growing Cheetah Firms by Industry

Industry	Firms
Construction	155
Manufacturing	89
Wholesale Trade	157
Retail Trade	181
Transportation and Warehousing	70
Information	26
Finance and Insurance	89
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	52
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	217
Admin and Support and Waste Management	126
Educational Services	26
Health Care and Social Assistance	184
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	24
Accommodation and Food Services	91
Other services	93
All Other	50
Total	1,630



Cheetah Preview

BRIDG

RESEARCHING
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

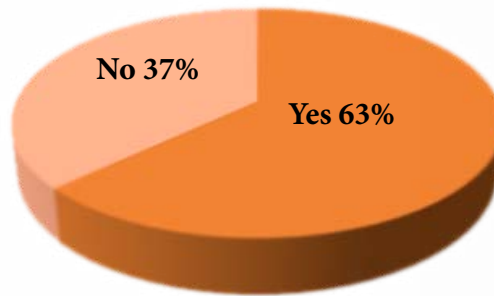
MORE WITH
MERIC
TIMELY TARGETED INTELLIGENT



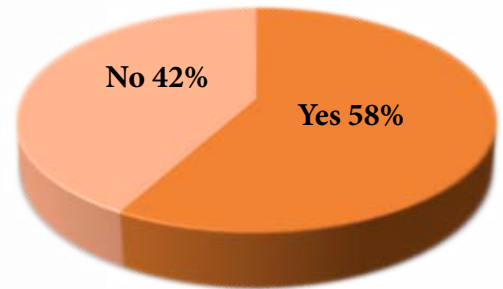
Cheetahs Get Involved

A common theme among many of the Cheetahs surveyed was the importance of community. A large percentage of those surveyed, 6 out of 10, grew up in Missouri and/or contribute to their communities by serving on boards, committees, or organizations.

Did you grow up in Missouri?



Do you serve in a voluntary capacity for any boards, committees, or organizations within your community?



*Watch for the full report, to be released
in spring of 2011*

M I S S O U R I
Department of Economic Development

