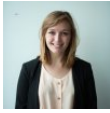


# The 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Led Companies in America

From interior design to home security, here are the top companies spearheaded by women on this year's Inc. 5000.



BY ELAINE GODFREY [@elaingodfrey](#)



Clockwise from top left: Sarah Wallace (The Good Bean), Merrill Stubbs and Amanda Hesser (Food52), Victoria Tsai (Tatcha), Shabnam Mogharabi (SoulPancake), Marlana Stell (Makeup Geek), and Sarah Carson (Leota).

IMAGE: Courtesy companies (4), Nobutaka Satoh, Ramona Rosales

Small businesses account for almost all [job creation](#) in America, and more entrepreneurs can mean better economic opportunities for everyone. The problem is, women are half as likely as men to [start their own businesses](#), according to new research from the Kauffman Foundation. The study suggests that this is because of the cultural assumption that entrepreneurship is a males-only club.

But women actually make exceptional entrepreneurs. They identify as [risk-takers](#) more than men; they can be even more ambitious about becoming [serial entrepreneurs](#). There's also a strong [correlation](#) between increasing business returns

and increased women in business leadership.

This year, 50 ambitious and confident women CEOs continue to affirm that entrepreneurship is a task for both genders. We've compiled a list of the top 50 fastest-growing female-led companies in America, from IT to architectural services.

#### 50. Food52

CEO: Amanda Hesser

Inc. 5000 Rank: 521

2014 Revenue: \$6.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 890 percent

A home and garden products [online retailer](#) that features columns, recipes, and contests on its site and is targeted to home cooks.

#### 49. The Participation Agency

CEO: Ruthie Schulder

Inc. 5000 Rank: 516

2014 Revenue: \$2.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 895 percent

[The Participation Agency](#) conceptualizes experiential campaigns that combine experience, influence, and digital strategy to achieve impact.

#### 48. Assurex Health

CEO: Gina Drosos

Inc. 5000 Rank: 515

2014 Revenue: \$30 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 896 percent

Provides treatment-decision support to health care providers for behavioral health and chronic pain conditions. [Assurex Health](#) uses genomic technology to make more precise determinations about what prescribed medications patients will respond to.

#### 47. SightComm

CEO: Victoria Johnson

Inc. 5000 Rank: 509

2013 Revenue: \$11.5 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 901 percent

[SightComm](#) offers business consulting, integrated security services, and IT services.

#### 46. Sarah Whit Interior Design

CEO: Sarah Vaile

Inc. 5000 Rank: 487

2014 Revenue: \$2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 944 percent

An interior [design firm](#) that specializes in renovating and designing residential spaces.

#### 45. Beneficial Blends

CEO: Erin Meagher

Inc. 5000 Rank: 485

2014 Revenue: \$2.4 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 948 percent

[Beneficial Blends](#) offers contract manufacturing, co-packing, private label, and bulk food service, and distributes Kelapo Extra Virgin Coconut Oil, an organic coconut oil for baking and cooking.

#### 44. Ace Web Optimization

CEO: Sulamit Berkovitz

Inc. 5000 Rank: 475

2014 Revenue: \$3.4 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 979 percent

Specializes in keyword/phrases [optimization](#) on Google and other major search engines, paid search marketing, affiliate marketing, search-friendly Web design, social networking, and link building.

#### 43. InVision Security

CEO: Annette Smith, co-CEO Brandon Smith

Inc. 5000 Rank: 474

2014 Revenue: \$5.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 980 percent

[InVision Security](#) develops, sells, installs, and monitors customized electronic security systems for businesses and homeowners.

#### 42. Sway Group

CEO: Danielle Wiley

Inc. 5000 Rank: 466

2014 Revenue: \$4.3 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 993 percent

Provides customized content marketing services specializing in multiple social media platforms including video, media campaigns, and dynamic events. [The Sway Group](#) network comprises 75,000 individuals considered "influencers" from various content verticals: parenting, DIY, food, technology, beauty, fashion, design, and so on.

#### 41. Create Group NYC

CEO: Natalie McDonald

Inc. 5000 Rank: 445

2014 Revenue: \$10.6 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,044 percent

An [advertising agency](#) that specializes in pharmaceutical brands.

#### 40. Activate Healthcare

CEO: Debra Geihlsler

Inc. 5000 Rank: 441

2014 Revenue: \$13.1 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,064 percent

Operates [health care clinics](#) in the Midwest that serve 40,000 patients annually and are focused on reducing chronic conditions by instilling preventative healthy habits.

### 39. JMC Electrical Contractor

CEO: Mashell Carissimi

Inc. 5000 Rank: 406

2014 Revenue: \$6.1 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,164 percent

An [electrical contractor](#) that performs installations for commercial, medical, casino, industrial, and institutional clients.

### 38. Handsome Brook Farm

CEO: Betsy Babcock, co-CEO Bryan Babcock

Inc. 5000 Rank: 391

2014 Revenue: \$2.4 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,203 percent

Sells eggs from hens that are raised outdoors on pasture land by dozens of family farms, many of them

Amish. [Handsome Brook Farm](#) eggs are available in 2,000 grocery stores across 26 states.

### 37. Switchgear Search & Recruiting

CEO: Dixie Agostino

Inc. 5000 Rank: 387

2014 Revenue: \$2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,221 percent

[Finds and screens](#) engineering, IT, accounting and finance, and HR professionals for positions in the energy, manufacturing, and engineering sectors.

### 36. Leota

CEO: Sarah Carson

Inc. 5000 Rank: 386

2014 Revenue: \$2.7 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,229 percent

A women's [clothing line](#) made by a self-taught designer that is sold in more than 500 stores globally.

### 35. Creative Systems and Consulting

CEO: Vanitha Khera

Inc. 5000 Rank: 380

2014 Revenue: \$6.5 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,244 percent

Offers a broad range of business and [technology consulting services](#), from cloud strategy to data center consolidation and enterprise architecture, to federal government customers.

### 34. Thompson Gray

CEO: Sheila Thompson

Inc. 5000 Rank: 372

2014 Revenue: \$15.1 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,276 percent

[Thompson Gray](#) provides programmatic, financial, and IT support to Department of Defense clients, with particular expertise in General Fund Enterprise Business System implementation and training.

### 33. Torchlight Technology Group

CEO: Helene Seydoux

Inc. 5000 Rank: 371

2014 Revenue: \$3 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,281 percent

[Torchlight Technology Group](#) offers lead generation, data management, and media buying products and services mostly to clients in financial services and insurance.

### 32. A Square Group

CEO: Sara Singh

Inc. 5000 Rank: 340

2014 Revenue: \$4.8 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,386 percent

[A Square Group](#) provides systems integration, project-based outsourcing, managed vendor services, and IT staff

augmentation for government, commercial, and health care customers.

### 31. Makeup Geek

CEO: Marlana Stell

Inc. 5000 Rank: 336

2014 Revenue: \$9.6 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,396 percent

Sells [cosmetic products](#) and provides hair and makeup tutorials through its website.

### 30. Bell Info Solutions

CEO: Swathi Nadella

Inc. 5000 Rank: 326

2014 Revenue: \$5.7 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,437 percent

A [technology development company](#) that provides individual consultants, project teams, and strategic outsourcing services to clients in a wide range of industries.

### 29. Tribal Tech

CEO: Victoria Vasques

Inc. 5000 Rank: 320

2014 Revenue: \$7.5 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,461 percent

A management and technical services [consulting company](#) that provides a diverse range of services to federal agencies, Native American tribes, and private businesses, including training and technical services, grants management, Indian affairs, IT, education, and health and social sciences.

### 28. My Marketing Solutions

CEO: Laura Harper

Inc. 5000 Rank: 315

2014 Revenue: \$2.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,481 percent

[My Marketing Solutions](#) offers print, direct mail and e-mail marketing, automated marketing programs, promotional items, branded apparel, website updates and design, and social media execution.

#### 27. SmartyPants Vitamins

CEO: Courtney Nichols-Gould, co-CEO Gordon Gould  
Inc. 5000 Rank: 308

2014 Revenue: \$4.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,503 percent

Makes a [multivitamin](#) in gummy form that provides omega 3's and vitamin D with nothing artificial and no gluten, casein, or GMOs.

#### 26. Forshay

CEO: Sally Thornton

Inc. 5000 Rank: 290

2014 Revenue: \$2.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,567 percent

A [recruiting firm](#) that provides short-term project consultants as well as full-time employees to companies ranging from startups to established brands.

#### 25. Favor TechConsulting

CEO: Vaseal Montgomery

Inc. 5000 Rank: 256

2014 Revenue: \$1.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1754 percent

An [IT consulting firm](#) that offers information management and IT services to corporate and government organizations.

#### 24. Tenica and Associates

CEO: Terry L. Scherling

Inc. 5000 Rank: 255

2014 Revenue: \$6.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,755 percent



Provides [government services](#) and consulting services in the areas of national defense, homeland, and cyber security for both government and commercial clients.

### 23. Santec Resources

CEO: Radhika Ramasahaym

Inc. 5000 Rank: 254

2014 Revenue: \$2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,762 percent

[Santec Resources](#) provides IT staffing, web design, e-commerce implementation, software development, architecture and technology consulting, networking, and enterprise technology services.

### 22. 360 Payment Solutions

CEO: Lisa Coyle

Inc. 5000 Rank: 238

2014 Revenue: \$2.5 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,865 percent

A [credit card processor](#) for banks, associations, and software companies.

### 21. Capital Consulting Services

CEO: Tracey Clark-Jeffries

Inc. 5000 Rank: 231

2014 Revenue: \$2.1 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,904 percent

[Capital Consulting Services](#) offers management consulting services in the areas of small business, commercial, and economic development, with expertise in examining opportunities for communities, government entities, and businesses.

### 20. Pace Solutions

CEO: Padma Pallavi Vegetila

Inc. 5000 Rank: 222

2014 Revenue: \$4.4 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 1,979 percent

Offers web and [enterprise content management](#), system implementation, and IT staff augmentation.

#### 19. Edifice Solutions

CEO: Lisa London

Inc. 5000 Rank: 214

2014 Revenue: \$22.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,024 percent

[Edifice Solutions](#) performs construction, design build, architectural engineering, and professional services to federal government, Department of Defense, and intelligence community customers.

#### 18. ginnybakes

CEO: Ginny Simon

Inc. 5000 Rank: 211

2014 Revenue: \$2.1 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,027 percent

Makes a line of organic, [gluten-free](#), and non-GMO cookies, bars, and bake mixes.

#### 17. ProjectSpan Services

CEO: Nellie J. Torres

Inc. 5000 Rank: 202

2014 Revenue: \$28.7 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,074 percent

[ProjectSpan](#) provides support services for complex transit and airport infrastructure projects, including safety and quality management, specification and procurement, program management, construction management, installation support, and public safety.

#### 16. Centerspan

CEO: Kathleen Finnegan

Inc. 5000 Rank: 186

2014 Revenue: \$3.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,243 percent

[Centerspan](#) sells and installs medically necessary lifts and ramps that increase access and mobility for people who use wheelchairs or cannot use stairs.

#### 15. The Good Bean

CEO: Sarah Wallace

Inc. 5000 Rank: 182

2014 Revenue: \$4 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,260 percent

Makes [snack foods](#) featuring bean protein, fruits, and nuts.

#### 14. AIT Bioscience

CEO: Terri Pascarelli

Inc. 5000 Rank: 179

2014 Revenue: \$5.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,311 percent

A [contract research organization](#) that performs analysis for new drug candidates and related substances in biological samples such as serum and tissue.

#### 13. Integrhythm

CEO: Anu Bulusu

Inc. 5000 Rank: 178

2014 Revenue: \$3.8 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,339 percent

A boutique [consulting firm](#) focused on integrating business and IT, with expertise in program management, implementations, and enterprise cloud services.

#### 12. CentralCloseout.com

CEO: Angela Romero

Inc. 5000 Rank: 177

2014 Revenue: \$4.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,357 percent

A [wholesale supplier](#) of inventory from store closeouts, liquidation, overstock, and customer returns.

#### 11. inDinero

CEO: Jessica Mah

Inc. 5000 Rank: 146

2014 Revenue: \$2.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,686 percent

[inDinero](#) offers software-as-a-service that enables small businesses to automate accounting, tax, and payroll functions.

#### 10. Kohana Coffee

CEO: Victoria Lynden

Inc. 5000 Rank: 133

2014 Revenue: \$5.2 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,810 percent

[Manufacturer and supplier](#) of cold-brew coffee products, ready-to-drink coffee, roasted coffee, and coffee concentrate.

#### 9. Love With Food

CEO: Aihui Ong

Inc. 5000 Rank: 129

2014 Revenue: \$3 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,859 percent

Delivers snack boxes of natural foods on a [subscription](#) basis to customers, who then provide feedback on the products and receive discounts on further deliveries of the ones they like.

#### 8. Na Ali'i

CEO: Cariann Ah Loo

Inc. 5000 Rank: 118

2014 Revenue: \$3.3 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 2,987 percent

**Na Ali'i** provides base logistics and contract-acquisition management services to the federal government (primarily defense agencies) and private companies. Also provides consulting and engineering services for environmental compliance requirements.

#### 7. SoulPancake

CEO: Shabnam Mogharabi

Inc. 5000 Rank: 114

2014 Revenue: \$3.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 3,044 percent

A media and **production company** that makes content about the human experience. It has a large audience of socially conscious Millennials and has won Webby and Emmy awards.

#### 6. Marketsmith

CEO: Monica C. Smith

Inc. 5000 Rank: 97

2014 Revenue: \$103 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 3,420 percent

**Creates and manages** direct response television advertising campaigns, events, and expos for its customers.

#### 5. CATMEDIA

CEO: Catherine Downey

Inc. 5000 Rank: 94

2014 Revenue: \$17 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 3,545 percent

**CATMEDIA** provides program and HR management, training and creative services and media production to federal and corporate clients.

#### 4. Trident Technologies

CEO: Sue Arroyo

Inc. 5000 Rank: 68

2014 Revenue: \$16 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 4,161 percent

[Trident Technologies](#) provides software development, engineering, programmatic support, data integration, systems development, enterprise architecture, material procurement, and meteorological services to customers in the Department of Defense and in private industry.

### 3. Noonday Collection

CEO: Jessica Honegger

Inc. 5000 Rank: 45

2014 Revenue: \$11 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 5,512 percent

Sells [jewelry and accessories](#) sourced around the world from its fair-trade artisan partners.

### 2. Tatcha

CEO: Victoria Tsai

Inc. 5000 Rank: 21

2014 Revenue: \$12 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 10,996 percent

[Tatcha](#) sells a luxury skincare line inspired by the beauty rituals of geishas.

### 1. Drawbridge

CEO: Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan

Inc. 5000 Rank: 6

2014 Revenue: \$32.9 million

3-Year Growth Rate: 23,484 percent

[Drawbridge](#) enables brands to have seamless interaction with consumers across their computers, smartphones, tablets, and connected TVs, which in turn gives them increased insight into online and offline consumer behavior.