

Women's Day Report: U.S. Women Wait 4+ Years Longer to Start a Business—What About Your State?

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In every single state, women MUST wait longer than men to start a business

On average, women in the U.S. take 4.3 years longer to save for a startup—how does your state compare?

On International Women's Day, DesignRush releases a groundbreaking report highlighting the financial barriers that keep women from starting their own businesses. Despite progress in gender equality, the data reveals that American women face a significant delay in achieving business ownership. On average, they must wait **4.3 years longer than men** to save enough capital—raising serious concerns about true economic empowerment.

Starting a business in the U.S. typically requires **\$40,000**, covering startup costs, state filing fees, and annual fees. With a **national savings rate of 3.8%**, DesignRush analyzed **monthly salaries, startup costs, and disposable income** across all 50 states to determine how long it takes men and women to save this amount. The findings are stark: **In every state, women must wait longer than men**, and in some cases, they must wait **a decade longer** just to have the same opportunity.

Key Findings

- **The National Average Delay:** Women take **4.3 years longer** than men to save enough to start a business.
- **The Worst State for Women Entrepreneurs:** Mississippi ranks the worst, where women must wait **10 years longer** than men.
- **The Best State for Women Entrepreneurs:** Vermont ranks the best, with women needing just **0.7 more years** than men to save.
- **A Widespread Issue:** In over **20 states**, women must wait **at least five extra years** before they can afford to start a business.
- **No State Offers Equality:** Across all 50 states, women save at a slower rate than men, proving this gap is a national issue.

[Access the full dataset here](#)

If you're a woman, these are the WORST states to start a business...

These states present the biggest financial challenges for women looking to start a business due to lower earnings and higher startup costs:

1. Mississippi - 10.3 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$2,887
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,477
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$115
- **Years for Women to Save:** 28.9

2. Idaho - 7.0 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$3,705
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$5,369
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$148
- **Years for Women to Save:** 22.5

3. Texas - 6.9 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$3,289
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,509
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$132
- **Years for Women to Save:** 25.5

4. Virginia - 6.7 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$3,636
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$5,144
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$145
- **Years for Women to Save:** 23.0

5. Wyoming - 6.7 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$3,545
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,943
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$142
- **Years for Women to Save:** 23.6

If you are a woman, these are the BEST states to start a business....

These states offer a better financial landscape for women looking to start a business, with a smaller gender gap in startup savings:

1. Vermont - 0.7 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$4,064
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,203
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$163
- **Years for Women to Save:** 20.6

2. Oregon - 1.2 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$4,490
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,799
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$180
- **Years for Women to Save:** 18.7

3. Arizona - 1.2 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$4,294
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,588
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$172
- **Years for Women to Save:** 19.4

4. California - 1.8 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$4,381
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,821
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$175
- **Years for Women to Save:** 19.4

5. Florida - 2.1 Years Behind Men

- **Women's Monthly Salary:** \$3,921
- **Men's Monthly Salary:** \$4,357
- **Women's Monthly Savings:** \$157
- **Years for Women to Save:** 21.4

Methodology

This campaign was designed to rank U.S. states by how long it takes women to save enough to start a business, with a key focus on the gap between women and men.

Primary Metrics:

- **Salaries by gender (2024)**
 - **Source:** [Current Population Survey \(CPS\)](#)
 - **Total CPS sample size:** 546,413 respondents
 - CPS datasets for each month of 2024 were aggregated to calculate **average salaries**.
 - **CPS salary sample size after data cleaning:**
- **Business Startup Costs:**
 - **Source:** [Shopify Report on Cost to Start a Business](#)
 - **Average startup cost:** \$40,000 (including filing and annual fees)
- **State Filing & Startup Fees:**
 - **Source:** [LLC University - Filing Fees by State](#)
- **Savings Rate (Latest Data - December 2024):**
 - **Source:** [Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\)](#)

Using **salaries, savings rates, and total startup costs**, we calculated how many years it would take for both women and men to save enough money to start a business. We then determined the **difference in saving time** between genders and ranked the states accordingly.

For media inquiries, partnerships, or full access to the dataset, contact [DesignRush](#).