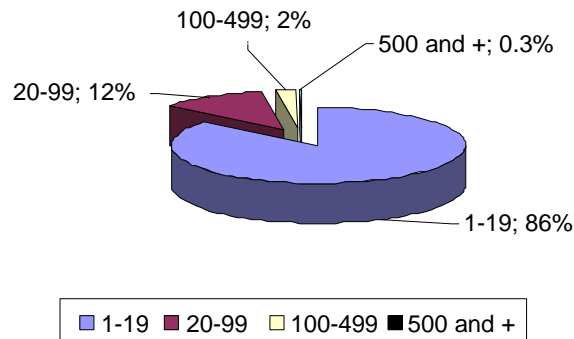


SMEs Are an Important Part of the Canadian Economy

- In 2005, there were approximately 1.4 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Canada. Small enterprises (those with fewer than 100 employees) represented the vast majority at 97.6%, and medium-sized companies (with more than 100 and fewer than 500 employees) represented 2.1%.

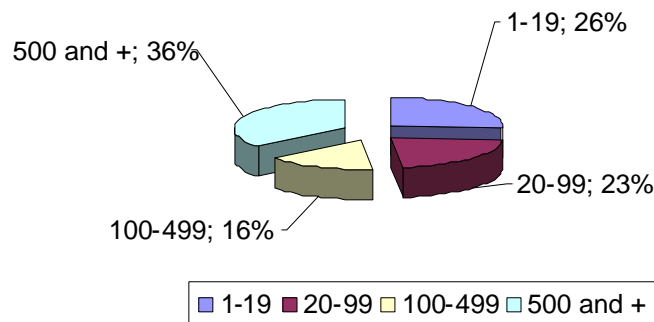
Distribution of SMEs in Canada by Number of Employees



Source: Industry Canada, Key Small Business Statistics, July 2006

- SMEs provide jobs for more than 6,700,000 people or 64% of private-sector jobs.

Distribution of Jobs in Canada by Company Size



Source: Industry Canada, Key Small Business Statistics, July 2006

- The distribution of SMEs across Canada closely follows the distribution of population as shown in the following image.



Source: SME Financing Data Initiative, Key Small Business Financing Statistics, December 2006

Canada's economic vitality depends on the owner-managers of these companies.