

**Toward Developing a Taxonomy of Major Privately Held Enterprises within Leading State Industries**

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**Abstract.** Major privately held enterprises contribute to the economic performance of states in which they reside. Less is known about these privately held firms since they are not publically traded. This study develops an approach to evaluate the contribution of major privately held businesses. The study will focus on one Southern state and will identify the top five industries within the state. A taxonomy of economic and financial characteristics of enterprises contributing to these industries will be suggested and discussed.