



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

ABILENE ISD SUPERINTENDENT TO RECOMMEND PUSHING BACK SCHOOL START DATE

Abilene Independent School District Superintendent Dr. David Young says he will recommend pushing the start of school back until Aug. 24.

In his weekly Zoom meeting Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Young said he will recommend at the Aug. 6 board meeting that the starting date be pushed back in order to provide more time to prepare.

The school year was scheduled to start Aug. 20.

In a video released Monday afternoon, before Dr. Young said he would recommend pushing the date back, AISD officials laid out safety precautions each school will be taking, including ensuring the availability of hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, facial coverings, and other safety equipment.

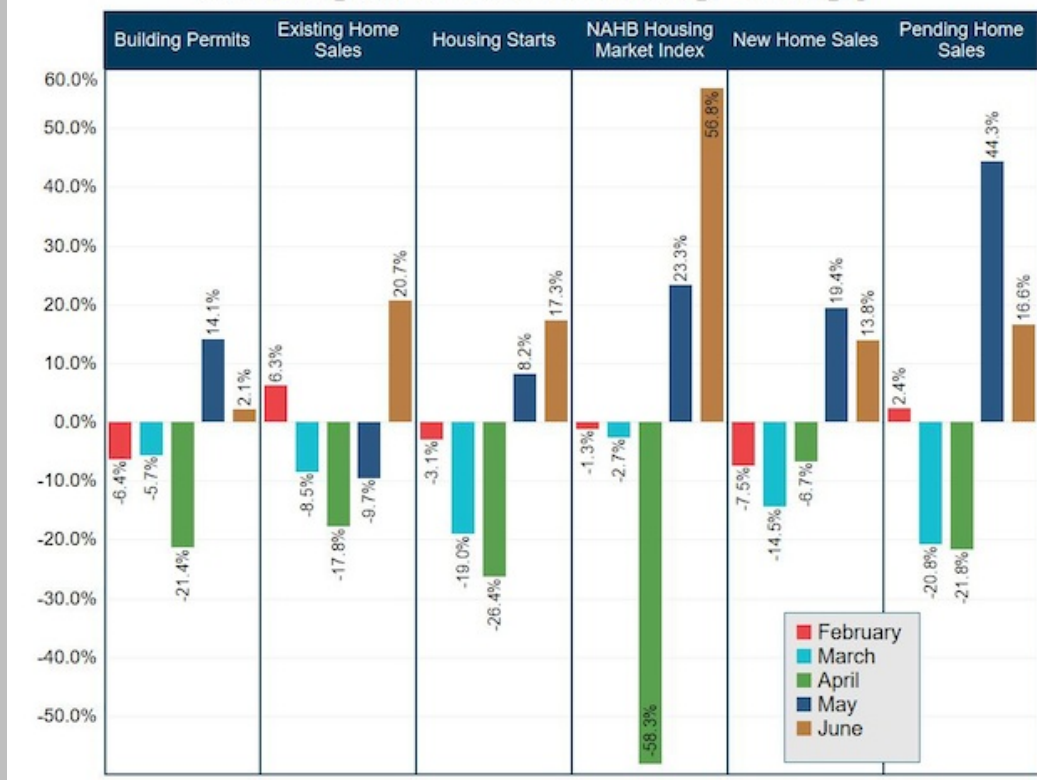
[Read more.](#)

THE HOUSING MARKET REBOUNDED IN JUNE

The housing market will be a key factor in pulling the economy out of the large hole it is in. The market plunged in February, March, and April. It bounced back some in May. Now that we have all the data for June, we know it improved even more last month, but that was before the virus resurged in July.

Key numbers. All housing market indicators improved impressively in June. The National Association of Home Builders' Housing Market Index was the big gainer for the month. It rose almost 57%. Existing home sales rose almost 21%, followed by housing starts (17%), pending home sales (17%), new home sales (14%), and building permits (2%). Home prices rose 0.7% in May—the latest available data—and are up 4.5% on an annual basis

Housing Market Rebounding Strongly



The housing market data may lag again once we get July data, though. We know that the resurgence of the virus is causing the economy to slow. That could cause homebuyers to pull back.

We do not have many data points for July yet, but the ones we do have point to a slowdown. For instance, [The Conference Board reported](#) yesterday that consumer confidence fell 5.8% in July compared to June. It had surged over 14% from May to June. The big picture. When consumers are confident, they spend more. The reverse is also true. Look for the impressive June housing data to be less impressive when we get July's numbers.

—Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

WYLIE RELEASES RETURN TO LEARN

Yesterday, Wylie ISD released their "Bulldogs Return to Learn" initial school reopening plan via their Facebook page.

The post stated the document is a work in progress and can change based on data, information, and feedback from our health and community organizations.

[Read more.](#)

GOVERNOR ABBOTT WAIVES CERTAIN TRUCKING REGULATIONS TO EXPEDITE HURRICANE HANNA RECOVERY IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, COASTAL BEND

Governor Greg Abbott [has waived certain regulations related to commercial trucking](#) in the state of Texas. These suspensions will allow commercial drivers to more quickly deliver supplies, specifically electric power poles, to communities in the Rio Grande Valley

and the Coastal Bend that were directly impacted by Hurricane Hanna. This suspension of laws and regulations has been coordinated through the Texas Department of Public Safety.

AG PAXTON ISSUES LEGAL GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL REOPENING

Attorney General Ken Paxton [issued guidance](#) on the opening of local schools for the upcoming school year, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, responding to a request from Stephenville Mayor Doug Svien. In the [guidance](#), he says nothing in the Governor's Executive Order ([GA-28](#)) prohibits any school from opening.

Paxton noted local health authorities play an important role in protecting the health of school children and employees but may not issue sweeping orders closing schools for the sole purpose of preventing future COVID-19 infections. Their role is limited by statute to addressing specific, actual outbreaks of disease. He states school officials, both public and private, are the appropriate ones to decide whether, when, and how to open school.

GOVERNOR ABBOTT, HHSC EXTEND DEADLINE FOR PANDEMIC FOOD BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Governor Greg Abbott [announced](#) that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is extending the application deadline for the [federal Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer program](#) to August 21 to ensure eligible families have more time to apply for this one-time food benefit. P-EBT is a one-time benefit of \$285 per eligible child and can be used in the same way Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits pay for groceries. Eligible families include those with children who lost access to free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program due to school closures.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Oil falls with equities while volatility drops to a 5-month low

"Oil slipped along with equities in Europe and a strengthening dollar, while crude continued to trade in a narrow band."

[Read more.](#)

The Pandemic Shows Us the Genius of Supermarkets

"A short history of the stores that—even now—keep us supplied with an abundance of choices."

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

7/30 TELECOM RULE IMPACTS ALL CONTRACTS...ARE YOU PREPARED? Have you heard about Section 889 of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)? The legislation was passed to combat national security and intellectual property threats that face the United States and contains two prohibitions: Part A and Part B. [Learn more.](#)

7/30 SEED TO START OR GROW A BUSINESS: A GUIDE TO SUCCESS Every business starts with a dream. Turning this dream into a reality requires confidence, grit, knowledge, and funding. Wherever you are in growing your business, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has the tools and resources to help you start, grow and expand your business with confidence. [Learn more.](#)

8/5 SBA/FAA VIRTUAL INDUSTRY DAY The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Dallas/Fort Worth District Office teams up with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to bring to the small business community the first SBA/FAA Virtual Industry Day, August 5th, 2020 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. [Learn more.](#)

8/5 HUMANITIES TEXAS GRANTS AND EXHIBITIONS hold a free webinar on grants and exhibitions for Texas cultural and educational organizations. Learn about funding opportunities, traveling exhibitions, and other resources provided by Humanities Texas. Staff will make brief presentations and then be available for questions and discussion. [Register here.](#)

8/5 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE COVID-19 has impacted how we conduct business in many ways. That is why the Governor's Small Business Team will host another webinar focused on helping small businesses develop adaptive strategies for an evolving future. This webinar will help guide business owners and entrepreneurs in implementing solutions, such as e-commerce and online strategies, to maximize business resiliency during uncertain times. [Register here.](#)

8/11 TEXAS ALLIANCE OF ENERGY PRODUCERS SUMMER CONFERENCE join this FREE webinar on Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm to hear from distinguished energy professionals on issues important to you and your company. [Register here.](#)

8/13 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING VIRTUAL LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSION discussion about government contracting for Women-Owned Small Businesses. [Learn more.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Year One](#)
- [Your Chamber Commitment for Fall Events](#)
- [Free Mask Poster for Chamber Members](#)
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