



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

2020 BUSINESS EXPO TO CELEBRATE ABILENE'S BUSINESSES, SAFELY

Give me the details: The Chamber hosts its rescheduled Business Expo sponsored by Pest Patrol, Black Plumbing and Lawrence Hall - Abilene today at the Abilene Convention Center from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm. This year's event is free to the public and Chamber members. Stop by to network with businesses, reconnect with business acquaintances, and to see what's new in the business community.

What about safety protocols? This year's event is smaller so we can follow physical distancing guidelines, and a five step safety protocol has been put in place for the event. [View more here.](#)

What about Business After Hours? Business After Hours continues immediately following Business Expo sponsored by Market Street, Reed Beverage and First Bank Texas. Stop by to network while checking out the small business packages at the [Live Auction](#) sponsored by Republic Services - Abilene Landfill.

What else can I anticipate? During Business After Hours, every Chamber program and Chamber affiliate will be present so you can learn more about how to get involved in all aspects of the Chamber while learning more about how your membership works on your behalf.

Questions? [Find more here.](#)

TEXAS WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE PROVIDES NEW, EARLY ECONOMIC INSIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic-induced economic slowdown is in many ways more like a natural disaster than a typical recession. Job losses have been swift and deep but do not appear to be entirely long-lasting.

In this environment where economic conditions change very quickly and can reverse with the spread of the virus, tracking the Texas economy requires a timelier indicator than standard quarterly and monthly economic measures.

To meet this challenge, the new Texas Weekly Employment Estimate (TWEE) will appear each Friday and reflect workforce changes during the prior week.

[Read more.](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 CENSUS

Accurate Census counts are far more than just a matter of interest. They are vital to ensuring adequate federal funding for various programs, appropriate representation in Congress, and an understanding of demographic trends to plan for the future. Over 300 federal programs rely on Census data to allocate funds geographically, as do numerous state and local initiatives. For example, many resources and dollars for hospitals and health clinics are distributed according to Census data. Important aspects of the social safety net, such as Medicaid and CHIP, SNAP, and housing vouchers, also depend on Census estimates, programs that will only become more vital as the economy continues to experience disruptions from the pandemic.

The economic and fiscal costs of a significant undercount would be substantial. We recently estimated that the direct losses of federal funding in Texas could total nearly \$21.3 billion over the 2021-2030 period, or \$2.1 billion per year on an average annual basis. Primary categories of funding reductions are in sectors critical to the ongoing wellbeing of the population and economy such as health care, housing, education, and infrastructure.

[Read more.](#)

TEXAS SALES TAX REVENUE UP IN JULY; 'WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, BUT WE'RE OPTIMISTIC'

Texas businesses and consumers helped the state bring in nearly \$3 billion in sales tax during July, a 4.3% increase compared to the same month last year. This unprecedented increase brings optimism in the face of financial uncertainty, as sales tax revenue is the largest contributor to Texas' budget (57%). While we're not out of the woods yet, "we're seeing resilience and grit in Texas businesses as they reopen or find new ways to serve their customer base." Aaron Cox, TAB's COO, reported.

[Read more.](#)

TEXAS SMALL BUSINESSES AWARDED \$18.6-MILLION MORE IN COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS

The Economic Development Administration will award \$18.6 million to small businesses in Texas through CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants. These grants will administer Revolving Loan Funds, which aim to provide gap financing to small businesses and entrepreneurs adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

To learn how the grants will be distributed, [click here.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

U.S. beef making gains in China

China's foodservice sector is rebounding from COVID-19 restrictions imposed earlier this year, which is good news for U.S. beef exports, according to Joel Haggard, U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) senior vice president for the Asia Pacific based in Hong Kong.

[Read more.](#)

What's working for small businesses right now?

Need some examples of how other businesses are adapting their business models and sales strategies right now? We talked to five business owners from around the country — including folks who own a winery, a community ceramics instructor and the owners of a medical supply company — to find out how they've switched things up during the pandemic.

[Read more.](#)

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

8/19 BEST PRACTICES FOR THE NONPROFIT WORLD For many small and mid-sized non-profits, knowing how to build and maintain the health of the organization, using current best practices and the very best management strategies, is critical and can mean life or death for the organization. [Learn more.](#)

8/19 STARTING A BUSINESS IN TEXAS Texas remains the best state in the U.S. to start a business. Join the Governor's Small Business Team and a panel of subject-matter experts as they discuss the initial steps for starting and operating a business in the state. [Register here.](#)

8/19 SBA MILITARY SPOUSE ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT The U.S. Small Business Administration will host a virtual "Military Spouse Entrepreneur Summit" in collaboration with Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes on Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 1-3:30 p.m., EDT. [Register here.](#)

8/24 WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION As of July 15, the certification process for Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) and Economically Disadvantaged WOSBs (EDWOSBs) has changed. Supervisor Business Opportunity Specialist with the SBA Dallas/Fort Worth District Office will facilitate the workshop and will be available to answer specific questions on the certification eligibility and process. Learn how you can take advantage of these opportunities for Women-Owned Small Businesses in this one hour informative session. [Register here.](#)

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