



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

TABC EASES REQUIREMENTS FOR BARS TO BECOME RESTAURANTS

On Tuesday, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission approved an emergency amendment to the food and beverage permit requirements to make it easier for bars to reopen as restaurants.

The emergency amendments to Rule 33.5, which goes into effect Tuesday, will no longer require bars to list commercial cooking equipment, allow them to sale commercially pre-packaged food items from another business or partner with a food truck on the property, allowing the bar to qualify for the 51% food and beverage sales requirement. [Read more.](#)

TAYLOR COUNTY: NO NEW COVID-19 CASES FOR FIRST TIME SINCE JUNE 16

The Abilene-Taylor County Health District reported no new cases of COVID-19 on Monday for the first time since June 16.

[Read more.](#)

RECOVERY INTERRUPTED: TEXAS LOST OVER 12,000 JOBS IN JULY

Texas lost 12,300 private-sector jobs from June to July, reversing gains from previous months. Government hiring accounted for 43,700 additional jobs in July, largely concentrated on the local level. But even with the government gains, Texas had a weak month in July with total job growth of 0.3%, the lowest rate among the 10 most populous states. [Read more.](#)

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE FALLS IN AUGUST

Consumer Confidence Declines for the Second Consecutive Month



The Conference Board reported today that [consumer confidence fell](#) for the second consecutive month. The confidence level is now at its lowest point of the pandemic. Key numbers:

- Consumers who think business conditions are “bad” increased from 38.9% to 43.6%.
- Consumers who think jobs are “plentiful” fell from 22.3% to 21.5%.
- Consumers who expect an increase in their income in the next six months declined from 14.8% to 12.7%.

The big picture: When consumers are confident, they spend more, but the reverse is also true. This data shows how important it is for Washington to come together on a pandemic relief package to instill confidence. Such a package should contain timely, temporary, and targeted relief, including a liability safe harbor as well as support for slow-to-recover employers, the unemployed, and state and local governments.

WHAT WE'RE READING

The future of fairs, and opportunities for direct sales.

The Around Farm Progress podcast looks at how county and state fairs changed this year; and we dig into ways direct sales present unique farm opportunities

[Read more.](#)

The office isn't dead yet. How (and where) to get a sweet deal now.

With offices still largely empty as most employees continue to work from home, now hardly seems like the most logical time to open a new office or expand your square footage. And yet for those in a position to do, now's the moment to strike--you can get concessions that were unheard of six months

ago.

[Read more.](#)

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

AUG 26: OPERATING A SOCIALLY DISTANT BUSINESS Join us this Wednesday, August 26 at 2:00 pm ET for the next episode of our virtual series from CO—, an audience-driven discussion designed specifically for the small business community, hosted in partnership with Chase for Business and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce. [Register here.](#)

AUG 26: WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (WOSB) & EDWOSB TOO

Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Program Manager Rich Lyles as he provides you with a general understanding of how the WOSB & the EDWOSB Program works. You'll learn about the benefits of being certified and the eligibility criteria required for certification. We'll also cover the recent (very significant) changes to the program, and we'll discuss the current free certification system that went online July 15th, 2020. [Register here.](#)

AUG 26: VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL WATER STORY TELLING CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, September 26th, at 10:00 a.m. we will host the following two keynote speakers: Professor Anete Mikkala Camille Strand, Ph.D. (Aalborg University, Denmark) will present "Approaching Water Through Gaia". Simar Kohli (ECOSTP, a sewage treatment facility in Bangalore, India) will present "Rewatering a City". [Register here.](#)

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