



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

ABILENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - EVENING OF 8/27

Abilene City Council will meet this evening at 4:30 pm at City Hall. You can find the full [agenda here](#) and watch [online here](#).

PANDEMIC IS AFFECTING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES DISPROPORTIONATELY

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“My business is in good health.”

62%
of male-owned
small businesses

47%
of female-owned
small businesses

 **5 points**
since January 2020

 **13 points**
since January 2020

Female-owned small businesses are disproportionately feeling the effects of the pandemic and economic crisis, according to [data](#) released today by the U.S. Chamber.

Key takeaway: Before the pandemic began, 67% of male-owned businesses ranked the overall health of their business as “somewhat or very good,” compared to 60% of female-owned businesses. In July 2020, that number fell 13 points to 47% for female-owned businesses, while the number of male business owners reporting “somewhat or very good” health only fell 5 percentage points to 62%.

By the numbers: Female small business owners are less likely to expect future revenue, investment, and staffing growth.

- In January, 63% of female-owned businesses predicted their revenues would increase in the coming year, comparable to male-owned businesses (59%). In July, that number had fallen 14 percentage points for female owners to 49%, while male owners remained relatively unchanged (57%).
- In January, 32% of female-owned small businesses said they planned to increase investments in their business in the coming year, similar to male-owned businesses at 28%. In July, that number remained unchanged for female owners but male owners saw an increase of 11 percentage points, rising to 39%.
- In January, 31% of female-owned businesses said they expected to increase the size of their staff in the coming year, nearly the same as male-owned businesses (30%). In July, there was a 12-point difference between female owners (24%) and male owners (36%).

Why it matters: This data indicates female small business owners don't anticipate recovering as quickly as male business owners.

One small business owner's story: "My 40-year old catering company has made it through ups and downs in business before, but I don't see us surviving COVID-19 without additional help from our elected representatives in Washington," said Maxine Turner, founder of Cuisine Unlimited based in Salt Lake City, Utah. "We desperately need another boost from the Paycheck Protection Program. Time is of the essence as so many of us have exhausted our funds and have no additional resources to keep our companies afloat until this pandemic is under control."

CENSUS BUREAU ADAPTS OPERATIONS TO ENSURE EVERYONE IS COUNTED

As the U.S. Census Bureau continues to monitor the impacts COVID-19 has on 2020 Census operations, changes to operations are being deployed to ensure the safety of staff and the public while maximizing the number of households that respond on their own to the 2020 Census.

[Read more.](#)

OIL HOLDS AT 5-MONTH HIGH AS HURRICANE NEARS U.S. GULF COAST

Oil held near a five-month high as Hurricane Laura bore down on key refining facilities on the U.S. Gulf Coast, with forecasts saying it will strengthen rapidly into a "potentially catastrophic" Category 4 storm.

[Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Four scenarios on how we might develop immunity to Covid-19.

As the world wearies of trying to suppress the SARS-CoV-2 virus, many of us are wondering what the future will look like as we try to learn to live with it.

[Read more.](#)

After \$20 trillion in pandemic relief spending, there's still

no sign of inflation. What happened?

There's hardly any question that carries greater weight in economics right now, or divides the financial world more sharply, than whether inflation is on the way back.

[Read more.](#)

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

AUG 27: PATH FORWARD: COVID-19 AND THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL

America is restarting the economy after a lengthy shutdown. The effort to bring millions of people back to work brings lots of big, complicated questions. Path Forward, a series produced by the U.S. Chamber Foundation, is designed to help business and community leaders find the answers they need to execute a responsible reopening strategy and plan for a post-pandemic world. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 29:FAST FORWARD SUMMIT 2020

On September 29 and 30, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation will host a two-day, future-looking summit to highlight the people, ideas, and innovations that are shaping our lives and businesses. [Register here.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Every Story Has a Backstory](#)
- [Fill out your census](#)
- [Your Chamber Commitment for Fall Events](#)
- [Update your newsletter preferences](#)
- [Hiring? Add your job to AbileneWorks.com for free](#)
- [Previous Business Briefs](#)

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Member Directory](#)

[Update your email preferences](#)