



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### PANDEMIC COULD SET TOURISM SECTOR BACK BY \$1 TRILLION

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released a new report earlier this week that draws on UNWTO data to quantify the devastating impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on global tourism. It warns that up to 120 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$1 trillion in 2020 alone.

"It is imperative that we rebuild the tourism sector," Mr. Guterres said, in order for it to "regain its position as a provider of decent jobs, stable incomes and the protection of our cultural and natural heritage." The UN Secretary-General stressed tourism's role as one of the most important economic sectors, providing livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people while "boosting economies and enabling countries to thrive."

[Read more.](#)

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### REFINERIES ASSESSING STORM DAMAGE

Oil refineries in Texas and Louisiana are assessing their facilities for any damage that Hurricane Laura might have caused. Many shut down ahead of the storm. It could take a few days for crews to find any storm-related problems, but stopping operations in the first place is no easy feat. Susan Grissom is with the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers trade association. She says, "The process of shutting down a refinery and bringing a refinery back up takes time. Typically if you go restart a refinery it takes 10-20 days." And sometimes bringing a refinery back online can be the most dangerous part--that was true of a deadly 2005 explosion at a BP Refinery in Texas City. Federal data shows more than 45% of US refining capacity is along the Gulf Coast, and more than half of natural gas processing plant capacity. (Source: KACU)

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### CITY COUNCIL STILL PREPARING RESOLUTION FOR GOVERNOR

Abilene City Council voted in their last meeting to craft a resolution demanding Governor Greg Abbott give local municipalities control to reopening businesses during the pandemic. City Manager Robert Hanna recommended Mayor Anthony Williams form a committee to draft the resolution. Hanna says the committee has not yet been formed but he and the mayor have spoken about it and should have something set up by the middle of next week. Hanna also says they will likely engage Hillco firm in Austin, as well as reaching out to the offices of Stan Lambert, Dawn Buckingham and the Governor. He hopes the resolution discussion will be an agenda item at the first Council meeting in September. (Source: KACU)

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## THE IRS IS REMINDING BUSINESSES THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS TAXABLE

Do you know anyone who has claimed unemployment this year? As of April 2020, over 23 million Americans filed for unemployment, and one out of four Americans received unemployment this year. The IRS wants to remind you that unemployment is taxable income.

[Learn more.](#)

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### WHAT WE'RE READING

#### Covid Testing in the Workplace Is Tricky. Here's What Experts Recommend

*Temperature checks and Covid-19 testing are a good idea to keep employees safe, but be careful about privacy and record keeping.*

[Read more.](#)

#### How Coworking Spaces Are Revamping to Meet Pandemic Workplace Needs

*Coworking spaces are adapting new sanitation and floor layout strategies to create safe environments for businesses.*

[Read more.](#)

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

#### SEPT 9: REBUILDING YOUR BRAND

An [interactive discussion](#) focused on helping businesses strike the right tone with an evolving customer base during COVID-19 and beyond. [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.](#)

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