



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### THE FALL MUST GO ON ... AND SO WILL ENTERTAINMENT IN ABILENE

August brings the start of school, the heat, the kickoff of football and approval of school and local government budgets for FY 2021.

And a look at the coming entertainment year in Abilene.

To do that this year would require a crystal ball. More likely divine intervention. No one knows what to expect in the months ahead as the nation continues to deal with a health pandemic that shut down entertainment events beginning in March.

Five months later, venues remain closed, seasons are on hold and organizers are leaning on a new word — creativity.

Still, plans are being made, as best as possible. Some seasons or single events have been pushed to next spring. Others are forging ahead this fall but in new ways.

[Read more.](#)

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### RECOVERY CONTINUES IN TEXAS MANUFACTURING

Texas factory activity expanded in August for the third month in a row following a record contraction in the spring after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to business executives responding to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, came in at 13.1, down slightly from July but still indicative of moderate growth.

[Read more.](#)

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### BUSINESSES OPERATING INTERNATIONALLY FACE BIG GLOBAL CHALLENGES

This week, **Myron Brilliant** joined leaders at the Aspen Institute Program on the World Economy for a discussion of major economic and financial challenges. With COVID-19 a continued drag on our economic recovery and global trade set to decline by 12% in 2020, those challenges loom larger than usual.

**The big picture:** The issues – from rising monetary and fiscal challenges, to eroding confidence in global governance and institutions, to a rapidly changing workforce – will be familiar to U.S. businesses operating internationally.

## Key takeaways for business:

- Healthcare collaboration between industry, government, and academia has never been stronger amid a global vaccine race. The next challenges will be managing distribution through supply chains and strengthening public/private partnerships on digital health and future preparedness.
- The global recovery is likely to be uneven. While Europe's drop in GDP was even greater than the United States, many EU countries moved decisively to implement national plans to curtail the pandemic and have averted mass unemployment. Meanwhile, there's more gloom than optimism in Latin America, which could face a challenging road ahead due to severe debt levels and unsustainable monetary fiscal policy responses.
- Central banks played a critical role in bolstering economies amid the COVID pandemic, but they aren't staffed by magicians. Central banks know how to tighten monetary policy in an overheated economy, but easing in a recession has its limits: As economists like to say, "you can't push on a string."
- China policy will loom large, shaping not only rhetoric in U.S. elections, but broader global dynamics as policymakers grapple with a rising China. The U.S. Chamber is working to retain the benefits of the Phase I deal; prioritize structural reform in China; limit the harm of tariffs; leverage coordination with allies; and engage to address our members' concerns in a sustained and methodical way.

**The bottom line:** Finding effective solutions on health care, sustainability, trade, supply chains, and many other issues will require creativity and cross-border partnerships. With global governments in turmoil, the private sector will increasingly need to play a leadership role.

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## WHAT WE'RE READING

### Abilene Chamber announces Leadership Abilene Class of 2021

ABILENE, Texas (Press Release) – The Abilene Chamber of Commerce announced the participants for the 2021 class of their storied Leadership Abilene program.

[Read more.](#)

### This Company Is Paying for Unemployed Americans to Train as Health Care Workers

Ankur Jain's investment firm, Kairos, is funding the training for 10,000 workers.

[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 9: INTRO TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING AND THE PTAC**

Come learn about the basics of getting started in public sector contracting. Learn about registering in the System for Award Management (SAM) and how the government procures goods and services. SAM is the single point of entry for Federal Government contracting opportunities. We will also discuss marketing tips and opportunities for small businesses. [Register here.](#)

### **SEPT 15: PRWEEK CONVENE: TALKING SHOP – THE FUTURE OF RETAIL**

This PRWeek virtual event explores what retail brands must do to renew confidence among consumers and ensure the long-term prosperity of a \$3.8 trillion sector that supports one in four American jobs and remains the backbone of the economy. This event will be on September 15th from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm ET. [Register here.](#)

### **SEPT 16: INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS: TEAMING JOINT VENTURES, AND THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM - PRESENTED BY MATT SCHOONOVER, KOPRINCE LAW**

Want to learn how to take your small business to the next level within the realm of government contracting? Join the Northwest Texas PTAC and Koprince Law Firm as Managing Partner, Matt Schoonover of Koprince Law presents this informative webinar about Teaming Arrangements, Joint Ventures and the SBA's Mentor Protégé Program. He'll discuss how each works and how they all fit in together. [Register here.](#)

### **SEPT 23: VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (VOSB) & SDVOSB TOO**

Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Program Manager Rich Lyles as he provides you with a general understanding of how the VOSB & the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business SDVOSB Program works. You'll learn about the benefits of being certified and the eligibility criteria required for certification. They'll discuss the formal certification through the VA as well as the self-certification option. [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.](#)

### **SEPT 30: CYBERSECURITY BASICS FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTORS**

Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Senior Field Advisor Mark Snyder as he provides you with a general understanding of the basic cybersecurity requirements that the Department of Defense has for all contractors and sub-contractors. You'll learn about the benefits of being prepared and the process for putting a cybersecurity plan in place. [Register here.](#)

### **OCT 8: ACU VIRTUAL JOB FAIR: GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT & SOCIAL SERVICES**

This Government, NonProfit & Social Services VIRTUAL Career Fair is brought to you by the West Central Texas Career Consortium. Participating in this event is an excellent way for your organization to gain visibility and maximize recruiting potential! Employers interested in participating in this event are encouraged to register on-line as early as possible. [Register here.](#)

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