

Austin led the nation in percentage of small business growth

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Austin, Houston and McAllen-Edinburg were the only major markets in the U.S. to add small businesses from 2008 through 2009, according to an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by The Business Journals' On Numbers, a division of American City Business Journals.

Austin saw the largest percentage growth, with small businesses increasing to 39,350 in 2009 from 39,180 in 2008, or a 0.43 percent growth. McAllen had a 0.41 percent increase, and Houston rounded out the top three with a 0.25 percent increase. On Numbers defines a small business as any private-sector establishment with fewer than 100 employees.

While these three Texas cities saw small business growth, much of the nation did not. The number of small businesses in 938 metropolitan and micropolitan areas across the nation dropped to 6.82 million in 2009 from 6.96 million in 2008, according to the analysis. The trend was also evident on a larger basis, with 97 of the nation's 100 biggest markets also saying goodbye to many of their small businesses.

The cities with the greatest percentage loss included Boise, Idaho (down 5 percent); Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla. (down 4.2 percent); and Phoenix (down 3.8 percent).

[Click here](#) to view the complete On Numbers report, which includes an interactive database of the number of small businesses lost or gained in major U.S. markets from 2008 to 2009.



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