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HBJ Morning Call

Houston fared better than most in recession business growth

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The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area increased its number of private-sector businesses by .15 percent during the heart of the recession, from 2008 to 2009. Although it was a small gain, Houston was one of the few areas to see a spike in business numbers.

The vast majority of U.S. markets—93 percent—lost private-sector businesses from 2008 to 2009, according to an analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data by The Business Journals' On Numbers, a division of American City Business Journals.

Only three major metropolitan markets, Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Austin-Round Rock and McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, gained private-sector businesses between 2008 and 2009. The Houston area had a net gain of 179 private-sector businesses during the time period.

[Click here](#) to read the complete On Numbers report including an interactive database showing the number of private-sector businesses establishments gained and lost in different U.S. markets.