

**Number #1  
for Business**

**Texas is America's Top**

State for Business in 2008

CNBC, July 2008

**No. 1 exporting U.S. state for  
seven-straight years**

WISERTrade, February 2009

**2008 Gold Shovel Recipient**

Area Development, June/July

2008

**Best State in which  
to do Business**

Chief Executive Magazine,

January 2008

**Texas is The Number One Exporting State for  
Seven Consecutive Years**

The U.S. Department of Commerce has named Texas the top exporting state in the nation for the seventh year in a row based on 2008 export data. Texas' exports increased more than 14 percent over the last year, totaling \$192.14 billion, approximately \$23.92 billion more than 2007.

"Maintaining our rank as the nation's top exporting state is proof positive that Texas has sound policies in place to cushion it from the effects of an economic downturn," said Gov. Perry. "By maintaining low taxes and reasonable and predictable regulations, business in Texas can continue to flourish, ensuring our ongoing position as a top exporting state and competitor in the global marketplace." (read the full press release [here](#).)

**Gov. Perry Announces \$5.5 Million Research  
Grant to University of Houston, Creating  
Institute of Biomedical Research**

Gov. Rick Perry has announced the state will invest \$5.5 million in the University of Houston to create the world class Institute of Biomedical Research in conjunction with the Methodist Hospital Research Institute, which will house the Texas International Center for Cell Signaling and Nuclear Receptors. The governor also urged the Texas Legislature to continue to appropriate funds to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF).

"The biomedical industry is one of the largest in our state, and has the potential to greatly improve many Texans' quality of life with continued

research and expansion," Gov. Perry said. "This world class research team will lead the charge in developing treatments for diseases that plague our citizens and enhance the University of Houston's presence as a biomedical research institution." (read the full story [here](#).)

## **Gov. Perry Announces \$5 Million Grant to Texas A&M Health Science Center Institute of Regenerative Medicine**

Gov. Rick Perry has announced the state will invest \$5 million to expand and recruit researchers to the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) College of Medicine's Institute of Regenerative Medicine at Scott and White. The governor also urged the Texas Legislature to continue to appropriate funds to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF).

"Commercialization of adult stem cell research will provide much-needed solutions for Texans suffering from various tissue and organ disorders while protecting the unborn from exploitation," Gov. Perry said. (read the full press release [here](#).)

### **Recent Awards and Honors**

Texas is home to the top 5 U.S. metros in "The Healthiest Housing Markets for 2009" report. Houston ranked number 1, followed by Austin (2), Fort Worth (3), San Antonio (4) and Dallas (5).

To read the full report, click [here](#).

### **Recent Import Data**

In 2008, Port Level data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicated overall Texas imports totaled approximately \$329.06 billion, an increase of approximately 8.7 percent from \$287.1 billion in 2007.

2008 Texas imports by the top ten ranked commodities were oil and petroleum products (\$133.68 billion or 41 percent); electrical machinery, computers, etc. (\$89.5 billion or 27 percent); and transportation equipment, including vehicles, aircraft, railway, etc. (\$29.05 billion or 9 percent). (click to see [chart](#))

2008 Texas imports for the top 10 countries of origin accounted for \$251.51 billion or 76.4 percent of Texas imports. NAFTA trading partner, Mexico, was the top country of origin for Texas imports with approximately \$143.18 billion in imported goods or 43 percent. (click to see [chart](#))

For more Texas awards and honors, click [here](#).

Texas Business Digest information is compiled by the Economic Development & Tourism Division of the Office of Governor Rick Perry. For more information, contact the Press Office at 512-463-1826.