

**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

**Chief Executive Magazine Ranks Texas “Top
State for Business” for 4th Year in a Row**

Texas has been ranked the top state for job growth and business development for the fourth year in a row in a survey of CEOs by Chief Executive Magazine.

“Being recognized by Chief Executive Magazine for the fourth year in a row proves what millions of Texans already know: there is simply no better place to live, work and raise a family than the Lone Star State,” Gov. Perry said. “Our low taxes, reasonable and predictable regulations, and skilled workforce have created a competitive economic climate, and helped us weather the national economic downturn.” (read the full press release [here](#))

Texas Ranked #1 in Online Transparency

Texas has been ranked number one in online transparency out of all 50 states, according to a study conducted as part of the annual Sunshine Week campaign. Sunshine Week is a national initiative by journalism organizations to focus on open government and access to information.

“It is encouraging to see Texas’ concerted efforts of greater budget transparency recognized at this level, said Gov. Rick Perry. “I am a longtime supporter of transparency and the accountability that comes with it. I hope that Texas will continue to build on these successes by calling for even more transparency, including from our institutions of higher education and municipalities all across the state.” (read the full story [here](#))

Gov. Perry announces more than 100 new jobs to the Rio Grande Valley

Gov. Rick Perry credited Texas’ competitive economic climate with attracting businesses to the state and creating jobs. The governor spoke at a press conference on March 24th, announcing the opening of UnitedHealth Group’s Ovations service center.

“This announcement is affirmation that our efforts to foster a culture where new jobs can be created and sustained are paying off,” Gov. Perry said. “Businesses like UnitedHealth Group come to the Lone Star State seeking the best possible location to invest and risk their capital, the best available workforce, regulatory systems that protect without stifling innovation and tax structures that allow folks to keep more of what they earn. We have worked hard to establish these key characteristics of Texas’ business climate, and will continue to protect these job creating elements in the months to come.” (read the full story [here](#))

Gov. Perry Announces \$50 Million ETF Investment to Create Center for Medical Therapeutics Development and Manufacturing at Texas A&M University System

Gov. Rick Perry has announced Texas will invest \$50 million through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) in the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) to create the Center for Medical Therapeutics Development and Manufacturing (CMTDM). The center will be an international destination for research and development of medications to combat diseases such as cancer, diabetes and influenza, and will serve as a model for future national facilities that will protect the nation from bio-terror threats and attacks.

“There is no question that the biotechnology industry is essential to developing products that can improve and save lives, and Texas is working to foster continued growth of this industry within the state,” said Gov. Perry. (read the full story [here](#))

Gov. Perry Announces \$250,000 Emerging Technology Fund Investment to Commercialize 3-D Gaming Technology

Gov. Rick Perry has announced the state will invest \$250,000 through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) in AnaLogix Development Corporation for the commercialization of its 3-D movement-based game controller for the personal computer and gaming markets.

“The ETF is a unique and powerful tool that helps Texas companies in all sectors and stages of development realize the goal of commercializing innovative technologies,” Gov. Perry said. “Continued investment in this growing gaming industry and other areas of technological innovation fortifies our state’s economic future.” (read the full press release [here](#))

Recent Data

Texas is listed in many of the top rankings in the latest Census estimates released on July 1, 2008:

- The Austin-Round Rock metro area was one of the nation’s fastest-growing metro areas between 2007 and 2008, according to population estimates for the nation’s

metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and counties released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

- Two Texas metro areas increased their populations by more than 100,000 people from 2007 to 2008: Dallas-Fort Worth (147,000 gain) and Houston (130,000 gain).
- The two Texas counties had the largest numeric gains: Harris County (72,000 gain) and Tarrant County (41,000 gain).
- Three Texas counties added the largest number of residents during the period: Harris, Tarrant and Bexar.
- The third the most populous county in the U.S. was Harris County in Houston (4.0 million).
- Among the 100 fastest-growing counties, the majority were in Texas (19).
- Two metro areas had numeric gains of more than 1 million over the period: Dallas-Fort Worth (1.14 million) and Houston (1.01 million).

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.