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AUSTIN BUSINESS JOURNAL

WHERE CENTRAL TEXAS CAPITALIZES ON BUSINESS

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Austin 2nd fastest growing city in the nation

[Austin Business Journal](#)

Austin was the nation's second-fastest-growing metropolitan area between 2007 and 2008, according to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The population in the Austin-Round Rock area grew 3.8 percent to 1.65 million between July 2007 and July 2008. Among major U.S. metros, that growth rate was second only to Raleigh-Cary, N.C., which experienced a 4.3 percent population uptick during the 12-month period.

Large metro areas — those with 2008 populations of 1 million or more — were home to nine of the 10 fastest-growing counties. Texas had the largest number of counties on the 100 fastest-growing counties list with a total of 19. The Lone Star State was also home to 10 counties among the 25 with the highest numerical gains.

Four metro areas--including two in Texas--increased their populations by more than 100,000 people between 2007 to 2008: Dallas-Fort Worth (147,000), Houston (130,000), Phoenix (116,000) and Atlanta (115,000).



Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Texas still tops for business, CEO study says

Austin Business Journal

Texas holds its place for the fourth year in a row as the best state to do business in, according to ***Chief Executive*** magazine.

The magazine ranks the states on what it calls “a broad range of issues” including natural resources, regulation, tax policies, quality of living, education and infrastructure.

Texas was giving top ratings for both transportation and economy, and was also noted for its access to capital and technology and innovation.

Following Texas was North Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. The worst states to do business with, according to the study was California, New York, Michigan, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The magazine’s list was based on surveys done by 543 CEOs.

The magazine said states that perform well in the rankings tend to have lower taxes and low rates of unionization.

“Our survey, year-over-year proves that those states with the worst records continue to practice the same policies that alienate businesses,” JP Donlon, editor-in-chief of *Chief Executive* magazine, said. “As the nation’s economic problems continue to snowball and an increasing number of states experience budgetary problems, state governments ought to take a hard look at their taxation and unionization policies if they want to turn the page and attract new businesses and capital to their provinces.”