



ECONOMIC UPDATE

July 2011

*Data provided by Strategic Insight Group
Intelligence Research Partner of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce*

In the Works

TPG Capital, a Fort Worth private equity firm, has announced plans to acquire Immucor Inc., based in Norcross, Ga., and worth \$1.97 billion. Immucor manufactures and sells a line of reagents and systems used by hospitals, reference laboratories and donor centers. TPG Capital will purchase the group in a transaction with a fully diluted equity value of \$1.97 billion.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 8, 2011

SkyWalker Property Partners is undertaking a capital improvement project for 29 residential condominiums at **Arthouse at So7**. SkyWalker also has hired local firm **Williams Trew Real Estate Services** to market the condominiums, located at 2608 Museum Way on the western edge of downtown Fort Worth. The units offer one-, two- and three-bedroom designs from 1,059 to 1,900 square feet at prices that range from \$230,000 to \$325,000.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 15, 2011

Murray's Cheese, New York's most famous cheese shop, will open a cheese shop in Kroger's Alliance location at 3300 Texas Sage Trail. Murray's president Robert Kaufelt says this expansion will allow customers to enjoy a variety of cheeses that are not available anywhere else.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 22, 2011

Expansions and Moves

Pier 1, headquartered in Fort Worth, announced plans to invest \$200 million in significant store and product improvements, new stores, e-commerce, technology and infrastructure. Pier 1's three-year growth plan, three overarching goals: increase store sales to \$200 a square foot, generate operating margins of 10 percent of sales, and have online business account for at least 10 percent of total revenue.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 1, 2011

Mama's Pizza, based in Fort Worth, announced plans to open a new pizzeria in Weatherford. Mama's will open its new Parker County location on July 20 at 114 College Park Drive, with the grand opening scheduled for July 27.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 9, 2011

American Airlines announced today plans to expand its presence in South Florida by adding new service between Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles (LAX) as well as increase its service to Chicago O'Hare and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Daily departures from Fort Lauderdale will increase by 30 percent to 17 flights next winter.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 25, 2011

On the Dotted Line

Fort Worth based **Buxton Co** is under contract to buy 193 acres at the southeast corner of I-20 and Winscott Road where it plans to build an open air, 1.5-million-square-foot regional shopping center called **The Trails Town Center**. The Center, which will be Western-themed, tentatively will have its first stores opening in 2013.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 7, 2011

Conspire!, a national provider of drug and alcohol testing services, has inked its first franchise agreement to open a new location in Fort Worth. The Fort Worth development will be the first of 80 locations the company plans in Texas, according to company founder and CEO Lynette Crow.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 11 2011

DynCorp, based in Fort Worth, was awarded a \$92.9 million contract by the Navy for maintenance and logistic on all aircraft assigned or deployed to the Naval Air War center in Pautuxent River, MD.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 13, 2011

Fort Worth based **American Airlines** announced a \$38 billion order for 460 airplanes. The deal will revamp the airline's fleet by adding 260 Airbus A320 and 200 Boeing 737s.

The Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 20, 2011

Leading Edge Aviation Services Inc., the world's largest aircraft painting company, was granted a 20-year lease by the Fort Worth City Council on July 19 for hangar space at **Fort Worth Meacham International Airport**. The lease, which begins August 1, is expected to generate at least 150 local jobs.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 22, 2011

RadioShack, based in Fort Worth, announced it will start selling Verizon wireless products 15 September. The deal ends RadioShack's sales relationship with T-Mobile.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 26, 2011

Openings

La Bella Cupcakes opened July 2 at 2405 N. Main St., directly across from Lonesome Dove Western Bistro and next to the old Isis Theater in the former Sullivan Sales Co. spot. Some of the store's advertised cupcake specialties include tiramisu, Oreo cookie with speckled Oreo icing, and strawberry, which is really vanilla bean cake with freshly cut strawberries.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 22, 2011

The Cupcakery, a Jacksboro-based concept with locations in Dallas, Frisco and Las Vegas, will open a store in Sundance Square within weeks. The Cupcakery specializes in gourmet cupcakes, cake bites, and other specialty treats made daily on site.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 22, 2011

Medi Weightloss Clinic, a physician-supervised program, will host a formal ribbon cutting ceremony on August 11 at its newest location in Fort Worth. The Medi team opened its second Fort Worth location in April, in a 1,827-square-foot space at 3615 Camp Bowie Boulevard.
Fort Worth Business Press, July 27, 2011

Around Town

Tandy Leather Factory Inc, based in Fort Worth, boosted sales for the month of June to \$5.3 million, up 4 percent compared to June 2010 sales. Year to date sales are up 10 percent to \$31.9 million in the current year from \$29 million last year.
Fort Worth Business Press, July 7, 2011

Texas Women, a reality show filmed in Fort Worth, premiered July 14 on **Country Music Television**. The show focuses on four Fort Worth women who have careers in the rodeo and country music scenes. CMT executive vice president of development Jayson Dinsmore says the point of the show is to showcase Fort Worth to the entire country.
Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 13, 2011

The Music Bed, a database of songs available for use by photographers was launched in June by Fort Worthians Daniel McCarthy and Nic Carfa. Music Bed artists can update their online catalogs themselves. They have a lot of control over their music, and they can also see how much money they've made for the month, how many downloads, and get automatic payments at the end of every month," McCarthy said. Since launching in June the number of site users has doubled.
Fort Worth Weekly, July 20, 2011

Out of Town Reporting

Lockheed confirms it has been in discussions with the governments of Iraq, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates to purchase more F-16 fighter jets from its Fort Worth plant.
UPI, July 14, 2011

Houston-based **Select Energy Services LLC** acquired Fort Worth based **The Western Company of Texas Inc**. Western Company has water transfer operations in the Bakken, Barnett, Eagle Ford, Granite Wash and Haynesville shale plays.
Houston Business Journal, July 15, 2011

STAG Industrial Inc acquired a 101,500 square foot manufacturing and distribution facility located in Fort Worth.
Businesswire, July 19, 2011

Shree Brose, a Fort Worth Country Day high school senior won the grand prize in Google's first global science fair July 21. Brose won for her research on ovarian cancer. Brose's research was part of a larger study with **Alakanada Basu**, a professor of molecular biology and immunology at the **University of North Texas Health Science Center** located in Fort Worth.
India-West, July 21, 2005

The U.S. Air Force has awarded Fort Worth based **DynCorp International**, two new task orders for aviation maintenance work under the Contract Field Teams (CFT) contract vehicle. The total potential value if all options are exercised on both task orders is \$244.8 million.
DynCorp International, July 22, 2011

Lockheed's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) the **USS Fort Worth** will begin sea trials this fall. The Fort Worth is the second of Lockheed's Freedom class littoral combat ships being built for the US Navy.
Green Bay Press Gazette, July 28, 2011

Did You Know?

Fort Worth hosted the 79th annual **Texas High School Coaches Association** convention July 24-27. The association has over 20,000 members, the largest organization of its kind in the country. It has grown from 65 original members when it began in 1933.

ESPN Dallas/Fort Worth High School Report, July 21 2011

Sundance Square will be getting its first grocery store. **Oliver's Fine Foods** will take over part of the ground floor at Throckmorton and 4th Streets as early as August.

NBC DFW, July 22, 2011

The Fort Worth Stockyards hosted celebrations for the **National Day of the American Cowboy** July 22-24. Started in 2006, the congressionally recognized day celebrates the contributions of cowboys and cowgirls to the pioneering spirit of the American west. Included in the celebrations, actress and author Pam Grier served as celebrity host for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum's Midsummer Western Round Up which occurred from July 22-24.

Fort Worth Business Press, July 8, 2011