

# TEXAS

ASSETS: **\$98 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$14 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **9 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **33,940**



## TEXAS CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Texas are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

### BLACK STAR CO-OP PUB & BREWERY

Austin-based Black Star Co-op is the world's first cooperatively-owned and worker self-managed brewpub. Owned by a community of more than 3,000 individuals and organizations, Black Star designs brews based on its members' input.

### WHEATSVILLE FOOD CO-OP

Texas' only retail food co-op, Wheatsville has served Austin since 1976. Wheatsville was voted 'Best Neighborhood Grocery' by the Austin Chronicle's Readers Poll for eight consecutive years.



Wheatsville Food Co-op is part of Austin's \$1 billion cooperative economy.

## TEXAS TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **597**

AGRICULTURE: **209**

ELECTRIC: **71**

INSURANCE: **55**

HOUSING: **33**

EDUCATION: **26**

UTILITY: **22**

## ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

## AUSTIN'S COOPERATIVE ECONOMY TOPS \$1 BILLION IN ANNUAL SALES

According to a new report, the 43 co-ops in Austin, Texas generated almost \$1.1 billion in annual revenue in 2015 and—including their ripple effects—had an economic impact of roughly \$2 billion a year.

The report, produced by Cooperation Texas, looks at the state of the cooperative economy in Austin and the challenges that face the growth of worker-owned co-ops in the area.

Austin had no worker-owned cooperatives when Cooperation Texas launched in October 2009, said executive director Carlos Pérez de Alejo. It now has five, with more in the pipeline.

"When we first started we were just trying to start businesses where people who did the day-to-day work owned and controlled it," Pérez de Alejo said. "Now I think there's a lot more receptiveness to it."

Pérez de Alejo said the budding interest in cooperatives has come from a variety of industries and from different segments of the population. And because a worker co-op pools the resources of a set of different people, the report notes, it can provide a more accessible path to business ownership in minority and low-income communities.



Austin's Black Star Co-op Pub & Brewery is the world's first cooperative brewpub.

"Through shared ownership," the report says, "worker cooperatives extend the asset-building benefits of individual business ownership to the workforce as a whole, creating a broader pool of wealth for the workers, their families and the community."

While worker co-ops gain traction, credit unions continue to dominate Austin's cooperative landscape. They account for virtually all the assets held by local co-ops, count more than 97 percent of local members and employ more than 86 percent of roughly 2,400 local co-op workers.

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

**NCBA CLUSA**  
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