



Kirstie Smith, Communications Director
 417.624.4150 (O) | 417.438.1738 (C) | ksmith@joplincc.com
 320 East 4th Street | Joplin, MO 64801 | Joplincc.com

Wendy Brunner-Lewis, Communications Coordinator
 417.624.4150 (O) | 417.437.2525 (C) | wlewis@joplincc.com

Martha Getz, Communications Coordinator
 417.624.4150 (O) | 417.396.0203 (C) | mgetz@joplincc.com

Joplin, Missouri EF-5 Tornado May 22, 2011

May 2016 Update

BUSINESS INFORMATION

- 531 businesses destroyed or severely damaged four years ago; 485 businesses have reopened
- 4,500-5,000 employees affected
- Approximately 3,000 were kept on payroll in some capacity
- 39 businesses have indicated that they will not rebuild/reopen, 7 have left the immediate area
- Approximately 308 new businesses have opened. New businesses employ 1,045 full-time employees and 818 part-time employees

BREAKDOWN of AFFECTED BUSINESSES

	Open	Closed	Moved
General Businesses	282	27	7
Medical/Dental	149	8	0
Daycares	8	4	0
Apartment Complexes	8	0	0
Schools	12	0	0
Churches	26	1	0
Totals	485	39	7

- The Business Recovery Center (BRC) opened Thursday, May 26, 2011, the fastest BRC opening in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) history. At the Chamber’s suggestion, the BRC was placed near the Chamber office. This model of putting BRCs where they are easily accessed by business is now the model used by the SBA.
- The BRC included the Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) from Missouri Southern State University, legal and CPA services, and various business resources as needed by the business community. This model for BRC structure is now used by the SBA when setting up post-disaster.

OTHER COMMUNITY INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Heartland Pet Products opened its first manufacturing facility in Joplin in 2014. Heartland’s decision to locate here and invest \$90 million came as a direct result of what owners saw from this region post-tornado. The plant currently employs 150 and has plans for expansion in the near future.
- Joplin High School opened September 7, 2014. This completes the school district’s major construction since the tornado. The district lost six buildings and four more were damaged.
- Safe rooms were installed in all Joplin School facilities and at many other local schools in the region.
- Mercy Hospital Joplin opened its permanent facility March 22, 2015. The state-of-the-art facility houses the hospital and clinic offices.
- The Joplin Blasters completed its inaugural year at the historic Joe Becker Stadium in 2015, and will open its second season May 18, 2016.
- Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences will open Kansas City University Joplin Medical School in the fall of 2017. This educational advancement was made possible by Mercy Hospital Joplin, Freeman Health System and the Regional Medical Alliance. This school will have a \$100-million estimated economic impact on the region and will be home to 600 students plus create jobs for 100 faculty and staff.
- Owens Corning will open a manufacturing facility in Joplin in late 2016. The nearly \$90-million project is expected to create more than 100 jobs.
- Numerous projects are being completed in the community thanks to HUD’s Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program. Projects are focused on infrastructure and environment, housing and neighborhoods, schools and community facilities, and economic development. See www.joplinmo.org/cdbg-list for project details.
- The Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Crowder College and the Workforce Investment Board will open the Advanced Training & Technology Center in January 2017 as a result of a partnership with the City of Joplin and the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program. The training center will offer advanced training options to those underemployed, unemployed, veterans, low-to-moderate income citizens and those wanting to improve their skills to obtain better jobs.
- The Chamber sent window clings to 485 Joplin businesses that were damaged or destroyed and that rebuilt their facilities. This badge of triumph was proudly displayed by the businesses.

Help us honor and celebrate Joplin's business recovery by proudly displaying this window cling in your business.



For more details and a complete listing of recovery projects, please see www.joplinmo.org/thrivein5.