

## **INSTEAD OF CONTRACTING, SOME BUSINESSES FIND WAYS TO GROW**

**Published on November 11, 2008**

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The nation's economy contracted in the more recent quarter, but that doesn't mean all businesses are shrinking or scaling back.

Some local companies are bucking the trends and pushing ahead with plans to start up or grow, confident in a business plan or an innovative niche.

Others find themselves plunged into growth they had planned during more vibrant times.

### **FINDING A NICHE**

Rod Dietrich recently started a business that's meant to do more than just withstand the economy's downward pull. His business takes advantage of it.

About three months ago, Dietrich started Professional Office M.D., which provides maintenance for Professional and Medical offices. As the economy weakened, Dietrich saw office construction slowing down, which meant thousands of medical offices in the region would need maintenance and upkeep.

The North Charleston company does the small things a larger company wouldn't do and the bigger things a janitorial service can't do, such as replacing ceiling tiles, installing equipment and fixing things that don't require a building permit.

Typically, Dietrich said, this wouldn't be considered the best economy in which to start a business.

"But people don't want to build new offices, they want to repair them," he said. "That's what I'm here to do," he said.

Dietrich said he has about six regular clients. He plans to expand as soon as the business warrants it, and he has several skilled people waiting to start work.

He operated a similar company in Arizona before moving to Charleston to retire. He also taught a class at a medical college to help doctors handle the business of running a commercial office space. The business web site is: [www.professionallofficemd.com](http://www.professionallofficemd.com)