

Businesses on the rocks

40 per cent self-run firms go under

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MORE people are starting their own businesses and failing, but Greater Dandenong's transport, postal and warehousing sector is booming, adding 1068 businesses in two years.

The growth spurt, which saw Greater Dandenong add another 2409 businesses to the local economy, was linked to the nation's 6 per cent jump in total business numbers from 2016-18.

But an astonishing 155 local government areas suffered a net loss in total business numbers, the ABS business survival audit said.

The Greater Dandenong local government area has 15,780 businesses, 6443 of them turning over more than

\$200,000 a year, with 938 at more than \$5 million and 831 from \$2 million-\$5 million.

The region's worst sector was mining, which lost three businesses since 2016.

The rate of new business start-ups — and failures — were both higher than the previous year (15.1 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).

The ABS counts reveals 40 per cent of all non-employing businesses that operated in 2014 have closed, with accommodation and food services losing 53.8 per cent.

Banking and business entrepreneur Mark Bouris said new business owners had to be selfish to survive.

"The pool of people who compete with you is bigger than ever thanks to the digital landscape," he said.