

October 22, 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, I am dedicated to maintaining our state's resilient economic climate. As part of this commitment, my office continually studies factors related to local and regional economies.

One result of this work is our *Texas in Focus* series of reports, which provides unique data and analysis of the state's 12 economic regions. We have designed this series to provide state and local decision-makers with tools for guiding and assisting regional economic growth.

I am pleased to announce our latest report release, *Texas in Focus: Alamo Region*, which examines development and issues affecting the 19 counties comprising this region and highlights its challenges and successes.

The economic outlook for the Alamo region is excellent with its educational opportunities, health care sector and vibrant tourism industry ensuring continued growth. The region's employment should rise by 23 percent between 2003 and 2013, despite the current national downturn.

One out of seven San Antonio employees work in the health care and biosciences industry, and the Brooke Army Medical Center's Army Burn Center and Center for the Intrepid will continue to provide trauma care and rehabilitation services to injured military personnel. The University of Texas at San Antonio enrollment has risen by 50.9 percent since fall 2000, and enrollment at the University of Houston-Victoria grew 86.9 percent in that time period, much faster than the statewide enrollment growth of 22.8 percent.

Ongoing strength in health care, education and tourism will maintain the region's economy for the future. I hope you will find this report helpful.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs

