

August 7, 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Comptroller, I am committed to creating an environment that encourages the Texas economy to continue to grow. My office stands ready to assist communities and businesses in their efforts to seek out new opportunities and create new jobs. Together we can improve the quality of life of all Texans.

One of our responsibilities at this office is to analyze factors affecting the state's economy. To fulfill part of this responsibility, my office is releasing a series of reports highlighting economic development issues unique to the various regions of this state. *Texas in Focus: High Plains* was released in April 2008 as the first of these regional reports.

Now, I am pleased to present the second in the series, *Texas in Focus: South Texas*. It provides information on the issues that affect this area's 28 counties and highlights many of the region's successes. The region's decision makers will be able to use this report as a tool to drive economic growth.

The South Texas region's economic outlook is excellent. The region's rate of job growth will outpace that of the state through 2012, and South Texas has a young and rapidly growing population to grasp those opportunities. I hope you will find this report helpful.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs

