

## [S.A. Chamber says economy on rebound](#)

[By William Pack](#) - Express-News

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San Antonio's recession-stunted economy has bounced back more through April than any other large Texas city's and could shift into expansion mode by late fall, according to a report from the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

The quarterly economic forecast examining national and statewide economic trends, with a focus on San Antonio and other Texas cities, was released Thursday.

San Antonio beat the four other Texas metro areas with a score of 102.4 on the business cycle index trend, which uses job counts, new-home prices and other factors to compare this year with the base year of 2002. San Antonio's score shows it's performing slightly better than eight years ago.

San Antonio's monthly sales tax revenue slipped 1.3 percent through April compared with the same period last year, and its single-family home sales jumped 19.1 percent from monthly averages last year. Both numbers were second-best to Austin's.

“Despite the grim news reports and (a) stream of hard-luck stories featured in the media, San Antonio shows signs of vitality and abundant opportunities in the days ahead,” chamber President Richard Perez said in an introduction to the report.

Travis Tullos, chairman of the committee that produces the report and an economist with the economic consulting company TXP, said all of Texas' major cities have come through the recession in relatively good shape, which should set the stage for a stronger recovery.

Tullos said San Antonio's job market continues to be fortified by private-sector development, such as the expansion plans announced this week by Silicon Valley inventor Mir Imran.

While the region's job count through April fell 2 percent compared with the same period in 2009, it has been growing in recent months and should return to positive territory by late fall, the economist said.

“We're turning that corner, as it were,” Tullos said.

The report says the city's tourism industry was down through the first quarter but should improve as the recovery continues. Commercial properties also have stumbled locally in line with the nationwide trend. That won't improve until jobs rebound, Tullos said.

**Courtesy of JB Goodwin**