

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Economists Predict Jobs, Growth in 2011

Higher education economists made exciting predictions for the 2011 economy at the Chamber's annual Economic Forecast. Moderated by Jon Hockenyos the event featured insights from: Dr. Thomas R. Saving, Texas A&M University; Dr. Stephen Gardner, Baylor University; Dr. Thomas W. Gilligan, The University of Texas at Austin; and Dr. James LeSage, Texas State University.

Each gave their predictions of where several key economic indicators will lie in 2011. Incoming Chamber Chairman and Texas A&M alum Bobby Jenkins, reported Dr. Saving's predictions, as he was unable to attend.

- GDP Growth Rate: most forecast a slight increase between 2.7 and 3%, with Dr. Saving higher at 5.4%.
- Inflation Rate: most forecast at 1.3%. Saving was again higher at 4.5%.
- Prime Interest Rate: agreed by all to remain between the current 3.25 and 4%.
- 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate: agreed to be somewhat higher than this year, between 4.8 and 5.5%.
- Austin Job Growth: forecast to grow by 2.6% by most, with Dr. Saving forecasting job growth to be 6%.
- Texas Job Growth: forecast at 2% growth by most, with Dr. Saving at 4.5%.

For each indicator, Chamber staff will track progress and award a scholarship to the university of the economist whose forecast is most accurate at the end of November 2011. For a full list of each economist's predictions [click here](#).

**Courtesy of JB Goodwin**