



The Partnership hosts first Houston Economy Council of 2015

The Partnership hosted the first Houston Economy Council of 2015 on March 3 in the Partnership board room. Council Host Patrick Jankowski, Senior Vice President of Research at the Partnership, welcomed Jesse Thompson, Business Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch, as the Council Speaker. Thompson provided an overview of the Houston Economy and discussed the factors impacting Houston's future growth.



According to Thompson, Houston's construction and real estate sector is relatively healthy. There has been some speculation of overbuilding, but Thompson maintains that the region is simply catching up from the '08-'10 recession. Healthcare employment is also doing well. The transformation of the Texas Medical Center under the leadership of Dr. Robert Robbins is shining a spotlight on the world's largest medical complex and the opportunities available there.

The picture is slightly less optimistic for the areas of Houston's economy that are closely linked to the energy industry. With lower oil prices and decreased domestic drilling, Thompson stated that Houston will be more dependent on a strong U.S. economy for propping up the region. U.S. quarterly GDP is forecasted to grow three percent through 2016.

In 2015, Thompson expects to see employment in Houston to grow one to two percent, and employment in Texas to grow 1.5-2.5 percent. Thompson concluded, "the bottom line is that Houston is not currently headed towards a recession."