

## 1. Austin-Round Rock, Texas

**Current GDP:** \$72.4 billion  
**End of 2010:** \$77.7 billion (projected)  
**Unemployment:** 5.8%

From now to the end of 2010, the economy of Austin is projected to grow by \$5 billion, and unemployment has stayed relatively subdued. The city's diverse economy, home to Dell, the University of Texas and the Texas state government, has kept the economy strong. Forbes.com also recently ranked Austin the Best Big City for Jobs.

## 2. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Arkansas

**Current GDP:** \$13.9 billion  
**End of 2010:** \$14.5 billion (projected)  
**Unemployment:** 5.0%

What better way to sit pretty during a recession than to have the ultimate recession-proof company headquartered in your neighborhood. The Fayetteville region is home to Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart. Wall Street may be struggling, but the presence of the world's most powerful retailer keeps northwest Arkansas' business community humming.

## 3. Boulder, Colorado

**Current GDP:** \$15.6 billion  
**End of 2010:** \$16.3 billion (projected)  
**Unemployment:** 5.7%

The University of Colorado provides an abundance of stable jobs for the region. Boulder is also home to a number of high-tech laboratories. Moody's projects the economy of Boulder will dip less than 1% before growth resumes in the first half of this year.



Courtesy of the Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau

## 4. Huntsville, Alabama

**Current GDP:** \$16.1 billion  
**End of 2010:** \$17.2 billion (projected)  
**Unemployment:** 6.1%

In a recession characterized by battered housing, banking and manufacturing markets, having an economy with a heavy focus on technology helps. Huntsville is home to one of the country's largest research parks and a major NASA center (not to mention Space Camp).

## 5. San Antonio, Texas

**Current GDP:** \$66.3 billion  
**End of 2010:** \$68.4 billion (projected)  
**Unemployment:** 5.4%

San Antonio's rapidly growing health care and education sectors have kept unemployment low in San Antonio. Moody's projects recession will not entirely pass the Alamo by, but the GDP of the city will barely dip before returning to growth in the third quarter of this year.