

## Spectacular growth will eventually come, economist says

**n East Bay poised to bounce back thanks to being cheaper alternative to Peninsula, Silicon Valley and S.F.**

staff

Article Launched: 10/02/2008 04:43:09 PM PDT  
WALNUT CREEK — Expect plenty of economic pain in the East Bay during the next year or two, but after that, the region will be poised for spectacular growth, a high-profile economist told a gathering of business leaders here.

"Things will be rough in the East Bay in the short run, but when the economy gets going again, things will be really good in the East Bay," Christopher Thornberg, an economist and partner with Beacon Economics, told a business gathering in downtown Walnut Creek.

The Alameda County-Contra Costa County area is a prime alternative for companies and individuals that seek refuge from the high costs of living and doing business in San Francisco, the Peninsula, and Silicon Valley.

And this region is home to about 2.4 million residents, roughly one-third of the Bay Area's population, said Ed Del Beccaro, senior managing partner with the Colliers Walnut Creek office. Silicon Valley has expanded to the Fremont and Newark areas, as well as into the Pleasanton-Livermore-Dublin-San Ramon region, he said.

"The storm will last from one to two years," Del

Beccaro said. "There will be winners and losers. But you want to be here in the East Bay when the storm is over."

Forecasts about the regional, state and national economy were among the presentations Wednesday at the conference, sponsored by Colliers International, Morgan Miller Blair, Old Republic Title, Mechanics Bank, and Cohen Financial. "The East Bay will be the 400-pound gorilla of the Bay Area," Thornberg said in an interview after the forecast conference. "It will continue to grow."

Still, plenty of pain looms nationwide and statewide. Thornberg believes the economic slump will erase \$12 trillion in wealth. That's about 15 percent of the nation's total wealth. "It's going to be a bad recession," Thornberg said. "But it's not going to be a Great Depression."

A diversified economy and an educated work force augur well for the East Bay's prospects, said Christopher Hunter, a Morgan Miller Blair principal and chairman of the law firm's real estate group.

"The East Bay is a great destination and it has a lot of advantages," Hunter said. "It makes sense it will recover more quickly."

**Reach George Avalos at 925-977-8477 or [gavalos@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:gavalos@bayareanewsgroup.com) .**

Advertisement

**OSH**  
Complete Home & Garden

**10% OFF**  
**Renee's Flower/Veg Seed Packs**

**Coupon Valid 10/8/08 thru 10/26/08**

Excludes Major Home Appliances. Good toward the purchase of regular, sale and clearance priced merchandise. Not valid on gift cards, labor, merchandise replacement agreement, Great Price Items, installed home improvements, special orders, repair service, and protection agreements or as payment on any OSH credit card account. May not be used with any other coupon or offer. Must present coupon for discount. Redeem at participating Orchard Supply Hardware Stores. One coupon per purchase. One coupon per person. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Cash value 1/10¢. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. In the event of a return, coupon savings may be deducted from your refund. ©2008, Orchard Supply Hardware.

Sales Associate: Please collect this coupon. If unable to scan, manually enter the coupon number.

CP007

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™