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Berkeley Daily Planet

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State Briefs

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[Report: Border security hurting San Diego economy](#)

SAN DIEGO – San Diego County’s economy is still suffering from tight border security put in place after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to a recent study.

A survey of more than 100 businesses in the San Diego area show that shoppers from Mexico account for a significant number of sales, said [Kenn Morris, director of Crossborder Business Associates.](#)

Long waits at the border caused a drop in crossings, hurting businesses, he said.

During the first six months of this year, 23.8 million crossings were recorded at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry, compared with 28.8 million during the same period last year, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Morris’ group recommended making border crossings more efficient.

The INS plans to add three scanning machines to speed up background checks, said INS spokeswoman Adele Fasano.

It is also considering special lanes for frequent pedestrian visitors just as it has done for those crossing the border by car, she said.

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