



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: **August 26, 2008**
Release Number: **08-15**

Janice Nienow-(414) 297-1096
Email: janice.nienow@sba.gov

SBA's Wisconsin District Office Leads Roundtable Discussion on the Economic Landscape for Small Businesses

*The Wisconsin District Office captures a closer look at the
State of Wisconsin's economic conditions for entrepreneurs*

Milwaukee—The Wisconsin District Office recently held a *Wisconsin Economists Forum* to engage local economic development leaders in a discussion on the area economy. Participants included SBA Regional Administrator Patrick Rea who moderated the Forum and senior economists from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Associated Bank, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Northstar Economics, U.S. Small Business Administration and SBA Region V Advocate.

“As we move forward, the need to continue assessing the economic landscape for small businesses in Region V is paramount,” says Region V Administrator Patrick Rea, “This is the fourth in a series of Forums with our district offices and local economists. Each forum is designed to provide an informal setting for gathering the most current information and professional concepts on what economic factors are affecting SBA’s Districts and the Midwest Region.”

The Forums will encourage individual economists to discuss their position on the current state of the local economy and then offer strategies to support economic growth. Invitations for each of the forums will be extended to a small group of regional economists from major universities, State and Federal offices, and the private sector.

“The candid comments of the Wisconsin Economist Forum’s participants took into account what is happening in the state and noted some interesting ways businesses are adapting to the present environment,” said Wisconsin District Director Eric Ness. “Many valuable insights were provided including the importance of working together and a focus on education.”

The Region V Economists Forums will continue within Region V’s six state geographic region. The Forums are designed to gather perspectives on the current regional economic trends from area senior economists. The results of the data collected during these meetings will be compiled and presented at SBA’s senior executive regional leadership conference in September 2008.

For additional updates and outcomes on the forums, please contact the Wisconsin District Office at 414-297-3941 or visit <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/wi/index.html>.

###