

News

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Wisconsin Economic Development Remains Among the Strongest

“Honor Roll” State Earns Top Marks in National Economic Assessment

Washington, D.C. – Wisconsin is a great place to both live and work, with bright prospects for its future economic performance and standard of living, according to a comprehensive assessment of state economies.

The 20th *Development Report Card for the States*, released today by the nonprofit Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), highlights Wisconsin’s continued success in building a balanced economy. For the second year in a row, the state received the following grades:

“A” for Performance (the performance of the economy for its citizens)

“B” for Business Vitality (business competitiveness and entrepreneurial energy)

“B” for Development Capacity (the positioning of the state for future economic growth)

The CFED *Development Report Card for the States* is the most comprehensive measurement of the health of a state’s economy and each state’s economic development efforts. The study uses 67 measures to assess how the economy is performing for citizens and businesses and how well a state is situated for its future. The complete 2007 *Development Report Card for the States*, including all 67 measures and analysis of each state, is available online at <http://www.cfed.org/go/drc>.

The study finds that Wisconsin’s economy continues to work well for its citizens. Notably, the state does a laudable job in insuring low-income children (Wisconsin is ranked 8th in the nation) and minimizing the percentage of working parents living in poverty (rank of 9th in working poor). Wisconsin’s businesses are healthy and diverse (14th in industrial diversity, 13th in the strength of the traded sector, and 11th in business closings).

“Though Wisconsin’s economic picture is strong, the state posts middling grades in most of the measures within Development Capacity.” said David Buchholz, research director for CFED.

“Stronger investments in its human, innovation, financial, and natural resources, will only help Wisconsin to maintain its competitiveness with other states.”

Other top performers for 2007 are Connecticut and Delaware, the only states to earn straight “A”s. In addition to Wisconsin, four other states – Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Utah – joined them on the Report Card’s Honor Roll by earning all “A”s and “B”s.

The *Development Report Card for the States* was launched in 1987 to provide a more comprehensive measurement of state economic health. The Report Card is based on the idea that both businesses and individuals benefit from dependable infrastructure, good schools, a healthy environment, a good quality of life, accountable and transparent government, financial security for households, and prosperity that is widely shared.

CFED is a nonprofit organization that expands economic opportunity. We work to ensure that every person can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the economy by bringing together community practice, public policy, and private markets. We identify promising ideas; test and refine them in communities to find out what works; craft policies and products to help good ideas reach scale; and foster new markets to achieve greater economic impact. Established in 1979 as the Corporation for Enterprise Development, CFED works nationally and internationally through its offices in Washington, DC; Durham, North Carolina; and San Francisco, California.

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