



Temporary Migration and Regional Economic Development: The Case of Brandon, Manitoba

Robert C. Annis, PhD.
Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

Should I Stay or Should I Go?
Policy-Research Seminar on Temporary Migration
Ottawa, ON
March 12, 2008





Session Outline

- Immigration in Manitoba
- Case example – Brandon, Manitoba
- Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) labour needs
- Labour shortage strategies
- Regional economic development
- Current & projected regional implications
- Current research endeavours
- Policy implication



Manitoba Immigration Policy and Directions

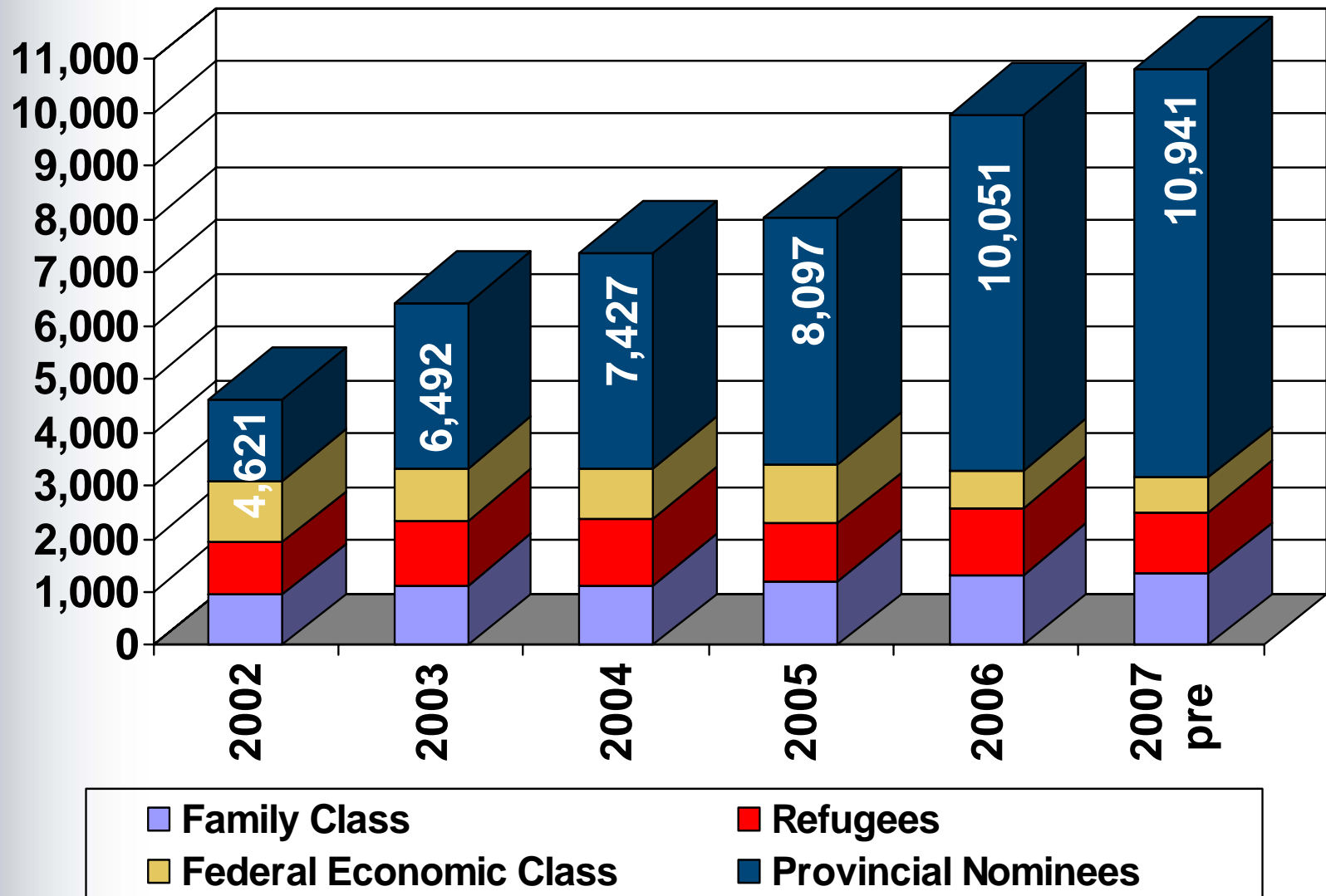
- Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement (1998)
- New Targets – 20,000 annually
- New Settlement Strategy
- Improve Recognition of International Qualifications
- Protect Workers and Improve Partnerships



Provincial Strategies, Policies, and Programs

- Canada-MB Working Group on temporary foreign workers (TFWs)
- Support protection of TFWs through labour legislation
- Expanded recruitment initiatives with employers
- Enhance service planning and coordination
- Welcoming communities and planning

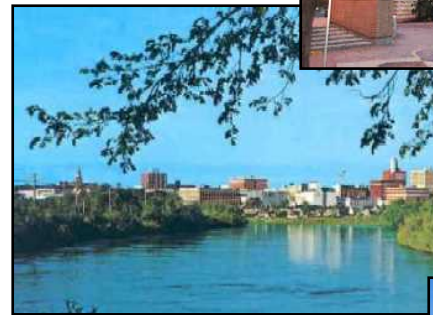
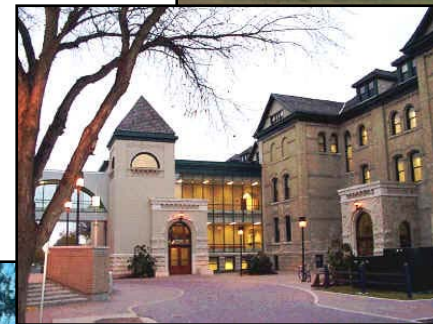
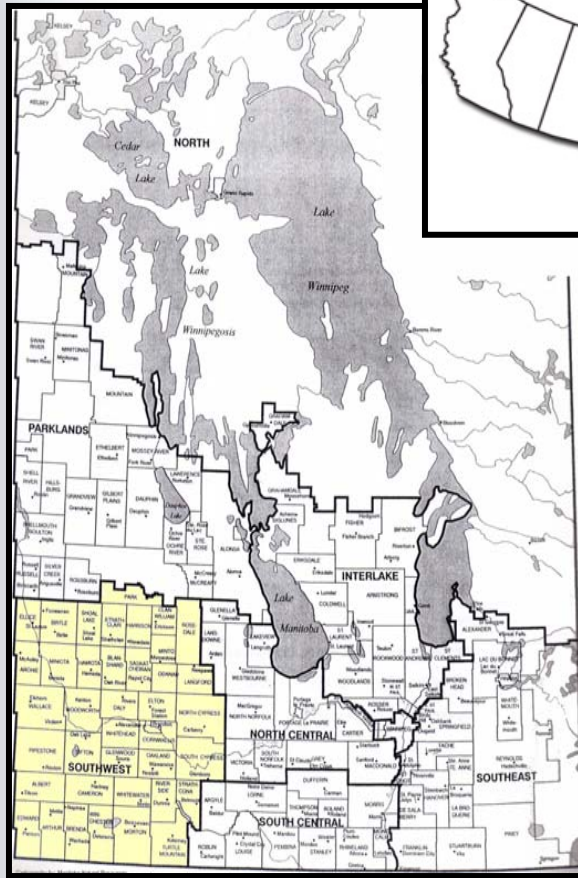
Manitoba Immigration Levels



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Prepared by Manitoba Labour and Immigration

Brandon, MB





Maple Leaf Foods: Labour Needs

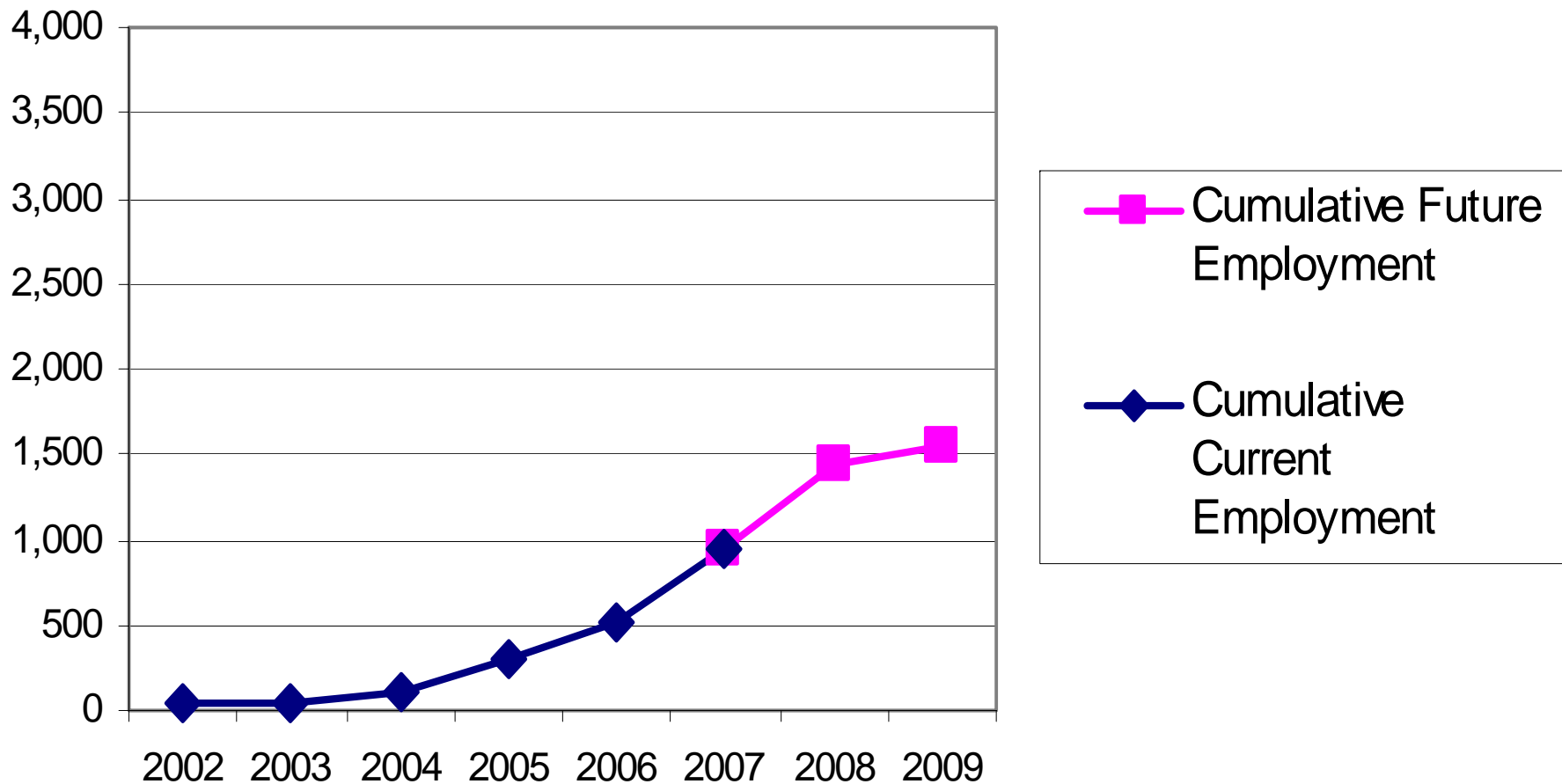
- Demonstrated need for labour
- Brandon plant expansion
- Domestic and international recruitment
- Federal low skill TFWs program
- Developed International Recruitment Office and process



Labour Shortage Strategies

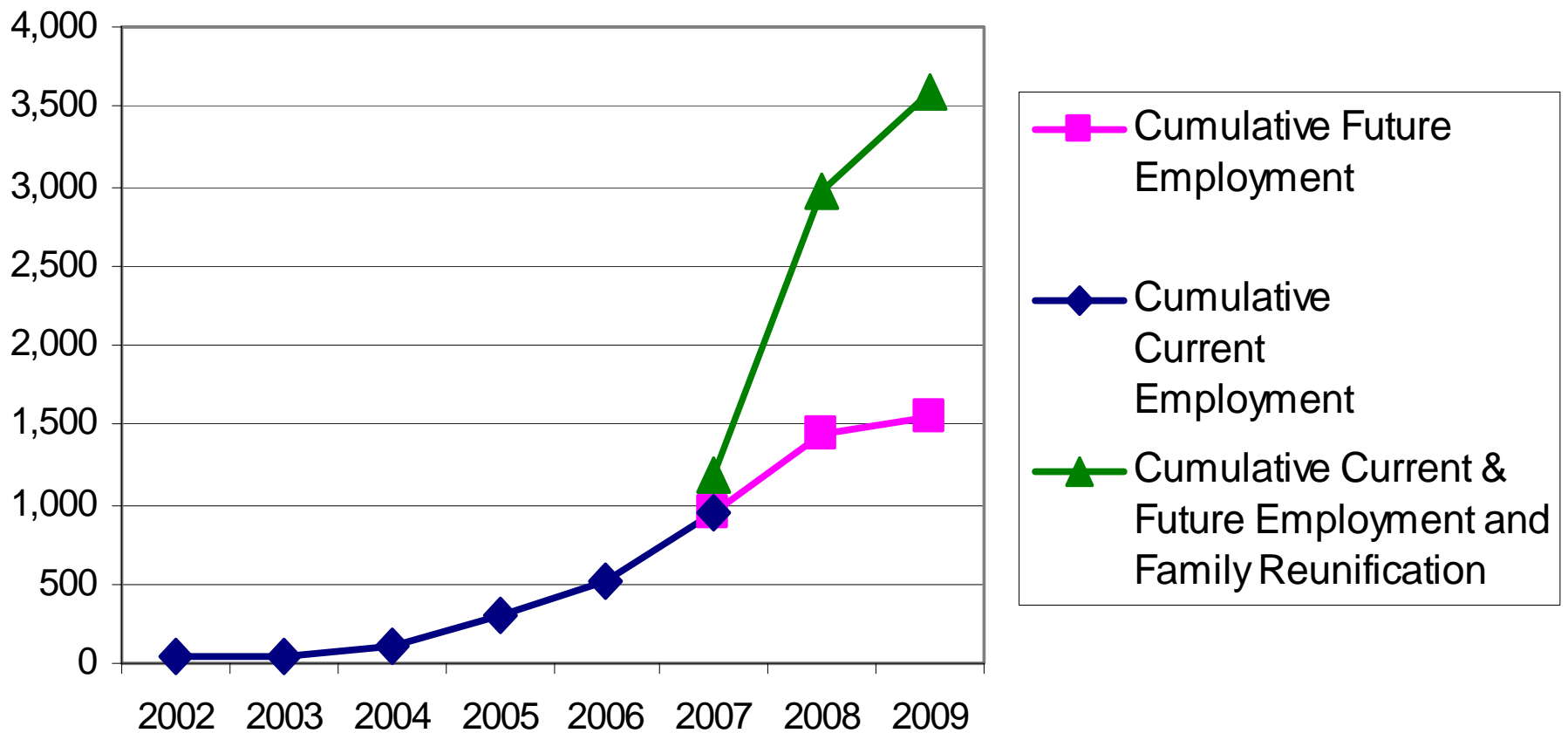
- Temporary Foreign Worker Pilot Program
 - MLF initiated utilization in 2002
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
 - MLF TFWs began PNP process 2002
- City of Brandon support for addressing labour market needs

TFW Estimates, 2007-2009



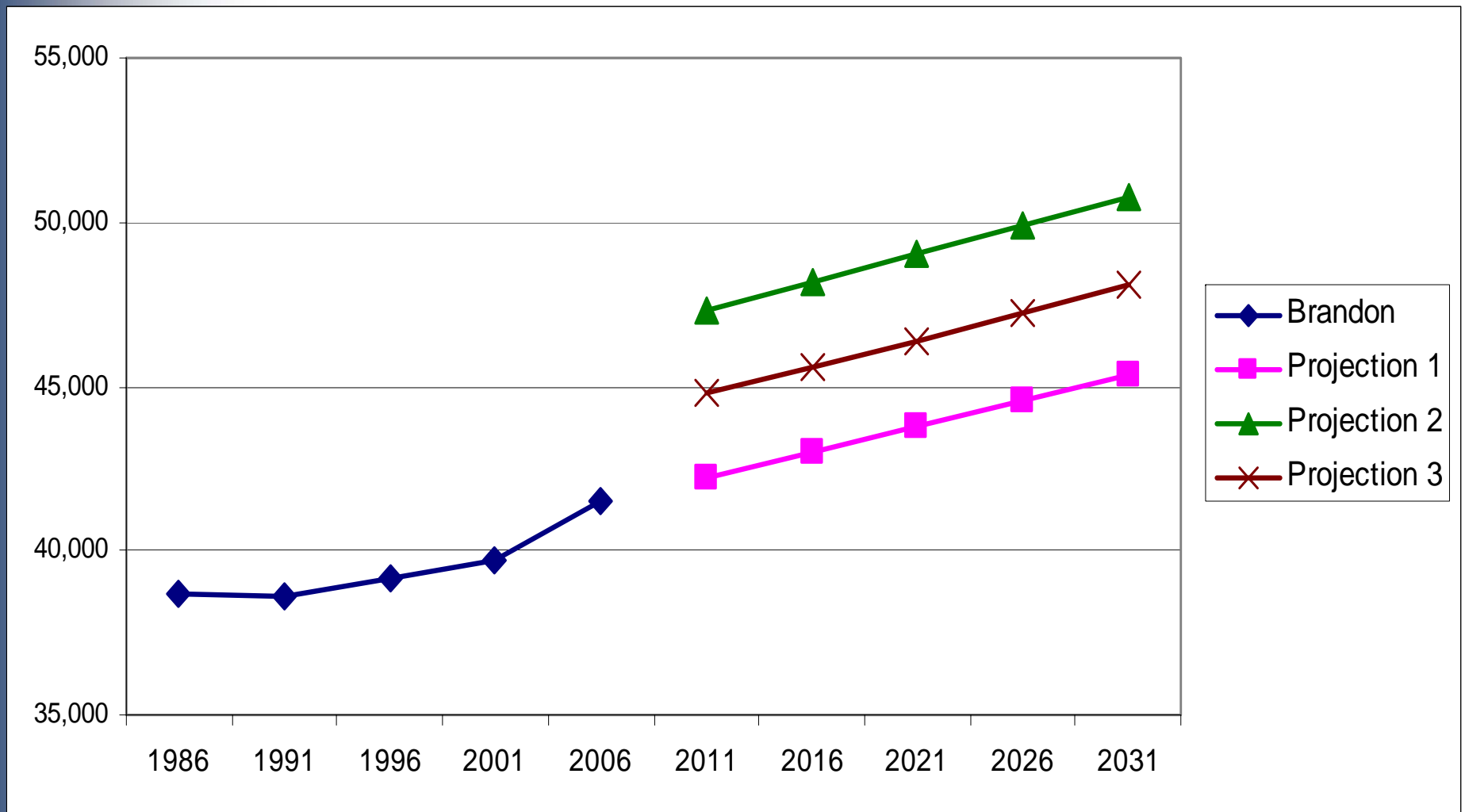
Source: Economic Development Brandon (2007), Maple Leaf Foods (2008)

TFW Estimates, 2007-2009 with Est. Family Arrivals



Source: Economic Development Brandon (2007), Maple Leaf Foods (2008)

Population Projection Scenarios for Brandon, 2011-2031





Impacts for Brandon and area

Regional Economic Development

- Local business development
- Local infrastructure development
- Address demographic challenges and labour shortages



Impacts for Brandon and area

Service Provision Examples

■ Education

- Suggested class size is 25 students
- 759 new students are anticipated through family reunification

■ Family Physicians

- Suggested patient load is 1,500 patients per physician
- Brandon would require at least 2 additional physicians to serve TFWs and their family members



Will they stay or will they go?

Research Focus

- **Community Experience**
 - Welcoming communities
 - Community services, support, & ethnocultural organizations
 - Impact of an influx of diverse cultures
- **Retention Rates**
 - Use of the Provincial Nominee Program
- **Perspectives & Experiences of the Worker**
- **Demographic Shifts & Population Change**



Moving forward

- Impact of TFWs on regional economic development
 - Exploring the local & community role in 'regional success'
- Bridge knowledge gaps & increase clarity
 - TFWs in non-metropolitan settings
 - Population projections
- Multi-level engagement, cooperation & collaboration
 - RDI TFW Dialogue Group



Policy Implications of TFWs

■ Federal

- Transitional nature of a program intended to be temporary impacts federally mandated immigration.

■ Provincial (Manitoba)

- TFWs as a source of permanent immigrants to meet aggressive immigration targets.

■ Local (Brandon and area)

- Addresses labour shortages and community development.
- Impacts the operations of community service providers.



***Rapid demographic change
greatly impacts and challenges
rural municipal governments
and service providers.***



For Additional information

Robert C. Annis
Rural Development Institute
(204) 571-8513
annis@brandonu.ca

<http://www.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/tfw.asp>