Status of Rural Labor Markets in Wisconsin: A Demographic Snapshot

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A Demographic Snapshot

• General Orientation to Migration

• Migration Trends in Wisconsin
  – Age Structure & Labor force (Migration Signatures)
  – Ethnic Composition & Industry (Current & Historical)
Migration: A General Orientation

• A “Safety Valve”
  - Reaction to mismatched labor supply & demand

• Impacts on Sending & Receiving Communities
  - Age structure, sex ratios, socio-economic (skills) & socio-demographic (ethnicity) characteristics
Migration Trends in Wisconsin

- Migration Signatures
  - Impacts on county age structure (labor force)
    - Working age: 20-54 years old
  - Vary by economic activity of county
    - Farming, recreation/retirement & manufacturing
  - Potential changes over time
    - 1950s through 1990s
Rural Farm Dependent County

Lafayette County: Net Migration Rates

- Steady Loss of Younger Population
- Future Working Age Population
- Working Age Population
  - Also Childbearing Age Population (to ~ 44 yo)
Rural Farm Dependent County

Steady Loss of Younger Population
Resort/Retirement County

Vilas County: Net Migration Rates

Increase in Younger & Older Population

Workers

Retirees

Age

Net Migration Rate


1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s
Ethnic Composition & Industry

Wisconsin Latino Population
2007 Census Estimates

Heavily Concentrated in SE

Wisconsin Latino Population
1990-2007 Estimated Percent Change
1990 Census and 2007 Census Estimates

Growth Across the State
Wisconsin Latino Population & Industry

Wisconsin Latino Population
1990-2007 Estimated Percent Change
1990 Census and 2007 Census Estimates

Kenosha Co.
(Trempealeau Co.)

1990-2007 Est Pct Chg
- 70% - 158%
- 159% - 264%
- 265% - 406%
- 407% - 613%
- 614% - 942%

Manufacturing Dependent
Start of major German immigration to state

By 1850, 44,000 Norwegians in state

Swedes start coming to Wisconsin

Italians come to state, mostly to cities in SE Wisconsin

Large numbers of Poles start coming to Wisconsin

Large numbers of Latinos start immigrating to state

Mexican migrant workers come to Wisconsin in large numbers

Hmong refugees first come to Wisconsin

Displaced Persons Act - spurs some immigration

WWII war and prewar policies curtail immigration

WWII and Depression limit and constrain immigration
Historical Ethnic Populations & Industry

Proportion Norwegian & Swedish Population, 1890

- 0% to 5%
- 5% to 10%
- 10% to 25%
- 25% or more

Farming & Lumber
Historical Ethnic Populations & Industry

Proportion Danish Population, 1890

- 0% to 5%
- 5% to 10%
- 10% to 25%
- 25% or more

Manufacturing