



The Economic Impact of Immigrant Workers in Teton County, WY

Prepared at the request of the Teton County
Commissioners and the Jackson Town Council
by the Cooperative Extension Service
University of Wyoming



Background

- Lack of information regarding the role of immigrant workers in the Teton County Economy
- Request from County Commissioners and Town Council to Cooperative Extension Service to do an analysis
- Study results based on 2007 information



Study Planning Committee

- Leland Christensen – County
- Melissa Turley – Town
- John Hebberger Jr. – VISTA
- Mary Martin – CES
- Tex Taylor - CES



Components of Study:

1. Business Survey
2. Immigrant Household Survey
3. Economic Impact Estimates
4. Local Government Survey



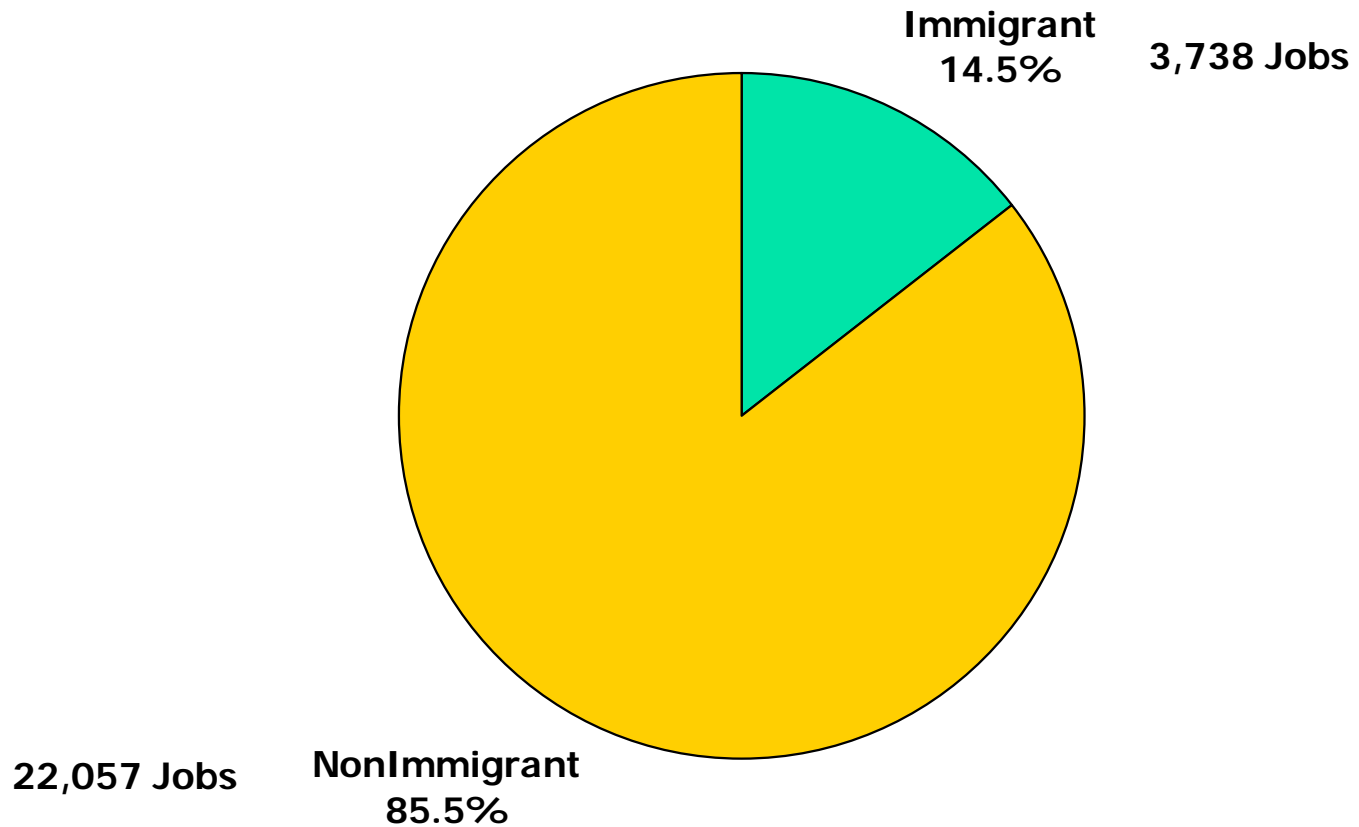
Business Survey Results



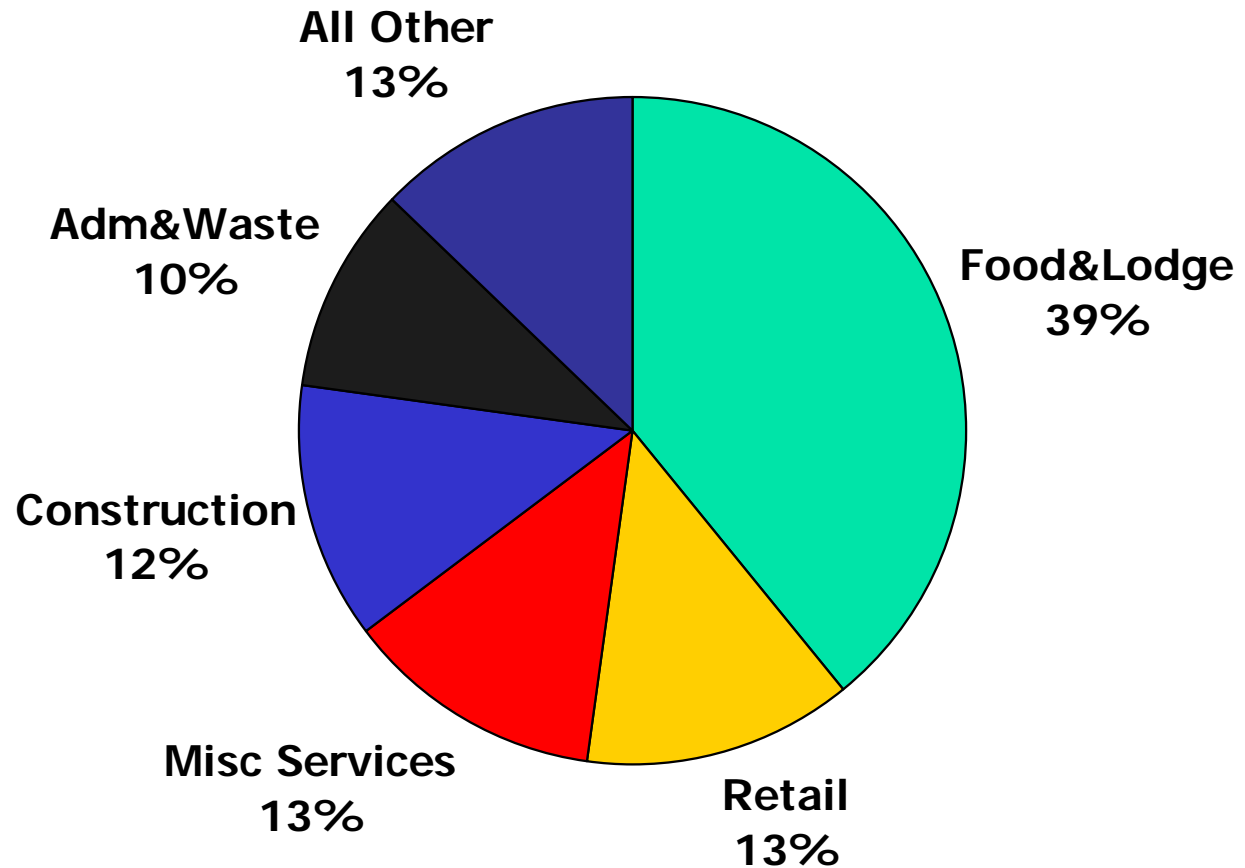
Business Sample

- Stratified Sample of Business in County
 - All larger businesses contacted
 - Random sample of smaller businesses
- Sample Size:
 - Results based on responses from 185 firms
 - Sample Employment = 4,580 Jobs
- Total Jobs in County = 25,795 (USDC, 2006)
 - Sample Size = **+/- 2% accuracy**

Total County Employment (Total Jobs = 25,795)



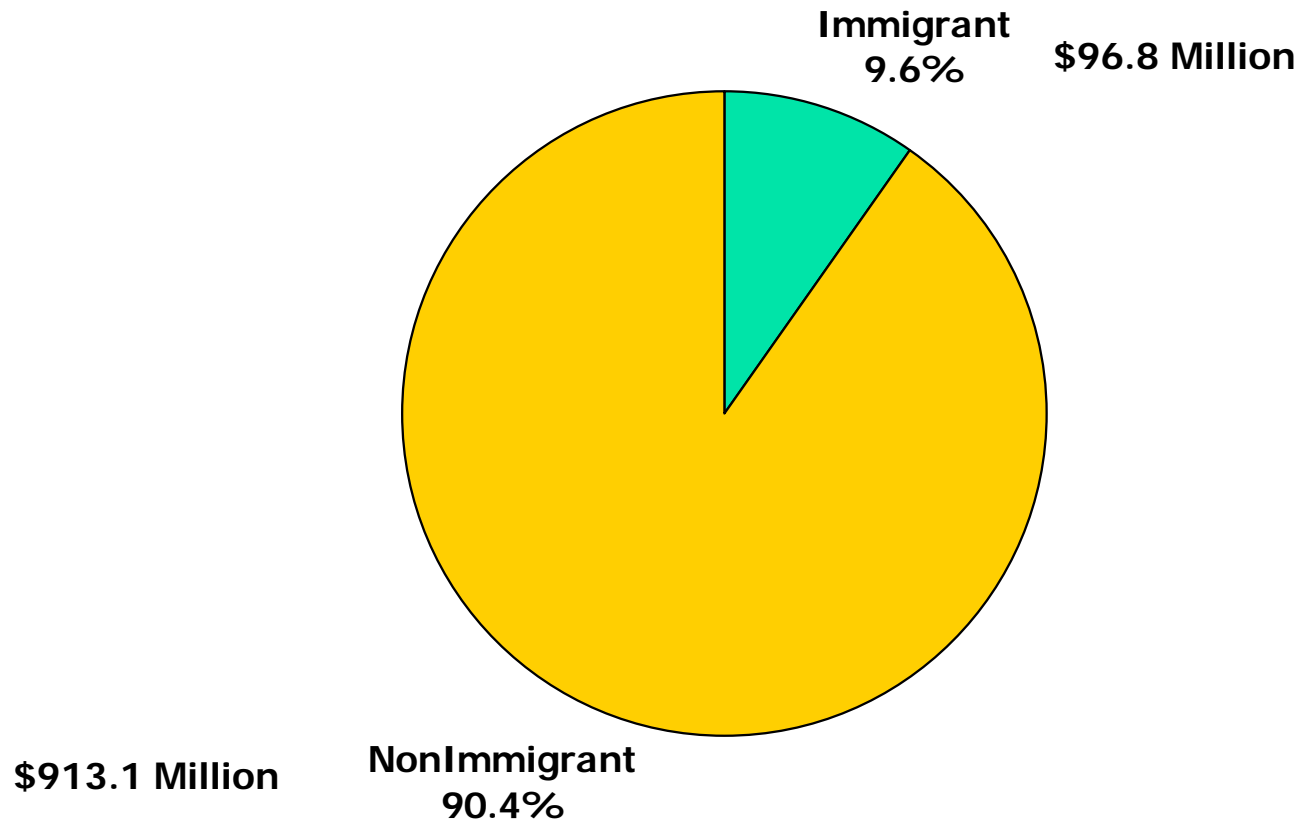
Distribution of Immigrant Employment



Adm&Waste includes Landscaping

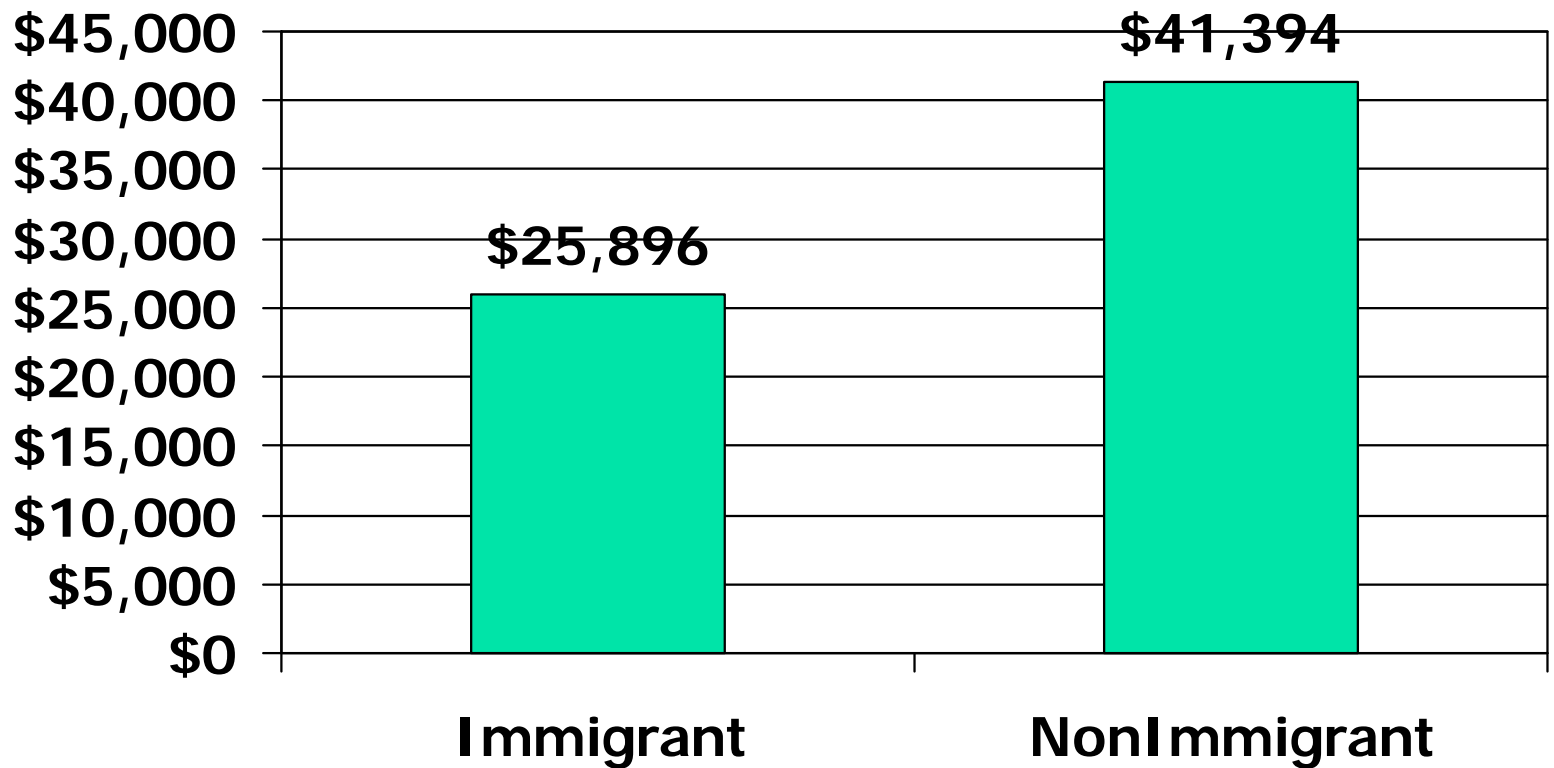
Misc Services includes Private Household

Labor Earnings – Work Related Income (County Total = \$1,010 Million)





Average Earnings Per Job





Summary – Business Survey

- Immigrant workers held more than 14% of the jobs in the county (3,738 jobs).
- Nearly 40% of immigrant workers are employed in the Food & Lodging Sector.
- Immigrant workers held more than 30% of the jobs in some sectors.
- Immigrant workers received nearly 10% of the labor earnings in the county (\$96.8 million).
- Ave. earnings per job for immigrant workers were almost 40% below non-immigrant workers.



Immigrant Household Survey Results



Volunteer Interviewers

- Irving Bernal
- Jim Clouse
- Silvia Davila
- Nataly Espinoza
- Anne Fish
- Gail Hahn
- Gabby Haro
- John Hebbberger Jr.
- Blanca Moye
- Carmina Oaks
- Neyza J. Ortega – Lopez
- Melissa Turley
- Gina Valencia



Survey Sites for Interviews

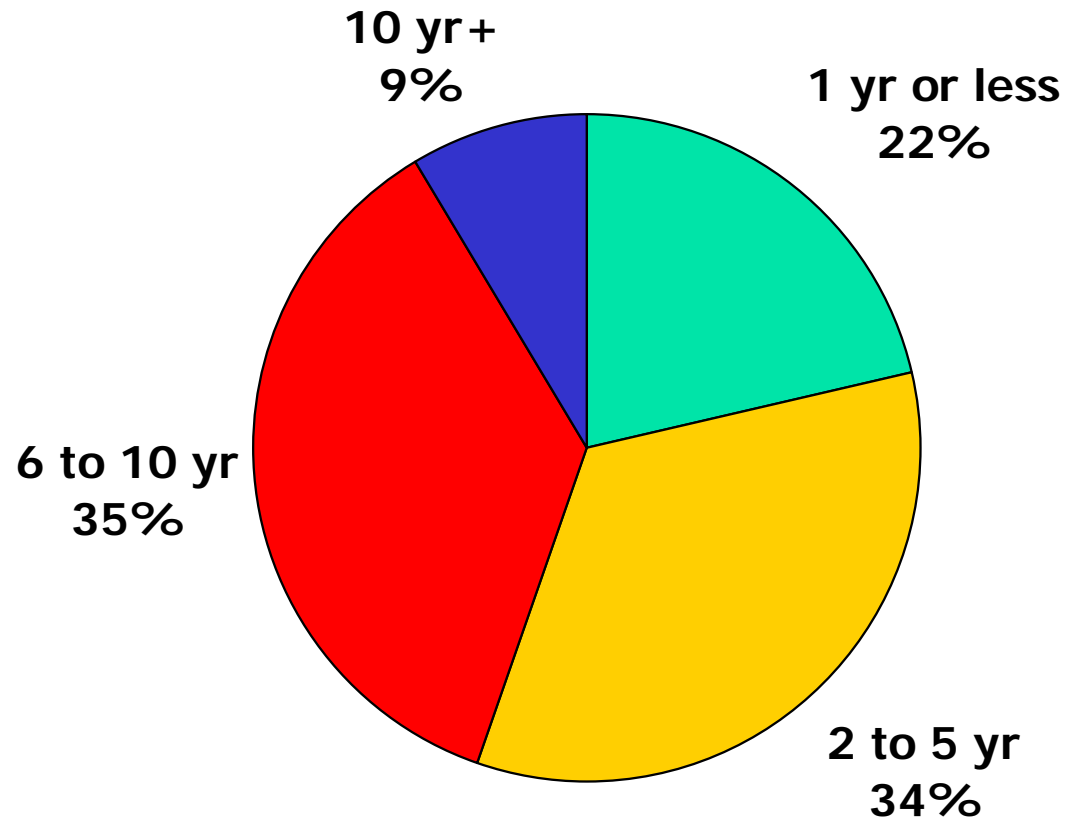
- VISTA Program (Library)
- Albertsons
- Catholic Church
- Community Soccer Games
- Golden Eagle Motel
- Snow King Resort
- The Free Clinic
- Latino Resource Center



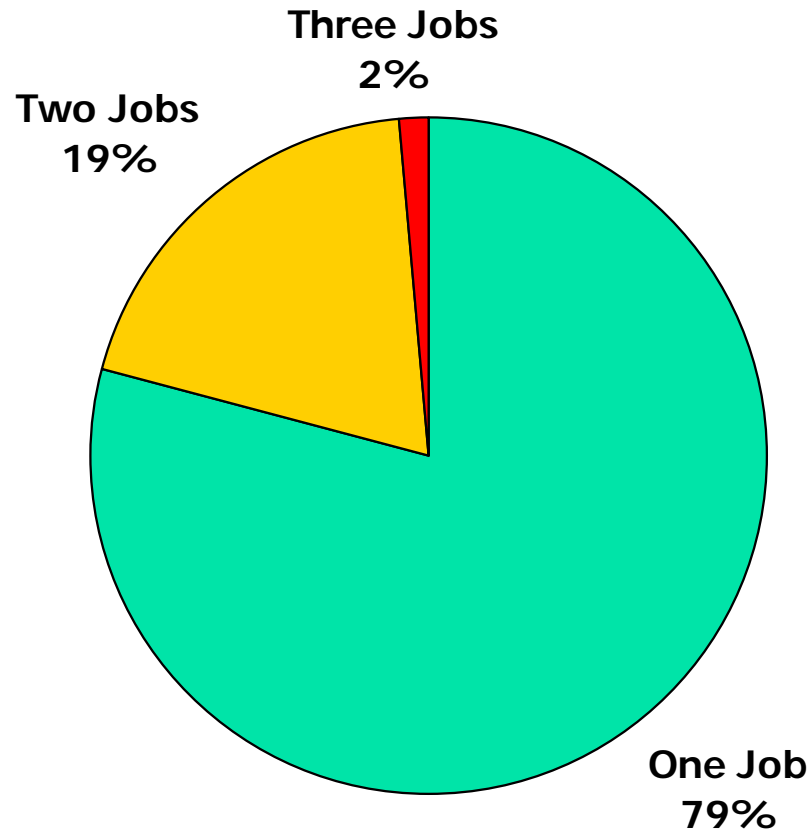
Immigrant Household Sample

- Sample Size = 130 Households
 - 49% collected Feb-April, 2008
 - 51% collected Aug-Oct, 2008
- Immigrant Households = 1,056 (Est.)
 - Sample Size = at least **+/- 8% accuracy**

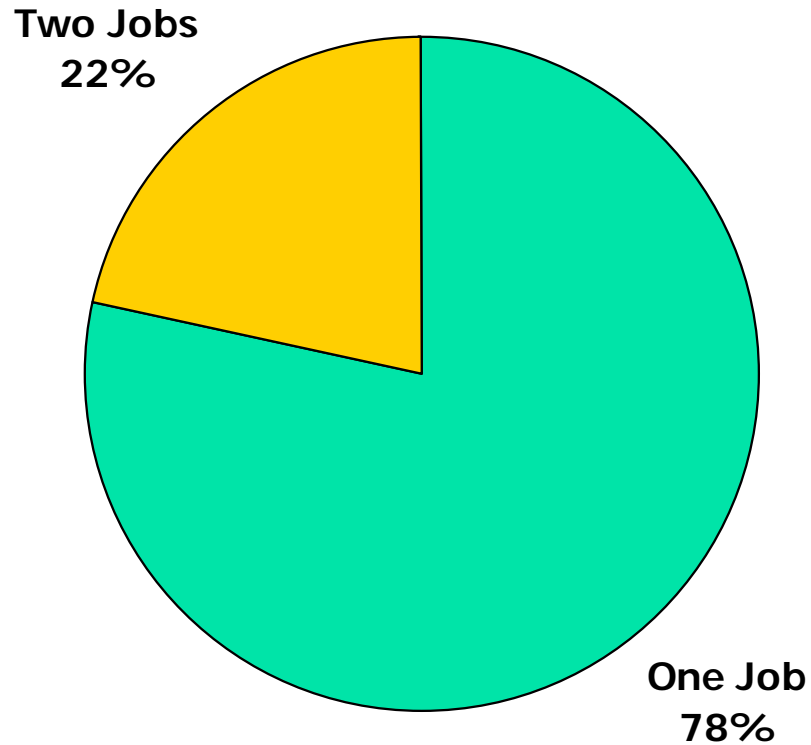
Years Immigrant Workers Employed in Teton County, WY (Average 5.3 Years)



Total Number of Jobs Held by Immigrant Worker (Head of Household)

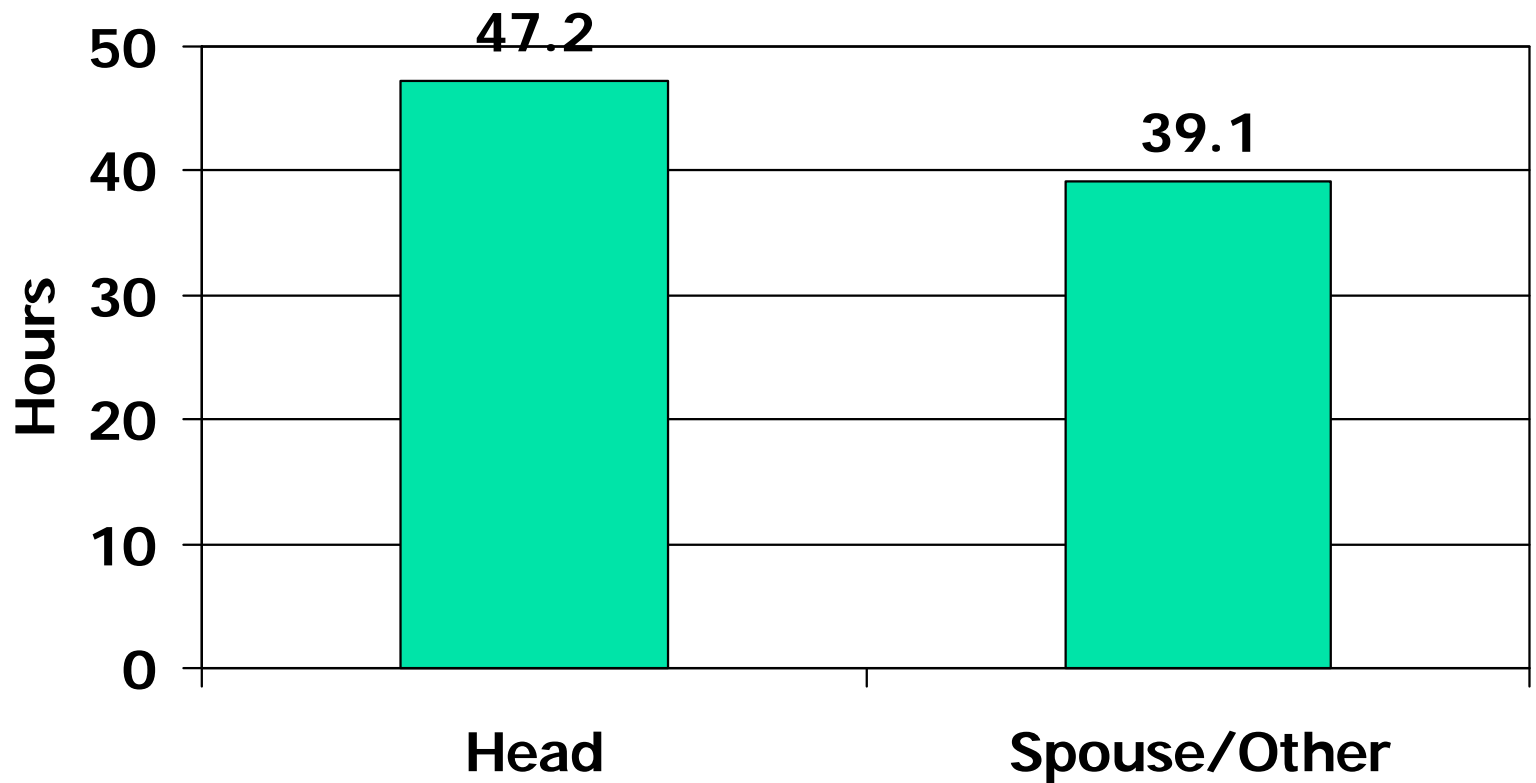


Total Number of Jobs Held by Immigrant Worker (Spouse/Other)

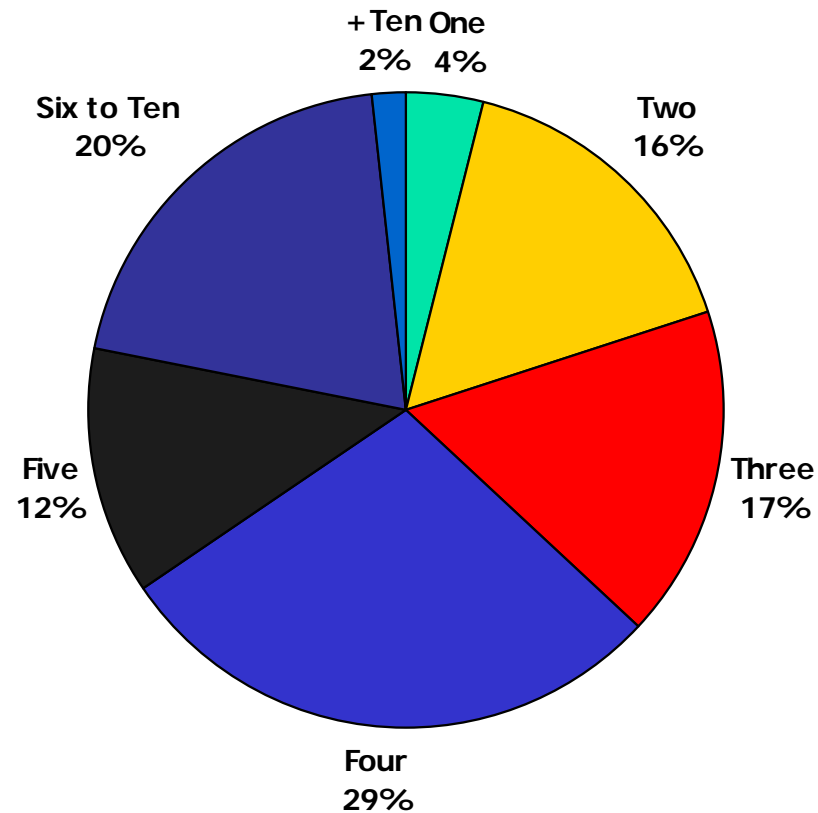




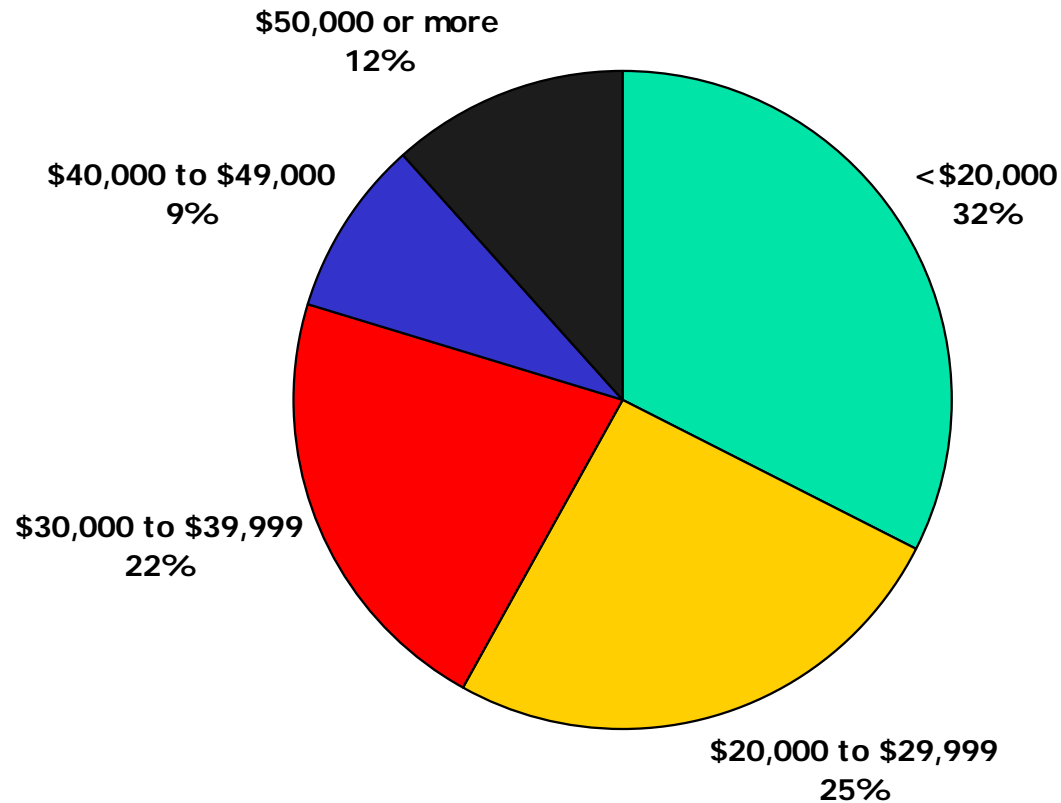
Average Hours Working Per Week



Number of People Living at Residence (Average = 4.3)

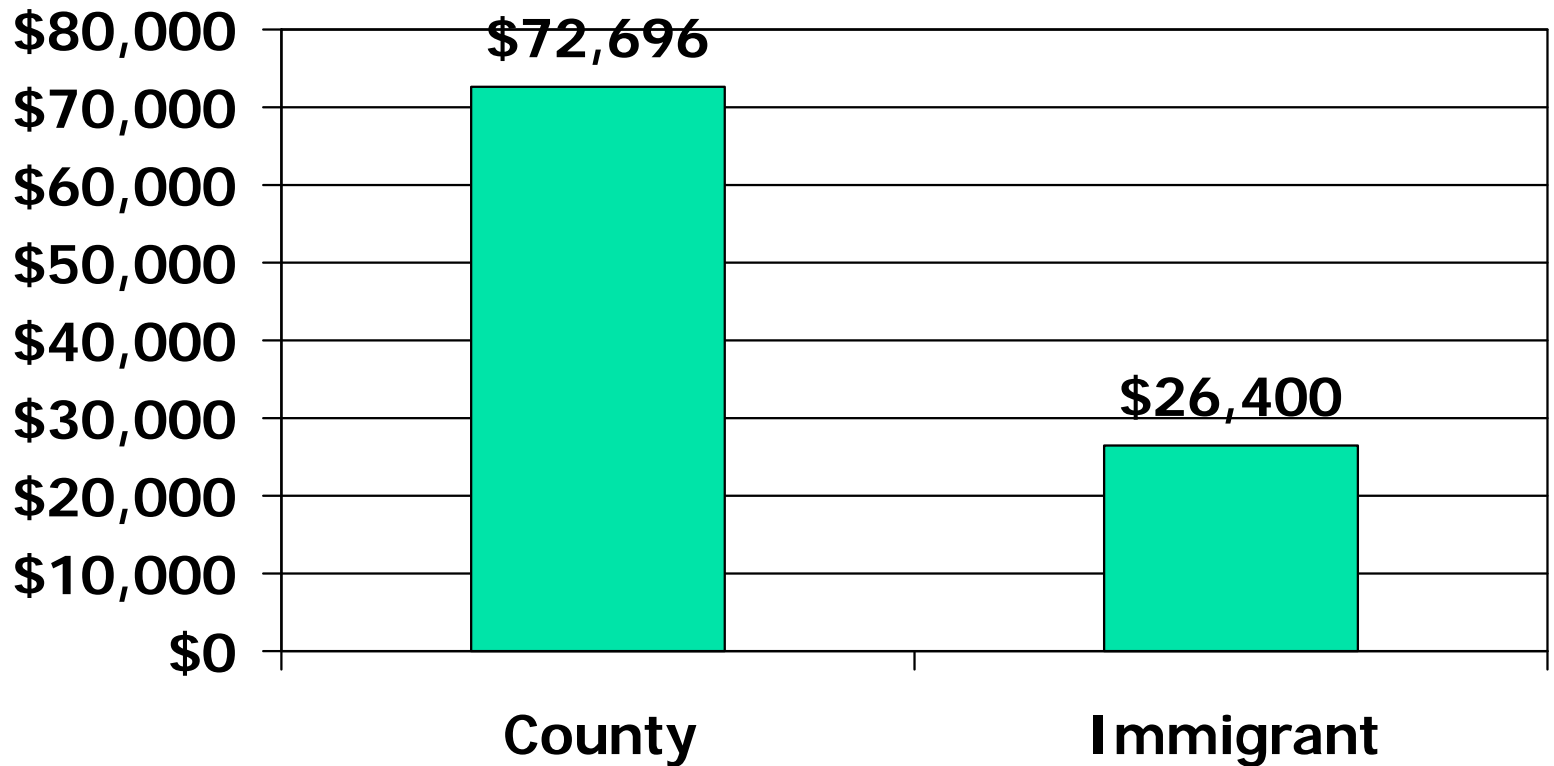


Annual Immigrant Household Income (Average = \$30,478)

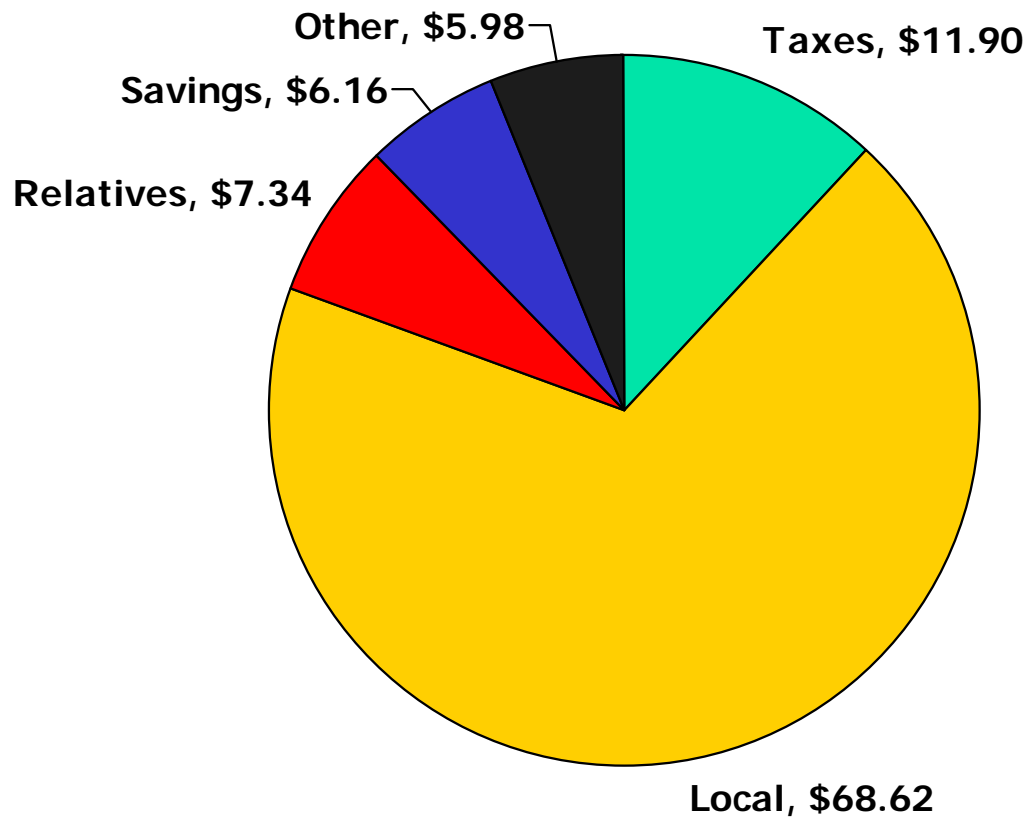




Median Household Income



Immigrant Worker Household Spending Per \$100 of Income





Summary – Immigrant Household Survey

- Average immigrant worker had been employed in County for 5.3 years.
- Average immigrant head of household held 1.2 jobs and worked 47 hours per week.
- Most jobs held by immigrant workers had limited benefits.
- Average number of people living at residence was 4.3.
- Median household income for immigrant workers was more than 60 percent below county median.
- Average immigrant household spent nearly 80% of their disposable income locally.



Economic Impact Estimate



Economic Impact

- Changes in one sector affects the economic activity in other sectors of a community's economy
- Economic impact considers both:
 - Direct effects in the impacted sector
 - Secondary effects in other sectors
 - Business to Business Linkages
 - Employee to Business Linkages



Economic Impact of Immigrant Workers

	Teton Total	Immigrant Workers	Percent Immigrant
Output	\$3,249 MM	\$355 MM	10.9%
Jobs	25,795	4,698	18.2%
Earnings	\$1,010 MM	\$131 MM	12.9%



Local Government Survey



Costs to Local Government

- Survey of local government to determine if immigrant workers increase local government costs
- No “hard” data available on costs
- However, some agencies and departments were able to provide estimates of effects on costs
- Represents these organizations’ “Best Estimate”



Organizations Providing Estimates

- County Departments (16)
- Hospital
- Selected Non-Profits Organizations
- School District
- Focus on the local funding for these organizations



Local Government Costs (Partial)

	County Funding	Workload Immigrant	Costs Immigrant	Cost/Local
County Dept.	\$20,975,419	22.8%	\$844,331	4.0%
Non-Profits	\$1,419,128	17.6%	\$75,309	5.3%
Hospital	\$3,600,000	8.0%	\$0	0.0%
School District	<u>\$34,592,101</u>	4.6%	<u>\$1,591,877</u>	4.6%
Total	\$60,588,648	11.2%	\$2,510,877	4.1%



Revenues to Local Government

- Some of the costs are offset by revenues to local government from immigrant workers.
- Estimate sales tax revenue to local government of \$1.9 million.
- Probably other tax revenue to local government.
- However, due to lower income immigrant workers probably pay less taxes than non-immigrant households.



Summary



Summary of Results

- Immigrant workers are a significant part of the Teton County economy.
- They tend to hold lower paying jobs and have lower household incomes.
- Most have worked in the County for a number of years.
- They spend most of their income locally.
- There appears to be both cost and revenues to local government from immigrant workers.



QUESTIONS

Simplified Regional Economy

