

# 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**

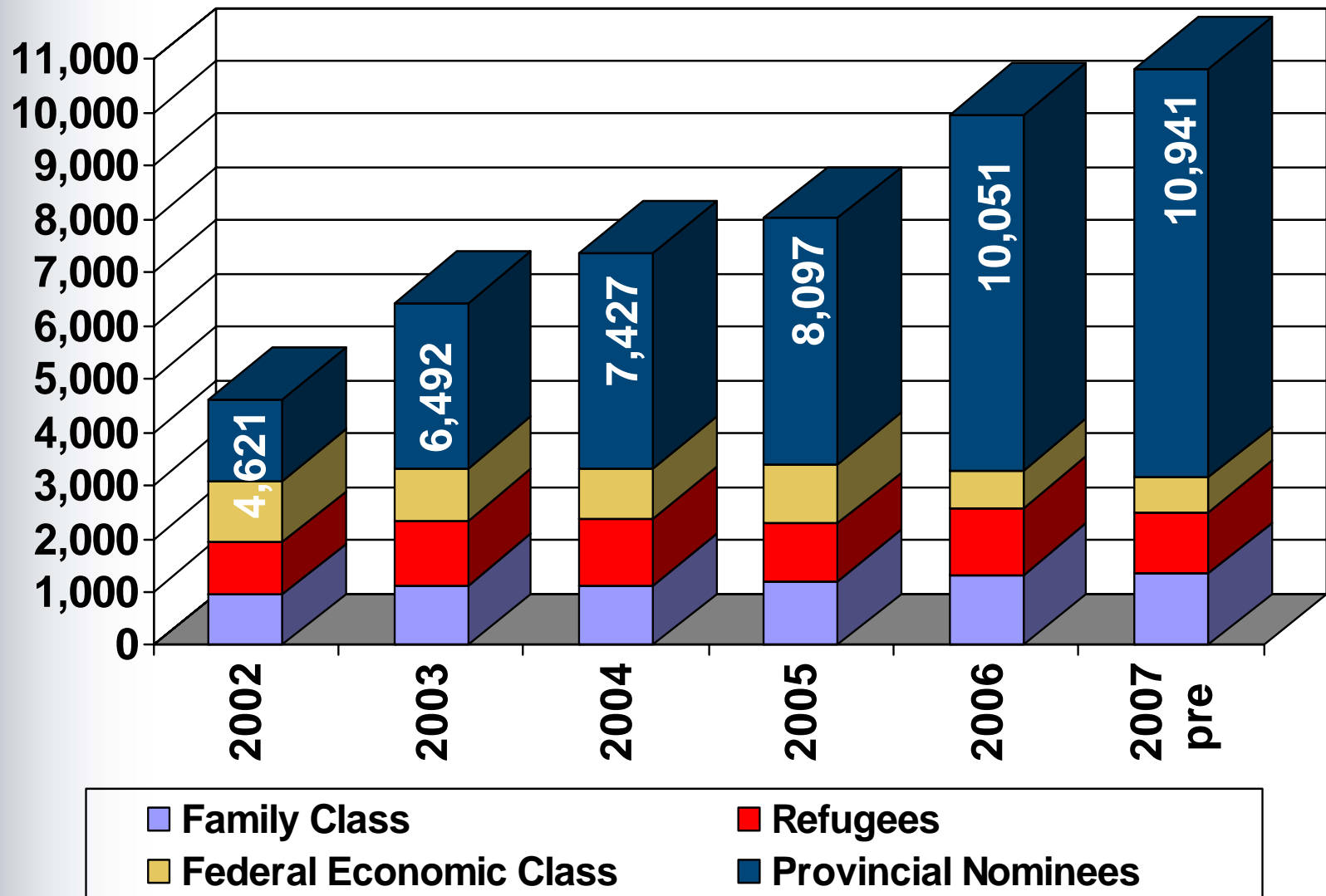
- Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement (1998)
- New Targets – 20,000 annually
- New Settlement Strategy
- Improve Recognition of International Qualifications
- Protect Workers and Improve Partnerships



# **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

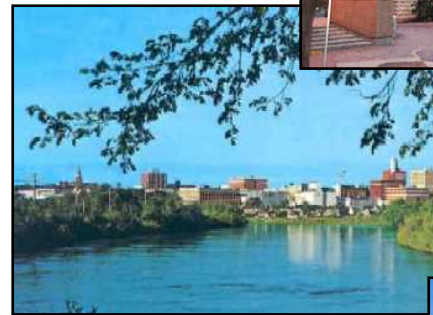
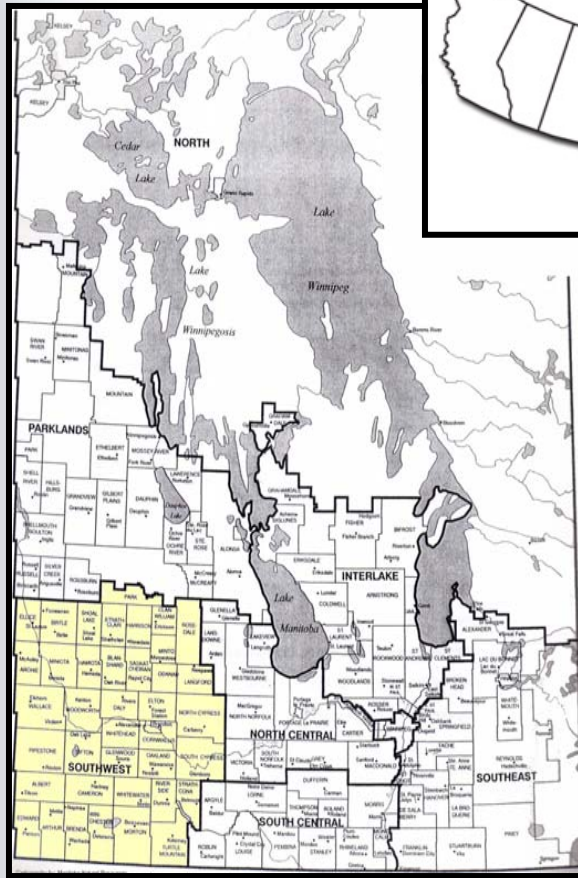
# Manitoba Immigration Levels



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

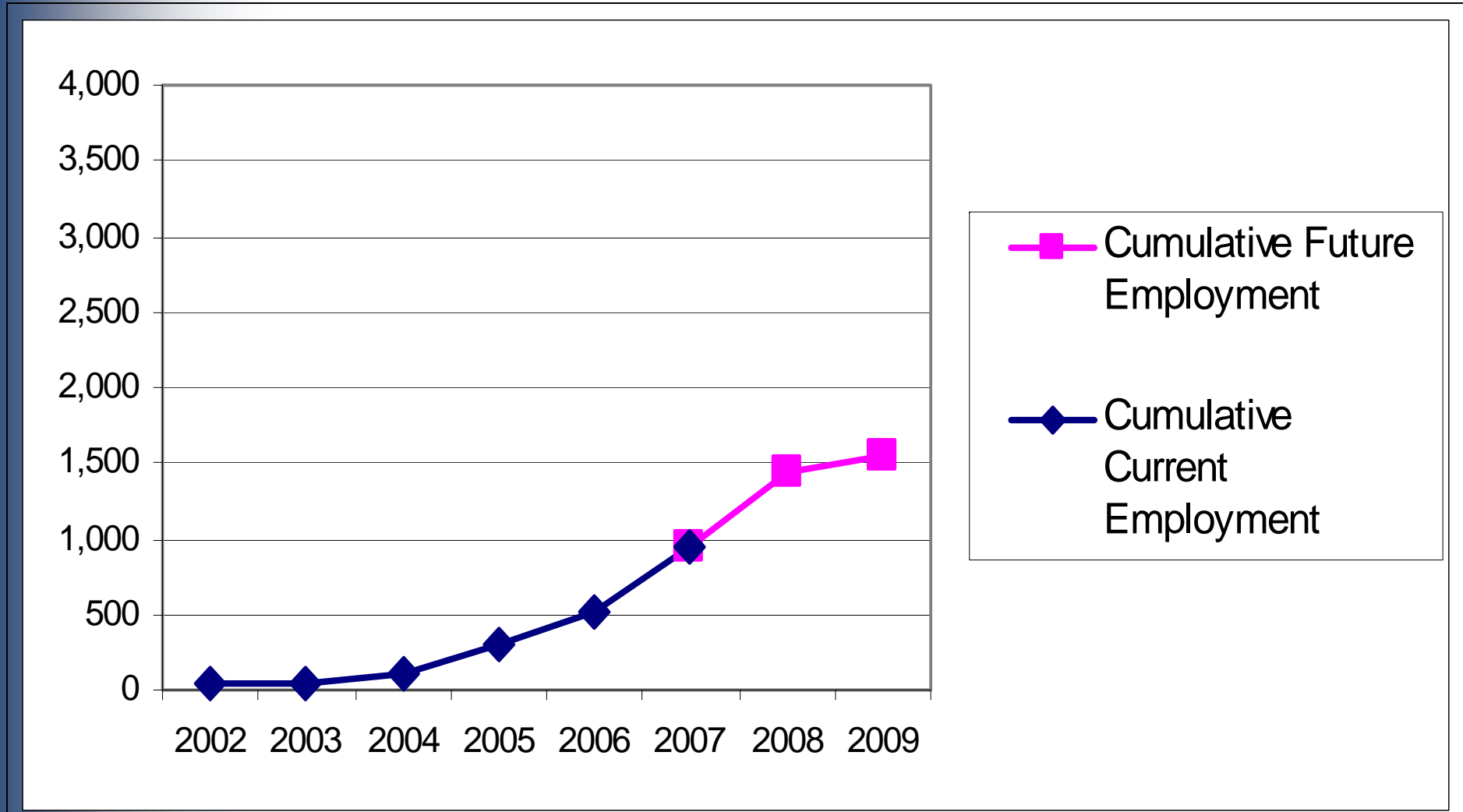


# Labour Shortage Strategies

- 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

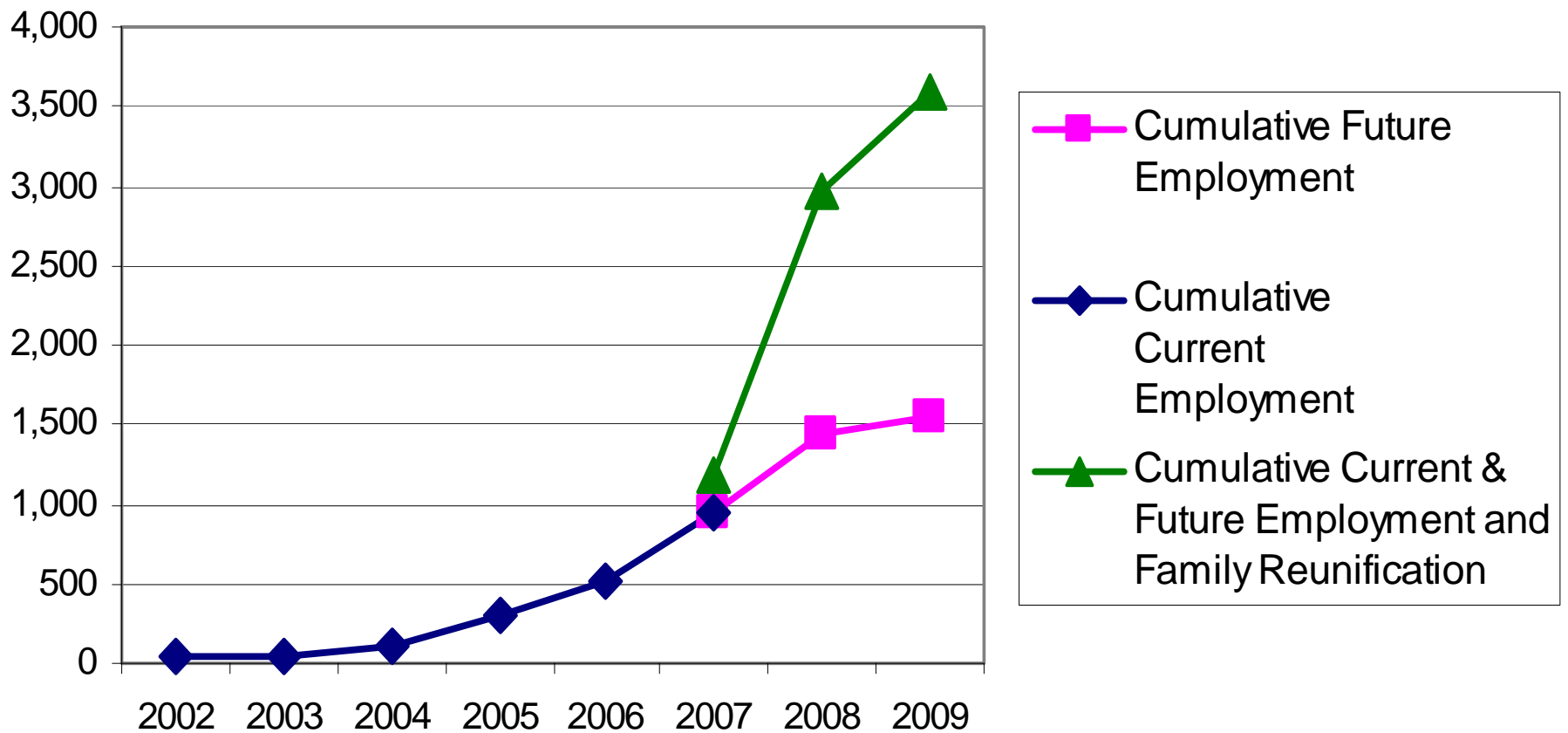


# TFW Estimates, 2007-2009



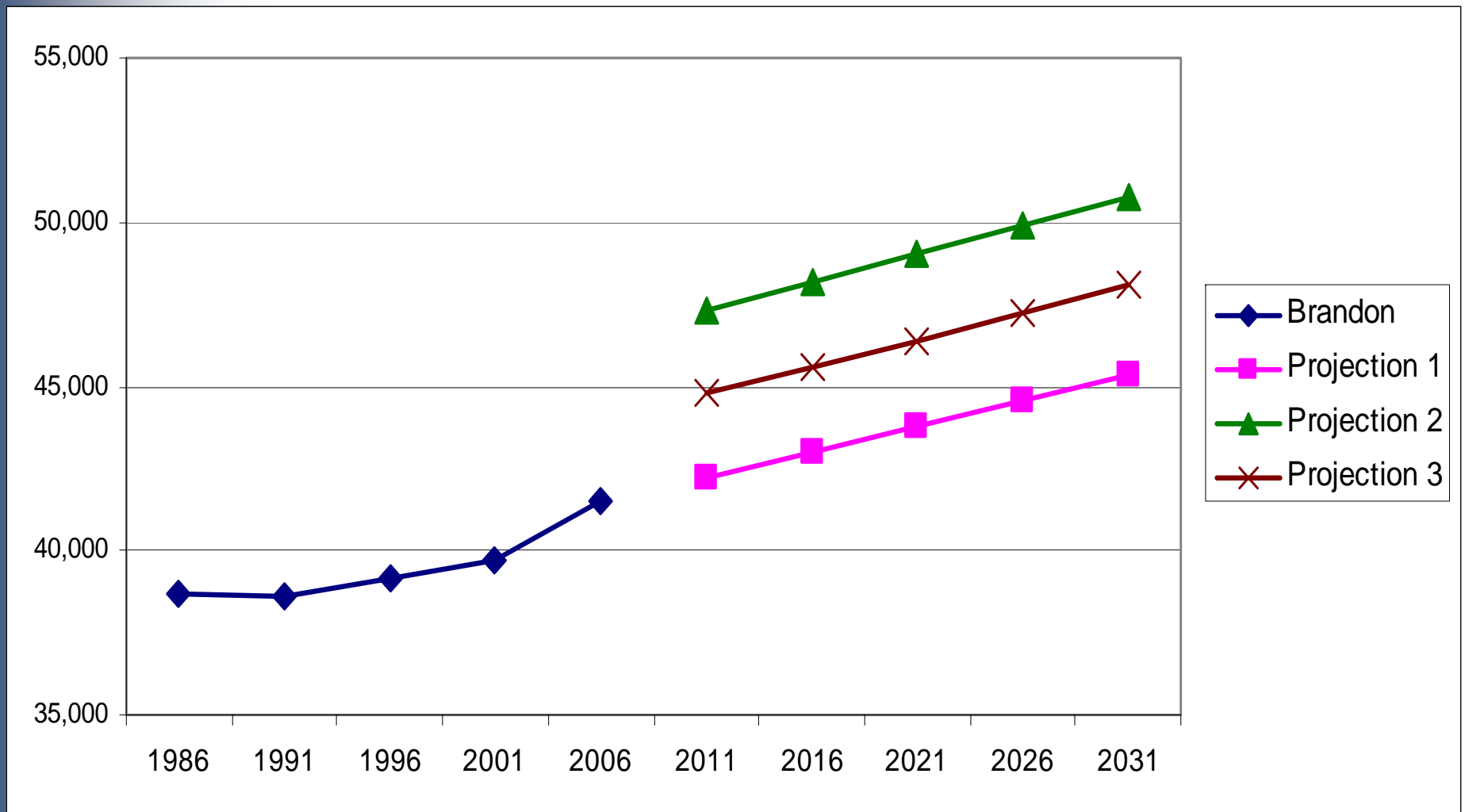
Source: Economic Development Brandon (2007), Maple Leaf Foods (2008)

# 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>