

The Economic Contributions of Hutterite Communities in Montana

Patrick M. Barkey, University of Montana; George Haynes and Joel Schumacher, Montana State University

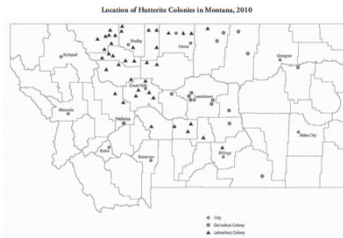
Introduction:

Hutterites are a communal based religious society who trace their origins to eastern Europe in the 16th century.

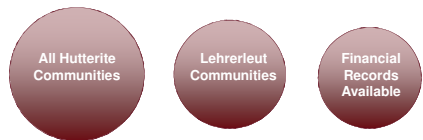
Since coming to North America in the late 19th century, the Hutterites eventually settled in western Canada and the upper plains states of the US, especially in Montana and South Dakota, which are home to Dariusleut and Lehrerleut colonies.



Location of Hutterite Colonies in Montana, 2010



Montana's Hutterite Communities



53 communities
More than 5,000 members

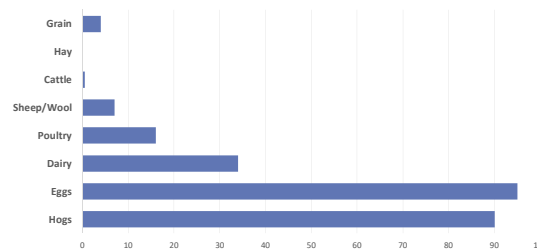
4,318 members in 2017

81 operations owned by 38 communities 3,749 members

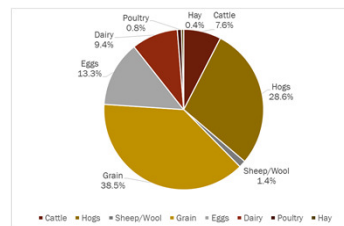
Notable Aspects of Hutterite Communities

- High degree of self sufficiency
- Communal financial model
- Community members receive in-kind compensation (housing, meals, etc.)
- Individual communities often own multiple farming operations
- Formal education of members beyond 8th grade less common
- More emphasis on value-added than in other Montana farming operations
- High market share in hog and egg production
- Diversification into services
- Isolation and cultural differences have spawned misconceptions

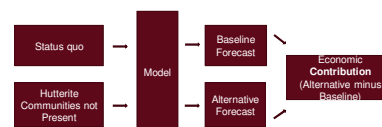
Share of Total Cash Receipts Produced by Lehrerleut Communities in Montana



Distribution of Cash Receipts from Agricultural Enterprises on Lehrerleut Communities



Research Design



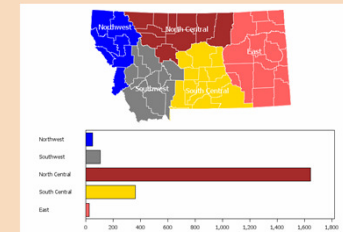
Results and Highlights:

Economic Contributions of the Lehrerleut Communities in Montana		
Summary		
Category	Units	Impacts
Total Employment	Jobs	2,191
Personal Income	\$ Millions	63.2
Disposable Pers. Income	\$ Millions	54.1
Output	\$ Millions	365.3
Population	People	5,323

The economic contributions reported in this report are the difference between two scenarios for the state economy: the status quo economy that exists today, and a "no-Community" scenario that is carefully constructed using the BBER's economic model. The "no-Community" economy not only is missing the Community's production, employment and spending, but also the jobs and income in the state economy that are ultimately supported by Community activity.

Our basic finding is that the presence of the 81 farming operations owned and operated by the 38 Lehrerleut Communities examined in this study support production, employment and income in the Montana economy that are significant in size and scope.

Employment Impacts by Region



Employment Impacts	
Industry	Jobs
Farm and Farm Support	1,330
Construction	156
Manufacturing	69
Wholesale Trade	39
Retail Trade	140
Transportation and Warehousing	22
Professional Business Services	138
Health Care and Social Assistance	83
Accommodation and Food Services	53
Other Private	99
Government	62
TOTAL	2,191

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Contact Us:
Bureau of Business and Economic Research
www.bber.umt.edu
pat.barkey@mso.umt.edu
haynes@montana.edu
jschumacher@montana.edu