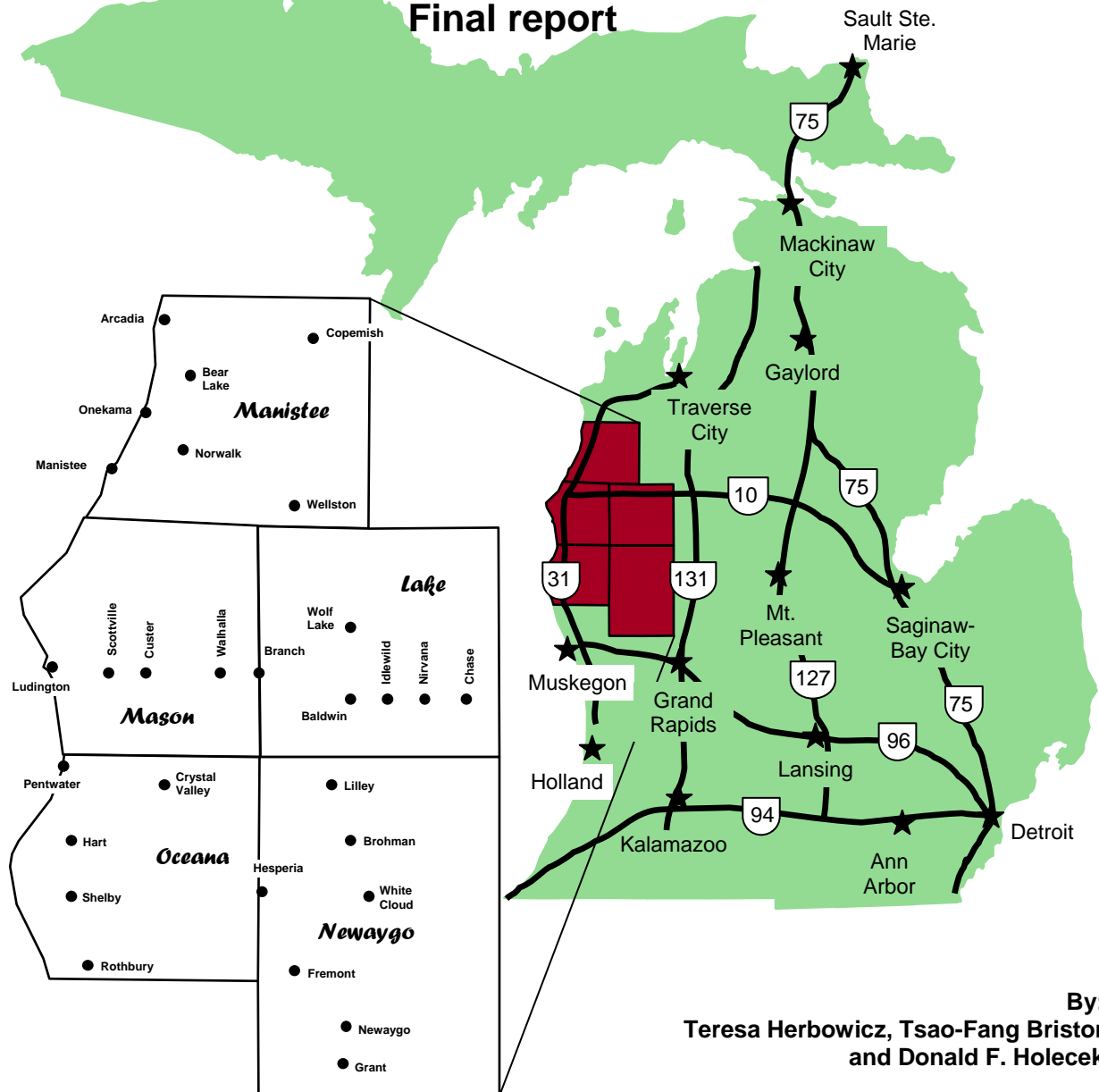


West-Central Michigan Tourism Assistance Program

Survey of Resident Attitudes toward Tourism in Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo and Oceana Counties

Final report



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In June 2003, representatives from Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana counties met with personnel from MSU Extension and the MSU Travel, Tourism and Recreation Resource Center (TTRRC) to discuss possible ways of strengthening the region's tourism industry. Tourism has traditionally been one of west-central Michigan's most important industries, especially in those communities situated along the Lake Michigan shoreline. However, local tourism and economic development leaders expressed concern over the inland area's under-utilized and under-promoted agriculture and nature-based tourism industries, an apparent over-reliance on warm weather-dependent attractions, the lack of a regional brand, the need for a funded, regional destination marketing organization, and the lack of tourist visitation beyond peak season (roughly defined as the period between Labor Day and the following Memorial Day).

A Tourism Assistance Program (TAP) has been developed by the TTRRC's team for the five-county area to address the above concerns and come up with possible solutions. A TAP is a long-term research and outreach project that brings together the many elements of a region's tourism industry and facilitates the creation of a strategic plan through supply/demand assessments, education, capacity building, and leadership development.

A planning committee for the west-central Michigan region has also been formed. It consists of representatives from local chambers of commerce, convention and visitor's bureaus, and county economic development offices, along with MSU faculty members and representatives from MSU Extension personnel in the region. The planning committee assumed the responsibility of providing project leadership, assisting in questionnaire development and administration, and fostering positive relations between the committee and local residents and businesses with regards to the progress of the TAP and potential tourism-related initiatives.

The TAP was designed to be conducted in five phases: a) to assess existing tourism, cultural, natural and recreational resources (an inventory of tourism resources); b) to assess demand for tourist product offerings in the area (via an overnight visitor survey, a transient visitor survey, and a potential visitor survey); c) to assess needs and preferences related to tourism development (via a resident attitude survey and a business/supplier survey); d) to develop a strategic marketing plan; and e) if viable, to form a regional destination marketing organization.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this survey was to gather residents' opinions about tourism in their county, its impact on quality of life and its potential as an engine of economic development in west-central Michigan.

This report focuses on findings from the survey of residents in the five-county area conducted in the fall of 2005.

METHODOLOGY

The method used for collecting data from region's residents was a mail survey sent to about 500 randomly selected names and addresses per county. Mailing lists contained names and addresses of registered voters or residential property owners and were obtained by local TAP members from their county offices. The survey was conducted in two waves; a follow-up survey packet was mailed to the same addresses three weeks after the first mailing. Each survey packet contained a questionnaire, a business-reply (postage-paid) envelope and a drawing entry form to be returned to TTRRC for a chance to win one of six \$50 cards to a local gas station chain. The goal of the survey was to collect about 100 completed questionnaires per county.

A total of 2,467 questionnaires were mailed, and a total of 518 completed questionnaires were returned. The number of returned questionnaires per county is as follows: Lake – 99, Manistee – 112, Mason – 120, Newaygo – 93, and Oceana – 94.

Responses to open-ended questions were coded and grouped into common categories. When multiple responses were allowed, all the responses to a given question were combined and only top five responses are presented in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

General information about residents

- Half of respondents are 56 years old or older.
- Almost 40% of all respondents are retired and 21% of all responses list “pension” as a source of household income.
- Half of respondents have lived or owned a property in the county for at least 25 years.
- Thirty percent of responding residents have “frequent contact” and nearly half (46%) has “some contact” with tourists.
- Over 70% of residents enjoy meeting and interacting with tourists; about 4%, do not.
- Over 80% of residents consider the quality of life in their county as good or very good.
- Over three-quarters (76%) of respondents would rather live in their county than anywhere else, and the same percentage of respondents would feel sorry, if they had to move away.
- However, responding residents are concerned about poor job opportunities in their county (84%), and about [inadequate number or quality of] museums and cultural centers (65%).

Residents’ attitudes toward tourism as an economic development tool

- Residents consider “tourism / recreation” to be the most desirable industry to fuel economic development in their county. “Agriculture” and “manufacturing” scored distant second and third.
- Nearly one-third (32%) of residents think that tourism should play a dominant role in the county economy while another 50% think that it should have an equal role to other industries.
- The vast majority of benefits from increased tourism noted by residents are related to improved local economy (combined 81% of all responses): more jobs, additional income for the businesses and the county.
- Besides having a positive effect on job opportunities, increased tourism would have a positive affect on park and recreation areas (according to 69% of responding residents), and museums and cultural centers (60%).

- Overall, over two-thirds of respondents consider tourism and its general impact on the county to be positive. However, most respondents (94%) think it's important that residents are involved in decisions about tourism in their county, and that such decisions should not be left to the private sector (62%).
- Residents are concerned though that the presence of tourists would limit locals' access to recreation opportunities (64%), and that tourism jobs pay low wages (73%).
- Despite believing that increased tourism would create more jobs, 53% of respondents do not believe their own income will increase or become more secure because of tourism.
- Congestion on roads is considered to be the biggest drawback of increased tourism (32% of all responses), followed by overcrowding in various businesses and natural resources (9% of all responses), deterioration of resources, facing disrespectful visitors, and strain on local infrastructure and services.
- The vast majority of the responding residents (over 80%) is supportive of additional development of listed tourist attractions in their county, with the biggest support expressed toward further development of: farm markets and agricultural tourism (91%), followed by community festivals, and biking and hiking trails (each 88%), camping (87%), museums and cultural sites (84%) and restaurants (84%). The least support for further development was expressed towards golf courses (only 51%) and hotels, motels and B&Bs (65%).

Opinions about county's tourism product

- Lakes, beaches and parks are the most popular places in the county that residents take their guests to, and the most popular activities participated in inside the county are those related to these places (fishing, hiking, sightseeing and swimming).
- Sixteen percent of respondents take their guests only to places outside their own county.
- The most popular places to take guests outside of their own county are: Lake Michigan, and nearby major towns: Traverse City, Ludington, Muskegon and Manistee (places that are within a 60-mile radius). The most popular activities participated in outside the county are: shopping (31% of responses), dining, sightseeing, gaming and hiking.
- Residents consider natural resources to be the biggest strength of their county as a tourist destination, such as Lake Michigan, fishing, lakes, beaches and parks.

- The top five weaknesses of their county as a tourist destination mentioned by residents are: 1) a lack of variety of attractions (not only in the summer but also in other seasons), 2) poor shopping opportunities and varieties, 3) scarcity of good or more diverse variety of restaurants, 4) overall poor economy in the county and 5) scarcity of lodging options.
- “More overall promotion and/or more targeted promotion” (to specific regions or groups or in specific media) are considered the key to encourage visitors / tourists to spend more time and money in the county (18% of all responses). However, 33% of combined responses indicate that residents feel product development is the way to encourage visitors to spend time and money in their county; namely by offering more variety of attractions and events (10% of all responses), more and/or better restaurant choices (8%), more and/or better shopping opportunities (7%), and improved infrastructure and access to attractions and natural resources (7%).

SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING

- Despite the challenging economic situation in the five counties, residents of the five-county region are generally content with their quality of life and the abundance of natural resources accessible to them.
- Residents are willing to share those resources and “small town” relaxing atmosphere with tourists and are supportive of many additional developments that would benefit them and the tourists (e.g., better access to natural resources, more shopping and dining opportunities, etc.).
- Residents want to “have a say” about tourism development projects in their county and they do not want the private sector to make those decisions. That indicates that a lot of internal marketing and educating will have to be done to inform residents about potential tourism development projects. Such a stance also implies that residents may not want to leave such decisions to elected officials and many town hall meetings may be required to move certain projects forward.
- It is encouraging to see that residents have generally positive view of tourists and tourism as an engine for economic growth, BUT planning and development must proceed in an open manner that is sensitive to the concerns of locals.

DETAILED RESULTS

1. Which type of residency best describes your association with the property at the address on the envelope? (Please check one.)

n=508	
Primary residency (own a primary house here)	94.3%
Vacation home / property used for recreational or seasonal purposes	0.8%
Rented home / apartment	2.3%
Property for rent	0.2%
Other	2.3%

2. In which county is the above residence located?

	Respondents
Lake	95
Manistee	109
Mason	121
Newaygo	94
Oceana	91
Total	510

3. From this point on, “your county” means the county in which the above residence is located. How much contact do you have with tourists visiting your county? (Please check one.)

n=513	
Frequent contact	30.4%
Some contact	45.9%
Infrequent contact	13.6%
No contact => Please skip to question 5.	10.1%

4. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude toward tourists in your county? (Please check one.)

n=451	
Enjoy meeting and interacting with tourists	71.0%
Indifferent about meeting and interacting with tourists	24.6%
Don't enjoy meeting and interacting with tourists	4.4%
No contact	0.0%

5. In which of the following economic sectors does your household earn its income?

(Please number the appropriate sectors with 1 indicating your household's primary source of income, 2 indicating the secondary source of income, and so on.)

Results in the table A are based on 620 responses (multiple selections were allowed). Percentages represent respondents who earned any income in a given sector.

Table A

620 responses			
Economic sectors		Economic sectors	
Agriculture	6.3%	Manufacturing	11.6%
Construction	9.6%	Mining	0.7%
Finance, insurance or real estate	2.2%	Transportation, communication or utilities	5.0%
Forestry	1.2%	Travel/tourism industry	4.8%
Government	9.3%	Wholesale or retail trade	7.5%
Services (<i>specify</i>):	22.6%	Other	19.3%

Results in the table B are based on 715 responses (multiple selections were allowed). Percentages represent respondents who earned any income in a given sector and sub-sector (category "services" and "other" are specified here).

Table B

715 responses			
Economic sectors <u>with sub-sectors</u>		Economic sectors <u>with sub-sectors</u>	
Agriculture	5.3%	Manufacturing	10.1%
Construction	8.1%	Mining	0.6%
Finance, insurance or real estate	3.5%	Transportation, communication or utilities	5.2%
Forestry	1.0%	Travel / tourism industry	4.3%
Government	8.4%	Wholesale or retail trade	8.0%
Services (<i>specify</i>):		Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Education	4.5%	Other	1.3%
Food services	1.7%	Pension	21.0%
Health care	5.9%	Social security	2.9%
Personal services	1.5%	Undetermined	2.0%
Specialty services	4.2%		
Technology	0.7%		

6. Please rate the current condition of each of the following elements of quality of life in your county.
(Please circle one answer for each item.)

	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very good	Don't know
Condition of roads and highways (n=501)	3.0%	21.4%	66.0%	9.4%	0.2%
Cost of living (n=497)	5.6%	30.4%	58.0%	4.8%	1.2%
Education systems (n=504)	2.4%	10.9%	56.6%	22.4%	7.7%
Emergency services (police, fire, etc.) (n=509)	1.4%	10.4%	54.8%	28.3%	5.1%
Infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) (n=482)	4.6%	16.2%	43.8%	12.2%	23.2%
Job opportunities (n=504)	32.9%	53.2%	7.7%	0.4%	5.8%
Museums and cultural centers (n=499)	24.2%	40.8%	24.2%	3.2%	7.6%
Overall cleanliness and appearance (n=501)	1.8%	10.8%	66.0%	21.2%	0.2%
Overall community livability (n=501)	1.4%	11.0%	61.8%	24.4%	1.4%
Parks and recreation areas (n=509)	1.2%	8.4%	45.4%	41.7%	3.3%
Safety and security (n=504)	1.2%	8.5%	59.1%	29.0%	2.2%
Traffic congestion (n=500)	3.6%	10.4%	58.2%	25.4%	2.4%

7. Please rank the following industries on a scale of 1 to 6, with 1 being the most desirable for future economic development in your county and 6 being the least desirable.

Industries	Ranking	Aggregate score* ranking
Tourism / recreation	1	1513
Agriculture / agribusiness	2	1346
Manufacturing	3	1326
Retail and wholesale trade	4	1299
Services (health, consulting, etc.)	5	1297
Information technology	6	1134

* Aggregate score is a sum of rankings where rank 1 was assigned six points, rank 2 – five points, rank 3 – four points, rank 4 – three points, rank 5 – two points and rank 6 – one point.

8. When friends and family visit you, which places do you most frequently take them to see in your county, and what do you do while you are there? (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Respondents that take guests only to places outside of their county	n=517	16%
Lake Co. respondents that take guests only to places outside of Lake Co.	n= 99	30%
Manistee Co. respondents that take guests only to places outside of Manistee Co.	n=111	11%
Mason Co. respondents that take guests only to places outside of Mason Co.	n=120	3%
Newaygo Co. respondents that take guests only to places outside of Newaygo Co.	n= 93	32%
Oceana Co. respondents that take guests only to places outside of Oceana Co.	n= 94	10%

=> Please skip to question 9.

Places in the county (top responses)	887 responses
Lake Michigan	9.5%
Lake(s)	8.8%
Beach(es)	8.5%
State park(s) / forest(s)	6.7%
Restaurant(s)	5.9%

Activities in the county (top responses)	418 responses
Fishing	11.7%
Hiking	11.2%
Sightseeing	8.6%
Shopping	6.5%
Swimming	6.5%

9. To what places outside of your county do you take your guests, and what do you do while you are there? (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Places outside the county (top responses)	376 responses
Lake Michigan	9.0%
Traverse City	8.0%
Ludington	6.9%
Muskegon	5.6%
Manistee	5.3%

Activities outside the county (top responses)	260 responses
Shopping	31.2%
Dining	13.1%
Sightseeing	6.5%
Gaming	5.4%
Hiking	5.0%

10. In your opinion, what are the strengths of your county as a tourist destination? (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Strengths of the county (top responses)	1042 responses
Lake Michigan	8.3%
Fishing	7.6%
Lake(s)	7.5%
Beach(es)	6.6%
Park(s)	5.2%

11. In your opinion, what are the weaknesses of your county as a tourist destination?
(Multiple responses were allowed.)

Weaknesses of the county (top responses)	644 responses
Lack of variety of attractions	11.5%
Poor shopping	11.5%
Lack of (good) restaurants	9.6%
Poor economy	8.9%
Lack of lodging options	5.6%

12. What do you think are your county's most popular attractions?
(Please provide at least one attraction for each category below.)

Architectural attraction (top responses)	338 responses
Downtown Manistee	9.2%
Lighthouse	8.6%
County courthouse	8.6%
Ramsdell Theatre	8.3%
Farms	7.1%
Business / industrial attraction (top responses)	314 responses
Ludington Pump Storage Power Plant	8.6%
Gerber baby food factory	8.6%
Casino	6.7%
Downtown shops	6.1%
Shelby Gem Factory	5.1%
Cultural attraction (top responses)	273 responses
Ramsdell Theatre	19.4%
West Shore Community College	12.1%
Dogwood Center	7.3%
Concerts	5.5%
Festivals / fairs	4.4%
Other <i>(specify)</i> :	

Historical attraction (top responses)	351 responses
White Pine Village	18.2%
Museum(s)	13.1%
Downtown	10.5%
Shrine of the Pines	6.0%
Ramsdell Theatre	4.8%
Major event (top responses)	470 responses
4th of July festivities	15.1%
Fair / festival	10.4%
Sleighbell Parade	9.6%
Asparagus festival	8.5%
Troutorama	8.1%
Recreational attraction (top responses)	606 responses
Fishing	12.4%
Beach(es)	9.2%
Silver Lake sand dunes	8.4%
Lake(s)	7.4%
Lake Michigan	7.3%

13. Do you support additional level of development of the following tourism attractions in your county?
 (Please circle "Y" or "N" for each listed category.)

Codes: Y = Yes N = No

Y	N		Y	N	
80.8%	19.2%	(n=495) Access to public lakes	82.6%	17.4%	(n=470) Historic sites
80.9%	19.1%	(n=481) Antiques & crafts shopping	64.8%	35.2%	(n=480) Hotels, motels, B&Bs
86.8%	13.2%	(n=492) Camping	79.4%	20.6%	(n=490) Hunting and fishing
87.6%	12.4%	(n=485) Community festivals	84.2%	15.8%	(n=469) Museums & cultural sites
91.4%	8.6%	(n=488) Farm markets / agricultural tourism	83.8%	16.2%	(n=489) Restaurants
50.6%	49.4%	(n=486) Golf courses	80.4%	19.6%	(n=484) Skiing, snowmobiling facilities / trails
87.6%	12.4%	(n=491) Hiking and biking trails	81.6%	18.4%	(n=488) Water sports facilities / opportunities (e.g., canoe, kayak rentals, etc.)
63.9%	36.1%	(n=36) Other (specify):			

14. In your opinion, what would be the benefits of increased tourism in your county?
 (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Tourism benefits (top responses)	629 responses
More jobs	26.9%
Bring money into our area	19.2%
Improved local economy	15.9%
Additional income for businesses	12.2%
Additional revenue for the county	7.0%

15. In your opinion, what would be the drawbacks of increased tourism in your county?
 (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Tourism drawbacks (top responses)	666 responses
Congestion (on the roads)	32.3%
Overcrowding (in places)	9.3%
Deterioration of resources	8.0%
Disrespectful visitors	6.5%
Strain on local infrastructure / services	5.3%

16. What do you think could be done to encourage visitors to spend more time and money in your county? (Multiple responses were allowed.)

Encouragements (top responses)	614 responses
More / focused promotion	18.1%
More variety of attractions / events	10.3%
More / better restaurant choices	8.1%
More / better shopping opportunities	7.2%
Improved infrastructure / access	7.3%

17. Compared to other industries, what role do you think tourism should have in the economy of your county? (Please check one.)

n=486	
A dominant role	31.5%
A role equal to other industries	50.0%
A minor role	16.3%
No role	2.3%

18. Please indicate how, you think, the following elements of quality of life would be affected, if tourism were to increase in your county. (Please circle one answer for each item.)

	Negative effect	Some positive and some negative effect	Positive effect	No effect	Don't know
Condition of roads and highways (n=485)	22.7%	42.1%	21.4%	9.7%	4.1%
Cost of living (n=480)	20.4%	33.5%	30.6%	9.0%	6.5%
Education systems (n=484)	3.7%	21.1%	35.5%	31.4%	8.3%
Emergency services (police, fire, etc.) (n=487)	12.3%	36.3%	33.5%	10.9%	7.0%
Infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) (n=475)	16.4%	27.8%	19.2%	21.9%	14.7%
Job opportunities (n=486)	6.4%	18.9%	68.9%	2.7%	3.1%

	Negative effect	Some positive and some negative effect	Positive effect	No effect	Don't know
Museums and cultural centers (n=480)	1.9%	16.9%	59.1%	10.4%	11.7%
Overall cleanliness and appearance (n=486)	17.3%	39.5%	30.9%	7.4%	4.9%
Overall community livability (n=487)	9.4%	43.3%	32.9%	7.6%	6.8%
Parks and recreation areas (n=489)	5.5%	28.8%	59.7%	2.5%	3.5%
Safety and security (n=485)	18.4%	45.5%	24.1%	6.4%	5.6%
Traffic congestion (n=490)	51.4%	30.0%	9.4%	4.5%	4.7%

19. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding tourism in your county. (Please circle one answer for each item.)

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
A	I'd rather live in my county than anywhere else. (n=499)	3.8%	15.2%	42.5%	33.1%	5.4%
B	If I had to move away from my county, I would be very sorry to leave. (n=498)	4.2%	15.9%	42.2%	34.1%	3.6%
C	I think the future of my county looks bright. (n=499)	9.8%	34.5%	37.5%	9.0%	9.2%
D	I would support investment in a new tourism development. (n=495)	8.1%	12.9%	46.7%	19.8%	12.5%
E	Increased tourism would help my county to grow in the right direction. (n=497)	7.8%	10.9%	46.3%	22.9%	12.1%
F	It is important that the residents of my county are involved in decisions about tourism. (n=500)	1.2%	2.4%	51.2%	42.6%	2.6%
G	Decisions about how much tourism there should be in my county are best left to the private sector. (n=493)	17.0%	45.1%	19.9%	7.7%	10.3%
H	There is an adequate amount of undeveloped land in my county. (n=498)	6.8%	16.1%	54.2%	15.7%	7.2%

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
I	I am concerned about the potential disappearance of undeveloped land in my county. (n=493)	4.7%	26.2%	32.8%	28.6%	7.7%
J	I would support land use regulations to help manage future growth in my county. (n=491)	6.3%	9.8%	47.0%	27.7%	9.2%
K	Tourism promotion by the state of Michigan benefits my county economically. (n=499)	4.8%	10.4%	48.2%	21.2%	15.4%
L	If tourism increases in my county, my income will increase or be more secure. (n=490)	22.7%	29.5%	19.0%	10.8%	18.0%
N	The overall benefits of tourism outweigh the negative impacts. (n=495)	6.9%	12.9%	52.7%	16.0%	11.5%
O	If tourism increases in my county, the overall quality of life for residents will be improved. (n=495)	6.9%	19.2%	44.8%	10.7%	18.4%
P	I believe jobs in tourism offer opportunities for career advancement. (n=497)	8.5%	21.9%	43.2%	12.5%	13.9%
Q	Tourists do not pay their fair share for the services they use. (n=495)	7.3%	38.6%	24.4%	11.7%	18.0%
R	My access to recreation opportunities is limited due to the presence of tourists. (n=497)	9.9%	54.1%	21.5%	8.7%	5.8%
S	Tourism increases opportunities to meet people of different backgrounds and cultures. (n=498)	1.2%	6.2%	66.9%	20.5%	5.2%
T	I believe most of the jobs in the tourism industry pay low wages. (n=497)	1.6%	11.1%	48.1%	24.9%	14.3%

20. Do you think there are too many young people leaving your county to seek employment opportunities elsewhere?

n=485	
Yes	91.1%
No	8.9%

21. How many years have you lived (or owned a property) in this county?

n=495	
Mean	27.6 years
Median	25.0 years
0 - 10 years	22.6%
11 - 20 years	20.0%
21 - 30 years	23.6%
31 - 40 years	11.9%
41 - 50 years	8.1%
51 - 60 years	7.3%
61 - 70 years	3.8%
71 - 80 years	1.6%
81 - 90 years	1.0%

22. Where do you live (or own the property) in your county? (Please check one.)

n=509	
In town (urban setting)	16.1%
Out of town (rural setting)	83.9%

23. How many years have you lived in Michigan?

n=503	
Mean	48.1 years
Median	50.0 years
0 - 10 years	4.9%
11 - 20 years	5.6%
21 - 30 years	9.1%
31 - 40 years	13.8%
41 - 50 years	19.2%
51 - 60 years	22.7%
61 - 70 years	17.3%
71 - 80 years	7.4%

24. What is your age?

n=507	
Mean	55.6 yrs old
Median	56.0 yrs old
11 - 20 yrs old	1.0%
21 - 30 yrs old	4.9%
31 - 40 yrs old	9.9%
41 - 50 yrs old	19.7%
51 - 60 yrs old	25.2%
61 - 70 yrs old	23.5%
71 - 80 yrs old	13.2%
81 - 90 yrs old	2.4%
91 - 100 yrs old	0.2%

25. What is your employment status? (Please check one.)

n=468			
Full time employed	43.1%	Homemaker	3.2%
Part time employed	7.3%	Student	1.3%
Retired	39.5%	Unemployed	1.5%
Other (<i>specify</i>):	4.1%		

26. Please use this space to write any additional comments you may have about tourism and its development.

	It's a great state, recreation areas and water are our big plus factors.
	There is so much emphasis on tourism in Manistee county that potential industrial development and economic developers such as Wal-Mart are actually barred from county entry. Thus, we are a town of gas stations, bars, fast food establishments, and small expensive businesses offering little in the way of economic development and jobs.
Lake	Although we know that tourism would improve the economy of this county, we do enjoy the relative peace and quiet in our area.
Lake	Any tourism that would bring money to Lake County would be good. We are the poorest county in Michigan, and get little of no help from Governor Granholm.

Lake	Baldwin survives now only on tourism now that our heartless governor closed the prison. We have now no well-paying jobs here now. She put a knife into Baldwin. Baldwin will now go back to being #1 in the state for unemployment and welfare. Thank you governor. It's all politics.
Lake	Being the poorest county in Michigan, what does exist, would not without tourism. It brings in outside money, much needed, I might add.
Lake	For some reason, Baldwin's village president and the county commissioners feel prisons are the only solutions to problems in this poverty-stricken area. People are appalled with their thinking; however, decisions are made with no public present. This prison is also "right" across the street from a five camp daycare center. We would truly appreciate for someone from the state would here and see what these "few" people are doing to our community. Please think of something for our area other than prisons!
Lake	God made the earth for all to enjoy, happy people make life good. It helps to just get away from the entire fast pace life, have fun leave all your problems behind you.
Lake	Have whole township adopt civil infraction codes and enforce the codes. Nobody wants to build or invest in (whatever) when there's building blight up town the highway or roads leading in or out of Baldwin.
Lake	Hope the price of gasoline comes down so people can get here cheaper.
Lake	I believe in order to develop tourist growth in Lake county a strong arts component must bring the balance of quieter type of individual, arts, fisherman, naturalist, retreat goers.
Lake	I believe our area could be developed in many ways. Not only the lake but we have a lot of underdeveloped land that could be used for 4 wheeling and site seeing trails. Even if you could rent the right away on some of these properties. People would like to ride their go-carts and such.
Lake	I cannot express my feelings against tourism and development strongly enough. The uniqueness of this county is because it is undeveloped. If you can't understand that, then you need to find another job, because you have no idea of what you are going to destroy.
Lake	I don't think tourism is a way to make a living. I am not able to make any money.
Lake	I feel there is no need for all the police pulling you over when a family is snowmobiling on a Saturday afternoon. Have had police pull me over when coming home from work and want to know the year of our truck. Not necessary.
Lake	I have owned a restaurant in this area for 28years and watched us loose tourism dollars year after year we have a great area to promote.
Lake	I have worked in retail trade in Lake County and have had contact with many tourists. Most complaints I have heard are "there's nothing to do here"
Lake	I really think it would benefit one of the poorest counties around and give people jobs a pride on their county. Something they don't have as of know. Less crime because they would have more jobs.
Lake	I support increasing non-motorized recreation, NOT ORV recreation including snowmobiles. Cross-country skiing with facilities, sled dog training trails, ice-skating, biking, hiking, horse

	back riding and all activities I support.
Lake	I think more could be done to promote use of our natural resources, the rivers, lakes, trails and forests.
Lake	I think that tourism is not a way to make a living. You make no money.
Lake	I think there are places in this county that add to Michigan's history and should be known. Also, more educational opportunities need to be offered.
Lake	I would like for more tourism in our county so that the young people would stay and bring up their families right here in lake County.
Lake	I'm for more people coming to Lake County, mainly during winter months.
Lake	I've worked for the Lake County Chamber of Commerce for a year and a half. I found it very interesting. Tourism is like the heart of Baldwin and Lake county.
Lake	In order to succeed as a "tourist Mecca," give people something we all want, which is simplicity and tranquility. Vacations are supposed to help people decrease stress by "getting away from it all." If we provide that environment, but limit its availability, they'll be standing in line at Christmas for a chance to come here in June.
Lake	In this time people are not all mile tempered. So I believe to encourage more people in would add to more violence too often people get angry over small things. So, it would be more work for the police to settle disputes.
Lake	It's very hard to promote tourism with no money and cleanliness in our area. We are ashamed to invite people to our house with the messes that are allowed directly across the road from us. We have to put up with an abundance of flies, manure smell, garbage junk and the lack of any pride. We have pleaded for help to get there situation taken care of. It seems more in the county and state levels seem to care. Its very discouraging you us to have to look at this day by day. We have a very nice home and keep the yard neat.
Lake	Jobs are very scarce in my county. There is no factories or any work places and it is a very hard to keep children or young people. When they look for work, they go somewhere else.
Lake	Lake County has a lot of out door recreation, but it still needs more to draw more people. People came here because it was good hunting but no more. It is a good place to live.
Lake	Lake County should seek for more tourists more programs directed toward getting tourists to visit while they're here fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, etc.
Lake	Lived in Michigan all my life except for 30 years military service.
Lake	My husband's job moved to Mexico 2 years ago. No state funds money. Just food. And fake medical coverage. We are about to lose our home for back taxes. Bring Industry (even one) companies that employ many workers to build items for tourism. Before the state owns all of our homes, and everything else.
Lake	Need more jobs, better paying jobs, cost of living—reduce taxes, need better roads, need bigger businesses—Cabela's, mall, movie theaters.
Lake	No doe season in Lake county this year will economically hurt us. Why couldn't the

	government agency see this coming a few years back and address it then. More tourism is a wonderful theory but where will the work force come from.
Lake	Not enough of it. Need more to do. If Rails to Trails was paved, more people would travel it.
Lake	One reason I am against state sanctioned tourism is because they take over prime land for public use and give nothing in return. We have state motor trails that are supposed to be in a contained area. They are not and no enforcement is foreseeable. Also state authorized lake access stinks.
Lake	Our little town of Chase needs a store or restaurant on US-10.
Lake	Side roads are very bad where I live. Traffic is light I would not like to see speeders, hunters, invading poachers on our private lake or any other negative from unruly people on private property.
Lake	Since federal and state owns over half the county, they should make up half of the responsibility. Like state parks, federal campground taxes.
Lake	The "DNR" has just about done this county in! Mismanagement of the "Deer herd" and "forest" which directly reflects tourism! These people would be fired if they worked for a private company!
Lake	The county turned down a NASCAR racetrack, which I think was a big mistake.
Lake	The economic success of Lake county depends on tourism.
Lake	The good ole boys are still trying to stay in the 1950's. They rule the boards and fight every opportunity for change so they can have their laid-back life. Then the city people move up and think we should be just like the big city. An endless battle with no compromise.
Lake	The more people come in, the more they ruin the land and leave debris. Animals have moved on or been killed off on roads and during hunting season. When I was a child deer run in herds of 30 now you are lucky to see 2 or 3 together. When my parents were first married in the late 40's, the herds were 100 or more. We will never see herds like that again, and man is not far behind them in destruction.
Lake	The state of Michigan has just dealt this county a severe blow by closing down our largest employer.
Lake	Tourism and Development industries need to hire local people and pay a living wage. Too often people from other counties are used and paid less than Americans can afford to accept.
Lake	Tourism should be the frosting on the cake not the main occupation. Of locals. Tourists leave trash behind that has to be cleaned up by locals.
Lake	Very much needed in Lake county: year round things to keep people interested in coming here.
Lake	We are not against people/tourist drinking. However are against drinking at sports events, flea markets, churches, or anywhere around children including restaurants. You want to stop smokers, cell phones, than stop the alcohol abuse.

Lake	We don't like deer shining. If people would shin our fields it would be ok, but there are a few that look for deer on our front porch.
Lake	We need to teach the young kids good work habits and how to stay off welfare. Stop paying young kids for having babies make both man and woman pay their share. Giving food to them is ok but teach them to work.
Lake	We need tourists! Tourism needs to be developed for balanced year around activities. Community folks need to be involved to breakdown diversity and economic barriers to avoid the "us vs. them" war. Lots of community education must be done all along the process.
Lake	We would like to see more areas available for nude recreation.
Lake	With the closing of our youth correctional facility, jobs were lost and there has or are been a few businesses that are on the verge of closing due to the lost income from that decision.
Lake	With the loss of the largest employer in our county, we rely on tourism as the only industry in our county. Tourism is only one area that our county needs to look at to make our county a place where our children want to live and work in. Most of our residents have to leave the county for employment. We need to utilize our 48% of state and federal forest area.
Lake	Would like to encourage Centennial Farm recognition throughout Michigan and old church structures and their stained glass windows. Often these farms and their local churches were from their different nationalities: German, Swedish, and so on. Very cultural community.
Lake	Would like to see some sort of naturist or nudist development also.
Lake	Would love to see tourism increased for Lake county, but believe the economic situation of our state will prevent this from happening.
Manistee	All in all we all need tourism. Everyone who in is business counts on the tourist season. Summer is our biggest time. The 4 th of July Parade bring in thousands of people to our county, so yes it is very congested most of the summer. We have several festivals going on in the summer and they all bring in a lot of tourists.
Manistee	Already sent in one of these surveys we need more industry not tourism.
Manistee	Being a female and retiree I do not want to respond to this survey. I have very little contact with the tourist in my community. Visitors to my home are mainly family who do not utilize the tourist attractions. They are born and raised in Manistee. So they know what there is to do here. That is hunt, fish, and enjoy the beautiful lakes in and around Manistee county and visit with family. The tourism industry brings lots of money into the county, but who profits, the resort and restaurant owners and anyone else catering to their needs. Most resorts do not pay a living wage to their employees. Minimum wage paying jobs can't support a family and supply them with adequate housing and material things to live comfortable. Four of my seven children do not live or work in Manistee county. No good paying jobs, my daughter in Holland says she'd love to be able to live here and work but she and the family could not live on the wages being paid in the majority of businesses in Manistee. Let's bring back a few educational jobs so our families can find jobs in the area that do not cater only to tourist.
Manistee	Governor Granholm has diverted state funds for business and tourism development that could have helped a fattening economy. We will pay the price for poor state and local leadership for generations.

Manistee	I am not for development in the undeveloped land in Manistee County. Over the past 20 years, big difference in the “wilderness” areas being developed. But I understand for the economic growth there must be sacrifices.
Manistee	I am very affected by tourism I think it is a great more for Manistee County to encourage tourism. I believe we need to also promote other types of businesses to help support a more active tourism market.
Manistee	I feel like there is no reason why women and children would want to come here except to gamble or use the beaches. I hate spending money in other cities because we don't have access to some store in our community. I spend so much money out of town.
Manistee	I feel strongly that development must be completed with the overall health of our community be the final decision makers.
Manistee	I have trouble now during summer months making left turns onto roads. It takes much longer to get to work and costs me more for gas with traffic. When bridge is open for boats, I'm late for work.
Manistee	I own a small gift/antique shop so welcome tourists. But also feel that tourism does not provide great economic benefit to the greater public as it creates few jobs and those are generally low paying.
Manistee	I strongly believe tourism manufacturing in our county are necessary and can work together to the mutual benefit of all.
Manistee	I think growth in tourism is good for our county.
Manistee	I think my county needs better paying jobs to keep our young people from leaving. If the tourists want to use our beautiful county, they should be able to pay for our services and make the jobs year around!
Manistee	I would like to see a few more dining, shopping, housing built in my town. It would really help out a lot of people.
Manistee	I would rather see decisions made to enhance clean air and water which tourism would promote. Recently, a company tried to force the city to let them build a coal electric plant on Lake Manistee. We are so glad the city said “NO” and went to county to preserve their decision.
Manistee	I'm for tourism and also for wildlife to try and survive. Recreational, sightseeing and underdeveloped nature settings is what brings our tourism. The beauty of nature.
Manistee	In our area I think to bring outlet stores or create shopping opportunities will add to the area. To shop at large stores we have to drive over 30 miles. Therefore, no real money goes into the Manistee Economic sectors.
Manistee	It would help the community, bring in new people. Further the educational system. Getting the roads repaired. Increasing the economy and bringing in more grocery facilities.
Manistee	Like I already stated we need more development on this end of the county with good paying jobs to keep people here—working and living in Manistee county. Most people I know, myself included, work in other counties and therefore spend our money there. I rarely go to the southern parts of the county. The courthouse in Manistee is about the only reason I

	have to go there.
Manistee	Local attitude does not seem to support tourism. They are waiting for the industry jobs of the past to reopen and they will wait a long time.
Manistee	Manistee county has been abused in the past by polluting industries. We need to seek clean industry as well as more tourism.
Manistee	Manistee county needs shopping facilities, K-mart is the only one. Tourists enjoy movies no theater in Manistee
Manistee	Manistee county promotes tourism so much to the exclusion of industry and jobs. Kids leave here for the bigger cities. People come here to retire so I heard Manistee called the "old people town".
Manistee	Manistee has come along ways in tourism from the 40's and 50's. I believe tourism excels every year.
Manistee	Manistee needs to do something about its county. The cost of living keeps rising and Manistee doesn't have the jobs to support it. Education is limited in Manistee as in continuing education, and tourism seems to be the only thing Manistee relies on, but Manistee needs to be more diverse.
Manistee	Michigan especially my county needs industry and jobs. County becoming a retirement area. Not many young families anymore.
Manistee	Michigan has great beauty. Folk's down state don't take good care of the area they abuse, that is sad.
Manistee	Need a bypass expressway outside of town to hold clean the traffic on US31!
Manistee	Need better paying jobs for tourism and more traffic regulations.
Manistee	Need more well paying jobs-manufacturing-not minimum wage tourist jobs. This county is very unbalanced toward tourism. It is difficult for working families to live here, seems it is only for wealth retirees.
Manistee	Need to expand beyond Manistee limits—outer county towns need the development too—probably more. Very little industry to help for jobs or general living.
Manistee	Our city leaders promote tourism above manufacturing. The better paying jobs are in manufacturing so the young people leave and we year round residents are stuck with higher prices for everything.
Manistee	Overall, I think Manistee needs to move on from manufacturing and seek other areas of economic development. Tourism would be a great area in which to make the first steps.
Manistee	People come to Manistee to experience its natural beauty. To expand development diminishes this beauty, and development without any type of long-range planning creates a community similar to that which is the suburbs of Detroit. Why would I want to visit a park in Manistee County if development runs rampant when I can do the same in Oakland County and not pay the high price of way to drive there? Again, people come to Manistee County to experience its natural beauty, not to jostle shoulders with other tourists

Manistee	State, county, city government needs to seek to develop opportunities for the residents of their county to have good paying job opportunities. The tourism industry does not provide good paying jobs that people can live and raise a family on. The county/city needs to quit developing (condos, houses) along the Lakes and Rivers and thereby spoiling the natural beauty, and limiting public access to those beautiful resources.
Manistee	Strongly agree to increase tasteful tourism. I.E. Tourism that doesn't disturb the socioeconomic environment, but works with these factors in growth.
Manistee	The more tourists and the more job opportunities for our young people would be great. Bring out beautiful town back to life!
Manistee	The only real help for tourism would be for the state/federal government to cut taxes and reduce red tape.
Manistee	The state of Michigan needs to support tourism at a much higher level that it has been/ It will help the economy many ways.
Manistee	The state police in this county don't play by the rules. People are scared to come here, come on vacation and go home on probation.
Manistee	This survey pairs Manistee county with an inappropriate set of counties. Manistee is associated with the Greater Grand Traverse region. E.G., Traverse City Record Eagle as regional newspaper. NWMCDG for Michigan works! And economic market Manistee and Benzie for courts, mental health etc. Traverse City is "our" regional shopping, medical center and education center. Our visitors come "north" to vacation. Oceana and Newaygo are viewed as "southern" Michigan. Marketing or association as shown on the front is not going to change our existing connection to Grand Traverse. But it will require expendable energy to "swim upstream" against the current – a waste of effort.
Manistee	Too much land is being developed for housing by people out of state that don't care about the beauty of our area. All they want is money for people don't stay here 12 months out of a year.
Manistee	Tourism gives a great boost to the summer months, but by October businesses are reducing hours and people have a real hard time making ends meet in many jobs. Most of our young adults look elsewhere for jobs to support their families.
Manistee	Tourism must be part of an overall diversified mix of business and community development opportunities. It won't and can't work by itself. Very poor planning by State of Michigan DNR and local community "leaders" to develop and SUSTAIN tourism.
Manistee	We accepted the casino here, but now when new industry wants to come in, the Indians (and others) want to stop it and would like the existing industry to leave, so they could build all condos around the lake. Sorry, but we need good paying jobs and they're trying to push out the few that we have left.
Manistee	We cannot base our economy on tourism. It will not support a livable wage for workers.
Manistee	We could use more money from anything in the county, but not like Traverse city. Where there is traffic congestion and urban sprawl and it doesn't appear like anything was planned out in advanced.
Manistee	We enjoy the tourist. The separation between town people who live here is great. Tourists

	are accepted but considered clans. After 11 permanent years, we are accepted.
Manistee	We need to bring in more business so the tourism will grow do to more place to grow Manistee County is going down due to no jobs and high living costs.
Manistee	We think people come here for its beauty - fishing, water recreation, the casino, and many other attractions. There is nothing quite as beautiful as the Lake Michigan sunsets.
Mason	1. The industrial base of this area is disintegrating, leaving only low-paying service jobs. 2. A big billboard, "Welcome to Ludington, MI, now go home."
Mason	Although I agree across the board that tourism is beneficial to Mason county, I feel it is much more important to garner more industries based here. The majority of our population foes not reap the benefits of monies which tourism generates. We need a solid wage-earning base here.
Mason	Anything that brings income to this area is a plus. I hope results from the survey provide positive results. Thank you for looking into this.
Mason	Besides the natural attractions of our county, I would like to see more cultural events to attract educated tourists, along with restaurants with fine organic meals. Also, downtown in not "walking, browsing" friendly. It needs to be more cohesive, more trees, flower pots, etc.
Mason	Cities such as Ludington thrive on tourism. However, it seems like cities like this are going down hill because there are very limited career opportunities in the area, young people have to leave to find a good job. The problem is, once the tourists leave, the local residents have nowhere to work etc.
Mason	Enjoyed volunteering at our Chamber of Commerce this past summer and sharing info about our county.
Mason	Gasoline prices need to drop. The Muskegon ferry should not have been loan guaranteed or subsidized.
Mason	Has to be a very fine line in development. Look at Traverse City, Holland, Mackinaw City. Way too much development, traffic jams, we lose our identity, our downtown stores and shops close because of development outside of city. Ludington seems to be this way now. What of the future?
Mason	I believe that balanced development is important – I would like to see some increase in industrial development and moderate expansion of tourism – it is vital that development continue in the downtown area and NOT only along the US 10-31 corridor.
Mason	I believe the tourism industry has reached its peak in my area. I think that any more increased tourism efforts would only lead to overall deterioration of quality of life for full-time residents of my area.
Mason	I believe ultimately one goal of tourism is to attract new diverse and educated people to relocate permanently to our county/region. I believe both Mason and Manistee counties need to improve employment opportunities and general services to make this a reality.
Mason	I choose to live in the north; I just wish it could stat the way it was. Tourists are spoiling the land and lakes. They have the best of two worlds, living in the city making big money then coming up here bringing there ideas with them and spoiling the land (its just coming to fast).

Mason	I do agree that we need tourism in all of the counties in this survey, but on top of tourism, we need much more industry for the people to live and stay in these counties year round. I have been in retail tourism business all of my life. The only ones that make money are the owners. Everyone else just lives.
Mason	I do have a concern that our community is becoming a “retirement city” with many people purchasing second homes where they live only a part of the year. It is becoming difficult for families to be able to afford to buy homes and live here with the level of employment available.
Mason	I don't feel good about tourism they bring bad things, bad attitudes.
Mason	I have already filled this out previously. Maybe I didn't send it. Hope this helps.
Mason	I have spent some of my free time off every year of my life in Mason County, due to many relatives I have here, either on Lake Michigan or in the woods, etc. It's hard to believe when I try across this country that developers could destroy this virgin land in such a few short years. To resemble some 3 rd world country with the congestion and saturation.
Mason	I just worry about crime and losing our small town look.
Mason	I think all tourism development spending should be put to a vote in front of the public. More thought should be put towards the people that live in this county and that are trying to raise a family.
Mason	I think more tourists in our county if not done right would negatively affect the people living here.
Mason	I think our county is exceptional in our natural resources and more people should visit.
Mason	I think tourism is great. I love to do it myself, but I believe it need to be balanced so that those who live in the county can still make a living and enjoy the area. Most wages here are very low. Makes locals resentful of affluent people taking over in the summer.
Mason	I think tourism is very important to Ludington's economy and way of life.
Mason	I think visitors would like a restaurant to stay open instead of closing at 2 pm. Some stay open at 10 pm. That would be helpful in Mason county.
Mason	I would not like to see an increase in tacky shops and fast food joints. Tasteful appearance is important to me and how I accept any increase [in development].
Mason	I've been employed in tourism for 10 years and its existence is very important to our town! But I do not want to see nature and our valuable resources sacrifices to build or expand! There must be a balance and the community must be involved.
Mason	In this county tourism is seasonal. High in the summer, for “summer fun” low in the spring – fishing in the fall. Fishing and hunting very low in winter. No skiing some snowmobiling. All seasonal development would make tourism an industry.
Mason	It's hard to watch Ludington turn into every other town. Same businesses like Applebee's, Home Depot, Hungry Howie's—boring. It's starting to look like strip mall city. Losing its “charm”—Wal-Mart's, etc.

Mason	Lack of tourism opportunities September-April, during “off season”. It is difficult to even find an open restaurant in February.
Mason	Ludington is a beautiful town, but many stores just cater to tourists. People that live here year around go to other areas to shop, eat out, recreation. If you don’t have watercraft, boat, motor sports etc not much besides camping or stay in own property.
Mason	Ludington is a very beautiful old town. They’re improving it all the time. Lots of nice gift and antique shops.
Mason	Mason County needs more factories for year round work, not tourists! Sorry, but a lot of people feel this way.
Mason	Mason County is beautiful, clean with many hometowns. Maybe have one day or one weekend of all towns yard sale – the length of hwy #10 play on the hometown atmosphere and agriculture – cherries, green beans, apples, pumpkins, grapes. Scottville could start a “Mushroom Festival” and close the mains streets for crafts and local musicians, apple bobbing, gunny sack races for kids and adults, pop balloons with darts for prizes, pass apples from chin to chin game – adults and kids, and food food food! Maybe 4H horse kids could earn money. Pony rides with affordable costs.
Mason	My husband and I have four kids. They come up from Lansing almost every weekend “in the summer.” We really enjoy our life here. We enjoy the tourism. We love a busy life.
Mason	Nothing except for upscale clothing and shoe store.
Mason	Our area is very good for resorts, beaches. State parks are around Lake Michigan and many other small lakes.
Mason	Our community spends more time and money on tourism than it does to improve things for its year-round residents. Essentially we are the ones who keep the economy going after the tourist season, and it seems we are overlooked.
Mason	Our county becomes so overpopulated in the summer; it is really hard to go anywhere. Traffic is way too congested; if this were to change (adding left turn lights) maybe tourists and year round residents would not be so frustrated with each other.
Mason	Sometimes local governments attempt to limit development, housing, land use, taking away individual initiatives.
Mason	The badger car ferry is an excellent example of a blend of tourism and industrial usage of an historical mode of transportation.
Mason	This county does not have the economic resources to develop a “year round” tourist environment. Current tourism offers lower opportunities for most people. A strong disparity in wealthier and poor families.
Mason	Too much time and money is being spent on condos downtown while the old K-Mart building is the first eyesore people see coming up to the airport stoplight. We need to do something about that first.
Mason	Tourism has greatly increased since we moved here and I really feel the area is a tourist area and not enough is being done for the year-round residents who support the community

Mason	Tourism in the city is great. Tourism in the woods is not. During the hunting season, it's awful. Our gravel roads get torn up more from more traffic. They drive around all hours of the night, who knows what for. Maybe they're lost. Road signs need to be put up to tell what roads you're on, we need more streetlights on certain corners.
Mason	Tourism is a necessity in areas like this, but jobs in tourism are low paying and seasonal. High technology and light would be more beautiful.
Mason	Tourism is all well and good. The natural beauty here of course increases the area's attractions. However, tourism does not help the majority of locals living here. We had five children—all of whom left the area for better economic opportunities. We need businesses too!
Mason	Tourism is fast becoming our only industry. The tourist population in summer months is destroying our natural resources and providing a very dismal economy with no or few full time jobs. There are no jobs and tourism's increase will not fix this problem.
Mason	Tourism is probably the future of our area. Could use a bicycle trail. Very Important.
Mason	Tourism is very advantageous for Ludington and Mason county. However traffic controls need to keep up with increasing traffic especially on 10 and 31. We need better shopping (shops) department stores of a better quality. If this occurred residents as well as tourists will be happy.
Mason	Was in resort and restaurant business for 26 years.
Mason	We are seeing an increased building of condos on the waterfront. Not sure the benefits of (hi-rise) development for the locals-losing view of water!
Mason	We need real employment with decent wages.
Mason	What sets Ludington apart from other small communities is the beach, lakes, and city waterfront. It makes sense that we need to capitalize on this to develop our community.
Mason	When you don't have good industry, tourism is what you resort to!
Newaygo	A poll taken by our local township states most residents like Newaygo County as it is now. They like the rural setting with hunting and fishing being our assets.
Newaygo	As I said before, Newaygo County is such a beautiful county with many beautiful lakes and a gorgeous Muskegon River, with lots of state land. Someone could make megabucks on a long cabin restaurant (Logan's), a bug Cabela's or similar type store! Many people hunt, fish, boat, etc.
Newaygo	Because of the lack of industry, we need the tourists. Businesses that cater to tourist are missing compared to other places that have so much to offer (waterways).
Newaygo	Grant, MI has very little growth in town. No fast food restaurants only a subway at BP Gas station. Seems this community fights growth.
Newaygo	I believe that tourism is at about the right level where I live. Too many people and it loses its attraction. Because of where we live, the tourists go away with the seasons, which is nice.
Newaygo	I believe we need more attractions for teenagers to keep them out of trouble. Like a guided

	forest tour with animals that teenagers are the guides.
Newaygo	I do believe tourism is an important asset to our county; however, it is disturbing to see our beautiful resources misused by visitors, which happen frequently.
Newaygo	I do not feel that my community is being used sufficiently. Property is being sold in “small parcels” that allow “potential hunters or whatever” to come for short periods. They do not care about “here” and they do not have a “stable” sense of responsibility about here.
Newaygo	I don’t think tourism is the answer; we need jobs that pay well and have a future, so people can support their families.
Newaygo	I love being a tourist. Generally, travel includes a destination. Newaygo county does not have any year round “destination pull,” especially for families. Build a Cabela’s in Fremont, Michigan.
Newaygo	I would hope that green acres. There are few job opportunities in Newaygo county. The costly, unmanaged sewer system around the chain of lakes has caused an unfavorable climate for tourism. Contact (...) Drain commission about her mistakes in supervising the project without proper knowledge that has placed an undue burden to those around the lakes. It has affected property values in a negative way, out of town owners have sold rather than pay the costly, new, ineffective sewer system.
Newaygo	I’m not sure how you would increase tourism in Newaygo County, but the county needed help.
Newaygo	It is surprising how many tourists and other people look down on someone like me who is quadriplegic.
Newaygo	Need a source of funds to help keep tourism office open. Funds to go to more tourism related in and out of state.
Newaygo	Newaygo county has much to offer and is a beautiful county.
Newaygo	Our area does not like the idea of working on expansion but there are very little jobs in this area. We need it to have more jobs.
Newaygo	Proper maps of county roads and lakes. Better access sites with rest rooms.
Newaygo	Revenue is not everything; the negative footprint left behind is more important. I commute because unless we get into nanotechnology and organic farming sustainable agriculture, the region is lost to a downhill economic spiral.
Newaygo	Stop shutting of roads that have been run in the woods for years. It is pissing us locals off bad. We’re ready to open them back up ourselves, regardless of what the law is.
Newaygo	The only problem is congestion in Newaygo on M/37 and M/82.
Newaygo	The tourists just seem to “pass thru” our town. They stop to grab gas or groceries. If their going to come here anyway. It would be nice to have more to offer them so they can spend some money here.
Newaygo	The word tourism is very “general.” If you want better answers, you have to be more specific. Yes, tourism in this county is very popular but local income is weak.

Newaygo	There should be consideration for highway bypass around Newaygo. Slightest increase in traffic makes a bottleneck for M-37/M-82 going through town.
Newaygo	We can bring people to this area on occasion. But we are more apt to bring in more crime etc. We don't have the security. Besides, they don't live here so they come in and leave is a mess. People have no respect for the people who live here.
Newaygo	We've had too many people running our small towns who fear growth because of the possibilities of increased crime. We need to grow though. It's essential.
Newaygo	With tourism and growth being managed, it would be for the overall residents and business benefit.
Oceana	Business owners along Silver Lake have told private landowners (retirement homes): if you don't like our expansions and developments, pack up and move out. A very bad testimony for private property owners. This was at a township meeting I attended in the late 1990's.
Oceana	Central tower Michigan needs more public land. Don't sell what we have as DNR is doing. Trades are ok hunters shouldn't have to pay the entire tax bill on Fish purchases land that everyone uses.
Oceana	City and township board members must see the benefits of tourism or it will never change. The work must begin with them.
Oceana	I am 5 th generation to live in Oceana County. As a fireman, I have fought woods fires from careless campers. As a first responder, I have pulled people from wrecks. I have seen a lot of negative effects of tourists, yet I become one each Spring for a week.
Oceana	I grew up in tourism area and always enjoyed getting to know people. Now living in a rural agriculture area there are times that tourists seem to get in the way and think they are special, but it only lasts for a short part of the year.
Oceana	I have lived on W.H. Road for most of my life. W.H. goes down to the lake (Michigan). There is 66 feet of public beach. Access to the beach is a narrow footpath down a steep hill. This should be improved by a stairway so older people could enjoy the beach and the beautiful sunsets. It is a shame that this access is in this poor shape.
Oceana	I like the area in which I live very much. I like the small town atmosphere. Commercial tourism industry might bring a stronger economy to our area, but at what expense. Pollution, litter, and destruction. I would recommend leaving everything the way it is.
Oceana	I live at Silver Lake. There was a group in 2004 that wanted to force a sewer system on us at a cost of as much as \$27,000. An honest look at the situation shows property owners would bear lions share of the cost with next to nothing chargers to campers and renters, who make up more than 50% of visitors. On top of that, the season is only 90 days, at best. This group wanted to put in a 10 million dollar sewer system when only 24% of the year Silver Lake facilities are busy.
Oceana	I moved to country as a child and grew up here. I am a truck driver that runs Michigan/Chicago IL runs and am concerned about the quality of our living standards, overall safety, and conditions of our natural resources if tourism and its development moves to this area.
Oceana	I sold my boat because of the Coast Guard's role as a political agency. They are wonderful

	at rescue and should confine themselves to that. The DNR are undisciplined, under trained, and very disrespectful. They need to be brought under control.
Oceana	I think tourism is a wonderful opportunity for people to get to know other people and to experience what each town has to offer.
Oceana	I think tourism is unique for each county. In my case, all of the interests in questions #13 could be addressed by tourism that would be great. E.g. promote activities, agricultural adventures like wineries.
Oceana	I think tourism should be left to the private sector.
Oceana	I would like to see agriculture linked to the tourism by means of value-added marketing strategies. Farms are disappearing in our county; yet this county is more and more used like a huge "sand box" for playing each year.
Oceana	I'm an RN and worked ER at Lakeshore Hospital in Shelby-something-some education-should be given to the people going to Silver Lake Dunes! Severe injuries increase, paralysis, loss of limb, death. It continues to be a serious problem that should be addressed. Thank you.
Oceana	In my opinion, we have a good mix of tourism and farming. Not much manufacturing. My full working life was out of county except during my high school years. All the jobs were low paying.
Oceana	Increased retail and services, especially family oriented things, would be good. Increased revenue is always welcome in a county, but wild lands being gobbled up is a sad thing, which will hurt tourism. We are "up north" to these people. If we begin to look just like the cities, the value of our area will be somewhat lost to the tourist.
Oceana	It's raising property taxes, no jobs to pay for it. I'm single and trying to live on \$10,000 per year and keep up the house at same time, I cut my own wood for heat and couldn't afford to hire help.
Oceana	Need good access to lakes.
Oceana	Oceana County has a very high unemployment rate. Honestly, I think tourism is a secondary matter. Jobs created will be seasonal and while it would be a start, it is not the answer.
Oceana	Oceana county is mostly agriculture. Without tourism, I don't think I would be able to survive here.
Oceana	Should be funded by owners without public fund except for state or city or national parks.
Oceana	Should get government support for school to start after Labor Day gives everyone an extra week of money no the green and the children. Could still have summer jobs and the wealthier really is cooperating them to.
Oceana	Since the tourists started coming, My family can no longer even find a place to park at the beach, let alone swim. Tourism creates a lot of low pay jobs, house keeping, waitresses, bartenders, fast food. Lower wage nowhere jobs. Negative.
Oceana	State Parks and Local Parks can do a lot to make them better. We have traveled in a motor

	home for many years in all states. Michigan has a long way to go to catch up with most of them.
Oceana	The areas on the water are so developed; there aren't many areas for tourists to enjoy. Areas directly on the waterfront should not be individually owned and developed. A strip of land should be saved for all people to reach the water.
Oceana	The county needs to evaluate what type of tourists they want to attract and then develop a plan to develop the attractions necessary to interest those tourists.
Oceana	This area has many small lumber mills. A museum should be established. A working mill and public will come.
Oceana	Too populated. You cannot enjoy your lakes, biking, and hiking trails. Litter thrown everywhere. Bikes and snowmobiles run posted property. Do not need.
Oceana	Tourism could assist in bringing the community back on its feet. But long term some other form of 'future plan' needs to proceed along with it in order to ensure future security.
Oceana	Tourism in Oceana county is only a few months. Then business closes and people go unemployed. Without business that employs educated people 12 months a year, the status of living in Oceana county will not improve.
Oceana	Tourism is a double-edged sword. I like the money they bring in, but they also congest our lakes and beaches.
Oceana	Tourism is a good premise but those who travel do not respect the resident's property rights, and treat them as if they are a lesser person because they choose to live in a slower paced life outside of a city.
Oceana	Tourism is very important to our county, but we need some more industry (technology, service, and traditional) to stabilize our year-round economy.
Oceana	We don't need to develop any more tourism. They cause traffic congestion. Some of them act like they own everything and do as they like. They trespass all the time and help themselves to our crops.
Oceana	We have a lot of problems more important than becoming an amusement park for spoiled, obnoxious drunks from cities. We need more decent paying factory jobs etc.
Oceana	We have so much to offer but it seems there is no vision for what we have or how to utilize it.
Oceana	We like Stony Lake the way it is, low key.
Oceana	We need more coordination of all west Michigan lakeshore areas to make all the area a destination for out of state and downstate vacationers.
Oceana	We need to expand the tourism season to include labor day, and extend the summer vacation schedule for Michigan residents. By not having schools start until after Labor Day.
Oceana	When tourism increases so does the prices at the ice-cream store. Retailers like the increased business—it makes money for them. Residents put up with the excess of the "in your face" behavior. We have a quality of life already. Tourism's affect is negative; we don't

	need it.
Oceana	Why can't each state park make its own reservation? Our young people leave our county for higher paying jobs. Please keep state land for the public. Don't sell state land to the public.
Oceana	With increasing tourism we see increasing vandalism, environmental and noise pollution, poorly maintained, and more congested roads and trails.
Oceana	Would like to see development that would attract a cross section of people. Do not want to see it develop "lop-sided" as in all for the "hoity-toity" or all for the "rough neck-red neck"