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In the light of the announcement of a new immigration initiative today by President George W. Bush, the Pew Hispanic Center would like to call your attention to two recent studies that might be useful. First, the National Survey of Latinos, conducted in 2002 jointly by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation, asked several questions on attitudes towards immigrants and immigration policy, including a guest worker program. Second, estimates of the size of the undocumented population are contained in the “How Many Undocumented” report. As a reminder, the Pew Hispanic Center will be releasing a survey of Latino attitudes towards the war in Iraq, the economy and the presidential campaign on Thursday, January 8, 2003. All publications are available at the Center’s website: [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org). For more information, call Pew Hispanic Center, 202-419-3606.

1) The 2002 National Survey of Latinos:

*We are now going to ask a few questions about immigrants— people who come from other countries to live here in the US. When we talk about immigrants we are NOT just speaking about immigrants from Latin American countries, but of immigrants from any country in the world.*

**23. Do you think there are too many, too few, or about the right amount of immigrants living in the United States today?**

	<b>Too Many</b>	<b>Too Few</b>	<b>Right Amount</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Total Population	46	3	44	7
Latinos	49	8	37	6
Non-Latino Whites	46	2	45	7
Non-Latino Blacks	47	4	38	11

24. Some people think the United States should allow more Latin Americans to come and work in this country LEGALLY; some people think the US should allow the same number as it does now; and others think it should reduce the number who come and work in this country LEGALLY. Which is closer to your opinion?

	Allow more	Allow the same	Reduce the number	Don't know
Total Population	20	42	32	6
Latinos	46	34	15	4
Non-Latinos White	16	43	34	6
Non-Latinos Black	19	38	40	3

25. Some people say UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigrants help the economy by providing low-cost labor. Others say they hurt the economy by driving wages down. Which is closer to your views?

	Illegal immigrants <i>help</i> the economy	Illegal immigrants <i>hurt</i> the economy	Don't know
Total Population	32	62	6
Latinos	71	23	6
Non-Latinos White	26	68	6
Non-Latinos Black	26	66	8

26. What would you think of a proposal that would give many of the undocumented or illegal (HISPANIC/LATINO) immigrants working in the U.S. a chance to obtain legal status? Is this something you would favor or oppose?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total Population	69	28	4
Latinos	90	8	2
Non-Latinos White	66	30	4
Non-Latinos Black	67	33	*

27. What do you think of a guest worker proposal that would allow (HISPANICS/LATINOS) to enter the country legally and work here for a limited period of time, but then they would have to go home, would you favor or oppose such a program?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total Population	59	36	5
Latinos	71	27	2
Non-Latinos White	58	37	5
Non-Latinos Black	49	44	7

The National Survey of Latinos was conducted by telephone April 4 – June 11, 2002 among a nationally representative sample of 4,213 adults 18 years and older, including 2,929 Latinos and 1,284 non-Latinos. Amongst the non-Latinos were 1,008 non-Latino white adults and 171 non-Latino black adults. The margin of error for total respondent is +/-2.73%. The margin of error for total Latinos is +/- 2.41% and the margin for error for total non-Latinos is +/- 3.04%. The margin of error for non-Latino whites is +/- 3.32% and for non-Latino blacks, +/- 9.9% is the error margin. Field work was done by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, PA.

## 2) Estimates of the undocumented population

For a 2002 Pew Hispanic Center study entitled “How Many Undocumented,” Frank D. Bean, a demographer at the University of California, Irvine, estimated the total undocumented population at 7.8 million in 2001. Bean calculated that 4.5 million were from Mexico and that 3.8 million were of other nationalities.

Based on these estimates, the Center calculated that there are 5.3 million undocumented persons employed in the U.S. economy. A table showing the breakdown of the unauthorized workforce by industry is reproduced below.

Current estimates put the rate of growth in the undocumented population at between 300,000 and 500,000 a year. Based on these calculations, the current undocumented population can be estimated to number between 8 million and 9 million.

<b>Unauthorized Laborforce by Industry, 2001 (in thousands)</b>		
Industry Group	Total	U.S.
	Unauthorized	Laborforce
Construction	620	9,670
Manufacturing	1,190	20,830
Durable	580	12,670
Non-durable	610	8,150
Wholesale and Retail Trades	1,410	29,850
Restaurants	700	7,720
Others	720	22,130
Services	1,320	41,960
Business	390	2,350
Private Household	250	1,050
Other	690	38,570
Other Industries*	350	37,990
<b>Total Workers</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>143,640</b>

\* Other industries include transportation, communication; finance, insurance and real estate; mining and public administration.

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