

CANADIAN CHAMBER/STATCAN MAJOR SURVEY ON BUSINESS CONDITIONS AMID COVID-19 SHOWS ECONOMIC CLOCK IS TICKING

OTTAWA – April 29, 2020 – The **Canadian Survey on Business Conditions (CSBC)**, a joint effort between Statistics Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, provides the most detailed insight yet into the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian businesses.

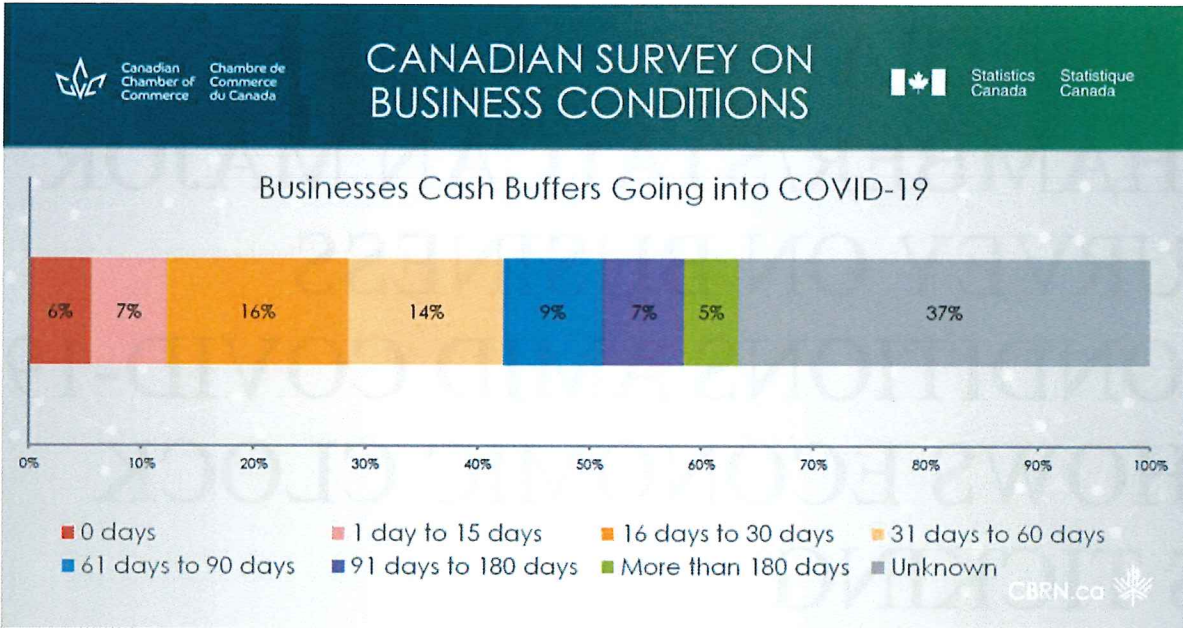
“The survey is Canada’s first comprehensive view into how our businesses are adapting, managing or, sadly, failing as the COVID-19 shutdown continues. Insights from more than 13,000 businesses bring into focus the time pressures businesses face to avoid closing their doors permanently. At the same time, the survey also shows how quickly the businesses that can be adapting to social distancing and preparing for the re-opening of the economy. The survey will provide critical information for governments as they develop and deliver their programs,” said Trevin Stratton, Chief Economist at the Canadian Chamber.

“Today’s official release of the data collected from thousands of Canadian business owners represents the innovative and unprecedented solutions needed to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unique partnership and collaboration between our two organizations demonstrates what can be achieved when organizations work together to provide the insights needed to navigate the way forward. Through this collaboration we have advanced our collective ability to better understand the issues and challenges faced by Canadian businesses. Today’s results will provide an accurate picture of true impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Canadian economy and will enable the best decisions at public and private sector tables across the country,” – Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada.

Select findings examining the urgency of business stabilization include:

How much of a cash buffer did businesses have going into COVID-19

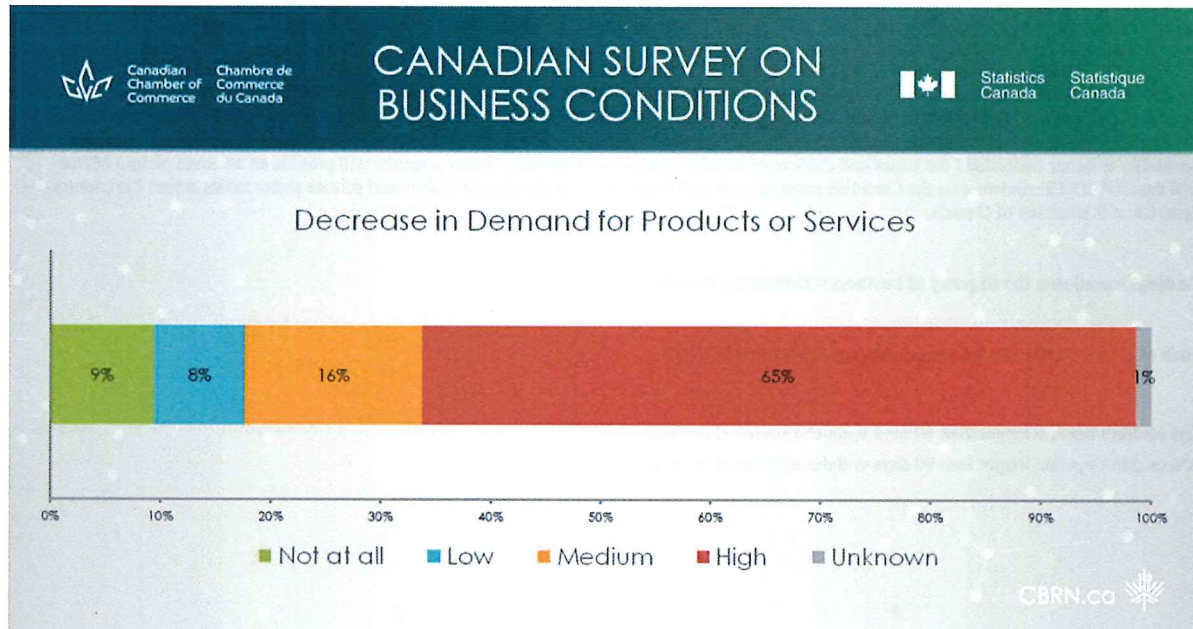
- 42.2% couldn’t operate longer than 60 days without a source of revenue
- 51.1% couldn’t operate longer than 90 days without a source of revenue



How much of a cash buffer did businesses have going into COVID-19 (Canadian Chamber of Commerce)

Extent to which businesses have experienced a decrease in demand

- 80.9% have experienced a medium to high drop in demand for services or products

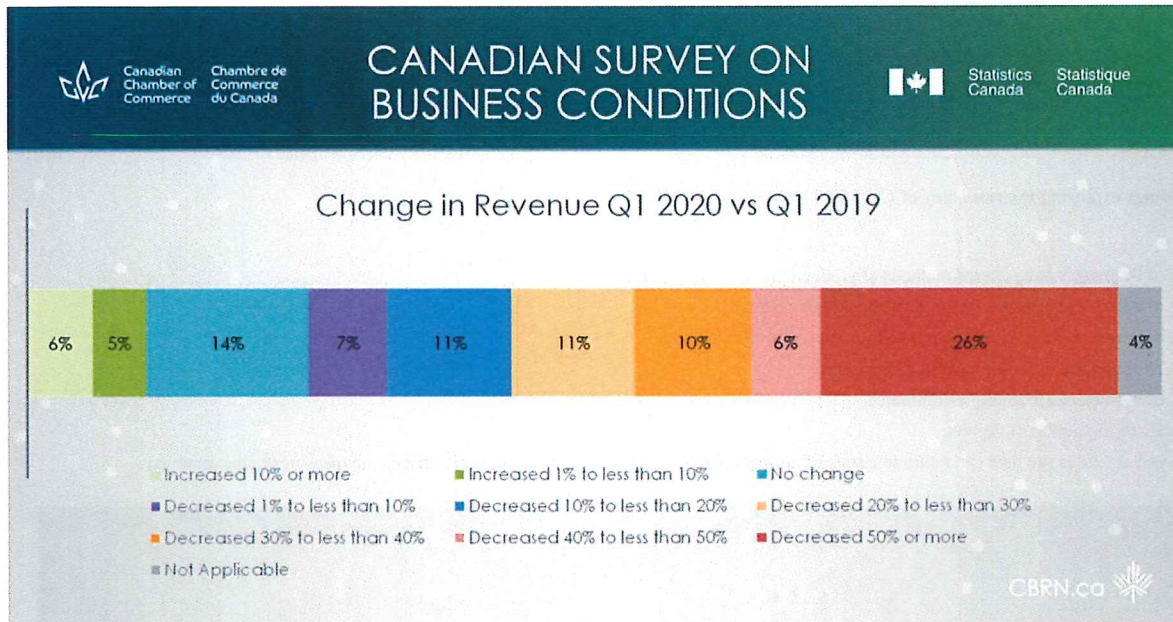


Extent to which businesses have experienced a decrease in demand (Canadian Chamber of Commerce)

Change in business revenue in Q1 2020 compared to Q1 2019

- 10.5% experienced an increase in revenue
- 14.3% saw no change in revenue
- 17.9% experienced a decrease in revenue of up to 20%

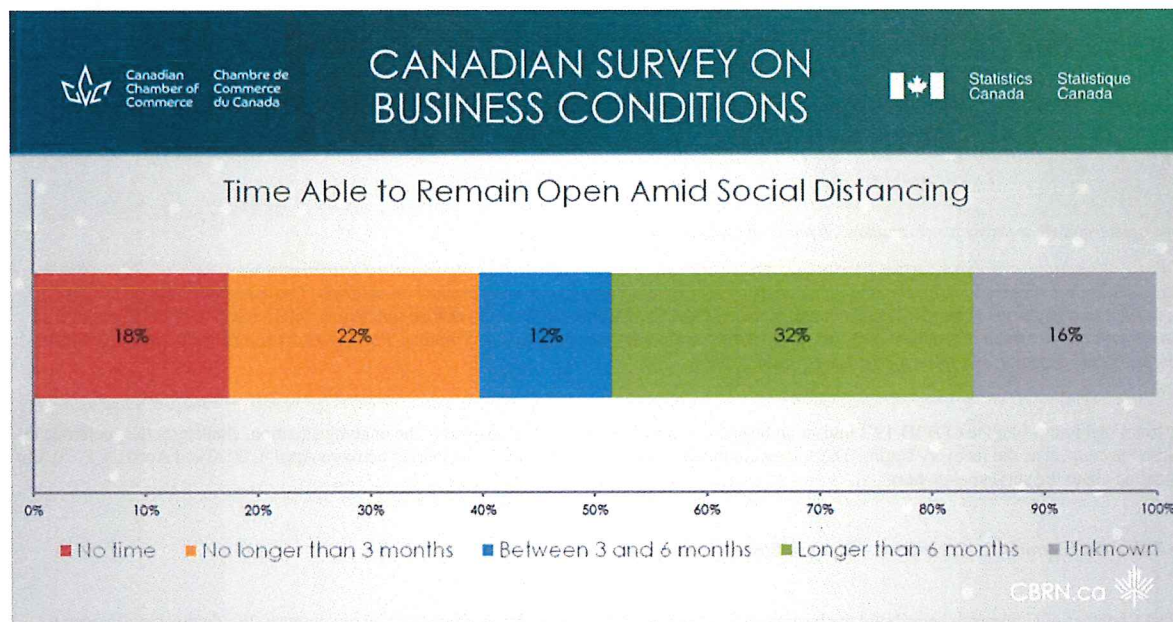
- 53.5% experienced a decrease in revenue of over 20%



Change in business revenue in Q1 2020 compared to Q1 2019 (Canadian Chamber of Commerce)

Length of time businesses can remain partially or fully open amid social distancing measures

- 17.5% say no amount of time amid social distancing
- 22.2% say they could open for no longer than 3 months amid social distancing
- 11.9% say they could open between 3 and 6 months amid social distancing
- Only 32.1% say they could remain open longer than 6 months amid social distancing



Length of time businesses can remain partially or fully open amid social distancing measures (Canadian Chamber of Commerce)

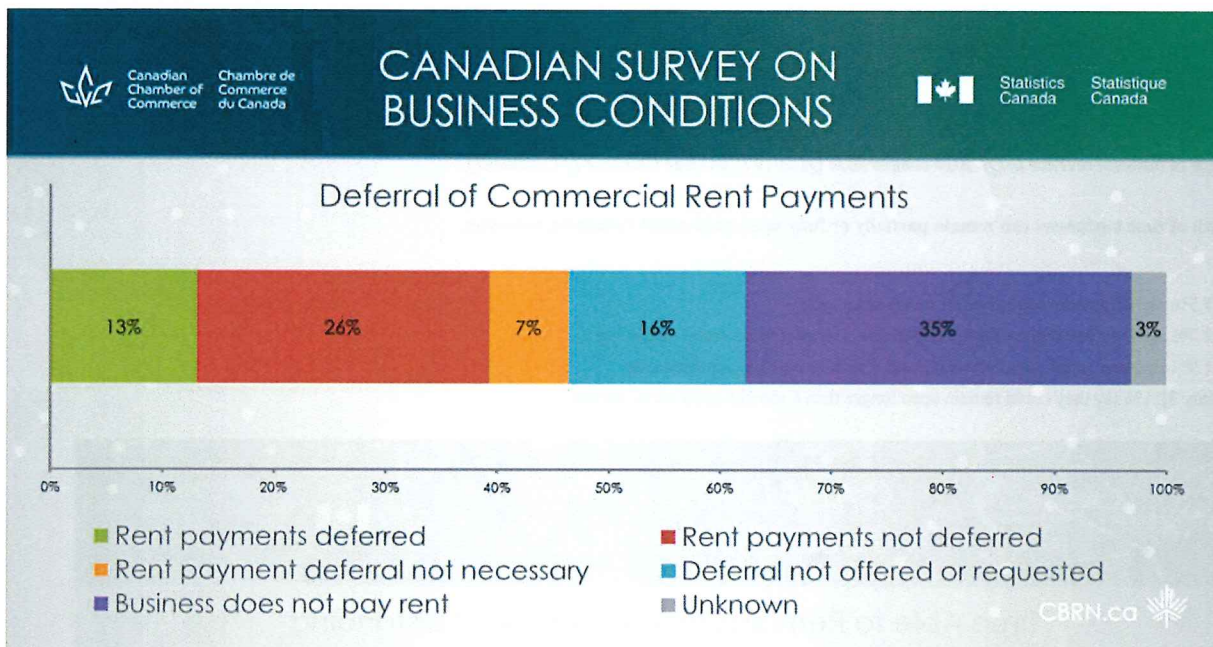
Staffing decisions taken as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

- 38.1% have reduced staff hours or shifts
- 40.5% have laid off staff

“The data clearly shows clearly thousands of businesses are quickly approaching permanent closures. We are now six weeks into the shutdown, which is too late for many, but countless companies can still be saved if we move fast enough to help them. Policy measures like the wage subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account will certainly help many businesses, but we’re on the clock to get money into the hands of all businesses that need support,” added Stratton.

Select findings exploring the resiliency of Canadian businesses include:

- 17.9% of businesses have altered methods of production
- 35.4% of businesses have altered products or services offered
- 45.4% of businesses are using new methods to interact with customers
- 44.5% of businesses are testing working from home
- 11.6% of businesses are testing e-commerce
- 10.6% are trying new staff training
- 62.3% of businesses say they can return to a state of normal operations within one month of social distancing measures being removed



Deferral of Commercial Rent Payments (Canadian Chamber of Commerce)

“Many businesses are proving resilient in adapting to the crisis by altering products, services and production methods. The data shows a large increase in e-commerce, as well as many firms testing working at home practices. Most businesses can return to normal operations within one month of the removal of social distancing measures, which is promising, but the largest firms report a longer lag time of 1-3 months. Policy makers should keep these numbers in mind as they consider reopening and recovery measures,” said Stratton.

The CBSC examined issues like the COVID-19’s impact on businesses, how businesses have adapted to the ongoing situation, challenges they continue to face and those they expect as the recovery begins. The survey compiled 13,037 responses and was in market between April 4, 2020 and April 24, 2020. For more information about the survey, click [here](#).

About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce – *Because Business Matters*

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce helps build the businesses that support our families, our communities and our country. We do this by influencing government policy, by providing essential business services and by connecting businesses to information they can use, to opportunities for growth and to a network of local chambers, businesses, decision-makers and peers from across the country, in every sector of the economy and at all levels of government, as well as internationally. We are unapologetic in our support for business and the vital role it plays in building and sustaining our great nation.