

# Economic Impacts and COVID-19 and Future Prospects as Viewed by English-speaking Quebecers

# CEDEC

In partnership with the Association for  
Canadian Studies (ACS) and the COVID-19  
Social Impacts Network

# Introduction and Methodology

The Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC) in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) commissioned the firm Léger Marketing to conduct a Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology. The survey was conducted from May 1 to May 6, 2020, some 1638 Quebecers 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel. (The survey included the largest sample of English-speaking Quebecers conducted to date with 694 respondents).

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1515 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,012 would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.08\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

**Relative parity across language groups in the degree of optimism about the future economic outlook (over the next 12 months); as Quebecers are split over the prospects**

Are you very optimistic or pessimistic about the future outlook (over the next 12 months) for the economy in your area?				
	Total	Franco.	Anglo.	Allo.
<b>TOTAL OPTIMISTIC</b>	49%	49%	48%	50%
<b>Very optimistic</b>	5%	4%	6%	7%
<b>Somewhat optimistic</b>	44%	45%	42%	43%
<b>TOTAL PESSIMISTIC</b>	46%	46%	46%	44%
<b>Somewhat pessimistic</b>	38%	40%	36%	32%
<b>Very pessimistic</b>	7%	6%	10%	11%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	5%	5%	5%	7%

**Reopening and supporting small business is regarded by Quebecers as priority for the economy in the next six months; Anglophones stress importance of getting people back to work safely.**

	In one sentence what do you regard as the priority for the economy in the next six months?			
	Total	French	English	Other
Reopening businesses/small businesses/stores/industries/services	13.9%	14.2%	10.2%	10.8%
Supporting/helping businesses/small businesses/industries	10.8%	11.7%	5.5%	5.9%
Raising awareness of buying locally / local purchasing/products	8.5%	10.4%	3.1%	2.0%
Getting people back to work	7.5%	8.1%	9.4%	2.9%
Public health / saving lives / safety	5.4%	5.2%	6.3%	4.9%
Strengthening/reviving the economy / avoiding recession	4.5%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%
Protecting/helping/supporting citizens / meeting the basic need of the population	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	5.9%
Employment / job creation / job security	3.9%	3.3%	4.7%	5.9%
Reducing public debt / better government spending / government have given away too much money	2.6%	2.7%	1.6%	1.0%
Getting people back to work safely / finding ways to work safely	2.5%	2.5%	7.1%	1.0%

## Allophones and anglophones feel somewhat harder hit than francophones by economic effects of COVID-19

At the moment, has the current crisis had a negative impact on you financially, when it comes to the following:				
	Total	Franco.	Anglo.	Allo.
Your capacity to meet your financial obligations (pay bills on time)	13%	11%	16%	21%
Your capacity to pay your mortgage or rent	10%	9%	12%	12%
Decrease in your income	33%	32%	37%	40%
Your capacity to assist other family members financially	22%	19%	31%	32%

## Anglophones in Montreal and the Rest of Quebec finding it harder than francophones to meet financial obligations; Montreal allophones are hardest hit relative to other language groups

		Montreal				Quebec Regions Outside of Montreal		
		Total	English	French	Non-official	Total	English	French
At the moment, has the current crisis had a negative impact on you financially, when it comes to your capacity to meet your financial obligations (pay bills on time)	Yes	15%	16%	13%	<b>20%</b>	13%	<b>20%</b>	10%
	No	85%	84%	87%	80%	87%	80%	90%

## Anglophones report far greater likelihood of working from home during COVID-19 crisis

What is your current work situation?				
	Total	Franco.	Anglo.	Allo.
Have always worked from home	14%	13%	10%	19%
Work from home as a result of COVID-19 restrictions	44%	42%	<b>59%</b>	46%
Commute to work each day	42%	<b>45%</b>	<b>30%</b>	35%

## Anglophones least likely to be eligible for the Canadian Emergency response benefit and allophones were far more likely to have applied and received the CERB

Have you applied to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which provides \$2,000 for workers who have stopped working because of COVID-19?				
	Total	Franco.	Anglo.	Allo.
<b>TOTAL APPLIED</b>	21%	20%	18%	<b>27%</b>
I applied and I received the cheque	6%	5%	4%	9%
I applied and I received the payment through direct deposit	14%	14%	14%	14%
I applied, but I did not receive the payment yet	1%	0%	1%	3%
I did not apply	31%	31%	27%	34%
I am not eligible to receive the CERB	48%	49%	<b>54%</b>	39%



## Anglophones mostly concentrated in Montreal are the least comfortable with return to the workplace once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted

Going back to your workplace/office - Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, which of the following would you be comfortable doing...									
	Total	Franco.	Anglo.	Allo.	Mtl RMR	Qc RMR	Est	Centre	Ouest
<b>Total Respondents:</b>	1638	791	694	153	1037	109	75	200	217
<b>Comfortable</b>	45%	48%	30%	33%	40%	58%	57%	50%	41%
<b>Not comfortable</b>	18%	16%	22%	29%	20%	13%	12%	17%	18%
<b>Does not apply</b>	37%	36%	48%	38%	40%	29%	31%	33%	42%

	Montreal				Quebec Regions Outside of Montreal		
	Total	English	French	Non-official	Total	English	French
Went to your office over the past week	12%	9%	<b>17%</b>	13%	<b>18%</b>	10%	<b>20%</b>
	1037	538	360	139	601	127	460

## COVID 19 social impacts network

- The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network is a multidisciplinary group of some of the country's leading experts to help identify key issues, indicators and socio-demographics to generate evidence-based responses that address the social and economic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada.
- Visit <https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/>
- For more information and to join the network's Wednesday 4pm weekly call please contact [gillian.aitken@acs-aec.ca](mailto:gillian.aitken@acs-aec.ca).

