

# COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY

PHASE 1: SPRING 2020



YOU YOUR FAMILY YOUR JOB

February 2021

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Four County Labour Market Planning Board would like to express our thanks to those who took time to share their experiences with us.

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The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario.

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# INTRODUCTION

In early April, 2020, Statistics Canada reported that 3,100,000 Canadians experienced job loss or a reduction in hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> By June 2020, the federal government was reporting that the employment of 5.5 million Canadians was impacted by COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> Locally, the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Economic Region saw unemployment move from 5.9% in March to 9.3% in May 2020,<sup>3</sup> with a corresponding decrease in the number of people employed in the region. In order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the local workforce, the Four County Labour Market Planning Board conducted an anonymous and confidential survey<sup>4</sup> between April and June 2020.



1 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020028-eng.htm> [Retrieved June 2020]

2 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020038-eng.htm> [Retrieved June 2020]

3 <https://www.planningboard.ca/news/> [Retrieved June 2020]

4 The Planning Board collaborated with Workforce Planning West to conduct an initial survey, which was then extended in the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula region until June 30, 2020.

# KEY FINDINGS

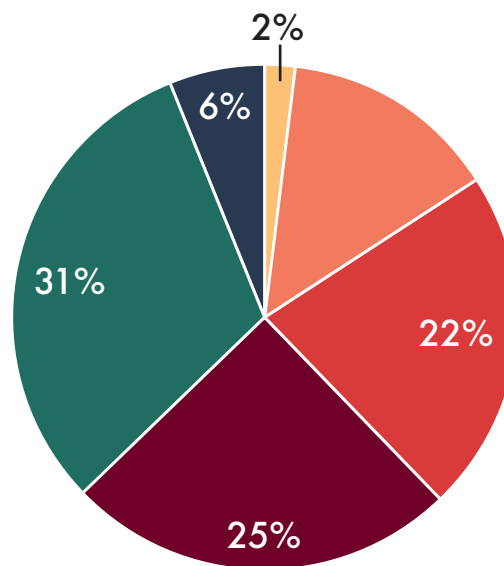
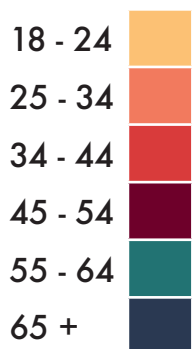
138 individuals responded to this survey. This survey represents the initial impact of COVID-19 on workers, conditions of work, and reasons for changes in employment.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey respondents were asked questions including age, gender, occupational category and industrial sector. These results are as follows. The highest percentage of respondents were age 55-64 (31%), and survey respondents were more likely to be female (79%) than male (20%).

The highest percentage of survey respondents were working in occupations within Education, Law & Social, Community, and Government Services (37%). Healthcare and social assistance was the most highly represented industrial sector (21%).

### AGE BREAKDOWN:



### GENDER BREAKDOWN:

FEMALE: 79%



MALE: 20%



\*NON-BINARY: <1%

## OCCUPATION:

Management	6%
Business, Finance & Administration	9%
Natural & Applied Sciences	0%
Healthcare	17%
Education, Law & Social, Community, and Government Services	37%
Art, Culture, Recreation & Sport	8%
Sales & Service	7%
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	3%
Natural Resources and Agriculture	3%
Manufacturing & Utilities	4%
Don't know	6%

## INDUSTRY:

Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	4%
Accommodation and food services	1%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	6%
Information & cultural industries	4%
Construction & Utilities	4%
Education	13%
Finance and real-estate	2%
Healthcare and social assistance	21%
Manufacturing	6%
Mining, quarrying, and oil & gas extraction	<1%
Professional, scientific, technical, and administrative services	3%
Public administration	4%
Retail and wholesale trade	5%
Transportation and warehousing	2%
Other services	17%
Don't know	10%

# CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT

In this survey, we asked several questions regarding employment status on March 2, 2020, as well as how COVID-19 has changed local residents' job conditions and amount of work. Those who experienced a reduction or loss of work were asked about the reasons for this change.

## KEY FINDINGS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

The majority (75%) of respondents were employed full-time in March 2, 2020

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS MARCH 2, 2020:

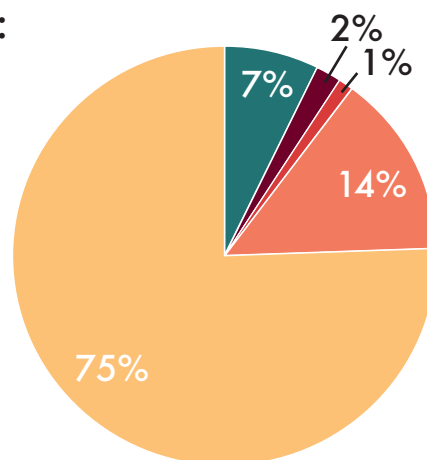
Employed full-time

Employed part-time

Unemployed (and looking for work)

Unemployed (and not looking for work)

Retired



### POST MARCH 2, 2020:

40%   
CONTINUED TO WORK AT  
THEIR USUAL PLACE OF WORK

33%   
WERE TEMPORARILY  
WORKING FROM HOME

21%   
WERE TEMPORARILY NOT  
WORKING DUE TO COVID-19

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS SINCE MARCH 2, 2020:

Respondents were asked to identify how their job has either stayed the same or changed since March 2, 2020. Approximately 60% of respondents were impacted by COVID-19 to some degree.

I am still working in my usual place of work	40%
<b>I am working from home temporarily</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>I am temporarily not working due to the COVID-19 crisis</b>	<b>21%</b>
I am temporarily not working for a reason not related to COVID-19	0%
<b>I have permanently lost work due to the COVID-19 crisis</b>	<b>5%</b>
I have permanently lost work for a reason not related to COVID-19	1%

## CHANGE IN AMOUNT OF WORK, SINCE MARCH 2, 2020:

Respondents were asked to identify whether the amount of work they do has changed since March 2, 2020. 27% of respondents indicated that they were working more than they did before the COVID-19 pandemic began, while 18% were working less and 21% were no longer working:



## REASON FOR CHANGE, SINCE MARCH 2, 2020:

Forty-three percent of respondents did not experience a reduction or loss of work due to COVID-19. Another 12% experienced changes in work due to reasons other than those listed below. For those who experienced a reduction work, respondents' top reasons were as follows:



Employer/business shut down temporarily	17%
Slowdown in business	12%
Requirement to provide care for (a) dependent(s) (e.g. children)	8%
Requirement to self-quarantine	7%
Employer/business shut down permanently	1%
Inability to get to work/ no transportation	0%



# CONCERNS ABOUT WORK & FINANCES

When asked about the extent to which respondents felt confident in their ability to continue to work or to find work after the COVID-19 crisis, 22% responded that they strongly disagreed or somewhat disagreed with this statement.

Respondents were also asked about the extent to which COVID-19 was impacting key household considerations. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the following percentage of respondents are somewhat or significantly more worried about their ability to:

37%   
PAY MY RENT OR MORTGAGE

42%   
PAY MY MONTHLY BILLS

40%   
HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR ME  
AND/OR MY FAMILY



# CONCLUSION

While this survey was undertaken early in the pandemic, it can help us to understand the initial impact of COVID-19 on the local workforce. However, it is important to keep in mind that this survey was conducted during a period of significant business shutdown in Ontario, which impacted a substantial proportion of our workforce.

In October/November, the Planning Board conducted a follow-up survey to evaluate the long-term impact of the pandemic. Results will be released in early February 2021 at [www.planningboard.ca](http://www.planningboard.ca)









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