



2020 COVID-19 Business Impact Survey

March 18, 2020

Core Issue: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted international trade and global economies on a massive scale. Rapid and coordinated action by the federal and provincial government is required to ensure businesses can survive this global pandemic.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with local chambers and multiple provincial business groups, conducted a survey on March 16 and 17, 2020. There were over 1,000 responses from across the province. The results of this survey are summarized below.

Overview:

- 85% of businesses are “currently being impacted by COVID-19.”
- Of those impacted, 42% are expecting a 50% drop in revenue over the next two months.
- 85% anticipate a further “decrease in revenue in the near-term” [sic].
- 30% of respondents say they will be “temporarily shutting down” their offices.
- 47% of respondents will lay off staff.
- 27% of respondents say they will go out of business if deal-flow continues to trend downwards.

Key Findings:

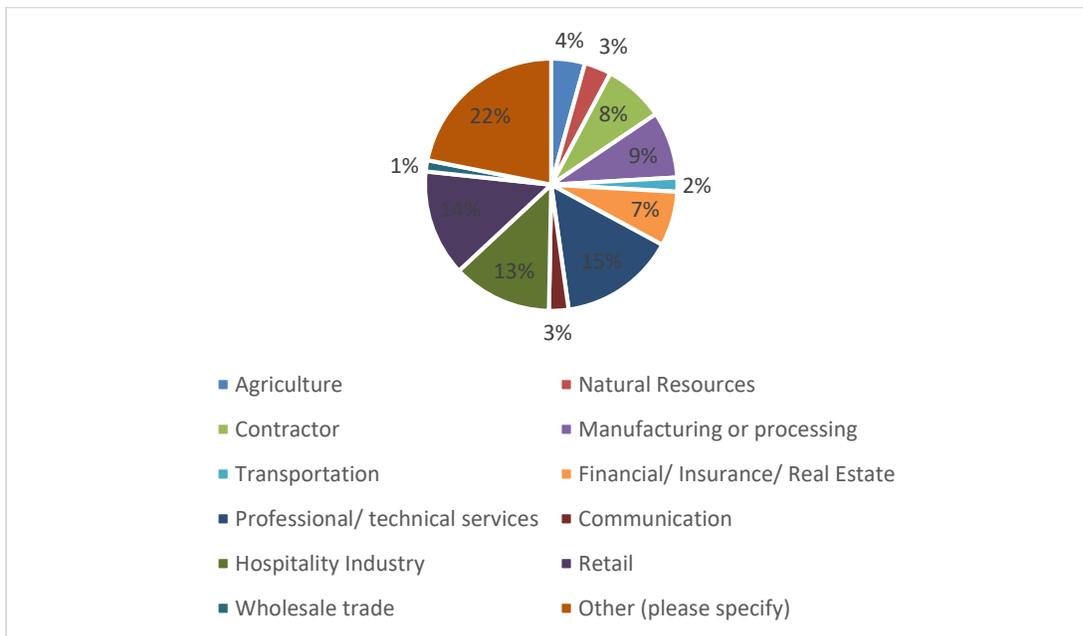
The SCC recommended immediate action by all levels of government in the following areas to help offset business challenges:

- **Immediate Action on Federal Employment Insurance (EI):** Open the criteria on EI to eliminate the waiting periods, allow self-employed persons full access to EI for a certain period of time, offer extensions on the Work-Sharing program, extend or temporarily eliminate the length of time a person can stay on EI, and offer some form of EI for parents who need to stay at home to provide childcare with the closure of public schools.
- **Allow Layoffs without Termination:** Revise the provincial layoff policy to allow temporary layoffs of up to 8 weeks on a specific period without requiring notice or payment in lieu. Manitoba currently has this policy in place.
- **Expand Loan Access:** Provide quick turnaround low/no interest

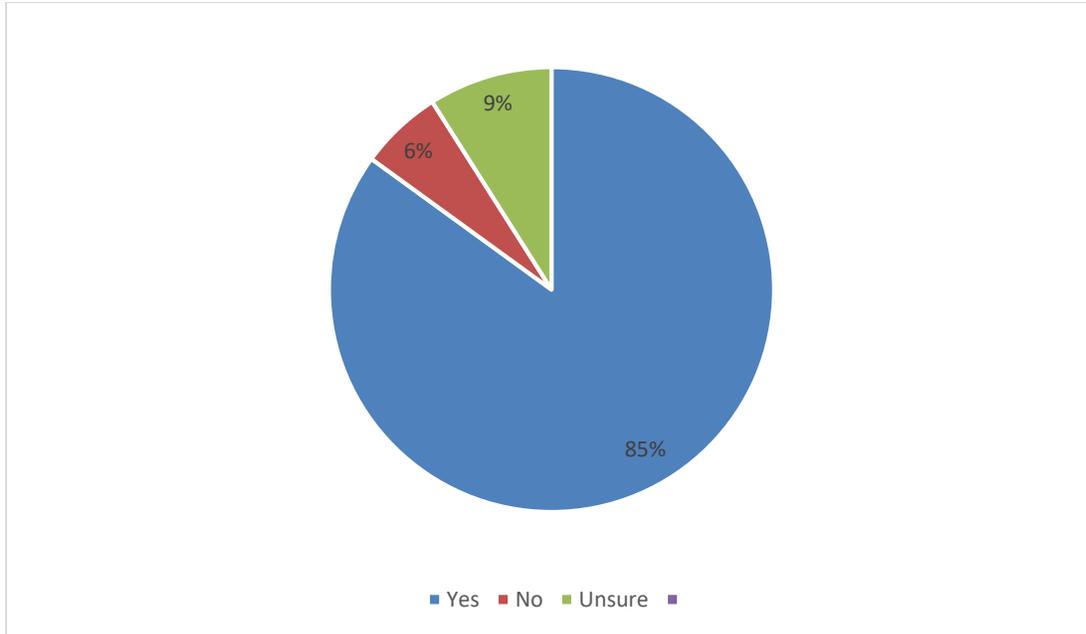
loans to businesses to ensure they have enough cash flow to sustain them during this dramatic loss in revenue. Greater use of the Canada Small Business Loan Program facilitated by local credit unions and banks will mean easier transactions.

- **Extend Tax Windows:** All levels of government should extend all tax payment deadlines to reflect the current situation and to enable businesses to preserve short-term cash flow.
- **Ensure Access of Products Across the Border:** Define international border rules for incoming transportation drivers to ensure sustained flow of products while maintaining effective safety protocols.

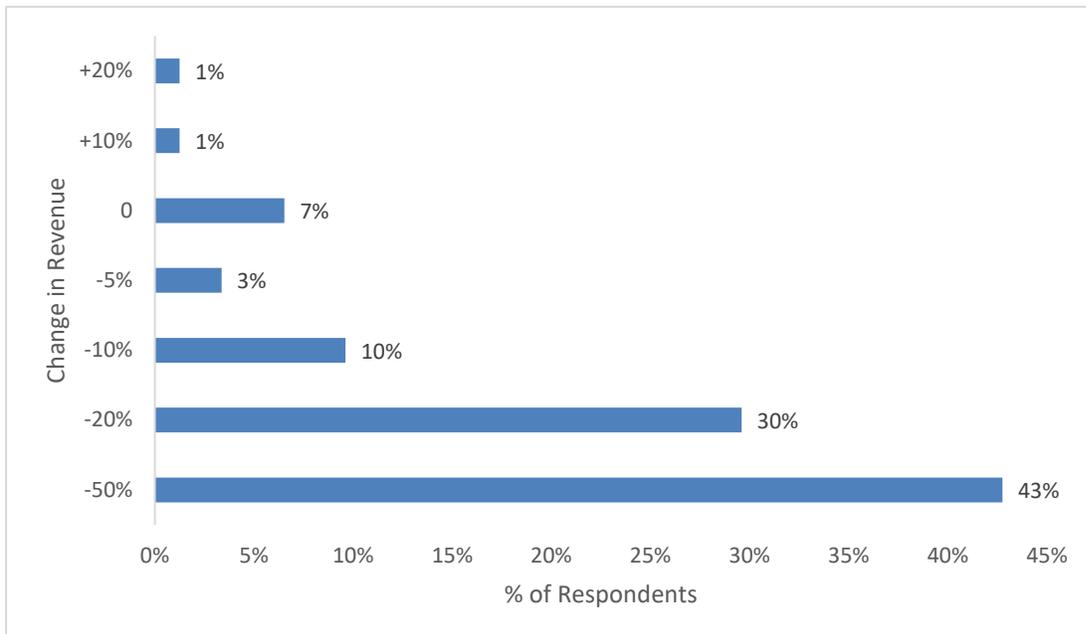
Q1: Please select one industry that best describes your business:



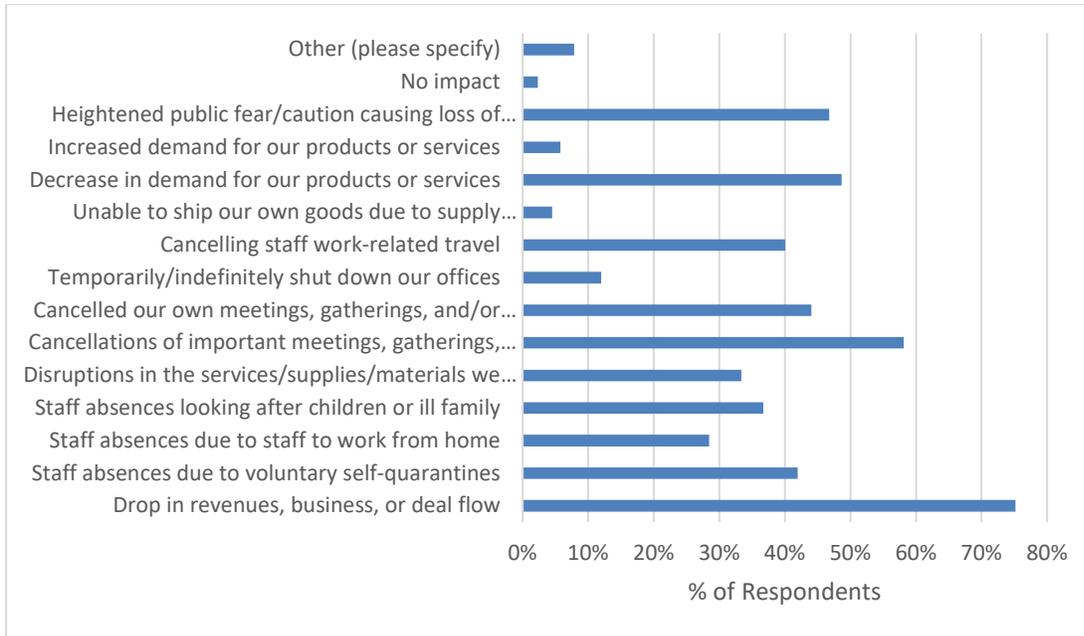
Q2: Is your business currently being impacted by COVID-19?



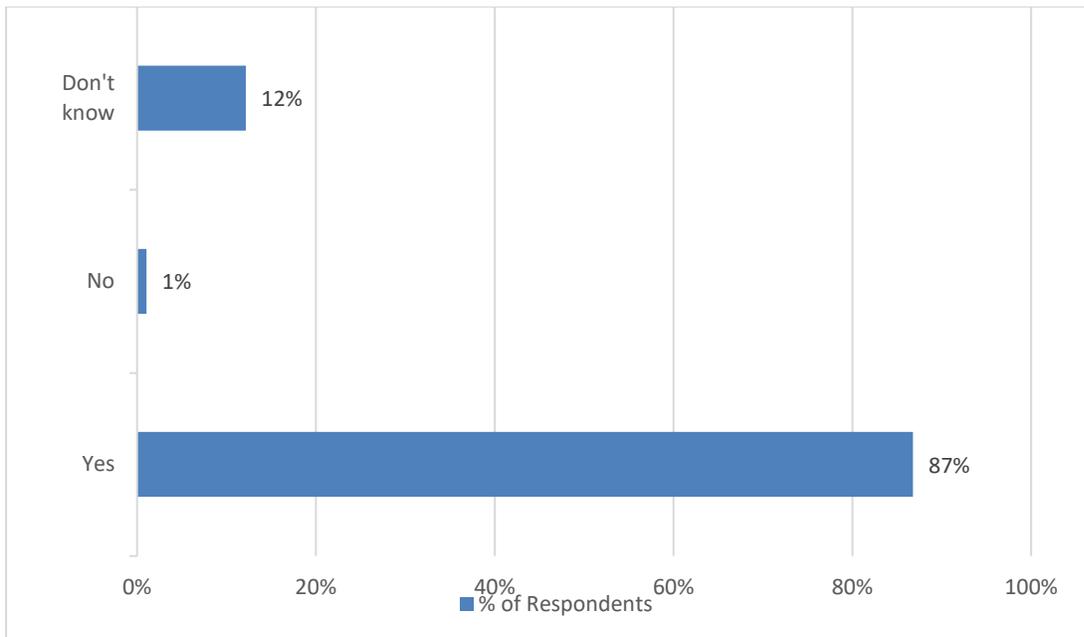
Q3: Please indicate change in revenue you expect during the next 2 months:



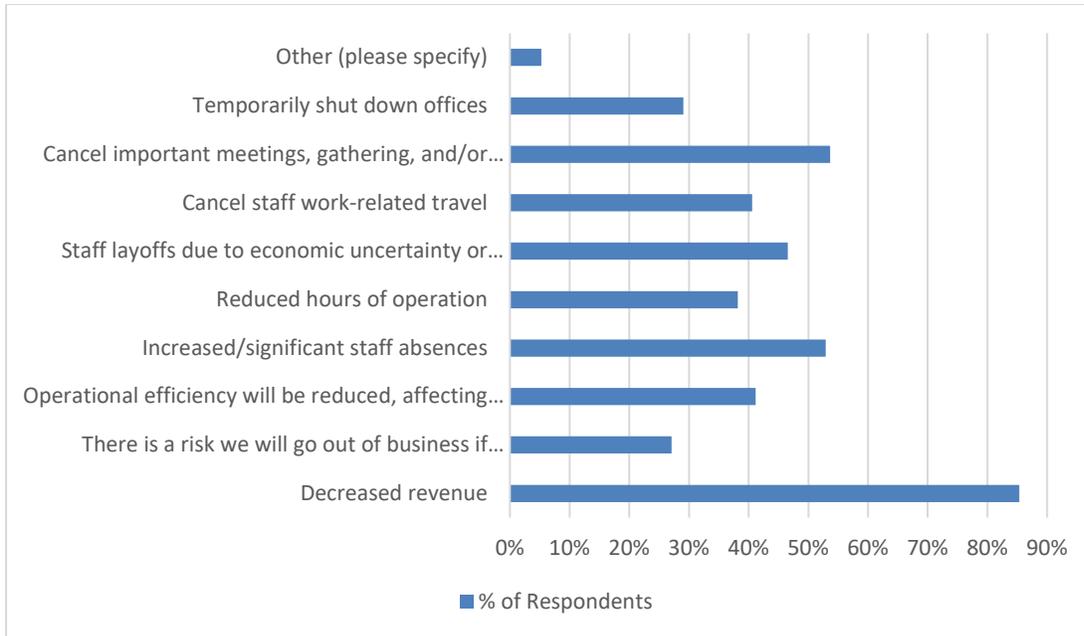
Q4: What impacts from COVID-19 is your business seeing?



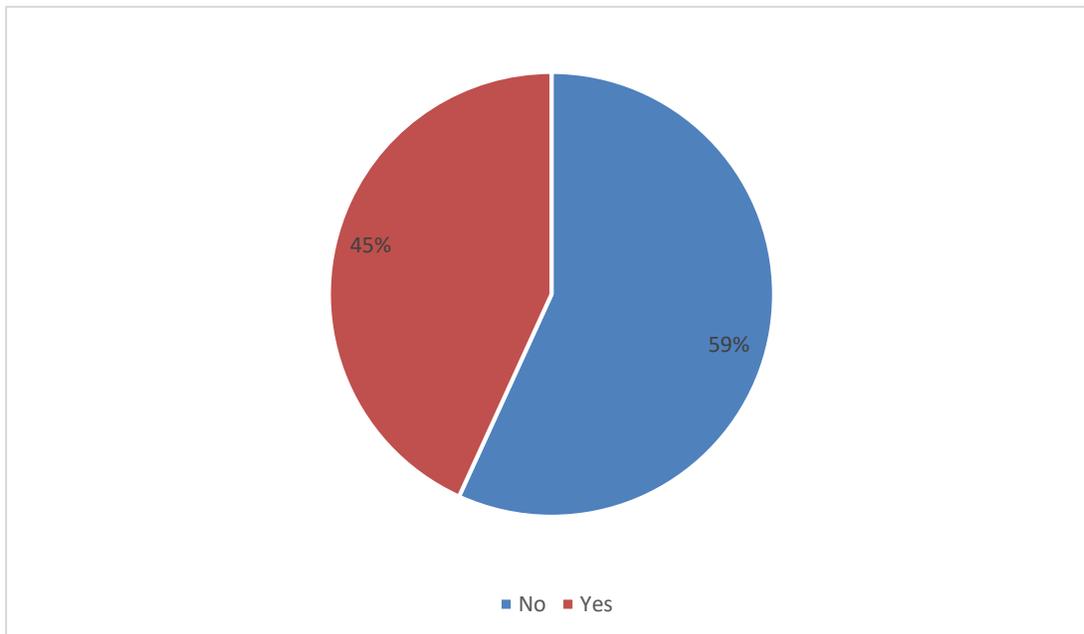
Q5: Do you anticipate your business will be further impacted by COVID-19 in the next 2 months?



Q6: What near-term impacts on your business do you predict?



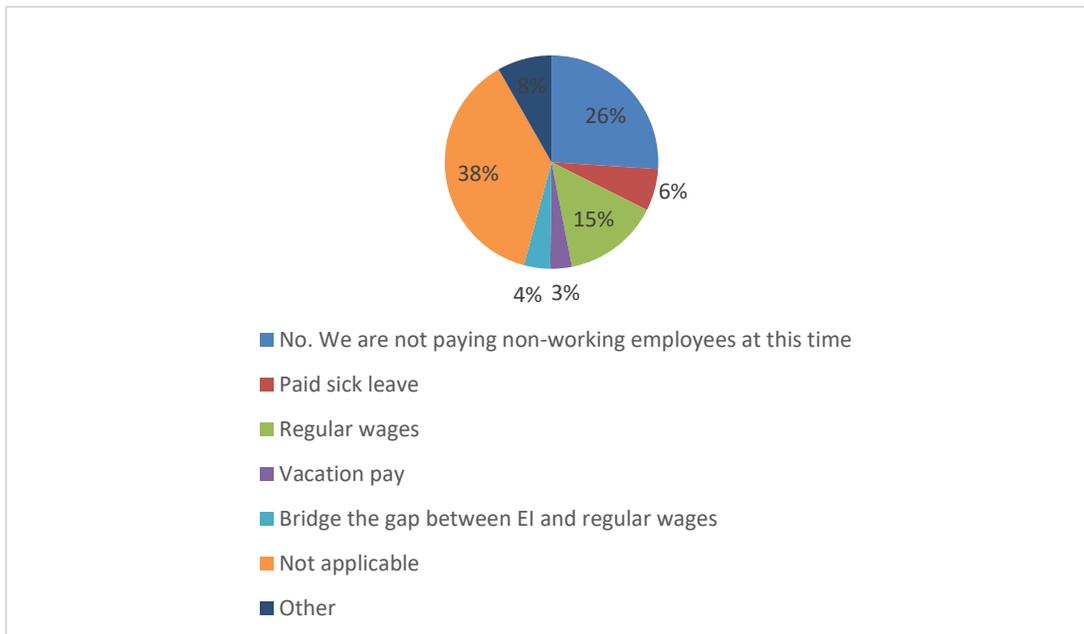
Q7: Do you have a formal reaction plan in place?



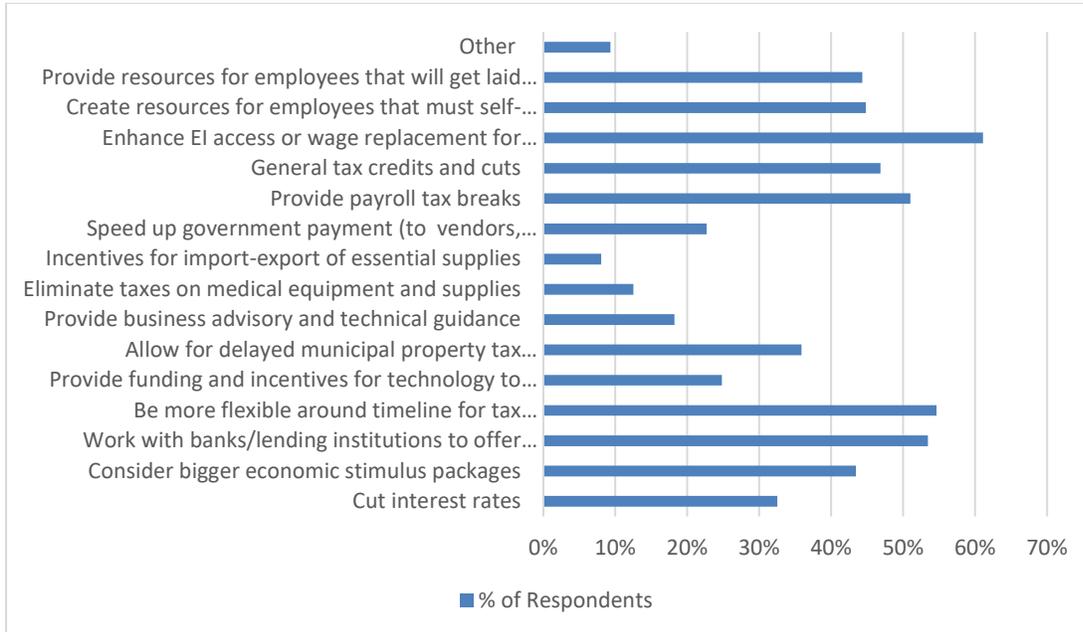
Q8: What measures has your business taken due to COVID-19?



Q9: If you have reduced hours, OR temporarily closed operations, are you paying staff?



Q10: What can different levels of government do to support your business during COVID-19? Please select your top 5:



Note: questions such as “Other Comments” and the geographical location of respondents were not included in this survey recap.

Find the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey media release [here](#).

Please visit our [website](#) for recommendations and federal/provincial government actions to date.

For a list of resources to assist businesses in preparing and managing through the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit our [website](#).