Business conditions in Canada, first quarter of 2021



Business expectations over the next three months





41.8% expect profitability to decrease

31.4% expect fluctuations in demand for their goods and services to be an obstacle



Workforce challenges and changes

Over the next three months...

24.1% of businesses expect that recruiting and retaining skilled employees will be a challenge



19.5% of businesses expect that shortage of workers will be a challenge



Over the next year...

16.3% of businesses plan to provide training to current employees in a different skill set

8.0% of businesses plan to hire staff with technical skills that current employees lack

9.4% of businesses plan to hire staff with knowledge or non-technical skills that current employees lack





31.0% of businesses reported that revenues were down 30% or more in 2020 compared with 2019

Business survival

21.3% of businesses reported that they can continue to operate at their current level of revenue and expenditures for less than 12 months before considering laying off staff

10.3% of businesses reported that they can continue to operate at their current level of revenue and expenditures for less than 12 months before considering closing or declaring bankruptcy





Online sales

17.6% of businesses made sales online in 2019

21.6% of businesses made sales online in 2020

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