

Sales in the food services and drinking places up year over year, but still lower than before the pandemic

A year after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions on the food services and drinking places subsector, unadjusted sales for March were up 19.3% year over year but remained almost one-quarter (-23.3%) lower than in March 2019.



Source: [Food services and drinking places, March 2021](#)

Preferences for working from home after the pandemic

Following the pandemic, Canadian employees would prefer to work one-quarter (24%) of their total work hours from home. This is almost five times the overall share of total hours that Canadian employees worked from home prior to COVID-19 (5%).



Source: [Economic and Social Reports, May 2021](#)

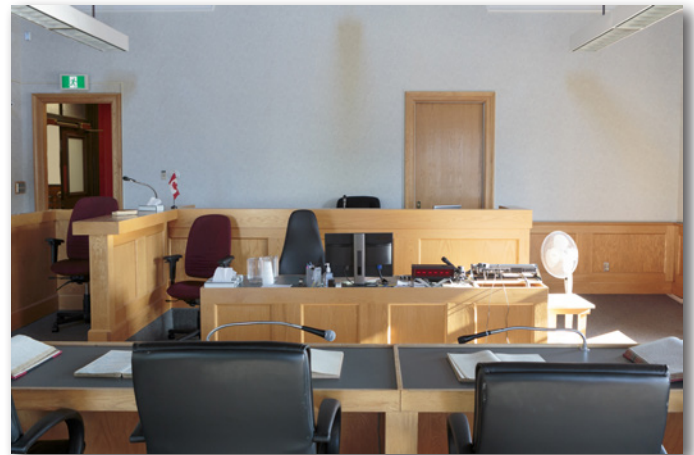
Many businesses anticipate lower profitability in the short term

Over one-third (37.1%) of all businesses and over half (51.6%) of businesses in accommodation and food services expected their profitability to decrease over the coming three months. Conversely, 12.4% of businesses expected their profitability to increase, most notably those in wholesale trade (19.4%), manufacturing (18.0%) and retail trade (17.0%).

Source: [Canadian Survey on Business Conditions, second quarter 2021](#)

Nearly two-thirds of support cases start the year in arrears

In 2019/2020, 50,295 child and spousal support cases (65%) started the year in arrears, meaning there was money owing from previous missed payments, up 110 cases from the previous fiscal year.



Source: [Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs: Child and spousal support, 2019/2020](#)