

COVID-19 BUSINESS IMPACT SURVEY JUNE 2020–SUDBURY DISTRICT

BUSINESS RESPONDENTS

This report represents responses to the third COVID-19 Business Impact survey which was conducted from June 24th to July 2nd, 2020. As with previous surveys, the June 2020 survey was distributed to local businesses by the City of Greater Sudbury, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, Sudbury East Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin and other business-related organizations.

The April 2020 survey generated 83 responses; the May 2020 survey generated 29 responses; and as expected, a lower number of businesses responded to the June 2020 survey with only 14 responses. It is important to note that this low response rate is clearly not representative of all business in the Sudbury District and cannot be used to gauge the opinions of all local businesses. Although each survey period was meant to offer a snapshot in time, we can only speculate that the low response rate may be due to: survey burnout; challenges with adapting to a “new” norm; a refocus by businesses who are allowed to open with new health and safety measures; and those who simply do not want to answer the survey again.

Additionally, we have yet to see the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector, and in particular seasonal businesses that rely on income generated in roughly 6 months of the year. Tourism is a significant industry in parts of the Sudbury District. It is acknowledged that some have been deeply impacted, may not be able to open this season and may go out of business as a result.

As with previous surveys, the number of respondents per question has been included as not everyone answered each question. Additionally, total percentages for each question may not add up to 100% due to rounding, questions that allowed for multiple answers or those with an ‘other’ comment field.

1. Have you completed any of the previous COVID-19 Business Impact Surveys?	Sudbury District	
	% of respondents	# of respondents
Yes, I completed the April survey	31%	4
Yes, I completed the May survey	38%	5
No, I did not complete the April survey	54%	7
No, I did not complete the May survey	62%	8

2. What type of business are you?	Sudbury District
Private Business – Sole Proprietor/Partnership	50%
Private Business – Corporation	36%
Public Sector/Government Agency	14%
Not-for-Profit	0%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 14

3. Please select one PRIMARY and any OTHER sectors in which your business/organization operates. If relevant, select as many other sectors in which you operate.	Sudbury District		
	Primary Sector %	Other Sector %	# of respondents
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	100%	0%	1
Mining, Quarrying or Oil & Gas Extraction	50%	50%	2
Utilities	100%	0%	1
Construction	33%	67%	3
Manufacturing	0%	0%	0
Wholesale Trade	0%	0%	0
Retail Trade	0%	0%	0
Transportation and Warehousing	0%	0%	0
Information and Cultural Industries	0%	0%	0
Finance and Insurance	100%	0%	3
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	0%	0%	0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	100%	0%	1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0%	0%	0
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	50%	50%	2
Educational Services	100%	0%	1
Healthcare and Social Assistance	0%	0%	0
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	0%	0%	0
Accommodation and Food Services	100%	0%	1
Public Administration	0%	0%	0
Other	100%	0%	3

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 13

4. Are you a member of the Chamber of Commerce	Responses
Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce	62%
Sudbury East Chamber of Commerce	8%
I am not a member of either Chamber of Commerce	31%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 13

BUSINESS CONTINUITY IMPACT

5. How would you rank the strategic risk COVID-19 poses to your long-term business prospects?	Sudbury District
High – this could put us out of business	21%
Medium – this is going to significantly impact our financials	21%
Low – this may impact us financially, but we are confident we can weather the storm	57%
None (please provide comments)	0%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 14

6. How has COVID-19 impacted your business's/organization's operations? (Check all that apply)	Sudbury District
No impact	21%
We have reduced hours, staff and our business operations	57%
We are working remotely but continuing operations	64%
We have closed our business/organization temporarily	7%
We have experienced an increase in business	0%
We have closed our business/organization permanently	0%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 14

7. If you are continuing your business operations, how have you adjusted your operations? (Check all that apply)	Sudbury District
Our storefront is operating with reduced hours	21%
Our storefront is closed but we take telephone order	21%
Our storefront is closed but we operate online	21%
We have had to expand our operations	7%
We have had to extend our business hours	0%
N/A	43%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 14

8. What additional impact/measures have you experienced? (Check all that apply)	Sudbury District
Our supply chain is interrupted	29%
We have had to cancel/delay contracts	36%
We have had contracts cancelled/delayed	57%
We have had to cancel/postpone fundraising events (for non-profits)	14%
We are experiencing decreases in sales (or donations if non-profit)	36%
We are having to restrict spending because of the uncertainty	43%
We are experiencing a significant increase in consumer demand for certain items	29%
We have increased cleaning and sanitation in our offices/facilities	64%
Other: no other responses were provided.	

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 14

BUSINESS - HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

9. On June 1 st , 2020 what was the size of your workforce?	Sudbury District
No employees	8%
1 – 9	33%
10 – 19	8%
20 - 49	17%
50 – 99	8%
100 or more	25%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 12

10. How many employees have you laid off since June 1st, 2020 due to COVID-19?

		Total Number	# of Respondents	Average Number
Sudbury District	Full-time	62	7	9
	Part-time	19	7	3
	Seasonal	2	7	0
	Contract	1	6	0

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 8

11. How many employees have you hired since June 1st, 2020 due to COVID-19?

		Total Number	# of Respondents	Average Number
Sudbury District	Full-time	9	4	2
	Part-time	1	2	1
	Seasonal	8	6	1
	Contract	0	2	0

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 6

12. What else have you tried to do to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on your workforce? (Check all that apply)

	Sudbury District
We educate our employees as to the symptoms and risks associated with the virus, as well as prevention measures	91%
We have staggered work hours for employees	27%
We have required employees to work from home	64%
We are asking employees to use vacation, sick or personal days during the crisis, and deferring layoffs	18%
We continue to pay wages to employees that are off work for quarantine or illness.	55%
We have closed our business/organization temporarily and not paying employees during closure.	0%
We have informed employees of the government assistance programs	27%
N/A (0 employees or self-employed)	9%
Other: no other responses were provided.	

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 11

13. If your business pursued any new or innovative products/services in response to the COVID-19 crisis, please provide details.

Responses: 5 respondents provided examples of measures they are using. This includes increased sanitization protocols, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), moving to an online platform to provide virtual learning/educational opportunities and exploring best practices for their industry. One respondent said they may go back to use CERB rather than the wage subsidy being offered.

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 7

14. What would you like your local community to do to assist you at this time in managing the COVID-19 crisis?

Responses: 5 respondents recommended the following: continue to provide regular updates, support local businesses, be proactive in providing reopening solutions, follow the guidelines and be safe. Another issue that is emerging is the challenge with seasonal businesses and assistance needed for seasonal coverage of wages to remain viable as a business.

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 5

GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

15. Are you aware of the federal or provincial COVID-19-related funding/programs?	Sudbury District
Yes	100%
No	0%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 12

16. Will your business be able to benefit from the current federal or provincial COVID-19-related funding/programs?	Sudbury District
Yes	50%
No	8%
I do not qualify	42%
Comments: (If yes why? If no why?)	

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 12

17. Have you or do you plan to access any of the following federal or provincial COVID-19-related funding/programs?	Sudbury District
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	17%
Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers	17%
Canada Emergency Business Account	84%
Work Sharing Program extension	0%
Business Credit Availability Program through BDC and EDC	0%
Canada Emergency Commercial Rental Assistance	0%
Regional Relief and Recovery Fund through FedNor	0%
Canada Emergency Response Benefit	17%
Deferral or GST/HST remittances and customs duties	33%
Deferral of federal and provincial tax payments	17%
Deferral of WSIB payments	17%
Deferral of property tax payments	0%
Other	17%
Please specify:	

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 6



BUSINESS - FINANCIAL IMPACT

18. Please estimate any revenue decline you have experienced since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis (March 10 th)	Sudbury District
Less than 10 percent	42%
10 to 20 percent	0%
21 to 30 percent	17%
31 to 40 percent	8%
41 to 50 percent	8%
51 to 60 percent	0%
61 to 70 percent	0%
71 to 80 percent	0%
81 to 90 percent	0%
91 to 100 percent	8%
N/A (we have not lost money during the crisis)	17%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 12

19. If the COVID-19 crisis continues, how long do you feel you will remain in business:	Sudbury District
We expect to remain viable and in business	83%
We can manage for another 3 months	0%
We can manage for another 6 months	8%
We can manage for another 12 months	0%
We will not be able to remain in business if this goes on much longer	8%

Number of respondents answered this question: Sudbury District 12

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DATA IN THIS SURVEY PLEASE CONTACT

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