Research on the Impacts of COVID-19 from a Societal Perspective

Regaining Movementum Webinar

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Focus of Conference Board’s Research on social, economic, and health implication of COVID-19
The Conference Board of Canada examined the implications of COVID-19 on Canadians and on the Canadian economy in three main areas

• The Conference Board has 10 Knowledge Areas with a research focus
• Insights and analysis on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic spanned different areas, mainly:
  • Human Resources Impact
  • Canadian Economic Impact
  • Health Impact, and more
• Research insights are shared on our website COVID-19: Implications for Canada and the economic impact website.
Overview of Insights and Analysis on COVID-19

Latest insights

Record-setting second quarter decline
**QUICK TAKE** August 31, 2020
Focus Area – Canadian Economics

Inflation slows as prices for air travel and accommodation tumble
**QUICK TAKE** August 19, 2020
Focus Area – Canadian Economics

Working through COVID-19: Workforce impacts survey
**ONLINE EXPERIENCE** August 17, 2020
Focus Area – Human Resources

Uneven recovery: Provincial Outlook, Summer 2020
**IMPACT PAPER** August 24, 2020
Focus Area – Canadian Economics

World Outlook Economic Forecast: Summer 2020
**IMPACT PAPER** August 18, 2020
Focus Area – Canadian Economics

Preparing for the Second Wave: Learning from Lockdown
**SUMMARY** August 13, 2020
Focus Area – Human Resources
CBoC Research Outlining the Impact of COVID-19 from a Societal Perspective
Analysis on the Societal Impacts of COVID-19

Examples of analysis and articles:
• Preparing for the Economic Recovery
• Research on the tourism industry
• Working through COVID-19 Survey Series
• Research on Working Remotely
• Research on the Mental Health Impacts of the pandemic
Economic Impact of COVID-19 (August)

- In April 2020, COVID-19 dropped business confidence to the lowest level ever.
- Canada’s economy continues to recover, as indicated by 418,500 jobs created in July.
- But only 55 per cent of jobs lost between February and April have recovered.
- Employment is still down more than 1.3 million compared to February.
Should I stay or should I go? (May)

• The travel and tourism sector has been hit especially hard by the COVID-19 outbreak
• Based on our spring survey, typically 75-80 per cent of Canadians are planning a trip.
• This year only 45 per cent are.

Q: This summer, do you plan to take an overnight trip of at least 80 kilometres away from home for vacation or leisure purposes?

(percentage responding “yes” or “probably”)

Notes: Summer season is between May 1 and October 31. Excludes positive responses where the primary trip purpose is NOT leisure.
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.
Working through COVID-19: Series

New survey out:
Dealing with technology change during pandemic recovery

Remote work support survey
June 29, 2020

Vacation policies survey
June 1, 2020

Return to work survey
May 19, 2020

Employee benefits survey
May 4, 2020

Pay planning survey
April 20, 2020

Family responsibilities survey
April 9, 2020
Remote Work Support Survey

Compared to pre-pandemic, now nearly two thirds of organizations have at least 60 per cent of their workforce working remotely.

Q: What Percentage of your organization’s workforce works remotely?

Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.
How has COVID-19 impacted Canadians’ mental health?

A Conference Board Survey sponsored by the Mental Health Commission of Canada found **84% of respondents** reported that since the onset of COVID-19, their mental health concerns worsened (n= 1804).

**Q:** How concerned are you for the well-being or wellness of your family now, during the pandemic?

(percentage of respondents; n = 1,804)
How has COVID-19 impacted Canadians’ mental health? Coping strategies.

Mindfulness was the only coping strategy to have a positive impact across all 15 concern areas.

Connecting with family and friends through technology, walking/jogging, and exercise were the top pro-social coping strategies used.

Time with a pet was the strategy that produced the greatest perceived benefit.
Learnings from the Pandemic and Future Opportunities
Preparing for the Second Wave: Learning from Lockdown

Employers are using lessons they learned from the first lockdown to prepare in the event of a second.

An August 13 Report found Remote Work is the New Reality

- In April, **86 per cent of organizations** found at least some employees were unable to work their regular schedule due to family responsibilities, while others unable to work at all.
- Employee safety is paramount and **55 per cent of employers plan** to allow at least half of their remote workers to remain at home for the foreseeable future.
Preparing for the Second Wave: Learning from Lockdown

Q: For employees who cannot work their regular working hours due to caregiving needs, what accommodations has your organization provided?

(n = 185; percentage of organizations)

- Flex time: 83%
- Flex time around core hours: 56%
- Reduced hours: 55%
- Compressed work weeks: 34%
- Split shifts: 28%
- Job-sharing: 11%
- No accommodations: 1%
Implications on Movementum and Opportunities for Research to Inform Planning

Helping individuals and communities return to community programs that support physical movement as we live with COVID-19

• Use Conference Board’s insights into implications for human resource planning, mental health, economics, etc.

• Gaps in research on how community programs have changed protocols to continue supporting physical movement

• New opportunity to answer research questions related to how physical health promotion can be supported safely for all age groups as Canadians live with the pandemic
Thank you!

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