

CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONAVIRUS – N° 19: GOING BACK TO WORK AND GETTING THERE: THE CURVE'S NOT FLAT: CITIES AND PROVINCES MUST ENSURE THAT PUBLIC TRANSIT CONCERNS ARE ALLAYED TO HELP SUCCESS OF RE-ENGAGEMENT

JACK JEDWAB, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES AND METROPOLIS
CANADA,

CHAIR OF THE COVID-19 SOCIAL IMPACTS NETWORK

[HTTPS://ACS-AEC.CA/EN/COVID-19-SOCIAL-IMPACTS-NETWORK/](https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/)

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WILL BACK TO WORK PLAN WORK?

Quebecers will begin phasing into the workplace with May 4th being the date to re-engage in most sectors outside of Montreal and May 11th for Montreal in selected sectors. Many Canadians will be following the re-engagement process in Montreal which may help determine how other provinces and cities plan their approach to re-engagement . That which follows suggests that easing concerns around the use of public transit may be critical to making the success or failure of the reengagement process.

MAJORITY OF CANADIANS THAT ARE COMFORTABLE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT ARE COMFORTABLE GOING BACK TO WORK

Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, would you be comfortable...

Going back to your workplace/office?	Using public transit (buses, subways, tramways, etc.)?		Total
	Comfortable	Not comfortable	
Comfortable	58.8%	38.2%	43.7%
Not comfortable	7.6%	26.3%	21.3%
Does not apply	33.6%	35.5%	35.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

PEOPLE IN PERSONAL SERVICES ARE LEAST COMFORTABLE WITH RETURN TO WORK

N	Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, would you be comfortable going back to your workplace/office?	Comfortable	Not comfortable	Does not apply	Total
79	SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS (Bricklayer, truck driver, electrician, machine operator, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.)	69.6%	8.9%	21.5%	100.0%
133	PROFESSIONALS (Archeologist, architect, artist, lawyer, banker, biologist, chemist, accountant, consultant, foreman, ...)	63.2%	14.3%	22.6%	100.0%
94	MANAGERS / ADMINISTRATORS / OWNERS (Director, editor, entrepreneur, executive, manager, businessperson, politician, pres)	61.7%	24.5%	13.8%	100.0%
195	OFFICE WORKER (Cashier, office clerk, accounting clerk, secretary, etc.)	60.7%	27.6%	11.7%	100.0%
53	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES WORKERS (Computer operator, programmer-analyst, technician, audio-technician, lab technician, ...)	60.4%	30.2%	9.4%	100.0%
63	PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SALES (Insurance agent, salesperson, sales clerk, real estate agent, real estate broker, sales)	60.3%	23.8%	15.9%	100.0%
56	MANUAL WORKERS (Farmer, packer, day labourer, miner, fisherman, forest worker, etc.)	58.9%	28.6%	12.5%	100.0%
123	STUDENT (Full-time or whose studies take up most of his/her time)	55.3%	20.3%	24.4%	100.0%
94	PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SERVICES (Security agent, taxi driver, hairdresser, cook, clergy member, military force member)	47.9%	31.9%	20.2%	100.0%
1,515	Total	41.6%	18.0%	40.5%	100.0%

PEOPLE PROVIDING SALES SERVICES ARE LEAST COMFORTABLE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT

Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, would you be comfortable using public transit (buses, subways, tramways, etc.)?	Comfortable	Not comfortable	Does not apply	Total
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES WORKERS (Computer operator, programmer-analyst, technician, audio-technician, lab technician,...)	30.2%	64.2%	5.7%	100.0%
STUDENT (Full-time or whose studies take up most of his/her time)	29.5%	57.4%	13.1%	100.0%
MANUAL WORKERS (Farmer, packer, day labourer, miner, fisherman, forest worker, etc.)	23.6%	56.4%	20.0%	100.0%
PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SERVICES (Security agent, taxi driver, hairdresser, cook, clergy member, military force member)	23.4%	46.8%	29.8%	100.0%
MANAGERS / ADMINISTRATORS / OWNERS (Director, editor, entrepreneur, executive, manager, businessperson, politician, pres)	21.1%	60.0%	18.9%	100.0%
SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS (Bricklayer, truck driver, electrician, machine operator, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.)	20.3%	50.6%	29.1%	100.0%
OFFICE WORKER (Cashier, office clerk, accounting clerk, secretary, etc.)	19.4%	51.5%	29.1%	100.0%
PROFESSIONALS (Archeologist, architect, artist, lawyer, banker, biologist, chemist, accountant, consultant, foreman, ...)	18.0%	63.2%	18.8%	100.0%
PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SALES (Insurance agent, salesperson, sales clerk, real estate agent, real estate broker, sales)	14.3%	58.7%	27.0%	100.0%
Total	20.0%	53.9%	26.1%	100.0%

HIGHER INCOME CANADIANS ARE MORE COMFORTABLE GOING BACK TO WORK

Among the following categories, which one best reflects the total INCOME, before taxes, of all the members of your household in 2019?	Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, would you be comfortable going back to your workplace/office?			Total
	Comfortable	Not comfortable	Does not apply	
\$19,999 or less	30.6%	20.7%	48.6%	100.0%
Between \$20,000 and \$39,999	33.5%	22.6%	44.0%	100.0%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	34.3%	19.4%	46.4%	100.0%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	46.0%	13.3%	40.7%	100.0%
Between \$80,000 and \$99,999	54.9%	12.0%	33.2%	100.0%
\$100,000 or more	50.4%	18.9%	30.7%	100.0%
I prefer not to answer	27.4%	17.9%	54.7%	100.0%
Total	41.5%	18.0%	40.5%	100.0%

AMONGST USERS OF PUBLIC TRANSIT, HIGHER INCOME CANADIANS ARE LESS COMFORTABLE TAKING THE RIDE

Among the following categories, which one best reflects the total INCOME, before taxes, of all the members of your household in 2019?	Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, would you be comfortable using public transit (buses, subways, tramways, etc.)?			Total
	Comfortable	Not comfortable	Does not apply	
\$19,999 or less	30.4%	50.9%	18.8%	100.0%
Between \$20,000 and \$39,999	23.5%	48.6%	27.8%	100.0%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	19.3%	56.2%	24.5%	100.0%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	16.4%	50.4%	33.2%	100.0%
Between \$80,000 and \$99,999	20.7%	56.5%	22.8%	100.0%
\$100,000 or more	16.9%	57.0%	26.1%	100.0%
Total	19.9%	53.9%	26.2%	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies with 2015 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, were collected via an online panel between April 24 to 26, 2020.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1500 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20. That 'margin' rises for survey sub groups.

THE COVID SOCIAL IMPACTS NETWORK

- The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network is a multidisciplinary group of some of the country's leading experts to help identify key issues, indicators and socio-demographics to generate evidence-based responses that address the social and economic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada.
- Visit <https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/>

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Author: Jack Jedwab.

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