



# WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS

## Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Businesses in Western Ontario 2.0



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# Summary

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The Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Businesses 2.0 was launched on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> by the member Counties of Western Ontario. This second series of surveys determines the shift in the economy since the first series was completed and the impact on our rural economies from COVID-19.

A total of 2221 businesses completed these surveys in eleven (11) Counties in the Western Ontario region, an increase of 538 businesses.

The impact of COVID-19 on the economy of Western Ontario has been significant with 34% business temporarily closed. A small number of businesses, 2%, identified that they were permanently closed.

The number of businesses that have accessed government support is very low at 57%. Many noted in Question 6, that they do not qualify for the existing supports from the Provincial and Federal governments.

The most significant employee impacts are seen in businesses in the 5-19 employee range.

The data collected from the first two surveys will serve in developing regional recovery strategies. This information is also used in advocating for the business community in Western Ontario to both the Provincial and Federal governments. It is anticipated that there will be additional follow ups with our business community through the Member County Economic Development offices in June, as we begin to see the relaxation of restrictions and the opening of our economy.

Appreciation is extended to Perth County Economic Development & Tourism, for creating both surveys and sharing them with the region.

## Survey Notes

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Counties that participated in the survey include;

Brant	Elgin	Middlesex	Norfolk
Oxford	Dufferin	Grey	Lambton
Perth	Simcoe	Wellington	

In addition, the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation has completed extensive survey work. The results of their survey work can be found here; [choosewindsorsex.com/](https://choosewindsorsex.com/).

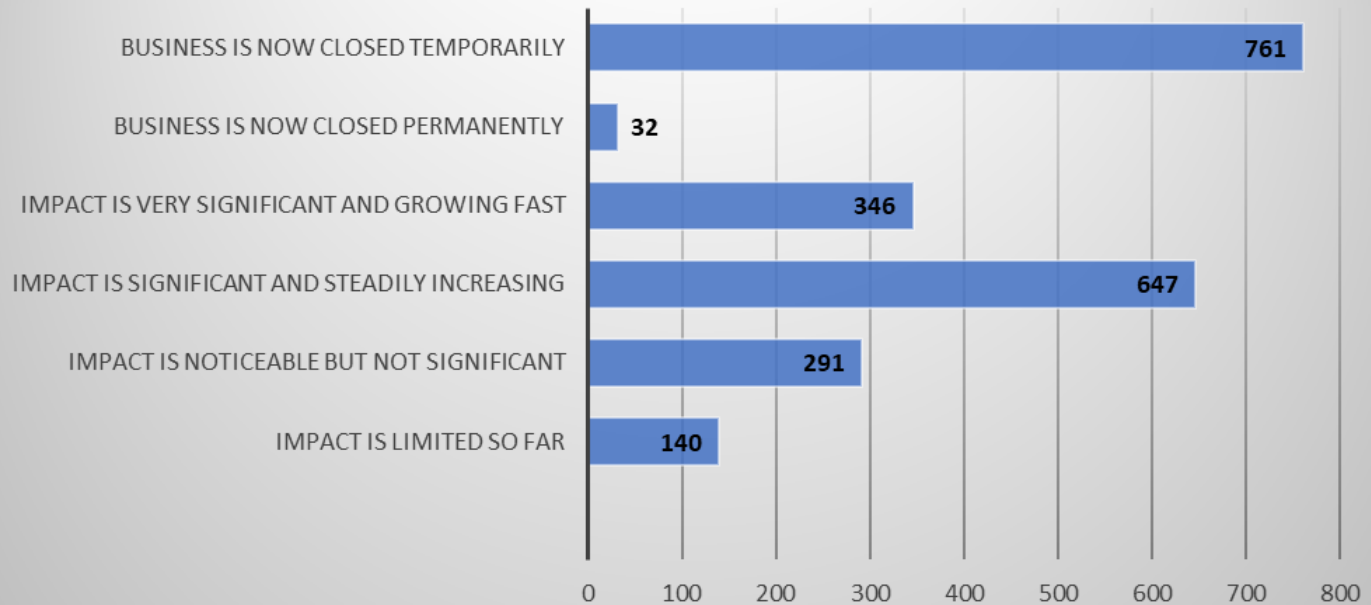
Of note, 29% of Windsor-Essex businesses have laid off employees, 47% have closed temporarily and 2% have closed permanently.

Similarly, Chatham-Kent has also conducted significant out reach with their business community in gathering the economic impact in the County. The actions being undertaken in Chatham-Kent can be found here; [www.chatham-kent.ca/EconomicDevelopment/home](https://www.chatham-kent.ca/EconomicDevelopment/home)

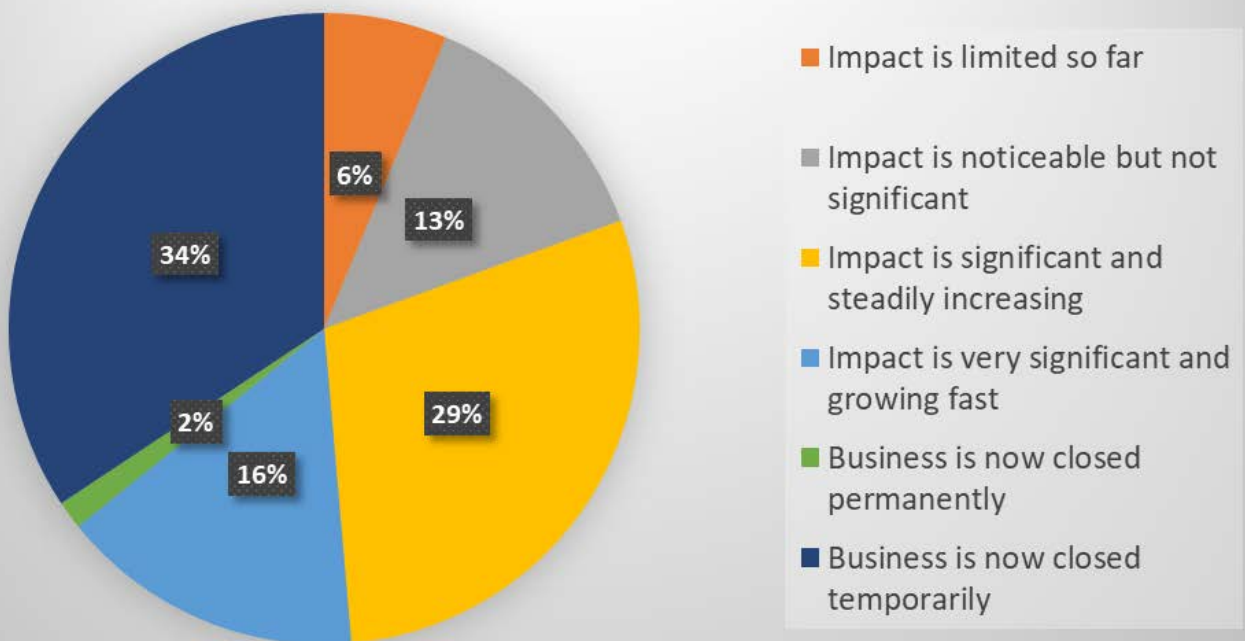
Similarly, Bruce County launched a survey from March 26 – May 11, the survey received 316 responses from local business owners. The survey responses demonstrated an overwhelming need for financial support in order to manage the impacts of the pandemic on business operations. For more information about the survey results visit [www.brucecounty.on.ca/economictaskforce](https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/economictaskforce).

## Question #1

### Which of the following best describes the impact of COVID-19 on your business right now?

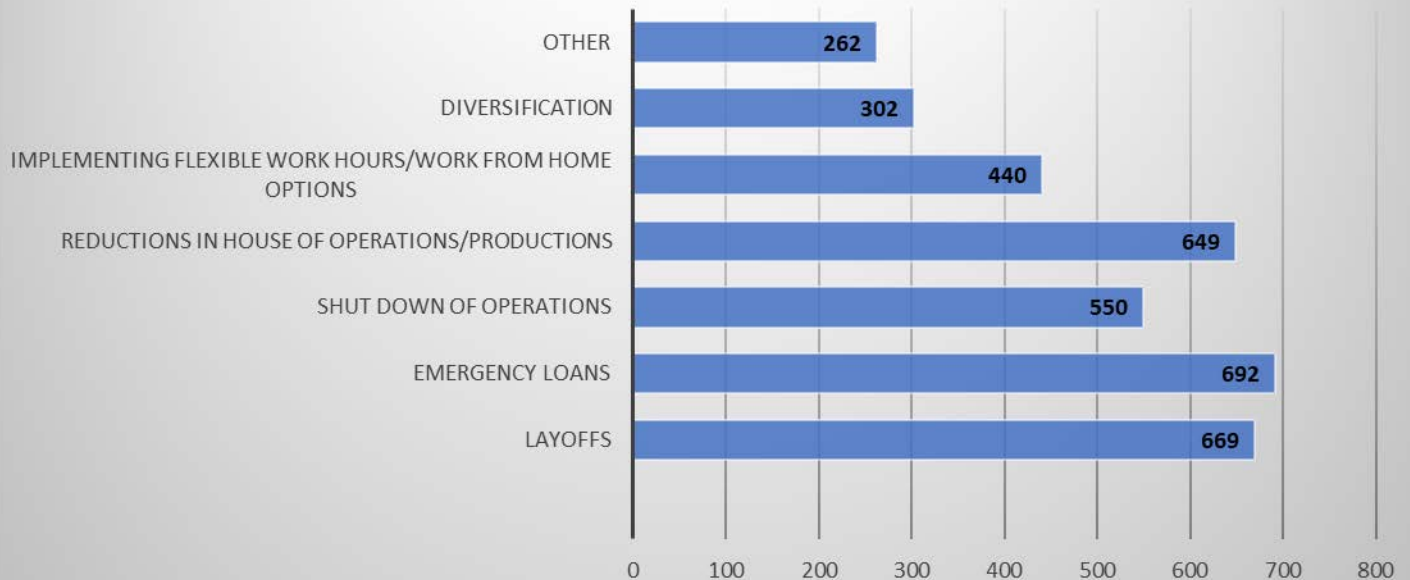


### Which of the following best describes the impact of COVID-19 on your business right now?

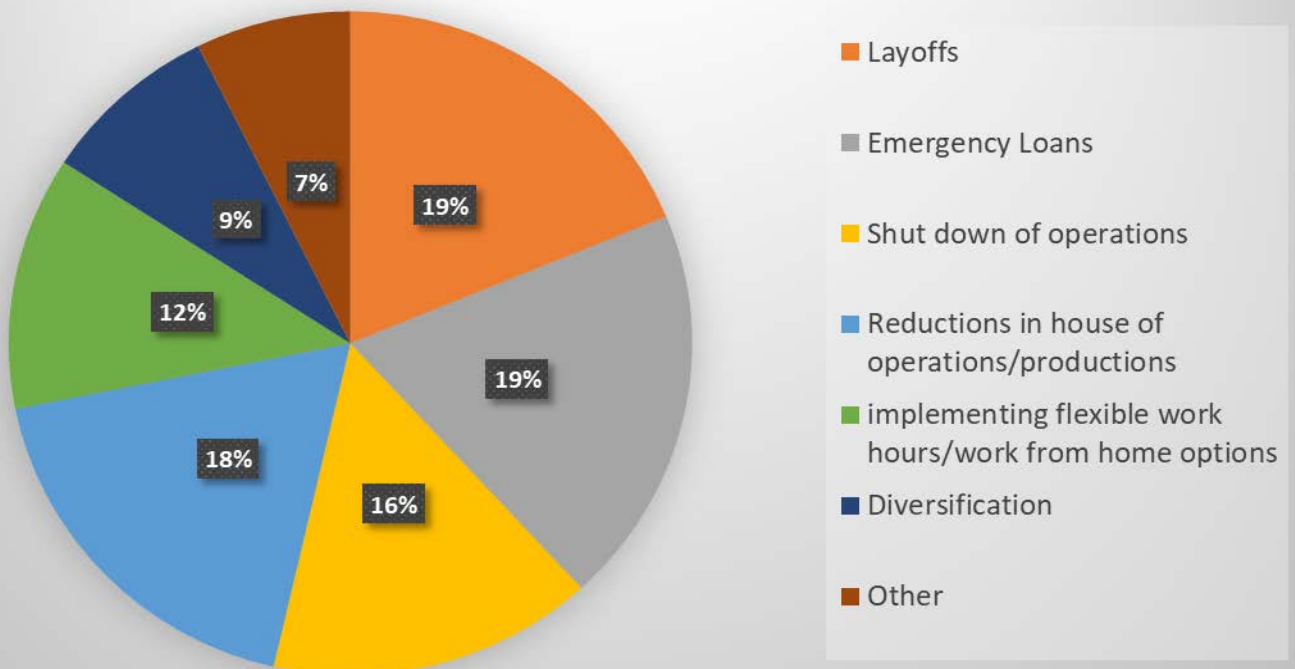


## Question #2

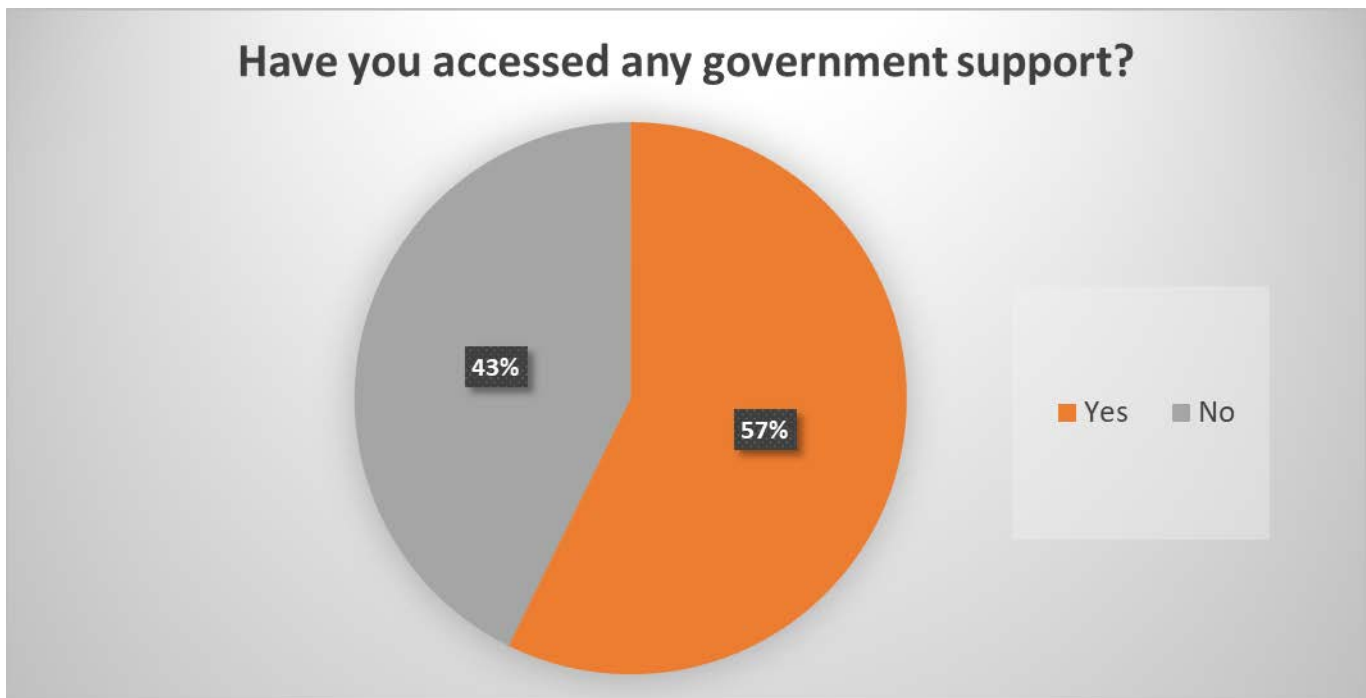
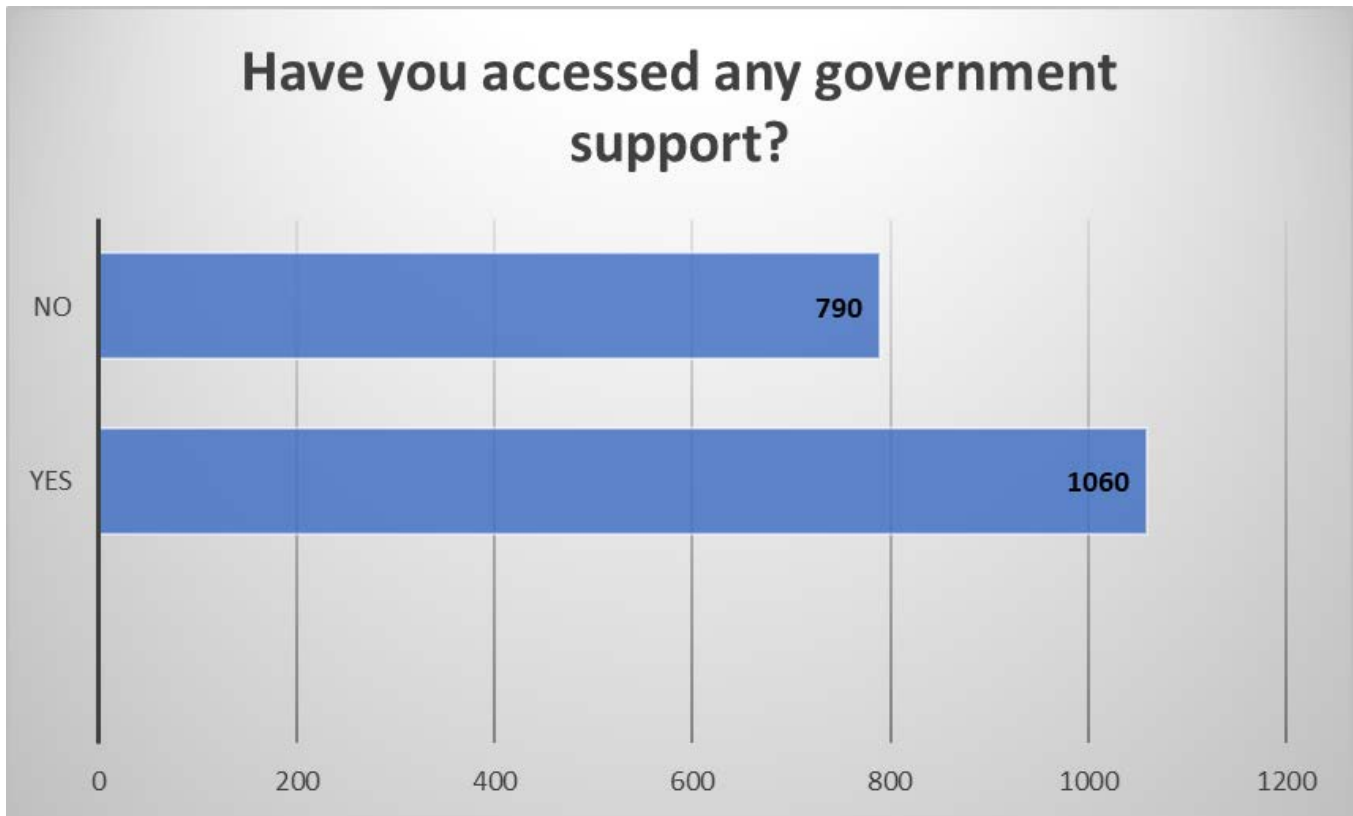
### What measures are you likely to use/need to address the economic impact of COVID-19?



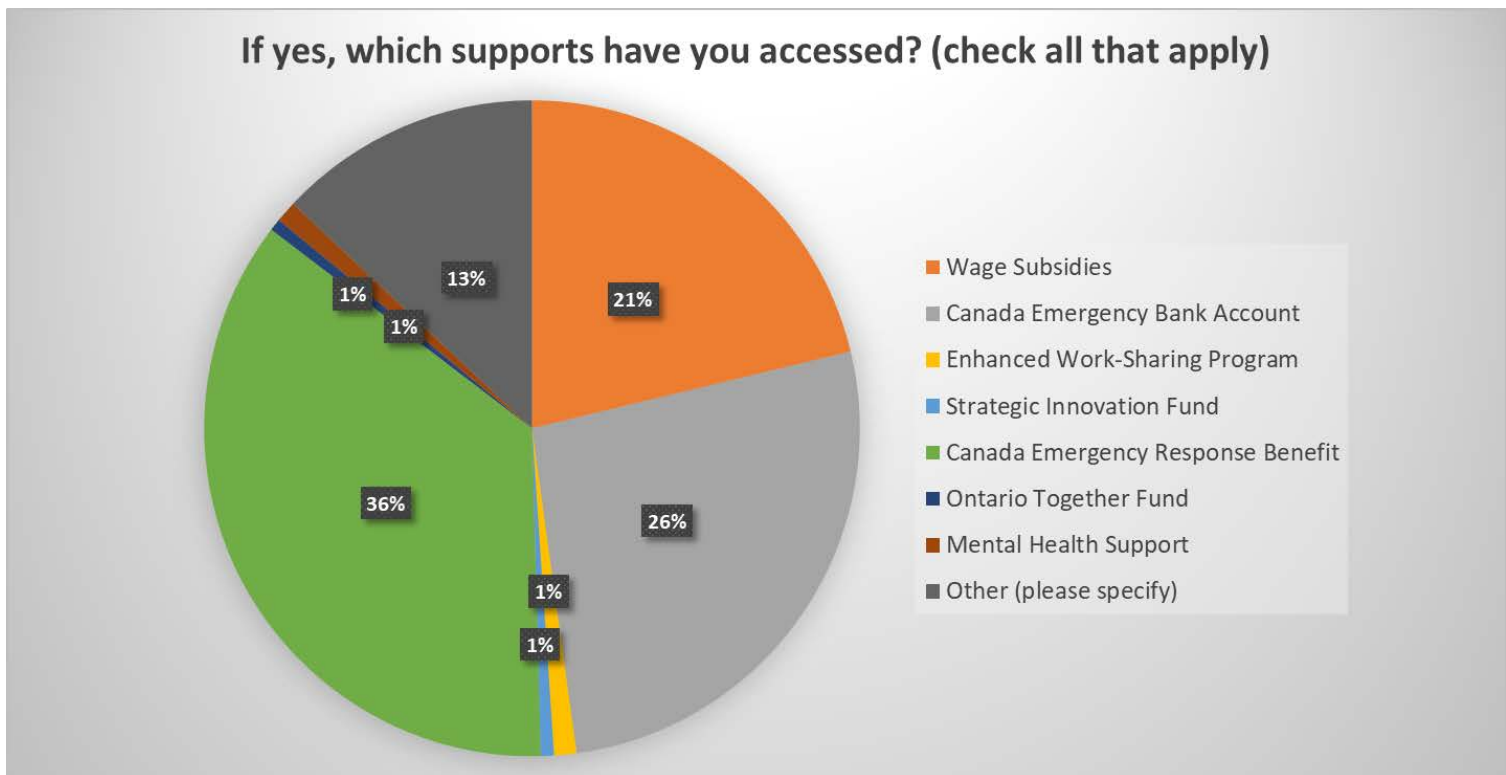
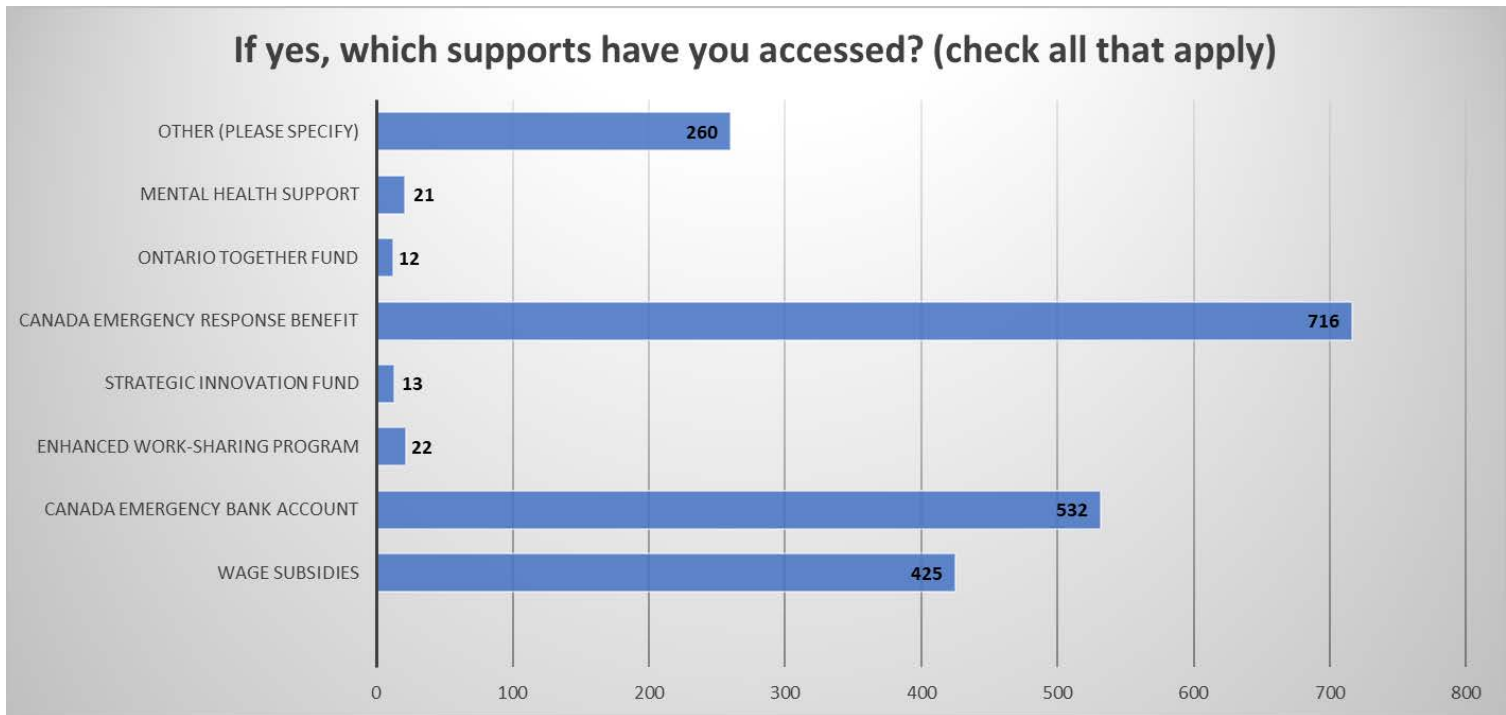
### What measures are you likely to use/need to address the economic impact of COVID-19?



### Question #3

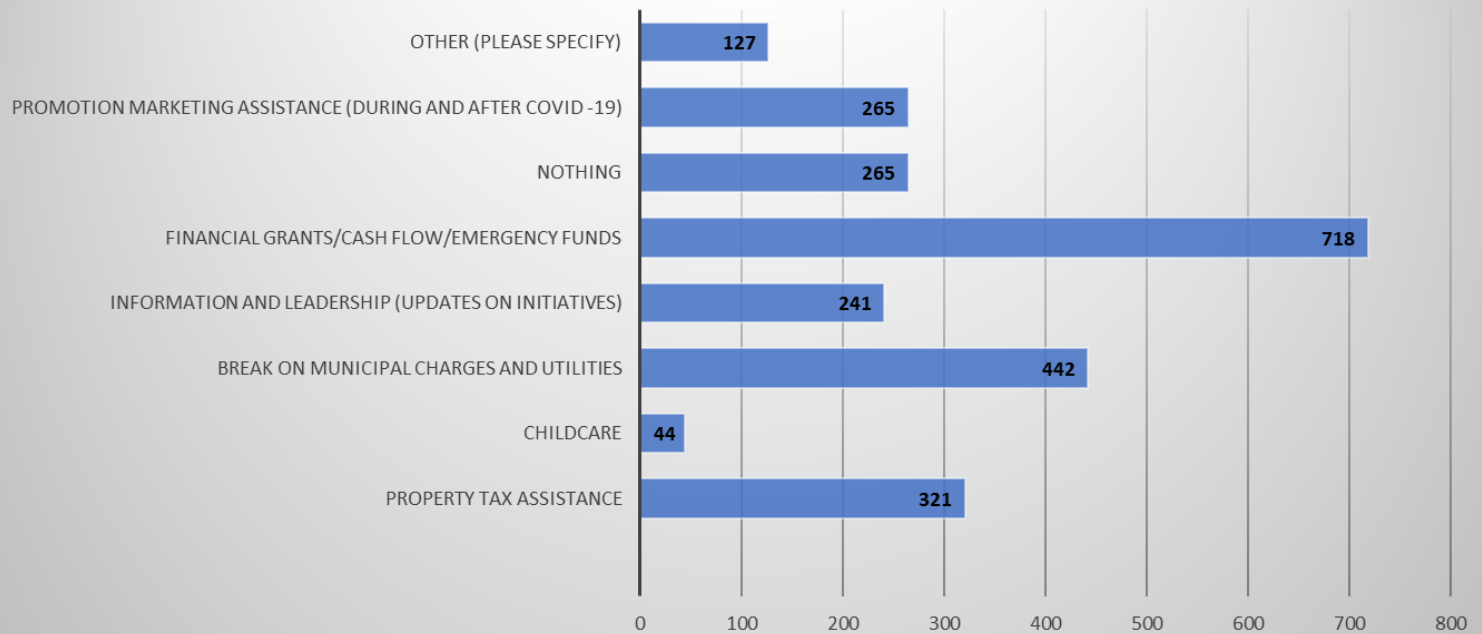


## Question #4

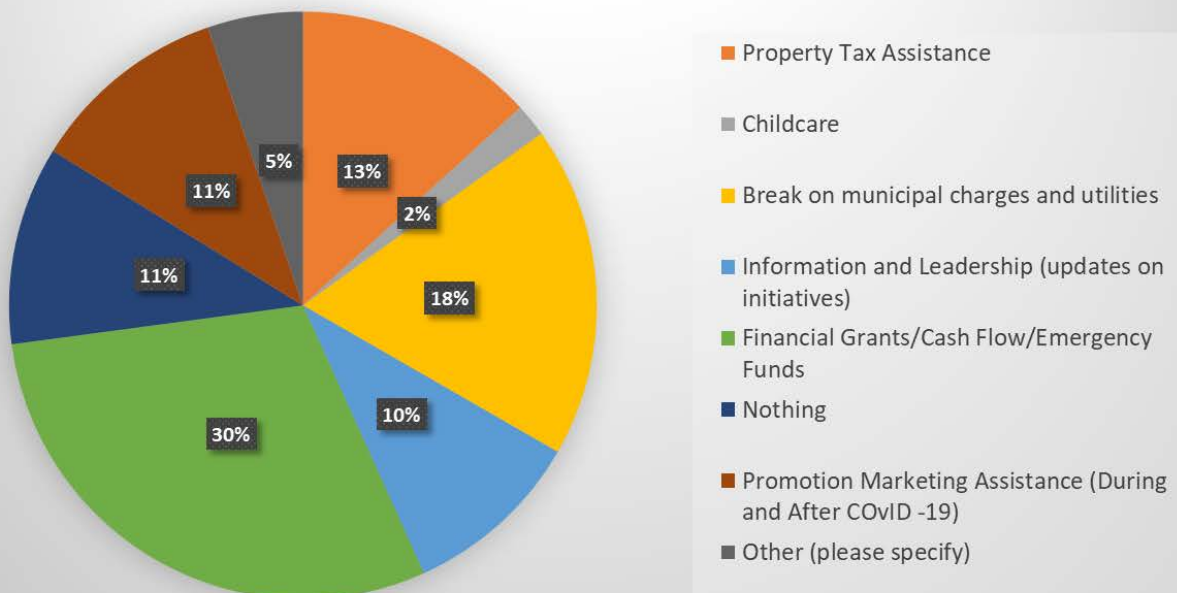


## Question # 5

**What do you need most from your local municipal government right now? (choose the item of greatest need)**



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## Question # 6

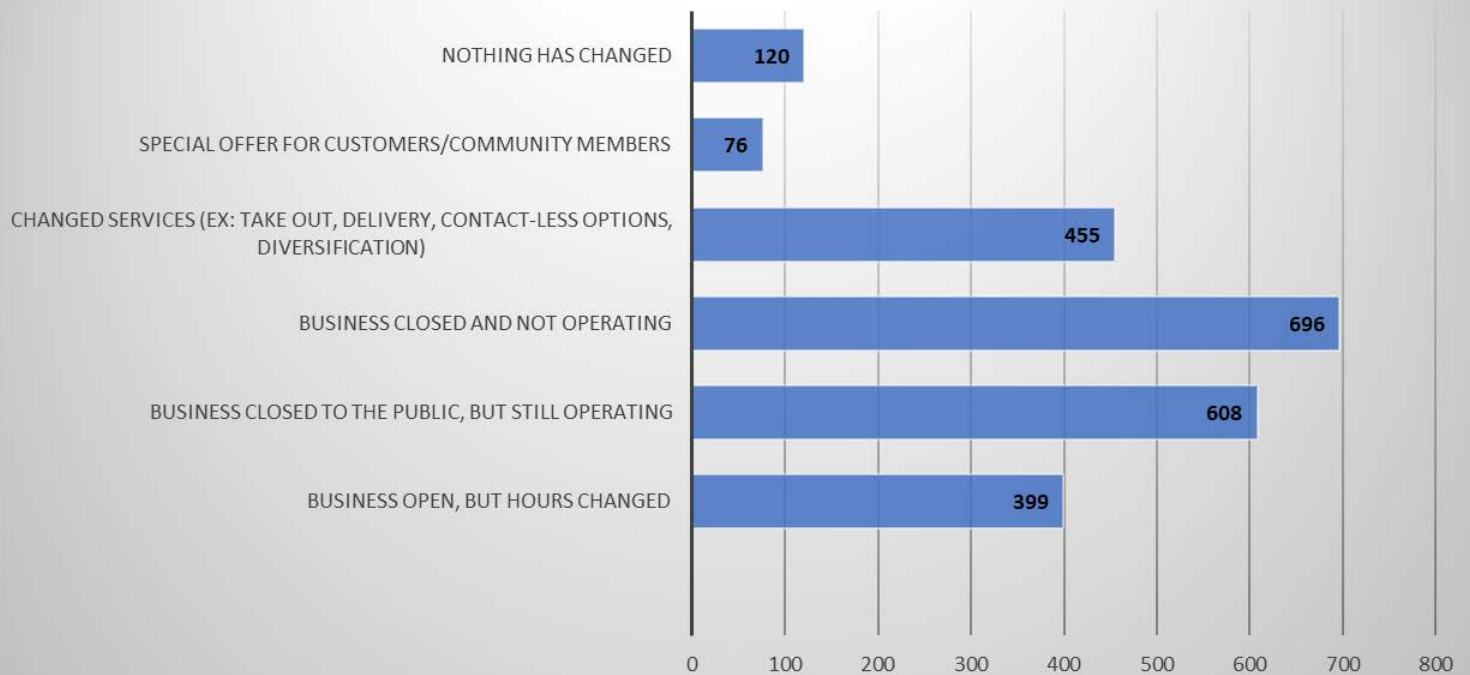
**Beyond what has already been announced, what do you need from the provincial and federal governments?**

This open-ended question resulted in these general themed answers;

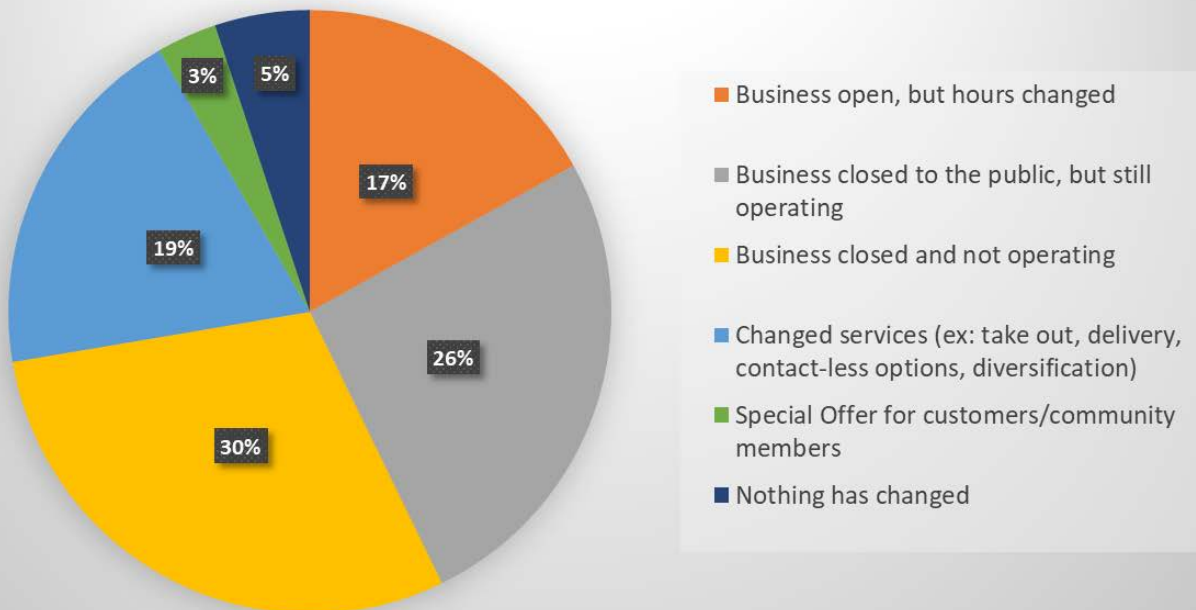
- More financial assistance or modifications to current program to be more inclusive
- More communication, improved responsiveness to inquiries, timelines for the future
- Re-Opening businesses, relaxing restrictions
- Rent Relief, Break on Utilities, Tax Breaks (Lower HST, etc.)
- Agricultural Supports
- Continue Restrictions/ More Enforcement & Rules
- Satisfied with Current Offering or unsure

## Question # 7

### How has your business responded to COVID-19?

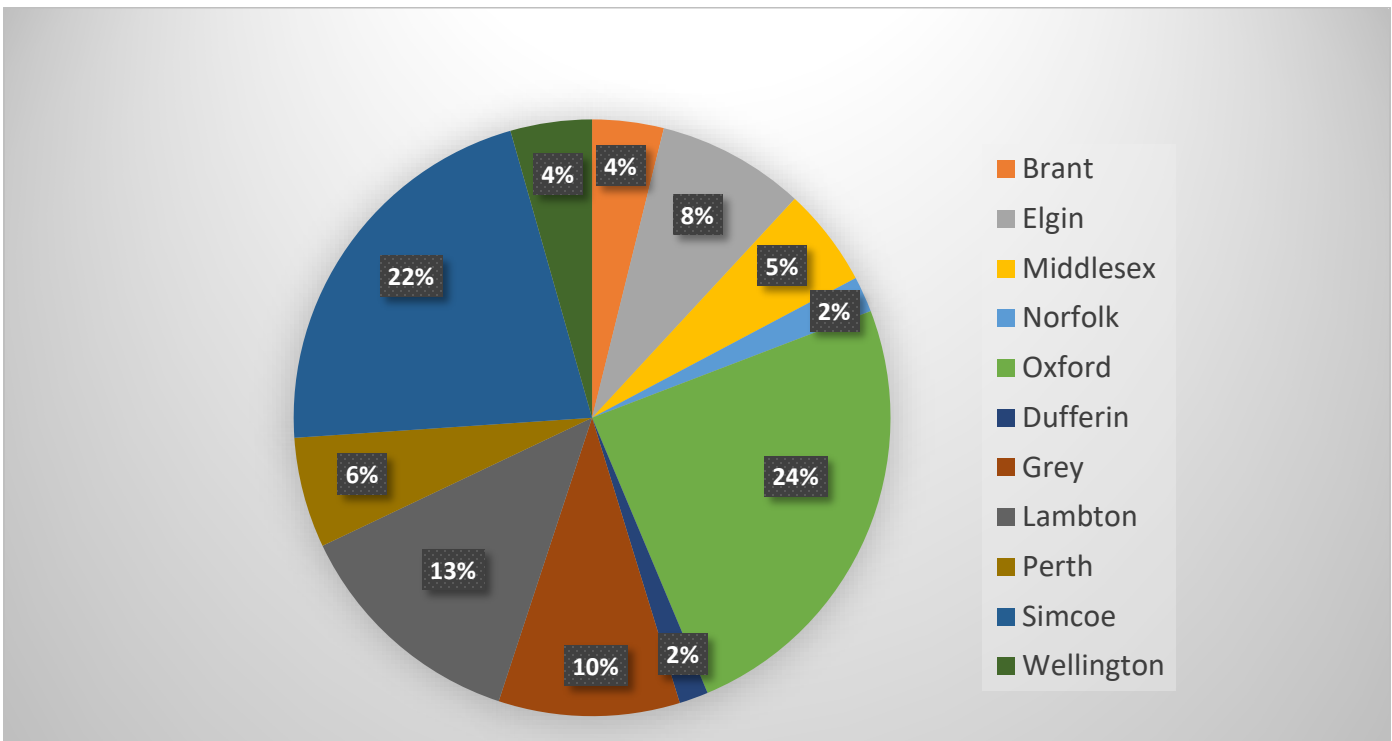
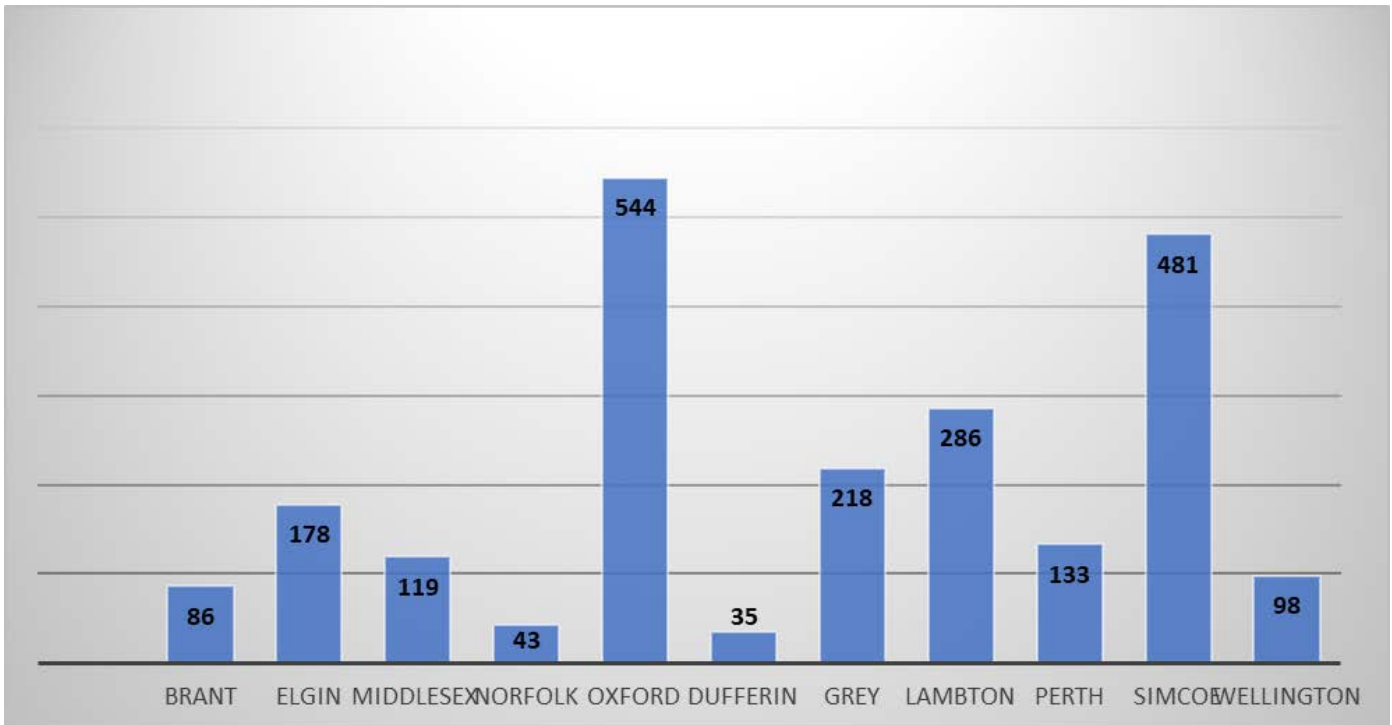


### How has your business responded to COVID-19?



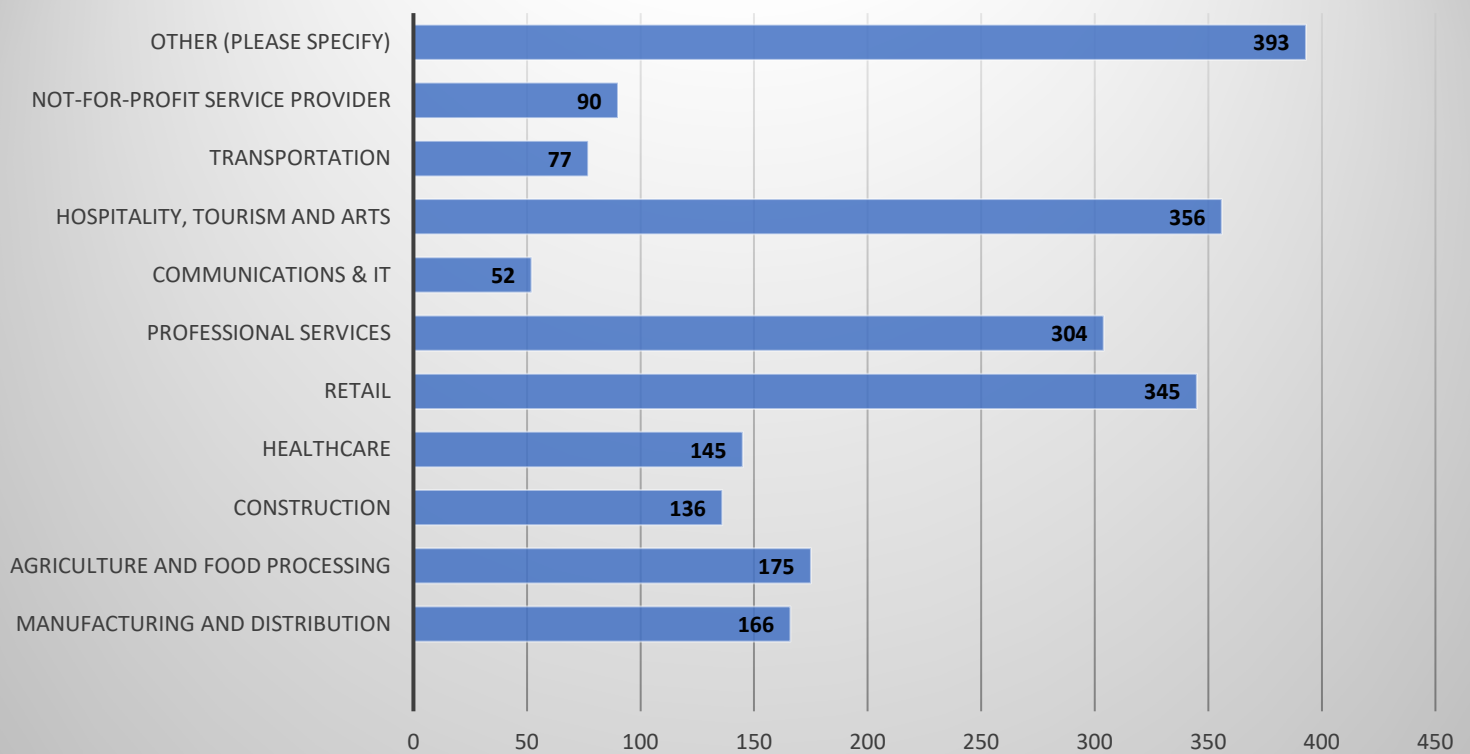
## Question #8

### Business Location

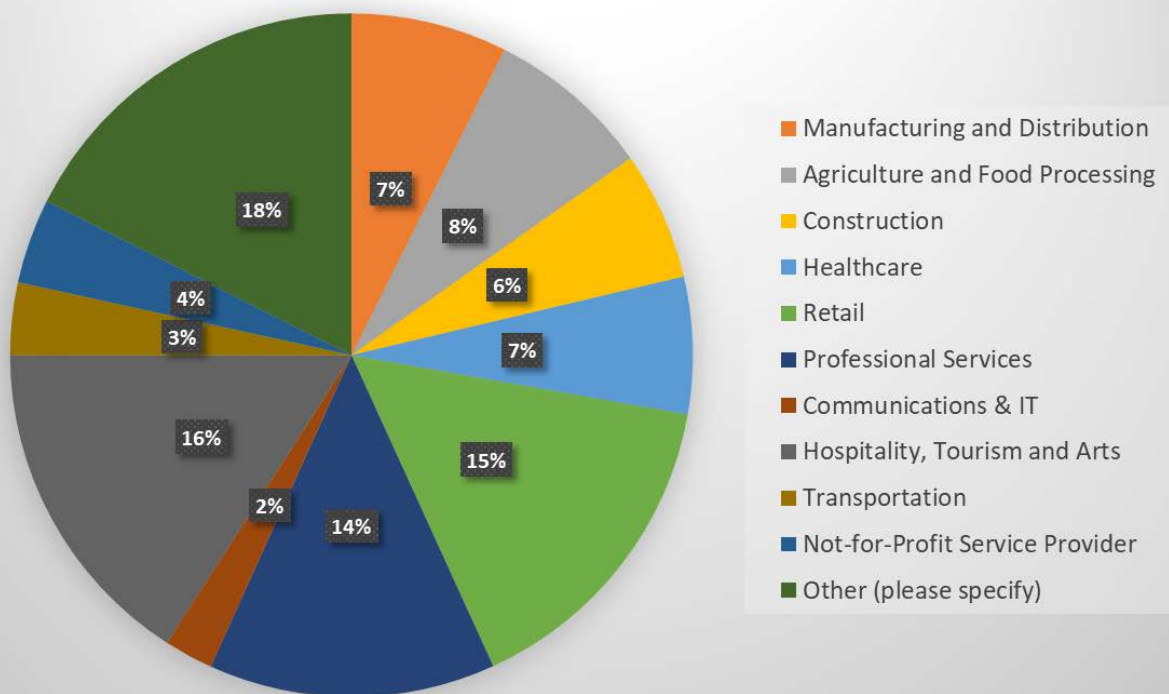


## Question #9

### What is the primary industry your business is part of?

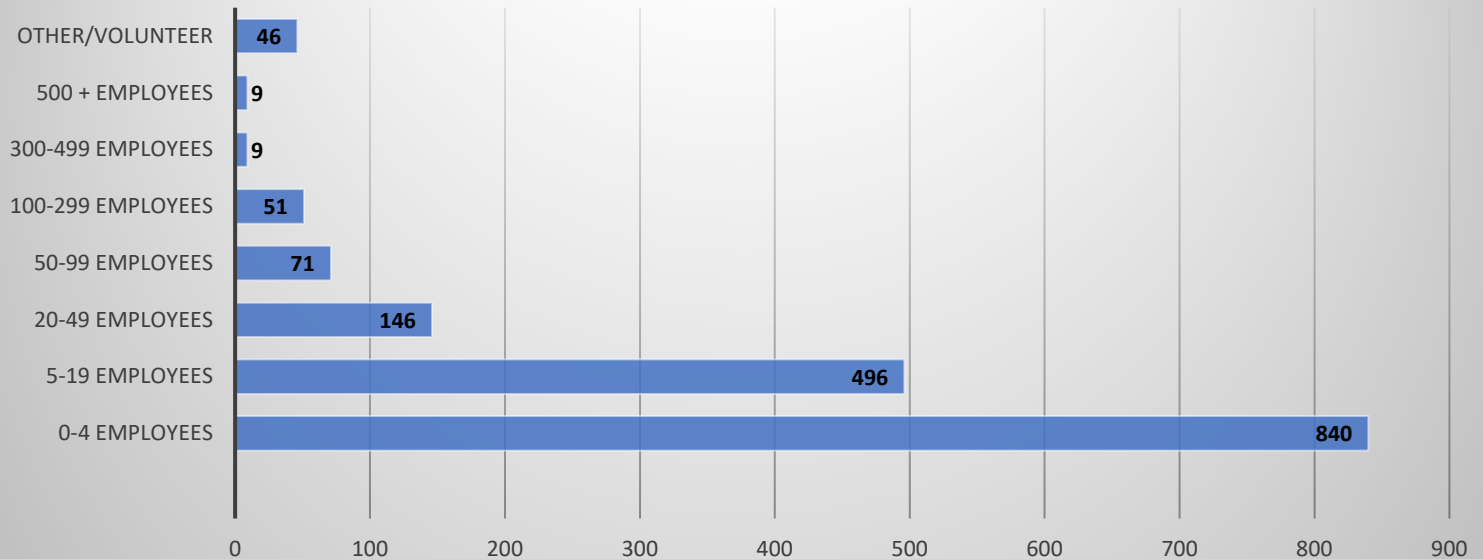


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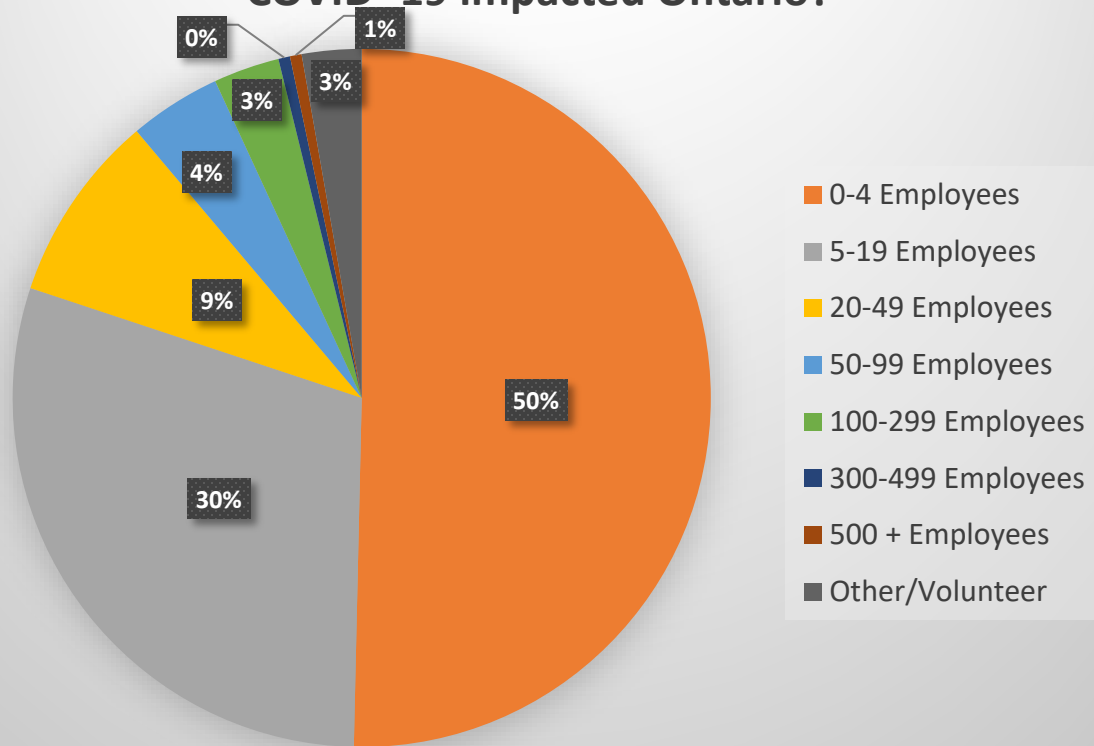


## Question #10

### How many employees did you have employed before COVID -19 impacted Ontario?

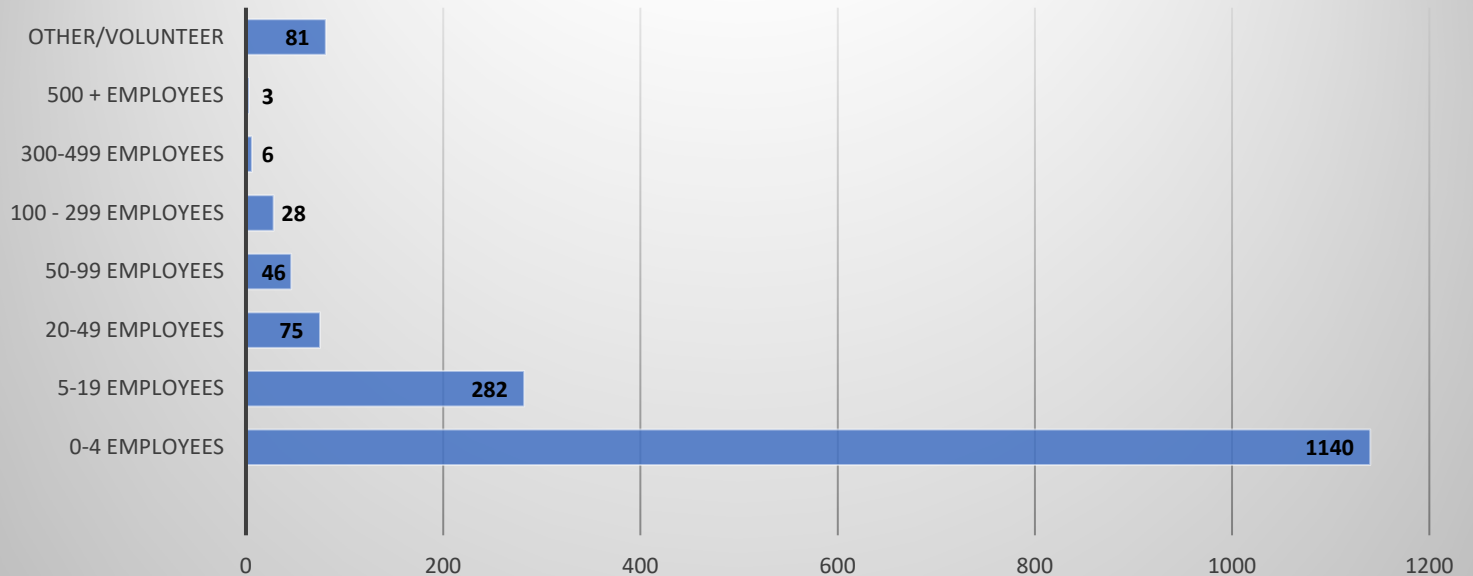


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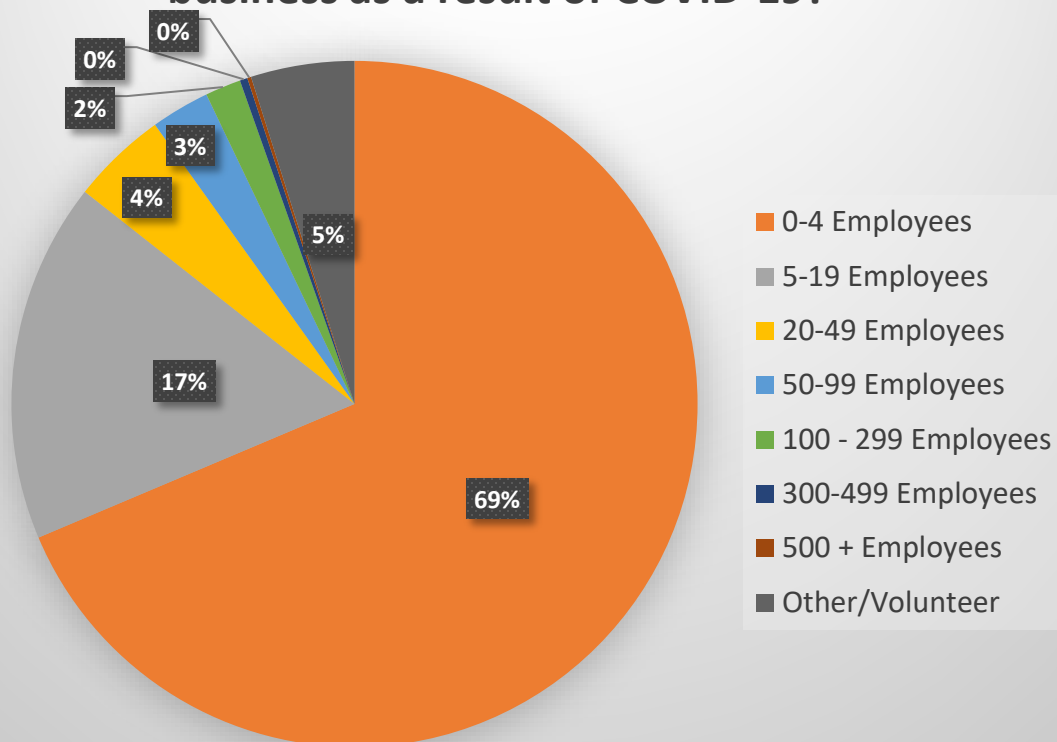


## Question #11

**How many employees do you have now employed at your business as a result of COVID-19?**



**How many employees do you have now employed at your business as a result of COVID-19?**





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