

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One-in-ten has student loan

Average balance is \$19,000

TORONTO September 2nd, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1384 Canadian adults, just more than one tenth had a student loan (12%), and this comprises at least a third of the youngest (under 35 - 34%). Student loans are rare after this age. Student loans are more common in the prairies and Atlantic Canada than they are in Ontario.

Average balance is \$19,000

The unpaid balance of student loans is, on average, about \$19,000, but this figure is higher among those in older age groups. Average loan amounts are lowest in the prairies and highest in Ontario. Liberal voters have the highest student loans, on average compared to Conservatives or New Democrats.

More than half experience financial hardship because of student loan

More than half of those with student loans say they impose a hardship on them (54%) and 3-in-10 describe this as a "a great deal of hardship" (31%).

"It is said that the one political issue that can get the youngest voters engaged is student debt, and here we see that, although debt is common to about a third of students, it's effects are felt quite severely indeed," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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TORONTO

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than one tenth had a student loan (12%).
- The unpaid balance of student loans is, on average, about \$19,000, but this figure is higher among those in older age groups.
- More than half of those with student loans say they impose a hardship on them (54%).
- "It is said that the one political issue that can get the youngest voters engaged is student debt, and here we see that, although debt is common to about a third of students, it's effects are felt quite severely indeed," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1384 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from August 30th to September 1st, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Student Loan

'Do you have a student loan?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Yes	12	34	6	4	2	1	11	13
No	88	66	94	96	98	99	89	87

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Yes	12	16	13	9	18	14	10	12	12
No	88	84	87	91	82	86	90	88	88

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Yes	12	10	8	13	23	11	15
No	88	90	92	87	77	89	85

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Student Loan – Unpaid Balance

‘What is the unpaid balance on this loan?’

[Has Student Loan]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	116	84	16	7	7	2	65	51
Less than \$5000	24	24	29	23	17	0	27	22
\$5000 to \$10,000	20	21	32	0	0	0	14	24
\$10,000 to \$15,000	16	13	23	35	24	0	20	12
\$15,000 to \$25,000	20	23	16	0	0	0	18	22
\$25,000 to \$50,000	10	10	0	21	14	27	5	14
\$50,000 to \$75,000	4	5	0	0	0	0	9	0
More than \$75,000	6	3	0	21	45	73	7	5
Mean	19136	18154	9179	29319	44750	68426	21063	17619

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	116	19	28	22	16	17	14	93	23
Less than \$5000	24	17	40	12	42	11	26	20	41
\$5000 to \$10,000	20	21	27	16	29	15	10	18	28
\$10,000 to \$15,000	16	26	11	15	4	32	11	16	13
\$15,000 to \$25,000	20	19	14	27	22	10	28	21	16
\$25,000 to \$50,000	10	12	5	10	2	28	7	12	2
\$50,000 to \$75,000	4	0	0	10	0	4	5	5	0
More than \$75,000	6	5	3	11	0	0	14	8	0
Mean	19136	17442	11152	27227	9037	20656	24814	22115	8686

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	116	22	19	41	14	3	10
Less than \$5000	24	38	19	17	32	34	16
\$5000 to \$10,000	20	28	13	17	18	34	26
\$10,000 to \$15,000	16	18	13	23	0	31	4
\$15,000 to \$25,000	20	7	16	31	17	0	22
\$25,000 to \$50,000	10	6	12	6	32	0	0
\$50,000 to \$75,000	4	3	17	2	0	0	0
More than \$75,000	6	0	11	3	0	0	32
Mean	19136	10820	30134	16875	17698	7338	33061

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Student Loan – Financial Hardship

‘Does this loan impose a financial hardship on you or not?’

[Has Student Loan]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	116	84	16	7	7	2	65	51
No financial hardship	32	32	34	8	58	100	44	22
Not very much financial hardship	15	15	23	0	19	0	15	15
Some financial hardship	23	24	30	0	23	0	23	23
A great deal of financial hardship	31	29	13	92	0	0	19	40

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	116	19	28	22	16	17	14	93	23
No financial hardship	32	16	41	37	38	27	10	28	44
Not very much financial hardship	15	18	24	5	11	13	21	12	25
Some financial hardship	23	44	16	11	51	20	28	26	13
A great deal of financial hardship	31	21	18	47	0	39	41	34	17

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	116	22	19	41	14	3	10
No financial hardship	32	46	27	27	20	66	50
Not very much financial hardship	15	15	19	7	21	34	27
Some financial hardship	23	25	30	22	40	0	0
A great deal of financial hardship	31	14	24	45	18	0	23

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