

NEWS RELEASE



One in 10 say They Can Maintain Current Standard of Living for Less than One Month

Toronto, April 21st – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1335 Canadian voters, one in 10 (11%) says that if nothing about their financial situation changed, they would be able to maintain their current standard of living for less than one month.

A similar proportion (12%) said they'd be able to maintain their current standard one month.

About one-sixth (15%) said they'd be able to maintain their current standard of living for two months, while one in 10 (10%) said they'd be able to maintain it for three months.

One-sixth (15%) said they'd be able to maintain it for four to six months, while more than a third (37%) said they'd be able to do so for seven months or longer.

There is a serious age gradient to the results.

Just one sixth (16%) of those 25 and under say they could maintain their current standard of living for seven months or more, while almost two-thirds (59%) of those 65 and older say the same.

A quarter expects the pandemic to last three or four more months

The plurality of respondents (27%) expects the pandemic will last another three to four months.

Only a few (6%) think it's going to last one more month.

One-sixth (14%) say they expect it will last two more months.

One sixth (17%) feel like it will last five to six more months.

One-in-five (19%) think it will last seven to twelve more months.

One-sixth (17%) think it will last more than a year.

A third of those currently employed say they're working from home in response to the pandemic

A third (31%) of those currently employed say they are working from home in response to the pandemic, while a quarter (24%) say they're working at their job's location with safety precautions.

One in 10 (7%) say they are working from home, but usually work from home, and four in 10 (38%) say something else best describes their current working situation.

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"One in ten Canadians say that if nothing about their financial situation changed, they'd be able to sustain their current standard of living for less than one month," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "Obviously the financial impacts of the pandemic are affecting Canadians, and their employers alike. Amongst those who were forced to work from home due to the pandemic, half said their organization wasn't prepared in advance for employees to work from home."



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Ontarians (36%) are most likely to say that they're working from home in response to the pandemic.

Albertans (37%) are most likely to say they're working at their job's location with safety precautions.

Ontarians (8%) and British Columbians (11%) are most likely to say they work from home on a regular basis.

Half of workplaces weren't set up for work from home

Of those employees who said they are working from home in response to the pandemic, half (53%) said their organization wasn't set-up for employees to work from home, while half (47%) said their organization was.

Only one-fifth plans to continue working from home

One-fifth (19%) of those employees who said they're working from home in response to the pandemic said they plan to continue working from home once the pandemic ends. Almost two-thirds (62%) say they won't.

One-fifth (19%) say they aren't sure.

The plurality say working from home is worse than the office

Of those employees who said they are working from home in response to the pandemic, four in ten (BTM2: 42%) say working from home is worse than working from the office, with one-sixth (16%) saying it's much worse.

A third (TOP2: 32%) say it's better than working from the office, with about one in 10 (12%) saying it's much better than working from the office.

A quarter (26%) says it's about the same.

Most of those working on location say precautions are good

Eight in 10 (TOP2: 81%) rate their current work environment's safety precautions as good, with about half (51%) saying they are very good.

One-sixth (BTM2: 14%) said their work's safety precautions were not good, but only a few (3%) said they weren't good at all.

A few also (5%) preferred not to say.



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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 1335 randomly selected Canadian Voters. The poll was conducted on April 13th, 2020.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, measured as the average deviation across all response categories. 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. Actual results depend on the candidates' ability to get their voters out. 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.forumpoll.com

Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses, for example:

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied. Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



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Financial situation and standard of living

If nothing about your financial situation changed, for how many months would you be able to maintain your current standard of living ?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	1335	648	644	15	46	114	198	232	336	400
Less than one month	11	10	10	67	14	13	12	13	7	6
One month	12	12	12	7	22	10	15	12	10	8
Two months	15	15	16	7	16	18	18	15	17	8
Three months	10	9	12	0	13	14	9	10	10	7
Four to six months	15	13	17	13	17	12	14	19	14	13
Seven months or more	37	41	33	7	16	34	32	32	42	59

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1335	125	288	485	129	149	159
Less than one month	11	10	10	9	13	10	17
One month	12	16	11	13	15	8	14
Two months	15	14	18	16	13	16	9
Three months	10	7	10	12	6	13	9
Four to six months	15	7	20	12	16	17	16
Seven months or more	37	46	31	39	37	38	35



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Pandemic expectations

For how many more months do you think the pandemic will last?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	1335	648	644	15	46	114	198	232	336	400
One	6	7	4	20	11	5	4	6	7	5
Two	14	17	12	13	21	9	16	13	18	11
Three-four	27	23	31	33	24	25	28	27	26	30
Five-six	17	16	18	7	11	22	15	17	17	20
Seven-twelve	19	21	18	7	11	22	19	23	19	19
More than a year	17	16	17	20	22	17	19	14	14	16

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1335	125	288	485	129	149	159
One	6	7	5	6	6	6	6
Two	14	13	9	14	21	20	18
Three-four	27	25	33	23	34	31	24
Five-six	17	20	18	19	8	16	14
Seven-twelve	19	20	18	22	14	16	17
More than a year	17	15	17	17	18	11	22



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Current work situation

Which of the following best describes your current working situation?

[Base=respondents who have a job]

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	1056	505	520	9	29	78	151	174	252	365
Working at my job's location with safety precautions	24	29	19	44	33	30	25	39	22	3
Working from home in response to the pandemic	31	28	34	22	20	49	48	36	27	7
Working from home, but I usually work from home	7	7	7	11	4	6	7	7	12	6
Something else	38	36	40	22	44	15	19	18	40	84

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1056	98	224	394	103	112	125
Working at my job's location with safety precautions	24	29	21	20	26	37	26
Working from home in response to the pandemic	31	18	29	36	32	25	29
Working from home, but I usually work from home	7	6	4	8	7	7	11
Something else	38	47	45	35	36	31	34



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Organizational work from home capability

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, was your company or business set-up for employees to work from home?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	268	121	138	2	6	36	72	60	69	25
Yes	47	53	44	0	38	37	49	57	52	29
No	53	47	56	100	62	63	51	43	48	71

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	268	13	54	118	28	24	31
Yes	47	38	49	46	45	49	50
No	53	62	51	54	55	51	50



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Working from home post-pandemic

After the pandemic ends do you plan to continue to work from home?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	268	121	138	2	6	36	72	60	69	25
Yes	19	19	18	0	0	19	18	19	23	35
No	62	60	63	100	100	69	57	60	53	47
Not sure	19	21	18	0	0	12	25	20	24	17

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	268	13	54	118	28	24	31
Yes	19	12	24	17	9	25	22
No	62	75	48	68	73	47	63
Not sure	19	13	29	15	18	28	15



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Opinion on working from home

Which of the following best describes your opinion of working from home?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	268	121	138	2	6	36	72	60	69	25
NET: TOP2	32	28	36	0	34	29	36	35	26	31
NET: BTM2	42	42	40	100	53	37	43	41	51	31
It's much better than working from the office	12	11	13	0	9	10	11	17	12	16
It's a bit better than working from the office	20	16	23	0	25	19	24	17	14	15
It's about the same as working from the office	26	30	23	0	13	35	22	25	24	37
It's a bit worse than working from the office	26	28	25	0	34	22	29	24	31	23
It's much worse than working from the office	16	15	15	100	18	15	14	16	19	8

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	268	13	54	118	28	24	31
NET: TOP2	32	52	31	31	25	24	40
NET: BTM2	42	22	41	43	46	42	43
It's much better than working from the office	12	26	14	8	17	14	18
It's a bit better than working from the office	20	26	17	23	9	10	22
It's about the same as working from the office	26	26	28	25	28	34	17
It's a bit worse than working from the office	26	13	28	30	30	11	22
It's much worse than working from the office	16	9	13	13	17	30	21



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Work environment on the job site

Overall, how would you rate your work environment's current safety precautions? [Base=Respondents working at their job location with precautions]

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Neither male or female	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Total	206	121	77	4	10	24	39	70	53	10
NET: TOP2	81	82	82	0	70	76	78	87	84	100
NET: BTM2	14	13	13	100	19	24	17	10	6	0
Very good	51	54	48	0	41	44	39	61	58	90
Somewhat good	30	28	34	0	29	32	39	26	26	10
Not very good	12	12	11	25	15	22	15	5	6	0
Not good at all	3	1	3	75	3	2	3	5	0	0
Prefer not to say	5	5	4	0	11	0	5	3	10	0

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	206	23	35	64	23	32	29
NET: TOP2	81	82	89	75	76	88	79
NET: BTM2	14	18	10	19	20	6	15
Very good	51	47	43	47	39	70	63
Somewhat good	30	35	46	28	37	19	15
Not very good	12	13	10	14	15	6	11
Not good at all	3	5	0	4	5	0	4
Prefer not to say	5	0	1	7	4	6	7

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