

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

More Canadians Concerned About COVID-19

Half have seen change in the status of their employment

Toronto, April 16th – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1335 Canadian voters, more than eight in 10 (TOP2: 85%) say they're concerned about COVID-19, with half (52%) saying they're very concerned.

This is up considerably from the beginning of March, where just under two-thirds were concerned (TOP2: 62%, March 6) and only a quarter (25%, March 6) said they were very concerned.

About one-sixth (BTM2: 15%) said they are not concerned, with about one in 20 saying they are not concerned at all (6%).

The numbers of those who are not concerned are down since the beginning of March, where four in 10 (BTM2: 38%, March 6) said they were not concerned, and one-sixth (16%) saying they were not concerned at all.

Half said the pandemic has caused a change in their employment status

Half (49%) said the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a change in their employment status, while a similar proportion (51%) said it had not.

Amongst those who said they've seen a change in their employment status, one in 10 (11%) said they lost their job permanently.

Four in 10 (40%) said they lost their job temporarily.

One-fifth (18%) said they had their hours reduced.

One in twenty (4%) said they had their hours increased.

A quarter (27%) said the change in their employment did not fall into one of these categories.

One in 20 has missed a mortgage payment

One in 20 homeowners (6%) said that due in part, or in full, to the COVID-19 pandemic, they had missed a mortgage payment recently, while a similar proportion preferred not to say (5%).

Amongst those homeowners that said they had already missed a mortgage payment, a high proportion (caution small sample) (76%) said they will miss another mortgage payment before the pandemic ends.

One-quarter (23%) said they would not, and few (1%) preferred not to say.

"Concern about COVID-19 has increased considerably since the beginning of March, rising correspondingly to the escalating measures enacted to contain the spread of the virus," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "High numbers of home-owners and renters alike are asking for assistance, but many say they're being denied."



180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
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Nine in 10 home owners said they had not (89%) missed a mortgage payment, but of those who said they had not yet missed a payment, about one in twenty (5%) said they think they will miss their next mortgage payment, with a similar proportion preferring not to say (5%).

Nine in 10 (90%) said they wouldn't.

Almost half asked for mortgage assistance but were denied

Homeowners were asked if they received any mortgage assistance, such as payment deferral, or some other kind of help from their financial institution but almost half (46%) said they asked for assistance but were denied.

About one in 10 (8%) said they received assistance.

Four in 10 (43%) said they did not ask for assistance, and about one in 20 preferred not to say whether they asked for assistance or not (4%).

When looking at the overall proportions of this question, more than half of surveyed homeowners requested assistance from their financial institution: the (8%) who received assistance and the (46%) who asked for assistance but were denied.

One-sixth of renters missed a rent payment

Renters have been hit harder by the pandemic than owners, with one-sixth (14%) percent saying they've missed a rent payment recently due in part, or in full, to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amongst those renters that said they had already missed a rent payment, a high proportion (caution small sample) (80%) said they will miss another rent payment before the pandemic ends.

One in 10 (11%) said they would not miss a rent payment, and a similar proportion (9%) preferred not to say.

Eight in 10 (79%) said they hadn't missed a rent payment recently, with about one in 20 preferring not to say (7%).

Amongst those who said they hadn't missed a rent payment, about 1 in 10 (13%) said they think they'll miss their next rent payment, while a similar proportion (8%) preferred not to say.

About eight in 10 (79%) said they don't think they'll miss their next rent payment.



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Half of renters asked for rent assistance but were denied

Renters were asked if they received any rent-assistance, such as payment deferral, or some other kind of help from their landlord and half (53%) said they asked for assistance but were denied.

One in 10 (10%) asked for assistance and received it.

A third (32%) said they did not ask for assistance, while one in 20 (5%) preferred not to say.

When looking at the overall proportions of this question, two-thirds of renters requested assistance from their landlord: the (10%) who received assistance and the (53%) who asked for assistance but were denied.

"Concern about COVID-19 has increased considerably since the beginning of March, rising correspondingly to the escalating measures enacted to contain the spread of the virus," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "High numbers of homeowners and renters alike are asking for assistance, but many say they're being denied."

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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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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Overall concern

Overall, how concerned are you about COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus?

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
NET: TOP2	85	82	89	47	76	86	83	87	88	86
NET: BTM2	15	18	11	53	24	14	17	13	12	14
Very concerned	52	48	57	33	34	39	48	61	65	60
Somewhat concerned	32	34	31	13	42	47	35	26	24	25
Not very concerned	9	12	6	7	14	9	12	9	6	7
Not concerned at all	6	5	5	47	10	5	5	4	5	8

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1335	125	288	485	129	149	159
NET: TOP2	85	86	87	86	77	85	80
NET: BTM2	15	14	13	14	23	15	20
Very concerned	52	65	46	57	52	47	48
Somewhat concerned	32	22	41	29	25	38	32
Not very concerned	9	9	8	9	15	8	12
Not concerned at all	6	5	4	6	9	7	8



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Employment status

Has the COVID-19 pandemic caused a change in your employment status in any way?

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
Yes	49	51	46	80	53	57	57	55	53	18
No	51	49	54	20	47	43	43	45	47	82

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1335	125	288	485	129	149	159
Yes	49	51	50	46	48	49	53
No	51	49	50	54	52	51	47



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Change in employment

Which of the following best describes how your employment status has changed? [Base=employment status has changed]

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	584	299	262	12	24	66	113	127	176	74
You lost your job permanently	11	9	11	50	20	9	6	9	9	20
You lost your job temporarily	40	41	41	0	53	44	36	36	39	30
You had your hours reduced	18	22	15	17	8	24	23	18	16	10
You had your hours increased	4	4	4	8	0	6	5	4	3	4
None of the above	27	25	30	25	19	17	30	32	33	37

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	584	57	122	202	65	65	73
You lost your job permanently	11	7	9	9	14	12	15
You lost your job temporarily	40	39	49	35	31	48	36
You had your hours reduced	18	8	11	24	20	20	21
You had your hours increased	4	5	4	4	2	2	7
None of the above	27	41	27	28	34	18	21



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Rent/own

Do you own or rent your 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	1335	648	644	15	46	114	198	232	336	400
Rent	32	35	30	27	53	47	24	28	23	27
Own	59	57	61	40	15	43	71	66	75	69
Something else	9	8	9	33	32	10	4	6	2	4

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	1335	125	288	485	129	149	159
Rent	32	30	31	31	30	31	42
Own	59	61	58	60	64	63	54
Something else	9	10	11	9	7	6	4



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Mortgage missed

Due in part, or in full, to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you missed a mortgage payment recently? [Base=owners]

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	890	431	437	6	9	48	143	152	251	280
Yes	6	6	5	33	0	8	9	8	5	2
No	89	87	90	67	79	88	85	89	90	94
Prefer not to say	5	6	5	0	21	4	5	3	6	4

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	890	84	182	334	87	102	101
Yes	6	6	7	4	5	6	12
No	89	90	92	88	84	89	86
Prefer not to say	5	4	1	8	10	5	2



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Miss another payment

Do you expect that, before the pandemic ends, you will miss another mortgage payment? [Base=missed a mortgage payment]

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	44	21	20	2	0	4	12	13	11	4
Yes	76	84	68	50	0	76	81	67	71	100
No	23	13	32	50	0	24	19	33	20	0
Prefer not to say	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	44	4	11	10	4	7	8
Yes	76	69	100	61	61	100	59
No	23	31	0	34	39	0	41
Prefer not to say	1	0	0	5	0	0	0



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Next mortgage payment

Do you think you'll miss your next mortgage payment? [Base=have not missed a mortgage payment]

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	801	386	396	4	7	42	123	135	226	263
Yes	5	6	5	25	0	2	10	4	5	4
No	90	90	89	50	77	91	86	91	91	92
Prefer not to say	5	4	5	25	23	7	4	5	4	4

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	801	76	168	296	80	90	91
Yes	5	5	2	6	5	9	9
No	90	93	96	89	84	81	88
Prefer not to say	5	2	2	5	12	10	3



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Mortgage Assistance

Did you receive any mortgage assistance, such as a payment deferral, or some other help, from your financial institution? [Base=owners]

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	890	431	437	6	9	48	143	152	251	280
Yes, received assistance	8	6	9	33	14	13	11	8	3	3
No, asked for assistance but was denied	46	42	50	33	51	48	47	44	47	46
No, did not ask for assistance	43	47	39	33	31	33	37	47	45	48
Prefer not to say	4	5	2	0	4	5	5	2	4	3

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	890	84	182	334	87	102	101
Yes, received assistance	8	2	10	8	5	6	7
No, asked for assistance but was denied	46	42	52	44	49	49	42
No, did not ask for assistance	43	53	36	45	44	40	44
Prefer not to say	4	2	2	3	3	5	7



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Rental missed

Due in part, or in full, to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you missed a rent payment recently? [Base=renters]

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	371	187	171	4	24	53	46	64	78	104
Yes	14	19	8	75	17	16	15	13	11	8
No	79	77	83	25	69	79	82	79	83	85
Prefer not to say	7	5	9	0	14	5	4	8	6	7

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	371	31	86	126	35	40	53
Yes	14	19	8	15	24	4	21
No	79	68	86	78	71	92	70
Prefer not to say	7	13	7	7	5	4	9



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Another rent payment

Do you expect that, before the pandemic ends, you will miss another rent payment? [Base=missed a rent payment]

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	46	30	12	3	4	10	7	9	9	7
Yes	80	87	76	33	100	100	85	45	69	31
No	11	9	20	0	0	0	15	33	11	29
Prefer not to say	9	4	4	67	0	0	0	23	20	40

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	46	6	6	16	7	2	9
Yes	80	78	83	78	86	35	84
No	11	22	0	20	7	0	4
Prefer not to say	9	0	17	3	7	65	12



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Next rent payment

Do you think you'll miss your next rent payment? [Base=did not miss a rent payment]

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	302	151	145	1	17	41	37	50	65	90
Yes	13	8	18	0	28	6	16	10	6	10
No	79	84	75	100	70	86	73	80	80	84
Prefer not to say	8	8	8	0	2	8	11	10	13	7

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	302	23	77	101	26	36	39
Yes	13	2	16	10	13	23	9
No	79	90	73	81	81	74	86
Prefer not to say	8	7	11	9	7	3	5



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Rent assistance

Did you receive any rent assistance, such as a payment deferral, or some other help, from your landlord? [Base=renter]

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	371	187	171	4	24	53	46	64	78	104
Yes, received assistance	10	12	7	50	15	9	6	10	14	7
No, asked for assistance but was denied	53	50	57	50	62	53	51	49	49	51
No, did not ask for assistance	32	35	29	0	22	34	34	33	31	36
Prefer not to say	5	3	6	0	1	4	9	8	5	5

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total	371	31	86	126	35	40	53
Yes, received assistance	10	19	9	9	7	18	9
No, asked for assistance but was denied	53	40	51	52	51	55	63
No, did not ask for assistance	32	37	36	32	29	25	27
Prefer not to say	5	5	5	7	14	1	1

For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com



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