

EAST ALGOMA COVID-19 EMPLOYER FOLLOW UP SURVEY

WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEY?

The survey was conducted between May 25th and June 10th.

As of June 10th, there were 19 responses to the survey. 7 of these respondents were providing information for the first time.

Where the same questions were asked in both the surveys, results from this May survey and the previous April survey are included.

Total percentages in each question may not add up to 100% due to rounding, questions that allowed for multiple answers and questions that had ‘other’ comment fields.

➤ What type of organization are you?

	May	April
Private	58%	63%
Public	11%	27%
Not-for-Profit	21%	10%

(19 respondents answered this question)

➤ Please select the PRIMARY sector in which your business/organization operates.

Primary Sector	Respondents
Accommodation and Food Services	22%
Public Administration	17%
Retail Trade	11%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	11%
Construction	6%
Manufacturing	6%
Finance and Insurance	6%
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	6%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	6%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	6%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0%
Mining, Quarrying or Oil & Gas Extraction	0%
Utilities	0%
Wholesale Trade	0%
Transportation and Warehousing	0%
Information and Cultural Industries	0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0%
Educational Services	0%

(18 respondents answered this question)

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OPERATIONS

- **How would you rank the strategic risk COVID-19 poses to your long-term business prospects?**

	May	April
High – this could put us out of business	18%	22%
Medium – this is going to significantly impact our financials	47%	52%
Low – this may impact us financially, but we are confident we can weather the storm	35%	26%
None	0%	0%

(17 respondents answered this question)

- **Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis what do estimate your financial loss to be?**

	May	April
Less than \$20,000	33%	23%
\$20,000 – \$50,000	27%	42%
\$50,000 – \$100,000	7%	23%
\$100,000 or more.	33%	13%

(16 respondents answered this question)

- **How has COVID-19 impacted your business's/organization's operations?
(check all that apply)**

	May	April
No impact	12%	8%
We've reduced hours, staff and our business operations	59%	46%
We've closed our business/organization temporarily	35%	42%
We've closed our business/organization permanently	0%	0%
We're working remotely but continuing operations	18%	15%

(17 respondents answered this question)

- **If you are continuing your business operations, how have you adjusted your operations?
(check all that apply)**

	May	April
Our storefront is operating with reduced hours	21%	25%
Our storefront is closed but we take telephone order	21%	39%
Our storefront is closed but we operate online	7%	22%
Altered products or services offered to customers	36%	28%
Altered methods of production	0%	8%
Other (please specify)	50%	39%

(14 respondents answered this question)

➤ **What additional impact/measures have you experienced?
(check all that apply)**

	May	April
Our supply chain is interrupted	35%	34%
We've had to cancel contracts	41%	12%
We've had contracts cancelled	29%	26%
We are experiencing decreases in sales (or donations if non-profit)	53%	64%
We've had to cancel fundraising events (for non-profits)	24%	8%
We are having to restrict spending because of the uncertainty	71%	64%
We've increased cleaning and sanitation in our offices/facilities	71%	46%
We are experiencing significant increase in consumer demand for certain items (please specify)	18%	10%

(17 respondents answered this question)

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WORKFORCE

➤ **What is the size of your workforce?**

Workforce as of February 1st	272	100%
Workforce as of May 1st	177	65%
Reduction	95	35%

(16 respondents answered this question)

➤ **What is the percentage of layoffs by employment type?**

Full-time	32%
Part-time	42%
Seasonal	26%
Contract	0%

(16 respondents answered this question)

➤ **If you are continuing or opening up your business operations, are you currently re-hiring?**

Yes	31%
No	69%

➤ **Please indicate the reasons for the hiring (check all that apply)**

New positions to meet an increased demand.	29%
Additional staff to relieve current employees who have had to put in extra hours.	0%
To replace workers who opted to not work during the pandemic	14%
Other (please specify)	57%

The majority of 'Other' comments referred to hiring back existing employees who had been laid off.

USAGE OF COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS

- **Please indicate your level of awareness of Government funding supports available to businesses:**

Very aware	65%
Somewhat aware	35%
Unaware	0%
Other (please specify)	0%

(17 respondents answered this question)

- **Has your business applied for any government supports as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes	59%
No	41%

(17 respondents answered this question)

- **If no, please indicate why you have not applied**

Not needed at this time	0%
Do not know how to access/apply	0%
Do not qualify	57%
Other (please specify)	43%

(7 respondents answered this question)

- **If yes, please specify which programs you have applied for:**

Wage subsidy	69%
Rent relief	0%
Interest free loan	54%
Tax relief	8%
Other (please specify)	23%

(13 respondents answered this question)

- **If yes, please indicate how you applied:**

I applied on my own	77%
I received some help with the application, please specify:	23%

(13 respondents answered this question)

➤ **Please rate how you found the programs guidelines and application process:**

Very easy to understand	12%
Fairly easy to understand	47%
Difficult to understand	18%
Very difficult to understand	6%
Not applicable	18%

(17 respondents answered this question)

➤ **Has your business taken advantage of any community supports as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes	0%
No	100%

(17 respondents answered this question)

➤ **If no, please indicate why you have not applied**

Do not know what supports are available at the community level	38%
Not needed at this time	38%
Do not qualify	19%
Other (please specify)	6%

(16 respondents answered this question)

➤ **At this stage, how effective are the support programs at meeting your needs?**

Not effective - we have fallen through the cracks with no support	55%
Not effective - even with support will have to close	0%
Effective - we have taken advantage of the programs and they are helping us get through	45%

(11 respondents answered this question)

READINESS TO RE-OPEN

- **Please indicate your level of awareness of the provincial government's guidelines for the stage-by-stage approach to loosening emergency measures and reopen**

Very aware	69%
Somewhat aware	31%
Unaware	0%

(16 respondents answered this question)

- **Please rate how you find the guidelines for an upcoming stage-by-stage reopening:**

Very easy to understand	13%
Fairly easy to understand	63%
Difficult to understand	19%
Very difficult to understand	6%
Not applicable	0%

(16 respondents answered this question)

- **Please indicate the challenges or barriers for your business or organization to comply to the proposed stage-by-stage approach and guidelines (check all that apply):**

The proposed measures are already in place within our company or organization.	56%
The size of our facilities – not enough room for us to meet the guidelines for distancing employees.	6%
The size and nature of our work requires close proximity to clients and customers.	6%
Staffing – we lost some of our staff and will have to recruit and train new staff.	6%
Cost – we will have to purchase extra personal protective equipment and rearrange the work area at a time when we are experiencing a decrease in revenue/funds.	25%
Applying the guidelines will not be a problem for our business or organization.	31%
Other (please specify)	13%

(16 respondents answered this question)

- **What do you estimate it will cost for your business or organization to comply with the proposed guidelines and measures for the stage-by-stage re-opening?**

\$0 – Measures are already in place	13%
Under \$5,000	44%
\$5,000 - \$10,000	19%
\$10,000 - \$25,000	13%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	6%
\$50,000 or more	6%

(16 respondents answered this question)