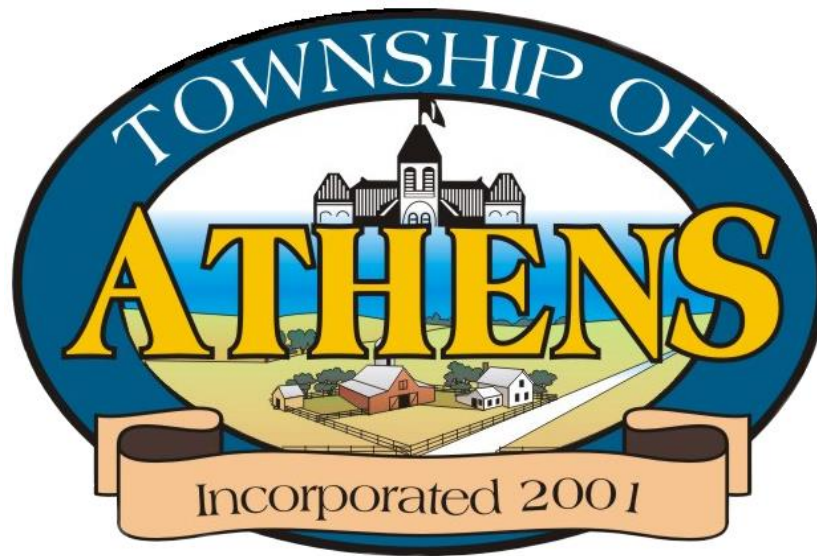


Township of Athens

Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

2021 Business Survey: COVID-19 Report



May 28, 2021

Survey Timeframe: May 4 – May 18, 2021

Prepared by:

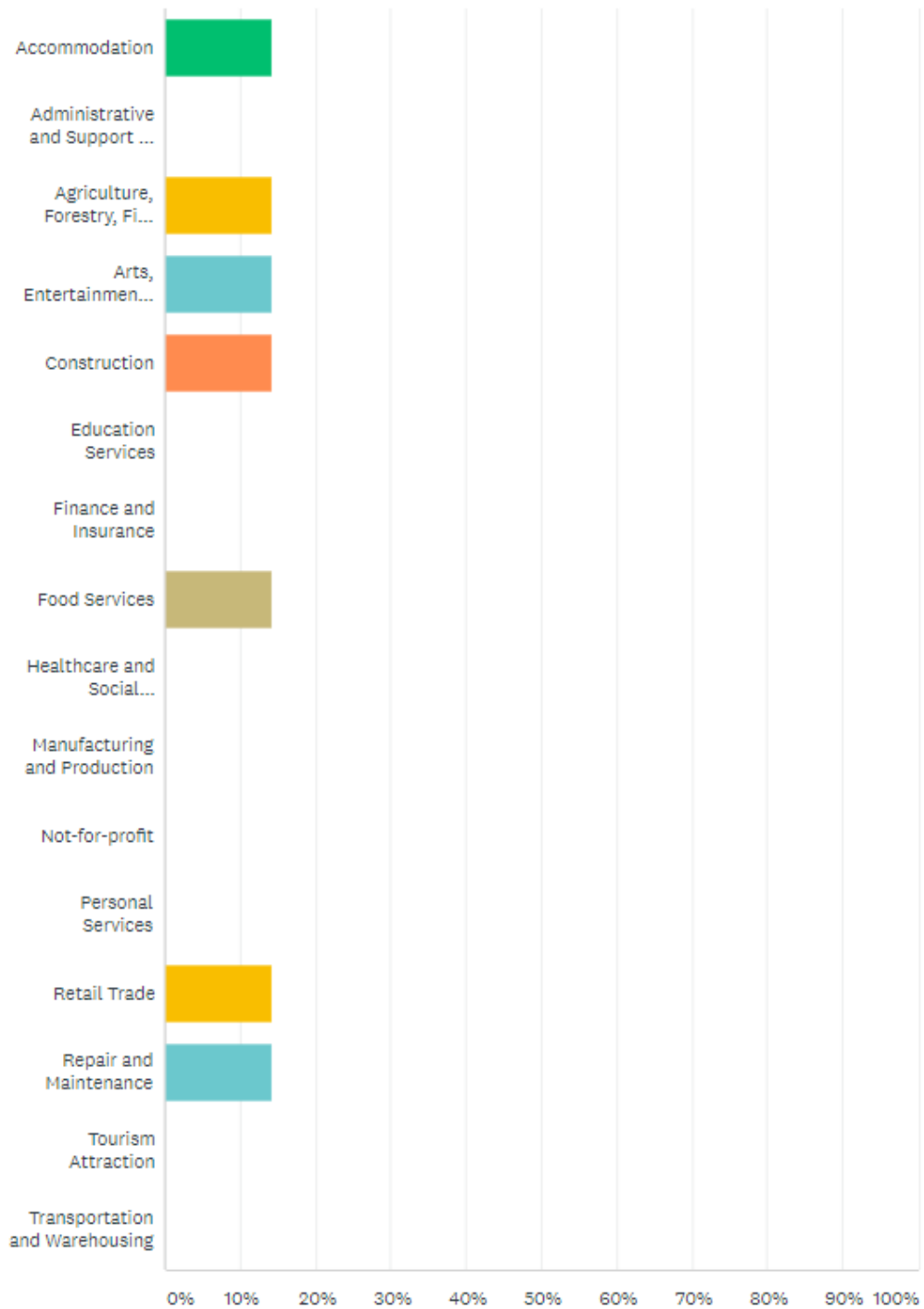
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Economic Development Office
32 Wall Street, Suite 300, Brockville, ON

www.investleedsgrenville.com/covid19

#2 What sector is your business primarily operating in?

Answered: 7

Skipped: 0



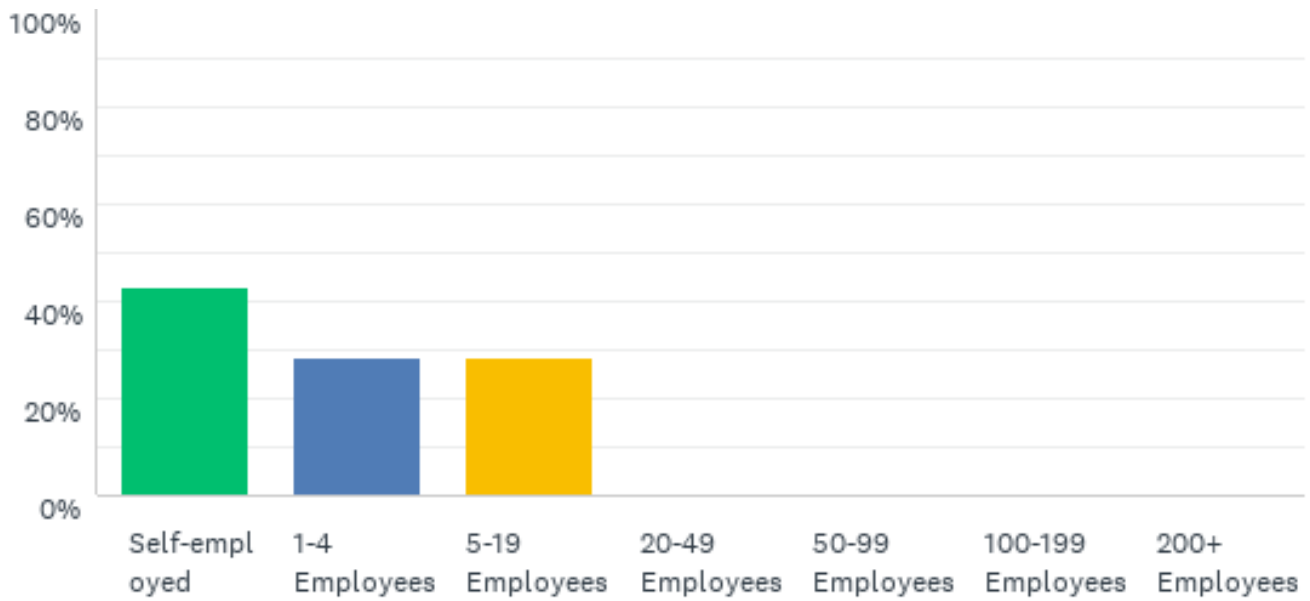
#2 continued...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accommodation	14.29%	1
Administrative and Support - Business Services	0.00%	0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish and Hunting	14.29%	1
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	14.29%	1
Construction	14.29%	1
Education Services	0.00%	0
Finance and Insurance	0.00%	0
Food Services	14.29%	1
Healthcare and Social Assistance	0.00%	0
Manufacturing and Production	0.00%	0
Not-for-profit	0.00%	0
Personal Services	0.00%	0
Retail Trade	14.29%	1
Repair and Maintenance	14.29%	1
Tourism Attraction	0.00%	0
Transportation and Warehousing	0.00%	0
TOTAL		7

#3 Typically, how many employees does your company have?

Answered: 7

Skipped: 0

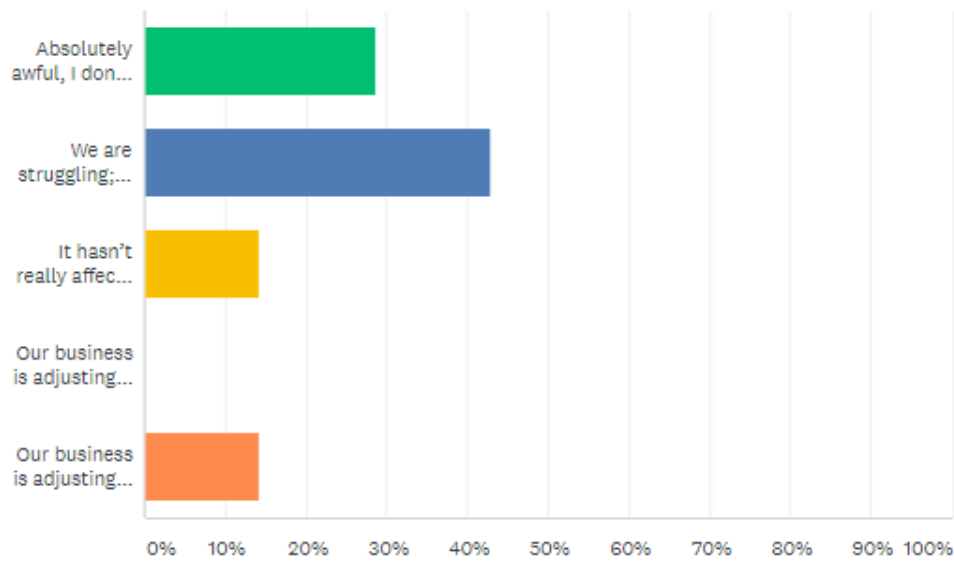


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Self-employed	42.86% 3
1-4 Employees	28.57% 2
5-19 Employees	28.57% 2
20-49 Employees	0.00% 0
50-99 Employees	0.00% 0
100-199 Employees	0.00% 0
200+ Employees	0.00% 0
TOTAL	7

#4 How would you describe the impacts of COVID-19 on your business?

Answered: 7

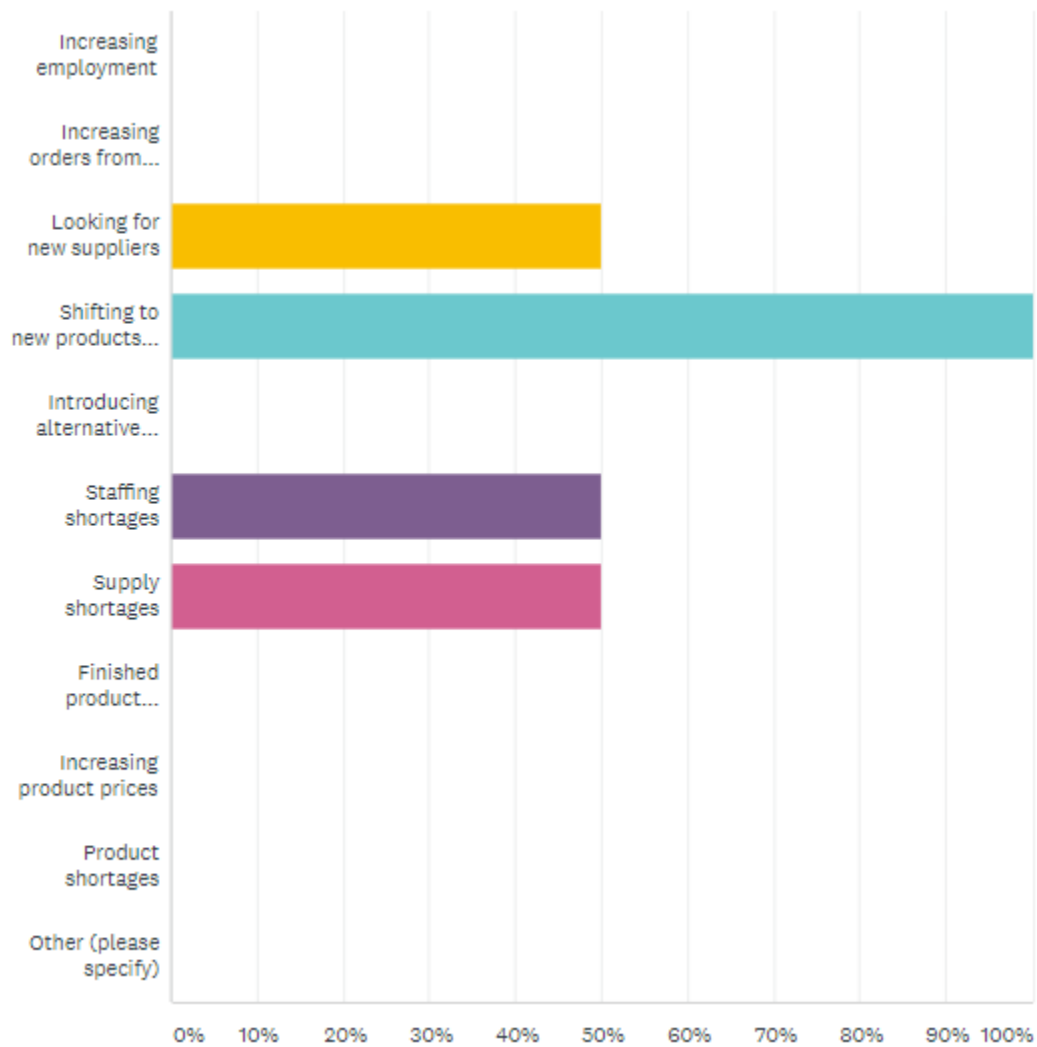
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Absolutely awful, I don't think our business will make it through (proceed to question 6)	28.57%	2
We are struggling; recovering from this could take some time (proceed to question 6)	42.86%	3
It hasn't really affected us yet (proceed to question 7)	14.29%	1
Our business is adjusting and maintaining status quo (proceed to question 7)	0.00%	0
Our business is adjusting and growing (proceed to question 5)	14.29%	1
TOTAL		7

#5 If your business is growing, what are your biggest challenges? (Choose all that apply, then proceed to question 7.)

Answered: 2 Skipped: 5



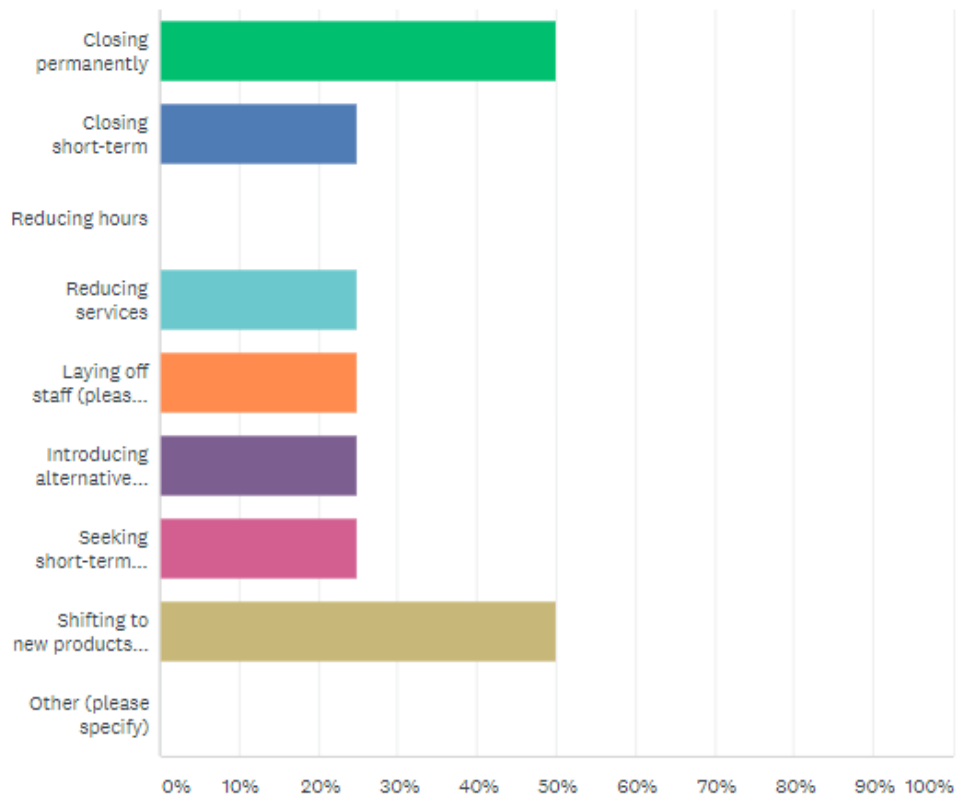
#5 continued...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increasing employment	0.00%	0
Increasing orders from suppliers	0.00%	0
Looking for new suppliers	50.00%	1
Shifting to new products or services	100.00%	2
Introducing alternative ways of working (working from home, working remotely)	0.00%	0
Staffing shortages	50.00%	1
Supply shortages	50.00%	1
Finished product shortages/delays	0.00%	0
Increasing product prices	0.00%	0
Product shortages	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 2		

#6 If your business has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, what will you or are you doing to address this? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 4

Skipped: 3

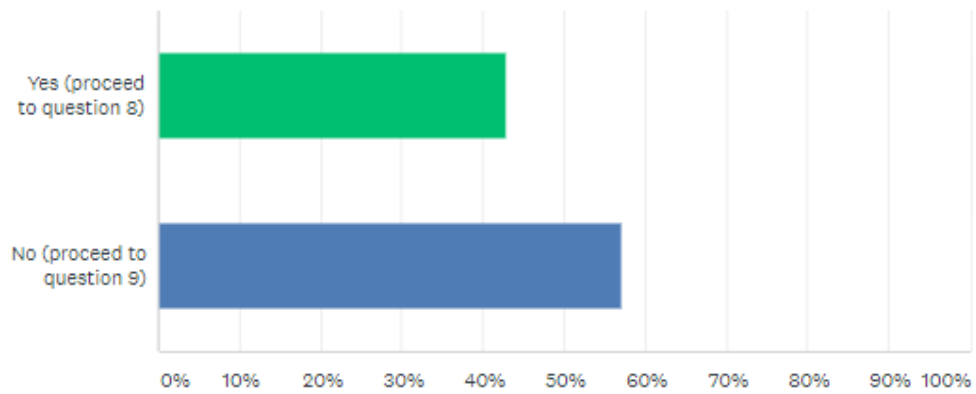


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Closing permanently	50.00%	2
Closing short-term	25.00%	1
Reducing hours	0.00%	0
Reducing services	25.00%	1
Laying off staff (please specify number in comments section for 'Other')	25.00%	1
Introducing alternative ways of working (working from home, working remotely)	25.00%	1
Seeking short-term financing	25.00%	1
Shifting to new products or services	50.00%	2
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 4		

#7 Have you accessed any government support programs?

Answered: 7

Skipped: 0

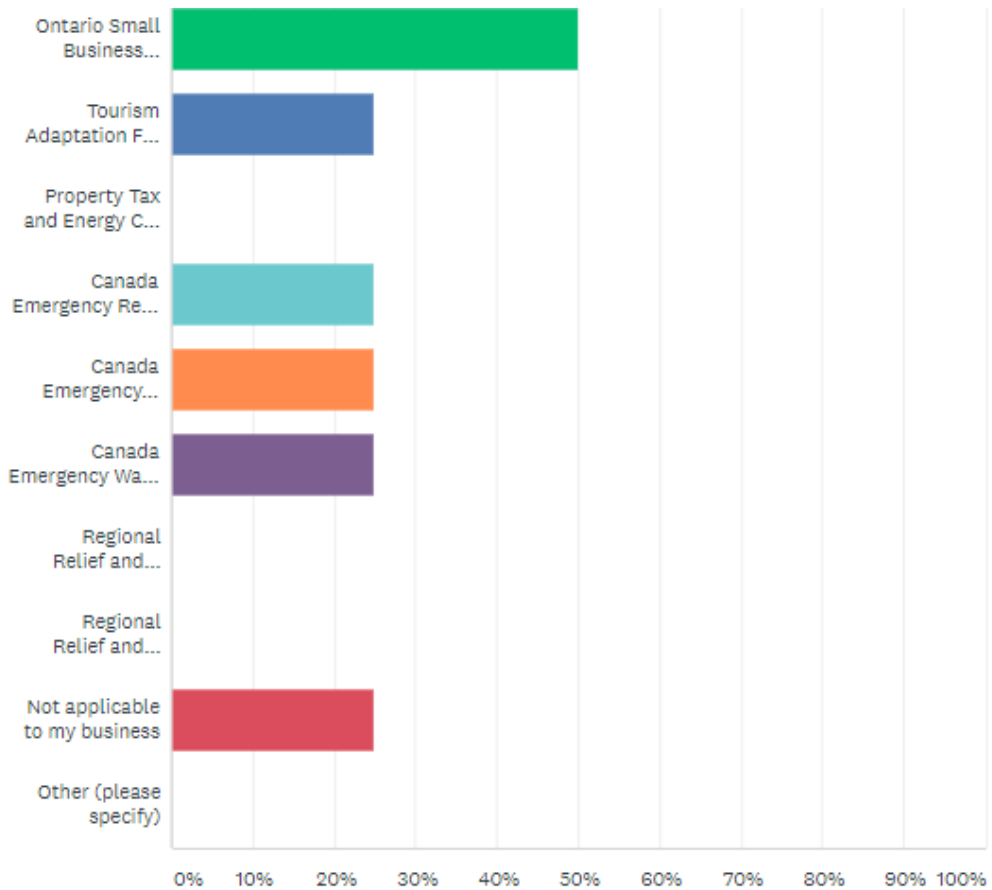


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes (proceed to question 8)	42.86% 3
No (proceed to question 9)	57.14% 4
TOTAL	7

#8 If you answered yes to question #7, what government support programs did you access? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 4

Skipped: 3

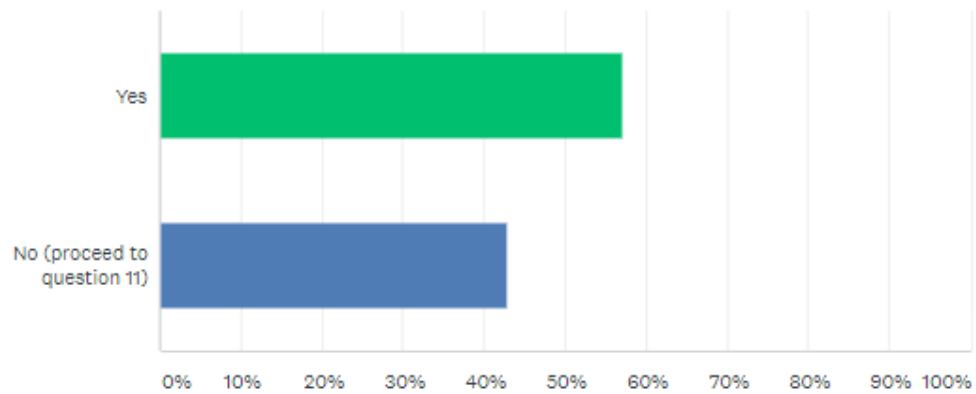


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ontario Small Business Support Grant	50.00%	2
Tourism Adaptation Fund (Regional Tourism Organization 9)	25.00%	1
Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebate	0.00%	0
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)	25.00%	1
Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)	25.00%	1
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – 75% (CEWS)	25.00%	1
Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) from local CFDC	0.00%	0
Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) from Fed Dev Ontario	0.00%	0
Not applicable to my business	25.00%	1
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 4		

#9 Have you had any problems accessing government support?

Answered: 7

Skipped: 0

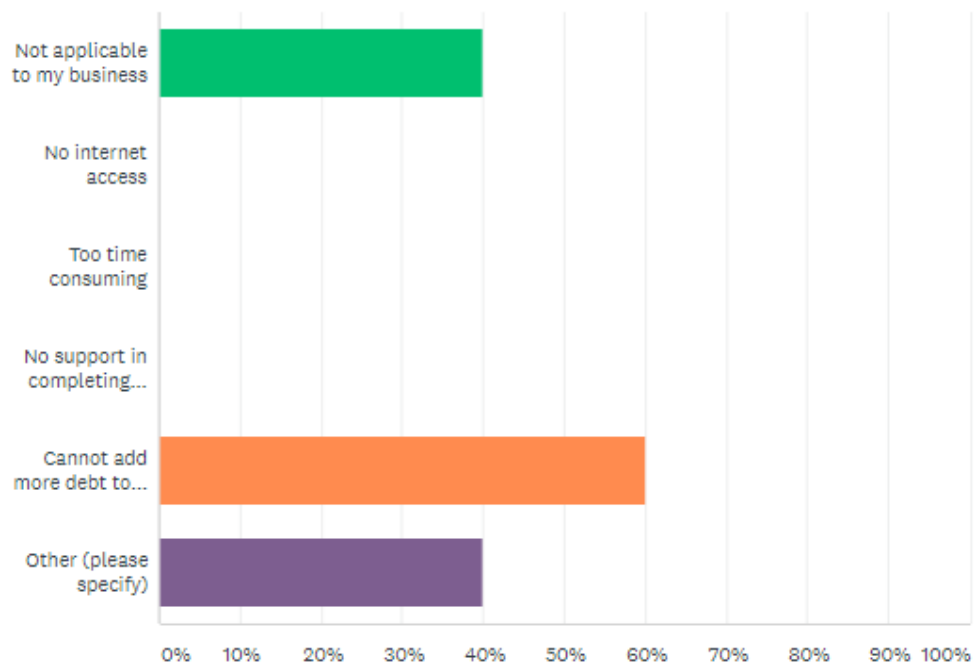


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.14%	4
No (proceed to question 11)	42.86%	3
TOTAL		7

#10 What type of problems have you had accessing government support? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 5

Skipped: 2



#10 continued...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not applicable to my business	40.00%	2
No internet access	0.00%	0
Too time consuming	0.00%	0
No support in completing application	0.00%	0
Cannot add more debt to business	60.00%	3
Other (please specify)	40.00%	2
Total Respondents: 5		

Other (please specify)

- OMAFRA gave funding to an un-qualified NFP OFA (who hired Farms.com) to create job post/job search "concierge" service that directly competes with all agriculture recruitment and search firms, mine included. Agri-business now gets services for free that my company has provided for over 30 years. I cannot survive for over 2 years until funding is gone.
- Relatively new businesses which started a year or two prior to the spring of 2020 can have low numbers starting out (trying to build the business), so the criteria for meeting the screening requirements for all government programs for companies such as ours has been impossible to meet as the business loss does not correlate the same way for us. Our business was steadily building but then went flat so the losses required to meet the requirement for government programs was impossible to meet, thus leaving us out in the cold. It is as though new businesses were not considered and were left to fend for themselves. We still have the same operating expenses (high insurance premiums, overhead, etc.) and as of now, all income goes towards paying these costs. We are to the point of deciding to shut the business down once it breaks even sometime next year if things stay the same.

#11 What type of support are you looking for from government right now? (Please specify.)

Answered: 7

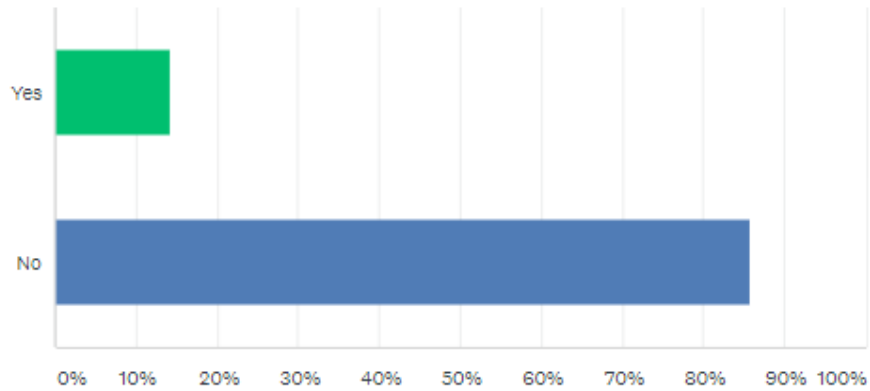
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- Grants. (3)
- Government needs to quit interfering in commerce. Job posts/fairs are not the problem in employment in agriculture, locality matched with candidate skills is. Local economic development agencies are more than capable of doing the same thing in their own regions.
- Rules and regulations specific to our business.
- Self-employed subsidy.
- Funding for home based business.
- Our competitor's business has also dropped off yet they have access to the available grants, etc. so they are buying new vehicles and are preparing to expand. The current system is lopsided.

#12 Would you like to receive assistance with your online presence (website presence, online shopping/eCommerce, digital marketing, social media)? Check yes or no and if yes, please provide your contact information in #14.

Answered: 7

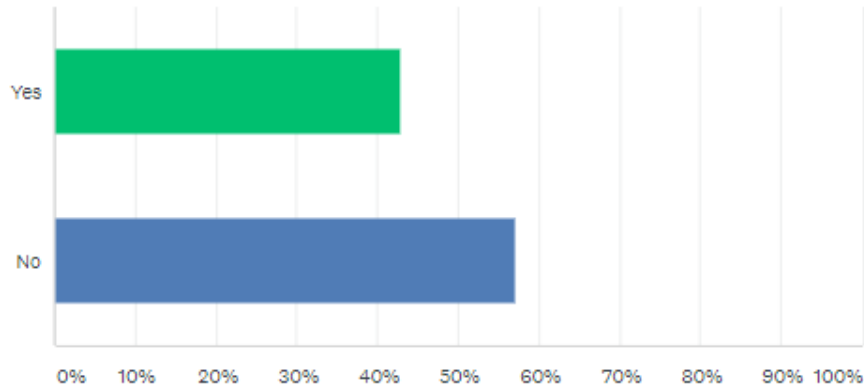
Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.29%	1
No	85.71%	6
TOTAL		7

#13 If you would like to speak to someone regarding available support, please specify. Check yes or no and if yes, please provide your contact information in #14.

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	42.86% 3
No	57.14% 4
TOTAL	7

#14 If you answered yes to question #12 or #13, please provide your contact information.

Answered: 3 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Contact Name	Responses 100.00% 3
Business Name	Responses 100.00% 3
Contact Number	Responses 100.00% 3
Email	Responses 100.00% 3

Additional Notes:

- Survey Timeframe: May 4 – May 18, 2021
- Survey Distribution: Businesses that were part the Counties Economic Development business directory, with active email addresses, received the Covid-19 survey directly. In addition, some members of Business Support Working Group distributed the survey through their membership lists and social media channels.
- Government of Ontario implemented a Province-wide Emergency Brake on April 3rd for a minimum of 4-weeks. On April 8th a Stay-at-Home order was issued and on May 13th it was further extended until June 2nd

Business Support Working Group:

Municipalities

Athens | Augusta | Brockville | Edwardsburgh Cardinal | Elizabethtown-Kitley | Front of Yonge | Gananoque | Leeds and the Thousand Islands | Merrickville-Wolford | North Grenville | Prescott | Rideau Lakes | Westport

MP / MPP

MP Office of Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
MPP Office of Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

Community Futures Development Corporations

1000 Islands CDC | Grenville CFDC | Valley Heartland CFDC

Small Business Enterprise Centres

Leeds & Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre
Small Business Advisory Centre – Smiths Falls | Lanark

Chambers of Commerce

1000 Islands Gananoque | Brockville and District | Lyndhurst, Seeley's Bay & District | Merrickville and District | North Grenville | South Grenville

BIAs

Downtown Brockville | Downtown Gananoque | Old Town Kemptville

Employment Services

CSE Consulting | Employment and Education Centre | KEYS Job Centre

Other Business & Education Agencies

Regional Tourism Organization 9 | St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Development Commission | Eastern Ontario Workforce Innovation Board | Rideau Lakes Business Network | St. Lawrence College | Kemptville Campus Education and Community Hub

THANK-YOU!

On behalf of the Business Support Working Group, I would like to thank each business who took the time to complete the survey. Members of the Working Group will be reaching out to assist businesses who indicated they would like assistance. The Working Group contact list is available on the webpage, along with any new programs and resources as they become available.

Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

W: investleedsgrenville.com/covid19 | E: ann.weir@uclg.on.ca