

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS SURVEY

Preliminary Findings on Survey of Export Performance, Wage and Price Growth, and Business Challenges

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PROJECT PARTNERS

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Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Bank of Canada (BOC)

EnviroNics
Big River Analytics

INTRODUCTION

This project will enhance our understanding of the Indigenous business and exporting experience, including the opportunities and challenges facing these firms when exporting or growing their businesses, the impacts of COVID-19, and the business operating environment in Indigenous economies.

A nationally-representative survey of more than 2,600 Indigenous entrepreneurs, combined with business censuses on 5 First Nations reserves, will shed light on these experiences to inform equitable government approaches for the benefit of Indigenous businesses and communities, including trade policies and programs and monetary policy. Indigenous leaders and businesses can also benefit from enhanced data on challenges and strengths in a comprehensive way.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

Telephone interviews were conducted with 2,603 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis business owners across Canada between May 10 and September 22, 2021. This sample was drawn from CCAB's extensive list of Indigenous-owned enterprises, which is regularly updated

Respondent Profile

Identity

First Nations	1,670 (64%)
Inuit	203 (8%)
Métis	730 (28%)

Region

Western Canada	1,217 (50%)
Central Canada	915 (36%)
Atlantic Canada	219 (9%)
Territories	151 (6%)

Size

No employees	103 (6%)
<20 employees	1,297 (74%)
20-99 employees	282 (16%)
100+ employees	50 (3%)

Ethical Standards

Strong information governance and data sovereignty are an integral part of conducting research with indigenous communities. As an Indigenous-led organization, CCAB will safeguard national survey data and control access of external analysts.

Furthermore, the survey scope and questionnaire was reviewed by an Indigenous business and academic advisory committee, and the survey design follows the Canadian Research Insights Council's professional standards and applicable federal regulations.

In the project's next stage, CCAB will promote research cooperation and co-ownership of the data, with five census-like surveys of businesses based on First Nation reserves or self-governed territory.

OBJECTIVES

Indigenous Business Conditions

Data on the Indigenous economy must be updated frequently to ensure well-informed decisions are made by indigenous community leaders, contributing to long-term prosperity and self-determination, and government policymakers, to support growth of Indigenous communities.

For this reason, CCAB seeks a variety of information on types of indigenous businesses, years in business, location, industry, revenue, employees, and business requirements.

International Trade

Understanding Indigenous businesses' experience with international trade can help policymakers ensure that Canada's trade agreements, policies and exporter programs are crafted to ensure that the benefits of trade can flow to Indigenous businesses and communities.

Survey questions have a special focus on the obstacles that Indigenous firms experience when exporting, and questions around what might prevent them from exporting altogether.

Prices and Wages

The Bank of Canada's mandate is to manage inflation for all Canadians. However, prices on reserves are not captured by Statistics Canada, and are thus excluded in measures of national inflation.

We aim to better understand how inflationary pressure from business inputs such as commodities, business services or wages, translate into output price pressures for Indigenous businesses

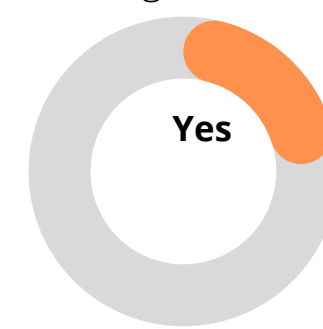
NEXT STEPS

After closing the nationwide survey of Indigenous firms, project partners are weighting the data to represent the specific business operating contexts in First Nation communities as close as possible. CCAB will also join five First Nation governments to interview community-based businesses and entrepreneurs.

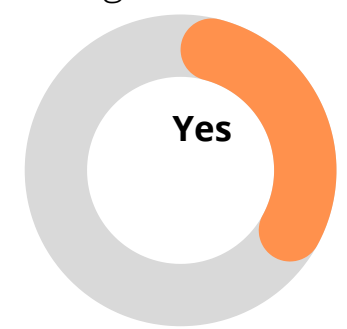
CCAB and GAC will co-publish two studies in 2022 on the business features and barriers faced by Indigenous-owned businesses with a special focus on exporters.

SELECT PRELIMINARY RESULTS*

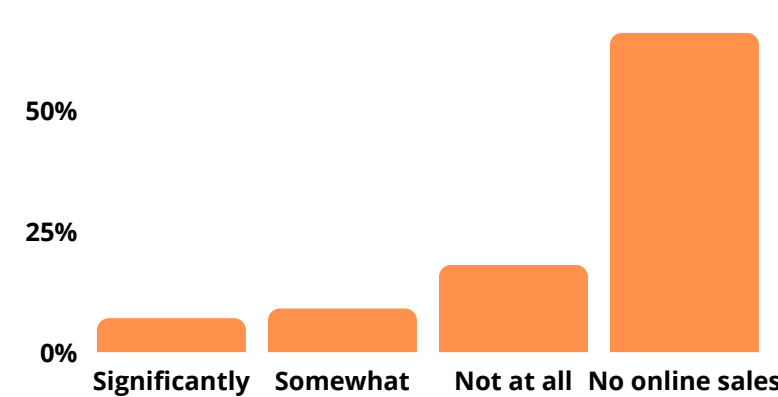
Is your firm owned by a First Nation band or Indigenous community?



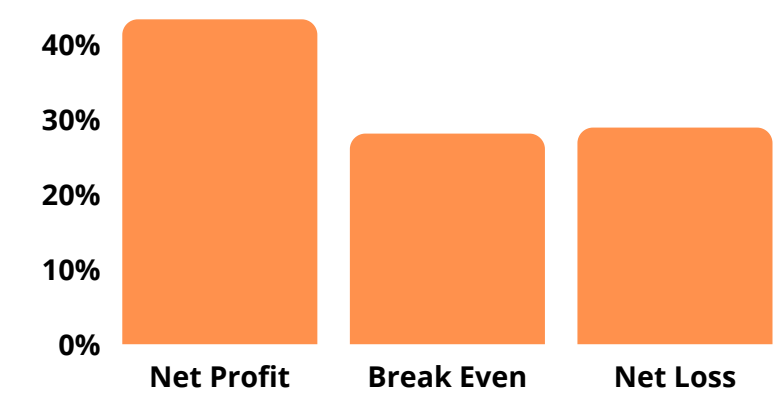
If yes, is it owned by an Indigenous Economic Development Organization?



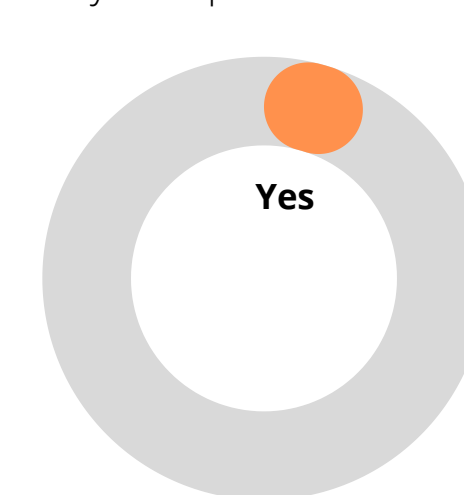
Has COVID-19 increased your share of online sales?



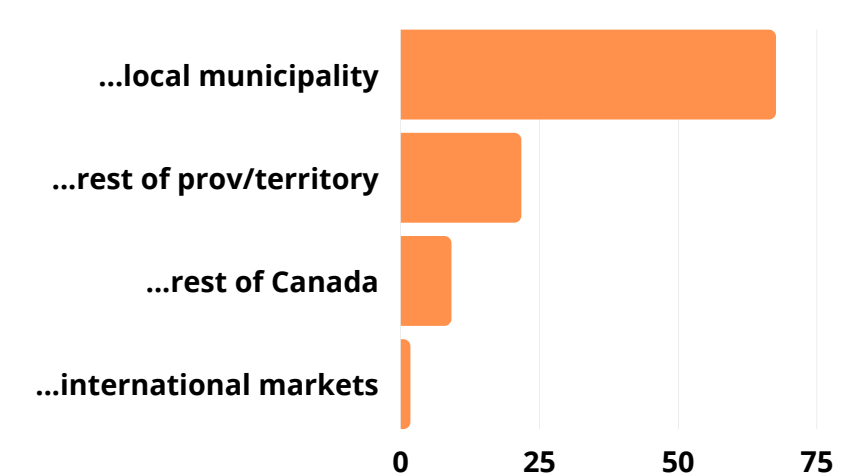
In 2020, did your business have a...?



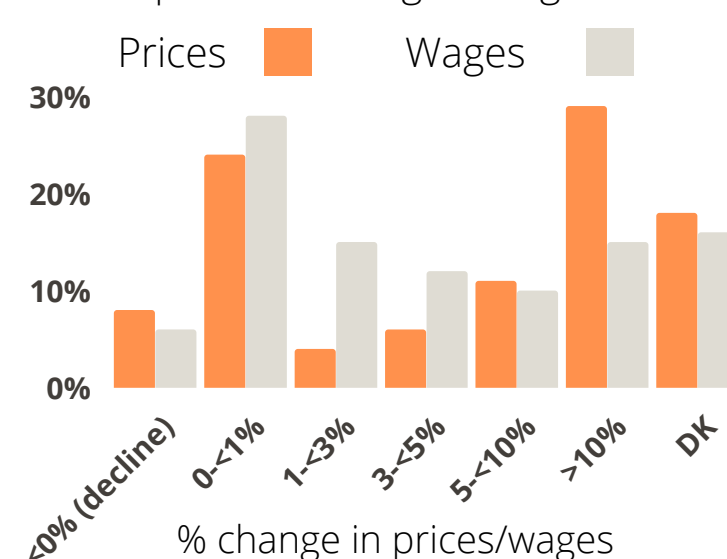
Did you export in 2020?



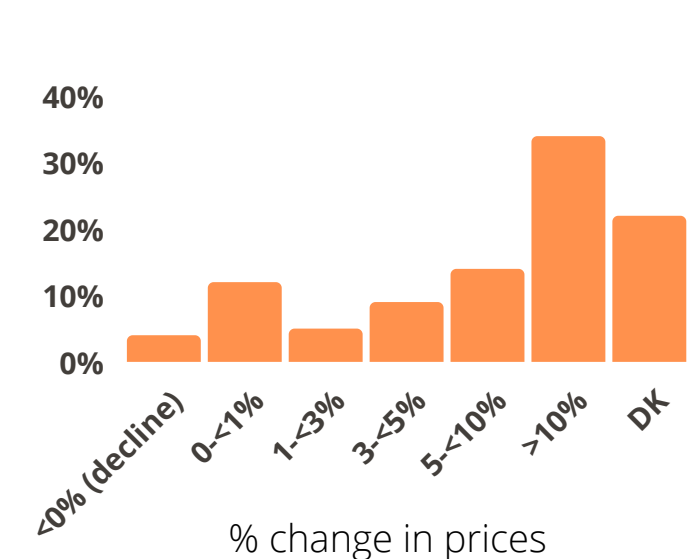
What share of your revenue came from customers in...?



By how much do you expect your firms' prices and wages will grow?



What do you expect overall inflation to be in the next 12 months?



*preliminary results of unweighted survey data. Results of firms outside indigenous communities will be weighted based on Statistics Canada's Business Register distribution of firms by size and industry. Results of firms in indigenous communities will be weighted based on the distributions derived from the upcoming census of indigenous businesses.

RELATED LITERATURE

Arriagada, Frank, Hahmann and Hou (2020). Economic impact of COVID-19 among Indigenous people. Statistics Canada.

Bélanger Baur (2019). Indigenous-Owned Exporting Small and Medium Enterprises in Canada. Global Affairs Canada & Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

The National Indigenous Economic Development Board (2019). The Indigenous Economic Progress Report.