

Study: An analysis of Canadian business support programs in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic

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With the emergence of COVID-19, Canadian governments at all levels adopted numerous policy initiatives to address the financial challenges businesses faced. Some of these programs were designed to provide wage subsidies, emergency credit and operating funds for businesses, which altogether represented billions of dollars in support.

A new study explores the uptake of the key federal government business support programs, such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), across various dimensions using preliminary results from Statistics Canada's Canadian COVID-19 Business Support Measures database, a standardized set of data covering government support programs for businesses.

Most COVID-19 business support dollars accounted for by two main programs

Among the study's findings, roughly \$160 billion of funds were delivered to over one million businesses. CEWS served as the primary vehicle of support (over 60% of total funds disbursed), followed by the Canada Emergency Business Account (27% of total funds disbursed), which had the widest reach in terms of the number of recipients.

Most businesses participated in only one support program, with very few participating in all seven programs included in this analysis. Recipients from the accommodation and food services sector applied for more business support programs compared with other sectors and represented the greatest share of businesses applying to all seven programs.

For more information, please see the full study, "[An analysis of Canadian business support programs in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic](#)."

Note to readers

The analysis contained in this study is based on preliminary results from Statistics Canada's Canadian COVID-19 Business Support Measures database. This database integrates data from a variety of business support programs. The process used to allocate program amounts by industry, sector and business size as well as the vintage of source data used result in estimates that may not necessarily align with official program costs.



Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [1901](#).

The study, "[An analysis of Canadian business support programs in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic](#)," which is part of *Latest Developments in the National Accounts* ([13-605-X](#)), is now available.

The [Economic accounts statistics](#) portal, accessible from the *Subjects* module of the Statistics Canada website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

The *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-606-G](#)) is available.

The *Methodological Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-607-X](#)) is available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).