How are postsecondary students in Canada impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Between April 19 and May 1, 2020, over 100,000 postsecondary students let Statistics Canada know how they have been impacted by COVID-19. Here is what participants said.

For many students, academic work was delayed, postponed or cancelled.

Proportion of participants who reported the following academic impacts:

- 26% Some courses cancelled or postponed
- 35% Planned work placement delayed or cancelled
- 10% Not able to complete some or all courses
- 11% Not able to complete credential as planned
- 92% Some or all courses moved online

Many students reported experiencing labour market disruptions.

Participants with jobs or job prospects at the beginning of March who reported employment changes:

- 48% Lost job or temporarily laid off
- 26% Worked reduced hours
- 49% Lost job prospects

Students are worried about their studies, financial situation, and jobs.

Proportion of participants who are “very” or “extremely” concerned about:

- 68% Using up savings
- 67% Having no job prospects for the near future
- 63% Effect of pandemic on grades
- 58% Loss of jobs in the future
- 54% Having to take on more student debt
- 51% Difficulty paying for tuition next term
- 51% Inability to keep up with other bills and payments
- 50% Inability to pay for accommodations next term
- 47% Inability to return to school next term
- 40% Credential not being considered equivalent to those not affected by COVID-19
- 39% Lack of opportunities for research funding


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