

Business conditions in Canada,

fourth quarter of 2021

Business expectations over the next three months

- 74.4%** expect to keep the same number of employees
- 52.9%** expect profitability to remain relatively unchanged
- 42.5%** expect the rising cost of inputs to be an obstacle
- 25.9%** expect to raise the prices of goods and services
- 22.8%** expect demand for products and services to increase
- 18.9%** expect sales to decrease



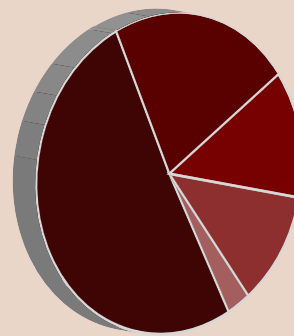
Expected labour-related obstacles over the next three months



- 35.4%** expect recruiting skilled employees to be an obstacle
- 32.7%** expect labour force shortage to be an obstacle
- 26.1%** expect retaining skilled employees to be an obstacle

Business outlook over the next 12 months

50.7% have a somewhat optimistic outlook



21.9% have a very optimistic outlook

13.1% are uncertain of their outlook

11.6% have a somewhat pessimistic outlook

2.7% have a very pessimistic outlook

Business recruitment, retention and training plans over the next 12 months

- 48.3%** plan to increase the wages of existing employees
- 27.0%** plan to encourage employees to participate in on-the-job training
- 25.1%** plan to increase the wages of new employees
- 16.0%** plan to provide employees with paid time to engage in learning and development programs
- 10.5%** plan to increase benefits offered to new employees

Business survival



- 33.3%** reported that the **absence of government support programs** in the next 12 months would have a **medium-to-high impact** on their business survival
- 19.4%** reported that they **were unable to take on more debt**
- 15.1%** reported that it would be a **major challenge to repay** funding received from repayable government support programs
- 5.6%** plan to **transfer, sell or close** their business

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Business Conditions, fourth quarter of 2021.

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