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## Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheet

# The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training: A regional analysis and international perspective

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# Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheet

by Jaclyn Layton

## The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training: A regional analysis and international perspective

The proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) is an indicator that is used worldwide to identify youth at risk of social disconnection and exclusion during their transition from education to employment.

Over the course of the pandemic, measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 posed unprecedented disruptions for youth aged 15 to 29 with the shift to virtual learning, loss of employment opportunities and the decline of mental health and wellbeing.<sup>1</sup> NEET rates for youth aged 15 to 29 increased in response to these changing economic and social conditions.<sup>2</sup> While the economic fallout that resulted from the global health crisis has reached far and wide – the international, regional, and individual impacts on NEET rates are varied.

This fact sheet presents data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) between 2019 and 2021. The data is presented by age group, selected OECD member country, province/territory and individual characteristics to better understand youth transitions between education and the labour market in Canada before and during the first two years of the pandemic.

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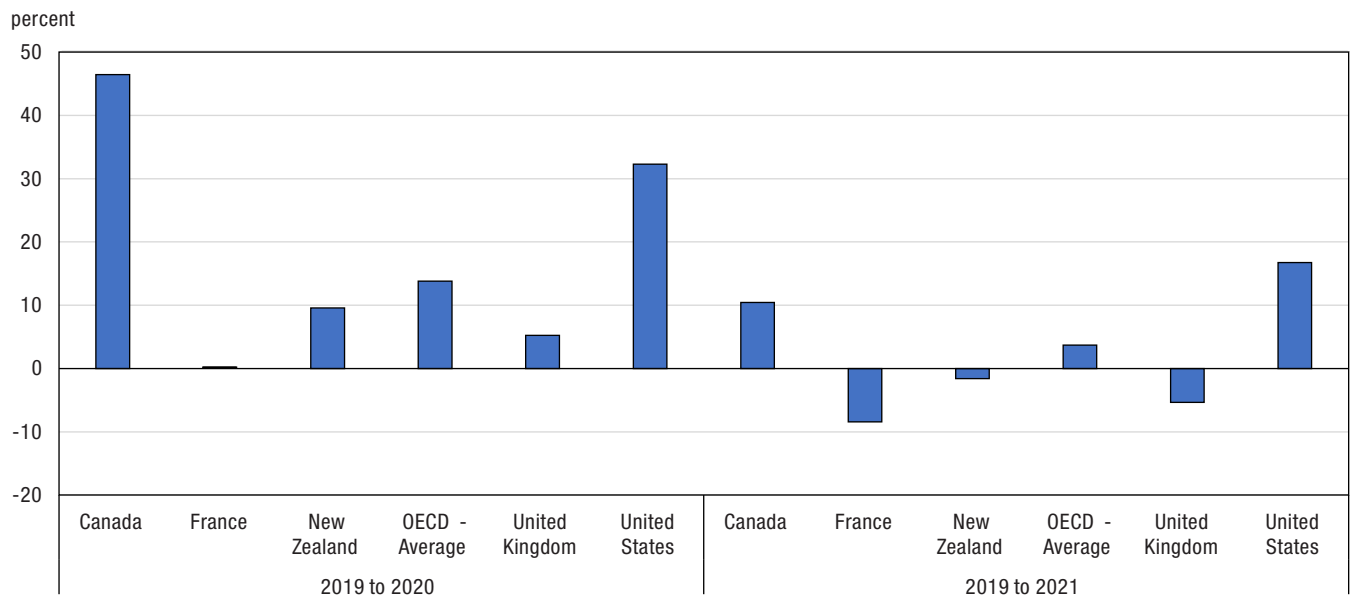
1. See Statistics Canada (2021b).

2. NEET rates are typically broken into three age groups to better reflect the life stages of youth. Those aged 15 to 19 are the most likely to be in education, while 25- to 29-year-olds tend to be in the labour market. Youth aged 20 to 24 are often transitioning from education to employment.

## The increase in NEET rates was greater in Canada and the United States during the first year of the pandemic, relative to other OECD member countries

Prior to the pandemic, Canada's NEET rate was 13 percent, compared with the OECD average of 14 percent in 2019.<sup>3</sup> Across OECD member countries, the annual NEET rate increased by 14 percent for youth aged 18 to 24 from 2019 to 2020.<sup>4</sup> The largest increases in youth NEET among the selected OECD countries were seen in Canada and the United States, where the NEET rates increased by 46 and 33 percent respectively, over the first year of the pandemic.

**Chart 1**  
Percent change in pre-pandemic vs pandemic annual NEET rates for 18-to 24-year-olds by age group and country, 2019 to 2020 and 2019 to 2021



Source: Education at a Glance, 2022.

## Canada experienced stricter health measures in 2021, affecting youth in jobs impacted by these restrictions

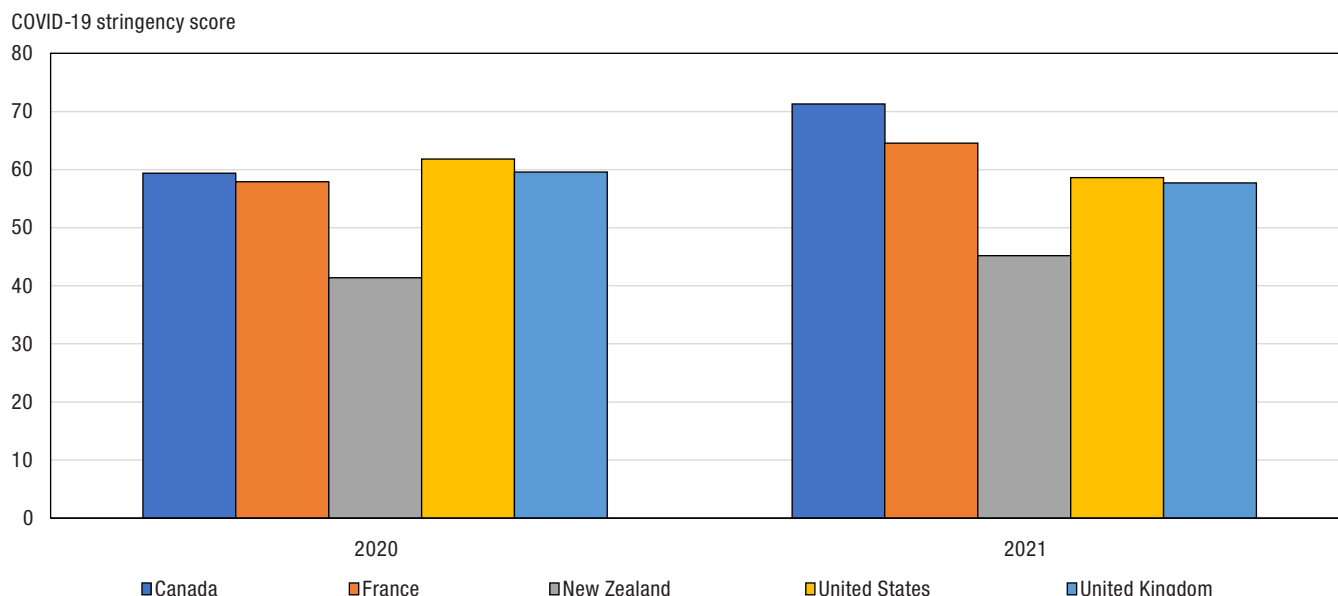
Around the globe, countries enacted public health measures that could potentially affect NEET rates, either through the transition to remote learning or restrictions that affected employment. The stringency of public health measures among the selected countries was relatively similar in 2020, but in 2021 Canada recorded higher stringency scores (71.2 compared with an average of 59.4 in the selected countries) according to the international COVID-19 stringency index.<sup>5</sup>

3. See Education at a Glance (2022).

4. Traditional quarterly data were largely influenced by waves of the pandemic, but COVID-19 impacted nations at different times and paces. As a result, annual NEET rates were calculated by the OECD to allow for comparative analysis. See OECD (2022a).

5. The international COVID-19 stringency score sheds light on the degree to which education and employment were disrupted over the course of the pandemic. The stringency score reflects the stringency of restrictions ranging from 0 (no restrictions) to 100 (all restrictions). See Clarke et al. (2022).

**Chart 2**  
**COVID-19 Stringency Score by country**



Source: Our World in Data, 2022.

The effects of these restrictions may differ because of the types of jobs typically held by youth in a given country. Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States are largely characterized by a deregulated labour market, with many entry-level jobs.<sup>6</sup> Youth in these countries were employed in industries that may have been more affected by measures implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, in Canada, youth may have been comparatively worse off due to their relatively high concentration in industries that were hit hard by public health measures.

By 2021, the NEET rate had returned to levels comparable to before the pandemic for all the selected OECD countries.<sup>8</sup> This result followed the implementation of various government measures to support young people back into education and the labour market, the easing of pandemic-related restrictions, and broader economic recovery.<sup>9</sup>

### Ontario and Quebec had the highest stringency scores during the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting economic and education opportunities for youth

Within Canada, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NEET rates varied among the provinces and territories and across age groups. One of the reasons for this variation is that public health measures are applied at the provincial/territorial level and differed in terms of stringency, timing and duration. Ontario and Quebec consistently had the highest stringency scores among the provinces, indicating more severe measures were in place.<sup>10</sup> The prairies, alternatively, scored the lowest. In addition to posing disruptions to learning, recent research found that

6. See Deng et al. (2022).

7. These industries include food services, accommodation, and arts and recreation sectors. See Morrisette (2021).

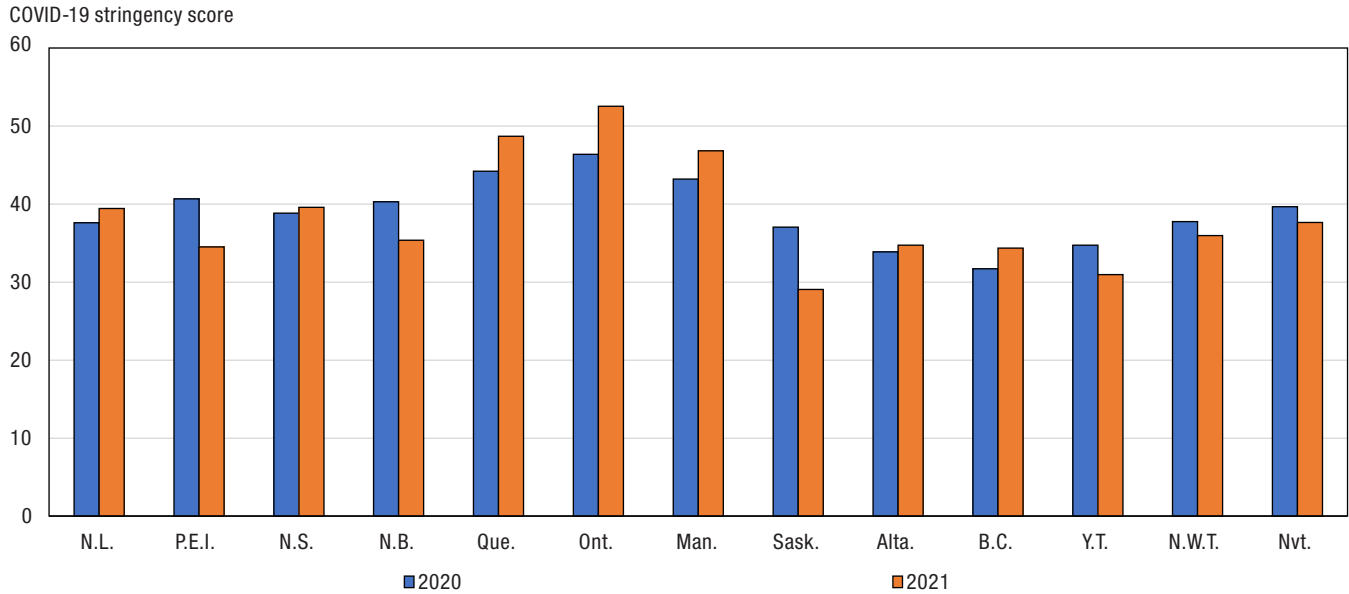
8. See OECD (2022a).

9. Programs to curb the impact of COVID-19 were introduced in Canada, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). These emergency income support programs were targeted at qualifying individuals that lost employment during the pandemic. While broad income support measures tend to be less accessible to youth, especially when linked to employment requirements – Canadian students were able to access income support directly targeted at students. The United States offered Economic Impact Payments as a form of income support over the pandemic.

10. The provincial/territorial COVID-19 Stringency Index measures the severity of containment policies related to COVID-19. For each province or territory, the restrictions index is the average of 15 policy-specific indexes where the policy-specific indexes are normalized values of corresponding policy indicators. See Clarke et al. (2022).

tighter public health restrictions on business and personal activity were associated with a slowing of economic activity in Canada, impacting youth employment.<sup>11 12</sup>

**Chart 3**  
**COVID-19 Stringency Score by province and territory**



Source: Clarke et al., Statistics Canada, 2020 and 2021.

**Atlantic “bubble” provided labour market protection for 25- to 29-year-olds, while those in Quebec, Ontario experience extended lockdowns and unfavourable labour market conditions**

There is evidence that the so-called Atlantic “bubble” experienced less of an economic impact since the onset of the pandemic.<sup>13</sup> The public health measures in place resulted in fewer restrictions for businesses and schools, which is reflected in the relatively low stringency scores of the Atlantic provinces (39.3 in 2020 and 37.2 in 2021). Youth employment in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador exceeded pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and NEET rates were stable.

Similarly, British Columbia had a relatively low stringency score in 2020 (31.7) and 2021 (34.3) and experienced the strongest employment recovery in Canada between 2020 and 2021, where the number of operational businesses has surpassed pre-pandemic levels.<sup>14</sup> Consequently, the NEET rate for 25- to 29-year-olds in British Columbia remained stable from 2019 to 2021.

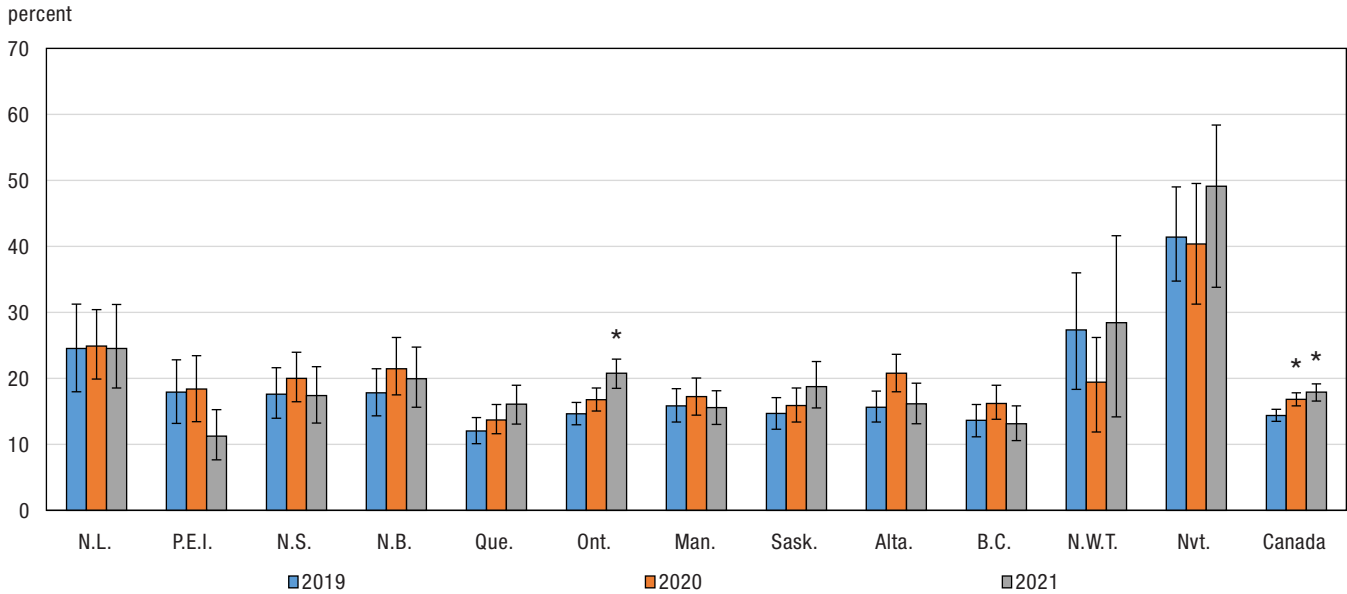
Higher stringency scores in Ontario (46.3 in 2020 and 52.5 in 2021) and Quebec (44.2 in 2020 and 48.6 in 2021), conversely, were linked to lower employment levels than in 2019.<sup>15</sup> In Quebec, the NEET rate for youth aged 25 to 29 increased from 12 to 16 percent between 2019 and 2021. In Ontario, youth aged 25 to 29 also felt the

11. According to an online crowdsourcing data collection on the impact of the pandemic on postsecondary students, undertaken by Statistics Canada through April to May 2020, 57% of participants reported that their academic work placements or courses were either delayed, postponed or cancelled.  
 12. See Clarke et al. (2022).  
 13. The Atlantic bubble refers to a travel-restricted area where residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick could travel freely between provinces, while non-resident travel was restricted.  
 14. Operational business refers to the number of businesses operating in the business sector.  
 15. See Clarke et al. (2022).

repercussions of pandemic conditions into 2021 with one in five (20.7%) Ontario youth in NEET in 2021, compared with one in seven (14.6%) in 2019.

**Chart 4**

**Pre-pandemic vs pandemic NEET rates for 25-to 29-year-olds by province and territory, 2019, 2020 and 2021**



\* Values differ significantly from 2019

**Note:** NEET rates for the provinces/territories are calculated as 3-month averages over the months January to March. The 2020 reference period only includes 1 month where the labour market was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, NEET estimates for 2020 do not reflect the full impact of the pandemic. Yukon estimates suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.

### Prairie provinces saw the greatest sustained increase in NEET for youth aged 20 to 24

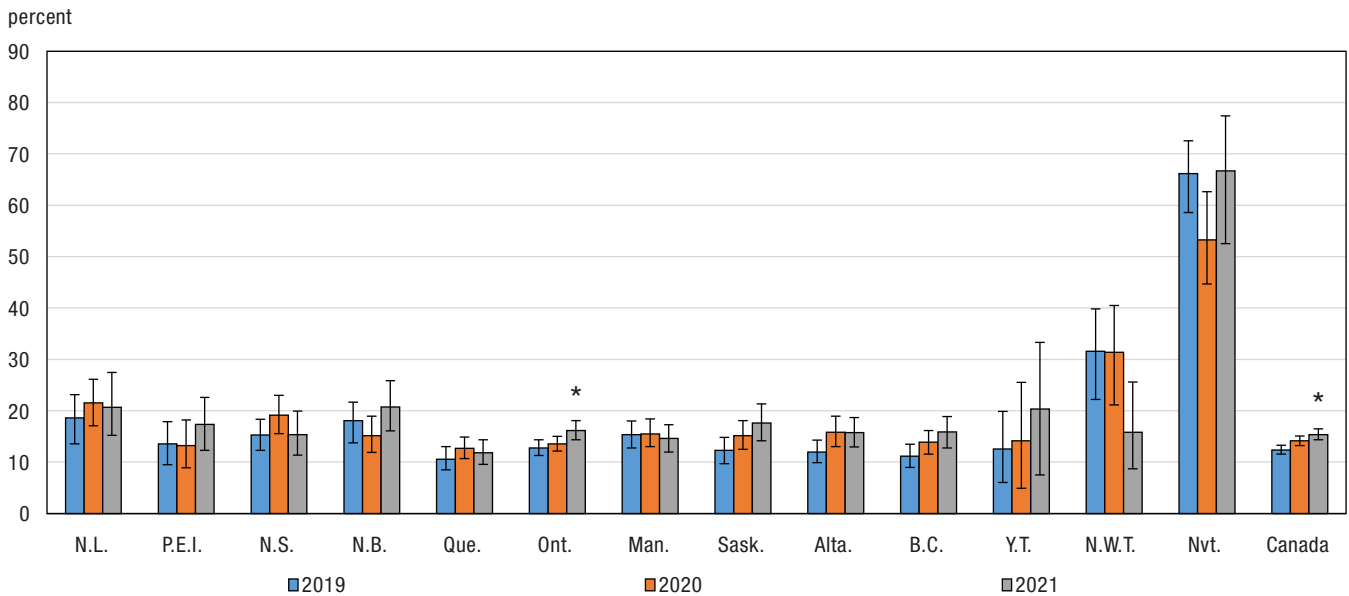
For youth aged 20 to 24, changes in the labour market were also a factor that affected the NEET rate. For example, Alberta’s economy was the hardest hit over the pandemic due to the economic downturn in the energy sector, which resulted in lower levels of employment for youth.<sup>16</sup> In this province, youth aged 20 to 24 experienced a sustained increase in the NEET rates relative to 2019 (four percentage points higher in both 2020 and 2021). Economic disruptions had a similar impact in Saskatchewan where the NEET rate increased by six percentage points in 2021, relative to pre-pandemic levels.<sup>17</sup>

16. See Statistics Canada (2021a).

17. Significant at 90% confidence, but not at 95% confidence.

Chart 5

Pre-pandemic vs pandemic NEET rates for 20- to 24-year-olds by province and territory, 2019, 2020 and 2021



\* Values differ significantly from 2019

**Note:** NEET rates for the provinces/territories are calculated as 3-month averages over the months January to March. The 2020 reference period only includes 1 month where the labour market was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, NEET estimates for 2020 do not reflect the full impact of the pandemic.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.

### Youth aged 15 to 19 in Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia most impacted by school closures

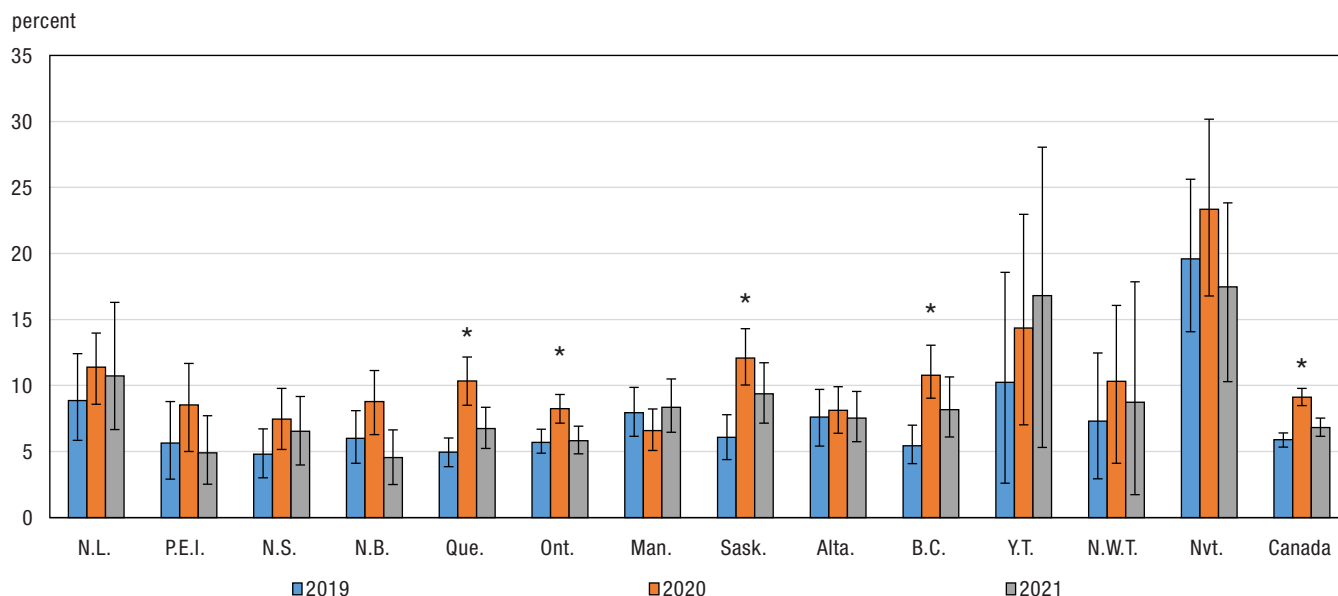
The youngest age group of 15- to 19-year-olds were most likely to be in school, and thus were likely the most affected by the school closures that occurred at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Relative to pre-pandemic NEET rates in 2019, the largest increases in 2020 were observed in Quebec (4.9 to 10.3%), Saskatchewan (6.0 to 12.0%) and British Columbia (5.4 to 10.7%). The increase in the NEET rate was primarily due to a decline in youth participating in education across Canada between 2019 and 2020 (-3.8 percentage points), likely due to changes in the delivery of education rather than youth leaving school entirely.<sup>18</sup> By 2021, however, those aged 15 to 19 generally returned to education.

18. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.



Chart 6

Pre-pandemic vs pandemic NEET rates for 15-to 19-year-olds by province and territory, 2019, 2020 and 2021



\* Values differ significantly from 2019

**Note:** NEET rates for the provinces/territories are calculated as 3-month averages over the months January to March. The 2020 reference period only includes 1 month where the labour market was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, NEET estimates for 2020 do not reflect the full impact of the pandemic.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.

## NEET rates for Indigenous youth did not increase significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic

Even prior to the pandemic, the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training varied among different groups of youth across the country. For example, NEET rates have historically been higher for Indigenous youth than non-Indigenous youth<sup>19</sup> as Indigenous youth face additional barriers such as accessing quality education that is culturally sensitive. In addition, some Indigenous youth must leave their communities in pursuit of education and employment opportunities, that may cause cultural dislocation and exposure to discrimination.<sup>20</sup>

While the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training is significantly different between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, the pandemic NEET rates for Indigenous youth residing off reserve did not increase to the same degree as they did for non-Indigenous youth during the pandemic.<sup>21</sup>

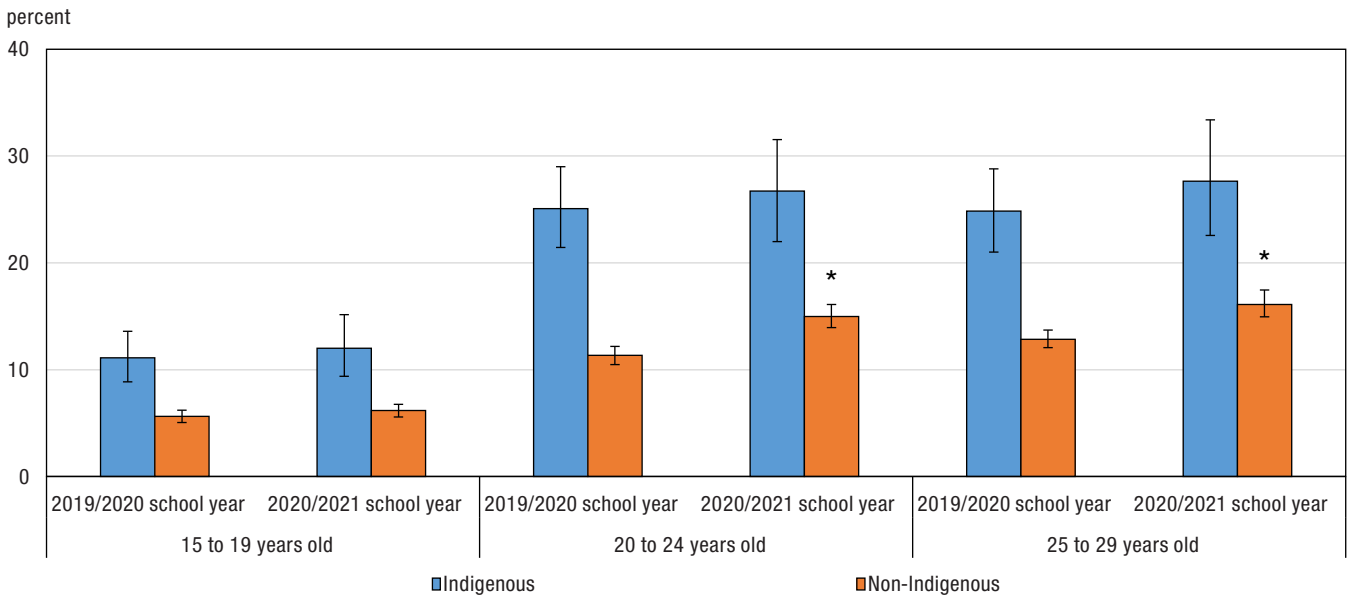
19. The analysis for Indigenous people excludes persons living in the Territories, living on reserves and other Indigenous settlements in the provinces.

20. See Arriagada (2021).

21. NEET rates for Indigenous youth are calculated as a 6-month average to ensure sufficient sample size. This average is based on the school year, including months September to February. February was chosen as the cut-off to exclude the effects of COVID-19, which are captured in the March 2020 reference week.

Chart 7

Pre-pandemic vs pandemic NEET rates for 15- to 29-year-olds by Indigenous Identity, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021



\* Values differ significantly between September 2019-February 2020 and September 2020-February 2021.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, September 2019-February 2020 and September 2020-February 2021.

### Additional impacts of public health measures included safety concerns and adverse effects on mental health

Women with lower levels of education, immigrants and individuals with mental or physical health concerns faced additional challenges, putting them at greater risk of falling into the NEET category.

Women aged 25 to 29 with an education level lower than high school completion had one of the largest increases (+37.2%) in the proportion of NEET in 2021, relative to 2019, compared with an increase of 25.0% for men in the same category. This finding fits into a larger body of research that suggests women of all ages have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to their concentration in the services sector, which is relatively sensitive to public health measures.<sup>22</sup>

Additionally, immigrant youth experienced a larger increase in NEET rates relative to non-immigrant youth, particularly for those aged 15 to 19 (63% higher than 2019 NEET levels). For this age group, the proportion of immigrant youth NEET increased from 4 to 7 percent from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021, while the NEET rate for non-immigrant youth remained stable at 6 percent. For those aged 15 to 19, this increase in NEET was primarily due to a decrease in the number of those attending school, which was not observed for Canadian-born students.<sup>23</sup> This finding is consistent with recent work indicating that immigrants disproportionately felt the effects of COVID-19. For example, immigrants have faced greater health risks and poorer perceived safety during the pandemic.<sup>24 25</sup>

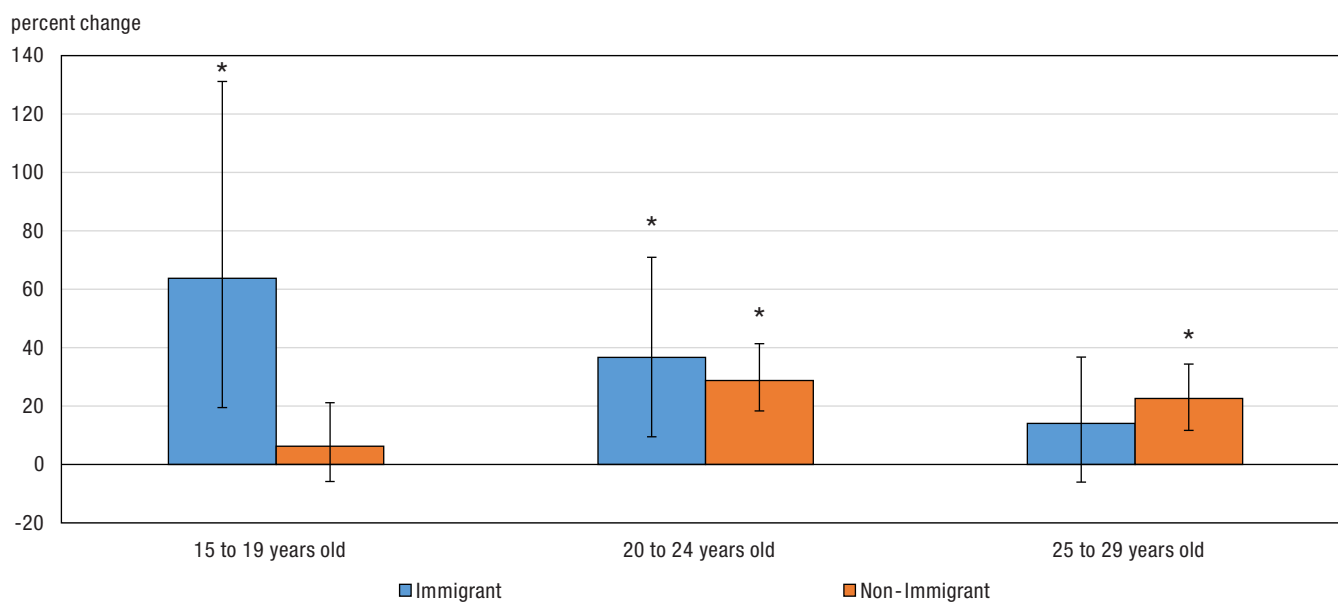
22. Some examples of service industries include entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services, etc. See Grekou and Lu (2021).

23. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) asks respondents if they are attending school. It is unclear how this question was interpreted with the shift to virtual learning (i.e., students enrolled in school vs attending school). For this reason, this estimate should be read with caution.

24. New immigrants are more likely to be low income and employed in workplaces associated with higher risk of infection. See Ng (2021) and LaRochelle-Côté and Uppal (2020).

25. See Bourbeau and Pelletier (2019) and Wall (2021).

**Chart 8**  
Percent change in pre-pandemic (2019/2020 school year) vs pandemic (2020/2021 school year) NEET rates for 15- to 29-year-olds by immigrant status



\* Values differ significantly between September 2019-February 2020 and September 2020-February 2021.  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, September 2019-February 2020 and September 2020-February 2021.

The mental health of youth in Canada was particularly affected by the pandemic, which can contribute to whether an individual is able to participate in employment, education or training.<sup>26</sup> More Canadian youth reported that they did not look for a job due to their own illness or disability in 2020/2021, relative to pre-pandemic levels.<sup>27</sup>

The mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also affected those who were employed. Recent data from the LFS indicates that the prevalence of mental health-related disability among employed youth increased from 2019 to 2021, particularly for women (9.6 to 17.2%), which is consistent with other studies that have examined the challenges faced by Canadians over the course of the pandemic.<sup>28</sup>

26. Those aged 18 to 34 were the least likely to report excellent or very good mental health (57.5% compared with 63.9% of the total population) according to the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) conducted in the fall of 2020. Beyond this, one in four young Canadian's reported a need for mental health care (25.5%), with over half (53%) of these individuals reporting their mental health needs went unmet.  
27. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides information on whether inactive respondents want a job. Those who do report wanting employment are asked why they did not look for one. Reporting illness or disability is one response option.  
28. Youth in this study refers to those aged 16 to 24. See Statistics Canada (2022).

## Conclusion

On an international scale, youth aged 18 to 24 in Canada and the United States experienced the largest increases in NEET rates – while youth in the United Kingdom faced subtler effects relative to the OECD average. Many factors likely play into the international experience of COVID-19, including the strength of public health measures applied across regions and the prevalence of youth employed in industries that are sensitive to those measures. While the stringency of public health measures among the selected countries was relatively similar in 2020, Canada had more restrictive measures in 2021.

In Canada, differences in the stringency of public health measures applied at the provincial/territorial level may have impacted NEET youth, through both school closures and persistent lockdowns affecting economic activity. The former is more likely to have played a role in the experience of youth aged 15 to 19 in Quebec and Saskatchewan, where the largest increase in NEET rates was observed. Economic contractions are more likely to have affected youth aged 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 in the prairies and Ontario, as labour market opportunities responded to declines in the energy, manufacturing and hospitality sectors.

Additionally, certain population groups were disproportionately affected by COVID-19. For example, women aged 25 to 29 who did not have a high school diploma experienced a particularly large increase (+37.2%) in the proportion of youth NEET in 2021. Immigrant youth aged 15 to 19 also experienced an increase in the NEET rate primarily due to a decrease in those attending school, which was not observed for Canadian-born youth.

This study has provided a high-level analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on NEET rates, and how they varied between countries and between regions within Canada. Future work might focus on the progress of groups vulnerable to falling into the NEET category, including Indigenous people, students, young women and immigrant youth. Additionally, analysis of the international response to COVID-19 may shed light on the best policy practices to support youth recovery around the globe.

**Table 1**  
**Annual NEET rates of youth aged 18 to 24, by detailed youth age group and country; 2019, 2020, 2021**

Age group and country	NEET (not in employment, education or training)				
	2019	2020	2021	Difference in NEET from 2019 to 2020	Difference in NEET from 2019 to 2021
				percent	
<b>18 to 24 years old</b>					
Canada	13.48	19.74	14.89	46.47	10.45
France	17.48	17.48	16.00	0.00	-8.44
New Zealand	12.97	14.21	12.76	9.55	-1.62
OECD - Average	14.56	16.58	15.10	13.81	3.71
United Kingdom	14.47	15.23	13.70	5.22	-5.36
United States	14.58	19.28	17.02	32.30	16.74

Source: Education at a Glance, 2022.

**Table 2**  
**COVID-19 Stringency Score by country, 2020 and 2021**

Country	2020	2021
		COVID-19 stringency score <sup>1</sup>
Canada	59.36	71.28
France	57.92	64.55
New Zealand	41.36	45.16
United States	61.81	58.61
United Kingdom	59.58	57.72

1. The stringency score reflects the stringency of public health measures ranging from 0 (no restrictions) to 100 (all restrictions).

Source: Our World in Data, 2022.

**Table 3**  
**COVID-19 Stringency Score by province and territory, 2020 and 2021**

Province/territory	2020	2021
		COVID-19 stringency score <sup>1</sup>
Newfoundland and Labrador	37.58	39.42
Prince Edward Island	40.67	34.52
Nova Scotia	38.82	39.56
New Brunswick	40.27	35.34
Quebec	44.20	48.67
Ontario	46.37	52.53
Manitoba	43.18	46.83
Saskatchewan	37.04	29.04
Alberta	33.85	34.72
British Columbia	31.71	34.34
Yukon	34.74	30.96
Northwest Territories	37.75	35.94
Nunuvut	39.66	37.62

1. The stringency score reflects the stringency of public health measures ranging from 0 (no restrictions) to 100 (all restrictions).

Source: Clarke et al., Statistics Canada, 2020 and 2021.

**Table 4**  
**NEET rates of youth aged 15 to 29, by detailed youth age group and province and territory;**  
**January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021**

Age group and province/territory	NEET (not in employment, education or training)		
	Jan-Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Jan-Mar 2021
	percent		
<b>15 to 19 years old</b>			
Canada	5.89	9.11*	6.82
Newfoundland and Labrador	8.87	11.38	10.72
Prince Edward Island	5.63	8.54	4.89
Nova Scotia	4.79	7.46	6.54
New Brunswick	6.00	8.78	4.55
Quebec	4.96	10.33*	6.74
Ontario	5.68	8.25*	5.83
Manitoba	7.94	6.58	8.36
Saskatchewan	6.08	12.08*	9.37
Alberta	7.62	8.12	7.54
British Columbia	5.44	10.78*	8.17
Yukon	10.23	14.36	16.80
Northwest Territories	7.30	10.31	8.73
Nunavut	19.59	23.35	17.47
<b>20 to 24 years old</b>			
Canada	12.36	14.11	15.36*
Newfoundland and Labrador	18.62	21.53	20.64
Prince Edward Island	13.56	13.24	17.32
Nova Scotia	15.27	19.14	15.31
New Brunswick	18.07	15.17	20.72
Quebec	10.53	12.71	11.81
Ontario	12.73	13.56	16.15*
Manitoba	15.37	15.48	14.58
Saskatchewan	12.30	15.13	17.57
Alberta	11.95	15.80	15.76
British Columbia	11.13	13.85	15.84
Yukon	12.55	14.12	20.31
Northwest Territories	31.56	31.35	15.83
Nunavut	66.16	53.23	66.68
<b>25 to 29 years old</b>			
Canada	14.39	16.81*	17.91*
Newfoundland and Labrador	24.55	24.91	24.51
Prince Edward Island	17.90	18.37	11.26
Nova Scotia	17.63	20.02	17.40
New Brunswick	17.81	21.46	19.95
Quebec	12.02	13.72	16.11
Ontario	14.64	16.80	20.78*
Manitoba	15.86	17.26	15.58
Saskatchewan	14.67	15.88	18.74
Alberta	15.63	20.79	16.15
British Columbia	13.67	16.21	13.14
Yukon	x	x	x
Northwest Territories	27.32	19.42	28.46
Nunavut	41.40	40.35	49.08

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

\* statistically significant difference from January-March 2019 ( $p < 0.05$ )

Source: Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.

**Table 5**  
**NEET rates of youth aged 15 to 29, by detailed youth age group and Indigenous identity; September-February 2020 and September-February 2021**

Age group and Indigenous identity	NEET (not in employment, education or training)	
	Sept 2019-Feb 2020	Sept 2020-Feb 2021
	percent	
<b>15 to 19 years old</b>		
Indigenous identity	11.11	12.00
Non-Indigenous identity	5.63	6.17
<b>20 to 24 years old</b>		
Indigenous identity	25.09	26.73
Non-Indigenous identity	11.35	14.97*
<b>25 to 29 years old</b>		
Indigenous identity	24.84	27.64
Non-Indigenous identity	12.86	16.11*

\* statistically significant difference between September-February 2020 and September-February 2021 ( $p < 0.05$ )

Source: Labour Force Survey, September-February 2020 and September-February 2021.

**Table 6**  
**NEET rates of youth aged 15 to 29, by detailed youth age group and Immigrant status; September-February 2020 and September-February 2021**

Age group and immigrant status	NEET (not in employment, education or training)		
	Sept 2019-Feb 2020	Sept 2020-Feb 2021	Difference in NEET from 2019 to 2020
	percent		
<b>15 to 19 years old</b>			
Immigrant	4.65	7.59	63.47*
Non-Immigrant	6.08	6.45	6.06
<b>20 to 24 years old</b>			
Immigrant	12.08	16.51	36.66*
Non-Immigrant	11.90	15.32	28.73*
<b>25 to 29 years old</b>			
Immigrant	16.58	18.90	13.99
Non-Immigrant	13.45	16.49	22.59*

\* statistically significant difference between September-February 2020 and September-February 2021 ( $p < 0.05$ )

Source: Labour Force Survey, September-February 2020 and September-February 2021.

**Table 7**  
**Proportion of inactive youth aged 15 to 29 not looking for work due to illness or disability, by detailed youth age group; September-February 2020 and September-February 2021**

Age group	Proportion unable to look for work due to illness or disability		
	Sept 2019-Feb 2020	Sept 2020-Feb 2021	Difference in NEET from 2019 to 2020
	percent		
15 to 19 years old	0.23	0.25	7.43
20 to 24 years old	1.36	0.73	-45.96*
25 to 29 years old	2.60	3.25	25.18

\* statistically significant difference between September-February 2020 and September-February 2021 ( $p < 0.05$ )

Source: Labour Force Survey, September-February 2020 and September-February 2021.

**Table 8**  
**NEET rates of youth aged 25 to 29 with educational attainment below upper secondary; January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021**

Sex	NEET (not in employment, education or training)			
	Jan-Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Difference in NEET from 2019 to 2020
	percent			
Both sexes	37.00	48.00	47.00	29.73
Females	43.00	55.00	59.00	27.91
Males	32.00	43.00	40.00	34.38

Source: Labour Force Survey, January-March 2019, January-March 2020 and January-March 2021.

## Data sources, Methods and Definitions

The data used in this fact sheet are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The sample is representative of Canada's population aged 15 years and older, and each respondent aged 15 and over is classified as employed, unemployed or not in the labour force (inactive).

In international comparisons, NEET rates are calculated using only the first three months of the reference year, in accordance with OECD methodology. For national and interprovincial comparisons, the OECD methodology is employed. For certain population groups (i.e., immigrants, Indigenous youth and those with mental or physical illness) NEET rates are calculated using the months from September to February in order to maximize the sample size.

The bootstrap method is employed to calculate standard error and includes sampling uncertainties. Confidence intervals on the percentages in this analysis correspond to the 95% confidence interval. The increase or decrease is deemed significant if the confidence interval does not include zero.

An immigrant refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants are Canadian citizens, while others are not.<sup>29</sup>

The Indigenous population is composed of persons who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit). Excluded from the survey's coverage are persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces, as well as those living in the territories.<sup>30</sup>

Both reported stringency measures are based on the methodology of the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) developed by the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government. The index on any given day is calculated as the mean score of the metrics, each taking a value between 0 and 100, with a higher score indicating a higher level of stringency. The annual COVID-19 Stringency measure reported is calculated as an average of the daily scores each year.

The international COVID-19 Stringency Index is calculated as a composite measure of nine of the response metrics including: school closures, workplace closures, cancellation of public events, restrictions on public gatherings, closures of public transport, stay-at-home requirements, public information campaigns, restrictions on internal movements, and international travel controls.

The provincial/territorial COVID-19 Stringency Index measures the severity of containment policies related to COVID-19. For each province or territory, the restrictions index is the average of 15 policy-specific indexes where the policy-specific indexes are normalized values of corresponding policy indicators. Eight of the indexes are derived (with some modifications) from the variables in the Oxford COVID-19 Stringency Index. Seven additional variables are added to the index to better reflect the policy stance of Canadian jurisdictions.<sup>31</sup>

29. See Statistics Canada (2020).

30. See Statistics Canada (2020).

31. See Clarke et al. (2022).



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