



The
CHAMBER.

COVID-19 Business Impact Report

Member Survey Results

20 March - 7 April, 2020



The Chamber.

P.O. Box 985

Timmins, ON | P4N 7H6

Message from the President



The Chamber is proactive in acting as your source for business information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. It is incumbent on all of us to follow the advice of medical experts and elected officials in order to minimize the impact of COVID-19. The Chamber Board and staff know the socio-economic impacts this crisis will have on our members and indeed the community at large.

Even the World Health Organization has identified chambers as essential partners to enhance information flows on the COVID-19 outbreak, reduce short-term risks to employees and long-term costs to businesses and the economy.

The board and staff of the Chamber know that this will mean hardship for many, including our members. Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have been in contact with representatives from all three levels of government advocating on your behalf for support that will help mitigate the damage being done to the business community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val Venneri'.

Val Venneri
2019-2020 Chamber President

Methodology

The survey was launched on March 20. As of April 13, it has received 74 responses from within the Chamber membership.

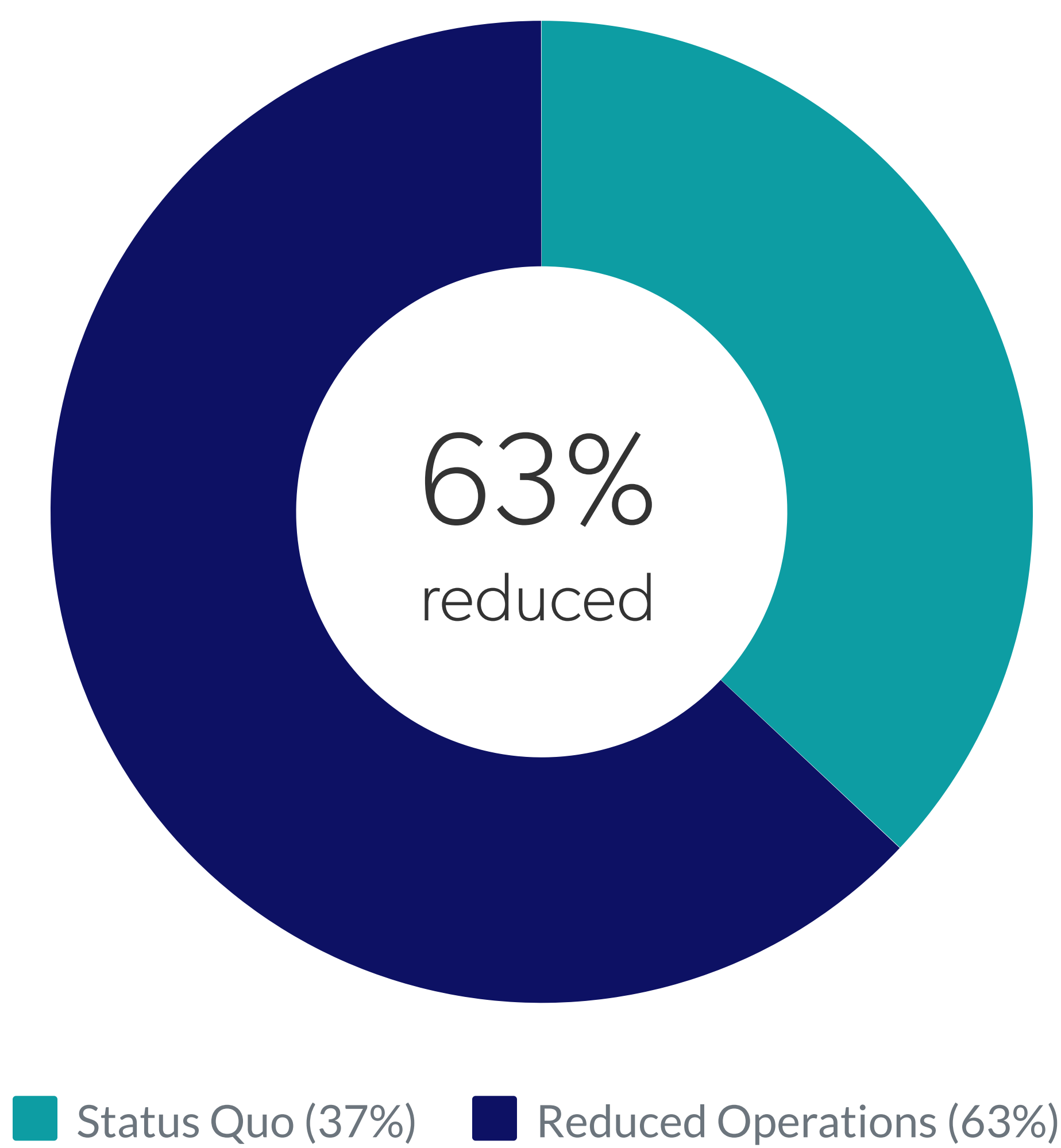
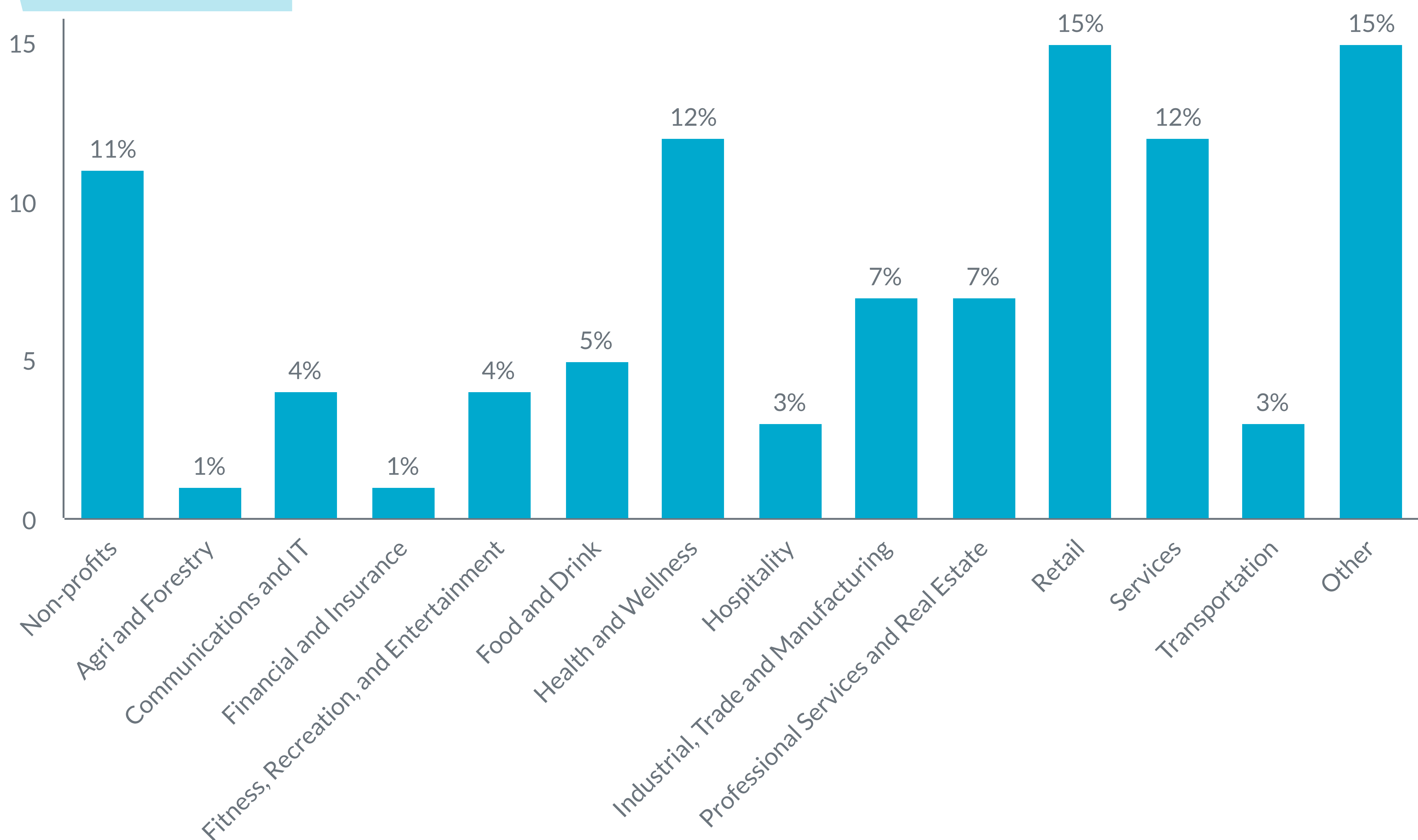
This report contains aggregate data only and does not include individual member data in order to respect our commitment to our members in regards to the confidentiality of their information. It does however have limitations in that it is relevant at the time of its collection.

For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of +/-0.9 percent. Note on the next pages: the percentage of responses in charts may not always add up to 100 percent, due to rounding.



Photo courtesy of Hollinger Golf Course

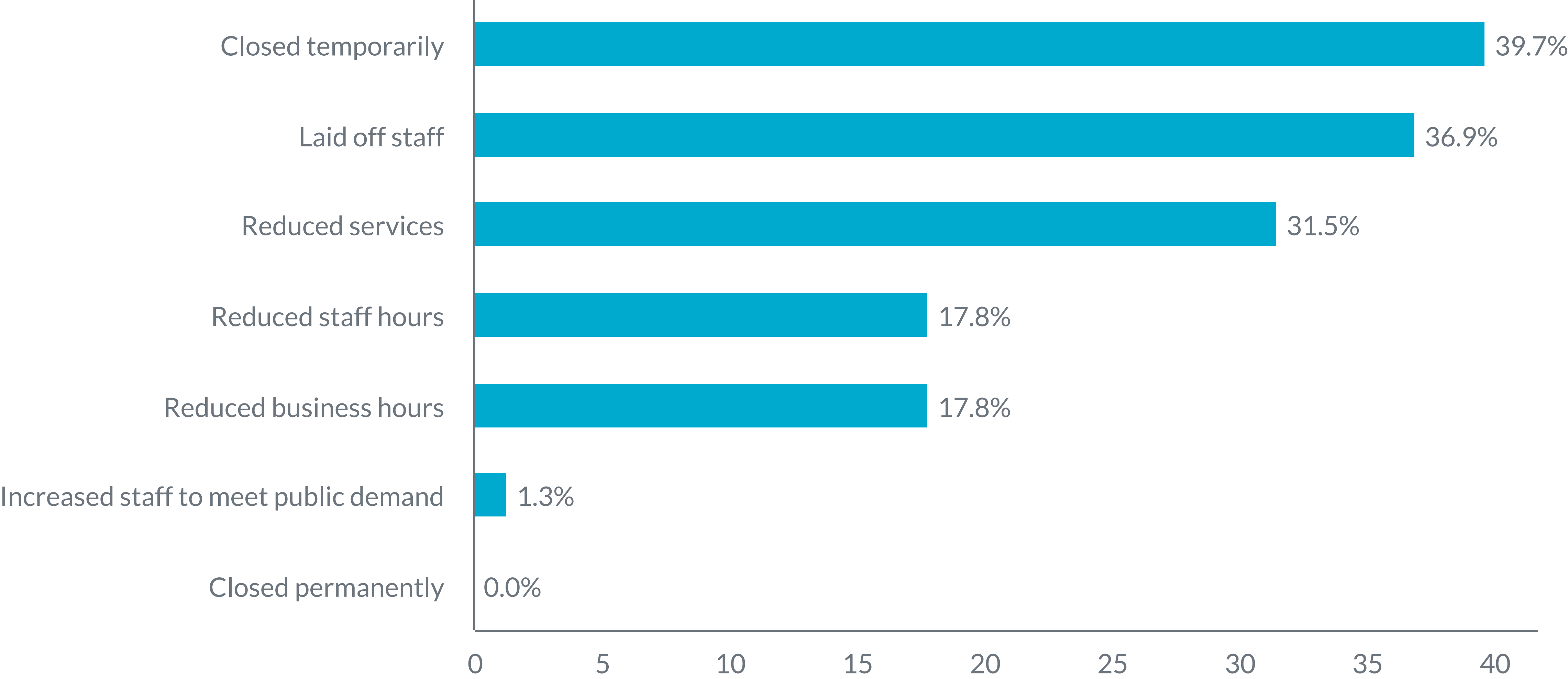
Sector Participation



Overall Reduced Operations

A high-level summary indicates, on average, a 63 percent reduction in business operations or shift in operations as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic

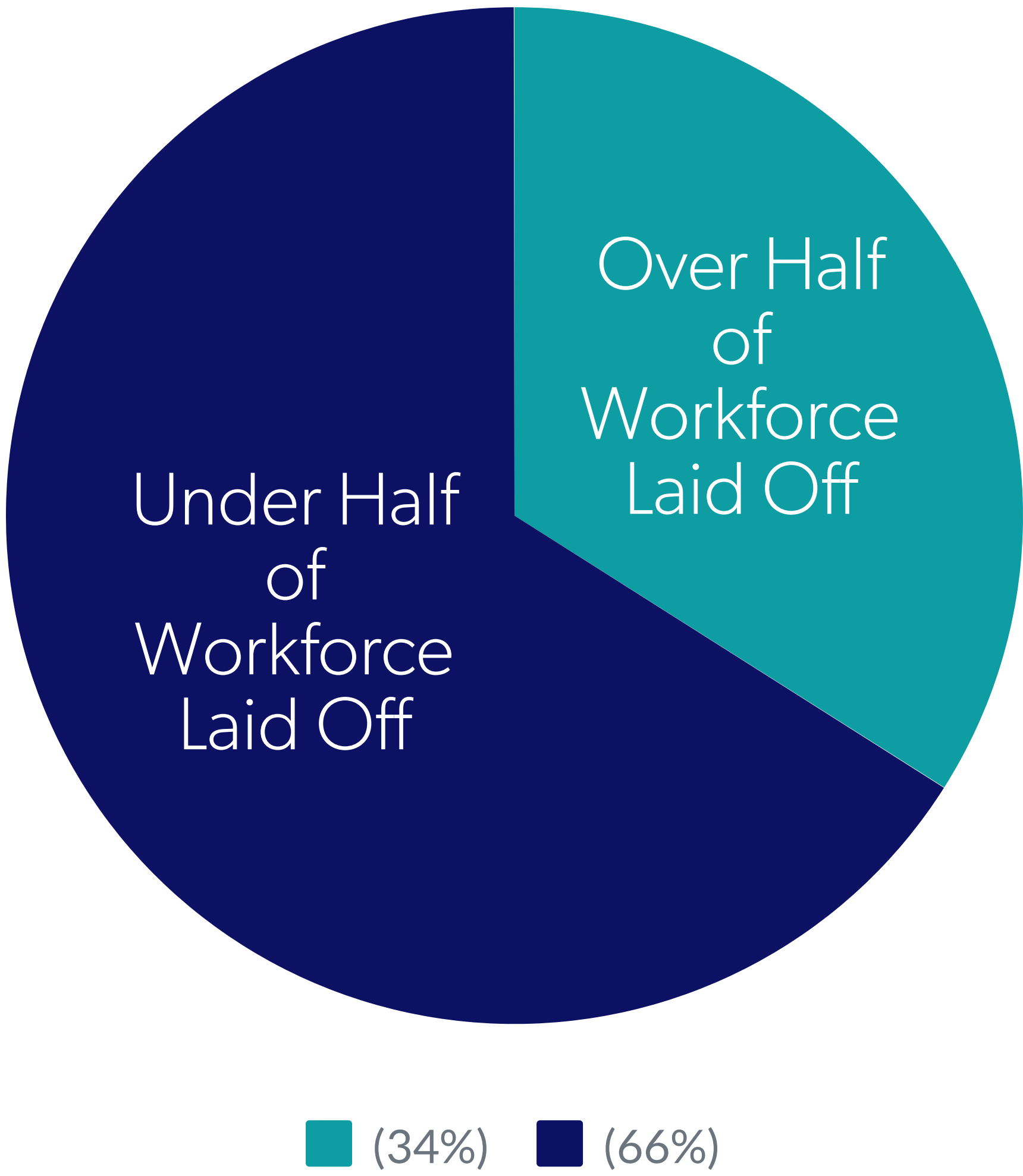
3 Operational Reduction Specifics



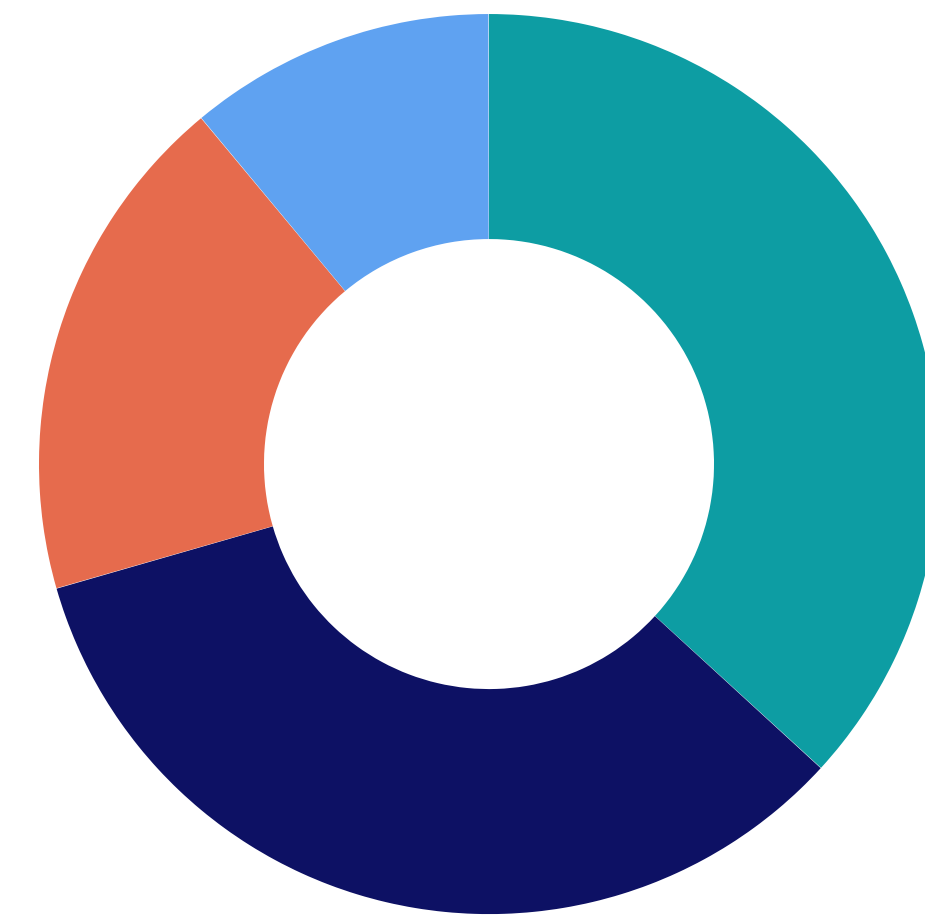
Overall Reduction in Staff Capacity

The 74 Respondents Collectively Employ:
Approximately 1300

Estimated employees
furloughed, laid off or reduction in hours:
Approximately 850

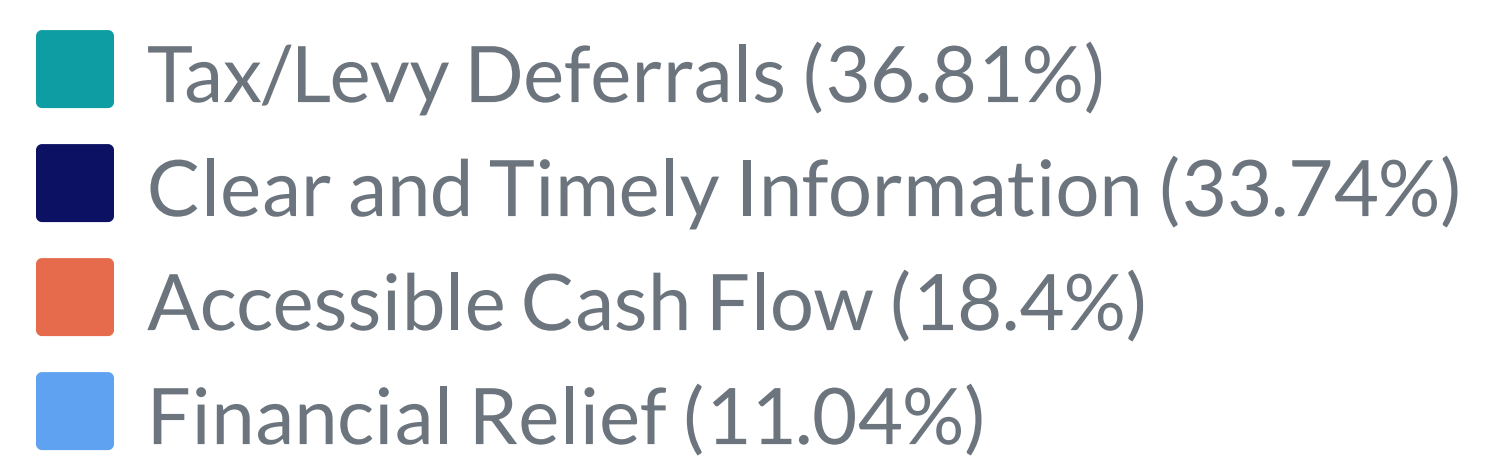


4 Business Continuity and Recovery Asks



Municipal

- Interest-free deferral of property tax installments;
- Interest-free deferral of water/wastewater payments for all businesses;
- Elimination of all parking fees in business areas;
- Pay local vendors immediately rather than the standard 30-day processing time;
- Deferral of the Municipal Accommodation Tax payment until further notice; and
- Clear and timely communication as it pertains to Municipal business-related issues.



Provincial

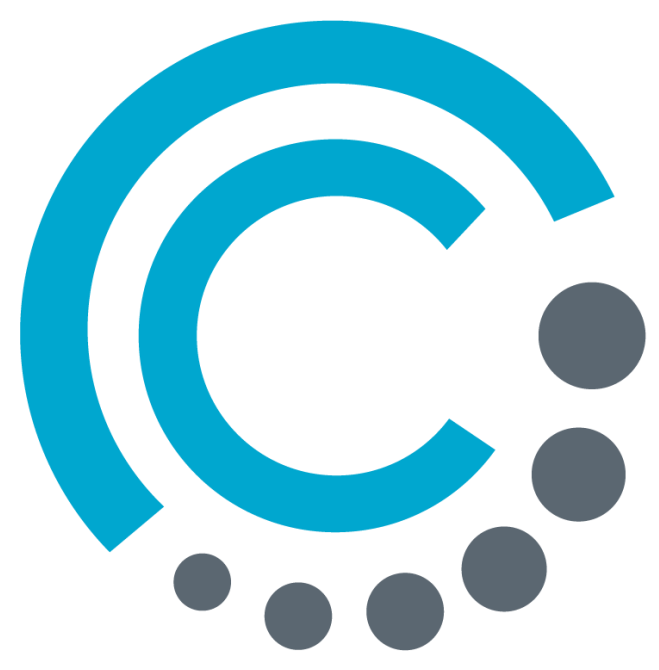
- Further clarity on the list of essential businesses;
- Subsidies for landlords who either house tenants or businesses;
- Extension on the 13-week layoff period, per the Employment Standards Act;
- Deferral of property taxes for businesses located outside of municipal boundaries; and
- Energy cost subsidies for small business and agriculture.

Federal

- Further clarity on support mechanisms, how to apply, and what is needed;
- Provide financial support expeditiously;
- Offer flexibility on remittance payments;
- Expansion on loans and credit programs to low-income business owners; and
- Support for diminished sectors; campgrounds, festivals, tourism, et al.

Summary

To date, the Chamber and the Chamber network have effectively lobbied government to implement the vast majority of business owners' asks. While we understand there is much to be done with respect to clarity of available programs, greater support for smaller businesses, and that funding is provided expeditiously, the Chamber continues to advocate at all levels of government to ensure that our business community remains viable now and into the future.



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Creating opportunities for business.

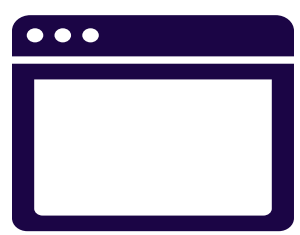
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Business Toolkit

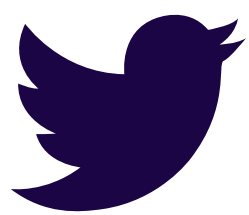
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Photo courtesy of Hollinger Golf Course

