CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

In business for your business™

Small Business Priorities

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U.S. trade and tariffs

Issue

Four in five businesses report being impacted by the U.S.-Canada trade war, citing rising costs, a weaker Canadian dollar, lower demand, and pricing difficulties.[1]

U.S. tariffs and Canada's countermeasures are having a significant impact on Canadian SMEs, which need policies that will help them navigate, grow, and compete in this uncertain economic environment.

Context

Just over half of CFIB members are directly trading with the U.S. and thousands more trade indirectly through their suppliers or business clients. More than one in four purchase over half their goods from U.S. suppliers, while one in three reports that over half of their sales come from the U.S.

Given recent events, many SMEs are shifting to domestic markets (32%), promoting Canadian-made products (26%), delaying expansion plans (23%), raising their prices (21%), and exploring non-U.S. markets (19%). About 9% are undergoing workforce reductions to stay afloat.[2]

While 30% of importers believe they can adapt within six months, 50% of exporters anticipate a much longer timeline to stabilize operations. Many SMEs are struggling to adapt and remain competitive in this uncertain economic climate.[3]

Recommendations

To help mitigate the impacts of tariffs and Canadian countermeasures on SMEs, business owners would like government to provide tax relief (65%), support buy-local strategies (58%), prioritize Canadian businesses in government procurement (55%), remove interprovincial trade barriers (50%) to create new domestic opportunities, and reduce the regulatory burden on business (42%).[4]

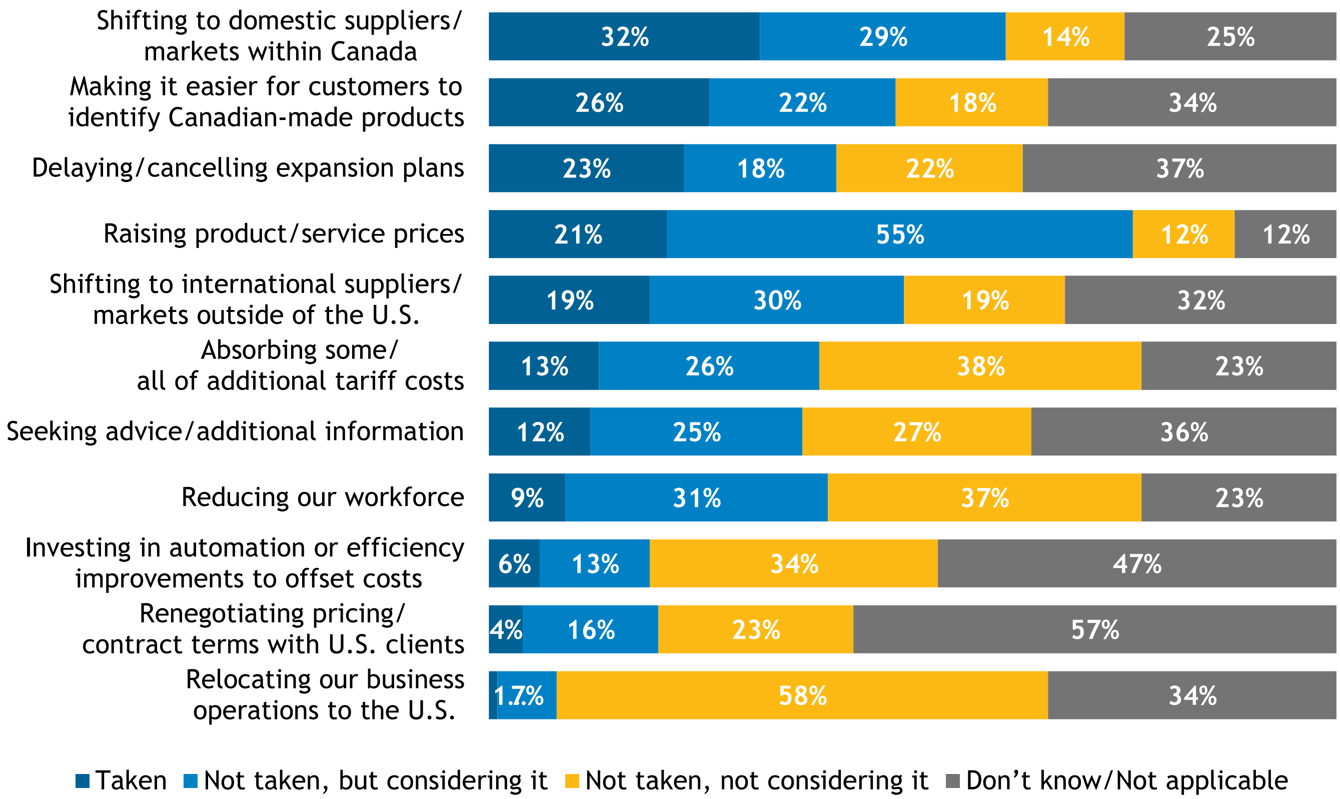
CFIB thus urges the federal government to consider the following actions:

- Ensure that the money collected through Canadian counter-tariffs is returned quickly to impacted Canadian small businesses.
- Reduce the tax burden on SMEs, by reducing the small business tax rate from 9% to 0% for the foreseeable future to alleviate rising costs due to tariffs.
- Eliminate interprovincial trade barriers by adopting mutual recognition.

[1] CFIB, Assessing Business Impact: U.S.-Canada Trade War, Mar. 13–21, 2025, n = 2,957. Preliminary results deck.
[2] Ibid.
[3] CFIB, Impact of U.S.-Canada tariff situation on businesses, Feb. 6-13, 2025, n = 2,510. Final results.
[4] Ibid.

- Promote buying local to support small and independent businesses.
- Support Canadian entrepreneurs as they move to diversify their markets and suppliers (e.g., help with shipping costs, provide clear guidance on the rules of origin, and logistic supports).
- Provide SMEs with clear, accessible guidance on becoming Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)-compliant.
- Increase awareness of services, such as those offered by the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) and Export Development Canada (EDC), to help SMEs explore and navigate new markets more effectively.
- Ensure programs, such as tariff rebate or remission initiatives, are accessible to small businesses and tailored to their specific needs. Many of these programs are often better suited for larger enterprises.
- Work with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to introduce exemptions or alternative financial security options (e.g., allowing SMEs to use a credit card for Release Prior to Payment [RPP] status), to alleviate the administrative and financial pressures that currently restrict smaller importers from engaging in international trade.

Key actions business owners are taking to offset the trade war



Source: CFIB, Assessing Business Impact: U.S.-Canada Trade War, Mar. 13-21, 2025, n = 2,957. Preliminary results deck.

Competitive fiscal environment

Issue

The current business environment is failing to foster competitiveness and productivity, which in turn affects Canada's economy. Canada's GDP[5] and labour productivity[6] are low. Regardless of whether U.S. tariffs remain in place, important changes are needed to ensure SMEs' success and Canada's long-term economic prosperity.

Context

The business climate in Canada needs a complete overhaul. Productivity and private investment need a boost.

Indeed, SMEs believe governments in 2025 need to reduce the overall tax burden (78%), and support investments to improve productivity (60%).[7]

SMEs consistently identify tax and regulatory costs as a top barrier to their growth. As small businesses are more sensitive to EI costs due to being more labour-intensive, many (71%) identify payroll taxes as the most harmful tax for their business.[8]

Investment in machinery, equipment, and intellectual property is lagging in Canada, in part because of the lack of financial capacity to invest. Over two-thirds (69%) of businesses said equipment costs are deterring them from investing in capital, followed by the high cost of doing business (56%) and cash flow constraints (50%).[9]

Recommendations

CFIB urges the federal government to create a better fiscal environment for Canadian SMEs by:

- Increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption amount (LCGE) to at least $1.25 million and introducing a lower inclusion rate for a certain amount of capital gains made beyond the LCGE to further encourage investment, business growth, and entrepreneurship.
- Providing SMEs with greater financial capacity to invest by decreasing the small business tax rate from 9% to 0% for the foreseeable future to help them manage rising costs due to tariffs.

[5] Statistics Canada, Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, Canada, quarterly, Table 36-10-0104-01, 2025. Accessed in March 2025: https://doi.org/10.25318/3610010401-eng
[6] Statistics Canada, Indexes of business sector labour productivity, unit labour cost and related measures, seasonally adjusted, 2025. Accessed in April 2025.
[7] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, January 2025, n = 3,140.
[8] CFIB, The weight of payroll taxes, September 2023.
[9] CFIB, Removing roadblocks: Unlocking small business capital investment, January 2025.

- Increasing the small business deduction (SBD) threshold for the small business tax rate from $500,000 to $700,000 and indexing it to inflation going forward so that it maintains its value over time. The SBD has not changed since 2009. Similarly, the government should increase the passive income amount to $60,000 and index it to inflation moving forward, as it remains at $50,000 and has not increased since 2018.
- Introducing a lower employment insurance (EI) premium rate for smaller employers, either by introducing a permanent, targeted credit like the Small Business Job Credit (SBJC) that was in place in 2015 and 2016, or by shifting the employer/employee EI premium split from 60/40 to 50/50. Either approach would enable small business employers to pay the same amount in premiums as their employees.
- Simplifying and making permanent immediate expensing and accelerated capital cost allowance provisions to encourage investment in all productivity-enhancing technology and capital. These should be available to all businesses in all sectors.

Remove internal trade barriers, adopt mutual recognition

Issue

Business owners operating across multiple provinces and territories must navigate a patchwork of inconsistent and duplicative rules and regulations, affecting everything from shipping liquor directly to consumers, to selling provincially inspected meat across provinces, and differing occupational health and safety requirements.

These inconsistent and duplicative rules and regulations are barriers to internal trade. They create unnecessary costs, cause delays, and add to Canadian SMEs' already heavy administrative burden, which in turn limits competition, increases costs for consumers, and hinders economic growth.

Context

Nearly 90% of SMEs are calling for Canadian governments to prioritize removing barriers that impede the flow of goods, services, and labour across provinces and territories.

Canada's internal trade barriers impose significant economic costs, with a 2019 International Monetary Fund (IMF) study estimating these barriers to be equivalent to a 21% tariff within the country.[10]

The federal government itself estimates that eliminating interprovincial trade barriers through mutual recognition could add up to $130 billion annually to Canada's economy and could boost the national economy by 4 to 8% (up to $250 billion, or $5,100 per person).[11]

Further, with ongoing Canada-U.S. trade tensions, strengthening domestic trade is more important than ever. According to recent CFIB data, half of small businesses across Canada say eliminating interprovincial trade barriers can help offset the cost of U.S.-Canada tariffs.

Since the start of the tariff situation between Canada and the U.S., the importance of removing interprovincial trade barriers has become timelier than ever. Provinces such as Ontario and Nova Scotia recently introduced legislation to adopt mutual recognition and others have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to move towards mutual recognition. The federal government should leverage every tool at its disposal to ensure all provinces adopt mutual recognition.

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[10] IMF. Internal Trade in Canada: Case for Liberalization. 2019. https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/WP/2019/WPIEA2019158.ashx
[11] Macdonald Laurier Institute study: https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/20220911_Interprovincial_trade_Manuch_Tombe_PAPER_FWeb.pdf
$250 billion adjusted for inflation (this is the number used by Carney: https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/article/carney-says-canada-aims-to-have-free-internal-trade-by-july-1/)

Recommendations

CFIB urges governments at all levels to take immediate action to unlock the full potential of Canada's internal market by reducing internal trade barriers by adopting mutual recognition. Several provinces have already made progress in implementing mutual recognition policies. However, it is essential for all provinces to get on board. The federal government, on its end, can also:

- **Expand mutual recognition in food inspection:** Nova Scotia's new legislation allows for free movement of goods including food products, which is a welcome step. However, federal restrictions, particularly through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), continue to limit progress. The federal government should work with provinces on mutual recognition of provincial food inspection standards and build on the success of the Lloydminster pilot program.
- **Ensure progress at the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT):** While the federal government has limited jurisdiction over provincial and territorial rules, it plays a vital role in facilitating forward movement on the RCT. CFIB encourages the federal government to actively help resolve intergovernmental deadlocks, prevent indefinite deferrals of issues due to disagreement by promoting clear timelines, and push for tangible, time-bound outcomes.
- **Remove all remaining internal trade barriers:** The federal government should work with provinces and territories to remove all remaining exemptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), as committed to during the federal election campaign. To support this goal, the federal government could consider making major federal transfers conditional on the elimination of specific barriers to interprovincial trade and labour mobility.

Cut red tape: Adopt a 2-for-1 rule

Issue

In 2024, compliance costs for Canadian businesses totalled approximately $51.5 billion, up 13.5% from CFIB's 2020 estimate of $45.4 billion.

A large proportion (87%) of small business owners report that excessive government regulations significantly reduce their productivity and ability to grow. Reducing red tape is key to enhancing productivity and growing Canada's economy.[12]

Context

Businesses in Canada must navigate a complex and costly regulatory landscape. Consequently, businesses spend an average of 735 hours per year on regulatory compliance for all levels of government, with 256 hours (32 business days) spent specifically on red tape. The red tape burden has increased significantly in recent years (35%), as it was pegged at 189 hours in 2020.[13]

At the federal level, complying with income taxes (62%), payroll taxes (59%), and GST/HST (58%) are where most businesses identify the greatest regulatory burdens. These are followed by filing records of employment (31%), Statistics Canada surveys (30%), and business registration and reporting requirements (28%).[14]

While many rules and regulations are justified, red tape are the rules and regulations that are redundant and overly onerous, deliver little to no value, discourage entrepreneurship, stagnate economic growth, and create a lose-lose situation for businesses and consumers alike.

Unfortunately, Canada ranks among the least favourable OECD economies in administrative burden, regulatory efficiency, and licensing processes. This does not bode well for attracting investments or increasing productivity. Business owners have indicated that savings from regulatory reductions could be used to expand operations, hire more employees, increase wages, and improve work-life balance.

[12] CFIB, Canada's red tape report: The cost of regulation to small business. 7th edition. January 2025.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.

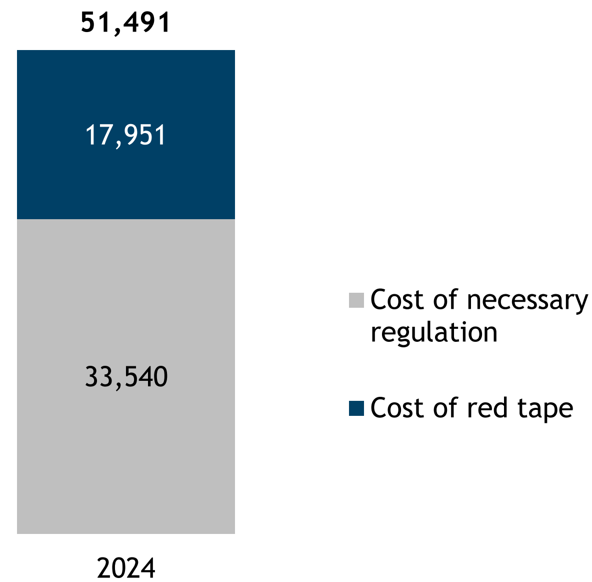
Recommendations

Further, a recent CFIB survey found that 42% of small businesses see cutting red tape as a key way to help offset the impact of tariffs.[15] For red tape reduction to be successful, governments must show political will and long-term commitment. Without it, red tape reduction efforts may be more difficult to implement and sustain over time. CFIB recommends the following:

- Implementing a "2-for-1" rule. For every new rule introduced, two should be eliminated. This would apply to all legislation, policies, rules, and requirements, not just formal regulations. Implementing this rule could unlock part of the $18 billion currently wasted on red tape.
- Appointing a dedicated Minister for Red Tape Reduction to oversee and consult on initiatives across government.
- Explicitly including red tape reduction in ministerial mandate letters to ensure accountability.
- Measuring and reporting on the total number of rules in place.
- Systematically reviewing outdated or redundant regulations to eliminate inefficiencies.
- Streamlining licensing and reporting requirements to improve regulatory efficiency.
- Simplifying the tax system. For example, reintroduce the flat rate method for home office expenses to ease tax filing for businesses, and increase the GST/HST remittance and source deduction thresholds and index them to inflation moving forward to reduce compliance burdens.

[15] CFIB, Assessing Business Impact: U.S.-Canada Trade War, March 2025. Final results.

Annual cost of regulation to businesses in Canada (in million 2024 dollars)



Source: Calculations based on CFIB's Survey on Regulation and Paper burden (conducted in 2024, n = 2,230) and data from Statistics Canada.

Breaking the deficit spending cycle

Issue

The federal government has run a deficit since 2015/2016.[16] This is of great concern to small business owners who fear it will result in higher taxes and lower investments. In fact, three out of four small business owners (74%) are worried about the lack of clear plans to achieve a balanced budget[17] and 81% believe that balancing the budget should be a top priority for the federal government.[18]

Context

Perpetual annual deficits have doubled the federal debt load from $602.4 billion in 2012/2013 to $1,236 billion in 2023/2024.[19]

The 2024 Fall Economic Statement (FES) pegged the deficit for the 2023/2024 fiscal year at $61.9 billion and projected deficits well above $30 billion every year until 2028/2029.

As a result, the federal government will have to allocate an increasingly larger portion of its annual revenues to repay the debt. Annual debt charges have increased by 62% between 2012/2013 and 2023/2024.[20]

High levels of debt and debt charges can translate into higher taxes and 92% of business owners are against raising revenues through higher taxes and fees.[21]

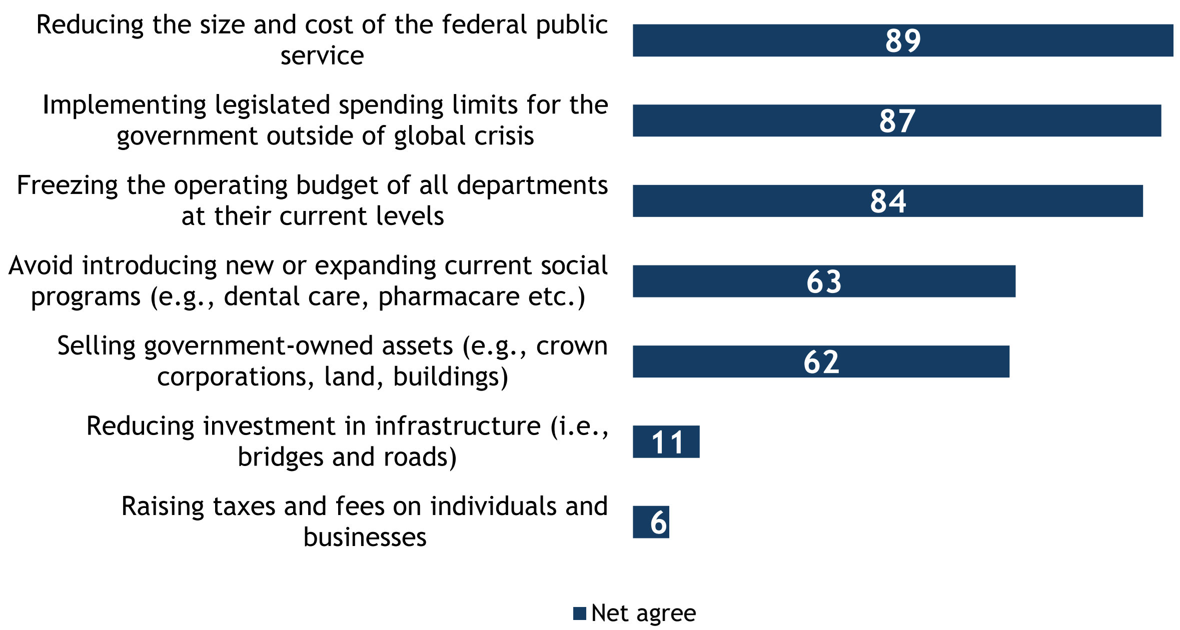
Recommendations

Deficit spending should be reserved for when the country is facing an economic recession or other unforeseen events. To get back to balance, small business owners recommend:

- Implementing a clear path to balancing the budget with specific indicators to measure progress, a fiscal anchor, and legislated spending limits for the government outside of a global crisis.
- Committing to undertaking meaningful internal reviews to reduce the size and cost of the federal public service and freeze the budgets of all departments at their current levels.
- Not introducing new social programs or expanding existing ones (e.g., dental care, pharmacare).
- Selling government assets (e.g., Crown corporations, land, buildings) where it makes sense.

[16] CFIB, Breaking the Deficit Spending Cycle: Small Business Owners Calling for Fiscal Responsibility, October 2024.
[17] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, September 2024, n = 2,120.
[18] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, December 2023, n = 2,966. Note: this data includes net high priority and medium priority.
[19] Government of Canada, Annual Financial Reports of the Government of Canada, from the fiscal year 2012/2013 to the fiscal year 2023/2024, 2025. Accessed in October 2024: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/publications/annual-financial-report.html
[20] Ibid.
[21] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, September 2024, n = 2,120.

Policy recommendations supported by small businesses:



Source: CFIB, Your Voice Survey, September 2024, n = 2,120.

Question: “To what extent do you support or oppose each of the following potential measures for the federal government to achieve a balanced budget and reduce its debt?” Small business owners are against higher taxes and for measures that control spending (level of support in percentage).

Notes: We added together "strongly support" and "somewhat support." Respondents that selected "Strongly oppose," "Somewhat oppose," and “Don't know/Unsure" are not displayed.

Labour availability

Issue

The lack of labour, particularly skilled labour, remains a key constraint to business growth and sales for 44% of businesses.[22] This means forgone revenue, delayed growth plans, and lost productivity. CFIB quantified and monetized the forgone revenue from labour shortages for small business at $38 billion in 2022.[23]

Context

There were 547,800 job vacancies among Canadian employers in the fourth quarter of 2024.[24] While this is down from a peak of almost 1 million job vacancies in the aftermath of the pandemic, it is on par with the number of vacancies reported just before the pandemic where concerns around labour shortages and an aging population were very much prevalent.

Employers in many sectors and regions continue to face shortages. Persisting job vacancies have contributed to our lagging productivity levels. Labour availability, especially of skilled workers, also strongly influences the investment location decisions of firms.

Coming out of the pandemic, about 58% of small business owners were being told by former employees they wanted to bring back, and other candidates, that they were only applying to demonstrate that they were actively looking for work, but that they preferred to stay on employment insurance (EI).[25] This was at a time when the economy opened, but many potential employees were still receiving a weekly benefit of $500. The level of generosity of the EI program, meant that it had become a disincentive to work. This type of measure should be avoided in the future.

Older Canadians can also play an important role in addressing labour shortages in small businesses. They have knowledge and skills that are highly sought after. However, many older workers say that it is not worth working or working more, given the extent to which each dollar they earn is taxed or resulting reduced benefits. More must be done to ensure that the tax system encourages them to participate more actively in the labour market if they wish.

Some Canadian employers turn to immigration to fill critical labour shortages that cannot be filled by Canadian citizens and permanent residents. In the fall, the government introduced temporary immigration targets and significantly restricted access to the TFWP. These policy changes are having a significant impact on many small businesses, particularly those in more rural regions or those filling seasonal roles that extend beyond a student's summer break (e.g., landscaping) or requiring constant travel (e.g., carnivals). It is inaccurate to presume that employers in rural communities encompassed in an extensive census metropolitan area have

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[22] CFIB, April 2025 Monthly Business Barometer, n = 417. Online at: https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/research-economic-analysis/business-barometer
[23] CFIB, Small Businesses in Canada Hit Hard: The Big Financial Toll of Labour Shortages, https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/hubfs/research/reports/2023/2023-11-small-businesses-hit-hard-labour-shortages-en.pdf
[24] Statistics Canada, Job vacancies, payroll employees, and job vacancy rate, by economic regions, quarterly, adjusted for seasonality, March 2025. Online at: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410039801 Q4 2024, Q2 2022, and Q4 2019.
[25] CFIB, September 2021 Your Voice Survey, n = 1,077.

access to the same labour pool as their urban counterparts or that students are suitable for all seasonal jobs.

In addition, many small business owners are now concerned that they will be unable to retain staff that they have trained and incorporated into their knowledge transfer and succession plans because of recent changes in permanent and temporary immigration policies. This will affect their business operations and some report that they will have to scale down their activities.

Small business owners employ foreign workers because they have been unable to hire domestically for what they can pay. Further, foreign workers often complement, not compete with, domestic labour (e.g., a foreign worker employed as a cook enables a restaurant to be open for the front of the house to have something to serve and work).

Recommendations

We strongly encourage you to:

- Avoid creating disincentives to work when introducing new programs or reforming existing ones such as the employment insurance program.
- Enhance incentives for older individuals to work by allowing them to keep more of what they earn (e.g., increasing the Canada Pension Plan basic exemption amount, increasing the Age Credit amount).
- Ensure that Canada's immigration policies better align with Canada's labour market needs:
    - Create a pathway to permanent residency for lower-skilled foreign workers in Canada who have maintained their legal status, acquired Canadian work experience, and paid taxes.
    - Restore the cap on hiring TFWs for low-wage positions at 20%, at least for rural and remote regions, across all sectors.
    - Allow temporary residents in Canada to work, or work more, if they are willing and able to do so (e.g., accompanying spouses, students, multi-employer work permits, etc.).
    - Advance facilitative measures that would enable employers to retain existing foreign workers already in Canada, either on a temporary or permanent basis.
    - Review the refusal to process LMIA applications policy by excluding the more rural and remote communities encompassed in expansive census metropolitan areas and LMIA applications for seasonal workers (270 days or less).
    - Re-establish the 2-year maximum employment duration for low-wage positions.

Supply Chain

Issue

In 2024, Canadian small business owners had to deal with work stoppages at CN and CPKC rail networks, BC ports, the Port of Montreal and Canada Post. These work stoppages at federally regulated employers cost billions to the Canadian economy. Having a reliable supply chain is not just about investing in and having the physical rails, ports, and road infrastructure, it is also about having the continuity of labour needed to deliver much-needed services around that transportation infrastructure.

Context

Small business owners and their suppliers rely on critical infrastructure such as ports and rail networks to send their goods to markets and to receive what they need for their operations.

Consequently, a work stoppage has many potential negative impacts, such as loss of sales, loss of inventory, and loss of reputation on a business owner. Further, it can result in a loss of hours and income for workers throughout the supply chain.

The longer the work stoppage, the worse the impact can be on their viability and business continuity, particularly since work stoppages along the supply chain can create sizeable backlogs that can take weeks, if not months, to get through.

Work stoppages can also create product shortages for inputs needed to maintain public health and security (e.g., water and sewage treatment) and essential services (e.g., supplies to maintain or repair emergency vehicles) that may not have been evident or important from the outset, but that can arise very rapidly.

Of note, work stoppages at Canada Post also impact many Canadian businesses and should be taken seriously. About 8 in 10 SMEs rely on Canada Post's services as part of their operations.[26] Close to 78% stated that they were negatively affected by the latest Canada Post strike.[27] The recent month-long Canada Post strike cost SMEs over $1.6 billion as of December 13th.[28] Another Canada Post work stoppage could take place this spring, as the extension of the previous collective agreement by the CIRB (Canadian Industrial Relations Board) expires on May 22, 2025.

[26] CFIB's Flash Impact of Work Stoppages Survey, November 13-December 6, 2024, n = 2,372.
[27] CFIB's Special Survey: Impact of Canada Post strike and GST/HST exemption, November 26, 2024-January 8, 2025, n = 5,929.
[28] Ibid.

Recommendations

To ensure that Canada's SMEs, those they employ, and those they serve, are not collateral or even strategic damage for those at the negotiating table, the government of Canada must:

- **Act in the interests of all workers, employers, and Canadians** in the event of work stoppages at federally regulated employers along our supply chain.
- **Be able to intervene to stop work stoppages and have normal activities resume**, without relying on back-to-work legislation. Broader powers, like those recently exercised under section 107, are needed.
- **Introduce essential worker provisions.** The vast majority (92%) of small business owners with an opinion supported deeming employees essential to ensuring a fluid supply chain (e.g., ports, rails) as essential workers.[29]
- **Ensure that there are no work stoppages disrupting mail and package delivery services** at Canada Post this spring.

[29] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, November 10-28, 2022, n = 1,797. Final results.

Get agri-businesses growing

Issue

Agri-businesses have shown consistently low levels of optimism —the lowest of any sector in the economy throughout 2024, reaching a record low of 21.3% in March 2025.[30,31] This scant level of confidence in the future is concerning, as it can lead to reduced investment, job losses, difficulties in securing succession, or even business exits. In light of this concerning trend, CFIB is urging the government to help agri-businesses remain competitive and grow.

Context

Trade disruptions

Agri-businesses have been greatly affected by recent trade disruptions. In fact, they are more impacted by Canadian retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods (47%) than by U.S. tariffs on non-CUSMA compliant Canadian goods (30%).[32]

China's retaliatory tariffs on Canadian agricultural products (e.g., canola oil, canola meal, peas, lobster, pork) have impacted 39% of the industry, with a quarter (25%) taking a direct hit.[33] China has been a critical market for these sectors, and many rely on these international sales to sustain their businesses.

Red tape and taxes

Tax and regulatory costs are the number one cost constraint (74%) for agri-businesses.[34] Federal fiscal policies significantly influence capital investment decisions, business growth, and innovation. Red tape significantly reduces SMEs' productivity, competitiveness, and ability to grow.

Small business owners spend an average of 256 hours (32 days) a year dealing with red tape. The total cost of regulation is estimated at $51 billion annually, of which $18 billion has been identified as red tape.[35] The most burdensome federal regulations for agri-businesses are complying with income taxes (57%), agriculture-specific regulations (52%), and Statistics Canada Surveys (52%).[36]

[30] CFIB, Business Barometer, Retrospective 2024, December 2024.
[31] CFIB, Monthly Business Barometer, March 2025, n = 129.
[32] CFIB, Your Voice Survey, April 2025, n = 122.
[33] Ibid.
[34] CFIB, Monthly Business Barometer, March 2025, n = 129.
[35] CFIB, Canada's red tape report: The cost of regulation to small business. 7th edition. January 2025.
[36] CFIB, Regulation and Paperburden Survey 2024, July 4-Sept. 8, 2024, n = 136.

Increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption (LCGE) to $1.25 million

An increase in the LCGE to at least $1.25 million would be welcomed by 73% of agri-business owners.[37] The LCGE for farmers and fishers would be more than $1.25 million had it been indexed since 2015. Many agri-business owners do not have pensions. They rely on the revenues from the sale of their business or business shares for a comfortable retirement.

Recommendations

Now more than ever, the federal government needs to ensure Canada remains a competitive place of doing business by reducing red tape, reducing the fiscal burden, and providing support to agri-businesses impacted by trade disruptions.

To ensure the long-term success of the agriculture industry, CFIB recommends that the federal government:

- Lower the fiscal and regulatory burdens on agri-businesses.
- Enhance and streamline Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, especially Agri-Stability, Agri-Invest, and the Advanced Payments Program, to ensure they provide adequate support to agri-businesses impacted by Chinese and U.S. tariffs in a timely manner without additional red tape.
- Ensure support programs are tailored to the specific needs of small agri-businesses, not just larger enterprises.
- Improve internal and international trade of food by reducing red tape associated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).
- Help alleviate labour shortages in the agriculture sector and maximize labour from workers already in Canada by allowing the sharing of temporary foreign workers as an option (e.g., multi-employer work permit), not just transfers.
- Simplify and make permanent immediate expensing and accelerated capital cost allowance provisions to encourage investment in any capital and productivity-enhancing technology in Canada.

[37] CFIB, Upcoming Changes to Capital Gains Tax, May 2024, n = 92.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is Canada's largest association of small and medium-sized businesses with 100,000 members across every industry and region. CFIB is dedicated to increasing business owners' chances of success by driving policy change at all levels of government, providing expert advice and tools, and negotiating exclusive savings. Learn more at cfib.ca.

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