



**CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

*In business for your business™*

# COVID-19: State of Small Business

*Key results – Week 10*

2020-05-19

# Overview

Every Friday during the COVID-19 pandemic, **CFIB** is sending a survey to understand how businesses are being impacted, what support will be most useful to them, and what solutions may be available in the short- to medium-term. Surveys we have done so far:

<i>Survey</i>	<i>Active dates</i>	<i>Sample</i>
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 1	March 13-21	n = 10,092
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 2	March 20-26	n = 13,362
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 3	March 27-April 2	n = 12,632
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 4	April 3-9	n = 13,021
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 5	April 10-16	n = 11,850
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 6	April 17-April 23	n = 9,712
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 7	April 24-April 30	n = 9,932
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 8	May 1-May 7	n = 8,907
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 9	May 8-May 14	n = 8,013
Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey No. 10	May 15-TBD	n = 6,379

This policy briefing will highlight more detailed results from our [latest survey](#) on the current state of Canadian small businesses (10<sup>th</sup> weekly COVID-19 survey started May 15, some results to be shared publicly this week).

Extra information is in the appendix and more results (by province, industry, French version, etc.) available soon and upon request. Please see slides 25+ after for additional details.

# Methodology



Online survey (Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten) [started May 15](#).



So far, it has received [6,379](#) responses from small business across Canada.



For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of [of +/-1.2%](#), 19 times out of 20.



Note on the next pages: The percentage of responses in charts may not always add up to 100%, due to rounding or multiple choice responses. There are instances in in this briefing that we do not report on certain provinces and sectors, as the sample size is less than 40 respondents.

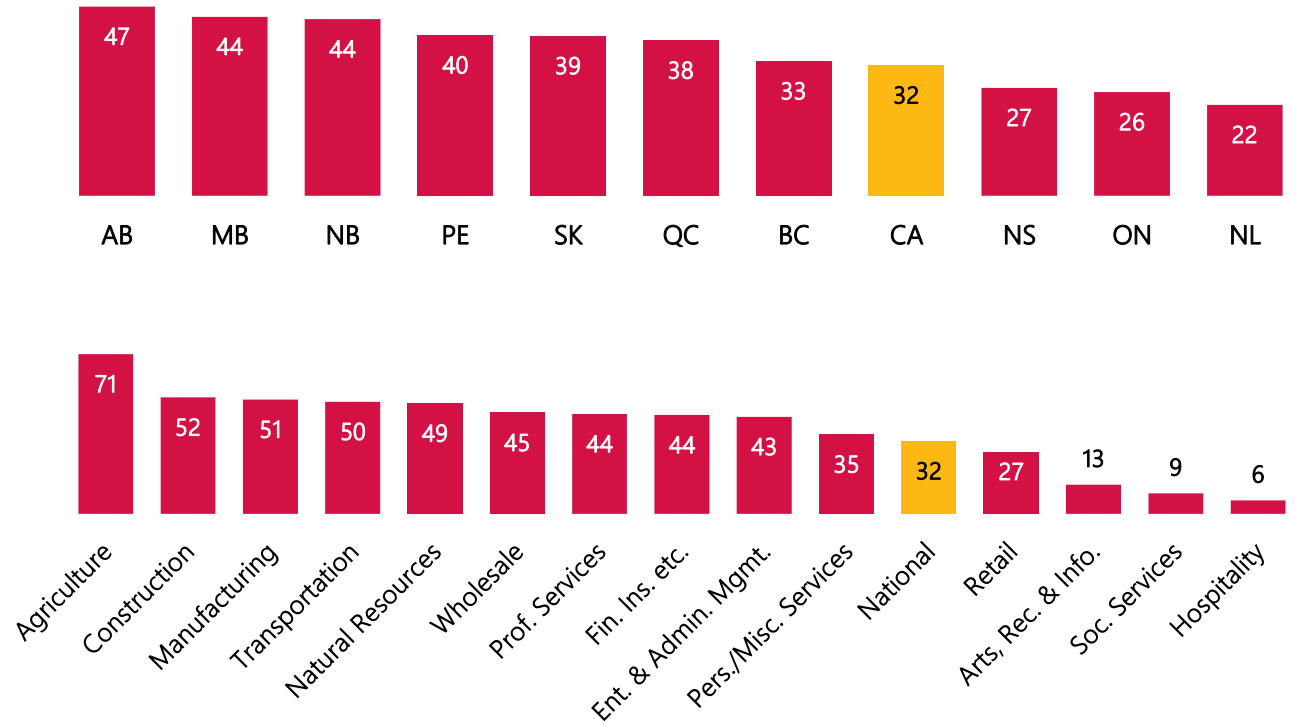
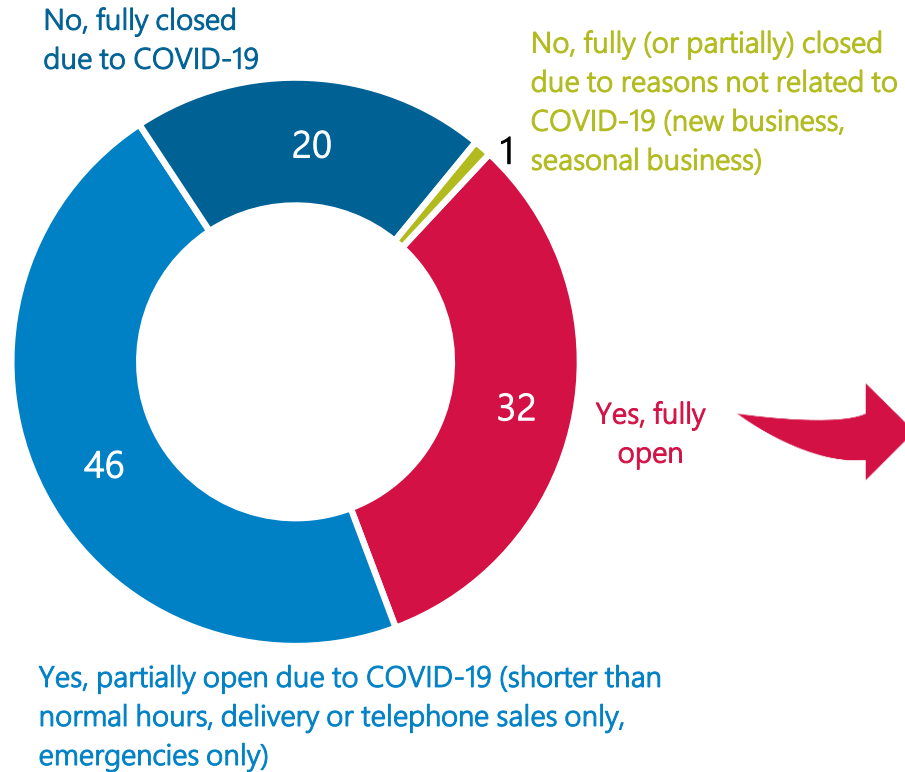
# Provincial reopening plans

Province	Current Stage/Phase of Reopening	Start date
<i>British Columbia</i>	Phase 2	May 19
<i>Alberta</i>	Stage 1	May 14
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	Phase 2	May 19
<i>Manitoba</i>	Phase 1	May 4
<i>Ontario</i>	Stage 1	May 19
<i>Quebec</i>	Stage 2	May 11
<i>New Brunswick</i>	Phase 2 ("Orange")	May 8
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	Plan under development	-
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	Phase 1	May 1
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	Phase 1 ("Alert Level 4")	May 11

*Note: Provinces have developed their own reopening plans, tailored to the needs of their region. As such, phases or stages of reopening are not directly comparable across provinces.*

# As of today, is your business still open?

(% response)

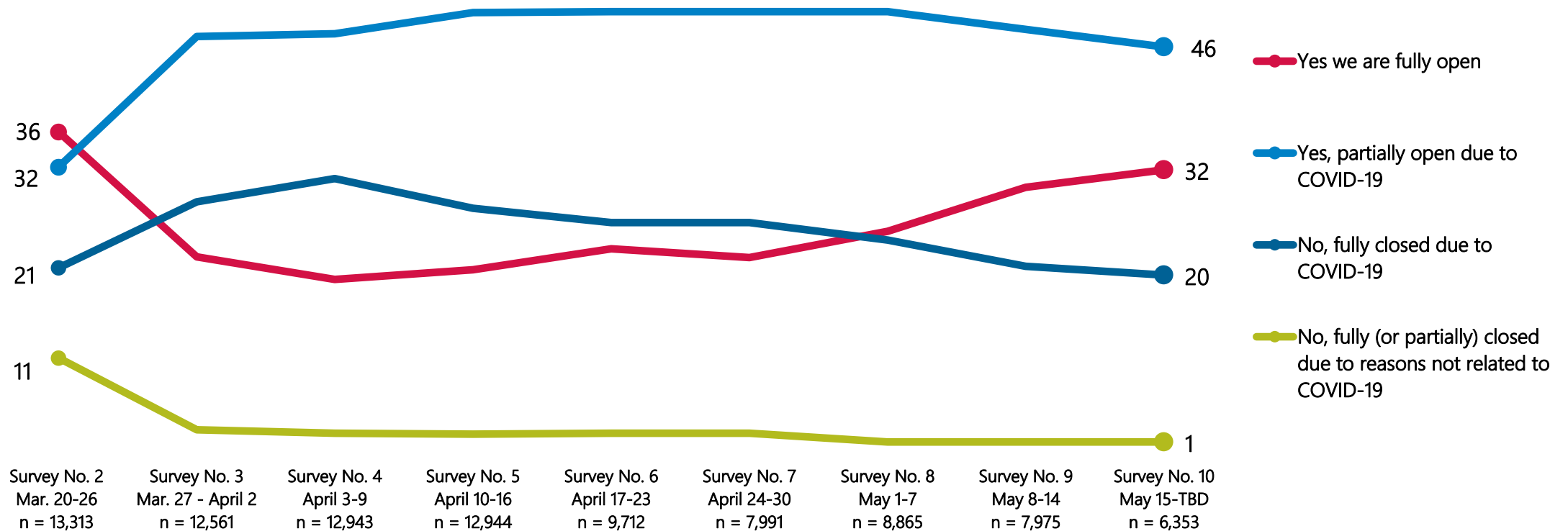


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 6,353.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

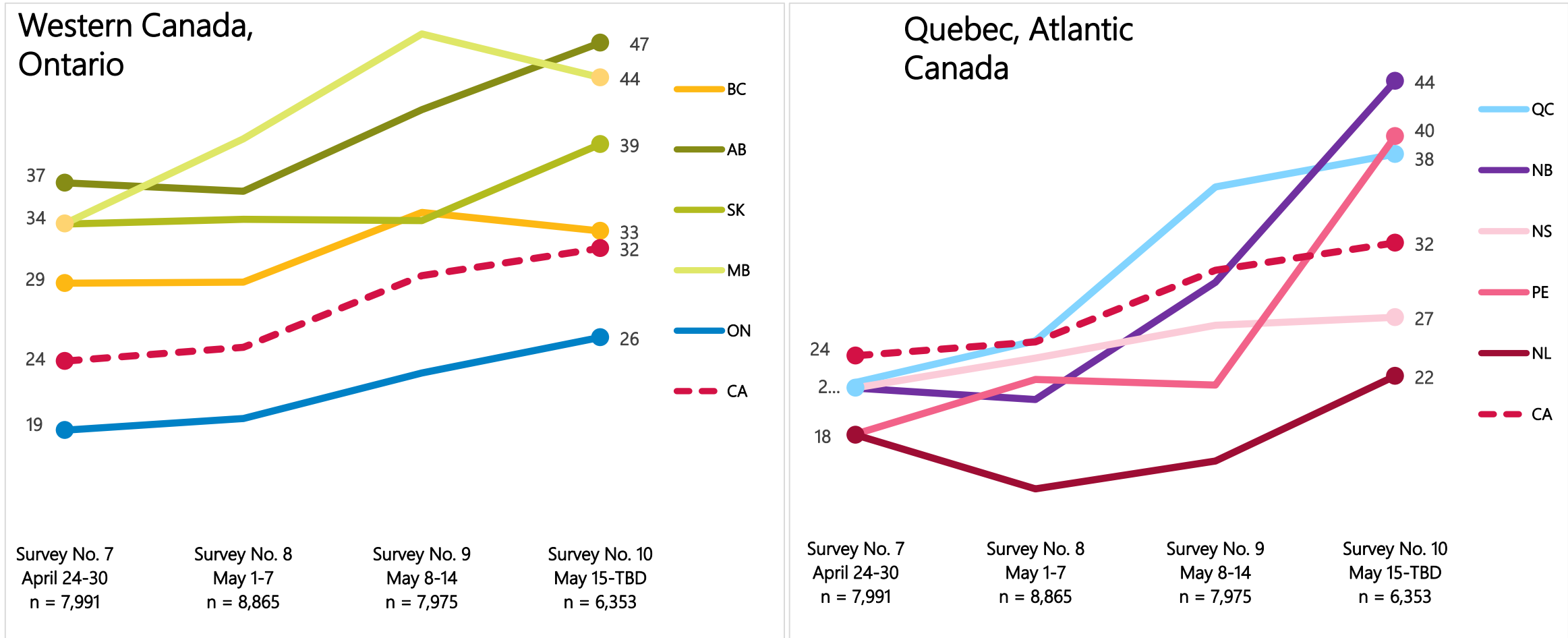
# As of today, is your business still open?

(% response)

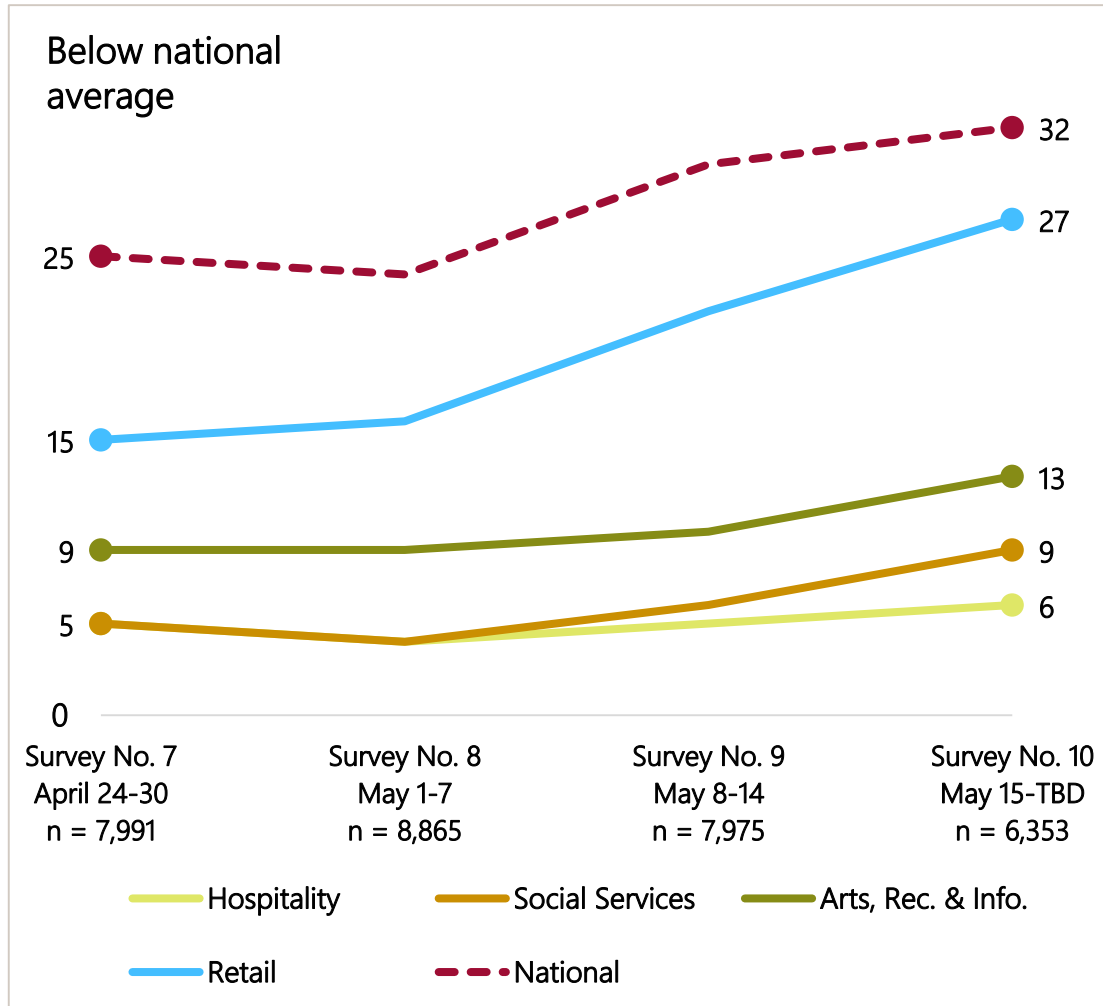
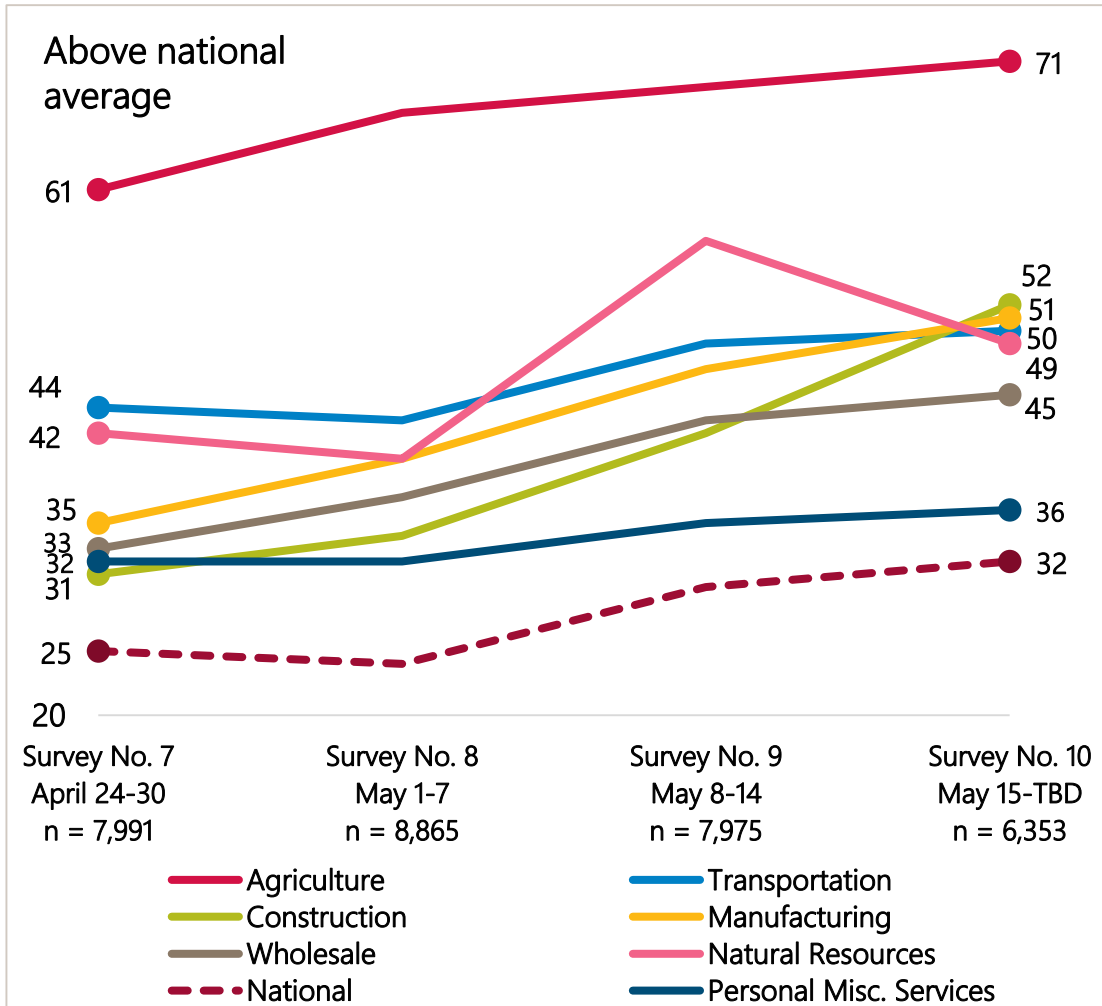


Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

# Fully open, by province (% response)



# Fully open, by sector (% response)

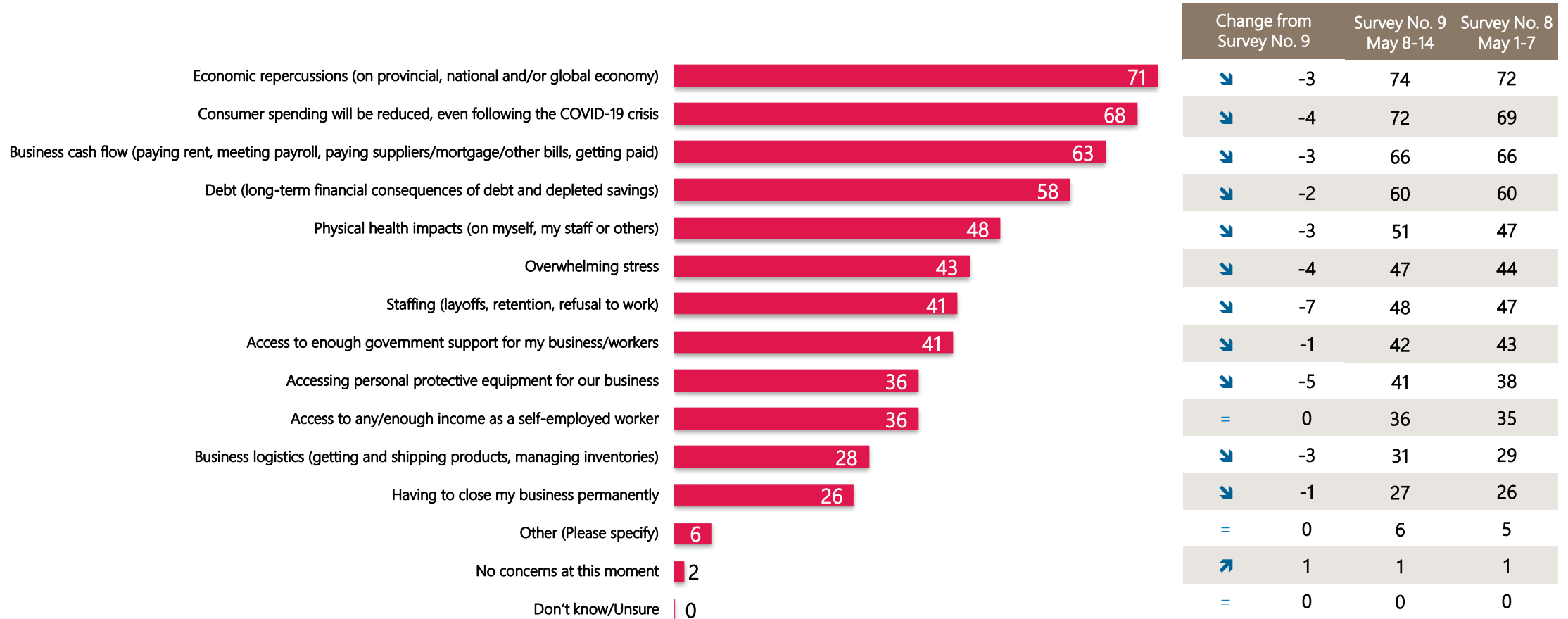


Note: Some sectors have been excluded. They include: Professional Services, Fin. Ins. & etc., and Ent. & Admin. Mgmt.



# What worries you most about COVID-19?

(Select all that apply, % response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 6,253.

Note: Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

## For those partially open or fully closed – What is preventing your business from fully reopening? (Select all that apply, % response)

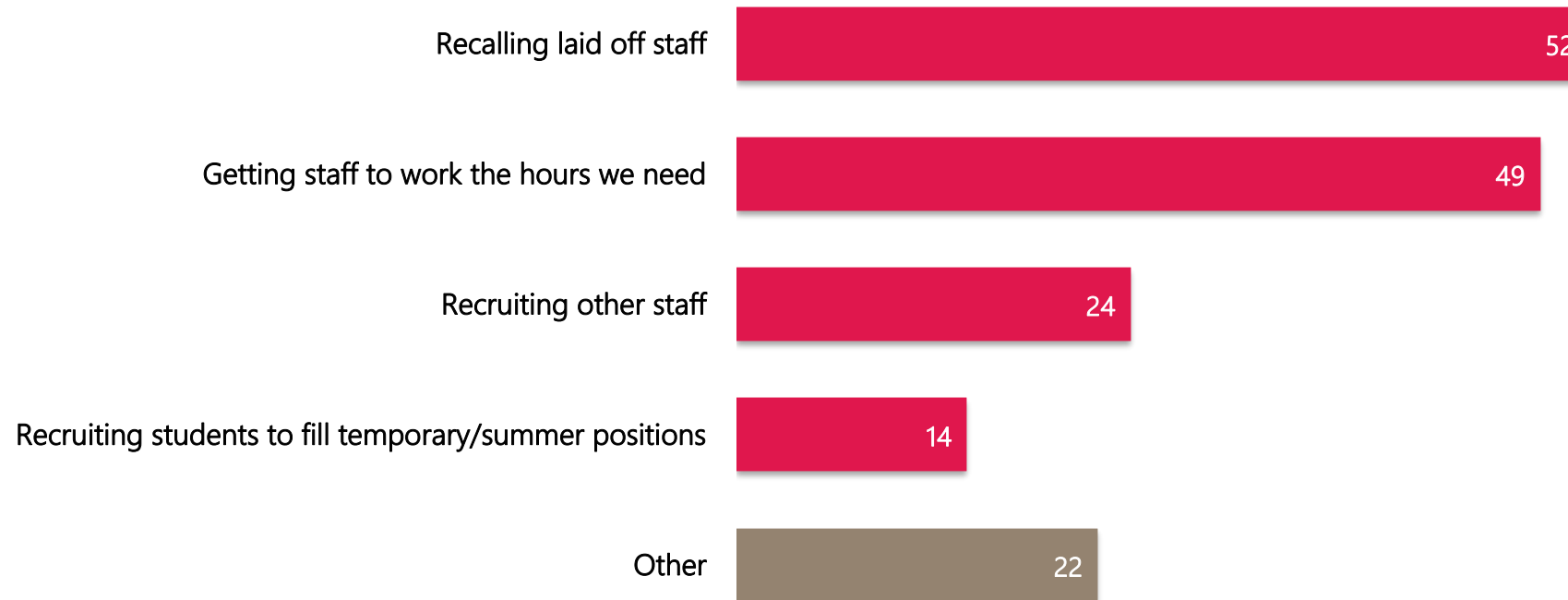


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 4,104.

Note: 1) Only includes respondents who indicated they are partially open or fully closed in a previous question.

2) Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

## For those with staffing issues – Which of the following are actually challenging right now for your business? (Select all that apply, % response)

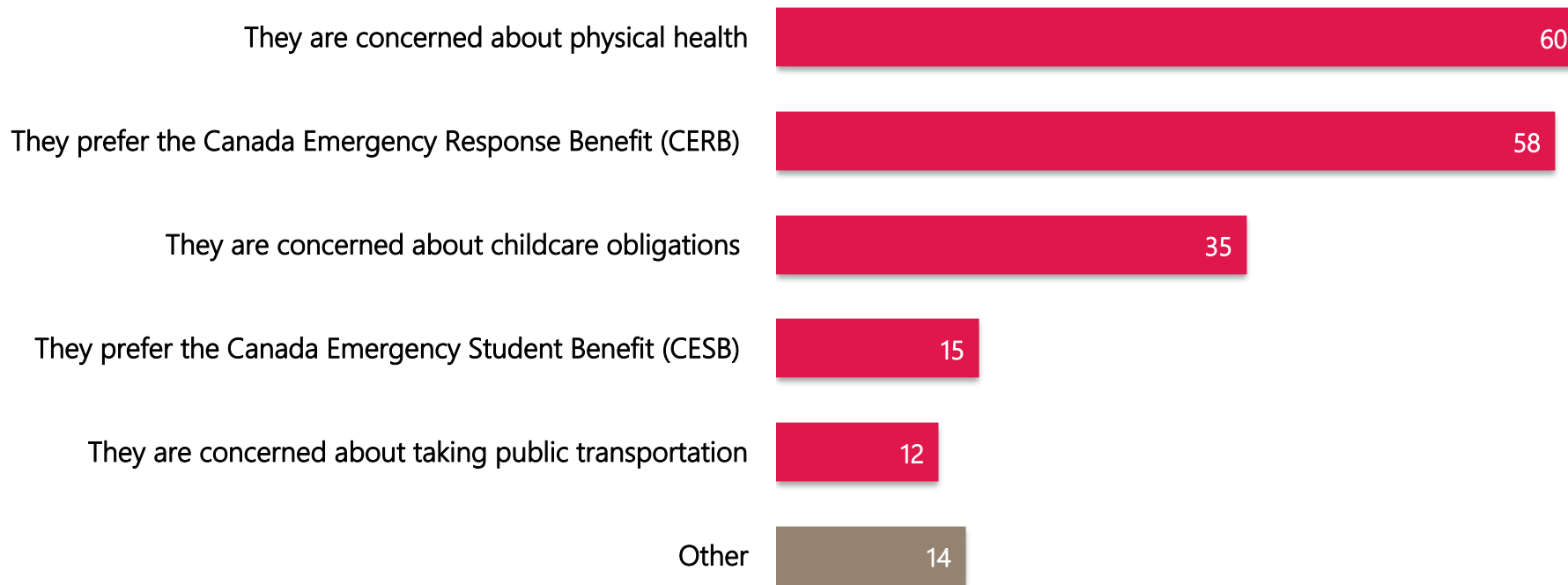


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 2,608.

Note: 1) Only includes respondents who indicated they are having staffing issues.

2) Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

## Reasons for difficulty getting the work hours needed from, recalling, or recruiting staff (Select all that apply, % response)

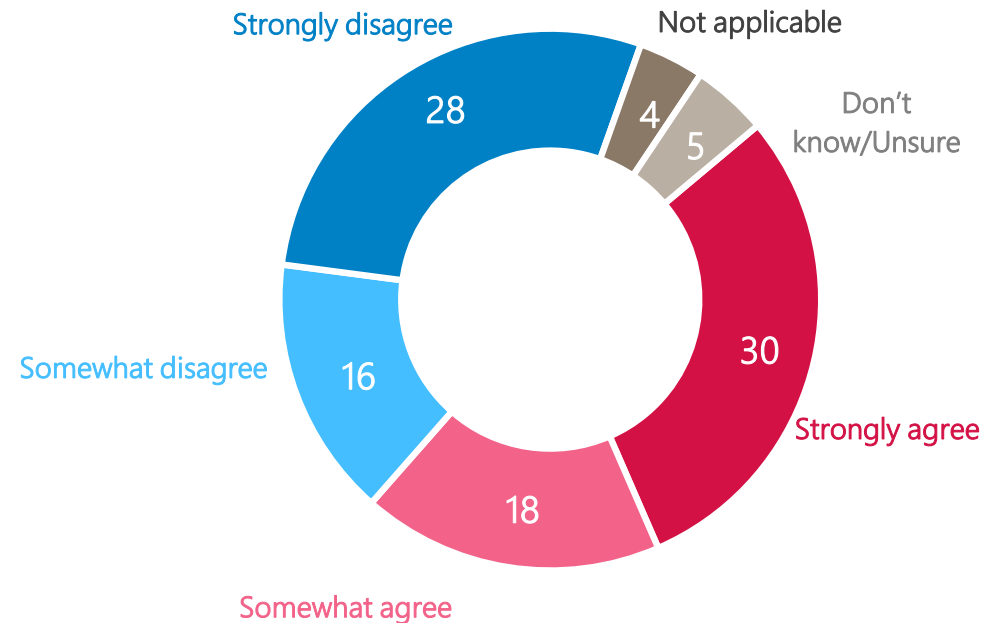


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 2,143.

Note: 1) Only includes respondents who indicated they have difficulty recalling or recruiting staff.

2) Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

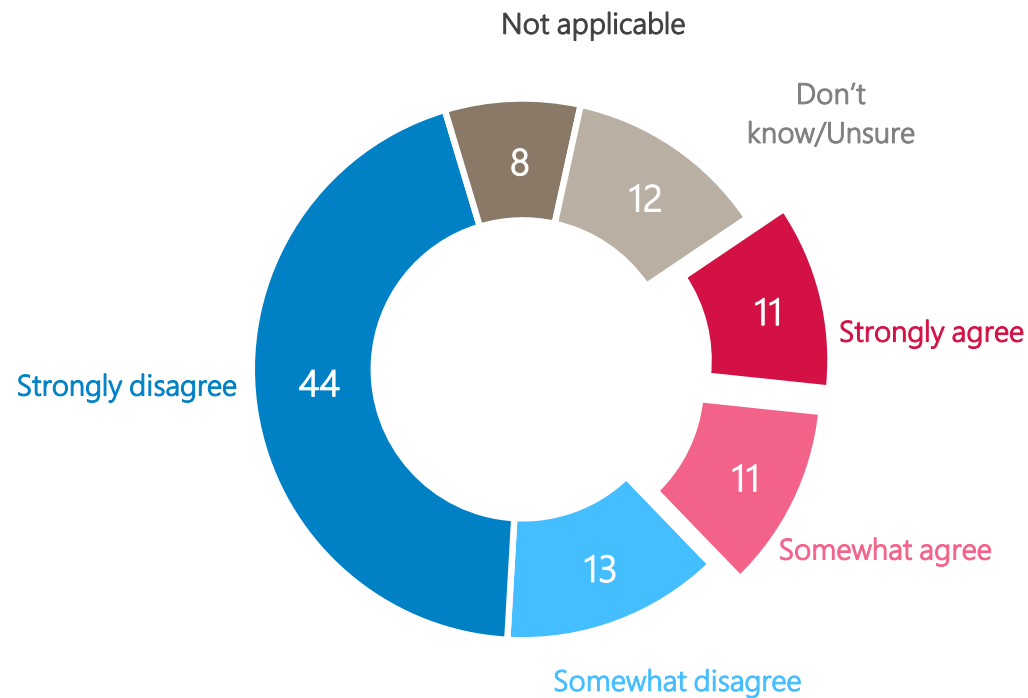
For those that pay commercial rent:  
“Without additional assistance, I will not be able to pay my  
**June** rent in full” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 4,009.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

# For those that pay commercial rent: “I fear that my business will be evicted or locked out over unpaid rent” (% response)

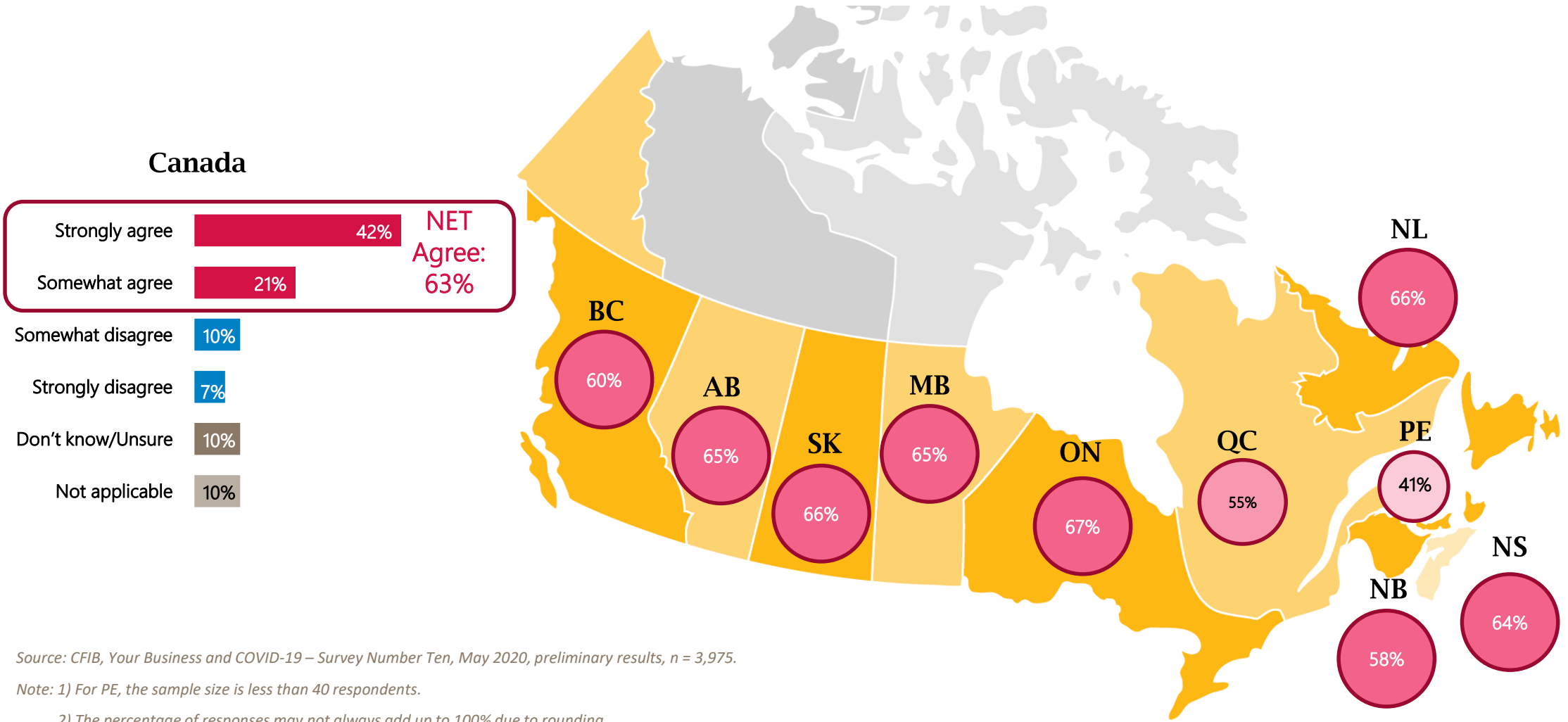


About one in five fear eviction/lockout; results are higher in certain provinces and sectors, *see appendix.*

Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 6,373.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

# For those that pay commercial rent, “Governments have been too slow with rent assistance ” (% response)

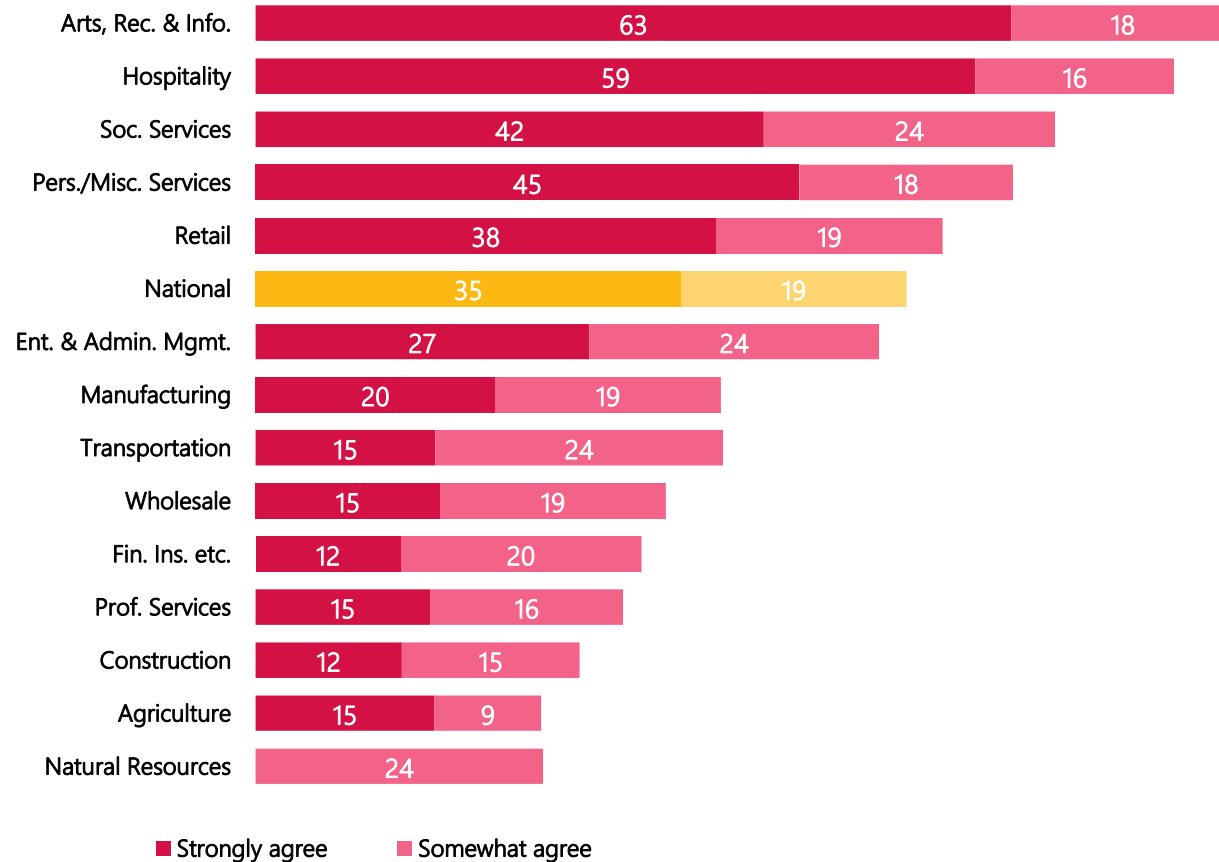


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 3,975.

Note: 1) For PE, the sample size is less than 40 respondents.

2) The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

## For those that pay commercial rent: “Rent relief could make the difference between my business surviving COVID-19 or having to shut down” (% response)

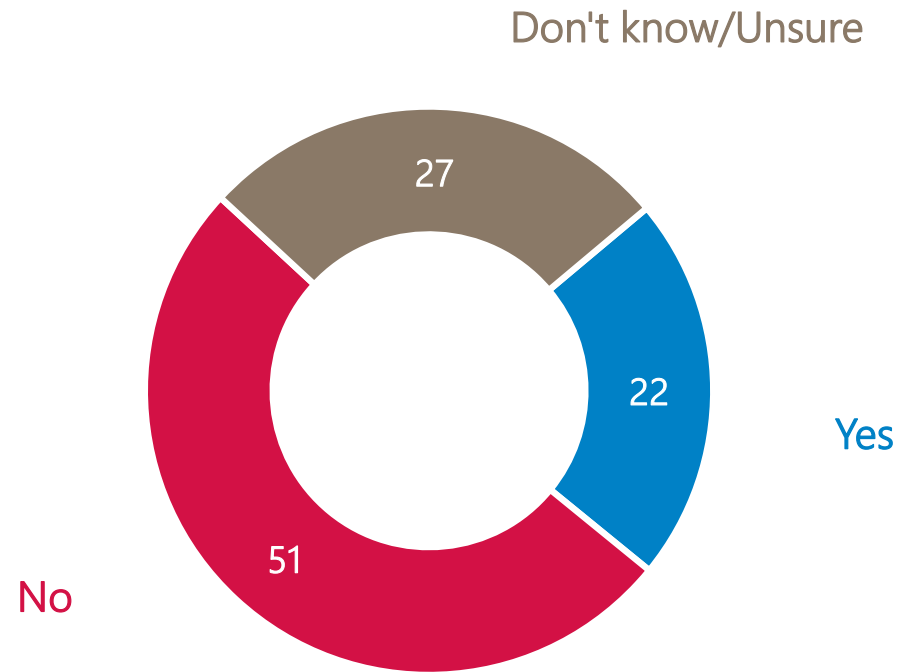


Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 4,003.

Note: Only includes respondents who indicated they make commercial rent payments.

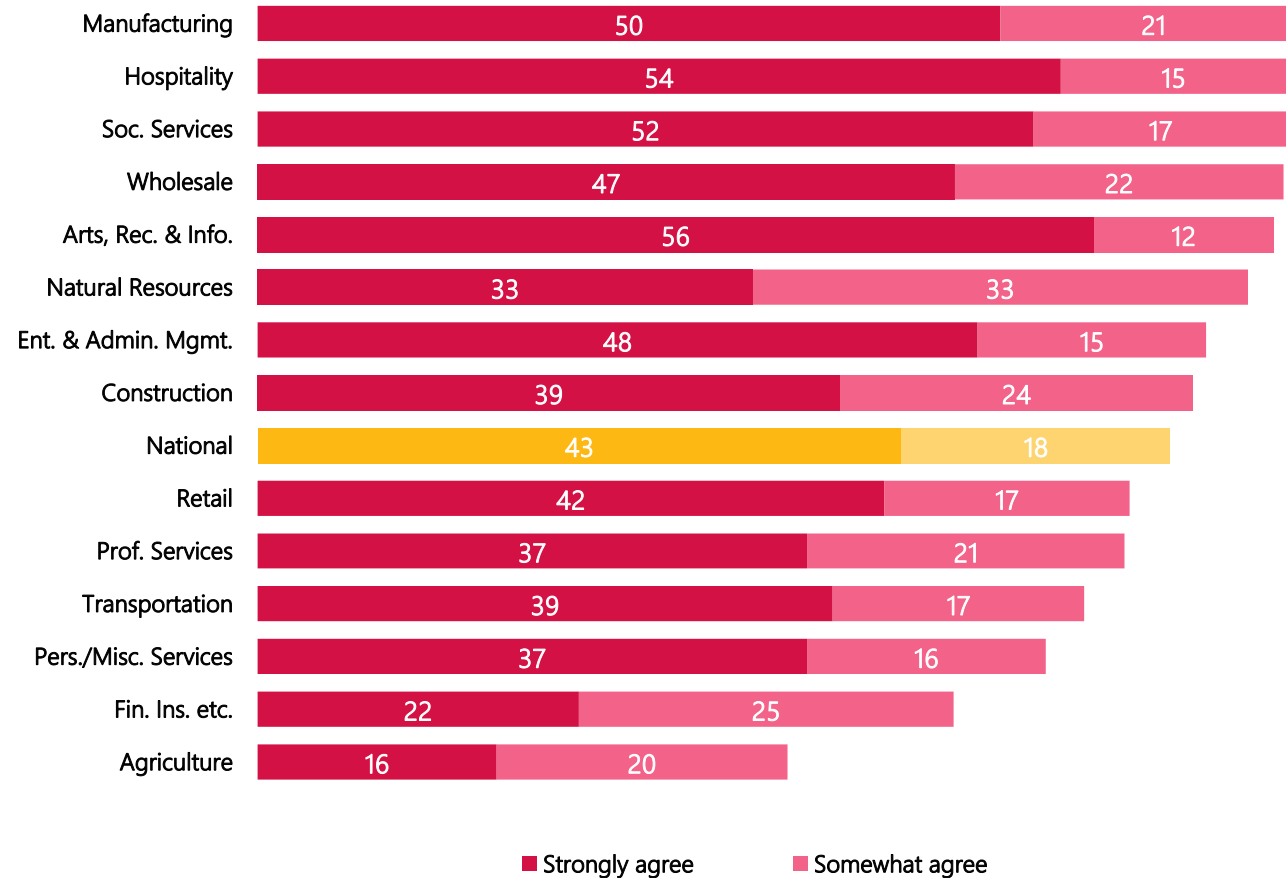


# As a landlord, will your business use the CECRA program with its tenants? (% response)



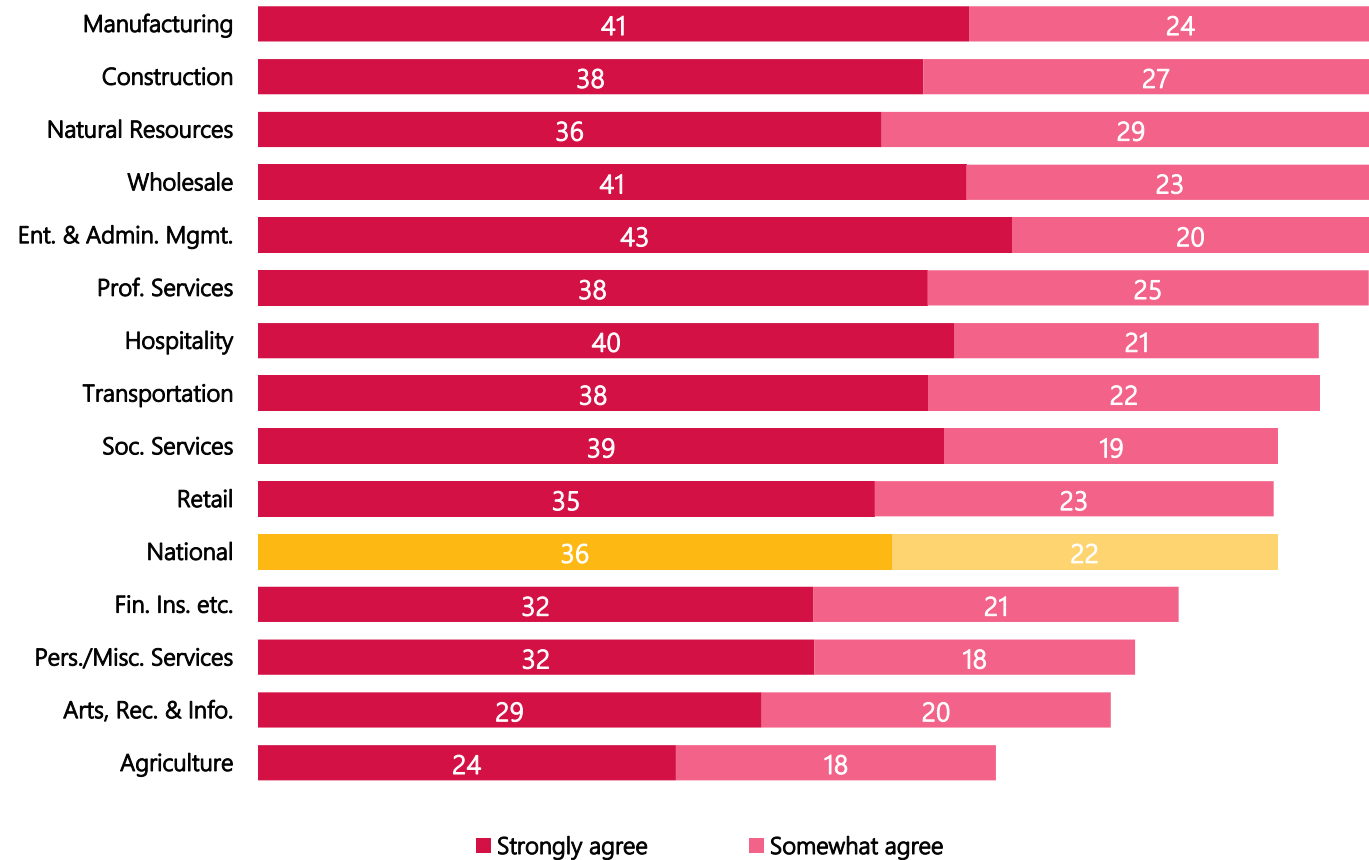
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 2,540.

# “The expansion of CEWS to June, July and August 2020 will help my business”, by sector (% response)



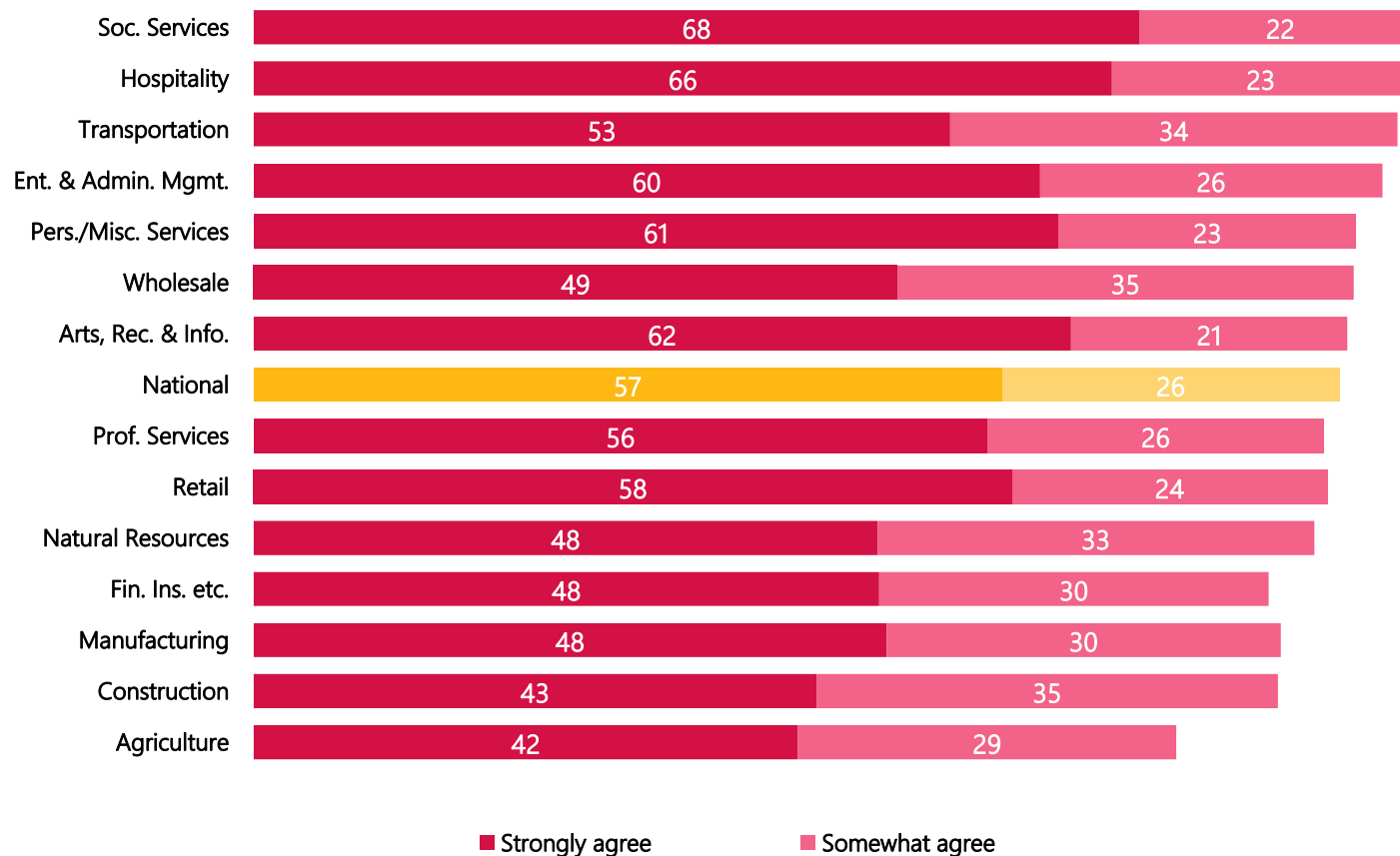
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,830.

# “Reducing the CEWS requirement to demonstrate a 30% revenue drop would help my business”, by sector (% response)



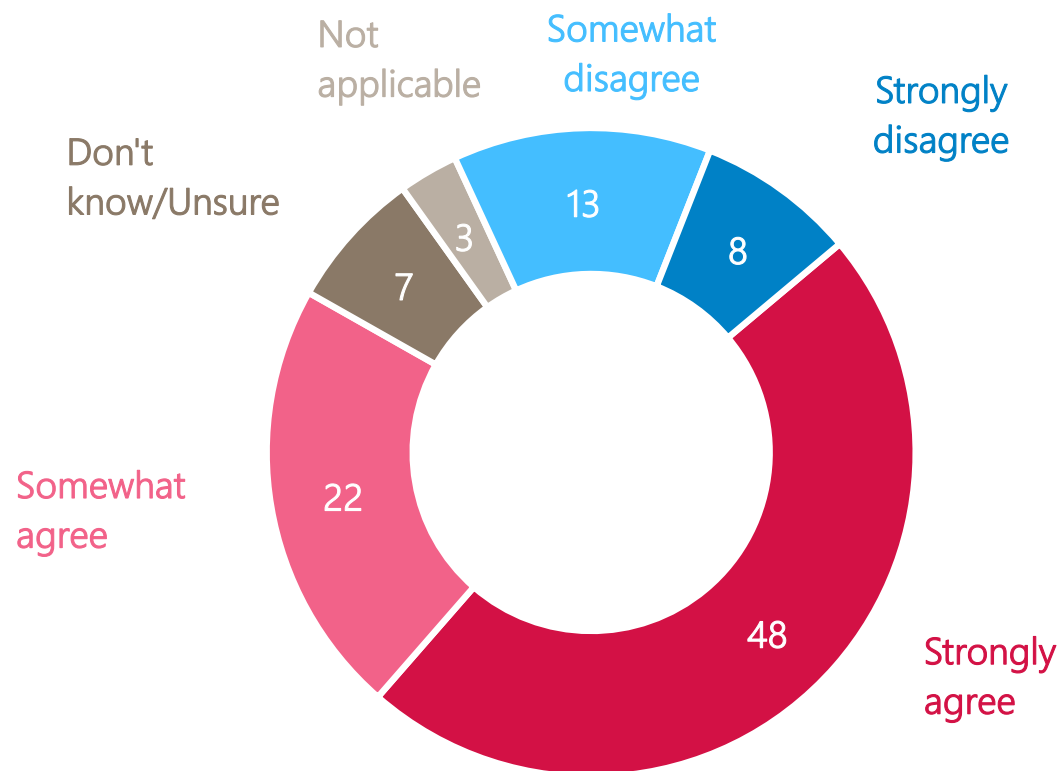
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,764.

# “CEBA should be accessible to as many small-and medium-sized businesses as possible”, by sector (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,813.

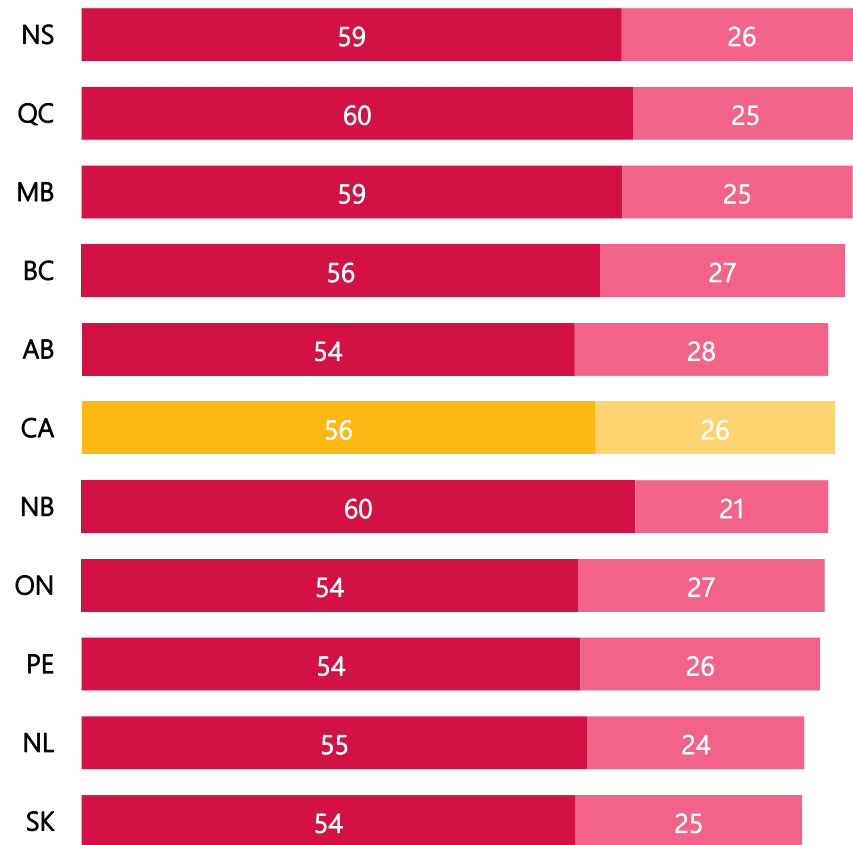
## “CEBA features should be changed so that more non-repayable money is offered” (% response)



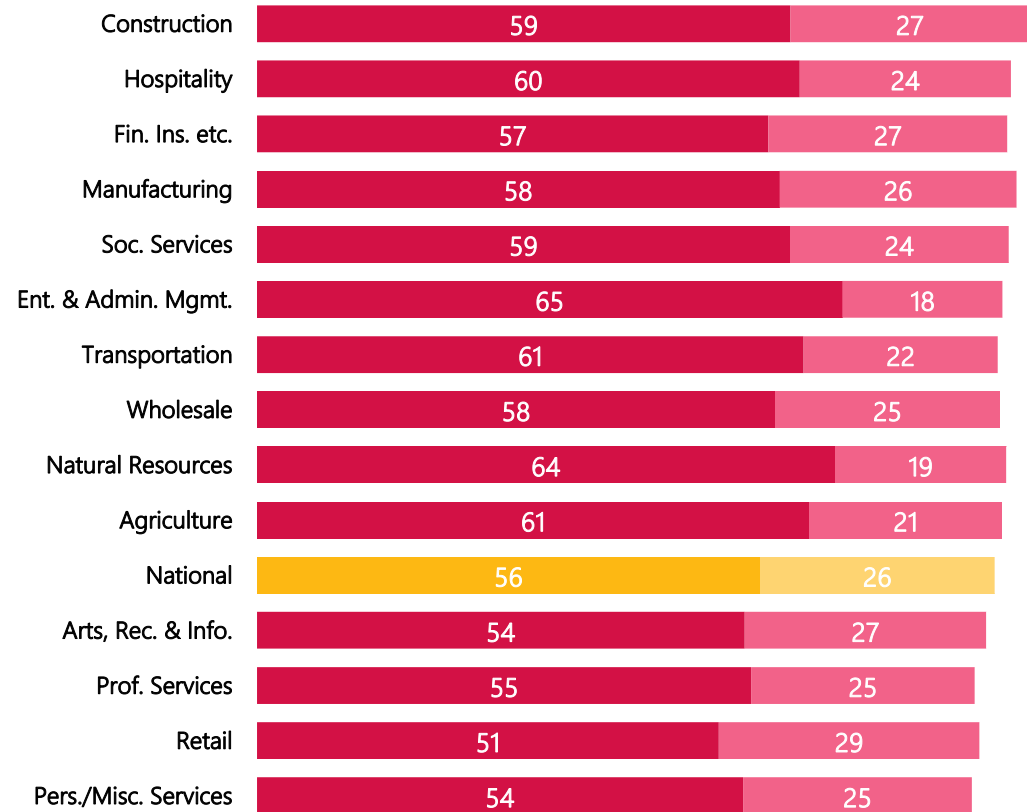
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,756.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

# “Changes should be made to CERB and CESB to incentivize workers to be available for work” (% response)

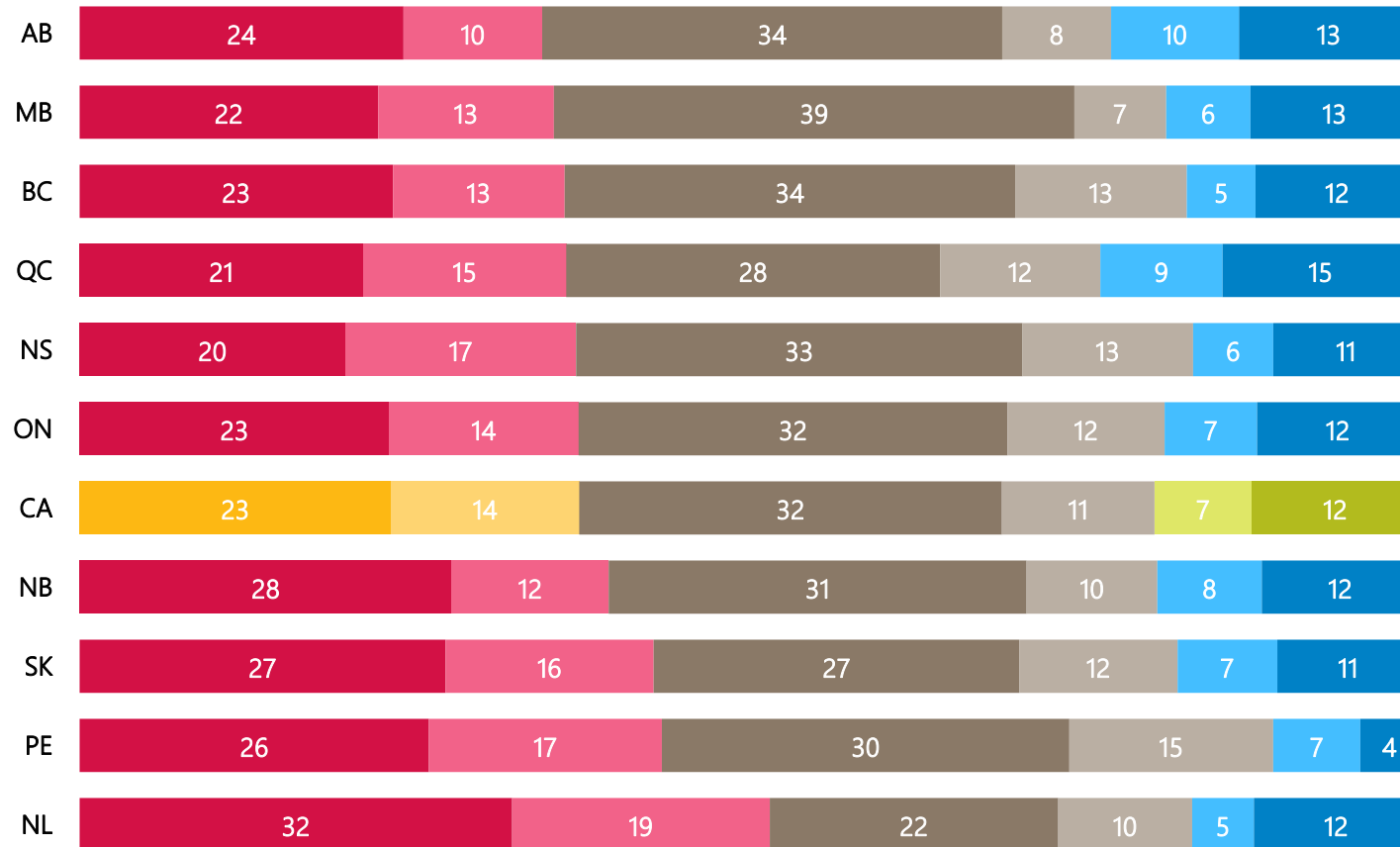


■ Strongly agree  
■ Somewhat agree



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,772.

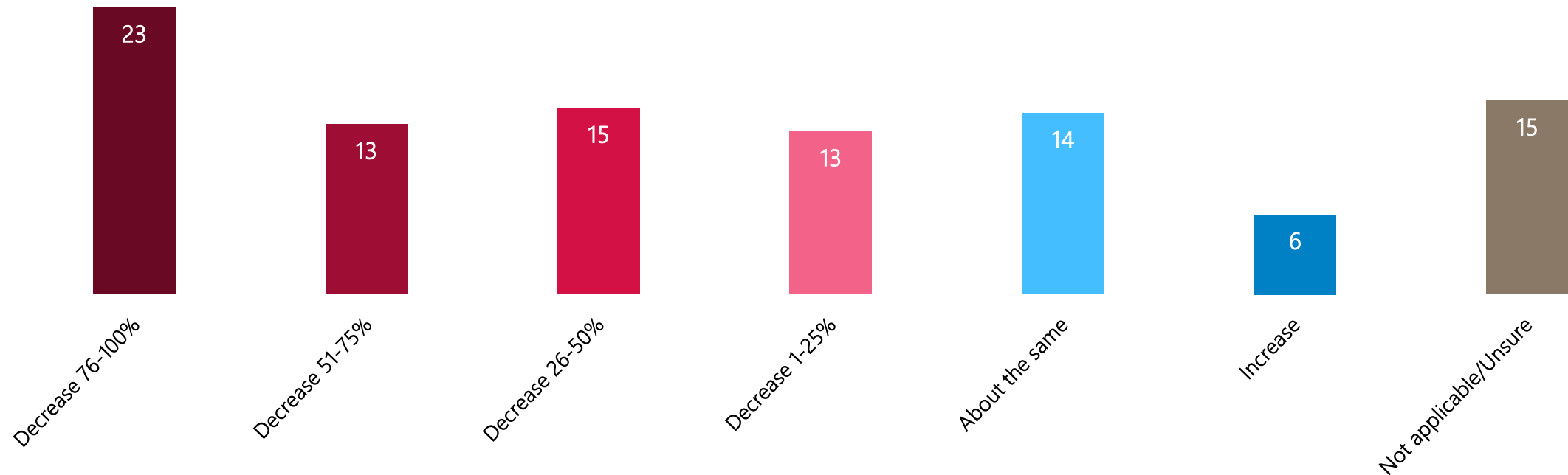
# “My business will apply for the newly available financial help from the federal regional economic development agencies” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,796.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

# Compared to 2019, roughly, how much will your business's 2020 total investment spending change? (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,970.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.



# Appendix 1: Reopening

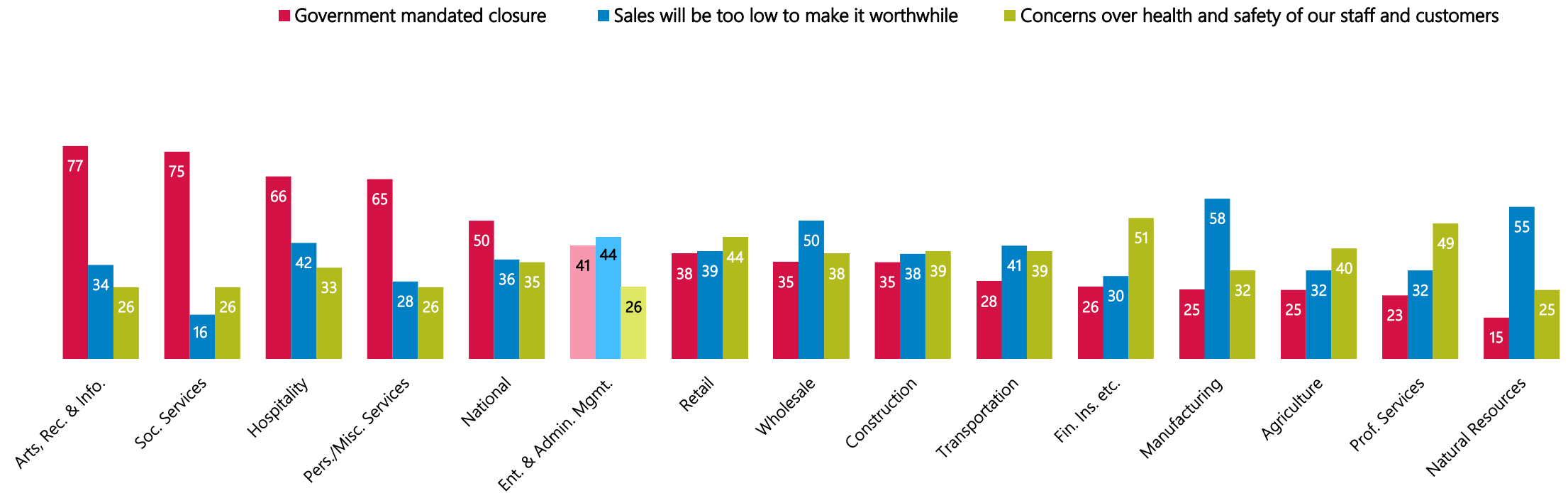
## For businesses that are fully or partially closed due to COVID-19 – What is preventing your business from fully reopening? (Select all that apply, % response)

	<i>Top provincial response</i>				<i>Top industry response</i>			
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Government mandated closure	NL	63%	PE	40%	Arts, Rec. & Info.	77%	Social services	75%
Sales will be too low to make it worthwhile	BC	50%	AB	31 %	Manufacturing	58%	Natural res.	56%
Concerns over health and safety of our staff and customers	NB/NS	44%	AB/BC	27 %	Fin. Ins. etc.	52%	Professional services	48%
Inability to implement physical distancing in my business	NB	30%	BC	16 %	Transportation	20%	Professional services	28%
Unclear guidelines as to whether my business is allowed to reopen	NS	24%	BC	14 %	Arts, Rec. & Info.	31%	Unclassic & IVMs	21%
Lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE)	AB	22%	NB	12 %	Social services	26%	Retail	19%
Staffing concerns	BC	25%	SK	14 %	Natural res.	26%	Agriculture	25%

Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 3,595.

Note: Only includes respondents who indicated they are partially open or fully closed in a previous question.

# What is preventing your business from fully reopening?: Government mandated closure, sales will be too low, health and safety concerns by sector ( % response)



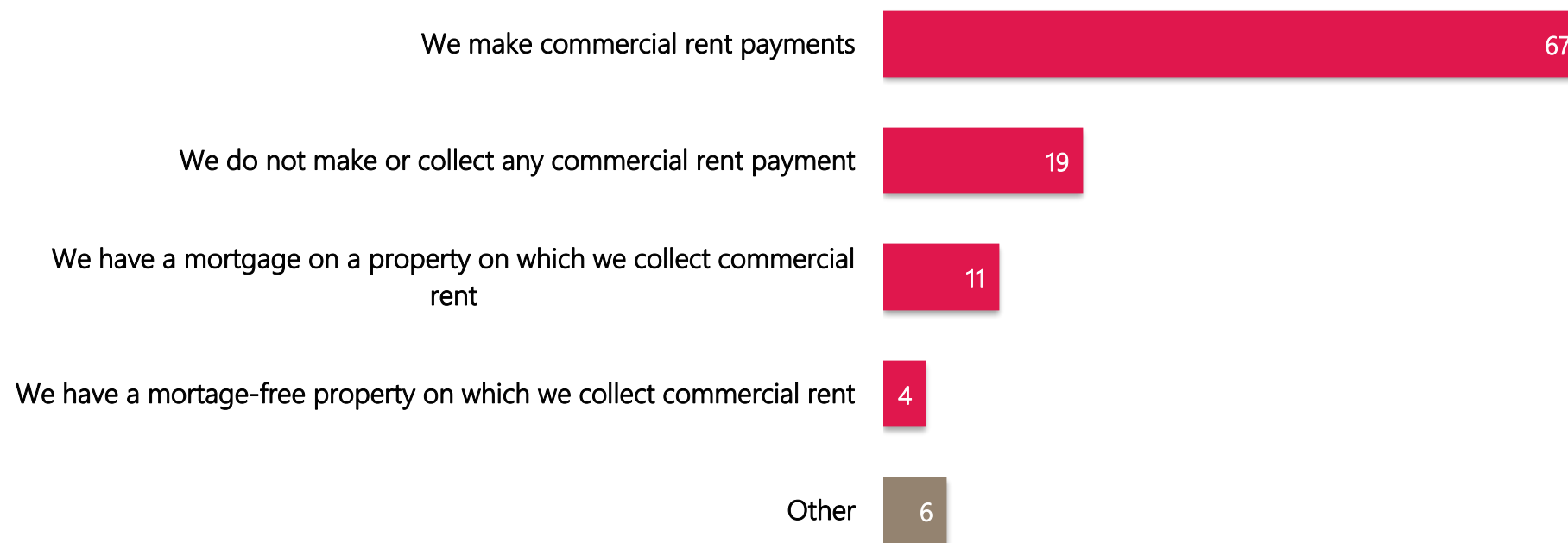
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 4,104.

Note: 1) Only includes respondents who indicated they are partially open or fully closed in a previous question.

2) Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

# Appendix 2: Rent

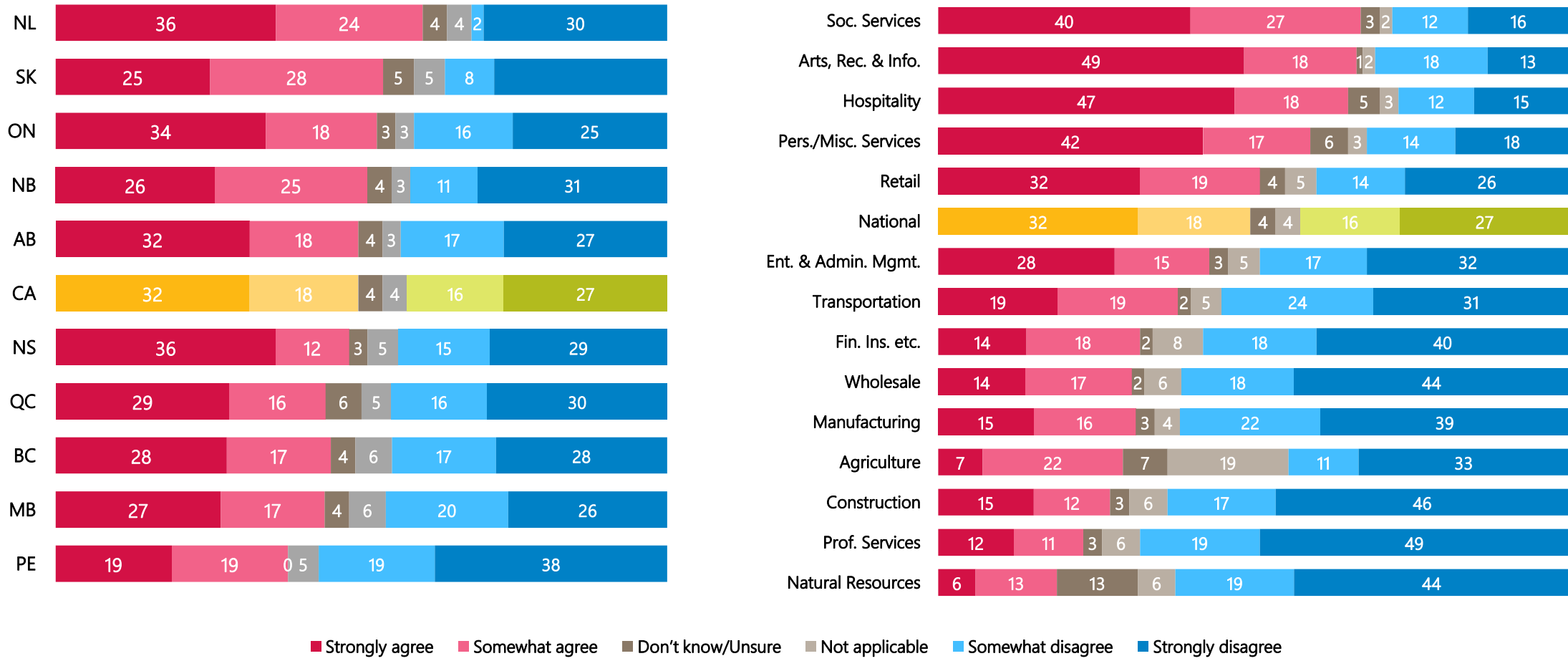
# Which of the following rent/mortgage situation(s) normally applies to your business? (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 6,136.

Note: Respondents are allowed to select multiple answers, percentages will not add to 100%.

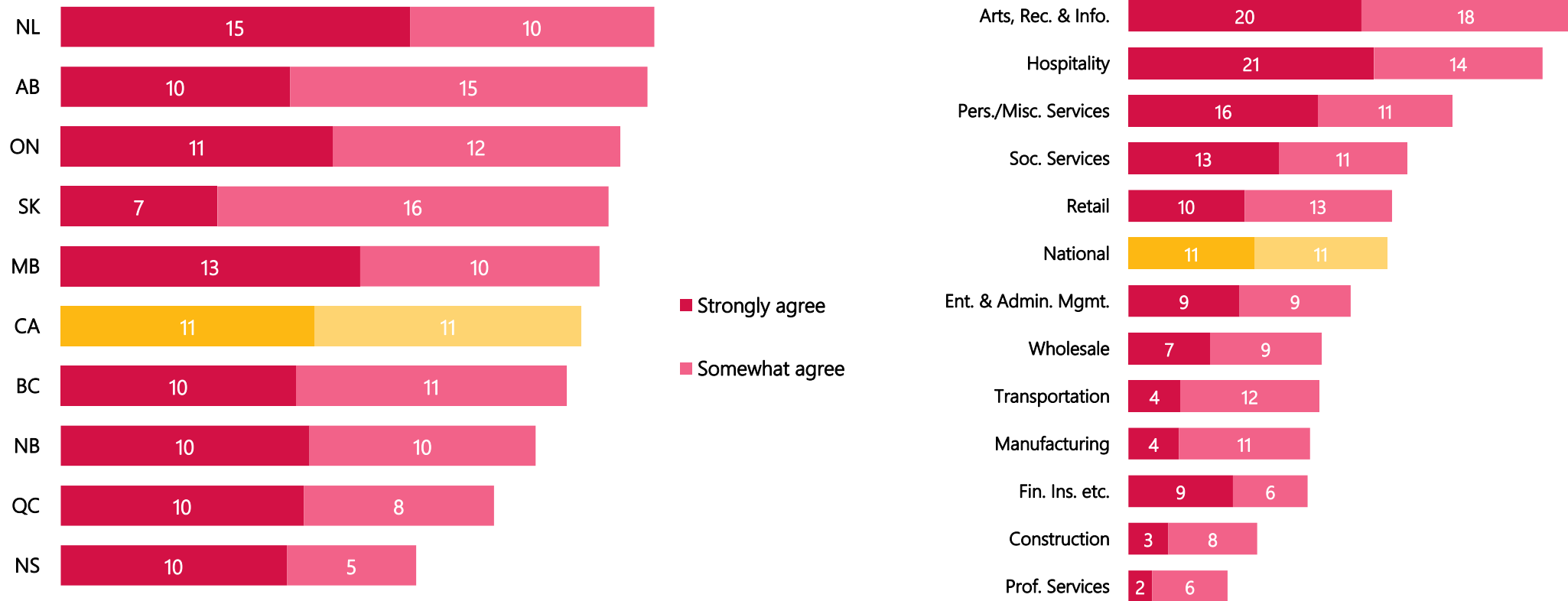
# For those that pay commercial rent “Without additional assistance, I will not be able to pay my June rent in full ” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,999.

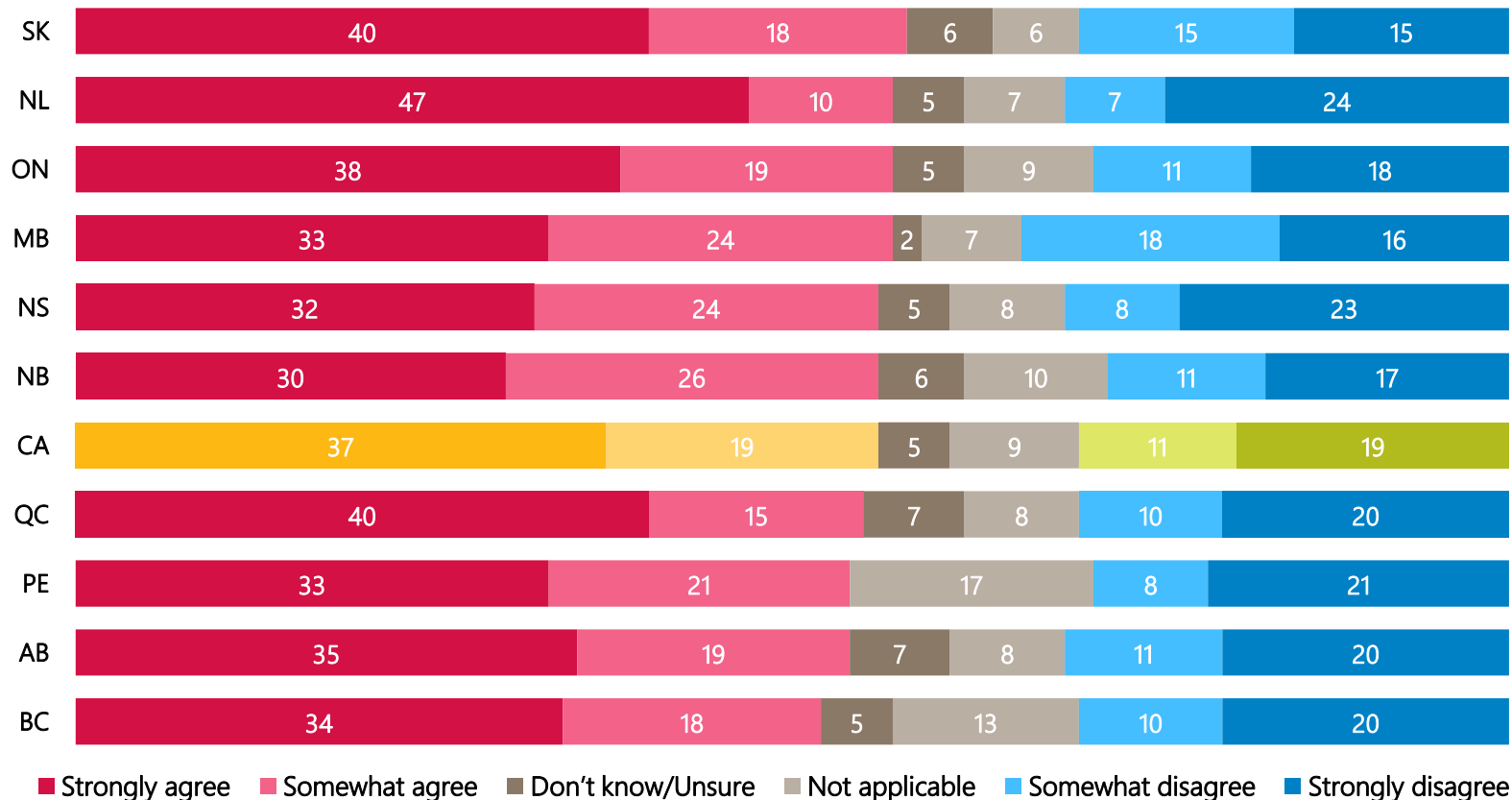
Note: The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

# For those that pay commercial rent, “I fear that my business will be evicted or locked out over unpaid rent” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 3,954.

## For those that pay commercial rent: “Rent relief could make the difference between my business surviving COVID-19 or having to shut down” (% response)



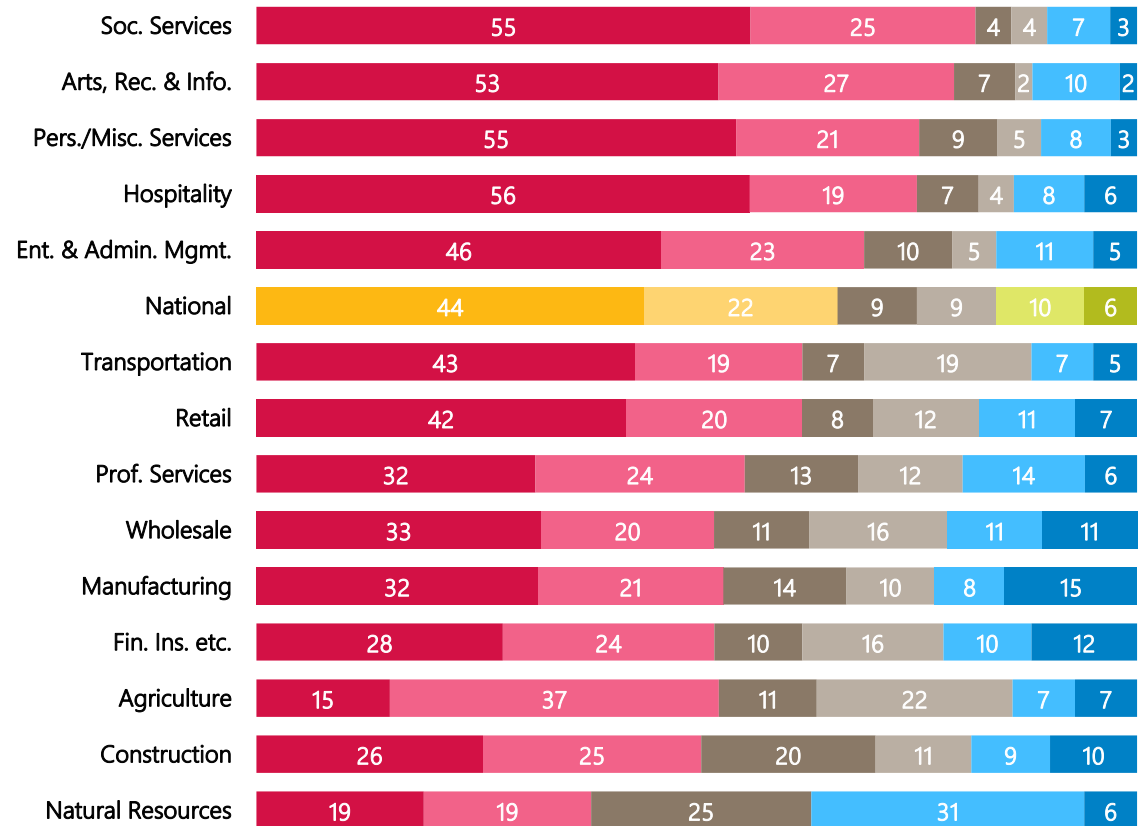
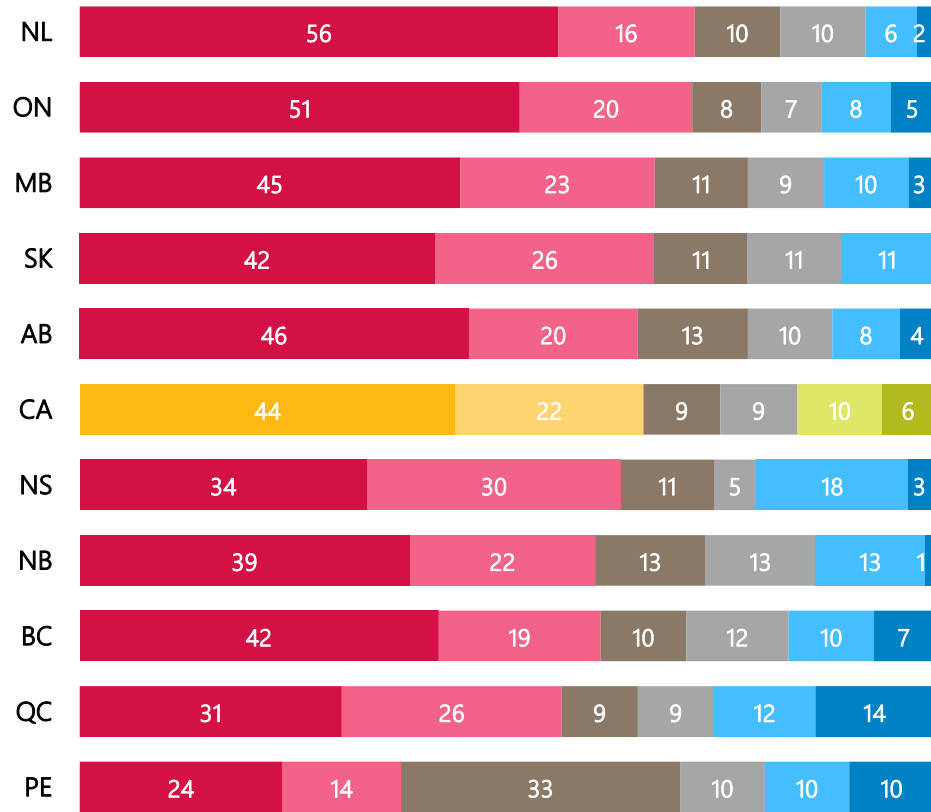
Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 3,291.

Note: 1) The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

2) Only includes respondents who indicated they make commercial rent payments.



# For those that pay commercial rent, “Governments have been too slow with rent assistance ”(% response)



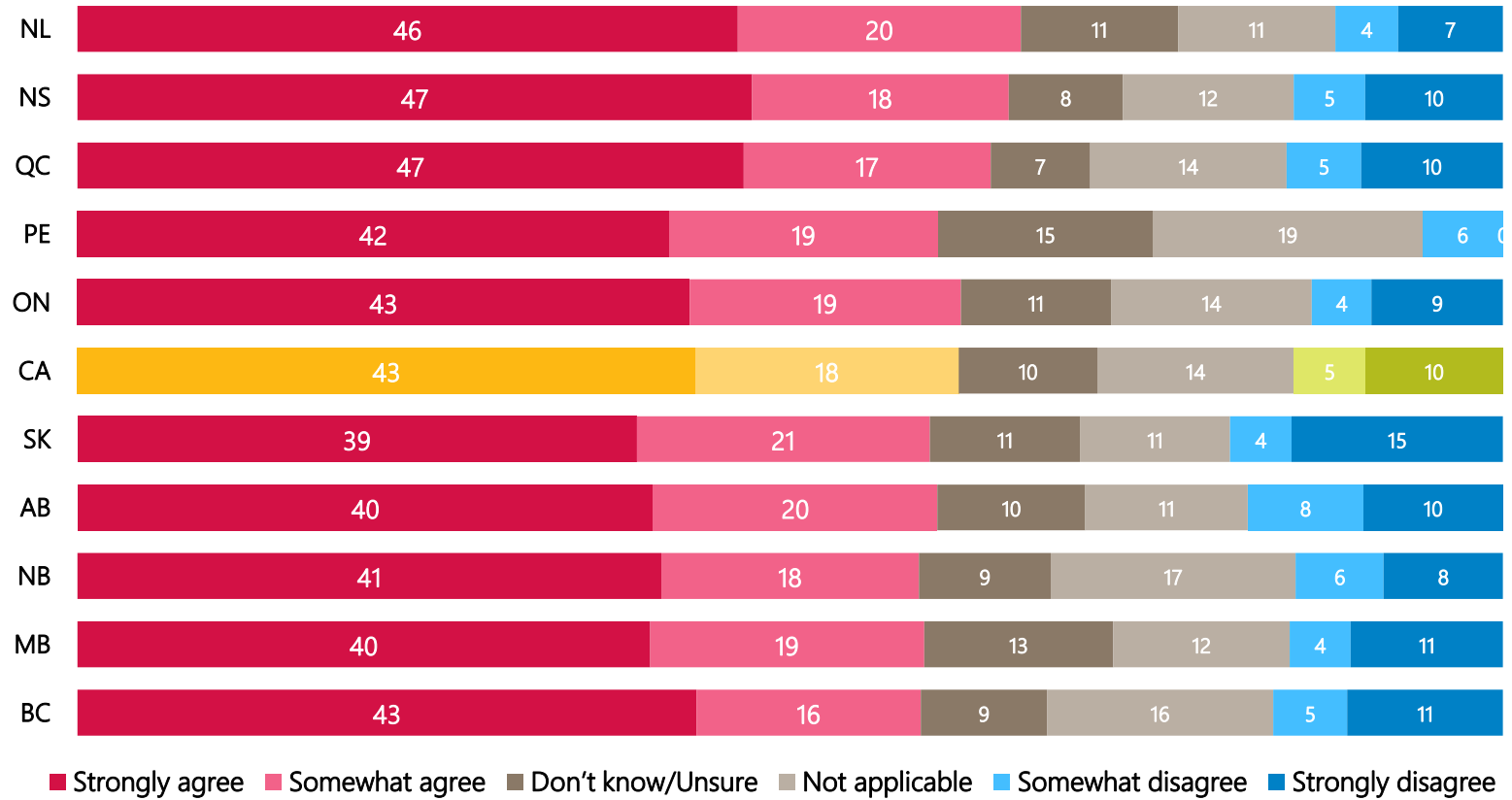
■ Strongly agree 
 ■ Somewhat agree 
 ■ Don't know/Unsure 
 ■ Not applicable 
 ■ Somewhat disagree 
 ■ Strongly disagree

Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,999.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

# Appendix 3: Relief Programs

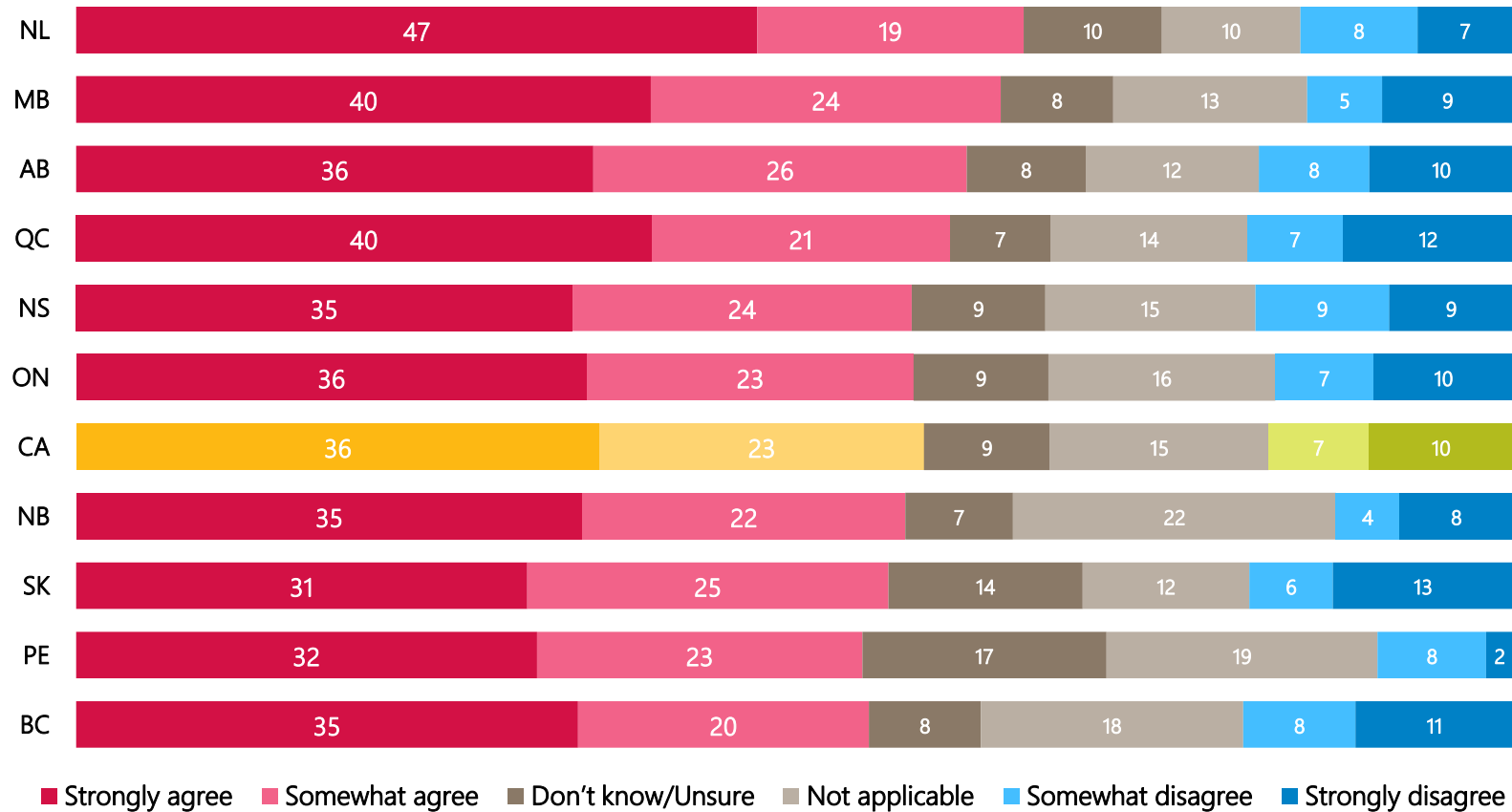
# “The expansion of CEWS to June, July and August 2020 will help my business” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,830.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

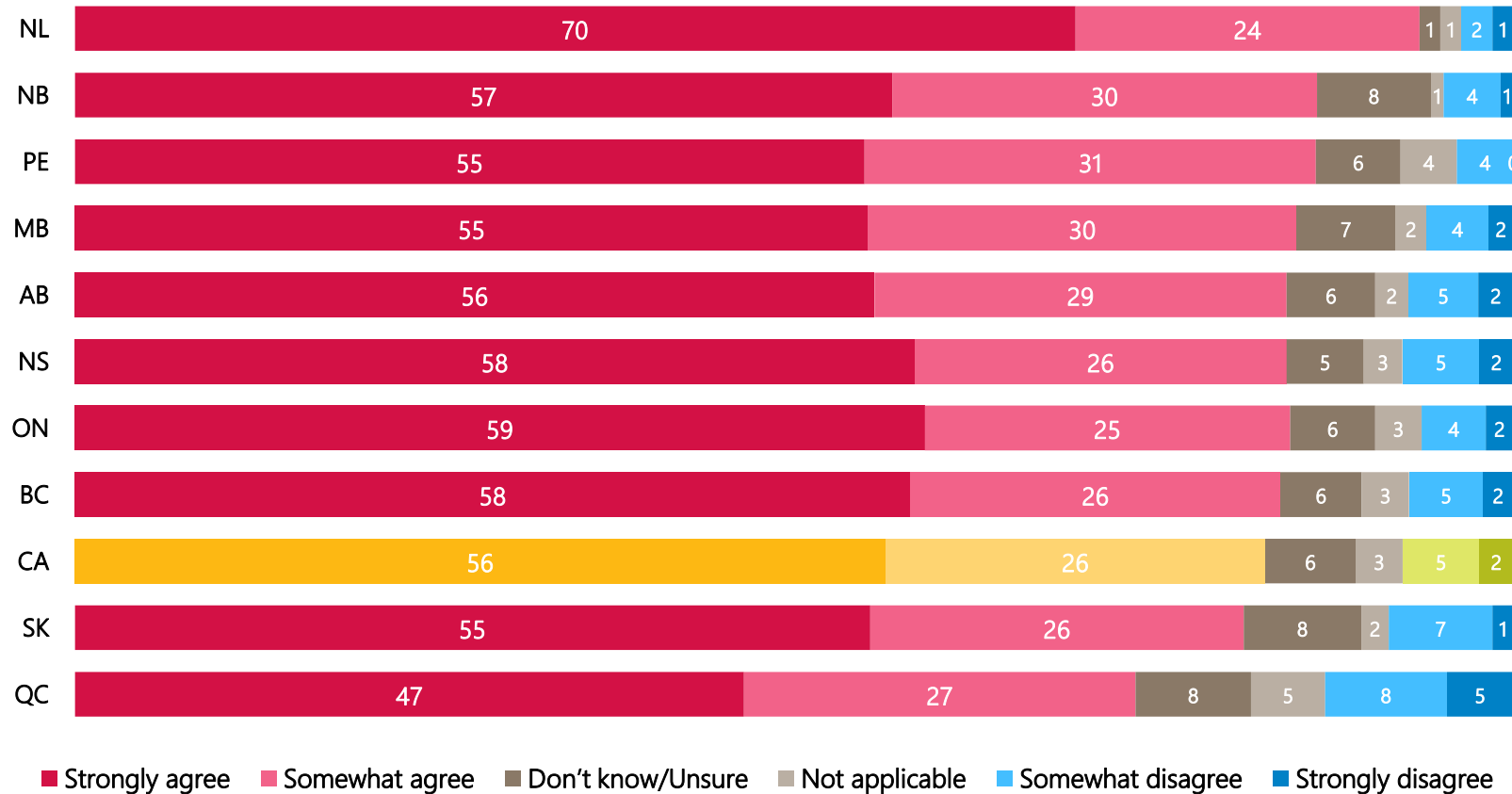
# “Reducing the CEWS requirement to demonstrate a 30% revenue drop would help my business” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,764.

Note: The percentage of responses may not always add to 100%, due to rounding.

# “CEBA should be accessible to as many small-and medium-sized businesses as possible” (% response)



Source: CFIB, Your Business and COVID-19 – Survey Number Ten, May 2020, preliminary results, n = 5,813.

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