



COVID-19 Enterprise Survey Report

July - August 2021

SICCI 2021 COVID-19 ENTERPRISE SURVEY REPORT

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) is the peak representative organization for the private sector in Solomon Islands. SICCI currently has over 160 members as well as a number of affiliations to other national private sector organizations, covering approximately 80 percent of the Solomon Islands private sector workforce. Sixty (70) percent of the SICCI membership is made up of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) employing less than 20 employees. SICCI continues to be a strong advocate of private sector interests and aims to work constructively with the government, the Solomon Islands community and international donor organizations. The Solomon Islands Government remains our key stakeholder and our continuous collaboration and engagement with the Government is critical to working towards a conducive business environment where the private sector can grow and jobs are created for our growing population. SICCI is driven by its vision for the Solomon Islands, its own mission and the values which governs the way it conducts its work.

This report displays key results from the "2021 COVID19 Enterprise Survey" which was conducted online with 86 members of SICCI between 14th July and 17th August 2021. It intends to get the results of the following:

- The types of working/ flexible working arrangements imposed by businesses as a result of the 2020 pandemic and employees directly affected by these measures.
- How well businesses were able to manage the impact of COVID-19 resulting from the prevention and control measures introduced by the government and the impacts this has had on businesses current productions and operations. Additionally, the changes implemented as a result of this.
- COVID-19 Impact on business finance and revenue and how long cash reserves that are currently available will last.
- Access to funding (e.g. cash on hand or savings etc.) or access to alternative sources (e.g. loans or grants).
- Whether businesses have closed down due to the pandemic and what measures are planned upon resuming operations
- What assistance businesses require from government to restore and/or maintain normal operations.

Size of enterprise

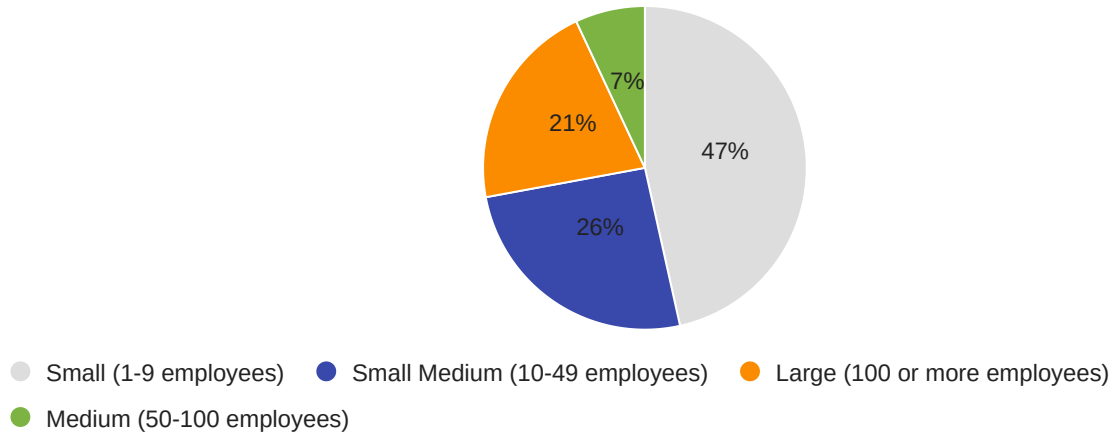


Fig. 1.1 Indicates the majority of survey participants are small businesses with 1-9 employees at 47%, followed by Small Medium businesses with 10-49 employees at 26%.

Indicate which of the (2) 2020 COVID-19 surveys you participated in.

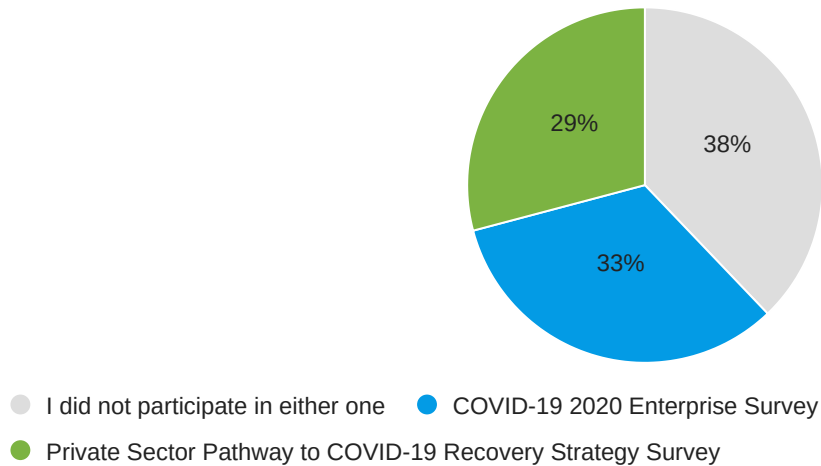
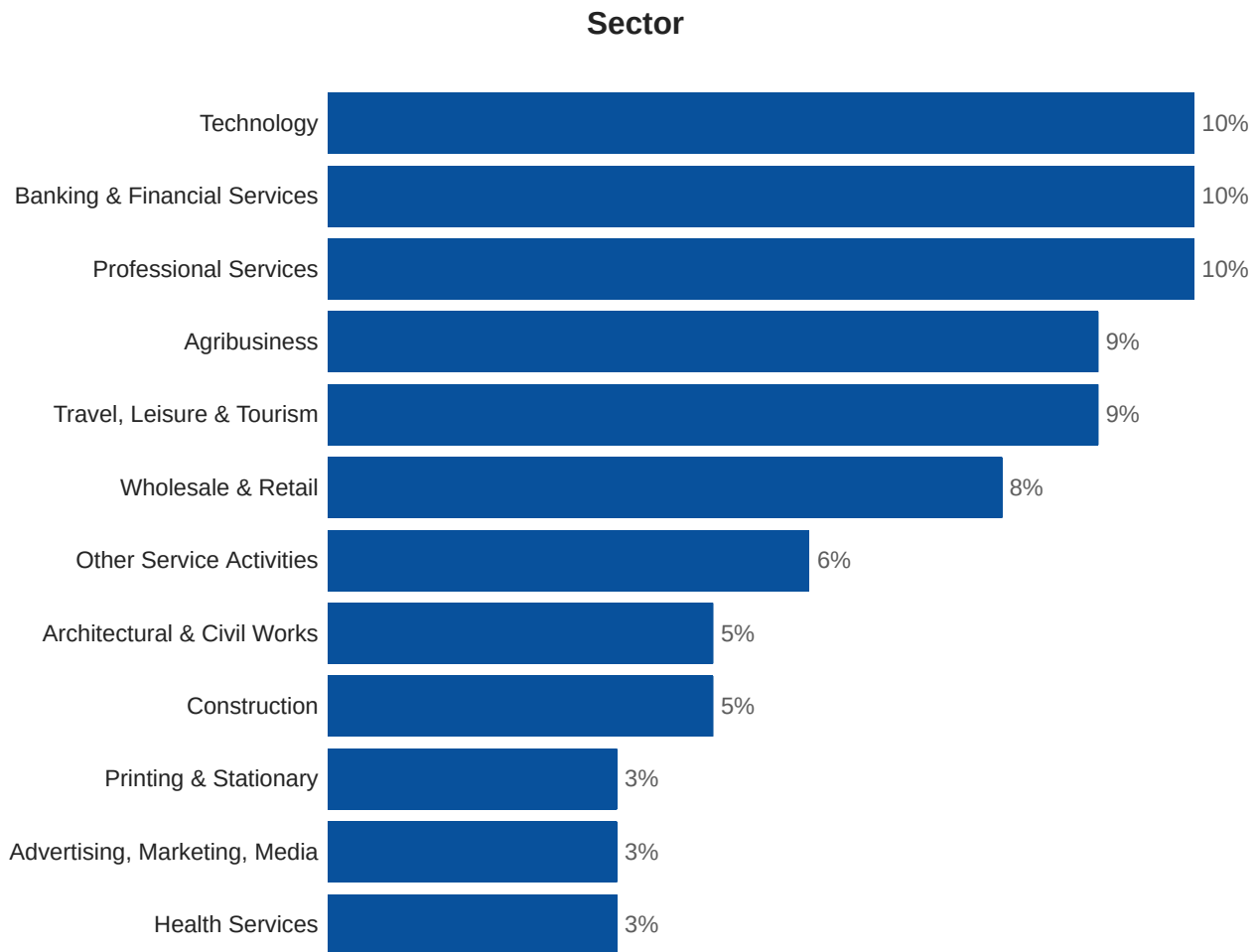


Fig. 1.2 Indicates majority (38%) did not participate in either survey while (33%) participated in the COVID-19 2020 Enterprise Survey and (29%) participated in the Private Sector Pathway to COVID-19 Recovery Strategy Survey.



Note: Sectors accounting for less for 3% are not included in the figure

Fig. 1.3 Indicates that (10%) of survey participants were from the Technology, Banking & Financial services and professional Services sector, (9%) of which are from Agribusiness and Tourism sector. Following this (8%) from Wholesale & Retail sector.

Working arrangements provided by businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

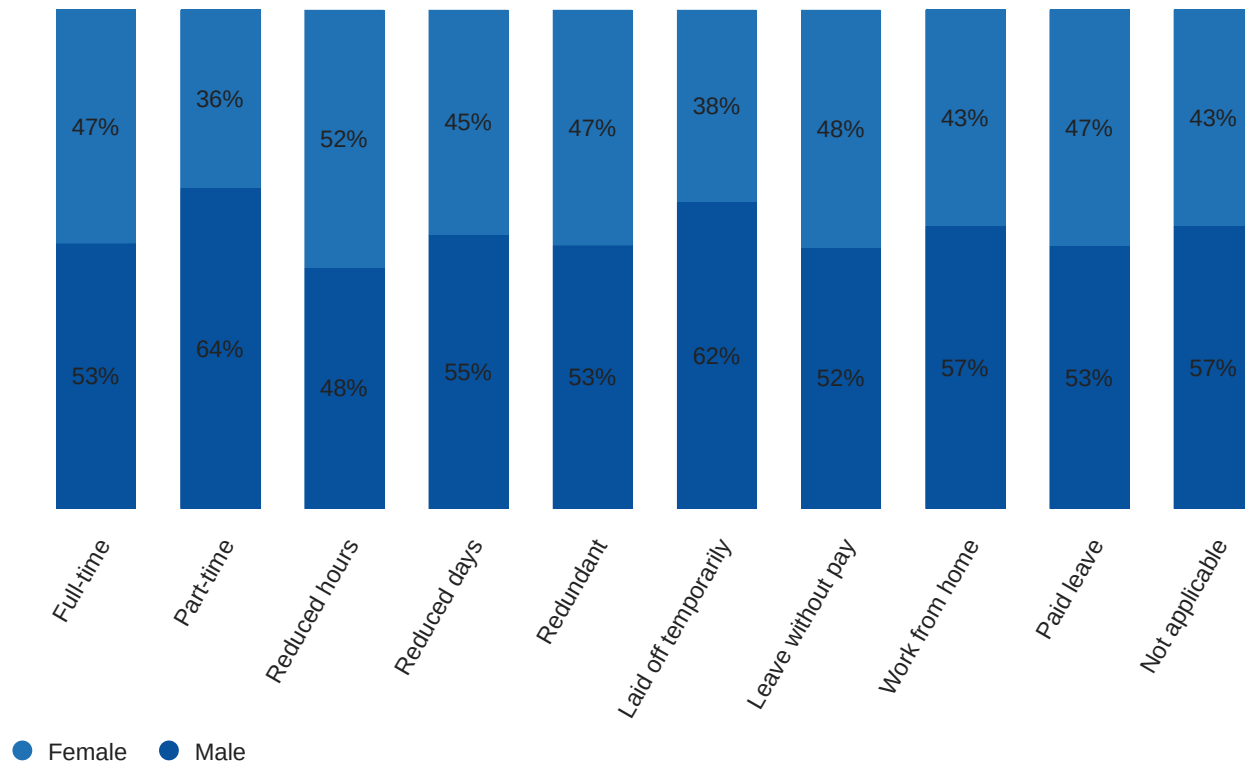


Fig 1.4 results show that various working arrangements that were imposed by businesses as a result of the pandemic. Full time workers Male workers highest at (53%) and part-time at (64%). (52%) of women workers were affected by reduced hours while (55%) of male workers were affected by reduced days of work. (62%) of Male workers experienced temporary lay offs while (52%) male workers were affected by leave without pay. (53%) male and (47%) women workers were given paid leave.

Flexible working arrangements provided by businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

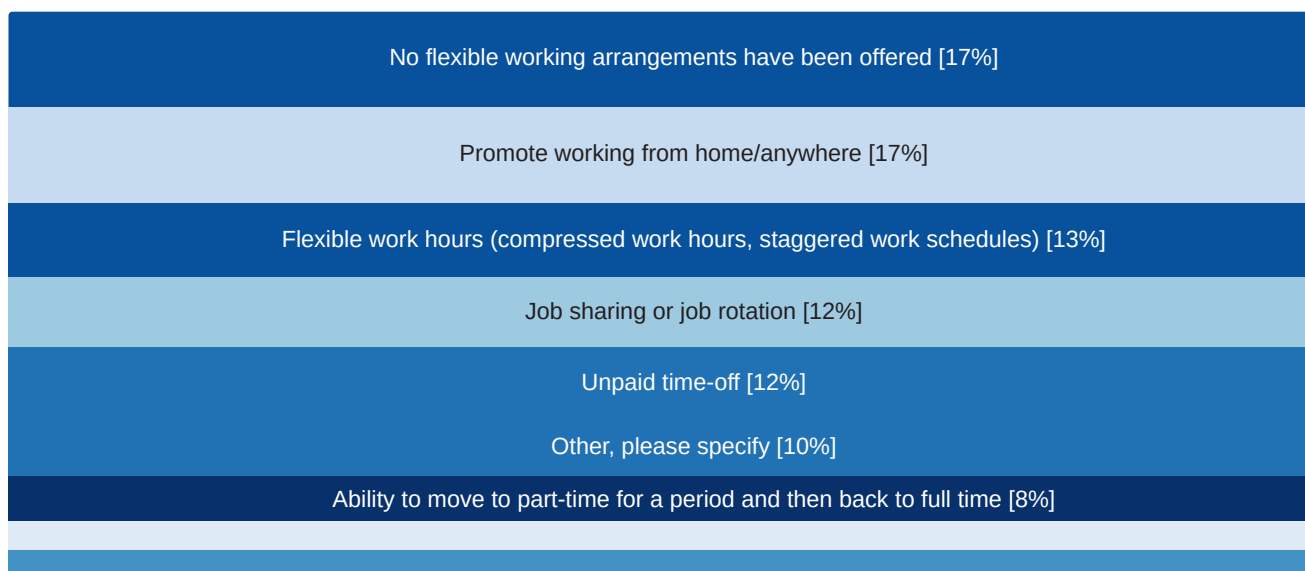


Fig 1.5 results show that (17%) reported no flexible working arrangements have been offered while another (17%) reported that promoting working from home and elsewhere were provided by businesses. Another (13%) reported flexible hours were introduced, (12%) there has been job sharing or job rotation introduced, while another (12%) stated that unpaid time-off was arranged

Note: The word text below represents participants written narratives/comments from (10%) in response to "Other, please specify" option above.

arrangement normal alternate
work
reduce continue pay

How prepared was your business to manage the impact of COVID-19 resulting from the prevention and control measures introduced by the government?

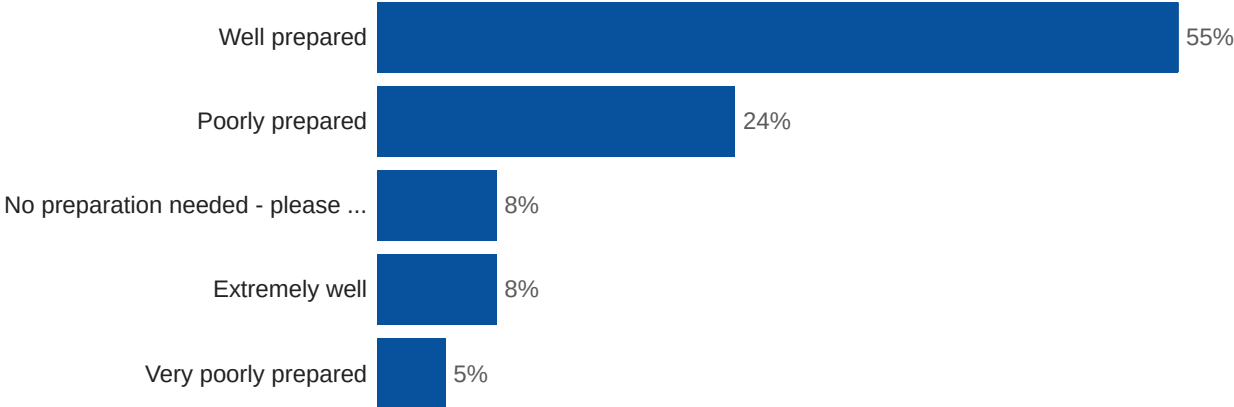


Fig 1.6 shows that (55%) of businesses were prepared to manage the impact of COVID-19 resulting from prevention and control measures by govt while (24%) report that they were poorly prepared.

Note: The word text below represents participants written narratives/comments as response to "No preparation needed" option above

situation introduce projection
 prevention direction
 idea better covid
 business
 force control adjust
 measure depend guide
 preparation
 restriction

Was your business fully, partly or not insured at all before COVID-19 pandemic occurred?



Fig 1.7 results indicate that (48%) of respondents were fully insured, (27%) partly insured and (26%) were not insured.

Type of business support towards COVID-19 efforts

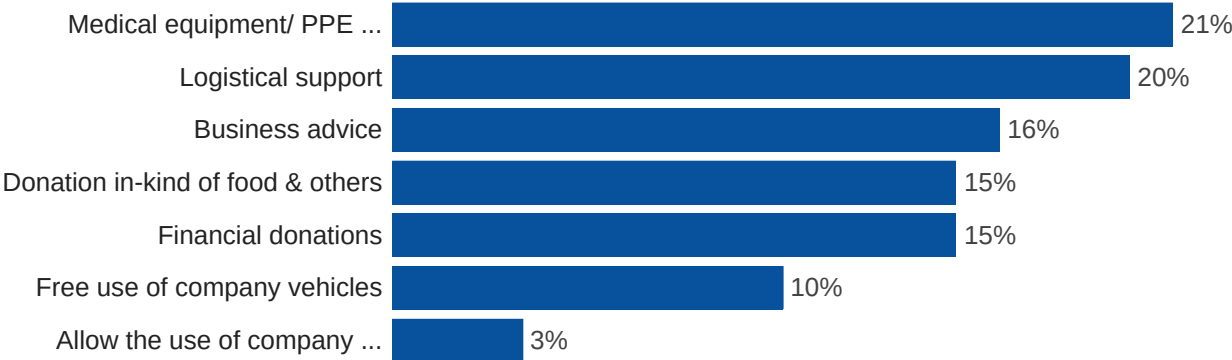


Fig 1.8 Results show business support towards COVID-19. (21%) confirmed support by providing Medical/PPE equipment, (20%) offered logistical support, (16%) offered business advice, (15%) offered donations in-kind of food and others, another (15%) offered financial donations while (10%) allowed the free use of company vehicles.

Business current production and operation status.



Fig 1.9 results show that (65%) of businesses current production status is normal working activity while (34%) stated they are under partial working activity. (1%) have completely shutdown operations.

How much has the resulting prevention and control measures introduced by government due to COVID-19 impacted the current production and operation of your business?

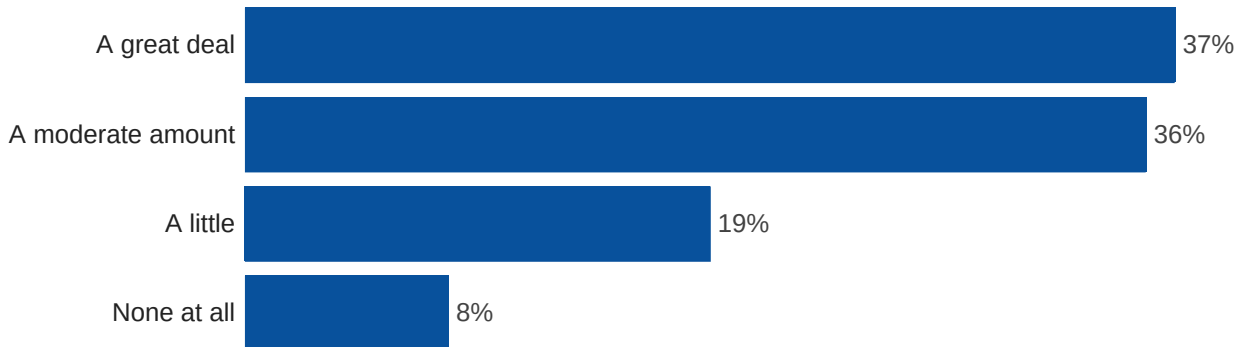


Fig 2.0 results show resulting prevention and control measure by government have impacted (37%) a great deal, (36%) a moderate amount, (19%) of businesses a little and (8%) report it has not impacted them at all.

Main impact of the resulting prevention and control measures due to COVID-19 on businesses.

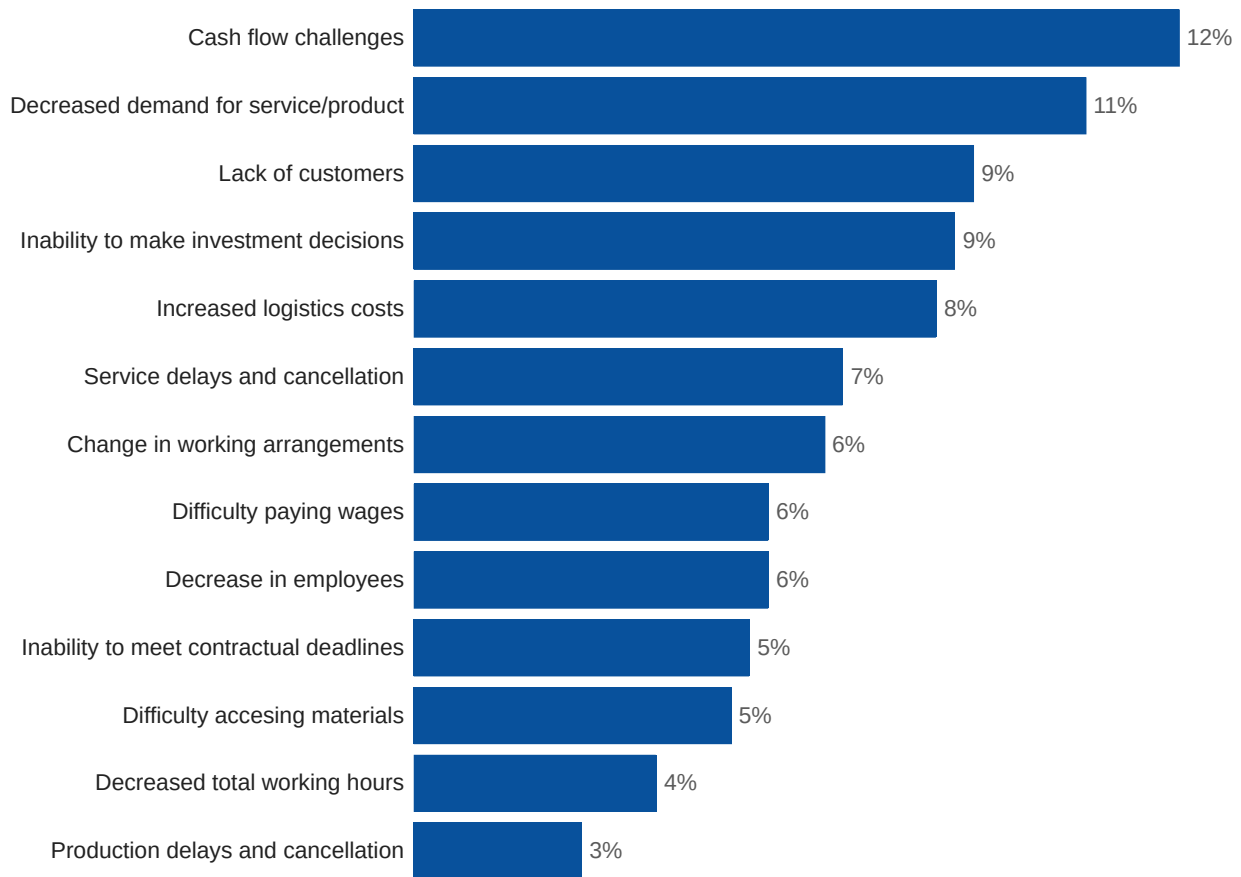


Fig 2.1 results show that the main impacts of the resulting prevention and control measure due to COVID-19 on business were cash flow challenges (12%), (11%) reported a decrease demand for products/services, Lack of customers (9%), Inability to make investment decisions (9%), (8%) reported an increase in logistics costs and (7%) reported service delays and cancellations.

Changes introduced to business due to COVID-19

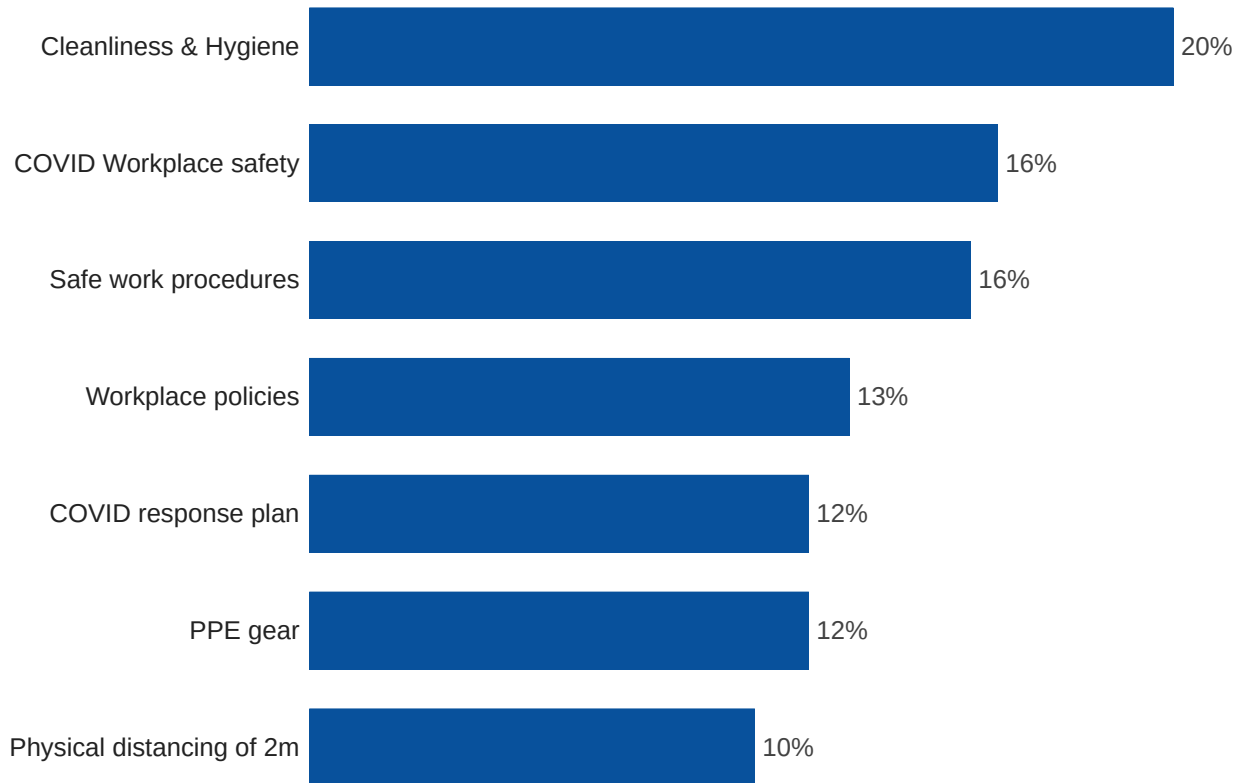


Fig 2.2 results show (20%) of businesses have implemented general amenities, cleanliness and hygiene procedures in the workplace, (16%) have introduced COVID workplace safety, (13%) have implemented workplace policies, (12%) have introduced a COVID response plan/prevention & isolation procedures, another (12%) have introduced PPE gear and (10%) have introduced physical distancing of 2m.

What do you expect will be the impact of COVID-19 on your business this year (July-December 2021)?

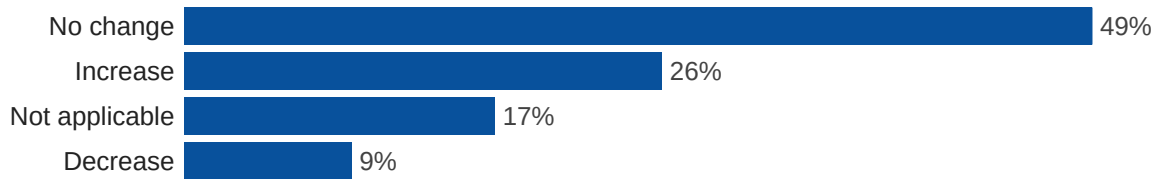


Fig 2.3 results show (49%) of businesses expect no change on the impact of COVID-19 on business this year from July 2021 - December 2021 while (26%) of businesses are expecting an increase.

Have you postponed any expansion and/or investment decisions due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis?

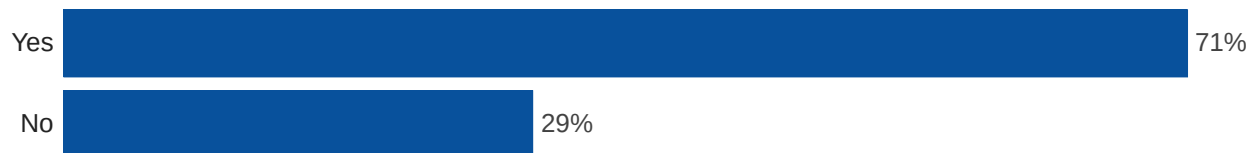


Fig 2.4 show that (71%) of businesses have postponed expansion/investment decisions due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis while (29%) stated no expansion and/or investment decisions have been made.

What has been the level of financial impact (revenue or sales) on your business and disruption to your operations?

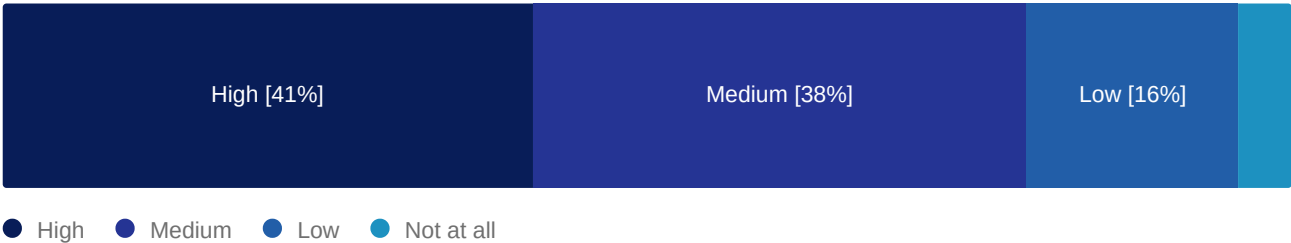


Fig 2.5 results show that (41%) of business have experienced high financial impact on business and disruption to operations, (38%) have reported experiencing medium impact while (16%) have reported low impact.

Describe your revenue for this year (2021) compared to the same period last year (compared to Q1 and Q2 of 2020).

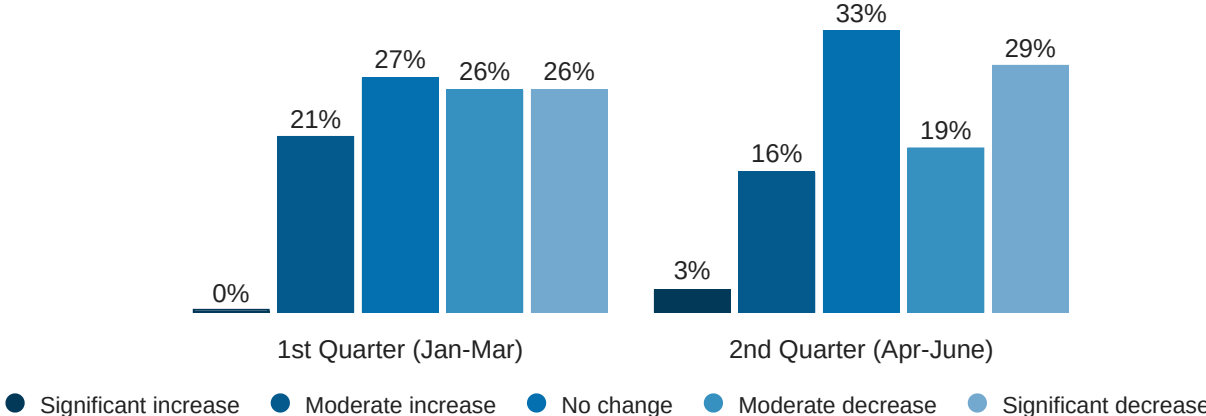


Fig 2.6 results show that (27%) of businesses saw no change in revenue in 1st qtr and (32%) saw no change in the 2nd Qtr of 2021 compared to 2020. However, (26%) saw a significant decrease in revenue in the 1st Qtr while (29%) saw a significant decrease in the 2nd Qtr April-June) of 2021. (26%) of businesses have experience a moderate decrease of revenue in 1st Qtr and (19%) in the 2nd Qtr of 2021. However, (21%) of businesses have seen a moderate increase in revenue for 1st Qtr and (16%) in 2nd Qtr of 2021 as compare to 2020.

Do you have funding (e.g. cash on hand, savings, etc.) or access to alternative source (e.g loans or grants)?

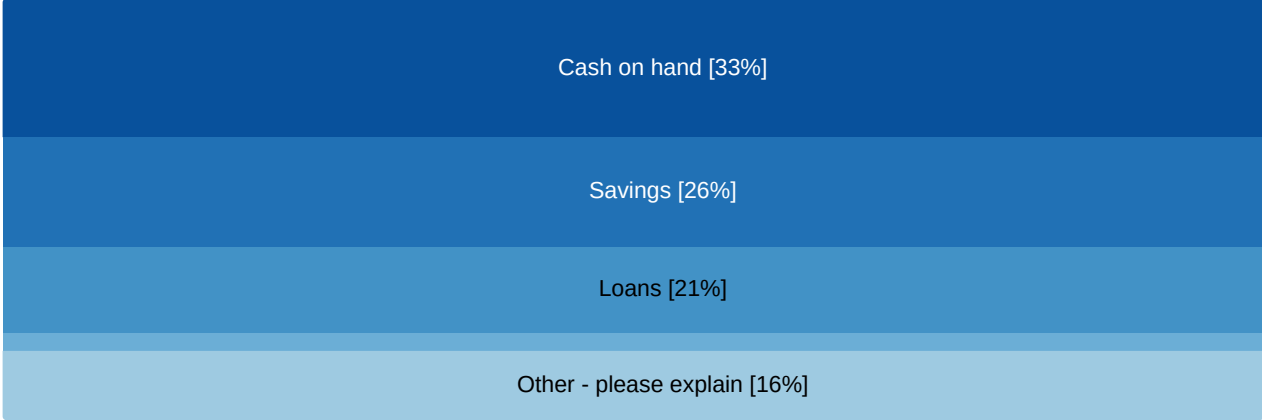


Fig 2.7 results indicate that (33%) of businesses have cash on hand, (26%) have savings and (21%) have acquired loans

Note: The word text below represents (16%) participants written narratives/comments as response to "Other- please explain" option above.

asset
bank
none
support capital

Summary of above word text: (16%) of businesses reported there is no access to support, a few depend only on capital and customer deposits, assets, bank overdraft or capital injection from parent companies.

How long can the cash reserve funds that are currently available last, before affecting the survival of your business?

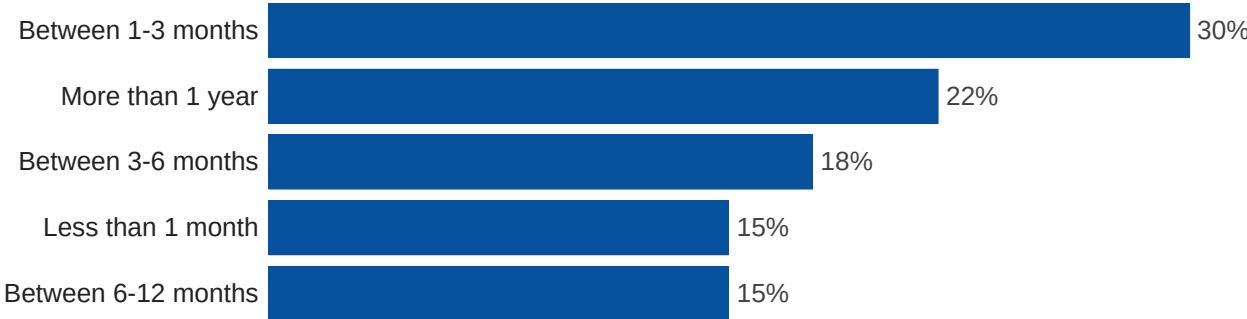


Fig 2.8 results show (30%) of businesses cash reserves will last between 1-3 months, (22%) stated that cash reserves will last more than 1 year, (8%) of businesses say between 3-6 months, (15%) will see cash reserves last less than one month and another (15%) state that it will last between 6-12 months.

Has your business closed due to COVID-19?



Fig 2.9 results show that (95%) of businesses are still operational while (5%) have closed due to COVID-19.

If your business has closed due to COVID-19, which of the following measures does the business plan to do after resuming operations?

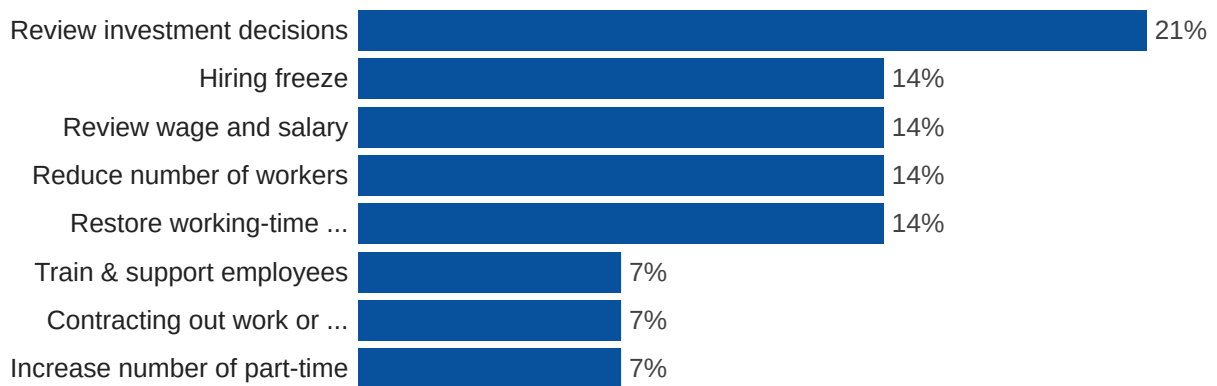


Fig 3.0 results show (21%) will implement review on investment decisions after resuming operations, (14%) report a hiring freeze, (14%) will review wage and salary, (14%) will reduce number of workers, another (14%) report to restore working time arrangements. (7%) train and support employees, (7%) Contract or outsource work and another(7%) will increase number of part-time workers.

What assistance will your business require from the government to restore and/or maintain normal operations?

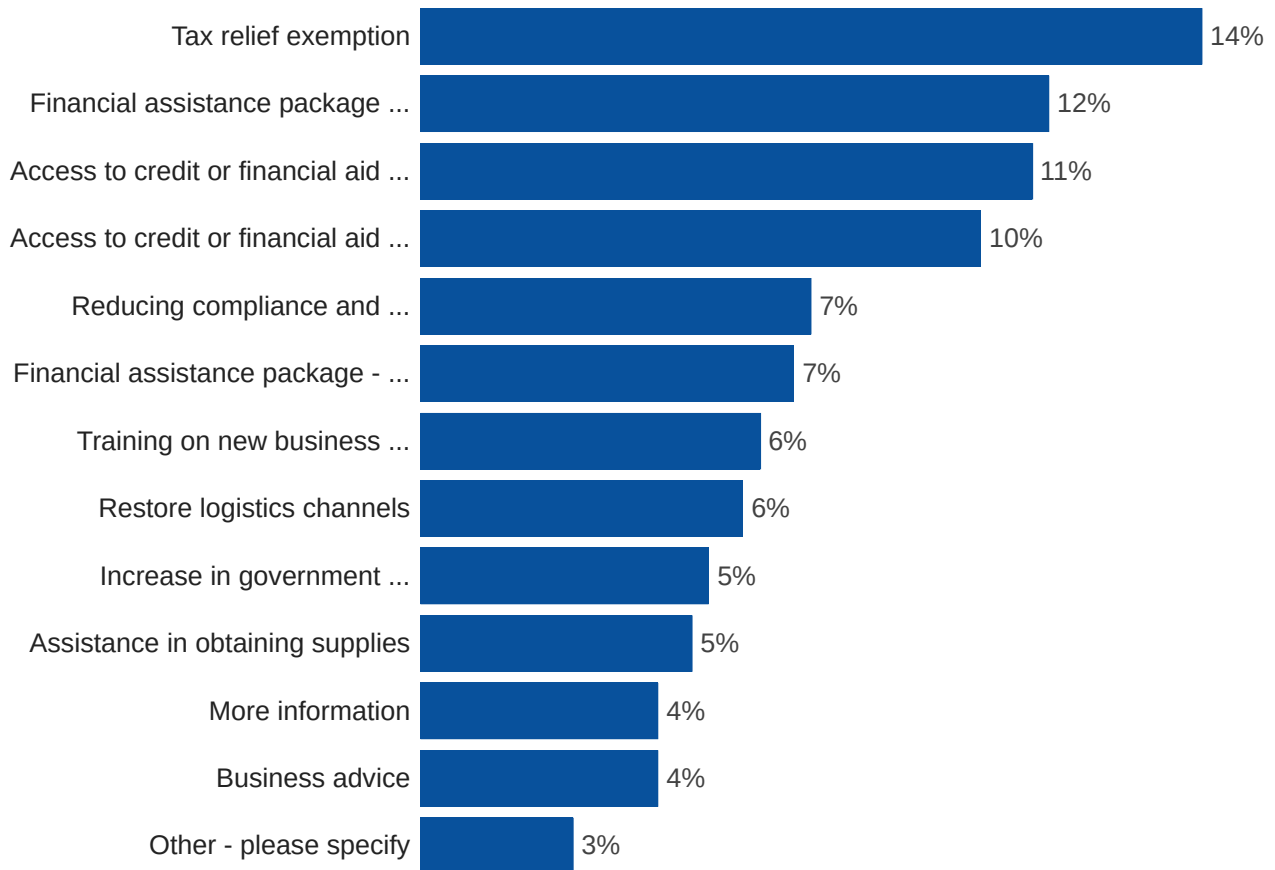


Fig 3.1 results indicate (14%) of businesses will require Tax relief exemption from government to restore and/or maintain normal operations. (12%) require financial assistance package, (11%) require access to credit or financial aid -tax holidays and (10%) require access to credit or financial aid - interest free loans.

Note: Choices accounting for less than 3% were not included in this figure.

Note: The word text below represents (3%) participants written narratives/comments as response to "Other- please specify" option above.





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