



**CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

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# Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs

*Key Findings: Preliminary data*

*October 2021*

# Overview:

<b>Survey data featured in this document</b>	
<b>Survey name:</b>	<i>Flash federal relief programs survey</i>
<b>Active dates:</b>	<i>October 26-27, 2021 Survey is ongoing</i>
<b>Survey details:</b>	<i>English/French online survey sent on October 26, 2021.</i>
<b>Respondents:</b>	<i>5,877 CFIB members (1 vote = 1 Canadian independent business)</i>
<b>Margin of error for probability sample of the same size (comparison purposes only):</b>	<i>+/-1.4%, 19 times out of 20</i>

# Changes to Federal support programs:

On October 24, 2021 the federal government ended the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) in their current forms. They were replaced with:

## For business in the tourism and hospitality sectors:

The **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)** consists of wage and rent subsidy programs available to tourism and hospitality industries (includes hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, festivals, convention centres and restaurants) who meet the significant revenue drop test.

### Requirements:

- A minimum of 40% revenue loss average between March 2020 and February 2021 (month exclusions allowed for seasonal companies), and
- A revenue loss of at least 40% in the current claim period

### Rate:

- Max subsidy of 75% which is reached when a business has a 75% or higher revenue loss

## For all other businesses:

The **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)** consists of wage and rent subsidy programs available to businesses who meet the significant revenue drop test.

### Requirements:

- A minimum 50% revenue loss average between March 2020 and February 2021, and
- A revenue loss of at least 50% in the current claim period

### Rate:

- Max subsidy of 50% which is reached when a business has a 75% or higher revenue loss

## For any business facing a government lockdown:

The **Lockdown Support Program** consists of wage and rent subsidy programs available to businesses who face temporary new local lockdowns regardless of losses over the course of the pandemic.

### Requirements:

- Revenue loss of at least 40% in the current claim period, and
- One or more locations temporarily closed, or have activities significantly restricted for a week or longer due to a COVID-19-related public health order

### Rate:

- Max subsidy of 75% which is reached when a business has a 75% or higher revenue loss.

# 41% of business owners require further government support

Need for government support (% response)

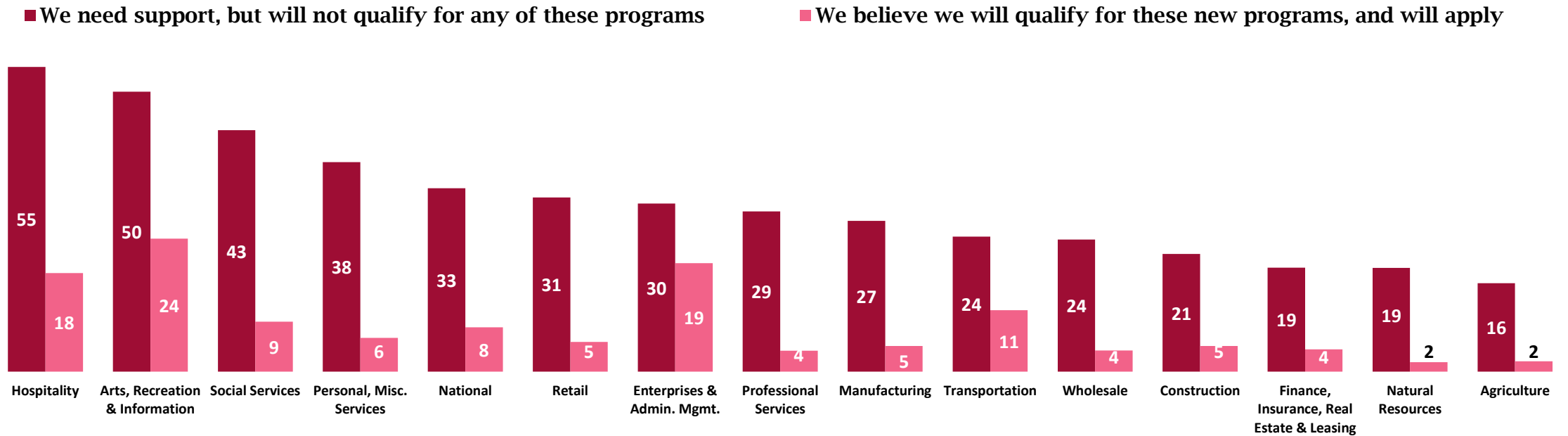


- One in three business owners need the new programs, but don't think they can access them.
- Only 2 in 10 firms (or 20%) still in need of help believe they will qualify for federal help.

Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.  
Question: Which of the following would apply to your business situation?

# A significant share of businesses in most sectors require support

## Businesses requiring further support (by sector, % response)



Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Which of the following would apply to your business situation?

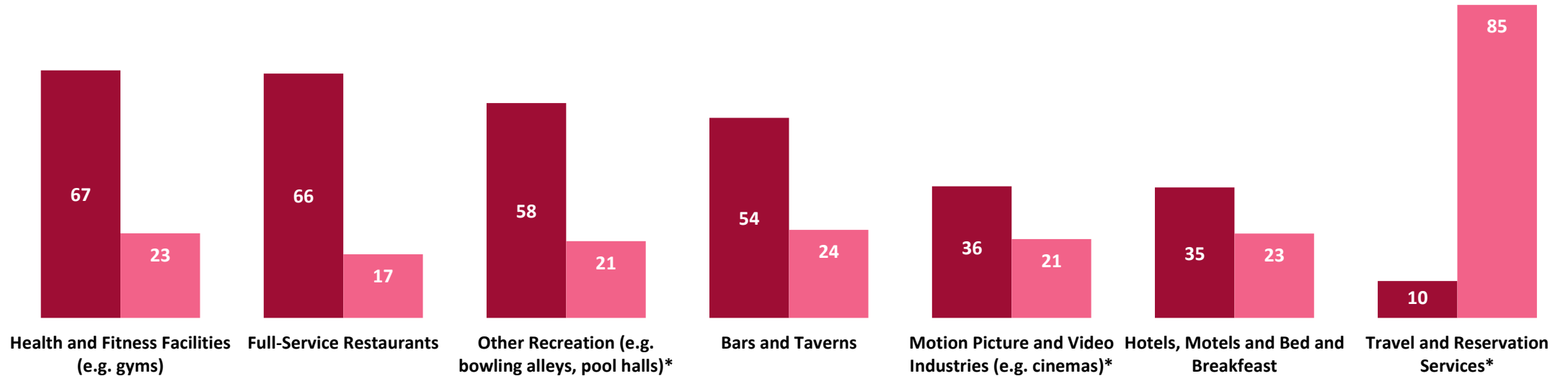
# The need for support is even higher in hardest hit industries

(% response)

## Businesses requiring further support, hardest hit industries (% response)

■ We need support, but will not qualify for any of these programs

■ We believe we will qualify for these new programs, and will apply



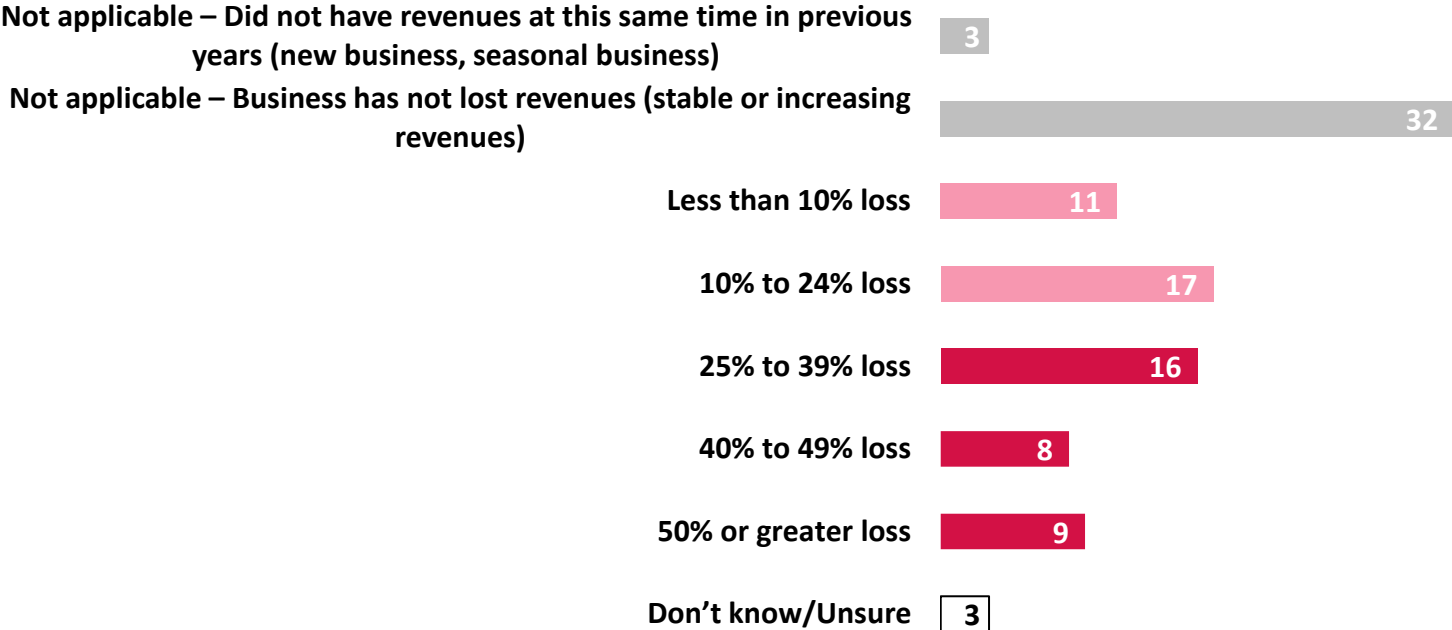
Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Which of the following would apply to your business situation?

\*Fewer than 40 responses

Nearly two years after the pandemic began, a full half of Canada’s small business community has current losses greater than 10%, with one-third experiencing losses greater than 25%.

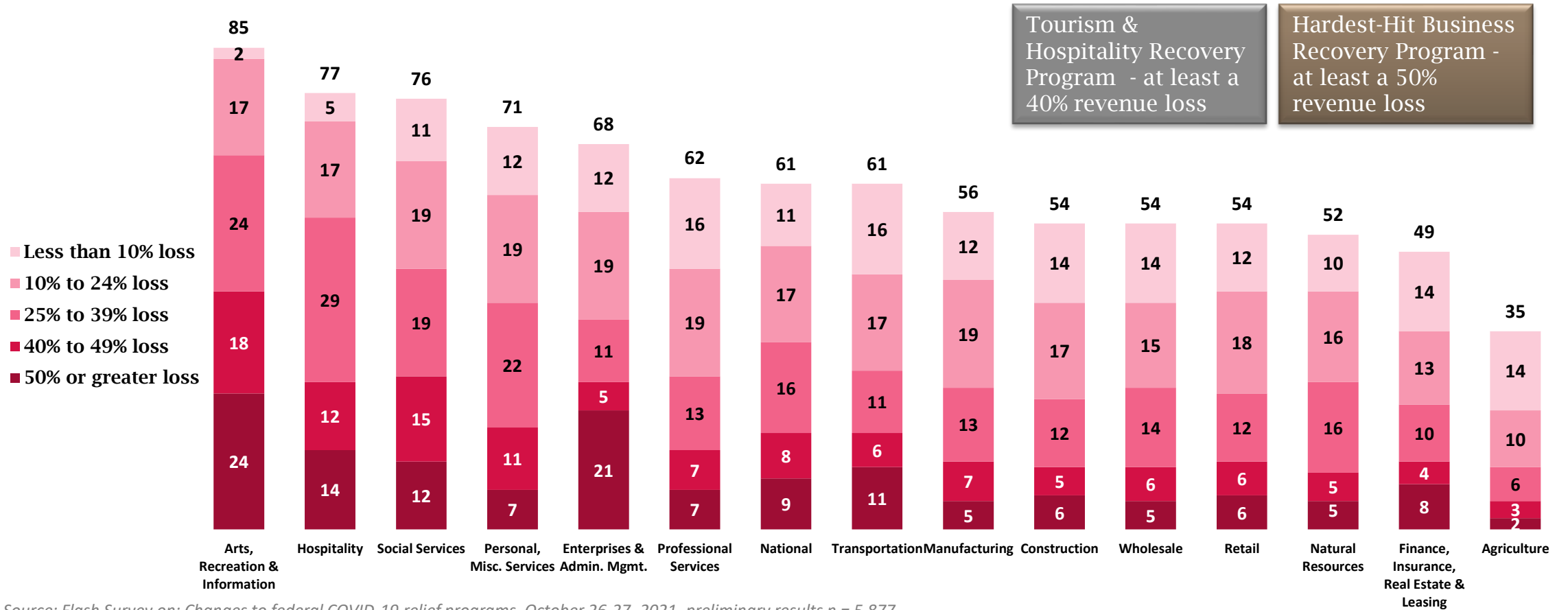
### Revenue loss experienced since same time last year (% response)



Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.  
Question: Compared to pre-pandemic revenues, how much of its usual revenues for this time of year has your business lost?

# Share of businesses with revenue losses

(by sector, % response)

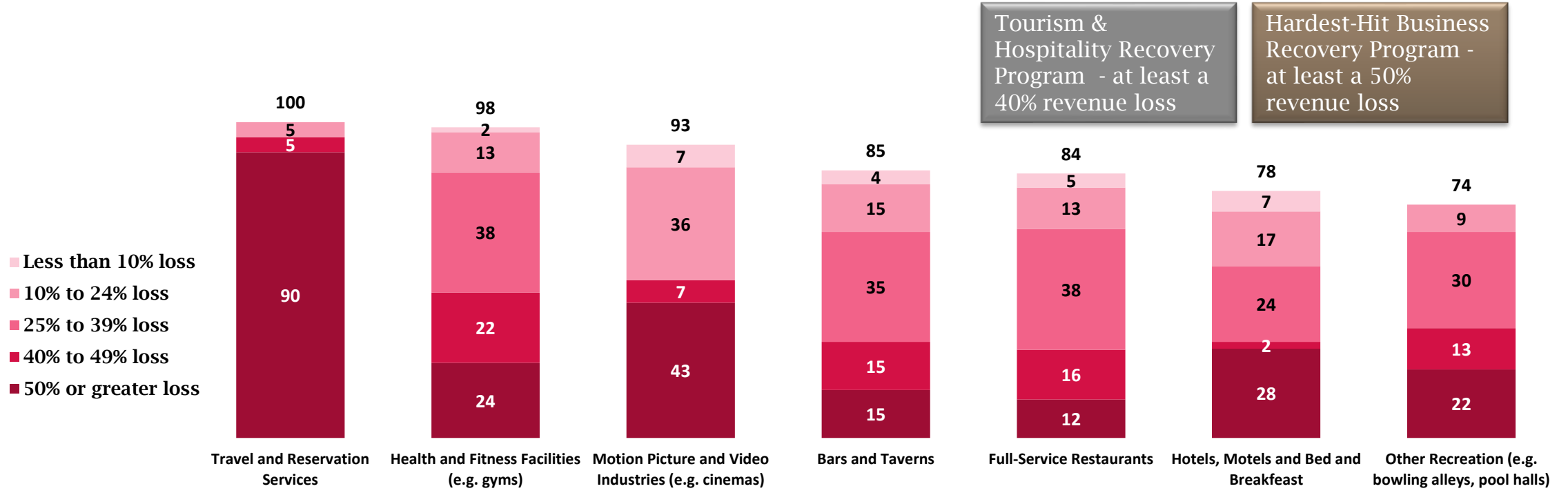


Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.  
 Question: Compared to pre-pandemic revenues, how much of its usual revenues for this time of year has your business lost?



# Share of businesses with revenue losses – hardest hit sectors

(% response)

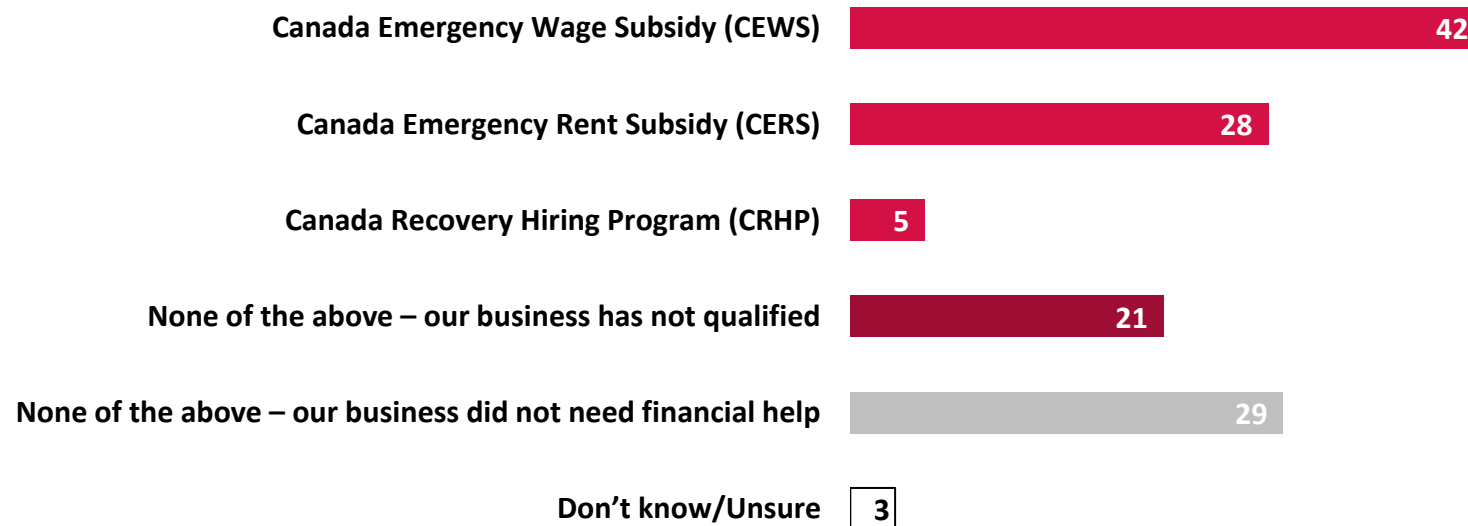


There is an incredibly high bar before any wage or rent subsidies become available. A restaurant or hotel with a one-third current loss in revenue will receive zero support. A gym or bowling alley with a 45 loss in revenue will receive no help.

Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.  
 Question: Compared to pre-pandemic revenues, how much of its usual revenues for this time of year has your business lost?  
 \*fewer than 40 responses

# 47% of business have used at least one of the federal support programs (CEWS, CERS, CRHP)

## Use of federal business support programs (% response)



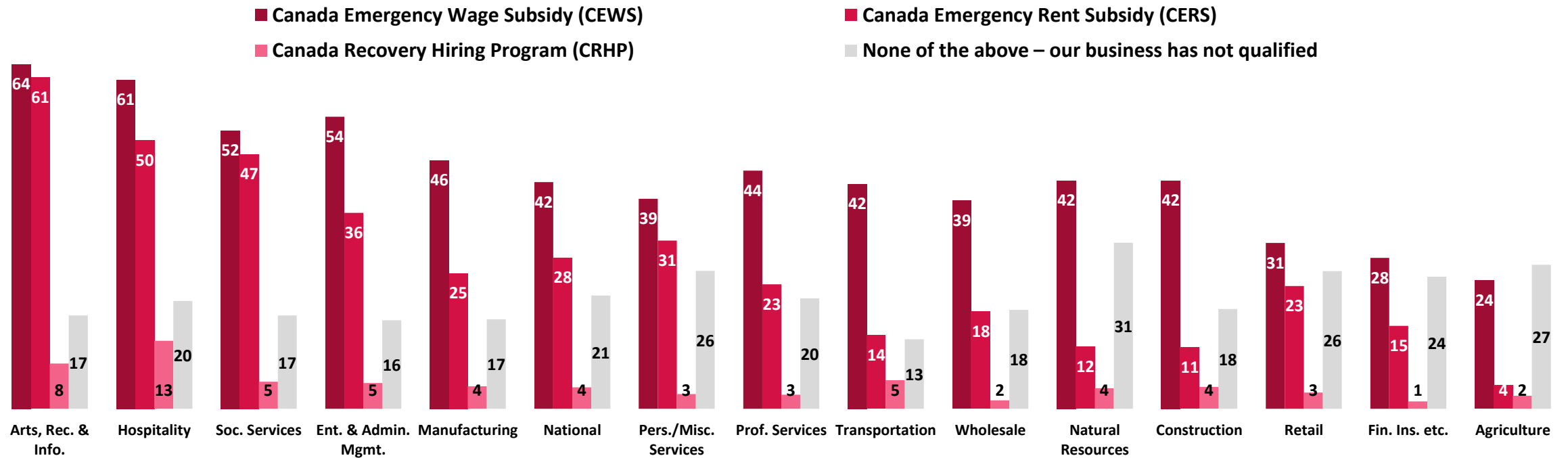
Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Which of the following relief programs has your business used in the past three months?

Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer choice. Percentages will not add to 100%.

A majority of businesses most sectors have relied on relief programs in the past 3 months.

### Use of federal business support programs (% response, by sector)

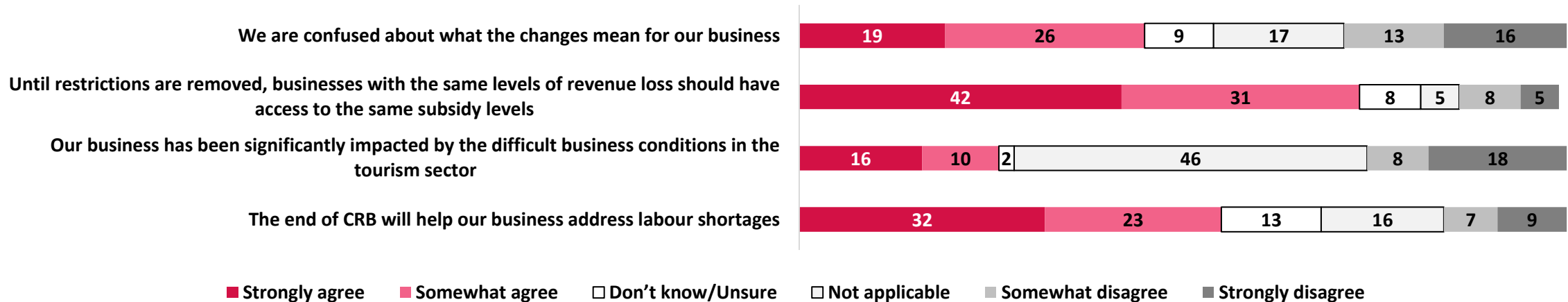


Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Which of the following relief programs has your business used in the past three months?

# While some changes to business support programs are welcome, others are causing confusion and concern among small business owners

## Level of agreement on aspect of federal business support programs (% response)



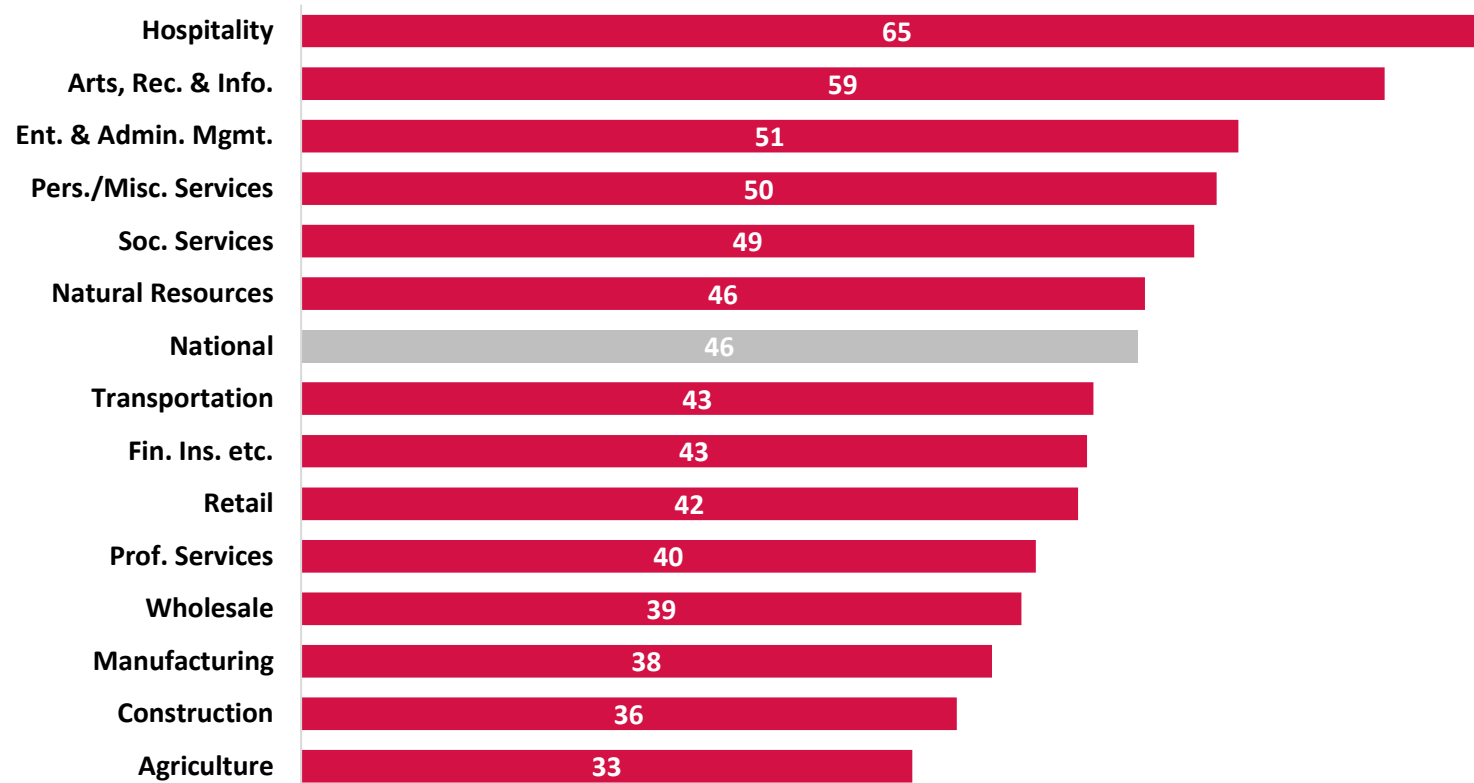
- 45% of business owners are confused about the changes to the relief programs.
- 73% believe same revenue drop should equal same access to relief.
- 26% of businesses are impacted by the slowdown in the tourism sector.
- 55% of businesses believe the end of CRB will help them with labour shortages

Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Please indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements.

# *“We are confused about what the changes mean for our business”*

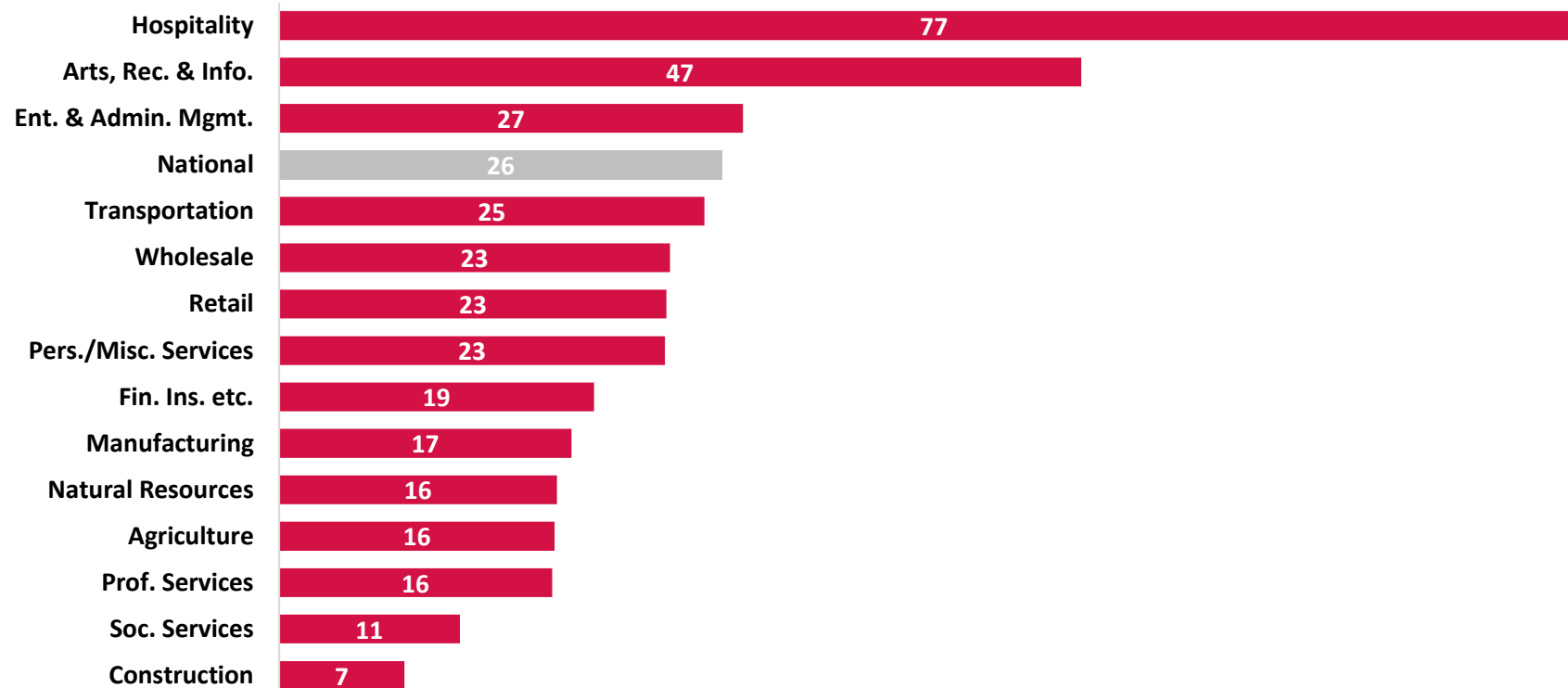
(By sector, Net Agree, % response)



Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Please indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements.

*“Our business has been significantly impacted by the difficult business conditions in the tourism sector”* (By sector, Net Agree, % response)

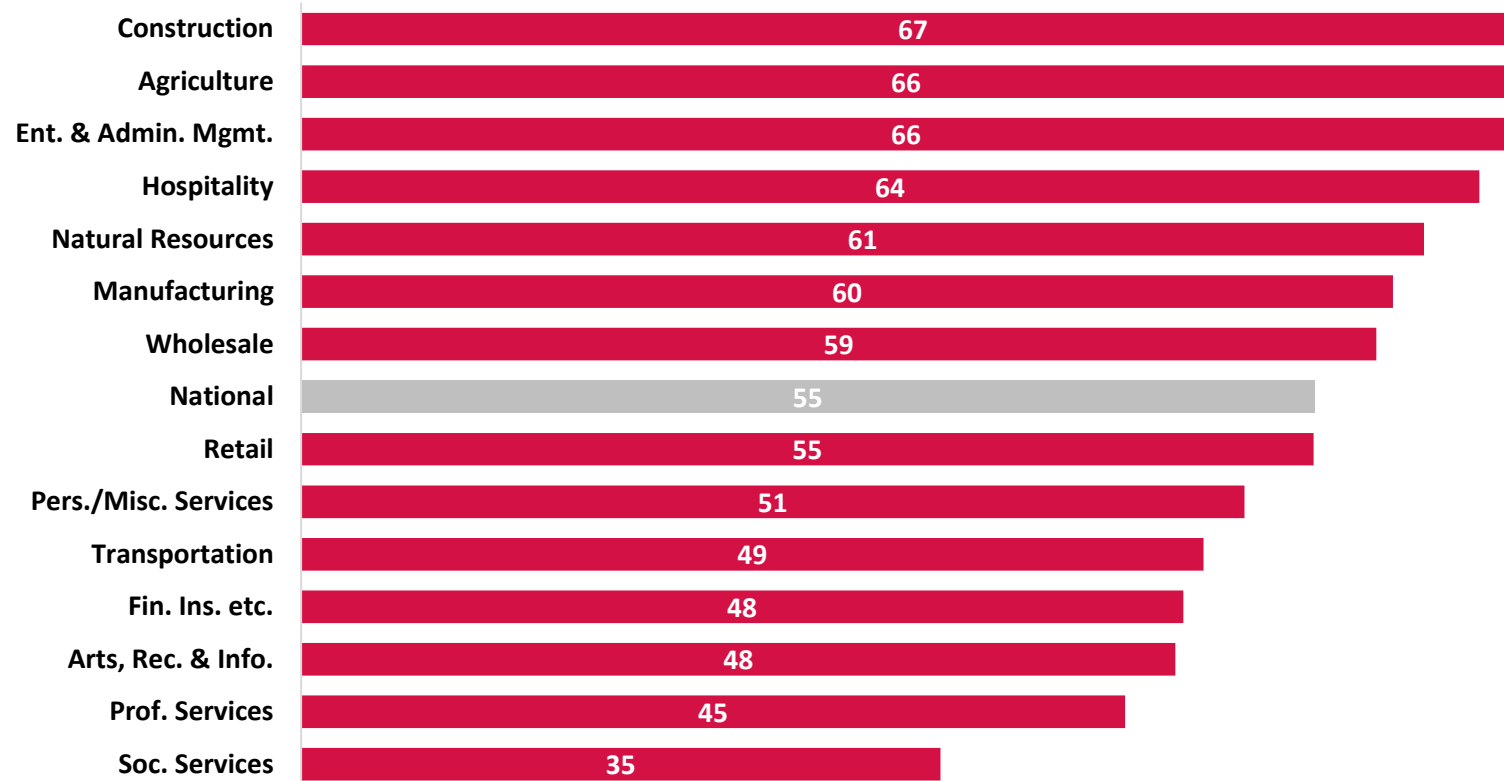


Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Please indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements.

## *“The end of CRB will help our business address labour shortages”*

(By sector, Net Agree, % response)

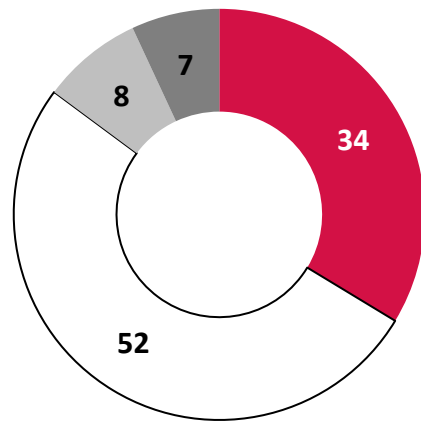


Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

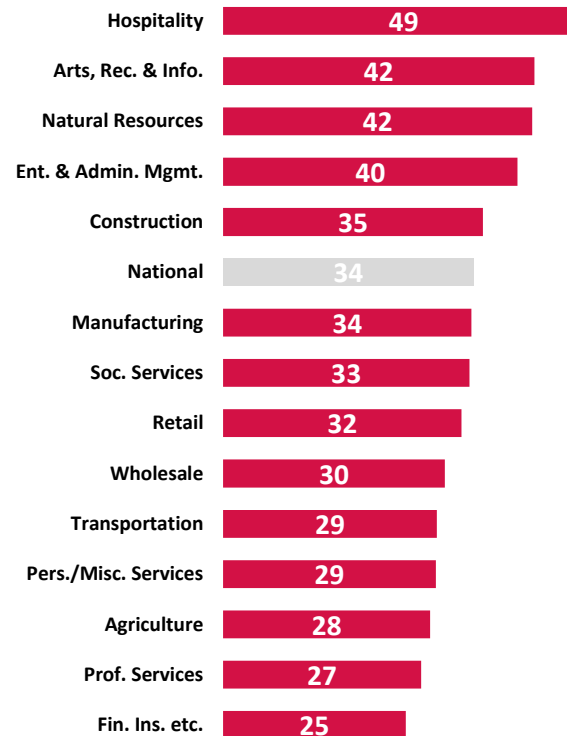
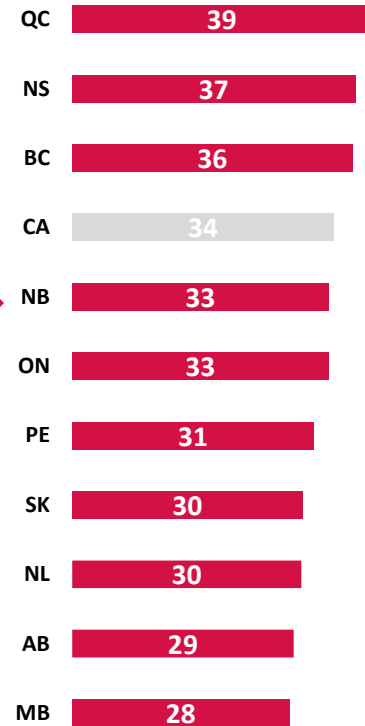
Question: Please indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements.

# Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP): Untapped potential

## Share of businesses that have significantly increased their overall payroll since March 2021 (% response)



- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Unsure
- Not applicable (no employees, etc.)



- CRHP seems to be underutilized, with a third having significantly increased their overall payroll, but only 5% having used the program so far (see slide 7).
- The CRHP is a hiring subsidy which supports employers with a subsidy of up to 50% on incremental remuneration paid to eligible working employees.

Source: Flash Survey on: Changes to federal COVID-19 relief programs, October 26-27, 2021, preliminary results n = 5,877.

Question: Has your business significantly increased (for example, +10% or more) its overall payroll (for example, increased staff or wages or hours) since March 2021?