

# Canadians more likely to want to continue with large deficits rather than returning to pre-pandemic deficit levels

National survey released September, 2020  
Project 2020-1707



**Bloomberg**



Canadians from British Columbia are more likely to say that the best path forward is having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians than those from the Prairies or Quebec

Two in five Canadians say the best path forward is having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians, while under three in ten say the best path forward is having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, even if it means reducing support for Canadians.

- **Two in five Canadians say the best path forward is having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians** – When asked what the best path forward, forty-one per cent of Canadians say that the best path forward is having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians, while twenty-nine per cent say the best path forward is having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, even if it means reducing support for Canadians and fourteen per cent say the best path forward is having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, even if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians. Sixteen per cent are unsure.
- **Canadians from British Columbia are more likely to say they prefer having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians than those from the Prairies or Quebec** - When asked what the best path forward to address the deficit, over one in two residents of British Columbia (52%) say the best path forward would be having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians, while over three in ten Canadians from the Prairies (31%) and Quebec (35%) say the same.

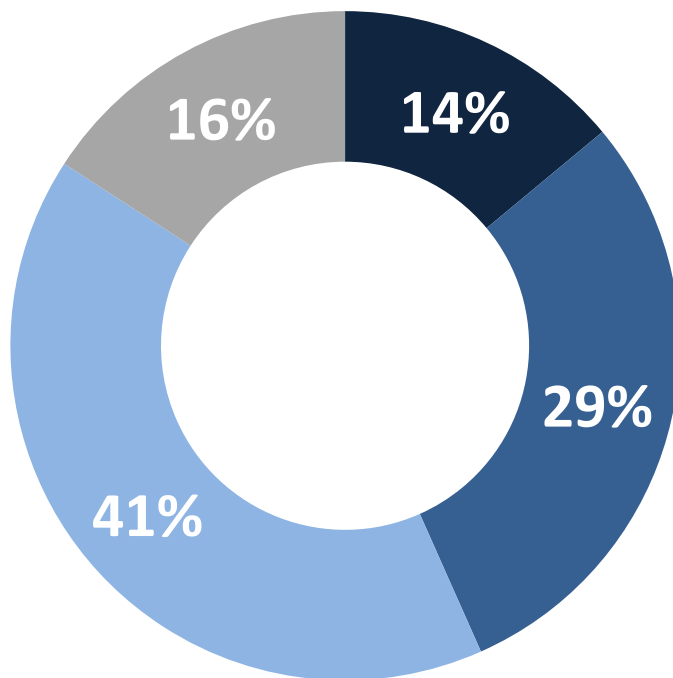
Men are more likely than women to say that the best path forward is having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero

- **Men are more likely than women to say that the best path forward is having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, even if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians** – When asked what the best path forward to addressing the annual federal deficit of about \$30 billion, men (22%) more often said having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, even if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians than women (7%). Just under one in two women say the best path forward is having the government continue to have large deficits in order to continue to support Canadians (47%) while just over one in three men say the same (34%).

These observations are based on an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,039 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 as part of an omnibus survey. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

This study was commissioned by Bloomberg and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

# Addressing the deficit post COVID-19



- Having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, EVEN if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians
- Having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, EVEN if it means reducing support for Canadians
- Having the government continue to have large deficits IN ORDER to continue to support Canadians
- Unsure

Having the government  
continue to have large  
deficits IN ORDER to  
continue to support  
Canadians

Atlantic (n=104)	43.9%
Quebec (n=253)	35.1%
Ontario (n=314)	44.5%
Prairies (n=212)	31.2%
British Columbia (n=156)	51.8%
Male (n=556)	34.1%
Female (n=483)	47.3%
18 to 34 (n=236)	36.7%
35 to 54 (n=365)	41.8%
55 plus (n=438)	42.8%

\*Weighted to the true population proportion.  
\*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**QUESTION** — Before the pandemic the Government of Canada ran an annual deficit of about \$30 billion. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Canada has projected a deficit of over \$340 billion to respond to the pandemic by helping Canadians and Canadian businesses. Thinking of the future, which of the following is the best path forward in your opinion: [RANDOMIZE]

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, n=1039, accurate 3.0 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

# Addressing the deficit post COVID-19 by region

	Canada (n=1039)	Atlantic (n=104)	Quebec (n=253)	Ontario (n=314)	Prairies (n=212)	British Columbia (n=156)
Having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, EVEN if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians	14.0%	10.0%	16.5%	14.5%	14.8%	9.0%
Having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, EVEN if it means reducing support for Canadians	29.4%	23.6%	31.8%	26.1%	34.4%	30.7%
Having the government continue to have large deficits IN ORDER to continue to support Canadians	40.8%	43.9%	35.1%	44.5%	31.2%	51.8%
Unsure	15.8%	22.5%	16.6%	15.0%	19.6%	8.5%

**QUESTION –** Before the pandemic the Government of Canada ran an annual deficit of about \$30 billion. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Canada has projected a deficit of over \$340 billion to respond to the pandemic by helping Canadians and Canadian businesses. Thinking of the future, which of the following is the best path forward in your opinion: [RANDOMIZE]



# Addressing the deficit post COVID-19 by gender and age

	Canada (n=1039)	Male (n=556)	Female (n=483)	18 to 34 (n=236)	35 to 54 (n=365)	55 plus (n=438)
Having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, EVEN if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians	14.0%	21.6%	6.6%	15.9%	16.1%	10.8%
Having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, EVEN if it means reducing support for Canadians	29.4%	31.7%	27.2%	30.7%	28.9%	28.9%
Having the government continue to have large deficits IN ORDER to continue to support Canadians	40.8%	34.1%	47.3%	36.7%	41.8%	42.8%
Unsure	15.8%	12.6%	19.0%	16.8%	13.2%	17.5%

**QUESTION** – Before the pandemic the Government of Canada ran an annual deficit of about \$30 billion. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Canada has projected a deficit of over \$340 billion to respond to the pandemic by helping Canadians and Canadian businesses. Thinking of the future, which of the following is the best path forward in your opinion: [RANDOMIZE]



Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,039 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 as part of an omnibus survey. Participants were randomly recruited by telephone using live agents and administered a survey online. The sample included both land- and cell-lines across Canada. The results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada.

Individuals randomly called using random digit dialling with a maximum of five call backs.

The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

This study was commissioned by Bloomberg News and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

Note: Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



# TECHNICAL NOTE

Element	Description
Research sponsor	Bloomberg News
Population and Final Sample Size	1039 Randomly selected individuals.
Source of Sample	Nanos Hybrid Probability Panel
Margin of Error	±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online omnibus survey
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both land- and cell-lines RDD (Random Digit Dialed) across Canada.
Demographics (Captured)	Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia; Men and Women; 18 years and older. Six digit postal code was used to validate geography.
Fieldwork/Validation	Individuals were recruited using live interviews with live supervision to validate work, the research questions were administered online
Number of Calls	Maximum of five call backs to those recruited.
Time of Calls	Individuals recruited were called between 12-5:30 pm and 6:30-9:30pm local time for the respondent.
Field Dates	August 31 <sup>st</sup> to September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020.
Language of Survey	The survey was conducted in both English and French.
Standards	Nanos Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and confirms that this research fully complies with all CRIC Standards including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. <a href="https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/">https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/</a>

Element	Description
Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2016) and the sample is geographically stratified to ensure a distribution across all regions of Canada. See tables for full weighting disclosure
Screening	Screening ensured potential respondents did not work in the market research industry, in the advertising industry, in the media or a political party prior to administering the survey to ensure the integrity of the data.
Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without land or cell lines, and individuals without internet access could not participate.
Stratification	By age and gender using the latest Census information (2016) and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada. Smaller areas such as Atlantic Canada were marginally oversampled to allow for a minimum regional sample.
Estimated Response Rate	Thirteen percent, consistent with industry norms.
Question Order	This was the only question asked on this topic.
Question Content	Topics on the omnibus ahead of the survey content included: views on political issues and views on economic issues.
Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Contact	Contact Nanos Research for more information or with any concerns or questions. <a href="http://www.nanos.co">http://www.nanos.co</a> Telephone: (613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: <a href="mailto:info@nanosresearch.com">info@nanosresearch.com</a> .



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# TABULATIONS

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## 2020-1707 – Bloomberg – Federal Deficit – STAT SHEET

			Region						Please select your gender		Age		
			Canada 2020-09	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 plus
Question - Before the pandemic the Government of Canada ran an annual deficit of about \$30 billion. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Canada has projected a deficit of over \$340 billion to respond to the pandemic by helping Canadians and Canadian businesses. Thinking of the future, which of the following is the best path forward in your opinion: [RANDOMIZE]	Total	Unwgt N	1039	104	253	314	212	156	556	483	236	365	438
		Wgt N	1000	67	233	384	183	133	490	510	273	341	386
	Having the government try to balance the books by reducing the deficit to zero, EVEN if it means significantly reducing support for Canadians	%	14.0	10.0	16.5	14.5	14.8	9.0	21.6	6.6	15.9	16.1	10.8
	Having the government return the deficit to pre-pandemic levels, EVEN if it means reducing support for Canadians	%	29.4	23.6	31.8	26.1	34.4	30.7	31.7	27.2	30.7	28.9	28.9
	Having the government continue to have large deficits IN ORDER to continue to support Canadians	%	40.8	43.9	35.1	44.5	31.2	51.8	34.1	47.3	36.7	41.8	42.8
	Unsure	%	15.8	22.5	16.6	15.0	19.6	8.5	12.6	19.0	16.8	13.2	17.5

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell- lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,039 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The margin of error this survey is ±3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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