

A background image showing a glass piggy bank tipped over, spilling out various Canadian coins (loose and in stacks) onto a surface. An open book is visible in the background.

Canadians divided on annual operating deficit of the Federal Government increasing.

National survey released October 2025
Field: October 27th to October 30th, 2025
Submission 2025-2940

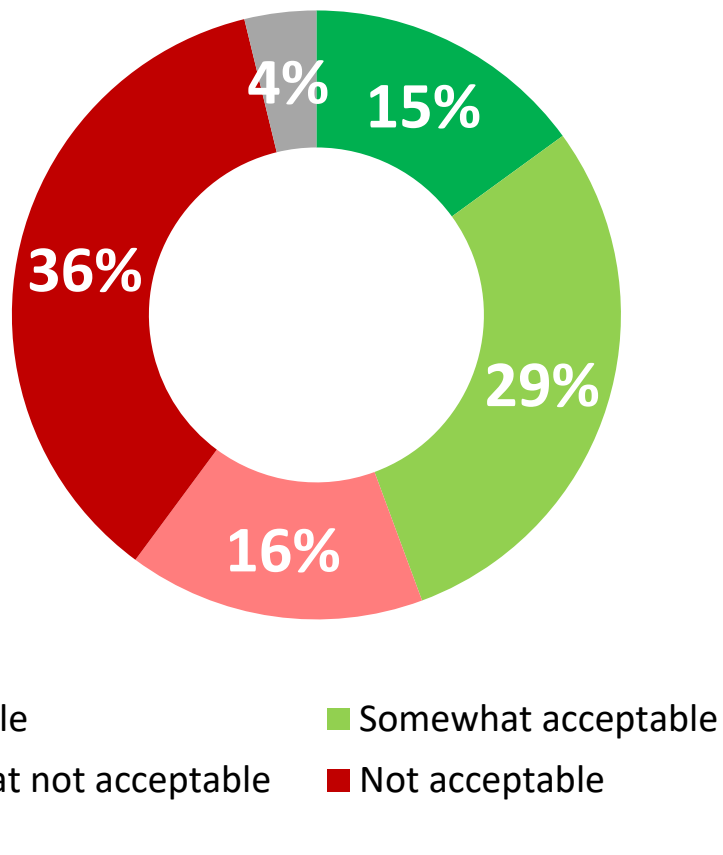
This survey gauged the views of Canadians on the level of acceptance towards the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,045 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between October 27th and 30th, 2025, as part of an omnibus survey. The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

[The statistical tabulations including the unweighted and weighted number of interviews can be accessed here.](#)

The research was commissioned by CTV News and was conducted by Nanos Research.





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

Level of acceptance for the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase

Over **5 in 10** Canadians

say it is not acceptable (36%) or somewhat not acceptable (16%) for the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase from \$51.7 billion in 2024-25 to \$68.5 billion in 2025-26. On the other hand, over two in five say it is acceptable (15%) or somewhat acceptable (29%). Less than one in ten (four percent) report being unsure. Residents of the Prairies (58%) and Quebec (57%) are more likely to find this unacceptable/somewhat unacceptable than Atlantic Canadians (40%).

Q – Thinking of the current economic environment is it acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat not acceptable or not acceptable for the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase from \$51.7 billion in 2024-25 to \$68.5 billion in 2025-26?

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, October 27th to October 30th, 2025, n=1045, accurate 3.0 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Level of acceptance for the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase – by demographics

Q – Thinking of the current economic environment is it acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat not acceptable or not acceptable for the annual operating deficit of the federal government to increase from \$51.7 billion in 2024-25 to \$68.5 billion in 2025-26?

Acceptable/ Somewhat acceptable				
Atlantic (n=103)	Quebec (n=245)	Ontario (n=323)	Prairies (n=219)	BC (n=155)
53.4%	37.5%	49.2%	39.9%	43.5%
Men (n=539)	Women (n=506)	18 to 34 (n=188)	35 to 54 (n=335)	55 plus (n=522)
44.5%	44.3%	38.3%	42.6%	49.7%
Not acceptable/ Somewhat not acceptable				
Atlantic (n=103)	Quebec (n=245)	Ontario (n=323)	Prairies (n=219)	BC (n=155)
40.3%	57.5%	47.6%	57.8%	52.4%
Men (n=539)	Women (n=506)	18 to 34 (n=188)	35 to 54 (n=335)	55 plus (n=522)
53.1%	50.6%	56.2%	53.3%	47.8%

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, October 27th to October 30th, 2025, n=1045, accurate 3.0 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,045 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between October 27th and 30th, 2025, 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 ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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

[Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews are here.](#)

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



Element	Description
Research sponsor	CTV News
Population and Final Sample Size	1045 Randomly selected individuals.
Source of Sample	Nanos Probability Panel
Type of Sample	Probability
Margin of Error	±3.0 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	October 27 th to October 30 th , 2025.
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. https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/

Element	Description
Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) 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 (2021) 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	12 percent, consistent with industry norms.
Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Question Content	Topics on the omnibus ahead of the survey content included: views on political issues, views on economic issues, views on tariffs, the federal budget, grocery affordability and the annual operating deficit.
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. http://www.nanos.co Telephone:(613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: info@nanosresearch.com .
Tabulations	By region, age and gender



As one of North America's premier market and public opinion research firms, we put strategic intelligence into the hands of decision makers. The majority of our work is for private sector and public facing organizations and ranges from market studies, managing reputation through to leveraging data intelligence. Nanos Research offers a vertically integrated full service quantitative and qualitative research practice to attain the highest standards and the greatest control over the research process. www.nanos.co

nanos dimap analytika



This international joint venture between [dimap](http://www.dimap.com) and [Nanos](http://www.nanos.co) brings together top research and data experts from North American and Europe to deliver exceptional data intelligence to clients. The team offers data intelligence services ranging from demographic and sentiment microtargeting; consumer sentiment identification and decision conversion; and, data analytics and profiling for consumer persuasion. www.nanosdimap.com

EthicStratēgies

Ethic Strategies was created by the founding partners of [PAA Advisory](http://www.paaadvisory.com) and the [Nanos Research Corporation](http://www.nanos.co), both recognized leaders in research, advocacy, and advisory. Ethic provides bespoke strategic counsel, advice, and communications strategies to organizations facing serious issues. www.ethicstrategies.com

ABOUT NANOS

Any questions?



Nanos Research

(613) 234-4666, ext. 237

ea@nanosresearch.com

For more information on the firm, please visit www.nanos.co





NANOS IS YOUR GO-TO HIGH-STAKES RESEARCH PARTNER.

Delivering world-class solutions since 1987,
we are the leader in high velocity data insights and visualization.

Market | Consumer | Reputation | Policy | Insight

For more information about our services, please visit us at:

www.nanos.co