

# Three way split on the approach the federal government should take to borrowing during the pandemic

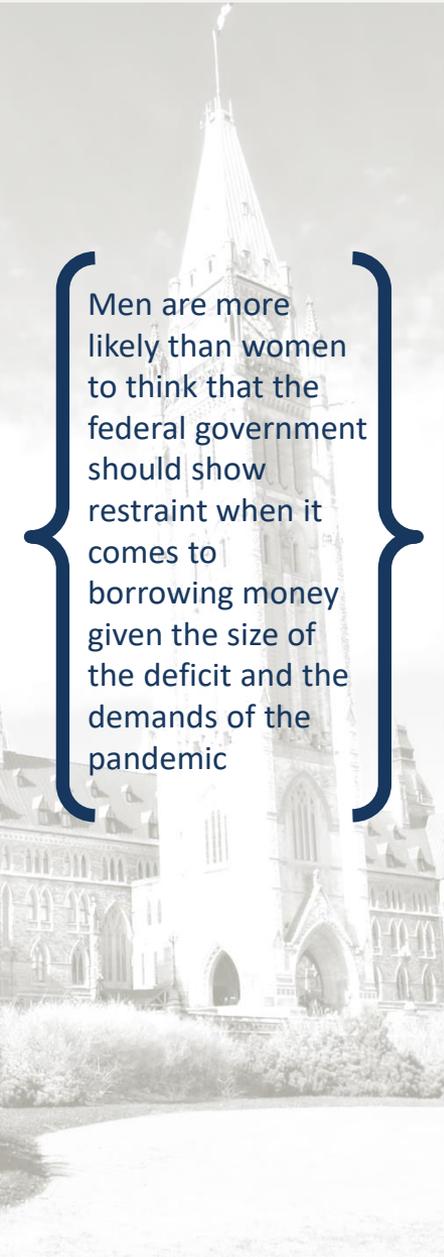
National survey released October, 2020

Project 2020-1723A



**THE GLOBE AND MAIL** 

 **NANOS**



Men are more likely than women to think that the federal government should show restraint when it comes to borrowing money given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic

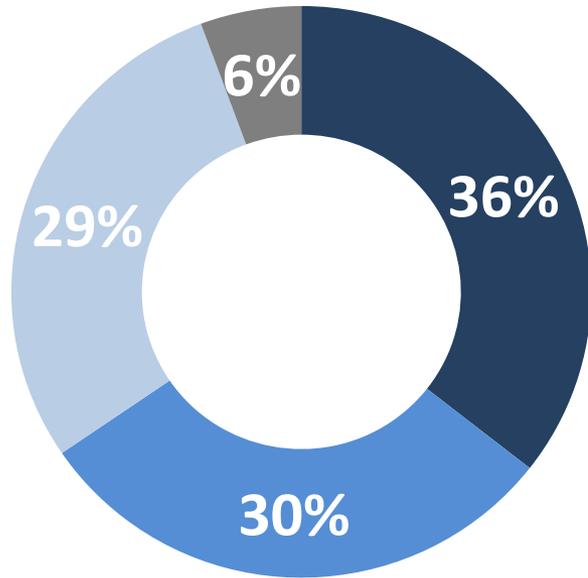
There is a three-way split on the approach Canadians think the federal government should take in terms of borrowing money to fight the pandemic.

- **Canadians are split on their preferred approach for the government in terms of borrowing money to fight the pandemic** – More than one third (36%) of Canadians think that the federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic, while 30 per cent think the federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic, and 29 per cent think the government should only borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic. Six per cent are unsure.
- **Canadians from the Atlantic region and British Columbia are more likely to say they think that the federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities** – Around four in ten residents of British Columbia (42%) and the Atlantic region (40%) think that the federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic, compared to 29 per cent of Quebec residents. Men (36%) are more likely than women (24%) to think that the federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic.

These observations are based on a hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,003 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as part of an omnibus survey. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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

# Views on federal borrowing during pandemic



- The federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic
- The federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic
- The government should only borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic
- Not sure

Borrow what it needs plus borrow more for social and economic priorities

Atlantic (n=96)	40.2%
Quebec (n=225)	29.3%
Ontario (n=319)	36.4%
Prairies (n=202)	35.6%
British Columbia (n=161)	41.8%
Male (n=544)	34.2%
Female (n=459)	36.8%
18 to 34 (n=224)	42.6%
35 to 54 (n=403)	32.6%
55 plus (n=376)	33.2%

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

**QUESTION** – Which of the following is closer to your point of view? [RANDOMIZE]

# Views on federal borrowing during pandemic by region

	Canada (n=1003)	Atlantic (n=96)	Quebec (n=225)	Ontario (n=319)	Prairies (n=202)	British Columbia (n=161)
The federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic	35.6%	40.2%	29.3%	36.4%	35.6%	41.8%
The federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic	29.9%	29.5%	32.6%	25.0%	39.0%	27.0%
The government should only borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic	28.9%	25.8%	30.8%	33.4%	20.4%	25.9%
Unsure	5.6%	4.5%	7.3%	5.2%	5.0%	5.4%

**QUESTION** – Which of the following is closer to your point of view? [RANDOMIZE]

# Views on federal borrowing during pandemic by gender and age

	Canada (n=1003)	Male (n=544)	Female (n=459)	18 to 34 (n=224)	35 to 54 (n=403)	55 plus (n=376)
The federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic	35.6%	34.2%	36.8%	42.6%	32.6%	33.2%
The federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic	29.9%	36.2%	23.9%	24.3%	32.3%	31.7%
The government should only borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic	28.9%	26.7%	31.0%	27.0%	29.5%	29.7%
Unsure	5.6%	2.9%	8.2%	6.1%	5.5%	5.4%

**QUESTION** – Which of the following is closer to your point of view? [RANDOMIZE]



Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,003 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</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  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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

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

Element	Description
Research sponsor	The Globe and Mail
Population and Final Sample Size	1003 Randomly selected individuals.
Source of Sample	Nanos Panel
Type of Sample	Probability
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	September 30 <sup>th</sup> and October 4 <sup>th</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	10 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, on economic issues, and the coronavirus pandemic.
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: info@nanosresearch.com.



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# TABULATIONS

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**2020-1723 – Globe and Mail/Nanos Survey – September Omni – STAT SHEET – Federal Pandemic Debt**

			Region						Please select your gender		Age		
			Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 plus
			2020-10										
Question - Which of the following is closer to your point of view? [RANDOMIZE]	Total	Unwgt N	1003	96	225	319	202	161	544	459	224	403	376
		Wgt N	1000	67	233	384	183	133	490	510	273	341	386
	The federal government should borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic plus borrow more to invest in the social and economic priorities of Canadians beyond the requirements of the pandemic	%	35.6	40.2	29.3	36.4	35.6	41.8	34.2	36.8	42.6	32.6	33.2
	The federal government should show restraint given the size of the deficit and the demands of the pandemic	%	29.9	29.5	32.6	25.0	39.0	27.0	36.2	23.9	24.3	32.3	31.7
	The government should only borrow what it needs to fight the pandemic	%	28.9	25.8	30.8	33.4	20.4	25.9	26.7	31.0	27.0	29.5	29.7
	Not sure	%	5.6	4.5	7.3	5.2	5.0	5.4	2.9	8.2	6.1	5.5	5.4

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell- lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,003 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The margin of error for this survey is ±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.