

Leger

REPORT

Federal Spending

Survey of Canadians



THE
CANADIAN
PRESS

DATE 2023-12-05



Methodology



Method

Online survey among respondents 18 years of age or older.

(Canadian sample: n= 1,545).

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in English or in French and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.



When

December 1st to December 3rd, 2023



Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than $\pm 2.49\%$, (19 times out of 20) for the Canadian sample.



Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

Methodology



Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.



Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.



Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Christian Bourque, Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada at the following e-mail addresses: cbourque@leger360.com

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

Methodology

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate election survey data, on average, over the last ten years in Canada. During the last federal election in 2021, Leger was once again **the most accurate firm in the country**. This accuracy is attributed to the quality of the LEO panel and rigorous application of methodological rules by Leger's 600 employees, including 200 professionals in Leger's eight offices across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and in the United States (New York).

Poll aggregator 338Canada.com gave Leger the highest rating among all polling firms in Canada for the accuracy of its studies. See <https://338canada.com/pollster-ratings.htm>

2021 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION



LEGER SURVEY

Published in *Le Journal de Montréal*
and *The National Post/Postmedia*
September 18, 2021

OFFICIAL RESULTS

2021 Canadian Federal Election*

33%	32%	19%	7%	6%	2%
33.7%	32.6%	17.8%	7.7%	5.0%	2.3%

Key Highlights

From December 1st to 3rd, 2023, we surveyed Canadians to find out about their opinions and concerns regarding federal spending.

Some of the key highlights of our survey about Canadian government spending include...

- A majority of Canadians think the federal government should allocate more funds towards healthcare and health transfers to provinces (71%), the housing strategy (66%), and initiatives aimed at addressing inflation and cost of living issues (66%). However, for other matters such as national defense, services for indigenous communities, international aid in conflict zones, and cultural and heritage initiatives, most Canadians think that the government should maintain the same level of spending or reduce it.
- Most Canadians think that increases in federal spending should be capped so that it doesn't fuel inflation (83%). About the same proportion (79%) think that federal spending should be reduced in order to balanced budgets in a few years.
- Three quarters of Canadians (72%) think that going back to a balanced budget too quickly would mean hurting certain categories of the population.



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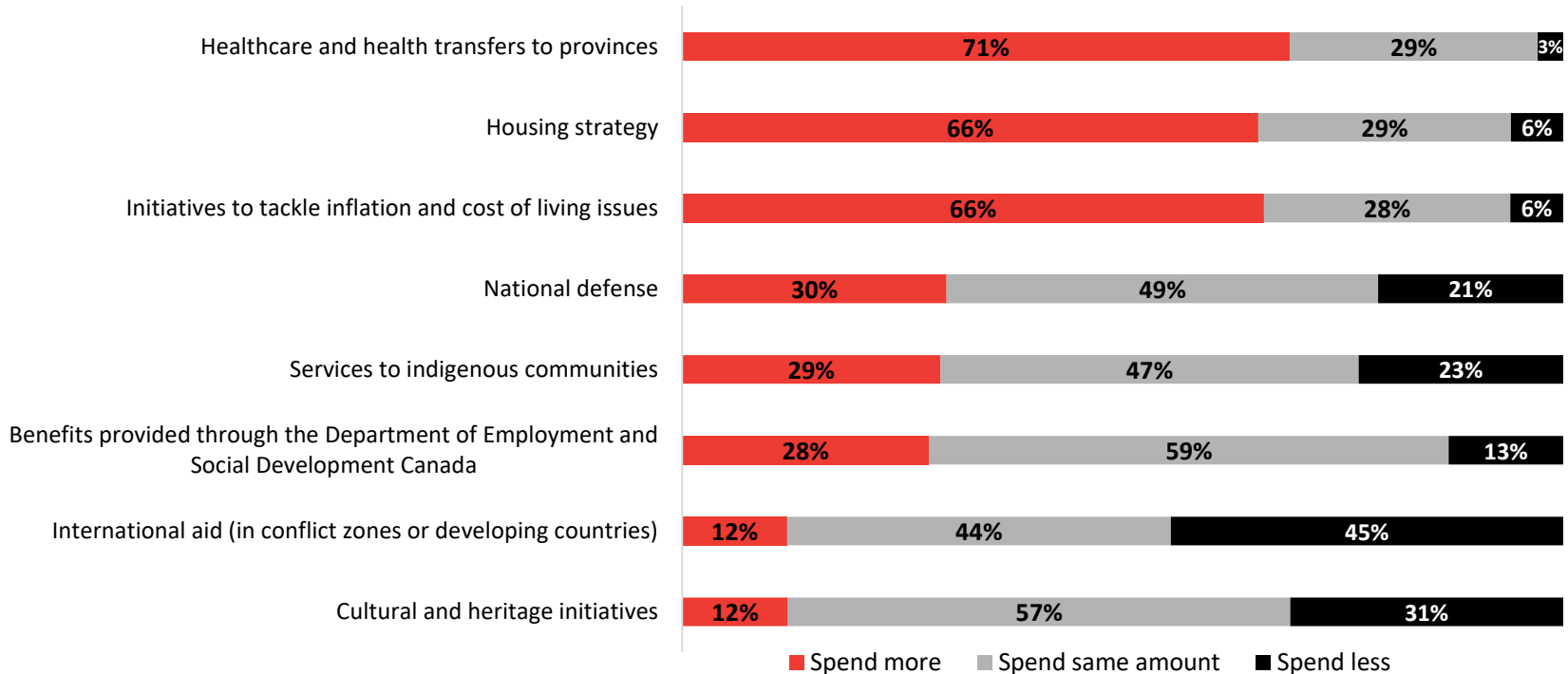
Detailed Results



Amount of Spending (1/3)

Q1. When thinking of the next year, should the federal government spend more, the same amount or less in the following categories:

Base: All respondents (n=1,545)



Amount of Spending (2/3)

Q1. When thinking of the next year, should the federal government spend more, the same amount or less in the following categories:

Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,545	104	357	599	98	172	215	411	498	637	753	792	665	607	256
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	421	609	129	130	156	341	568	636	763	782	702	568	259
Healthcare and health transfers to provinces															
Spend more	71%	70%	79%	70%	71%	66%	69%	66%	64%	80%	65%	77%	71%	69%	77%
Spend less	3%	0%	2%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Housing strategy															
Spend more	66%	67%	74%	65%	53%	55%	68%	66%	62%	69%	60%	72%	68%	63%	67%
Spend less	6%	2%	4%	5%	8%	14%	4%	5%	7%	5%	8%	3%	5%	6%	5%
Initiatives to tackle inflation and cost of living issues															
Spend more	66%	65%	67%	67%	63%	64%	65%	65%	66%	66%	59%	72%	65%	66%	67%
Spend less	6%	4%	6%	6%	9%	8%	6%	6%	6%	7%	9%	4%	6%	7%	6%
National defense															
Spend more	30%	32%	24%	30%	38%	35%	33%	20%	28%	38%	36%	25%	29%	29%	37%
Spend less	21%	12%	22%	21%	9%	18%	29%	24%	23%	16%	20%	21%	24%	17%	20%
Services to indigenous communities															
Spend more	29%	26%	28%	33%	28%	30%	24%	34%	28%	27%	27%	32%	34%	28%	21%
Spend less	23%	24%	18%	19%	33%	34%	31%	19%	26%	24%	24%	22%	19%	25%	32%

Amount of Spending (3/3)

Q1. When thinking of the next year, should the federal government spend more, the same amount or less in the following categories:

Base: All respondents

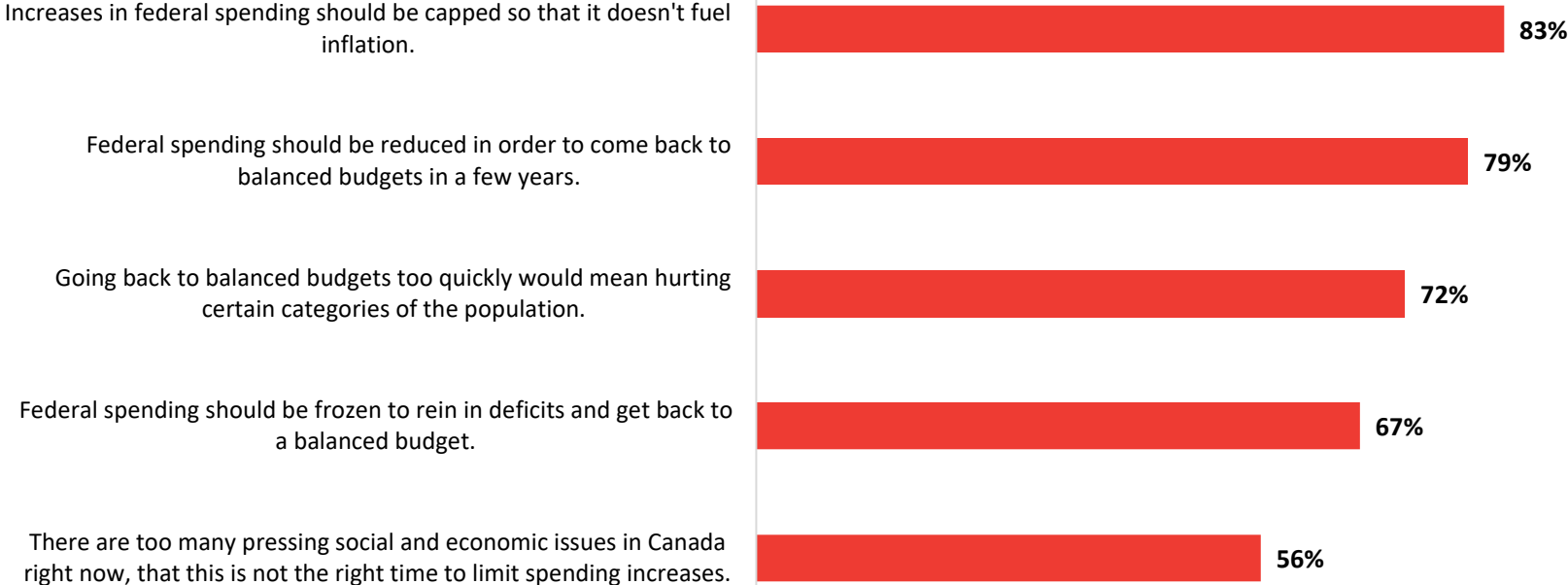
	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,545	104	357	599	98	172	215	411	498	637	753	792	665	607	256
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	421	609	129	130	156	341	568	636	763	782	702	568	259
Benefits provided through the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada															
Spend more	28%	33%	23%	30%	27%	27%	25%	34%	27%	24%	27%	28%	30%	25%	25%
Spend less	13%	7%	16%	12%	12%	16%	12%	11%	14%	14%	15%	11%	13%	12%	17%
International aid (in conflict zones or developing countries)															
Spend more	12%	9%	14%	12%	15%	7%	10%	19%	8%	9%	11%	12%	13%	11%	7%
Spend less	45%	43%	39%	44%	47%	55%	49%	37%	48%	48%	44%	46%	43%	43%	54%
Cultural and heritage initiatives															
Spend more	12%	18%	11%	12%	10%	12%	11%	18%	12%	7%	12%	11%	14%	9%	11%
Spend less	31%	30%	31%	31%	30%	33%	34%	22%	34%	36%	35%	29%	29%	34%	32%

Level of Agreement on Federal Budget (1/2)

Q2. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the federal government budget.

Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

%Total Agree Presented



Level of Agreement on Federal Budget (2/2)

Q2. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the federal government budget.

Base: All respondents

<i>%Total Agree Presented</i>	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,545	104	357	599	98	172	215	411	498	637	753	792	665	607	256
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	421	609	129	130	156	341	568	636	763	782	702	568	259
Increases in federal spending should be capped so that it doesn't fuel inflation.	83%	78%	85%	84%	83%	85%	79%	80%	82%	85%	83%	83%	82%	85%	82%
Federal spending should be reduced in order to come back to balanced budgets in a few years.	79%	70%	81%	78%	82%	87%	77%	79%	78%	80%	81%	77%	76%	82%	80%
Going back to balanced budgets too quickly would mean hurting certain categories of the population.	72%	78%	72%	73%	77%	70%	65%	74%	69%	73%	69%	75%	72%	74%	70%
Federal spending should be frozen to rein in deficits and get back to a balanced budget.	67%	61%	73%	66%	60%	67%	66%	61%	67%	71%	67%	67%	63%	71%	69%
There are too many pressing social and economic issues in Canada right now, that this is not the right time to limit spending increases.	56%	70%	57%	59%	44%	46%	51%	62%	55%	52%	52%	60%	58%	54%	53%

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Detailed Methodology



Weighted and Unweighted Sample (1/2)

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Province	1,545	1,545
British Columbia	156	215
Alberta	130	172
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	129	98
Ontario	609	599
Quebec	421	357
Atlantic	100	104

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (2/2)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender, age and language (mother tongue) for Canada.

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	1,545	1,545
Male	763	753
Female	782	792
Age	1,545	1,545
18 to 34	341	411
35 to 54	568	498
55+	637	636
Language (Mother tongue)	1,545	1,545
English	965	1,046
French	368	305
Other	208	191

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Online community management
- **Leger Digital**
Digital strategy and user experience
- **International Research**
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