



**Break-Out Group:**  
Youth in the Labour Market

with Christian Saint Cyr  
[Labour Market Online.com](http://LabourMarketOnline.com)



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# Youth in the Labour Market

## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

Why have youth experiencing a more  
difficult time during the pandemic?

- Youth make up the majority of workers in sectors which have been most impacted by the pandemic
- Youth often lack work experience, credentials, experience, networks, education and seniority making them more subject to labour market downturns

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# Youth in the Labour Market

## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

Why have youth experiencing a more  
difficult time during the pandemic?

- Youth have historically experienced an unemployment 100% higher than the unemployment rate for the general population. Through the pandemic, this rate has topped 200% during periods of strong restrictions
- Disruptions have occurred in both education and youth employment

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# Youth in the Labour Market

## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

RBC Economics Shares the Data

- 7-in-10 (70%) young Canadians are learning remotely to some extent, with nearly 3-in-10 (28%) saying they are attending classes exclusively online. 45% say that the education they are receiving online during the pandemic is doing a worse job of preparing them for their desired career.
- More than half of young working Canadians have faced severe job-interruptions (reduced hours, and termination). Relatedly, almost half (47%) of those working full-time are doing so from home or at least part-time.

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# Youth in the Labour Market

## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

RBC Economics Shares the Data

- While young Canadians recognize the value in networking (it is the third most sought-after career skill, following career opportunities and educational qualifications), they typically place it on-par with the importance of their mental health. Additionally, those with good mental health are more likely to be ready to network.
- While the truism of youthful optimism arises in the data, Canadian youth indicate that their mental well-being fared poorly in 2020. COVID-19 is top-of-mind for many and is a key driver of feelings of anxiety and concern. 51% of participants say the pandemic has negatively impacted their mental health, 45% surveyed say the pandemic has negatively impacted their optimism for the future.

The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation

## Proportion of participants who reported the following academic impacts:

For many students, academic work was delayed, postponed or cancelled.

Proportion of participants who reported the following academic impacts:



**26%**

Some courses cancelled or postponed

**35%**

Planned work placement delayed or cancelled

**10%**

Not able to complete some or all courses

**11%**

Not able to complete credential as planned

**92%**

Some or all courses moved online





The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation

## Many students reported experiencing labour market disruptions.

Participants with **jobs** or **job prospects** at the beginning of March who reported employment changes:



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Impacts of the COVID pandemic on post secondary students.

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# Youth in the Labour Market

## Canada Emergency Student Benefit

Financial Support at the Start of the  
Pandemic

Applicants received \$1,250 for a 4-week period for a maximum of 16 weeks, between May 10 and August 29, 2020. Applicants could also get an extra \$750 (total benefit amount of \$2,000) for each 4-week period, if they had a disability or dependents.



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# Youth in the Labour Market

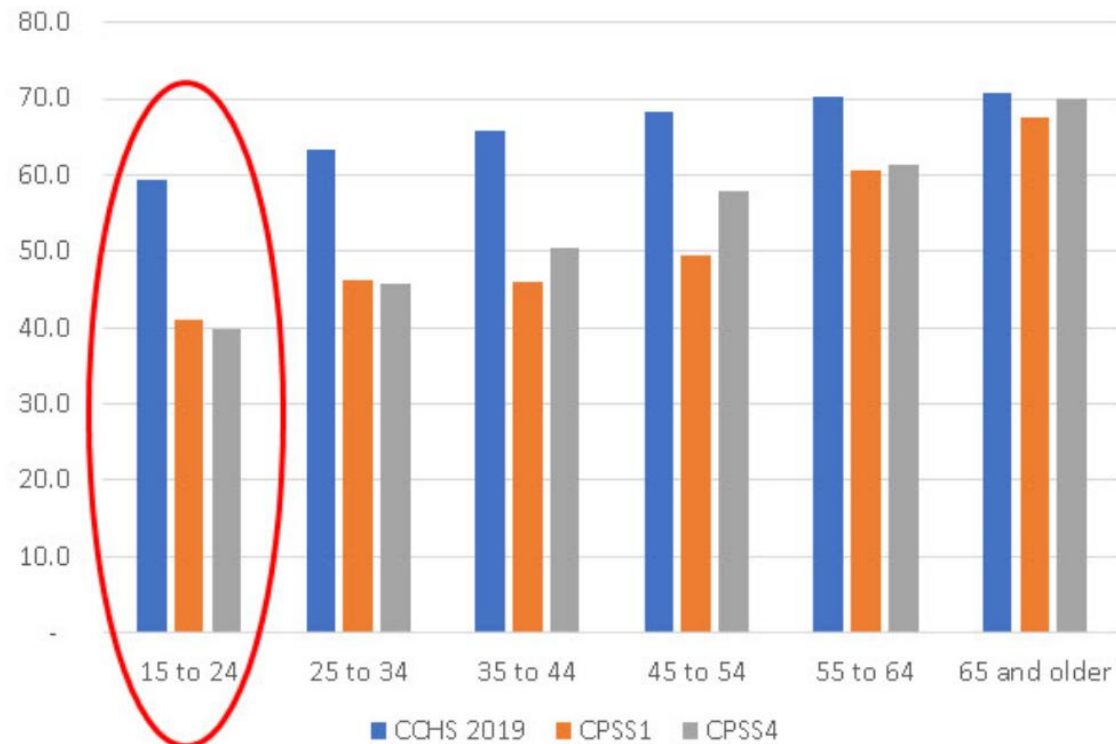
## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

How did students say they were managing  
the financial strain of the pandemic before  
and after the Canada Emergency Student  
Benefits

- Using up savings – 73% (before CESB); 61% (after CESB)
- Paying for tuition next term – 56% (before CESB); 48% (after CESB)
- Having to take on more student debt – 73% (before CESB); 61% (after CESB)

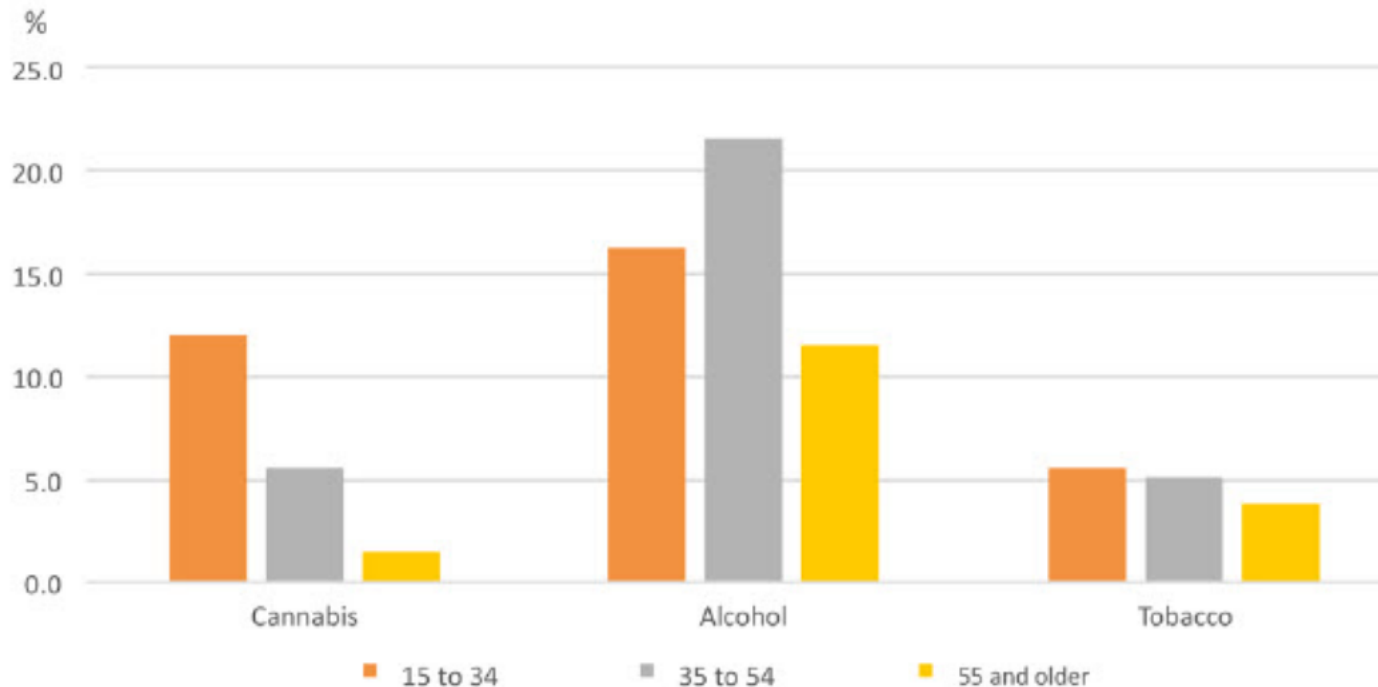
The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation

Proportion of Canadians reporting excellent or very good mental health pre and post COVID by age group, Canada, 2019, March and July 2020



The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation

Proportion of Canadians reporting an increase use of substances during COVID-19 by age group, July 2020

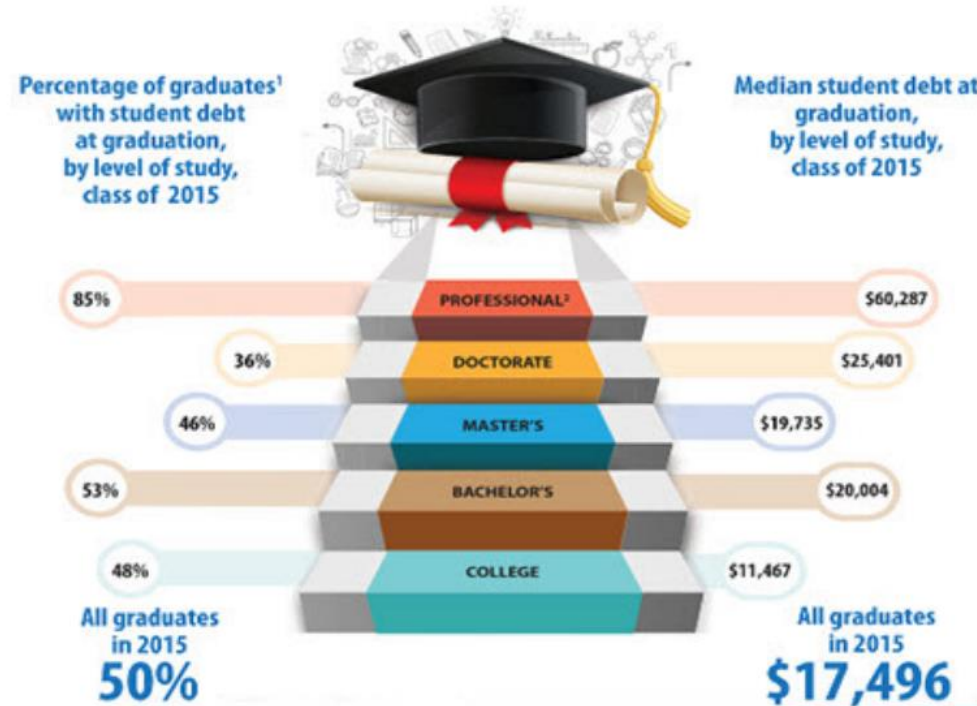


# Women in the Labour Market

# Immediate Impact of the Pandemic

The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation

According to the most recent National Graduates Survey, about half of the postsecondary graduates who completed their education in 2015 had student debt at graduation.

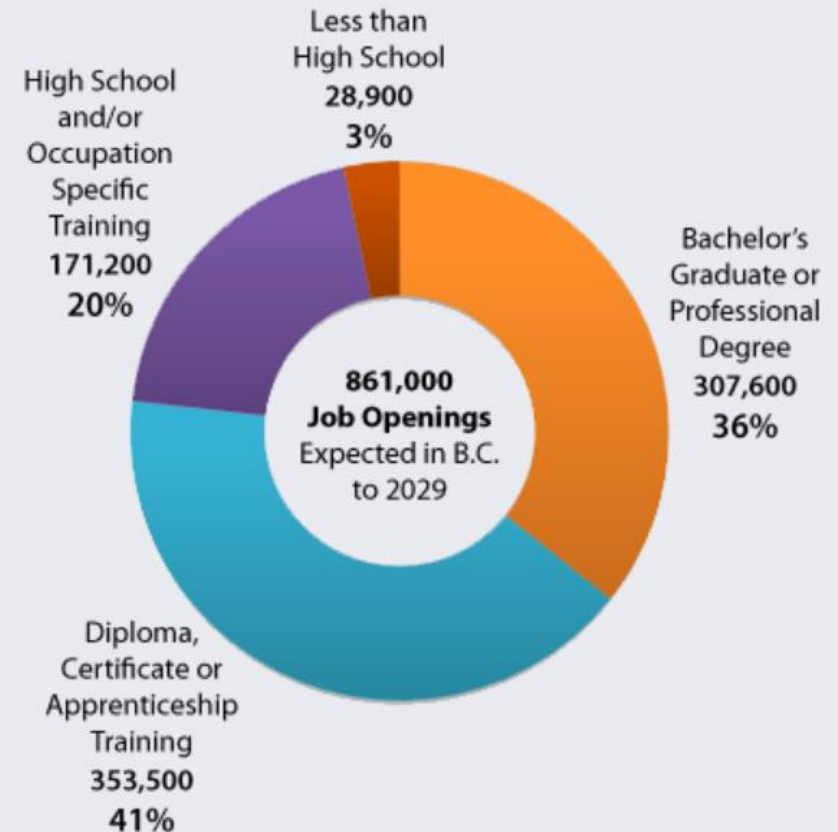


Source: Statistics Canada, National Graduates Survey, 2018.

# Women in the Labour Market

# Immediate Impact of the Pandemic

The pandemic tanked progress in Labour Force Participation



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# Youth in the Labour Market

## The Impact of the Pandemic on Youth

**Moving Forward**

- Provide financial incentives for completing high levels of post-secondary studies
- Align post-secondary studies to vocational outcomes
- Develop new mentorship and networking opportunities for youth



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# Youth in the Labour Market

## Looking to the Future

IMPACT ON BC'S LABOUR MARKET

## Questions and Answers

Please feel free to email:  
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