



GLOBAL PANDEMIC, LOCAL REALITIES

COVID-19 Responses and
Recovery Perspectives from Rural
and Small Town Ontario, Canada

Planning for Rural Regeneration Post-
COVID-19

ROAD MAP

- Impact
- Response
- Recovery



Resources with more information



University of
Guelph

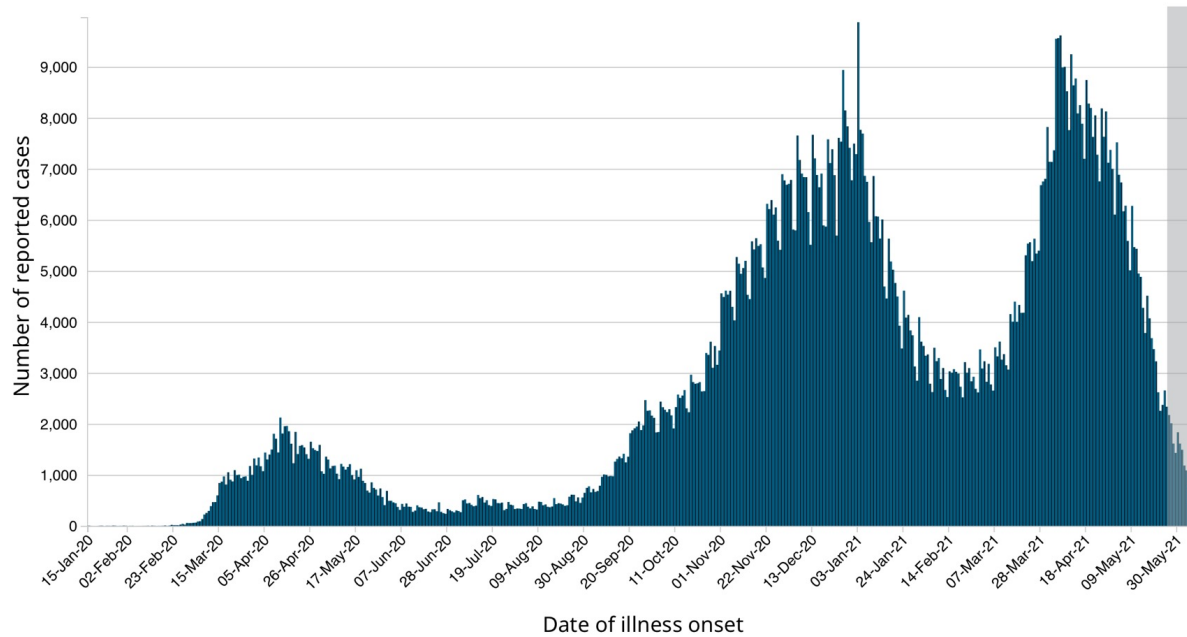


COVID19 IMPACTS IN RURAL ONTARIO



COVID IN CANADA

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases (n=1,396,981 ¹) in Canada by date of illness onset ² as of June 11, 2021, 7 pm EST ³



Government of Canada: <https://tinyurl.com/u64svkrn>



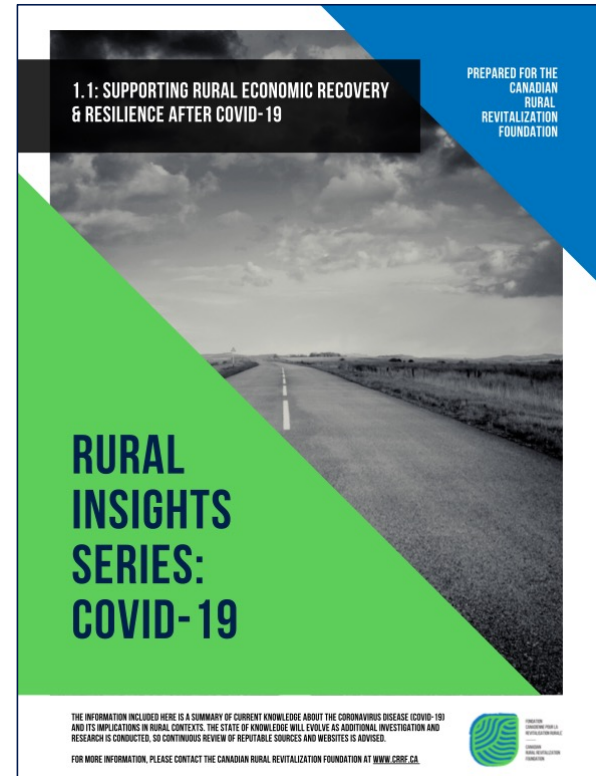
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LEARNING FROM THE PAST

- Communities experience crisis differently
- Industry support does not always equal community benefits
- “Shovel ready” projects sometimes dig bigger holes
- Municipalities and regional governments will struggle with maintaining critical services and infrastructure



www.crrf.ca/covid19




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Impacts

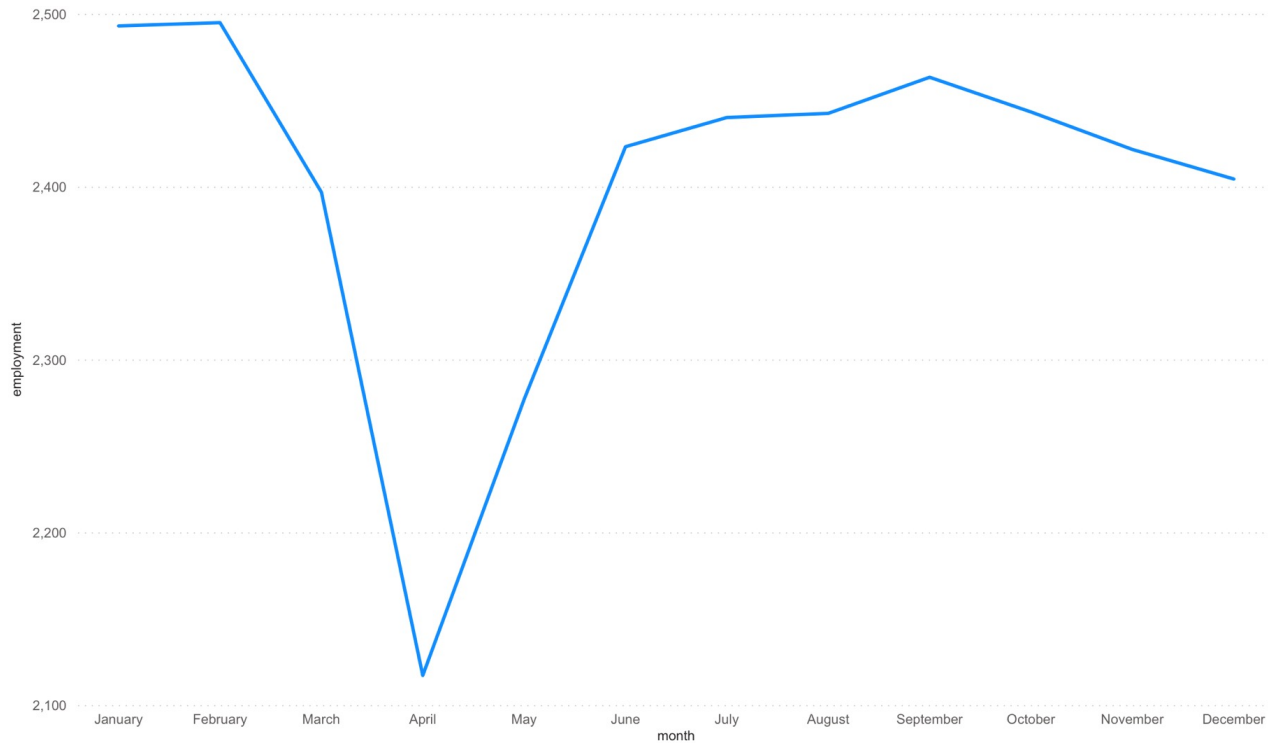
- Disruptions to
 - Employment
 - Manufacturing and commodity chains
 - Health and social services
 - Immigration and migration
 - Voluntary and community organizations
 - Travel (international and within the country)
- Existing precariousness exposed through COVID-19
- Uneven distribution of impacts

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RURAL EMPLOYMENT STATS

Employment by Month, All Industries, Rural Canada, 2020



<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2021006-eng.htm>



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Which sectors¹ in rural and small town² (RST) areas experienced the largest PERCENT GAP³ in number employed (adjusted for population change) in February, 2021, compared to the average for the same month in 2017 / 2018 / 2019, Canada

Industry sector ¹	2020												2021	
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
	Ranking of industry sectors by size of RST PERCENT CHANGE(3) in number employed in February, 2021, compared to the average for the same month in 2017 / 2018 / 2019													
Information, culture and recreation	-4.6	-23.0	-40.4	-49.5	-17.6	-19.3	-19.7	-3.5	-4.4	-7.9	-26.6	-27.3	-39.1	
Accommodation and food services	-4.8	-19.1	-50.2	-48.6	-21.1	-13.4	-11.3	-4.1	-8.3	-16.0	-27.1	-39.4	-32.3	
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	-14.0	-14.0	-30.5	-18.8	-14.9	-13.4	-20.6	-22.1	-14.9	-13.8	-6.6	-13.6	-8.6	
Retail and wholesale trade	-3.6	-9.5	-24.9	-16.8	-15.1	-11.4	-8.0	-3.5	-1.8	-2.9	-3.6	-10.1	-8.4	
Agriculture	4.9	-2.1	-1.9	-1.5	0.2	-1.4	-3.8	-3.9	-5.6	-2.3	-7.9	-5.5	-7.9	
Business, building & other support services	-2.3	-1.7	-5.1	-7.2	-6.5	-9.2	-12.0	-23.1	-21.8	-10.0	-7.4	-8.6	-6.3	
All industry sectors	1.5	-2.3	-14.2	-11.3	-7.7	-6.7	-5.2	-3.7	-3.5	-2.9	-3.1	-3.7	-2.6	
Transportation and warehousing	-7.0	-12.6	-16.4	-12.9	-3.3	0.2	-5.6	-4.6	-6.9	-9.4	-4.2	-6.7	-2.3	
Construction	7.2	9.1	-14.6	-8.8	-9.7	-9.8	-9.7	-5.7	-0.1	-1.2	-2.6	5.6	-2.1	
Public administration	-1.0	1.5	-3.7	1.1	-6.4	-4.8	-2.2	5.4	3.8	0.9	5.2	8.2	1.6	
Manufacturing	6.3	2.3	-13.5	-6.1	-5.4	-4.6	-6.1	-2.6	-0.8	2.0	0.5	0.9	4.3	
Health care and social assistance	8.7	6.5	0.0	-4.2	0.9	-1.8	1.0	-0.1	-3.0	0.2	2.0	0.5	4.7	
Educational services	2.1	-6.2	-14.6	-13.8	-12.3	-3.6	6.1	0.9	1.8	5.7	7.6	4.6	6.2	
Professional, scientific & technical services	2.1	1.8	-7.2	-8.2	-9.0	-3.0	-0.9	-2.1	-8.9	-1.0	10.3	8.7	7.4	
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.2	8.5	-1.3	7.0	16.2	7.9	13.8	3.6	-1.6	-10.5	-3.5	2.8	7.6	
Utilities	-25.2	-36.5	-31.2	-26.9	-30.7	-43.2	-16.8	2.3	10.4	4.4	8.0	22.7	26.8	

1. For examples of the types of businesses classified to each industry sector, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **North American Industry Classification System: 2017** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 12-501) (<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objid=12-501-X&objType=2&lang=en&limit=0>).

2. **Larger urban centres (LUCs)** include Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) with a total population 100,000 or more (with at least 50,000 in the urban core) and Census Agglomerations with a population of 10,000 to 99,999 and both include residents of neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50+% of employed residents commute to the CMA or CA. **Rural & small town (RST)** individuals reside outside a CMA or CA.

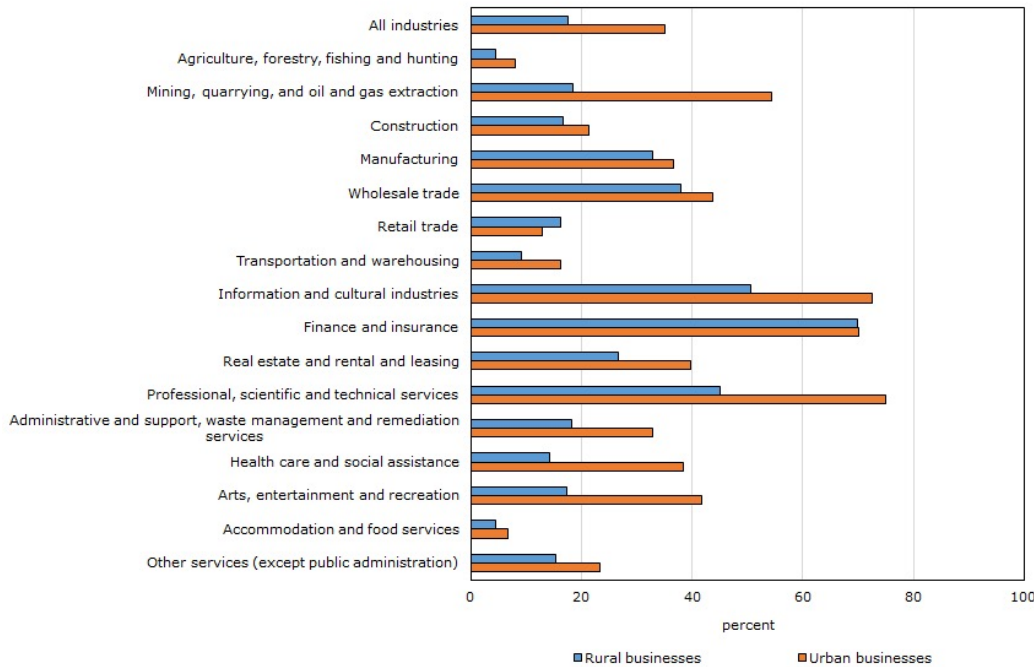
3. The estimated change is calculated as the impact on employment IF there were no change in the level of population (15+ years of age). Thus, the estimated change is due to the change in the employment rate (i.e., the change in the percent of the population that is employed) which captures the impact of COVID-19 by excluding the impact of population change which is reflected in the LFS published data on the number employed. The percent difference compared to the average for the same month in 2017 / 2018 / 2019 is calculated as the difference of logarithms times 100.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Tables 14-10-0374 and 14-10-0376-01.



REMOTE WORKING

Chart 2
Percentage of businesses where teleworking or working remotely is a possibility for at least some employees of the business or organization, by industry



Note: For the rural industries of real estate and rental and leasing and professional, scientific and technical services, the values had a data quality label of E. For data with a quality indicator of E, SE is greater than 16.5% and should be used with caution.
Source: Canadian Survey on Business Conditions, first quarter of 2021.



<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2021001/article/00015-eng.htm>



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“Treating rural communities as a monolithic entity conceals the range of experiences across rural communities. The resulting narrative can create false impressions – including the notion that rural communities are doing well in comparison to urban areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

- Sarah Breen (2021)
<https://theconversation.com/rural-vs-urban-canada-no-one-size-fits-all-covid-19-recovery-157107>



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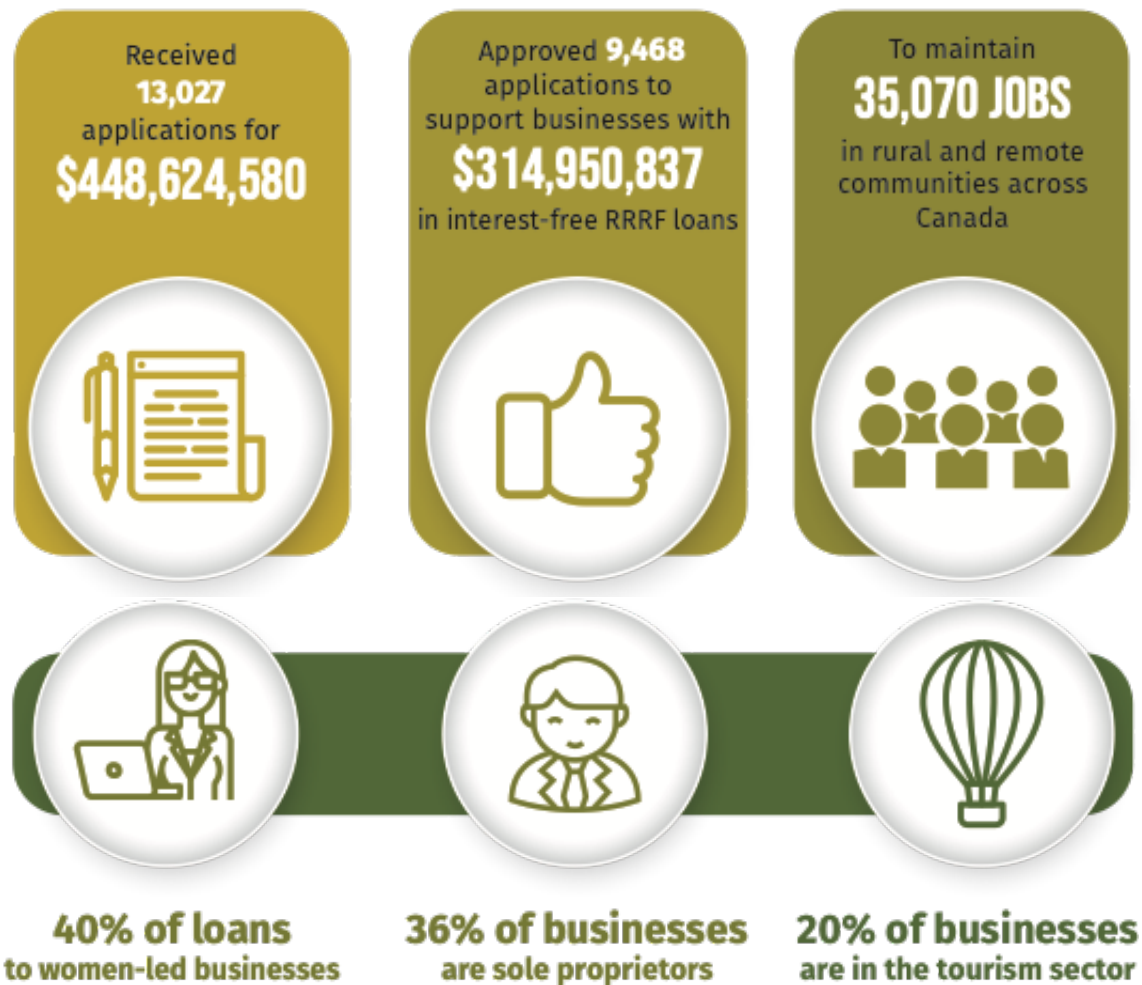
RURAL RESPONSES



REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

- National program - C\$2 billion (US\$1.65 billion/€1.35 billion)
- Purpose:
 - mitigate the financial pressure experienced by businesses and organizations to allow them to continue their operations, including paying their employees; and
 - support projects by businesses, organizations and communities to prepare now for a successful recovery.
- Delivered through Community Futures Program in rural Canada





<https://communityfuturescanada.ca>



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EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

- National program - C\$350 million (US\$288 million/€237 million)
- Funding for charities and nonprofit organizations to support vulnerable populations impacted by COVID19
- Program supported almost 5,000 initiatives
 - Supporting food security (approximately 1,800)
 - Day camps for youth
 - Support for young mothers
 - Purchasing of technology to support remote programming for isolated individuals



<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/emergency-community-support-fund.html>



COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- Multi-stakeholder recovery task forces, strategic planning
- E-business programs to support online migration
- Emphasis on local – retail and producers
- Charities spending endowments
- Informal voluntary activities to support vulnerable populations
- Amenity-based resident attraction initiatives



Rural Ontario Institute =
<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/ruralreboundcovid19>



RURAL RECOVERY



BIG QUESTIONS

- Broadband, broadband, broadband
- Empower place-based approaches
- The future of rural work
- **VIP** – vulnerabilities, inclusion, and precariousness
- The need for data to create evidence-based decision making
- Financial and human capital for recovery

