## REPORT

## The Debt Awareness Survey



## METHODOLOGY

## QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

An online survey of 1,517 Canadian residents was completed between July $27^{\text {th }}$ to July $31^{\text {st }}, 2018$, using Leger's online panel. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of $+/-2.5 \%, 19$ times out of 20.

## ABOUT LEGER'S ONLINE PANEL

Leger's online panel has approximately 475,000 members nationally and has a retention rate of 90\%.

## QUALITY CONTROL

Stringent quality assurance measures allow Leger to achieve the high-quality standards set by the company. As a result, its methods of data collection and storage outperform the norms set by WAPOR (The World Association for Public Opinion Research). These measures are applied at every stage of the project: from data collection to processing, through to analysis. We aim to answer our clients' needs with honesty, total confidentiality, and integrity.

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## DETAILED RESULTS

## DEBT PRINCIPAL FREAKS MOST OUT SLIGHTLY EDGING INTEREST AMOUNT

Interestingly, as age increases the higher the likelihood debtors are freaked out by interest rather than principal.

- I don't know/l prefer not to answer


Q3: Thinking about your debt, what freaks you out more?
Base: Canadians with debt ( $\mathrm{n}=1080$ )

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

| Amount of debt | TOTAL | ATL | QC | ON | MB/SK | AB | BC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1080 | 81 | 230 | 426 | 72 | 114 | 156 |
|  | 42\% | 39\% | 37\% | 43\% | 50\% | 50\% | 41\% |
| Amount of interest | 34\% | 36\% | 36\% | 34\% | 19\% | 31\% | 40\% |
| Number of debts (creditors) | 5\% | 4\% | 5\% | 4\% | 17\% | 5\% | 4\% |
| DK/ I prefer not to answer | 19\% | 21\% | 22\% | 20\% | 15\% | 14\% | 15\% |
|  | TOTAL | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |  |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 1080 | 319 | 204 | 229 | 161 | 166 |  |
| Amount of debt | 42\% | 50\% | 45\% | 42\% | 38\% | 29\% |  |
| Amount of interest | 34\% | 26\% | 31\% | 39\% | 36\% | 42\% |  |
| Number of debts (creditors) | 5\% | 8\% | 5\% | 4\% | 4\% | 2\% |  |
| DK/ I prefer not to answer | 19\% | 16\% | 18\% | 15\% | 22\% | 27\% |  |

Q3: Thinking about your debt, what freaks you out more?
Base: Canadians with debt ( $\mathrm{n}=1080$ )

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline $\mathrm{n}=$ \& TOTAL
1080 \& SINGLE
298 \& MARRIED

615 \& | DVORCD/ |
| :--- |
| WID/SEP |
| 153 | <br>

\hline Amount of debt \& 42\% \& 47\% \& 41\% \& 40\% <br>
\hline Amount of interest \& 34\% \& 29\% \& 37\% \& 35\% <br>
\hline Number of debts (creditors) \& 5\% \& 7\% \& 4\% \& 7\% <br>
\hline DK/ I prefer not to answer \& 19\% \& 17\% \& 18\% \& 18\% <br>

\hline \& TOTAL \& <\$40K \& $$
\begin{aligned}
& \$ 40 K- \\
& \$ 79 K
\end{aligned}
$$ \& \$80K+ <br>

\hline $\mathrm{n}=$ \& 1080 \& 260 \& 358 \& 350 <br>
\hline Amount of debt \& 42\% \& 50\% \& 44\% \& 37\% <br>
\hline Amount of interest \& 34\% \& 28\% \& 32\% \& 41\% <br>
\hline Number of debts (creditors) \& 5\% \& 7\% \& 6\% \& 4\% <br>
\hline DK/ I prefer not to answer \& 19\% \& 15\% \& 18\% \& 17\% <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

Q3: Thinking about your debt, what freaks you out more?
Base: Canadians with debt ( $\mathrm{n}=1080$ )

## ONLY TWO-THIRDS OF CANADIANS WITH DEBT ARE CONFIDENT THEY KNOW THE TOTAL AMOUNT THEY OWE

Confidence dips with more specific aspects of debt, such as monthly interest payments and payment schedule.


- Canadians with Debt
- All Canadians

Q5: Thinking about your debt (excluding mortgages and car loans), which of the following would you say you are confidently aware of? Base: All respondents ( $\mathrm{n}=1517$ )

TOTAL POPULATION


Q5: Thinking about your debt (excluding mortgages and car loans), which of the following would you say you are confidently aware of? Base: All respondents ( $\mathrm{n}=1517$ )

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN (Canadians with debt)

|  | TOTAL | ATL | QC | ON | MB/SK | AB | BC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 950 | 72 | 196 | 370 | 69 | 105 | 137 |
| Your total debt amount | 65\% | 61\% | 62\% | 66\% | 58\% | 71\% | 66\% |
| The interest rate on your debt(s) | 42\% | 44\% | 44\% | 42\% | 29\% | 46\% | 41\% |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making minimum payments | 27\% | 26\% | 23\% | 28\% | 27\% | 28\% | 31\% |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making fixed payments | 34\% | 37\% | 34\% | 31\% | 42\% | 46\% | 28\% |
| How much you are paying in monthly interest on your debt | 38\% | 43\% | 32\% | 39\% | 32\% | 39\% | 42\% |
| DK/I prefer not to answer | 11\% | 7\% | 13\% | 13\% | 11\% | 6\% | 5\% |
|  | TOTAL | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |  |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 950 | 293 | 177 | 200 | 146 | 134 |  |
| Your total debt amount | 65\% | 58\% | 68\% | 64\% | 65\% | 75\% |  |
| The interest rate on your debt(s) | 42\% | 30\% | 48\% | 42\% | 47\% | 55\% |  |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making minimum payments | 27\% | 25\% | 34\% | 32\% | 23\% | 21\% |  |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making fixed payments | 34\% | 30\% | 32\% | 36\% | 38\% | 39\% |  |
| How much you are paying in monthly interest on your debt | 38\% | 29\% | 42\% | 42\% | 40\% | 45\% |  |
| DK/I prefer not to answer | 11\% | 14\% | 12\% | 10\% | 9\% | 5\% |  |

Q5: Thinking about your debt (excluding mortgages and car loans), which of the following would you say you are confidently aware of? Base: Excludes those saying 'I don’t have any debt' ( $n=950$ )

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN (Canadians with debt)

| $\mathrm{n}=$ | TOTAL <br> 950 | SINGLE 261 | MARRIED 543 | DVORCD/ WID/SEP |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Your total debt amount | 65\% | 64\% | 67\% | 61\% |
| The interest rate on your debt(s) | 42\% | 35\% | 46\% | 41\% |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making minimum payments | 27\% | 29\% | 27\% | 24\% |
| How long it will take to pay off your debt(s) making fixed payments | 34\% | 34\% | 35\% | 36\% |
| How much you are paying in monthly interest on your debt | 38\% | 29\% | 42\% | 40\% |
| DK/I prefer not to answer | 11\% | 13\% | 9\% | 8\% |


|  |  |  |  | \$40K- |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | TOTAL | $<\$ 40 \mathrm{~K}$ | \$79K | $\$ 80 \mathrm{~K}+$ |
| Your total debt amount | $\mathrm{n}=$ | 950 | 245 | 308 |

Q5: Thinking about your debt (excluding mortgages and car loans), which of the following would you say you are confidently aware of?
Base: Excludes those saying 'I don’t have any debt' ( $n=950$ )

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN (Canadians with debt).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Q5: Thinking about your debt (excluding mortgages and car loans), which of the following would you say you are confidently aware of?
Base: Excludes those saying 'I don’t have any debt' ( $n=950$ )

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## RESPONDENT PROFILE

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## RESPONDENT PROFILE





