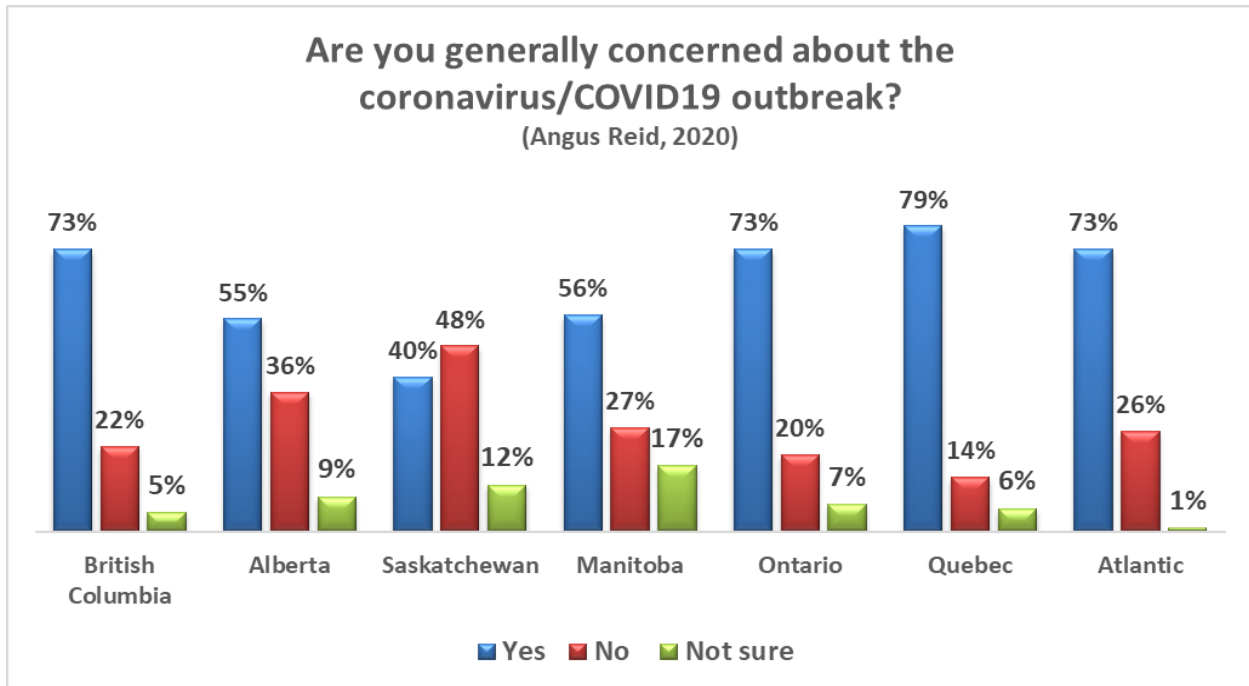


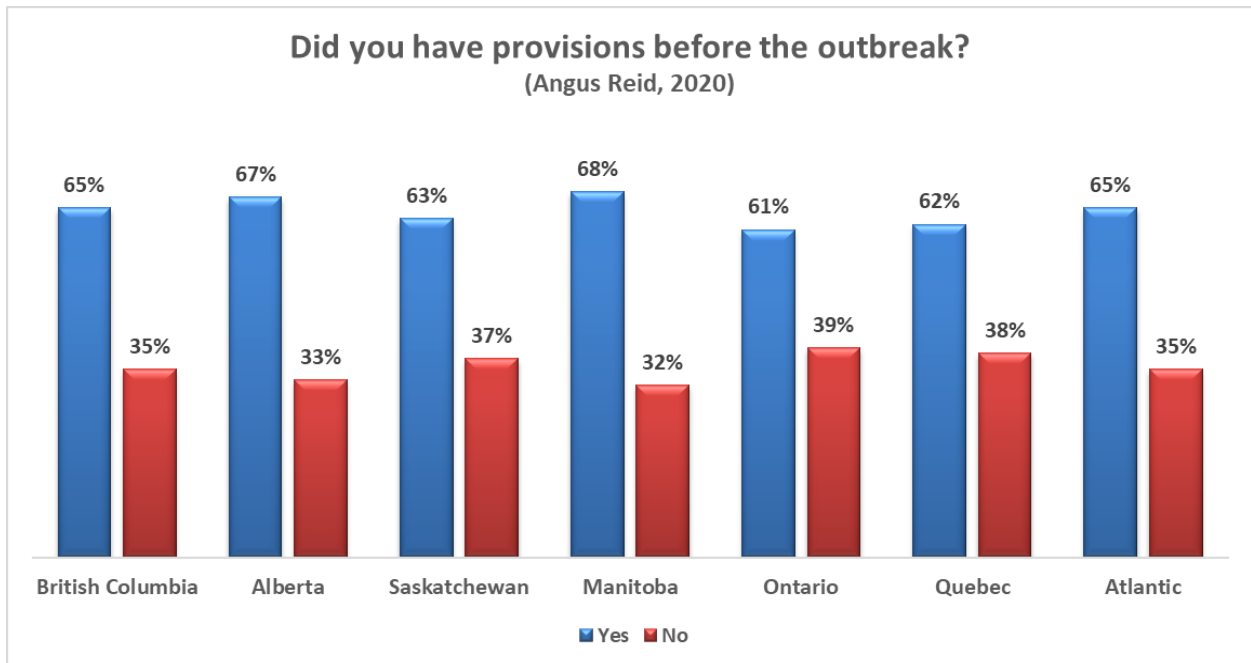
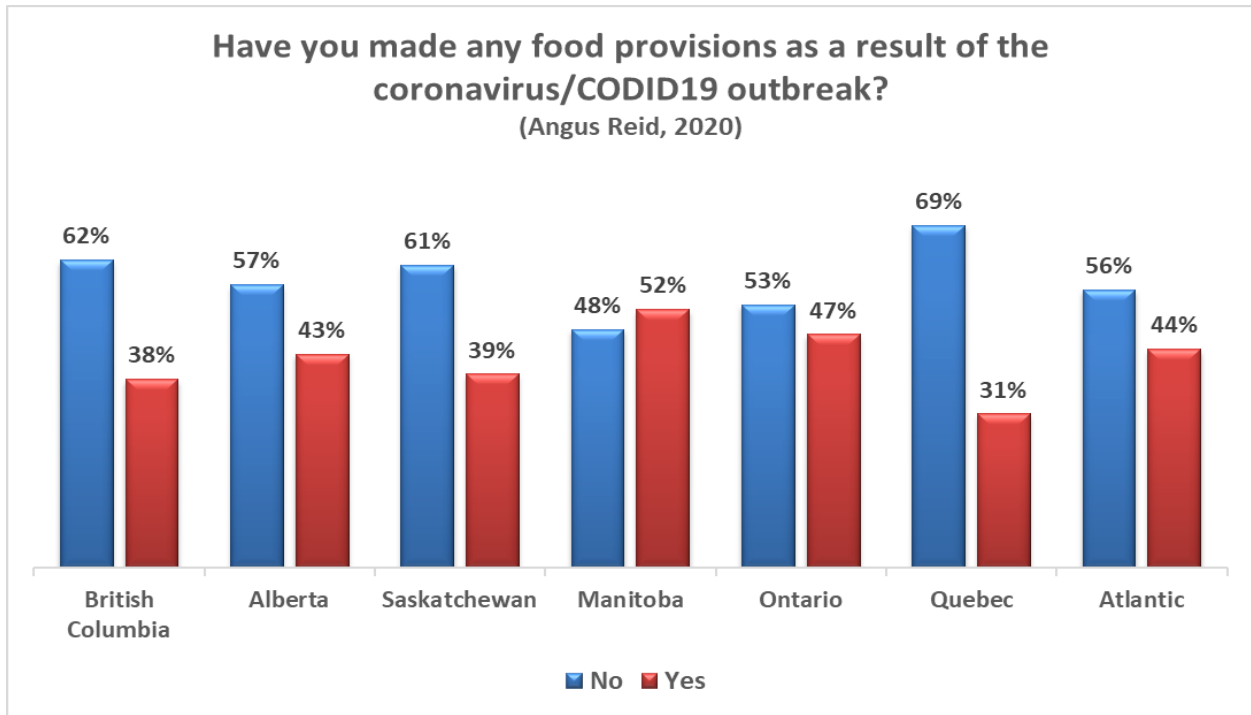
New survey on COVID-19 outbreak suggests almost three times as many Canadians are concerned about shopping at grocery stores than visiting restaurants

HALIFAX, NS. (March 17, 2020) – In partnership with *Angus Reid*, *Dalhousie University* is releasing results of a cross-Canada survey on how Canadians are coping with the **COVID-19** outbreak. The results show that **71% are generally concerned** about the **coronavirus/COVID-19** outbreak, while 7% were not sure. **Quebecers** are most likely to be concerned about the outbreak, at 79%. Only 40% of consumers in **Saskatchewan** are generally concerned.



Canadians were also asked if they had made any food provisions as a result of the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak. A total of **41% of Canadians declared that they had made provisions** as a result of the outbreak. This means that **59% of Canadians have not bought anything since the start of the outbreak**. **Manitoba** is where the greatest number of consumers have bought provisions, at 52%, while only 31% of **Quebecers** have done so. Some food categories were more popular than others. Of Canadians who bought provisions, **30% purchased dry and canned goods**, followed by “**other non-food items like sanitary products, tissues, toilet paper**” at 24%. **Frozen foods** were also at 24%. Finally, 15% of Canadians who bought provisions purchased either **comfort foods** and/or **pet food**.

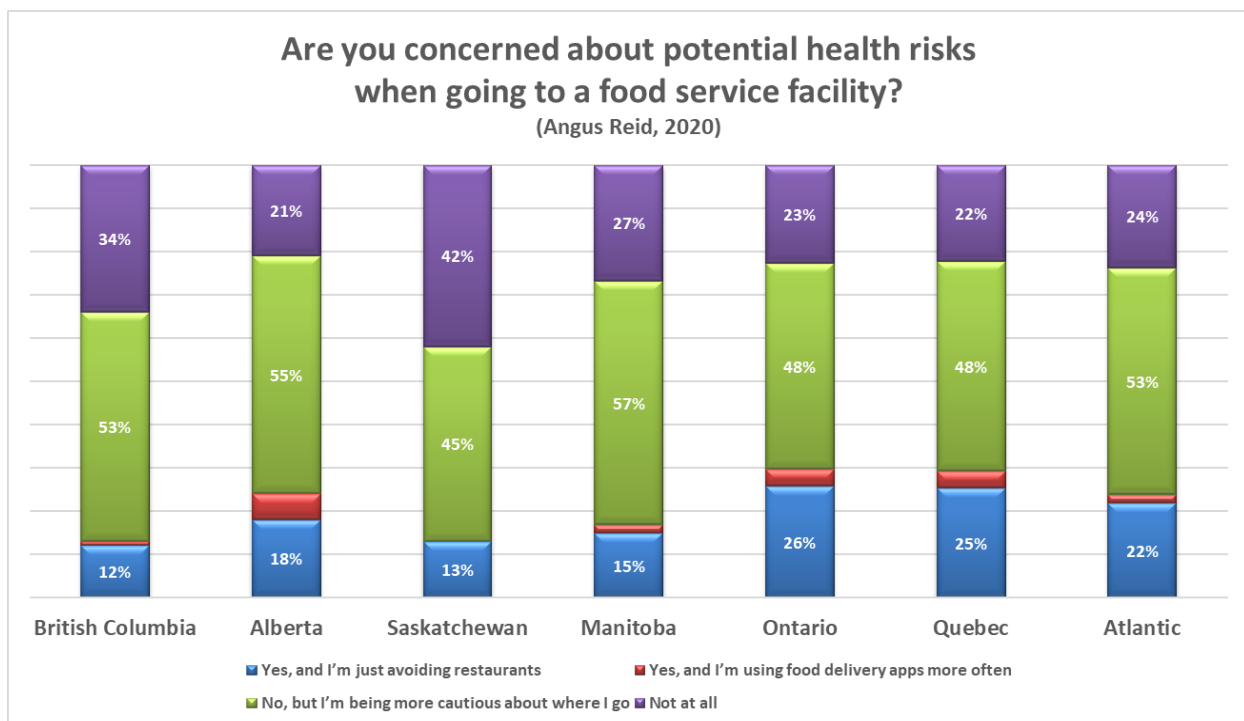
The **Atlantic Region** saw the highest rate of consumers buying “**other non-food items like sanitary products, tissues, toilet paper,**” at 33%.



The survey also asked if Canadians had provisions before the outbreak. A total of **63% of Canadians did say that they already had provisions at home**. The highest rate was in **Manitoba**, at 68%, and the lowest in **Ontario** at 61%.

Respondents were asked if they were concerned about potential health risks when going to a **grocery store** with **65% stating they are concerned about risks at the grocery store**. The most concerned were in **Ontario**, at 73%, compared with 44% of people in **Saskatchewan**, the lowest rate in the country.

A total of **57% of Canadians who are concerned are still buying groceries for themselves**, whereas 5% have asked someone else to go to the grocery store for them since the outbreak started. Only **3% of Canadians have opted to buy groceries online** since the beginning of the outbreak due to their concerns.



And finally, Canadians were asked about risks in food service. Surprisingly, only **26% stated that they were concerned about going to a restaurant since the outbreak started**, which is significantly lower than the number concerned about the grocery store. Of those concerned, while 22% are simply avoiding restaurants, 4% are opting to use food delivery apps more often. Interestingly, 25% of Canadians not concerned haven't changed anything while 49% who are not concerned are still visiting restaurants but are more careful about where they go.

In these uncertain times, the results suggest that grocery stores are a significant source of concern for many Canadians, compared to food service. Crowds and line-ups may have contributed to this fear of visiting what has been reported to be a very busy place. **Canadian may not fear restaurants as much but are told to stay away by most public health officials.** Given that almost **3 out of 4 Canadians are concerned about the outbreak**, these results are not surprising. Also, technologies such as online grocery shopping and food delivery apps have not made much progress, despite their social distancing appeal. While **Quebec** is the one province with the most respondents having provisions before the outbreak, **Manitoba** appears to have been the most active region when buying provisions to prepare for the outbreak.

Methodology: A total of 1,014 Canadians were surveyed in March 2020. National Omni, Angus Reid, March 13–15, 2020. The sample carries a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. More data on meal kits and food delivery apps are available upon request.

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