

Canadians are increasingly concerned about their ability to absorb higher interest rates and cover their monthly bills.

As holiday bills begin to arrive and the effects of last summer's interest rate increases become more pronounced, Canadians are admitting greater concern about their current debt situations – along with fear and uncertainty about what the future holds.

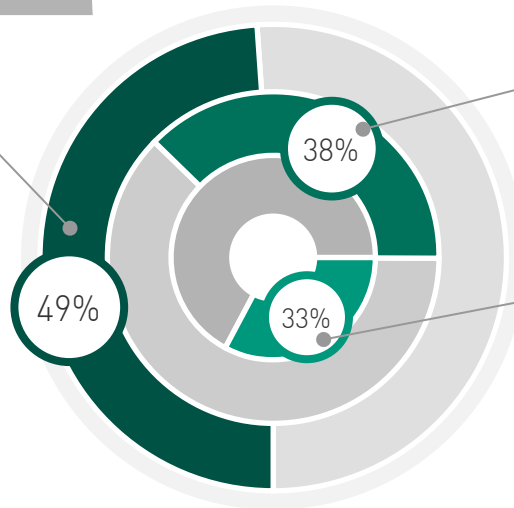


1/3 Canadians now say they are unable to cover their monthly bills and debt payments.

8% SINCE SEPTEMBER

49% of Canadians say rising interest rates are making them more concerned about their ability to repay debts.

3% SINCE SEPTEMBER

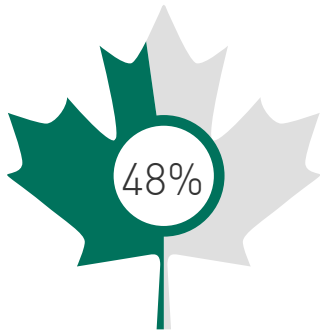


38% already beginning to feel the effects of interest rate increases

3% SINCE SEPTEMBER

33% admit concern that interest rate increases could move them toward bankruptcy

4% SINCE SEPTEMBER



48% of Canadians anticipate going further into debt to cover expenses over the next year

5% SINCE SEPTEMBER

Biggest concerns from province to province:

Impact of rising interest rates

British Columbia	48%
Saskatchewan & Manitoba	46%
Ontario	45%

Worries about current level of debt

Saskatchewan & Manitoba	41%
Atlantic Canada	37%
Quebec	34%

Regret amount of debt taken on

Saskatchewan & Manitoba	45%
Atlantic Canada	43%
British Columbia	39%

Unable to cover living expenses without added debt

Quebec	50%
British Columbia	51%
Alberta	48%



1/3 Canadians are concerned about their current level of debt

> 38% regret how much debt they've taken on in their life.

> 55% don't think they will be debt free in retirement

4% SINCE SEPTEMBER

6% SINCE JUNE