

CANADA-US BORDER CLOSURE ANNIVERSARY: SURVEY REVEALS THAT CANADIANS FAR MORE OPPOSED TO REOPENING THAN AMERICANS AND ARE TWICE AS LIKELY AS AMERICANS TO THINK RELATIONS HAVE WORSENERED BETWEEN US

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APRIL 28, 2021

INTRODUCTION: CANADIANS FAR MORE WORRIED ABOUT REOPENING BORDER THAN AMERICANS

Yesterday marked one year since the closing of the Canada-US land borders owing to concerns over the spread of the contagion. The border closings did not put a full stop to cross border travel as recourse was made to the airways to travel between countries and exceptions were made for land border travel associated with the movement of goods and services deemed essential. This past week a group of experts from Canada and the United States said it was high time to establish a plan for border reopening (. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/time-for-canada-u-s-to-get-serious-about-how-when-to-reopen-border-experts-say-1.53531850>) They're right. But the problem is that Canadian public opinion remains far less open to the idea than are Americans. A Leger survey for the University of Manitoba and the Association for Canadian Studies funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research reveals that seven in ten Canadians are worried about the border with the United States reopening, but that inversely some six in ten Americans are not worried about the border with Canada reopening. Indeed, Americans are far more concerned about the border being open with Mexico than they are with Canada with some one in two saying they're worried about their Southern border. Quebecers are the most worried about the US border reopening while it is Americans in the South that are most concerned about the border reopening with Canada.

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From to March 10-18, 2021 with 2200 Canadians and 1968 Americans via web panel

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 2200 and 1968 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

SEVEN IN TEN CANADIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT REOPENING THE BORDER WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH QUEBECERS MOST CONCERNED

| Border being open with USA - Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried or not worried at all about the following? | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|
| | Total | BC | AB | MB/SK | ON | QC | Atl. |
| NET WORRIED | 70% | 70% | 66% | 60% | 70% | 75% | 67% |
| Very worried | 39% | 38% | 30% | 35% | 38% | 44% | 42% |
| Somewhat worried | 31% | 32% | 35% | 25% | 32% | 30% | 24% |
| NET NOT WORRIED | 26% | 26% | 31% | 29% | 27% | 22% | 26% |
| Not very worried | 14% | 17% | 17% | 11% | 13% | 13% | 15% |
| Not worried at all | 12% | 10% | 14% | 18% | 14% | 8% | 12% |
| I don't know | 2% | 2% | 3% | 6% | 2% | 1% | 3% |
| I prefer not to answer | 2% | 2% | 0% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 3% |

THREE IN TEN AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT REOPENING THE BORDER WITH CANADA AND THE CONCERN IS HIGHEST IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES

| Border being open with Canada - Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried or not worried at all about the following? | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-------|------|
| | Total | NE | MW | South | West |
| NET WORRIED | 31% | 30% | 25% | 35% | 30% |
| Very worried | 13% | 11% | 11% | 16% | 12% |
| Somewhat worried | 18% | 20% | 14% | 18% | 18% |
| NET NOT WORRIED | 58% | 57% | 65% | 53% | 60% |
| Not very worried | 27% | 24% | 30% | 25% | 30% |
| Not worried at all | 30% | 33% | 34% | 27% | 30% |
| I don't know | 9% | 10% | 7% | 11% | 8% |
| I prefer not to answer | 2% | 3% | 3% | 1% | 2% |

HALF OF AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BORDER BEING OPEN WITH MEXICO

| Border being open with Mexico - Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried or not worried at all about the following? | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-------|------|
| | Total | NE | MW | South | West |
| NET WORRIED | 50% | 48% | 51% | 52% | 48% |
| Very worried | 31% | 26% | 30% | 34% | 29% |
| Somewhat worried | 20% | 22% | 21% | 18% | 19% |
| NET NOT WORRIED | 39% | 38% | 38% | 37% | 43% |
| Not very worried | 19% | 19% | 19% | 16% | 22% |
| Not worried at all | 21% | 19% | 20% | 21% | 21% |
| I don't know | 8% | 10% | 7% | 9% | 6% |
| I prefer not to answer | 3% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 2% |

FOUR IN TEN CANADIANS THINK RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS HAVE WORSENERD SINCE COVID-19 COMPARED WITH TWO IN TEN AMERICANS THAT FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT RELATIONS WITH CANADIANS

| United States | |
|---|-----|
| Since COVID-19, how would you describe the current relationships? The relations between Canadians and Americans | |
| Worsened | 19% |
| Stayed the same | 51% |
| Improved | 10% |
| I don't know | 19% |

| Canada | |
|---|-----|
| Since COVID-19, how would you describe the current relationships? The relations between Canadians and Americans | |
| Worsened | 41% |
| Stayed the same | 39% |
| Improved | 8% |
| I don't know | 13% |

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Created April 28 2021



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