

Since 2019, the Composites Knowledge Network (CKN) has conducted three digital surveys of the Canadian Composite Industry. The latest survey was completed in both official languages between February 3rd to March 7th, 2022 and collected information about the industry for 2021. Over 500 individuals were invited to participate, with responses received from 61 companies. The survey participants were representative of the Canadian Composite Industry including all sizes, applications, and positions in the supply chain. All provinces were represented in the responses, except New Brunswick.

The latest survey results suggest that:

- The pandemic's impact is abating, but that it is also more widespread than in 2020.
- While the impact to revenue for the Canadian Composite Industry was substantial for all companies, the smallest companies were the hardest hit.
- The survey participants are optimistic for the future: expecting higher revenues and staffing levels, more financial security, and greater ability to retain core staff / skills and business activities in 2022. There is a broad sense that the worst of the pandemic is likely over with only 8% of respondents believing the worst is yet to come.
- Within 5 years, a wave of retirements among staff specializing in composites is expected and that this wave will continue for several years.
- Industry awareness of the CKN has grown since 2020 and interest to work with CKN remains strong.

The latest survey asked Industry participants about their priorities. The responses clearly show these have evolved over the course of the pandemic.

- The most reported challenges in the survey were: supply chain challenges, hiring and retaining qualified staff, and inflation.
- The industry's top priority needs are enhancing manufacturing capabilities to improve output and cost, investing in R&D for new products and services aligned with post-pandemic needs.
- The industry's top three composites training and knowledge development priorities now include Application of Automation and Other Advanced Technologies to Composites, and Knowledge in Practice / Case Studies. Since the 2020 survey, interest in Knowledge in Practice / Case Studies has grown substantially.

Fortunately, CKN is well positioned to support these priorities and needs, demonstrating that CKN's mission to develop, capture, and disseminate knowledge about composites to industry, is timely and a key factor for success of the Canadian composite industry. Furthermore, its suggests that the CKN's approach to achieving that mission by growing the Knowledge in Practice Centre, delivering AIM Events, and providing concierge services is well aligned to support industry's priorities and support needs.

For further information about CKN, visit our website at compositeskn.org.