



Expansion Opportunities for Food Hubs

We sent a survey to food producers, processors, distributors involved in local and sustainable food across Ontario, Canada.

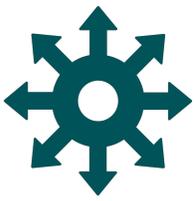
We heard back from 187* operations connected to **food hubs**.

Here's what we learned about **opportunities** and **challenges** around **food hub expansion**.

Food hubs are actual or virtual spaces that collect and distribute food to processors, retailers, restaurant and/or consumers.

Food hubs can also provide space for other activities including food preparation, handling, processing, education and/or training.

*Our overall sample was 187; response rates for each question may be lower or slightly higher

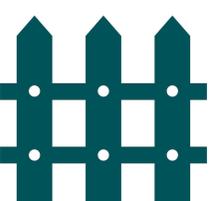
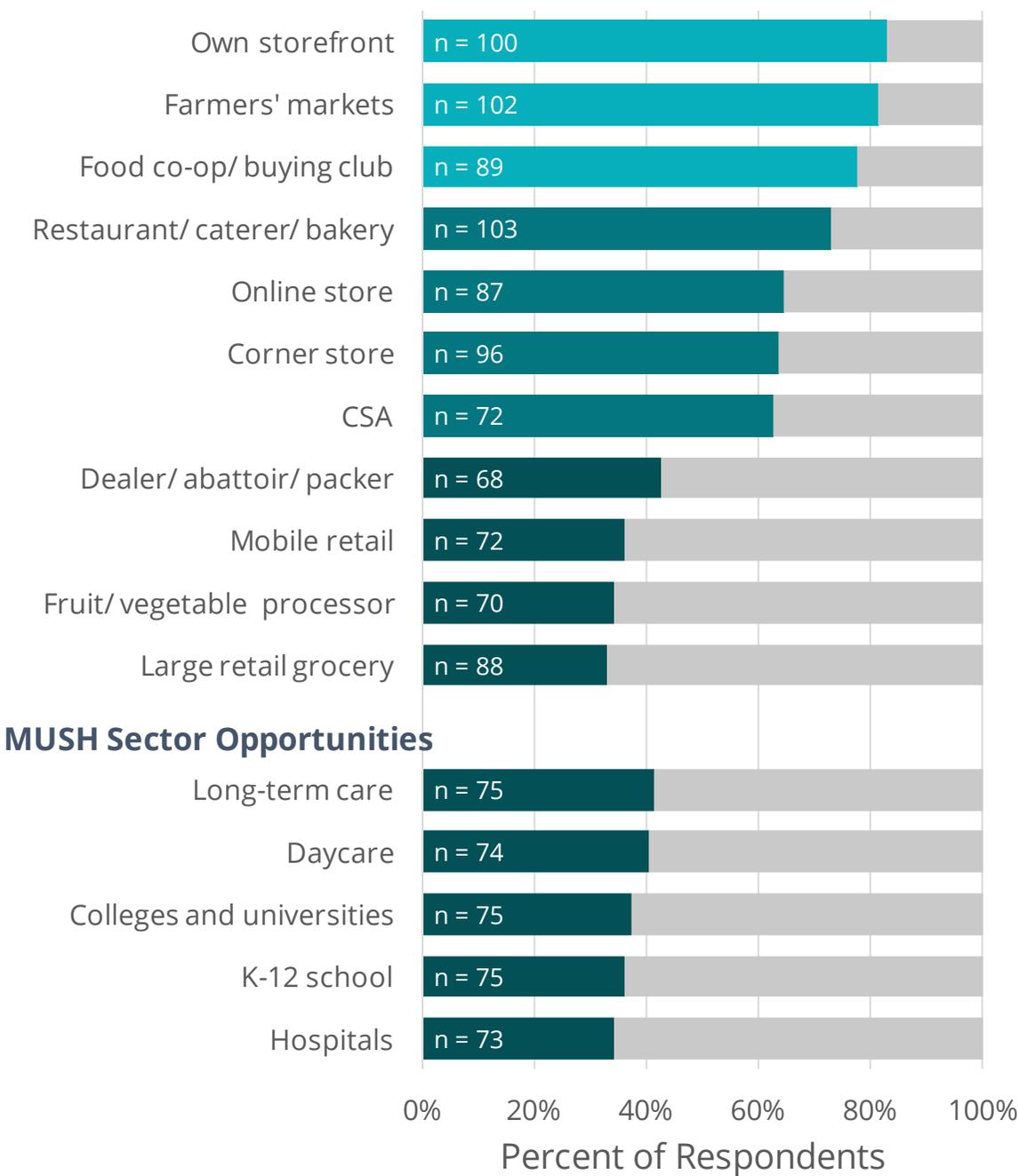


Opportunities for Food Hub Expansion

Top rated opportunities for market expansion were through **storefronts, farmers' markets, food-co-ops** and **buying clubs**.

Restaurants, online and corner/ independent stores, and CSAs were also seen by a majority of respondents as providing opportunities for growth.

■ Some/ Many Opportunities ■ Few/ No Opportunities



Challenges to Food Hub Expansion

The most important **common daily operating challenges** were **reliable seasonal/ part-time labour (59% of respondents)**, **balancing supply and demand (48%)**, and **access to capital (47%)**.

Food safety requirements, managing growth, and meeting regulations were important to about 2 in 5 respondents.

One in three people told us other daily barriers are their dependence on volunteers, negotiating prices, access to operational management technologies and lack of infrastructure ownership.

Learn more about Ontario food hubs and sustainable food: FLEdGEResearch.ca [@FLEdGEResearch](https://twitter.com/FLEdGEResearch)

This research was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University.