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Canadian Small Businesses Increase E-Commerce

By Michael Pastore

The number of Canadian small businesses connecting to the Internet seer have leveled off, a survey by <u>SES Research</u> found, but online businesses buying and selling more online than ever before.

The SES Web Entrepreneurship Survey of 1,000 Canadian small busines found more than three-quarters (76 percent) of Canadian small businesses connected to the Internet, approximately the same percentage as in Spring (74 percent). The number of small business decision makers who bought something online between fall 1999 and fall 2000 also remained flat at 40 percent.

But the value of the e-commerce transactions conducted by Canadian smbusinesses has seen a significant jump. Small businesses in Canada bougl approximately \$720 million and sold approximately \$590 online during t month period from fall 1999 to fall 2000 for a total of \$1.3 billion in e-commerce transactions during that period. This represents an increase of million in e-commerce transactions during the period from spring 1999 to spring 2000.

"The bursting of the dot-com bubble has hit Canada's entrepreneurs," said Nanos, managing director of SES. "Their expectations of the Internet are and they are not rushing to get online like they were. However, those who online are conducting more and larger transactions and increasingly incorporating the Internet into their businesses. There is less sizzle but the more steak than ever."

Despite the rapid growth in e-commerce, the most popular uses of the Int among Canadian entrepreneurs remain communications and research. All all (97 percent) of small business Internet users and 74 percent all small



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Search internet.com Advertise Corporate Info Newsletters E-mail Offers businesses use e-mail, according to the survey. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of small business Internet users use the Internet for conducting research, and more than half (51 percent) of all small businesses operate site to promote their business.

"Communcations and research are still the Internet's killer apps," Nanos s "Entrepreneurs start by using it for communicating and gathering information and, as they become more comfortable with the technology, they graduat buying and selling online. Small business owners adopt the Internet in a t and strategic fashion."

The SES Web Entrepreneurship Survey was conducted among 1,000 rand selected small businesses from Dec. 7 to Dec. 15, 2000.

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